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# THE WORLD

## TOP OF THE WORLD



Former Prime Minister Imran Khan. *File*

### PAKISTAN

Cases against Imran reach 188, he calls govt 'authoritarian'

Islamabad: Former prime minister Imran Khan accused the government of 'authoritarianism' as the number of cases and inquiries against him reached 188. The data of cases was presented by the Ministry of Interior to the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Friday on order in a petition filed by Khan's sister, Noreen Niazi, who sought the details of cases against her brother, Dawn reported. The former prime minister is booked in 99 cases in Punjab, 76 in Islamabad and two in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The report said Khan is also accused in seven inquiries by the Federal Investigation Agency and three cases by the Accountability Bureau. **PTI**

### GERMANY

In a first, AfD names runner for Chancellor

Berlin: The far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) on Saturday nominated co-leader Alice Weidel as its first chancellor candidate in the party's 11-year history, setting out its bid for power ahead of a snap election due in February. "We are the second-strongest force in the nationwide polls and from this we derive our claim to govern, because we want to do better, we want to bring Germany forward again, we want to be at the top of the world again," Weidel told reporters in Berlin from a stage adorned with two large German flags. **REUTERS**

### BURKINA FASO

Junta sacks Prime Minister, dissolves govt

BURKINA FASO'S ruling junta has dismissed interim Prime Minister Apollinaire Joachim Kyelem de Tambela and dissolved the government, a decree issued by the office of military leader Ibrahim Traore said on Friday. The decree did not give a reason for the dismissal of Tambela, who was appointed interim premier soon after Traore seized power in September 2022 - one of a string of military coups in West Africa's unstable Sahel region in recent years. **REUTERS**



## NOTRE DAME REOPENS AFTER 5 YEARS

(Clockwise from top) US President-elect Donald Trump, French President Emmanuel Macron and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy at a trilateral meeting at the Elysee Palace to mark the inauguration of the renovated Notre Dame Cathedral; The cathedral before its reopening; Clergy gather before the reopening ceremony in Paris on Saturday. *Reuters, AP & NYT*

## Erdogan: There is a new reality in Syria... people will decide its future

'Syria belongs to Syrians with all its sectarian, ethnic, elements'

### REUTERS

ISTANBUL, DECEMBER 7

TURKISH PRESIDENT Tayyip Erdogan said on Saturday that there was now a new reality in neighbouring Syria, where Turkey has long supported opposition forces and carried out incursions against Kurdish forces that it regards as terrorists.

He was speaking as Syrian rebels entered suburbs of the city of Homs, sources said, opening a path to Damascus in a lightning advance as front lines collapse and government forces battle to save President Bashar al-Assad's 24-year rule.

"There is now a new reality in Syria, politically and diplomatically. And Syria belongs to Syrians with all its ethnic, sectarian and religious elements," Erdogan said in a speech in the southern Turkish city of Gaziantep.

"The people of Syria are the ones who will decide the future of their own country."

Ankara has for years supported Syrian opposition forces looking to oust the Iran and Russia-backed Assad.

"As Turkey, our wish is for our neighbour Syria to quickly regain the peace, stability and tranquility it has been longing for 13 years," he added.

He added that the best way for the region to deal with the situation would be for "responsible actors and all international organisations" to support the preservation of Syria's territorial integrity.

A main concern of Turkey is the presence in northern Syria of the Syrian Kurdish YPG militia, which it regards as a terrorist group, closely tied with militants in Turkey who have fought a 40-year insurgency against the Turkish state.



Rebel fighters in Homs on Saturday. *Reuters*

## Key players in long-running civil war, reignited by rebel attack

### THE NEW YORK TIMES

DECEMBER 7

REBEL GROUPS fighting to depose President Bashar al-Assad of Syria battled regime forces on the outskirts of the strategic city of Homs Saturday as they pushed toward the capital, Damascus. Here's a look at the key players:

#### ■ Syrian government

The Syrian government, led by Assad, has been central to the protracted and devastating civil war that began in 2011.

After several years of war, the Assad government clawed back much of the territory it lost to rebels with the help of Iran, Russia, and Lebanon's Hezbollah.

#### ■ Hayat Tahrir al-Sham

Hayat Tahrir al-Sham began to form at the beginning of Syria's civil war, when jihadists formed the Al Nusra Front to fight pro-Assad forces with hundreds of insurgent and suicide attacks. It had early links to the Islamic State, and then to Al Qaeda. By mid-2016, the

Nusra Front banded together with other factions to establish Hayat Tahrir al-Sham.

#### ■ United States

The Obama administration initially supported opposition groups in their uprising against the government, providing weapons and training, with limited effect. After the rise of the Islamic State in 2014, US forces fought the terrorist group with airstrikes and assistance to Kurdish forces. President Donald Trump withdrew many of those forces in 2019, but the US still maintains about 900 troops there.

#### ■ Turkey

The Turkish military has launched several military interventions across the border into Syria, mostly against Syrian Kurdish-led forces. Turkey now effectively controls a zone along Syria's northern border.

#### ■ Russia

Throughout Syria's civil war, Russia has been one of Assad's most loyal foreign backers, send-

ing Russian troops to support his forces and jets to bomb his enemies. It has maintained presence in Syria with air and naval bases.

#### ■ Iran and Hezbollah

Syria is a core part of Iran's "axis of resistance," a network of countries and groups that includes Hezbollah, Hamas and the Houthis in Yemen that hopes to destroy Israel and reduce American influence in the region.

#### ■ Israel

Israel's military activities in Syria have been mostly focused on airstrikes against Hezbollah and Iranian targets, especially senior military personnel, weapons production facilities and the transport corridor that Iran uses to send weapons to Hezbollah.

#### ■ Kurdish forces

Kurdish forces became the US's main local partner in the fight against the Islamic State in Syria. Kurdish fighters still contend with their longtime enemy, Turkey, which regards them as linked to a Kurdish separatist insurgency.

## PURITY CLOSE TO ROUGHLY 90% LEVEL THAT IS WEAPONS GRADE: IAEA IRAN DRAMATICALLY BOOSTING URANIUM ENRICHMENT

Iran is "dramatically" accelerating its enrichment of uranium to up to 60% purity, close to the roughly 90% level that is weapons grade, U.N. nuclear watchdog chief Rafael Grossi told Reuters on Friday. The International Atomic Energy Agency chief said Iran's production capacity was set to rise to "seven, eight times more... or even more" than the current monthly level of 57 kg of uranium enriched to 60% purity. **REUTERS**

## OPP TO REVIVE MOTION NEXT WEEK

# S Korea's Yoon survives impeachment bid after his party boycotts vote

Yoon apologises to nation, ruling party leader resigns from post

### REUTERS

SEOUL, DECEMBER 7

SOUTH KOREAN President Yoon Suk Yeol survived an impeachment motion in the opposition-led parliament on Saturday that was prompted by his short-lived attempt to impose martial law this week, after members of his party boycotted the vote.

Only 195 votes were cast, below the threshold of 200 needed for the vote to count.

"The entire nation is watching the decision being made here at the National Assembly today. World is watching," National Assembly speaker Woo Won-shik said with a sigh. "It's very unfortunate that there wasn't even a vote."

The main opposition Democratic Party has said it will revive the impeachment motion next week if it failed on Saturday.

After voting began, National Assembly Speaker Woo Won-shik called on PPP members to return as opposition lawmakers settled in. It was unclear how long they planned to wait, but the secretary of parliament said they had until 12:48 am Sunday (1548 GMT on Saturday) to wrap up the vote.

One of the PPP members who returned told reporters he had



Protesters gather outside the National Assembly demanding President Yoon Suk Yeol's resignation on Saturday. *Reuters*

voted against the impeachment motion as he did not agree with the bill, but still thought Yoon was not qualified to be president. Opposition leaders have said they would revisit the impeachment motion on Wednesday if it failed the first time.

In the morning, Yoon apologised the nation for his attempt to impose martial law but did not resign, defying intense pressure to step down even from some in his ruling party.

Yoon said he would not seek to avoid legal and political responsibility for his decision to declare martial law for the first time in South Korea in 44 years. He said the decision was born of desperation.

Saturday's televised speech was the embattled leader's first public appearance since he re-

scinded the martial law order six hours after declaring it, when parliament defied military and police cordons to vote unanimously against his decree.

"I leave it up to my party to take steps to stabilise the political situation in the future, including the issue of my term in office," Yoon said in the address to the nation, promising there would be no second attempt to impose martial law.

Standing in front of the South Korean flag, Yoon bowed after he finished his brief remarks, staring solemnly into the camera for a moment. Han Dong-hoon, leader of Yoon's ruling party, said after the address that the president was no longer in a position to carry out his public duties and his resignation was now unavoidable.

## Qatar PM: Engaging with Trump team on Gaza truce deal



Site of a Israeli airstrike in central Gaza on Saturday. *Reuters*

### REUTERS

DOHA, DECEMBER 7

QATAR IS engaging with the incoming Trump administration on Gaza after sensing fresh momentum for ceasefire talks following the U.S. election, Qatar's Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani said on Saturday.

The war in Gaza has been raging for over 14 months, with much of the tiny enclave laid to waste and more than 44,000 Palestinians killed, according to Gaza health authorities, as Israeli forces continue their drive to wipe out Hamas and recapture

hostages taken by the militant group.

Donald Trump's Middle East envoy has traveled to Qatar and Israel to kick-start the U.S. president-elect's diplomatic push for a ceasefire and hostage release deal before his inauguration on Jan. 20, a source briefed on the talks told Reuters on Thursday.

"We have seen a lot of encouragement from the incoming administration in order to achieve a deal even before the President comes to office and that's actually made us (try) to move things back and (try) to put it back on track, and we've been engaging in the past couple of weeks," Al Thani said at a conference in Doha.

## Biden weighs preemptive pardons for allies before Trump return

### ASSOCIATED PRESS

DECEMBER 7

PRESIDENT JOE Biden is weighing whether to issue sweeping pardons for officials and allies who the White House fears could be unjustly targeted by President-elect Donald Trump's administration, a preemptive move that would be a novel and risky use of the constitutional power.

The deliberations so far are largely at the level of White House lawyers. But Biden himself has discussed the topic with some senior aides, according to two people familiar with the matter who spoke on condition of anonymity Thursday to discuss the sensitive subject. No decisions have been made, the sources said.

They fear that Trump and his allies, who have boasted of enemies lists and exacting "retribution", could launch investigations that would be reputationally and financially costly for their targets even if they don't result in prosecutions.

Recipients could include infectious-disease specialist Dr Anthony Fauci, who was instrumental in combating the coronavirus pandemic and who has become a pariah to conservatives angry about mask mandates and vaccines.

## THE FATAL SHOOTING OF BRIAN THOMPSON HAS UNLEASHED A WAVE OF PUBLIC FEELING — ANGER, RESENTMENT, HELPLESSNESS

# UnitedHealthcare CEO shooting opens door for many to vent frustrations over insurance

### DANICA KIRKA

LONDON, DECEMBER 5

FOR YEARS, patients in the U.S. health care system have grown frustrated with a bureaucracy they don't understand.

Doctors are included in an insurer's network one year but not the next. Getting someone on the phone to help can be next to impossible. Coverage of care and prescriptions is often unceremoniously denied.

This week's fatal shooting of UnitedHealthcare CEO Brian Thompson has unleashed a wave of public feeling — exasperation,

anger, resentment, helplessness — from Americans sharing personal stories of interactions with insurance companies, often seen as faceless corporate giants.

In particular, the words written on ammunition found at the shooting scene — "delay," "deny" and "depose," echoing a phrase used to describe how insurers dodge claim payouts — amplified voices that have long been critical of the industry.

"All of a sudden, I am fired up again," said Tim Anderson, describing how his wife, Mary, had to deal with UnitedHealthcare coverage denials before she died from Lou Gehrig's disease, or amy-

trophic lateral sclerosis, in 2022.

Anderson said they couldn't get coverage for machines to help his wife breathe or talk — toward the end, she communicated by blinking when he showed her pictures. The family had to rely on donations from a local ALS group, he said. "The business model for insurance is don't pay," said Anderson, 67, of Centerville, Ohio.

For Anderson and others, Thompson's death and the message left at the scene have created an opportunity to vent their frustrations. Conversations have pivoted to the topic, as police efforts to find the gunman keep the case in the news.



Patients are often stuck in the middle of disputes between doctors and insurers. *AP file*



DAYS AFTER U.S. INDICTMENT OF ADANI GROUP

# Disappointing: US responds to BJP's allegation of backing agenda to destabilise India

Invokes press freedom to counter BJP charge that OCCRP, partly funded by US, targeted India through Adani reports

SHUBHAJIT ROY  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 7

DAYS AFTER the BJP accused the US State Department of trying to "destabilise India" through part funding a news portal that, it said, had "targeted" Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the US Embassy in New Delhi said Saturday that it is "disappointing that the ruling party in India would make these kinds of accusations".

"The US government works with independent organisations on programming that supports professional development and capacity building training for



Outside the US Embassy in New Delhi. File

journalists," a spokesperson of the US Embassy said, "This programming does not influence the editorial decisions or direction of these organisations... The United States has long been a champion of media freedom

around the world. A free and independent press is an essential component of any democracy, enabling informed and constructive debate and holding those in power accountable."

This comes after BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra, at a press conference, claimed that elements in the US "deep state" had colluded with a group of journalists and with Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi to put a spoke in the wheel of India's growth story with unsubstantiated allegations without a "shred of evidence". He suggested that all this is in conjunction with the US State Department.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Syrian rebel fighters after capturing the city of Hama as they pressed their advance towards Damascus, in the biggest challenge to President Bashar al-Assad in years. AP

# Assad regime fights for survival as rebels advance on Damascus

Area in govt control shrinking fast, Iran pares back support

RAJA ABDULRAHIM  
DECEMBER 7

PRESIDENT BASHAR AL-ASSAD'S political survival was under threat Saturday as the Syrian government battled opposition rebellions around the country and, amid protests near the capital Damascus, withdrew forces from several of its suburbs, according to war monitoring groups.

The Syrian military denied that its forces had withdrawn from the suburbs of Damascus. Yet al-Assad's autocratic government, which had until just over a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

# India puts out advisory, days after Assad team held talks in Delhi to boost ties

SHUBHAJIT ROY  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 7

ASA rebel coalition's advance in Syria challenged the writ of President Bashar al-Assad and his army, New Delhi issued a travel advisory, asking Indians to avoid travelling to Syria and urged those staying there to exercise "utmost precaution" and restrict their movements.

The Ministry of External Affairs also urged Indians residing in Syria to remain in touch with the Indian embassy in



Damascus.

"In view of the situation prevailing in Syria, Indian nationals are advised to avoid all travel to Syria, until further notification," the MEA said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

HEARING ON DECEMBER 12

# CJI-led bench to hear pleas against Places of Worship Act

Petitions have been pending for 4 yrs, Centre still to respond to SC notice

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 7

AT A time when suits seeking surveys of mosques and dargahs have rekindled a debate across the country, the Supreme Court has constituted a special bench to hear on December 12 a clutch of pending petitions challenging the constitutional validity of the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991.

The special bench comprises Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna and Justices Sanjay Kumar and KV Viswanathan.

The Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991 mandates that the nature of all places of worship, except the one in Ayodhya that was then under litigation, shall be maintained as it was on August 15, 1947. The Act, brought in by the P V Narasimha Rao-led Congress government during the height of the Ram temple movement, was also meant to apply to the disputed Kashi Vishwanath temple-Gyanvapi mosque complex in Varanasi and the Krishna Janmabhoomi temple-Shahi

**EXPLAINED**

**E** In other courts, other pleas

THE 1991 Act, which left Ayodhya to the courts, froze the status of a place of worship as was on the day of India's independence. While the Supreme Court is still to decide the challenge to the Act, suits are being filed in different courts for surveying mosques believed to have been built on sites where temples once existed.

Idgah mosque complex in Mathura.

Several petitions have challenged the Act, saying it bars the remedy of judicial review which the Supreme Court, in its 1980 judgment in *Minerva Mills Ltd. & Ors vs Union Of India & Ors*, said was a basic feature of the Constitution and, therefore, outside the legislative competence

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**THE EXPRESS INTERVIEW**

**'Elon Musk, Silicon Valley leaders are not elected... they are making the most important decisions in our history'**

**YUVAL NOAH HARARI**  
HISTORIAN AND AUTHOR

## EXPRESS NETWORK



**FARMERS TO MARCH TO DELHI TODAY**

**HOW A WOMAN'S CALL HELPED COPS CRACK GOLD HEIST**  
PAGES 8, 10

# Two weeks after four died in Sambhal, police say 'fired warning shots'

NEETIKA JHA  
SAMBHAL (UP), DECEMBER 7

WEEKS AFTER the survey of a mosque led to violence in western UP's Sambhal, leaving four men dead with bullet injuries and mystery around who shot them, the district's Superintendent of Police has told *The Indian Express* that police personnel had "fired warning shots in the air" to disperse the crowd.

On a video that purportedly shows a police personnel firing a weapon, SP Krishan Kumar Bishnoi said, "A police person can be seen firing in the air. We are investigating who fired two shots."

This is a departure from what the police and the district administration said on November 25, a day after the violence. At the time, Bishnoi had said, "Police only used pellet guns. The autopsy report of the three dead says that they died because of gunshot wounds from a .315 bore firearm."

Moradabad Divisional Commissioner Aunjaneya Kumar Singh had also denied claims by the parents of Naeem, one of the dead, that he was killed in police firing.

Referring to some police personnel suffering injuries, allegedly from bullet fragments, Singh had said, "Police cannot shoot at themselves... It was the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

SHUBHANGI KHAPRE & VALLABH OZARKAR  
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 7

BARELY A fortnight after the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alliance was routed in the Maharashtra Assembly elections, the Samajwadi Party (SP) announced Saturday that it is quitting the MVA, saying that Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray was "back to his old position justifying the Babri Masjid demolition" which, it added, was "unacceptable".

"We have quit the MVA. What is the point of continuing



Maharashtra SP chief Abu Azmi in Mumbai, Saturday. Ganesh Shirsekar REPORTS, P6

in the front where there is no uniformity on issues nor adequate consultation with allies?" state SP chief Abu Azmi said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## EXPRESS NETWORK



**AT THE FOREFRONT OF KERALA DIALYSIS CHALLENGE** PAGE 10

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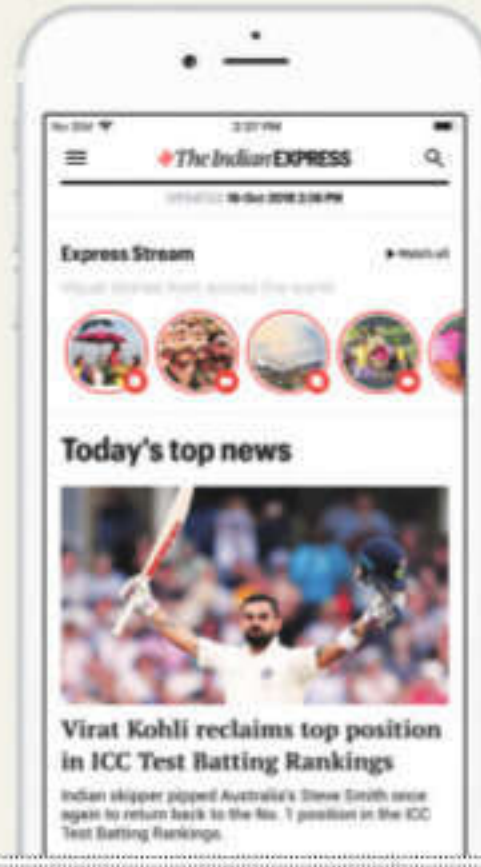
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**USHA UTHUP ON HUNGER FOR ACTING JOBS: 'I CAN BE A VADA-PAV WALLI, BOOTLEGGER, SERVANT, I JUST DON'T WANT TO BE ME'**


India's pop icon shares a glimpse into her pre-show prep and the significance of her cherished daily ritual — the art of shrinagar that includes Kanjeevaram sarees, gajras, bangles and bindis

LIFESTYLE



**USTAD AMJAD ALI KHAN**

**Sarod maestro reflects on the timeless appeal of Indian classical music**



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EXPRESS AUDIO

**Who pays the bill? Exploring gender, relationships & money featuring Nikhil Taneja**

Leeza Mangaldas speaks to Nikhil Taneja about gender roles and how money impacts modern relationships. From splitting bills to addressing societal pressures, this conversation is a must-listen for all rethinking relationship dynamics

● Assad regime fights for survival

week ago appeared to have a firm grip over much of the country, now seemed to be facing a possible breach of Damascus.

In addition to the protests, the main rebel offensive had by Saturday reached the outskirts of the strategic city of Homs, only about 100 miles (160 km) from the seat of al-Assad's power in Damascus.

The new uprisings present the gravest challenge in years to al-Assad. It is unclear what resources he can marshal to defend the rapidly shrinking territory under his control, especially without the help of one of his staunchest allies, Iran, which began to evacuate its military commanders and personnel from Syria on Friday.

Russia, his other important ally through nearly 14 years of civil war, has offered only limited aid.

The British-based war monitor Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said government forces have pulled out of a number of suburbs of the capital, including Moadamia al-Sham and Daraya, and the nearby Mezzeh military airport. That could not immediately be confirmed.

The Observatory also reported that residents of another Damascus suburb, Jaramana, came out in an anti-government protest, chanting anti-Assad slogans and pulling down a statue of Hafez al-Assad, the current president's father and predecessor.

Syrian state media reported that al-Assad was still in Damascus.

al-Assad's control in southern and northeastern Syria, too, appeared to be crumbling, with a different coalition of rebel factions capturing much of Daraa Province in the south, and U.S.-backed Kurdish-led forces moving into the city of Deir al-Zour in the northeast, according to the Observatory.

The group leading the main offensive said it was preparing to surround the capital, which rebels had attacked early on in the civil war but had not entered since.

"Our forces have begun implementing the final phase of encircling the capital Damascus," a rebel commander, Lt. Col. Hassan Abdulghani, said on Saturday afternoon in a statement posted on the rebels' Telegram channel. He gave no further details and it was not immediately clear whether any operation on the ground near Damascus was underway.

"We have started sending more reinforcements from the north and south to the axes of the capital Damascus to support our ongoing operations there," he said hours later.

Russia and Iran both lent robust military support to al-Assad over the last decade, proving crucial to his survival through Syria's civil war.

But late on Friday, Iran moved to start evacuating military commanders and other personnel from Syria, according to Iranian and regional officials.

There were also few signs that another major ally, Russia, was coming to the Syrian government's aid, beyond some limited airstrikes. Russia intervened in Syria's civil war in 2015 and helped keep al-Assad in power by bombarding rebel-held areas

into submission. But now the Russian military is stretched thin, with much of its air and ground force tied up in Ukraine.

Analysts said Russia sees little incentive to intervene more forcefully in Syria given the apparent ineffectiveness of al-Assad's own forces.

"The Syrians need to be the ones defending Homs," said Anton Mardasov, a Moscow-based military analyst focusing on the Middle East. "If they are running away, then no one will be fighting in their place."

Still, the opposition fighters in Homs were facing some of the stiffest resistance they have encountered so far from the government forces there, who are trying to block the rapidly moving rebel advance heading toward Damascus.

Syrian government forces are stationed on the outskirts of Homs and were shelling areas newly captured by the rebels, according to the Observatory. There were also clashes between rebels and government forces north of the city, the war monitor said.

"Syria is witnessing a historic change," the rebels said in a statement released on their official Telegram channel. "And the people's message has become clear: There is no place for injustice, no return to tyranny, and the end is closer than Bashar imagines."

An array of different groups have been taking territory from the government in other parts of the country as well.

Government forces and their Russian allies withdrew from more than a dozen positions in the southwestern province of Quneitra near Israel and rebels took over the positions, according to the Observatory.

In eastern Syria, government forces in the city of Deir al-Zour have nearly entirely withdrawn from their positions, including from the airport and a military base, according to the Observatory.

In their place, Kurdish-led forces backed by the US have sent military reinforcements and released prisoners from a military prison there, the war monitoring group said.

With Syria's allies pulling back, the weakness of the national military has come on full display.

US officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Damascus could soon be under threat. A senior State Department official said al-Assad needed ground forces and that Iran would be hesitant to provide any.

The main rebel offensive now approaching Homs is led by the Islamist group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham. It has taken major cities and large parts of four provinces since launching a surprise offensive last week out of its base in northwestern Syria.

In the southern province of Daraa — where the Syrian uprising against al-Assad's authoritarian rule began in 2011 — a separate grouping of local rebel factions has taken control of more than 80 percent of the province after government forces withdrew from checkpoints and military headquarters, according to the Observatory.

And in the neighboring province of Sweida, a different array of local opposition groups attacked police and military checkpoints and took control of the main prison. **NYT**

FROM PAGE ONE FULL REPORTS ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

# CJI-led bench to hear pleas against Places of Worship Act

of Parliament. The Act, the petitioners have said, also violates the principle of secularism.

Hindu groups have been demanding that the Act be scrapped. The government is yet to take a stand on the issue before the court despite being issued notice more than three years ago.

The Act declares that the character of a place of worship as of August 15, 1947, shall be maintained and that no suit or proceeding shall lie in any court in respect of any dispute against the encroachment of any religious properties at any point in time before this date.

It also says that any such pending proceeding shall stand abated and that any proceeding filed on the grounds that conversion of religious place has taken place after August 15, 1947, and before September 18, 1991 (when the Act came into existence), shall be disposed of to maintain the status as existed on August 15, 1947.

In the Minerva Mills judgment, the Supreme Court had said "the power of judicial review is an integral part of our constitutional system and without it there will be no government of laws, and the rule of law would become a teasing illusion and a promise of unreality".

"If there is one feature of our Constitution which, more than any other, is basic and fundamental to the maintenance of democracy and the rule of law, it is the power of judicial review and it is unquestionably a part of the basic structure of the Constitution," it stated.

In June 2020, a Lucknow-based trust, Vishwa Bhadra Pujari Purohit Mahasagah, had moved the Supreme Court, challenging the Act. A few days later, the Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, too, approached the court, seeking permission to be made a party in the matter. The Jamiat told the court that "even issuance of notice in the... matter will create fear in the minds of the Muslim community with regard to their places of worship, especially in the aftermath of the Ayodhya dispute and will destroy the secular fabric of the nation".

Subsequently, a few more petitions were filed in the matter, including one by a representative of the erstwhile royal family of Kashi. The court said it did not want to multiply the number of writ petitions on the same issue and asked the parties to instead file intervention applications.

It issued notice on the clutch of petitions and, on March 12, 2021, sought the Centre's response. Later, the hearing was adjourned multiple times following requests from the Centre

for more time to respond. The government is yet to file a reply.

The plea filed by the representative of the erstwhile Kashi royals said that "for a legislation that shuts the doors of justice to affected communities and parties, it was "debated" only on three dates i.e., 23.08.1991, 09.09.1991 and 10.09.1991, and the Bill was passed on the last of the said dates".

"The debate of 23.08.1991 clearly captures the fact that the period of seven days' notice was not afforded to the members of the Lok Sabha before the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Bill dated 22.08.1991 was introduced," the petition stated.

Opposing these petitions, the management committee of the Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi too has filed an intervention application, saying the "consequences" of allowing such pleas "are bound to be drastic".

The mosque committee pointed to the violence in Sambhal, Uttar Pradesh, where a court permitted the survey of the Shahi Jama Masjid by allowing an application for the appointment of a survey commissioner the very day the suit was presented.

"The incident led to widespread violence and has claimed, as per reports, at least six citizens' lives. The declaration

sought by the petitioner would mean such disputes raising their head in every nook and corner of the country and will ultimately obliterate the rule of law and communal harmony," the committee stated.

Two days ago, former SC judge Rohinton Nariman expressed concern over the suits seeking surveys of mosques and dargahs. "We find today, like hydra heads popping up all over the country, there is suit after suit filed all over the place... Now not only concerning mosques but also dargahs. All this can lead to communal tension and disharmony, contrary to what is envisaged in both our Constitution and the Places of Worship Act," Justice Nariman said while delivering the inaugural lecture of the Justice A M Ahmadi Foundation on "Secularism and the Indian Constitution".

He also referred to what was said of the Act in the 2019 verdict on the Ayodhya matter by a five-judge Constitution Bench. "This very Constitution Bench spends five pages on it and says that in secularism, which is a part of the Basic Structure, you cannot look backwards, you have to look forward... Every religious place of worship is frozen to 15th August 1947. Now anybody who tries to change this, those suits will stand dismissed," he said.

● India puts out advisory, days after Assad team held talks in Delhi

"Indians currently in Syria are requested to remain in touch with the Indian embassy in Damascus at their emergency helpline number +963 993385973 (also on WhatsApp) and email ID hoc.damascus@mea.gov.in for updates," it said.

"Those who can, are advised to leave by the earliest available commercial flights and others are requested to observe utmost precaution about their safety and restrict their movements to the minimum," it said.

On Friday, India said it is closely following the unfolding situation in Syria.

"We have taken note of the recent escalation in fighting in the north of Syria. We are closely following the situation," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

"There are about 90 Indian nationals in Syria, including 14 who are working in various UN organisations. Our mission remains in close contact with our nationals for their safety and security," he said.

Sources in South Block are "surprised" at the sudden escalation in fighting after almost eight years of frozen conflict in the country. Given that Assad's regime has survived the fighting since 2011 and has held off the rebels from a possible takeover of Damascus makes New Delhi cautious about any prediction that the Assad regime will collapse anytime soon.

But this time, Syria's three main allies — Russia, Iran and Hezbollah — are either distracted or weakened, sources in New Delhi said, pointing out that this has provided an opening to the rebels.

With Russia fighting its own war in Ukraine, Iran caught in a conflict with Israel, and Hezbollah having suffered a debilitating blow in the last three months, Assad's army is on its own — and is unable to defend some of the key cities against groups, some of which had links to Al Qaeda.

New Delhi, in fact, was preparing to revive its political and economic ties with Damascus late last month.

On November 29, India and Syria held Foreign Office Consultations in New Delhi, where the Indian delegation was led by Dr. Suresh Kumar, Joint Secretary (WANA), Ministry of External Affairs. The Syrian delegation was led by Ayman Raad, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, Syria.

According to the MEA, the discussions reviewed the entire

range of India-Syria bilateral relations, with a renewed commitment to energise the institutional mechanisms between the two countries, and both sides also discussed avenues to deepen the bilateral relationship with special focus on areas like pharmaceuticals, developmental partnership and capacity building. The two sides also exchanged perspectives on important regional and global issues of mutual interest, it said.

India has been a keen developmental partner for Syria and is also actively involved in capacity-building of the Syrian youth.

The discussions at the diplomatic level were expected to contribute to further strengthening of the bilateral partnership, but sources said that given the current situation, it is a "wait and watch" stage for New Delhi for the time being.

● MVA cracks widen as SP walks out over Uddhav aide's post on Babri

The SP has been a part of the larger MVA Alliance which essentially comprises the Congress, Sena (UBT) and Sharad Pawar-led NCP (SP).

The SP's move came after Uddhav's close aide and Sena (UBT) MLC Milind Narwekar posted an image of the Babri Masjid demolition on X. The picture also showed Shiv Sena founder Bal Thackeray, Uddhav and his son Aaditya, along with a caption in Marathi that read: "Those who did this, I am proud of them." This was reportedly the remark made by late Bal Thackeray after the demolition of Babri Masjid in Ayodhya on December 6, 1992.

"(Uddhav) Thackeray joined the MVA in 2019. At that time, he vouched for secularism to win the support of Congress. After the defeat in the Assembly polls, Thackeray is back to his old position justifying the Babri Masjid demolition. This is unacceptable to us. Therefore, we have decided to walk out of the MVA," Azmi said.

In the Assembly polls, the incumbent BJP-led Mahayuti, which also includes the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena and Ajit

Pawar-headed NCP, pulled off a stunning victory, bagging 230 out of 288 seats. Of the MVA partners, the Sena (UBT) won 20 seats, with the Congress and the NCP (SP) getting 16 and 10 seats respectively.

The SP won two out of eight seats it contested, including six seats where it had a "friendly fight" with the MVA allies.

"What is the use of continuing in MVA? They don't talk to us. We were not part of strategies or ticket distribution," Azmi, who won from the Mankhurd Shivaji Nagar seat, said.

The Sena (UBT) camp hit back at the SP, with its leader Bhaskar Jadhav pointing out that his party's stand on the Babri demolition has remained the same since 1992. He asked whether the SP has taken note of the Sena's stand after 32 years, accusing it of allegedly tilting towards the Mahayuti alliance now.

Last week, soon after the poll results, Uddhav held a meeting with party MLAs and corporators, in which a majority of them expressed the view that the party should revert to their original Hindutva agenda. They said the perception of the Sena (UBT) "going secular" has adversely affected their electoral fortunes, sources said.

While Uddhav reasoned with them, saying that the party had never compromised with its Hindutva ideology, he urged them to campaign aggressively and explain it to people, sources said.

The Sena (UBT) leader and Leader of Opposition in the state Legislative Council, Ambadas Danve, had at that meeting blamed "Congress overconfidence" for the MVA debacle.

"Till last minute Congress kept fighting for seats. This affected the results. Had they projected Uddhav Thackeray as the next CM, we would have got 5 to 7 per cent more votes," Danve claimed.

While the Sena (UBT) has been insisting that it has continued to be part of the MVA, a party section is of the opinion that they should now chart their independent course outside the MVA. In the run-up to the coming Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) polls, this section argues, the party should recalibrate its position centred on its original "Hndutva and son-of-soil" plank.

Both the Congress and the NCP (SP) tried to play down the row. "The SP is a part of INDIA alliance. We will discuss the stand taken by Abu Azmi with Akhilesh Yadav (SP national president) and decide about it. We will also hold talks with Abu Azmi and will convince him to stay with the MVA," senior Congress leader Vijay Wadettiwar said.

On Narvekar's post about the Babri demolition, another Congress leader said it will have to be checked with senior Sena (UBT) leaders to ascertain if it is their party's official stand or Narvekar's personal position.

NCP (SP) leader Jitendra Awhad said, "He (Azmi) must have said it in anger. I will discuss with him. Even our senior leaders will hold talks with him and find a way out of it."

Amid the row, Sena (UBT) leader Danve said, "Sena UBT never abandoned Hindutva. We were always Hindutvawadi but that doesn't mean our ideology is against Muslims or we have opposed Muslims ever. Our Hindutva is related to nationalism and patriotism. Our fight was always against pseudo-secularism."

● US responds to BJP allegation

Patra's remarks came days after the US Department of Justice and market regulator Securities and Exchanges Commission filed indictments in US courts implicating Gautam Adani, his nephew, and his group for bribery, exchange fraud and other alleged violations of US law.

The BJP also slammed Gandhi for citing reports by an overseas web portal — the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP) — which, it said, "singularly focused" on targeting the Adani Group and its alleged closeness to the government to undermine PM Modi with "baseless" allegations.

The BJP spokesperson cited a report by French portal Mediapart that that OCCRP was funded by the US Agency for International Development and "other deep state figures" like billionaire investor George Soros. "The deep state had a clear objective to destabilise India by targeting Prime Minister Modi," the BJP said.

It added, "It has always been the US State Department behind this agenda... OCCRP has served as a media tool for carrying out a deep state agenda."

"A French investigative media group has revealed that 50% of OCCRP's funding comes directly from the US State Department," Patra said.

The BJP spokesperson then accused Rahul of being a "traitor of the highest order". He also said that "some agencies of America" and Soros make a "dangerous triangle trying to destabilise India".

Patra's allegations were echoed by his party colleague Nishikanth Dubey in Parliament who accused the Congress of "conspiring with foreign forces" to derail "India's success story" because of their "hatred" for Modi.

In Rajya Sabha, MP Sudhanshu Trivedi raised the issue with BJP leaders alleging that the Congress had stalled Parliament on the basis of reports published by OCCRP, including on the Pegasus spying row, the efficacy of Covid-19 vaccines developed in India, and the Hindenburg report against the Adani group.

Dubey said many of these media reports coincided with Parliament sessions in India. He called for Gandhi to be investigated for meeting with Soros, who he claimed "routinely conspires to derail economies of other countries", and American lawmakers like Ilhan Omar, who have strongly opposed Modi and his administration. "The Congress must answer... what transpired in meetings with those who have a history of peddling anti-India

agenda on Rahul Gandhi's foreign tours," he said.

As Trivedi finished his address, Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar said he had raised a serious issue and Opposition MPs would be allowed to present their views. "We cannot allow the largest democracy to be made dysfunctional by the deep state," he said, even as the Opposition MPs protested.

Calling it the "most unfortunate incident", Congress MP Shashi Tharoor slammed Dubey and his "outrageous statement".

"Number 1, you cannot attack people in a defamatory manner. Number 2, you cannot take anyone's name without giving them notice in writing in advance, and number 3, you cannot assault parliamentary privilege. He violated all those three rules and he was allowed to go on speaking and ranting for quite some time... so we objected to that. The House was initially adjourned. We went to see the Speaker and we said this has to be expunged from the record. The person must apologise," Tharoor said.

Congress leaders said that all this was a cover for "agents of Adani" to rush to his defence in the face of a range of allegations of corruption and wrongdoing by the business group.

In a statement, OCCRP denied the allegations about its funding and the suggestion "that we are influenced by our donors". OCCRP also said that being a donor-funded organisation, it had built safeguards into its editorial process and has always been open about its funders. "All of these documents are publicly available," the statement said.

Incidentally, last week, the MEA had underlined India's partnership with the US. Asked to comment on Gandhi's recent remarks at a Maharashtra poll rally that Modi was losing his memory like a former United States president (a reference to Joe Biden), the MEA spokesperson said, "India shares a multi-faceted partnership with the United States and this partnership has been built over years of perseverance, togetherness, mutual respect and commitment by both sides. We see such remarks as unfortunate and they're not in keeping with the warm and friendly ties with the United States and do not represent the position of the Government of India."

The latest controversy also comes amid US indictments in the case against an Indian official for an alleged assassination plot against Gurbpatwant Singh Pannun, a Khalistani activist in US.

● Sambhal violence

responsibility of the family members to restrain their son if he was planning to throw stones... Three groups were firing at each other. We have evidence, but our priority right now is to restore peace."

On Saturday, asked about the video purportedly showing a police personnel firing, Singh said, "The death of four people after sustaining bullet injuries is part of the investigation. How they were killed and who shot at them is part of our probe. Once we have the report, it will be clear."

Bishnoi said that on the day of the Shahi Jama Masjid survey, the police were tasked with ensuring the safety and security of the mosque and the surveyors.

The action on November 24 took place after the district court allowed the Archaeological Survey of India to survey the mosque following a petition claiming it was originally a temple. The first round of the survey was conducted on November 19, the day the petition was filed and heard at the district court, but authorities said they could not complete it satisfactorily.

Divisional Commissioner Singh said authorities did not anticipate such a huge crowd during the second survey. "Keeping in mind that during the first round of the survey, only 50 men had gathered at the mosque site, we deployed the police force. We could not foresee violence of any kind. We had taken the committee members (of Shahi Jama Masjid) into confidence, and we believed that if things go out of hand, we could use dialogue," Singh said.

On Friday (December 6), two weeks after the violence, roughly 500 people offered namaz at the mosque amidst heavy police deployment and under drone surveillance.

Those present included District Magistrate Rajendra Pensia, Additional District Magistrate Vandana Mishra, and Circle Officer Anuj Chaudhary.

Pensia said 34 people have been arrested in connection with the violence so far, and over 400 have been identified. Eleven FIRs have been registered, including four based on complaints by the families of the deceased.

"After the families demanded a probe, SIT teams were formed. Their findings will take three months," said the Additional Superintendent of Police, Sambhal, Anukriti Sharma.





‘AB NAHIN SAHENGE, BADAL KE RAHENGE’

# BJP launches poll slogan ‘imported’ from its Chhattisgarh campaign

JATINANAND  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 7

THE BJP seems to have imported the poll slogan from its Chhattisgarh campaign — where it tripled its tally of seats in last year’s Assembly elections, as it returned to power in the state after five years — to the Capital, even as efforts to finalise candidates for its first list, likely to be announced by December 15, gathered pace.

After it was launched at a party

event on Saturday, sources pointed out how ‘Ab Nahin Sahenge, Badal Ke Rahenge’ (Now we won’t tolerate it, we will bring change) was “more than similar” to ‘Au Nai Sahibo, Badal Ke Rahibo’ – the BJP’s poll slogan in Chhattisgarh almost a year ago.

The slogan kicked off a political storm, coming under fire from AAP convenor and former Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal almost instantly.

“I had already said that if they are voted to power, all the work

done by the AAP government with the people of Delhi over the last ten years will be stopped. Today, the BJP has officially announced that they will change everything,” Kejriwal posted on X.

He alleged that this meant availability of 24x7 electricity will end, long powercuts will return and free electricity will stop in addition to flagship AAP government welfare schemes.

“Free bus travel for women will end. Government schools will once again be destroyed. All mo-



A poster with BJP’s poll slogan. X/@BJP4Delhi

halla clinics will shut down, and free medicines and treatment in government hospitals will cease... To ensure the continuation of the facilities we have provided, people must vote for the AAP,” he added.

Hitting back, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said, “The BJP’s slogan for change – ‘Now we won’t tolerate it, we will bring change’ – has become immensely

popular among the people within a few hours... Kejriwal is well aware that the BJP’s slogan has rapidly gained popularity among the youth and women in Delhi, leading them to make a firm resolve to oust the corrupt and inefficient government.”

Sachdeva sought to emphasise that the people of Delhi were fully aware that the BJP, if it comes to power, will not stop free electricity and water

or remove pink tickets (women can commute for free in public buses in Delhi). “However, those mired in corruption, such as Kejriwal, (AAP’s Manish) Sisodia, and Satyendar Jain, will face bad days and corruption cases,” he added.

Meanwhile, the Delhi BJP on Saturday went into back-to-back huddles to finalise 30 to 35 candidates for its first list of contenders by the end of next week. Sources said the list could be announced by December 14 or 15.

## RAU’S DROWNING CASE CHARGESHEET



Three students died at basement of Rau’s IAS Study Circle in Old Rajinder Nagar in July. File

## Insufficient drainage system, unstable gates — CBI flags various flaws that led to death of three IAS aspirants

NIRBHAY THAKUR  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 7

AN INSUFFICIENT drainage system, highly unstable main entrance gates used as floodwater barriers, a cubicle with a lockable door at the entry point that got blocked preventing students’ escape — these are the key submissions by the CBI in its chargesheet in the drowning case of three students at the basement of Rau’s IAS Study Circle in Old Rajinder Nagar in July this year.

The danger of flooding “could be fathomed by an ordinary passerby”, and by allowing the students to use the basement, the coaching centre risked their lives, the CBI alleged in the chargesheet submitted in Delhi’s Rouse Avenue Court. Currently, the agency is probing the angle of corruption, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

Meanwhile, nearly five months after the July 27 incident, the Supreme Court Friday sought a response from states on the model rules drafted to prevent such instances at coaching centres.

According to the CBI chargesheet, there was moderate rainfall — as per India Meteorological Department standards — on July 27, as a result of which, the main road in front of Rau’s IAS got flooded. This is in contrast to the submission of the accused’s counsel that there was “heavy rainfall” on the day of the incident. In the evening, around 30 students were in the basement when the incident took place, the probe agency stated.

Soon, a Force Gurkha SUV was being driven on the road near the coaching centre’s main entrance steel gates. The gates, which were used to prevent rainwater from entering the premises, however, could not withstand the pressure created by the vehicle on the fateful day, the CBI said. This resulted in the basement flooding. The vehicle driver Manuj Kathuria was arrested and granted bail by a Delhi Court a few days later.

The CBI further alleged that the drainage system in the lo-

cality was insufficient to carry the floodwater load. The chargesheet, however, pointed out that no pipe of Delhi Jal Board had burst in the area on the day of the incident.

It also submitted an IIT Delhi report that stated that the main entrance gates of the building were highly unstable to be used as floodwater barriers.

Inspection by IIT Delhi experts, the agency stated, found that 8-inch ‘risers’ had been constructed to prevent water from entering the basement and two pumps were installed to pump out water. A “choked” water harvesting pit was also present at the entrance of the coaching centre, the agency stated.

“All the four co-owners of the basement... let out the basement to M/s Rau’s IAS Study Circle for being used for commercial purposes despite having knowledge that the basement could be used only for the purpose of household storage, parking, etc.,” the CBI stated citing a completion-cum-occupancy certificate, dated August 2021, of the building. The owners received a monthly rent of Rs 4 lakh and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) had, on August 4, 2023, issued a show-cause notice to the coaching centre with a direction to stop the misuse of the property.

The CBI further submitted that a month before the accident, Kishor Singh Kushwaha, a civil services aspirant, had lodged an online complaint against the basement being used for coaching purposes and thus endangering students. Students and staff told the CBI that the basement flooding was a regular affair, it was submitted.

The investigating agency had in October filed the chargesheet against six accused, namely Parvinder Singh, Harvinder Singh, Sarabjit Singh, and Tajinder Singh — the co-owners of the building where Rau’s IAS was allegedly running a library in the basement; coaching centre CEO Abhishek Gupta; and centre coordinator Deshpal Singh. Currently, all the accused are out on interim bail.

## Received ransom threat message, informed Delhi Police: MoS Sanjay Seth

*Ranchi:* Union Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth on Saturday said that he has received a ransom threat message and informed the Delhi Police and Jharkhand DGP in this regard.

Seth said he received the threat message demanding a ransom of Rs 50 lakh from an unknown number on his mobile phone on Friday. The sender allegedly also gave a life threat to him.

“I have already informed Delhi Police and Jharkhand

DGP on Friday in this regard. Senior officials of Delhi Police including a DCP visited me and I have informed them,” the BJP Lok Sabha MP from Ranchi said. Seth said he was not worried about such things.

Ranchi MLA CP Singh said, “I came to know this morning that the Union Minister of State for Defence was given a threat message and demanded Rs 50 lakh extortion. Administration should take it seriously and expose such elements.” PTI

## On coldest day of season, air back in ‘poor’ category

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 7

AS DELHI recorded its coldest morning of the season on Saturday with a minimum temperature of 7.1 degrees Celsius, three notches below the season’s average, its air quality index (AQI) dropped to the ‘poor’ category, after being in the ‘moderate’ category for three days.

The 24-hour average AQI of the city was recorded at 233 at 4 pm on Saturday, marking a deterioration from Friday’s reading of 197. The air had been ‘moderate’ for the last three days because of sustained strong winds and bright sunshine.

The Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune has forecast the AQI in Delhi will likely be in ‘poor’ category on Sunday and Monday, worsening to ‘very poor’ on Tuesday. It is set to fluctuate between ‘very poor’ and ‘poor’ in the subsequent six days. A western disturbance persists, which is likely to bring rainfall in Delhi on Sunday.

Saturday, meanwhile, saw a maximum temperature of 25.4 degrees Celsius, a notch above normal, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

The temperatures will fall after a marginal increase on Sunday, to 6 degrees Celsius in the coming days, the IMD said in its forecast.

Last December, the lowest minimum temperature was recorded on the 15th, at 4.9 degrees Celsius.

The IMD marks a ‘cold day’ or a ‘severe cold day’ when the maximum temperature is below the normal by 4.5 degrees or more. Similarly, a ‘cold wave’ or ‘severe cold wave’ is recorded when the minimum temperature is below the normal by 4.5 degrees or more. The last two years have not witnessed any ‘cold wave’ days in December. In 2020, however, seven ‘cold wave’ days were recorded in the month.

There was a significant drop in minimum temperatures over many parts of Northwest India on Saturday. The minimum was recorded at 4.5 degrees Celsius at Hisar, 5.6 degrees Celsius at Churu, and 6 degrees Celsius at Karnal and Patiala. Humidity levels oscillated between 43 and 89 per cent.

According to IMD, cold wave conditions will prevail over parts of Northwest India after Monday. There will be shallow fog and a low probability of moderate fog conditions on Sunday.

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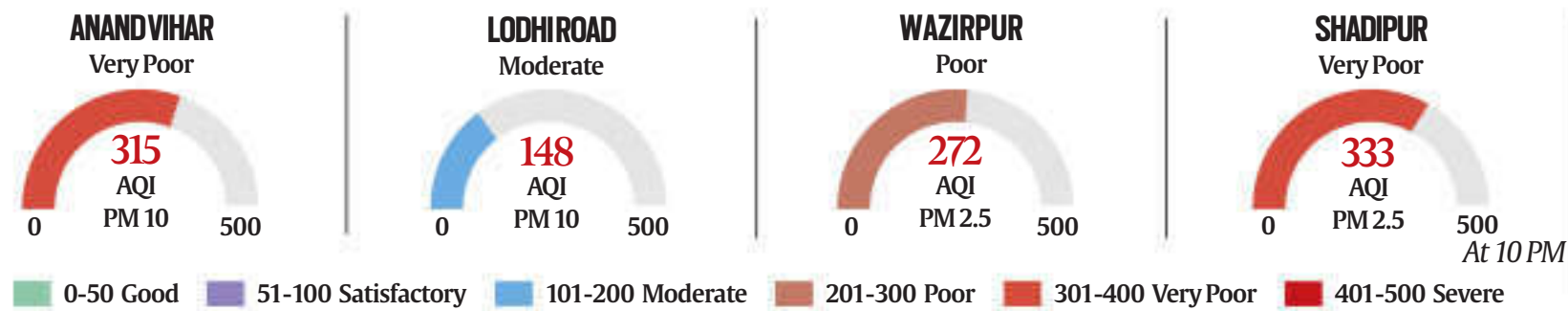
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**S K Y W A T C H**

**December 8**  
Smog/moderate fog in the morning and night. Possibility of light rain. Mainly clear sky.

**MAX: 24**  
0.8°C below normal

**MIN: 8**  
1.6°C below normal

WHY NAVIGATING DELHI AT NIGHT IS A PROBLEM FOR MANY

Capital’s Labyrinth

It’s like driving through a maze! For residents, delivery agents and cab drivers, barricades set up across Delhi’s localities by the police and RWAs have become a nightly nuisance. *The Indian Express* visits several localities to find out how what started as a safety measure is now an inconvenience.



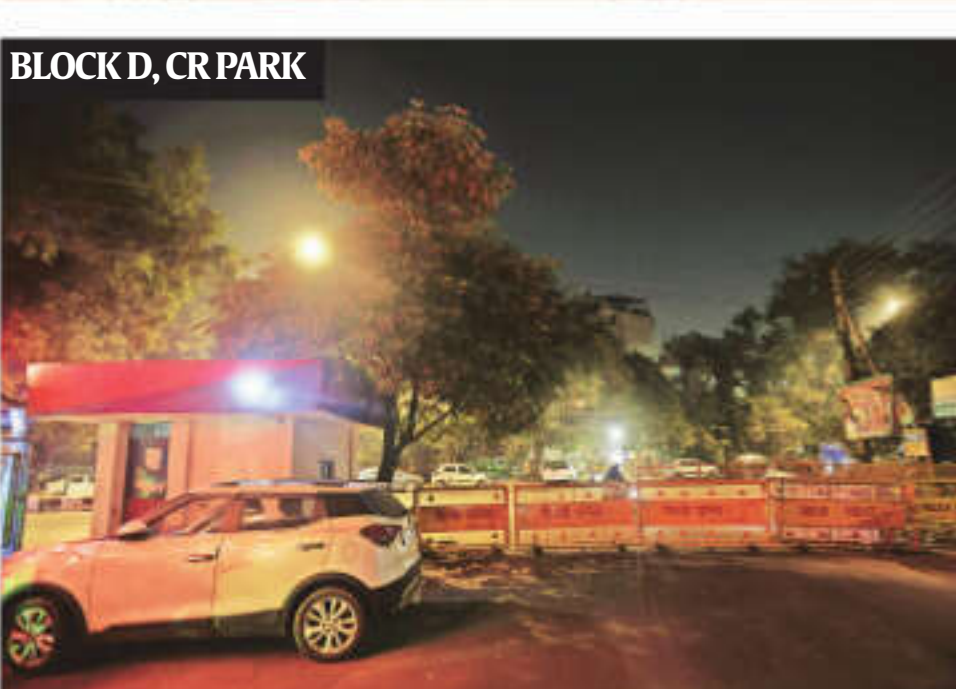
KALKAJI

HIMANSHU HARSH  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 7

IT’S JUST past midnight. Abhishek and Sonu are navigating the streets of Green Park on their bikes. “We can’t find a way out!” the delivery agents exclaim, checking the GPS map on their phones, their faces a mixture of exhaustion and frustration. Abhishek claims they went to four points but to no avail. “Google Maps showed a clear path. But when we got here, the route was closed. We have been stuck inside for almost 20 minutes,” the duo says, staring at a locked RWA gate at the end of Block C in Green Park Extension. There was no security guard. The green bars of Gate No. 12 separate the stretch from Chaudhary Hukum Chand Marg. “CLOSED 11 PM TO 5 AM... 24 HRS. EXIT & ENTRY AUROBINDO MARG NEAR YES BANK,” the white paint on it reads. The other end of the stretch is similarly blocked – and unmanned – a few inches of metal barring commuters’ access to Hauz Khas Village Road.



CHAUDHARY HUKUM CHAND MARG



BLOCK D, CR PARK

staff and barricades at 59 locations or colonies are being manned by staff of the respective RWAs. *The Indian Express* contacted Special CP Ravinder Singh Yadav (Law & Order Zone 1); Special CP Madhup Tiwari (Law & Order Zone 2); Special CP Ajay Chaudhary (Traffic Zone 2); Joint CP (Southern Range) Sanjay Jain; DCP Ankit Chauhan (South); DCP Ravi Kumar Singh (Southeast); and DCP Surendra Chaudhary (Southwest) for comment but received no response. *The Indian Express* spent three nights visiting 20 locations – only five had security personnel who stand guard and don’t let anyone through.

**GREEN PARK, SAFDARJUNG SOUTHWEST DELHI DISTRICT POLICE**

In both these neighbourhoods, yellow barricades and green gates cordon off the streets between 11 pm and 5 am. Barricades at key routes like Nauroji Nagar Marg, Chaudhary Jhandu Singh Road and Chaudhary Hukum Chand Marg were unmanned and cut direct access to Africa Avenue and Sri Aurobindo Marg. Pointing to an unmanned barricade at Chaudhary Hukum Chand Marg near Gurdwara Sikh Sangat, an auto driver in Green Park says, “To cross it, you have to take a 5-km detour to an open

road near Rajinder Da Dhaba.” The detour goes all around Safdarjung Hospital. “It’s wasting people’s time, money, and fuel,” he adds. Arvind, an MNC professional who recently moved to Safdarjung Enclave, recalls his frustration after a late work shift: “I drove for nearly an hour and was greeted by unmanned barricades one turn after another like a maze. Google Maps was of no help. I had to keep stopping and asking people for the way inside.”

**LAJPAT NAGAR SOUTHEAST DELHI DISTRICT POLICE**

The situation is no different in this locality, too. Unmanned barricades erected by police and RWAs cut off broad roads like Veer Savarkar Marg from Lala Lajpat Rai Marg. A motorcyclist, attempting to slip through narrow gaps between unmanned barriers near a Naturals ice cream outlet, gives up after a few frustrating tries. Not far from there, in front of the C Block gate in Lajpat Nagar I, a delivery man, Prakash, struggles with the unattended barriers under the Defence Colony Flyover. “The customer is calling again and again. It’s really frustrating,” he says. Another delivery person, overhearing him, says, “follow me to get out.” As he leaves, Prakash grumbles, “*Poori Delhi* he



BLOCK C, GREEN PARK

Barricades put up by police and RWAs at access points across the Capital. *Gajendra Yadav*

*band kar dete hain raat mein* (The whole of Delhi is shut at night).” Upscale areas like Maharani Bagh and New Friends Colony too are no exceptions, where most of the RWA gates remain shut without guards at night hours.

**CHITTARANJAN PARK, GREATER KAILASH SOUTH DELHI DISTRICT POLICE**

In these upscale localities, though security personnel are stationed at most barricades, it is similarly chaotic. For many locals, they have become a nightly inconvenience, resulting in long detours, increased travel time, and, in many cases, unnecessary stress. “Every night, it’s the same story,” says a young woman, who lives in CR Park. She says she has to take a 3-km detour just to cross a street, that is normally a one-minute drive in the daytime, while returning from work. “At night, the arterial streets on both sides of the CR Park Main Road are closed, without any security personnel, except for one... I have to go through the Ring Road circling through Nehru Enclave,” she points out. Her friend argues, “An ambulance could get stuck at a barricade. Imagine if a woman is in labour or there’s some medical emergency, those few minutes could mean the difference between life and death. And there’s also no clear signage about which roads are blocked... It’s chaotic.” Cab driver Prakash concurs with the women. “After 11 pm, half of GK and CR Park is blocked by barricades. Some passengers walk to the car, others just cancel the ride.” New drivers, he adds, or those unfamiliar with the area can “waste hours trying to find a way in and out at night”. A security guard in the area, Dilip, however, disagrees. “Thieves strike late at night and take out the batteries, tyres, or even break into parked cars,” he says, arguing that the barricades are necessary to deter crime. A policeman at a barricade in GK II echoes this sentiment, noting that “most residents are familiar with the closures and can navigate around them”. In Block D at CR Park, a few men wait for their friend in a car near the police post. The road leading inside is blocked. There’s no policeman. Soon, their friend, Ramesh, joins them as he squeezes past through the gap at the side of the yellow barricades. “The problem isn’t the barricades themselves, but how they’re managed,” the resident says. “If they were willing to open them for people who live here, things would be easier. But many times, there’s no one at these barricades. Even if there are, they just point you to take another road.” In GK I, barriers installed just days ago have cut off access from Lala Lajpat Rai Marg at Hansraj Gupta Marg, barely 1 km from the GK I Police Station. “In fact, only the Greater Kailash Road and N Block have open roads, the rest are all shut now,” explains security guard Surender Gauri. He adds that the barriers were put in place after a series of car thefts recently. “Two days ago, a patient came in a private car, and begged to be let through. I felt really bad, but what can we do? Instructions are only to let the residents out... can’t compromise on the security of the area,” he argues. At the end of M Block Road in GK II, the familiar yellow barricades are chained shut and a few vehicles coming from Alaknanda Road are forced to reroute. A security personnel, meanwhile, remains seated in his booth, unmoving.

3 MURDERS IN 12 HOURS IN DELHI

Businessman shot dead by assailants on bike

PRAGYNESH  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 7

A 52-YEAR-OLD businessman, who was returning home in East Delhi from a morning walk, was gunned down by two unidentified bike-borne assailants at Shahdara’s Farsh Bazar early Saturday, one of three killings reported in various parts of the Capital within a span of around 12 hours.

Earlier in the day, in Southeast Delhi’s Govindpuri, a man was stabbed to death in an attack following a dispute over the cleanliness of a common toilet. The other incident occurred in West Delhi’s Khayala, where a man strangled his mother late Friday. The police identified the deceased as Sunil Jain, who ran a utensils business at Krishna Nagar in Shahdara. He was a pillion rider on a scooter driven by his friend Sumit and was returning home around 8 am, when the assailants attacked him on 60 Feet Road near Swam Cinema.

Shahdara DCP Prashanth Gautam said, “Sunil Jain was returning after his walk at Yamuna Sports Complex when he was shot.” An officer said Sumit has a case lodged against him at Gandhinagar police station. “He was booked under the gambling Act. He is being interrogated about the incident,” the officer added. A morning walk at the sports complex with 15 to 20 friends, followed by tea at ‘Sonu Monu stall’ and feeding the birds, before heading back home – this has been Sunil’s morning routine for the past one decade. On Saturday morning, it came to an abrupt end.

He was on way home with Sumit when 300 m away from his shop, two-bike borne assailants stopped their scooter. “They asked his name, and then approached to shoot him. Sunil offered them whatever they wanted, but they fired five rounds at him and then fled,” an officer said. Sitaram, a tailor who runs a shop on the side of the road where Sunil was shot, said he heard the shots while on way to work. “I left my house around 8 am... Midway, I heard sound of firing, one after another. By the time I reached the spot, Sunil was lying on the ground surrounded by pedestrians.”



Praveen Khanna

**SHAH TURNED DELHI INTO JUNGLE RAJ, SAYS KEJRIWAL**

New Delhi: AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal Saturday directly held Union Home Minister Amit Shah responsible for the “worsening law and order situation in Delhi”.

“Amit Shah ji has ruined Delhi. He has turned Delhi into a jungle raj. People are living a life of terror everywhere. BJP is no longer able to handle the law and order situation in Delhi...,” Kejriwal alleged in a post on X. Citing Sunil Jain’s death, he added, “...How did the criminals become so bold as to shoot someone in broad daylight and escape? How have criminals become so fearless in Delhi?”

The BJP countered Kejriwal by accusing him of exhibiting “dual standards” by “using criminal incidents for political gains”. “Today, when the people of Delhi are demanding answers from Kejriwal regarding his government’s corruption – whether it is the Sheesh Mahal scam, liquor scandal, deaths caused by waterlogging and electric shocks during monsoon, or the worsening condition of education, roads, health infrastructure, and parks – Kejriwal diverts attention by using unfortunate criminal incidents as a political shield to avoid accountability,” Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva alleged.

ENS

The first to respond were Sunil’s morning walk mates. “Sumit called us to say that someone has shot Sunil. We reached the spot and informed his wife,”



Police at the spot where Sunil Jain (left) was shot dead.

said Raja Jain, who deals in parts of electric scooty. He was with Sunil at Yamuna Sports Complex in the morning.

At the Subzi Mandi mortuary, waiting for the postmortem report of his father-in-law, Ekansh Jain said Sunil having any dispute with anyone is highly unlikely.

“My mother-in-law called to say that something has happened to papa. When I reached the spot, I got to know that he was shot... He would take the blame during any argument just to end it. From businessmen to relatives, he was there for everyone in the community,” said Ekansh, who is married to Sunil’s daughter Shikha.

Sunil, a second generation businessman, had been plying his trade in Krishna Nagar for the last 20 years. His father, Sukhmal Chand, had started the business at Gandhi Nagar in 1970s. “He was 15 or 16 years old when he started coming to the shop. He has studied till Class 10. He then moved to Krishna Nagar, as he sensed more opportunity there,” said Sanjeev Jain, Sunil’s cousin. He is also a part of the group with whom Sunil went to the sports complex.

Sunil’s hunch proved right. In the past decade, his business expanded leaps and bounds, making him one of the most well-known names in the Jain business community of the area. “Everyone in the area knew Sunil sahab. His shop provides utensils across Delhi-NCR and even to other states,” said Deepak Manocha, an electronics trader who has a shop near Sunil’s ‘Sanjay Bartan Bhandaar’.

ATTEMPTED TO COVER UP AS ROBBERY

Man kills mother after she threatens to disinherit him over a relationship: Police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 7

ON FRIDAY, a 45-year-old woman was found murdered at her West Delhi house in what initially appeared to be a part of robbery. However, soon, police arrested her younger son, 22-year-old Sawan for allegedly strangling the victim, Sulochana, following a heated argument over his desire to marry a woman which the mother disapproved of.

According to police, after killing Sulochana, Sawan, who operates a goods vehicle, stole his mother’s earrings to make it look like she was killed during robbery. When the police arrived at the scene around 8.30 pm, they found no signs of robbery apart from the missing earrings. The items inside the Khayala house were undisturbed, and the valuables were intact, said the police, which led them to suspect foul play unrelated to a theft. The police registered a murder case, and launched an investigation. They questioned the family

and neighbours, and collected technical evidence. “During the entire process, the conduct of the younger son was found suspicious. After a thorough exercise of local enquiry and collection of technical data, Sawan was asked specific and pointed questions. He soon broke down and admitted to committing the crime,” said Vichitra Veer, Deputy Commissioner of Police (West). Sulochana’s husband passed away in 2019. Apart from Sawan, she has another son, Kapil, 26, who works as an accountant.

According to the accused’s statement, his elder brother Kapil’s marriage had been recently fixed, and Sawan had approached his mother to discuss marrying a girl of his choice, the police said.

However, Sawan told the police that Sulochana threatened to disinherit him if he pursued the relationship, which deeply upset him. Claiming he had contributed all his earnings to the family, Sawan felt betrayed and planned the murder, investigators said.

GOVINDPURI

Spat between neighbours over flushing toilet leads to 1 death

New Delhi: A youth died after a spat over the use of a common toilet between neighbours turned violent in Govindpuri on the intervening night of Friday and Saturday. Ravi Kumar Singh, Deputy Commissioner of Police, South East, said, “Both parties are tenants on the first floor and were involved in the fight. The fight started after a minor boy from one family used the common toilet on the floor and failed to flush afterwards.”

The victim, a 24-year-old man, sustained stab wounds near his heart as well as his face and scalp, reportedly inflicted with a kitchen knife, said the police. He, along with his 22-year-old brother and their friend were rushed to AllMS Trauma Centre. The deceased succumbed to his injuries around 3 am, while his brother remains unfit to give a statement, the police added. The friend was treated and discharged.

The police have detained five people, including a minor boy. A murder case has been filed and further probe is underway. A forensic team also visited the crime scene. **ENS**

No diesel autorickshaws in Gurgaon from Jan

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
GURGAON, DECEMBER 7

DIESEL AUTORICKSHAWS will be phased out by the end of the year in Gurgaon, the district administration said Saturday. While no new diesel autorickshaws have been registered in the district from 2023, the existing ones will be impounded by December 31. At a meeting, Deputy Commissioner Ajay Kumar referred to the directives by the Commission for

Air Quality Management (CAQM) dated November 30, 2022 on completely phasing out diesel autorickshaws by December 2026. It also had suggested registering only electric and CNG autorickshaws from January 2023. Kumar noted that while different timelines have been set for phasing out diesel autorickshaws across the NCR, for districts such as Gurgaon, Faridabad, Ghaziabad, and Gautam Buddha Nagar, the deadline is December 31. The adjoining districts have

time until December 31, 2025. He instructed all Sub-Divisional Officers, Regional Transport Authority secretaries, and police officers to launch a campaign by the end of this month to ensure compliance with the CAQM orders. Kumar also directed officers to monitor the passenger capacity of shared autorickshaws and immediately impound the three-wheelers without registered numbers and those being driven by individuals under 18 years of age.

CAT relief for constable aspirant, paves way for induction after 6 yrs

NIRBHAY THAKUR  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 7

SONU BHATI was 19 years old when he successfully cleared the written and physical tests for the post of a constable in the Delhi Police in 2018. Yet, he couldn’t bag the post. The reason? The Delhi Police declined his appointment for failing to disclose two criminal cases registered against him. Fast forward six years and Bhati was granted relief by Delhi’s

Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), which directed the police to consider his appointment within two months, on December 4.

“...direct the respondents (Delhi Police) to consider the applicant’s (Bhati’s) appointment to the post of constable (executive) male ... within a period of two months from the date of receipt of a certified copy of this order,” the CAT bench noted in its order.

The bench added that Bhati would get all notional benefits, such as fixation of pay and al-

lowances and security. “However, he would not be entitled to any payment of pay arrears under the principle of ‘no work no pay,’” it said.

Bhati, represented by advocate Namit Saxena, had argued that he was at the time of filing his verification form for the post of constable, unaware of the cases lodged against him. “This Tribunal has observed that when the applicant had filled in his verification form on 08.03.2018, he was not aware of the FIR(s) having been

filed against him,” noted the CAT. The Delhi Police, however, argued that Bhati had concealed material information regarding his involvement in the two cases. Rejecting his candidature, the police had issued him a showcase notice. The CAT, however, noted that the FIRs against Bhati were “technical and trivial” in nature. It also noted that the FIRs had been quashed and that he was now “innocent and blemish free”. The FIRs were lodged against in 2016. While one was regis-

tered under sections 323 (punishment for voluntarily causing hurt) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the IPC, the other was lodged under Section 110 (security for good behavior from habitual offenders) of CrPc. Saxena told *The Indian Express* that the first FIR was lodged on the basis of a complaint filed by Bhati’s neighbours. A magistrate court in Gautam Buddha Nagar had acquitted him in the case on September 5, 2018. The second case was dropped on July 14, 2018.



# The *Bharat* Story Takes Centre Stage at the Ahmedabad International Book Festival

“In Mauritius, Hindi is a vital part of life, reflecting the island’s Indian heritage,” notes Shiksha Dhunpath, a Mauritian research student, pursuing a Ph.D in Hindi at Ahmedabad. “Hindi literature thrives in Mauritius. Moreover, festivals like Ganesh Chaturthi and Maha Shivaratri are celebrated with great enthusiasm,” she adds speaking of the prevalence of Indian culture in Mauritius. Bence Füstös, also a Hindi scholar but from Hungary adds that the Hungarian students of Hindi even observing Hindi Divas. Both the students, Bence Füstös and Siksha Dhunpath, spoke at the Ahmedabad International Book Festival (AIBF) on the topic “Hindi: The Language that Binds.



”The AIBF has hosted not just visitors across nationalities, but also prolific authors and speakers across continents and oceans that recognise the age old literary and cultural connections between India and the rest of the world. For instance, author and cultural ambassador Dr. Guillermo Rodriguez Martin kickstarted the International Stage with a session on ‘In Search of Soma: from the Vedas to the poetry of A.K. Ramanujan.’ “Ahmedabad is a UNESCO World Heritage City and is also known for books and literature and the vibrant literary activities happening here. AIBF celebrates this beautifully, with a spectacular venue and uniquely designed stages dedicated to various programs, making it a one-of-a-kind experience,” noted Guillermo Rodríguez Martín.

Since then, the International Stage has hosted students and speakers from Africa (Nelly Tjaimba) and Sri Lanka (V.V. Pathmaseeli) among others, who have doubled up as spokespersons of Indian culture and its ancient ties with the world, finding a platform here at AIBF. The festival also featured the launch of two of V.V. Pathmaseeli’s books in Sinhalese, translated to Gujarati. At a session at the AIBF, author and speaker Mette Johansson noted, “AIBF 2024 provides a brilliant, multi-faceted platform to explore diverse narratives and foster meaningful dialogue. It’s inspiring to see such a global exchange of ideas, especially in a

venue that values inclusivity and cultural depth.” A discussion on the book ‘The Golden Road: How Ancient India Transformed the World’ furthered this sentiment by throwing light on the role India played in the ancient world - that of the heart of ancient Eurasia and a confident exporter of ideas, art, religions, technology, astronomy, music and literature.

The legacy of India’s relationship with the rest of the world is a thought not restricted to the International Literary Stage. The Culinary Literary Stage (*Rasoi aur Kitaab*) hosts discussions that encourage visitors and audiences to further explore food Indian food items, that have already proudly made a mark for themselves on the global map. These include sessions on ‘sattu’ and the protein-rich legacy of Indian wellness and on ‘millets’. For example, at an AIBF session chef Arpit Sagar highlighted how India has its own, homegrown international soup, the ‘Mulligatawny’ soup.



Further, AIBF’s Cultural Stage (*Rangmanch*) gives a platform to artists and art forms from across the country – and in some instance, even beyond. For instance, Spanish-origin dancer and researcher in Indian performing arts, Mónica de la Fuente performed Bharatnatyam and Flamenco for audiences at AIBF on day 1. Since then, a brilliant mix of artists have enthralled visitors – including Jayatu Jayatu Gujaratam (a glorious display of Gujarati folk dances) and Rushab Ahir (presenting a folk fusion band performance), a band performance by Nagaland-based Imna Yden and The Tribalcreed, to Kijote Kathakali. The latter was a performance by a Thiruvananthapuram-based Kathakali group, narrating the story of Don Quixote, a Spanish novel by Miguel de Cervantes.

Such cultural performances that highlight India’s cultural relevance globally makes the AIBF an international event in the true sense of the word. While highlighting the global connect is essential, celebrating our roots is crucial. Literary sessions at the Author’s Corner (*Shabd Samsara*) led by stalwarts like Padma Shri Raghuvir Chaudhary, Padma Shri Kumar Pal Desai, filmmaker and author Kulpreet Yadav, writer Jay Vasavada and motivational speaker and entrepreneur Sanjay Raval held sessions at the

AIBF as a testament that the Bharat Story cannot be celebrated wholly without drawing focus to regional sensibilities that strengthen the country’s global appeal. In addition to giving a platform to literary and culinary voices and ideas, the AIBF brought film and cinema under its multi-faceted fold. The Children’s Film Festival – brought to the festival courtesy an NBT - AICFF partnership - brought poignant titles from global filmmakers to a screen at the festival, in Ahmedabad. “I was just looking at the stalls and was making my way to another spot, when I caught glimpses of the screening at the entrance to the hall. The film being played looked interesting so I just went in. I’m glad I did though, I stayed on till the end,” says an audience member.



For visitors, there’s ample opportunity at AIBF’s (*Gyaan Ganga*) section in case they’d want to get into some learning and experimenting of their own. Apart from a block-printing workshop, artists even hosted live demonstrations of their art - Mata ni Pachedi (a centuries-old traditional art form) and conceptual live painting, to name a few. The event also held workshops focussed on engaging children at the Children’s Pavilion (Pragya Shivar), ranging from learning the basics of Spanish and Gujarati folk songs, to a session on Chandrayaan 3 (led by ISRO-scientist Jaimin Tanna) and a session on developing emotional intelligence.

The festival wraps up this weekend with a schedule as promising as the one this past week. It includes sessions by writer Jay Vasavada, author Kaajal Oza Vaidya and poet Rajesh Vyas and a performance by Mukta Band on the Cultural Stage. As for workshops, ones on calligraphy and musical storytelling await children.

That the city of Ahmedabad is a treasure trove of food, architecture, music, dance, textiles and sites of historical significance is no secret. But with more than 340 exhibitor stands and 3 lakh + visitors in the first week, the Ahmedabad International Book Festival has not only made its mark on the global list of book fairs, but has also become a melting pot of Indian tradition, culture and legacy, so diverse and intriguing in its approach, attracting tourists, travellers and visitors not just from across the city and the country but even the world.





# 6 GOVT & POLITICS

## Buffeted by debacles, INDIA bloc totters as Congress braces for winter of discontent

**MANOJ CGG**

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 7

TRINAMOOL CONGRESS (TMC) supremo and West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee's dig at the Congress that she would ensure the smooth functioning of the INDIA bloc given a chance to lead it has come as a surprise to the grand old party, which is facing flak from some of its allies. As it is, the TMC now keeps an arm's length from the Opposition alliance.

Adding to the confusion in the INDIA camp is the Samajwadi Party (SP)'s decision to walk out of the Maha Vihas Aghadi (MVA) alliance in Maharashtra after Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray's close aide Milind Narwekar posted a picture of the Babri Masjid demolition on X with a 1992 quote from Shiv Sena founder late Bal Thackeray that he was proud of those who tore down the mosque.

Talking to *The Indian Express*, a

senior Congress leader said such posts are "avoidable" but added "such ideological contradictions in the alliance are inevitable". He said a chum in the Sena (UBT) too is certain to happen given the MVA's defeat in the recent Assembly elections in Maharashtra. "We all suffered a defeat...but I don't know...maybe the Sena (UBT) is thinking that they should return to Hindutva. But so far, we have not seen any concrete indication of that," he said.

The Congress central leadership is keenly watching the moves of the Sena (UBT) but believes the imperatives of local politics at times may force some of the regional parties to take certain ideological or electoral positions, which although may come as an "irritant" but would not undermine the INDIA bloc, which is a national alliance.

"We formed the INDIA alliance to fight the BJP in the Lok Sabha elections. We continue our fight. But in the states, some of the

parties fight against each other. We fight the CPM in Kerala; the CPM and the Congress fight the TMC in Bengal; we may fight the AAP in Delhi — So all that is there. There are ideological differences too, but the larger goal is to fight the BJP at the national level," a senior Congress leader said.

The bravado notwithstanding, the Congress, the de facto head of the INDIA bloc, is under pressure over the grouping's functioning months after the Lok Sabha elections, especially in the wake of their debacle in the Haryana and Maharashtra polls.

Mamata's barb has come at a time when parties like the SP and the NCP (SP) have distanced themselves from the Congress's protests in Parliament over the Adani issue during the ongoing winter session. The leaders of some other INDIA parties also feel that the Opposition should not be fixated on one issue.

Not just that. The SP believes the INDIA alliance now existed largely "only in the media". On the other hand, CPI general secretary D Raja says the Left parties were not being accommodated in the alliance as they should have been by larger parties when it came to seat-sharing. He believes that the Congress should introspect.

Earlier this week, the Sena (UBT), too, asked the Congress to introspect and take steps for Opposition unity, referring to the AAP's declaration that it will go solo in the upcoming Delhi Assembly polls. "In West Bengal, Mamata Banerjee is trying to do

politics by keeping Congress at a distance. Now (AAP chief) Kejriwal is also treading the same path. This is a matter where the Congress has to introspect and take steps for (Opposition) unity," an editorial in the Sena (UBT)'s mouthpiece Saamna said Tuesday.

The Congress did not officially

comment on Mamata's remarks. "The TMC had not been attending meetings of the INDIA bloc floor leaders in Parliament. When we ask them, their leaders say TMC is not in INDIA bloc. And then Mamata says she is ready to lead the alliance," a party leader said. "The Congress cannot take a view or make a comment on this. All these issues have to be discussed in the alliance," he added.

While the Congress and some of the other INDIA parties remained cautious, the SP said it did not have any objection to Mamata's statement. SP national spokesperson Udaiver Singh told *The Indian Express*: "Mamata Banerjee ji is a senior leader and we are satisfied with her leadership and her struggle. We could have no objection. But it has to be decided by the leaders of the INDIA bloc. We would like her to play a more active and good role in the alliance. We have no objection."

—WITH INPUTS FROM LALMANI VERMA

## ‘Why should people trust Cong, NCP if they ally with Sena (UBT) that hails Babri Masjid demolition’

**SAGAR RAJPUT**

MUMBAI, DECEMBER 7

IN A blow to the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alliance in Maharashtra, which is already reeling from the debacle in the recent Assembly polls, the Samajwadi Party (SP) announced Saturday that it is quitting the MVA after Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray's close aide and MLC Milind Narwekar posted an image on X hailing the Babri Masjid demolition.

In an interview with *The Indian Express*, Maharashtra SP chief **ABU AZMI** explains the reasons for his party's move besides speaking on the future of the MVA, among other things. Excerpts:

**Why did you cut ties with the Maha Vikas Aghadi?**

It is pointless to be part of an alliance when one party disrespects the religious sentiments of others by congratulating those involved in the demolition of the Babri Masjid. Since they [Shiv Sena (UBT)] have adopted a Hindutva stance, we had to make a decision.

**The Congress and the NCP are also part of the MVA. Will the SP's move have any impact on their future steps?**

I cannot comment on whether the Congress and the NCP will follow us and leave the alliance. However, these two parties have often portrayed themselves as secular... Why should voters trust them (Congress and NCP) if they are forming an alliance with the Shiv Sena (UBT) that openly praises those who have demolished the



Babri Masjid?

**Since it joined the MVA, there was a perception that the Sena (UBT) had toned down its Hindutva stance. What is your take?**

After a poor performance in the (recent Maharashtra) Assembly elections, Shiv Sena (UBT) leaders realised that calling themselves a secular party was not helping them. The BJP and the Shinde Sena are taking away their votes. That is why they have reverted to their Hindutva ideology.

**Did you expect Narwekar's post on the Babri Masjid demolition?**

They (Sena UBT) must have decided to post it because of the upcoming BMC (Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation) elections.

**The Sena at large has not shied away from its role in the**

**demolition of the Babri Masjid. Why did you join hands with them in the first place?**

They (Uddhav Sena) had publicly apologised for it. They said they had been with the wrong people (a reference to the BJP) and made a mistake by being with them for 30 years, and that they would not repeat it. They also started calling themselves a secular party.

The saying subah ka bhula agar shaam ko ghar aaye to use bhula nahi kehte (A person who forgets in the morning comes home in the evening) applies here.

**Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aadiya Thackeray has said the party boycotted the oath-taking ceremony of MLAs because of opposition to EVM irregularities. How do you view this?**

We are fighting for the same issue. The developed countries that invented the system have given up on it (EVMs), so why are we still using it?

**Why did you still participate in the oath-taking ceremony Saturday?**

People have voted for me and chosen me as their representative. I have to work for them, so I had to take the oath.

**What is the future of the MVA?**

The MVA has no future if it does not stick together. This time (in Assembly polls), there was very little coordination between MVA parties. They did not ask for my opinion on seat-sharing. The SP won two seats in these Assembly elections. But if our alliance parties had supported us, we could have won more seats.

## MVA MLAs refuse to take oath, allege ‘EVM misuse’

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**

MUMBAI, DECEMBER 7

ON THE first day of the special three-day session of the Maharashtra Assembly for oath-taking of the newly elected MLAs, the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) MLAs on Saturday decided not to take oath in protest against alleged misuse of EVMs in the recently held polls and the state government not allowing mock polls using ballot paper at Markadwadi village in Malshiras Assembly constituency.

Till Saturday evening, 173 MLAs took oath. MVA leaders on Saturday evening clarified that they would take oath on Sunday. "It has been decided that we will take oath on Sunday," Shiv Sena (UBT) leader and party legislative group leader Bhaskar Jadhav said.

Earlier, the three-day special session of the Lower House of the state legislature began at 11 am on Saturday as several members belonging to the ruling side, including CM Devendra Fadnis, and Deputy CMs Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar took oath as MLAs.

However, members from the Opposition parties including the Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP (SP) decided not to take oath and walked out of the House.

"The MVA's elected candidates did not take oath today in the Assembly. This is our protest against the murder of democracy at the hands of the Election Commission of India and the government. Markadwadi village had planned a mock poll by means of paper ballot, only to re-assure themselves about the voting pattern. The administration imposed a curfew against those

fighting for democracy. Although not much would have changed in terms of government formation officially, the truth would have come to light. Yet, villagers of Markadwadi in our democratic country were under siege," Shiv Sena (UBT) leader and MLA Aadiya Thackeray said after walking out of the House.

He claimed villagers of Markadwadi were arrested for planning the mock polls by ballot paper and termed it a mockery of democracy. "This is a mockery of democracy and it is apparent that the government is

scared of democracy by fair means... Let mock polls happen across Maharashtra, on ballot paper," he demanded.

"Despite the BJP alliance forming the government, public sentiment is that this government does not reflect their votes. It is not a government of the people's mandate. The sentiment of the people in Markadwadi mirrors that of the majority in the state. Respecting public opinion, members of the MVA have decided not to take their oath today," Maharashtra Congress Committee president Nana Patole said.

## Mumbai police helpline receives threat message against PM Modi, traced to Ajmer

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**

MUMBAI, DECEMBER 7

THE MUMBAI police registered an FIR after their traffic helpline WhatsApp number received a threat message warning of a bomb plot involving ISI agents against Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The police traced the message to Ajmer, Rajasthan, and have sent a team there to track the accused.

A police officer said the message allegedly mentioned involvement of two ISI agents and a plot to execute a bomb attack on Modi.

The probe team suspect that the sender is a mentally disturbed person or was under the influence of alcohol but further probe was on, the official added.

In the majority of such cases, the police have found that it is either people who are under the influence of alcohol or those facing mental health issues who send such threat messages. Majority of the threat messages to Mumbai police come to their only WhatsApp started as a traffic police helpline number.

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 7

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Saturday said his government has taken another big decision to make school education as accessible as possible with the Cabinet approving the opening of 85 new Kendriya Vidyalayas.

He asserted that while the step will benefit a large number of students, many new employment opportunities will also be created.

"Our government has taken another big decision to make school education as accessible as possible. Under this, 85 new Kendriya Vidyalayas will be opened across the country. While this step will benefit a large number of students, many new employment opportunities will also be created," Modi said in a post in Hindi on X.

The prime minister said the government is committed to providing school education to every section of the society in accordance with the National Education Policy.

"As part of that, our government has approved 28 new Navodaya Vidyalayas across the

### ONE YEAR OF REVANTH REDDY GOVERNMENT IN TELANGANA

## A CM in command, but questions hang over welfare delivery

**NIKHILA HENRY**

HYDERABAD, DECEMBER 7

AS HE completes his first year in office Saturday, Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has established himself as an aggressive face of the Congress who has sent out a signal that he is a strong leader despite the internal differences within the party. But he faces the challenge of delivering and continuing on the Congress's key election promises — a point the Opposition in the state has constantly harped on.

The Reddy government claims it has waived off Rs 18,000 crore worth of farm loans in its first month of coming to power and says it created 55,000 government jobs in 2023. As per government estimates, Rs 3,500 crore has been spent under the Mahalakshmi scheme to facilitate free bus travel for women

and provide gas cylinders at Rs 500 to 42 lakh women. Under the Gruha Jyothi scheme, state officials say, the Congress government under Reddy has provided free power of up to 200 units to eligible households.

But the Opposition disputes these figures.

"Revanth Reddy is simply lying to the people of Telangana. He is deriving pleasure by duping people and not fulfilling his promises to the people," Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) leader Sravan Dasoju says, asking how Reddy would continue on his promises considering the financial health of the state.

Dasoju questions Reddy on the pre-poll election promise of two lakh jobs and adds, "Even half of the farmers have not benefited from farm loan waivers. Women have not got the promised Rs 2,500 per month guarantee. What about the Rs 4,000



**PM Narendra Modi gets a flag from Brig D S Basera, Secretary, Kendriya Sainik Board (KSB), on the occasion of Armed Forces Flag Day on Saturday** *Express*

country. This will expand residential and quality school education to a larger extent," Modi said in another post in Hindi.

The prime minister also said his government is determined to improve connectivity across the country. "In this direction, our

government has approved the Rithala-Kundli corridor under the fourth phase of Delhi Metro in the National Capital Region.

This will make commuting between Delhi and Haryana easier," Modi said.

The Union Cabinet approved

on Friday the opening of 85 new KV's and 28 new NV's. It also gave its nod to expanding one KV.

The opening of these new KV's will provide an opportunity for over 82,000 students to receive affordable and high-quality education across the country.

The total estimated requirement of funds for the establishment of the 85 new KV's and the expansion of one existing KV's is Rs 5,872.08 crore spread over a period of eight years from 2025-26.

As of date, there are 1,256 functional Kendriya Vidyalayas, including three abroad -- Moscow, Kathmandu and Tehran -- and 13.56 lakh students are studying in these schools, an official statement said.

The Union Cabinet also approved on Friday the 26.463-km Rithala-Kundli corridor of the Delhi Metro's Phase-IV project that will further enhance connectivity between the national capital and neighbouring Haryana.

The entire stretch will comprise 21 stations, all of them elevated.

The decisions were taken at a Cabinet meeting chaired by Modi.

### 8-fold rise in per capita income needed to realise ‘Viksit Bharat’ goal: Dhankhar

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**

MOTIHARI (BIHAR), DEC 7

VICE PRESIDENT Jagdeep Dhankhar on Saturday asserted that an eight-fold rise in per capita income needs to be achieved to realise the goal of "Viksit Bharat" (developed India) by the year 2047.

Addressing the second convocation ceremony of Mahatma Gandhi Central University in Bihar's Motihari, he also expressed hope that the country, which was currently the "fifth largest economy" in the world, would "soon leave Germany and Japan behind". Praising the Centre, without taking any names, Dhankhar said, "The last 10 years have been marked by eradication of a culture of corruption and middlemen seem to have been eliminated".

"The world looks at us with surprise as we keep marching towards getting our due place on the global stage. We are the fifth-largest economy as of now, but things are looking up. Soon we will leave Germany and Japan behind," said the Vice President.

Reddy came to power in December 2023 after leading the Congress to victory, winning 64 of the 119 seats. Despite being a relatively late entrant into the party — he joined the Congress only in 2017 — and several claimants to the CM chair, he was picked for the top post.



**Union Health Minister J P Nadda launches intensified 100-day TB Elimination Campaign in Panchkula on Saturday.** *PTI*

## Nadda launches 100-day intensified TB elimination campaign from Panchkula

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 7

IN A step to eliminate Tuberculosis (TB) in the country, Union Health Minister JP Nadda on Saturday launched a 100-day intensified nationwide campaign from Panchkula district of Haryana.

The campaign, focused on enhancing detection, reducing diagnostic delays and improving treatment outcomes, will be implemented in 347 districts of 33 states where the prevalence of the disease is higher.

Nadda said the rate of decline of tuberculosis incidence in India has doubled since 2015 and is ahead of the global average.

Lauding Haryana's consistent focus and efforts on strengthening the healthcare infrastructure, Nadda said, "Due to the dedicated efforts made by the present state government, the number of medical colleges in Haryana increased from six in 2014 to 15 today. Under the leadership of Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, Haryana aims to establish one such medical college in each district. Even MBBS seats have increased from 650 in 2014 to 2,185, while postgraduate seats have increased from 243 to 889 in Haryana."

"India only had six AIIMS in 2014, compared to 22 today, with one under construction in Haryana's Rewari. Under the Ayushman Bharat Scheme, 1.22









कार्यालय परियोजना प्रबन्धक, यूनिट-17, कन्स्ट्रक्शन एण्ड डिजाइन सर्विसेज  
**उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम (नगरीय)**  
(उप्र प्र सरकार का उपक्रम)  
कृष्णा नगर, मथुरा-281004 (उप्र0)  
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फ़ॉक : 1127/एफ-14/49  
दिनांक : 07.12.2024

**ई-निविदा सूचना**

उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम, की ओर से अक्षेहस्तावरी द्वारा जनपद मथुरा के नगर निगम मथुरा-बुन्दानवन में प्रेम मन्दिर रोड पर ओमेक्स सोसाइटी के पास फूड प्लाजा के निर्माण कार्य हेतु अनुमानित लागत रु. 821.12 लाख (जी.एस.टी. रहित एवं लेबर सेस सहित) हेतु सी.एण्ड डी.एस. में यथोचित श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से दिनांक 09.01.2025 के अपराह्न 14:00 बजे तक ई-निविदाएं आमन्त्रित की जाती हैं। उक्त कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक 09.12.2024 पूर्वान्ह से दिनांक 09.01.2025 के मध्य उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार की e-procurement वेबसाइट <https://etender.up.nic.in> से डाउनलोड किये जा सकते हैं तथा ई-निविदा दिनांक 09.01.2025 को अपराह्न 14:30 बजे कार्यालय परियोजना प्रबन्धक, सी.एण्ड डी.एस., यूनिट-17, उ.प्र. जल निगम (नगरीय), मथुरा में निविदा खोली जायेगी। ई-निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य रु. 10000+GST (18%) अतिरिक्त देय होगा। निविदा से सम्बन्धित विस्तृत विवरण विभाग की वेबसाइट [www.cdsupjn.org](http://www.cdsupjn.org) एवं ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट पोर्टल <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है। समस्त शुद्धि पत्र (Corrigendum) <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर ही अपलोड किये जायेंगे, इनका पृथक से कोई प्रकाशन नहीं किया जायेगा। निविदादाताओं को सलाह दी जाती है कि वे उक्त वेबसाइट का समय-समय पर अवलोकन करते रहें।

# Majithia hugged Beant Singh killer, Cops summon Chaura’s sons, SAD should honour Chaura: Bittu

## Union Minister says Chaura’s photo should be put at Golden Temple museum

**RAAKHI JAGGA**  
LUDHIANA, DECEMBER 7



Union Minister Ravneet Singh Bittu

UNION MINISTER Ravneet Singh Bittu on Saturday suggested the Shiromani Akali Dal should honour the man who shot at former deputy chief minister Sukhbir Singh Badal since he himself had accepted he committed sacrilege, due to which he had to serve penance.

Taking a swipe at the Akali Dal, Bittu also also suggested the party’s senior leader Bikram Singh Majithia should embrace Narain Singh Chaura, the man who shot at Sukhbir, “in the same way he had embraced Beant Singh’s killer.”

Bittu, who is the grandson of Beant Singh, added that the Akali Dal sympathised with terrorists, “but terrorists are not loyal to anyone.”

Bittu added that Chaura is a “senior citizen and a Sikh devotee”. “Sukhbir had confessed at the Akal Takht that the sacrilege took place during the tenure of SAD-BJP government

in the state and that they couldn’t do justice to the probe. Chaura, who is a senior citizen, must have got deeply hurt and his action appears to be guided by emotions. But that doesn’t mean that anyone has the right to attack anyone at the Darbar Sahib. But I don’t see any khalistani or terror angle in this. Rather I strongly feel that that SAD and SGPC should fight the case and get him freed. They should act as large hearted

people as they had been suggesting others in the past,” Bittu told media persons in New Delhi on Saturday.

Bittu added that, in fact, “Chaura saab should be honoured and his picture must be made part of the Sikh museum at Golden Temple”.

Taking at further dig at Majithia, Bittu said, “The Akali leader had hugged Balwant Singh Rajoana, a convict in former CM Beant Singh’s assassination case, when he was out on bail last month, so he should do the same gesture with Chaura. The SAD and SGPC are proud of Rajoana. They are even fighting a legal battle for his release. They are fighting for the release of ‘Bandi Singhs’ and they should fight for Chaura as well, so that he doesn’t meet the same fate.”

Later in the day, while addressing media persons, Majithia said that Bittu’s statements reflect his mindset.

Majithia later in the evening while addressing media persons said, “we can see

the mindset of Bittu through his words.

“I don’t take any statement of a BJP minister who switched from the Congress seriously as both parties have different ideologies. But I wonder why Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah are silent.”

“On December 4, Bittu condemned the attack and now he has taken a complete U-turn. He is also validating an attack inside the Golden Temple. The BJP has a lot to answer and clarify their stand,” Majithia said.

SAD spokesperson Arshdeep Kler added that such comments by a BJP minister shows the party’s deliberate attempt to target the moderate Akali leadership.

“This seems to be a part of the conspiracy to finish SAD. How can people like Bittu understand the maryada of Akal Takht who had been calling Indira Gandhi, the woman who ordered an attack on Akal Takht, as their mother,” he said.

**KAMALDEEP SINGH BRAR**  
AMRITSAR, DECEMBER 7

AMRITSAR POLICE on Saturday deepened its investigation into the assassination bid on former deputy CM Sukhbir Singh Badal and started inspecting the role of attacker Narain Singh Chaura’s sons – Jagjit Singh and Baljinder Singh.

They both were summoned for questioning in the case on Saturday. Police is not only investigating how Chaura laid his hands on sophisticated weapons, but are also going through earlier cases against him for more clues.

Police sources said that investigation revealed that the pistol from which Chaura opened fire on December 4 was the same one he used in another case registered against him in 2010. Police said that Chaura hid the pistol somewhere in the field. “Chaura was arrested in 2013 related to the old case and all weapons were seized from him. It is surprising how he managed to hide this one.”

Talking to *The Indian Express*,



Narain Singh Chaura had made a bid on Sukhbir Singh Badal’s life on Wednesday. File

Chaura’s son Jagjit Singh said that the summon was a sheer harassment. “We were at the police station till 7pm and they asked us all about our family history. They didn’t ask anything related to the case,” he said.

Meanwhile, senior SAD leader and former minister Bikram Singh Majithia on Saturday released more videos of Chaura and his movements ahead of the assassination bid.

The new videos show Chaura moving inside and outside the

Golden Temple for around two hours before the attack. It can also be seen that he crosses Sukhbir twice. “Chaura entered the Golden Temple at 7:30 am on December 3 and was continuously moving around Sukhbir with another person. Who is that person? It seems that they both conducted a recce and attacked the next day. On December 4, he went to the washroom and attacked after that. It is likely that he was hiding the weapon there,” said Majithia.

## Kerala court awards death penalty to man for wife’s murder

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DECEMBER 7

A COURT in Kerala on Saturday awarded death sentence to a 60-year-old man who was held guilty for murdering his wife in 2004.

Mavelikkara additional sessions court (1) judge V G Sreedevi sentenced Kuttkrishnan, a native of Mannar in Alappuzha, to death and also imposed a fine of Rs 1.5 lakh for the murder of Jayanthi, then 39.

Public prosecutor advocate PV Santhosh Kumar said the accused, who had been abroad for 20 years, had committed the crime out of suspicion over the woman’s character.

The incident took place on April 2, 2004, when the couple was living with their one-year-old daughter at Alappuzha’s Mannar. After slitting the woman’s throat, he remained at the house with their daughter for an entire night. He went to the local police station with the daughter the next day and confessed to have killed Jayanthi. Arrested on the same day, Kuttkrishnan remained in judicial custody for around three months. Granted bail subsequently, he went into hiding after selling his house. Their daughter, now 21, grew up with her mother’s family. In October 2023, police nabbed Kuttkrishnan and the trial began. By then, six prosecution witnesses had died.

## Govt in no mood for talks, will march to Delhi today, says farmer leader Pandher

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
LUDHIANA, DECEMBER 7

PUNJAB FARMER leader Sarwan Singh Pandher on Saturday said that they have not received any message from the Centre for talks to address their issues and said a group of 101 farmers will again begin their march to Delhi on December 8.

On Friday, protesting farmers suspended their foot march to the national capital for the day after some of them suffered injuries due to tear gas shells fired by security personnel, who stopped them at the Punjab-Haryana border. The farmers have been pressing for various demands, including a legal guarantee for MSP.

Addressing the media at Shambhu on the Punjab-Haryana border on Saturday, Pandher said 16 farmers suffered injuries and one of them lost hearing ability because of the teargas shelling by Haryana security personnel.

Except four injured farmers, the rest of them have been discharged from hospital, he said, adding, “We have not received any message from the Centre for holding talks. The Narendra Modi government is in no mood to hold talks.” He added that the



Punjab farmer leader Sarwan Singh Pandher

Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) and Kisan Mazdoor Morcha have already decided that a ‘jatha’ of 101 farmers will again march towards the national capital on Sunday noon in a peaceful manner.

Meanwhile, the Haryana police is all set to stop media persons at a distance of “minimum 1 km” on Sunday as the protesting farmers’ jatha begins their march.

Haryana’s ADGP (Law and Order) Sanjay Kumar wrote to the DGPs of Haryana and Punjab that “in the interest of safety of media persons as well as their equipment”, the media persons should be stopped at a safe distance “minimum 1 km.

On December 6th, when farmers began marching towards the Haryana border, a large number of media persons were accompanying them. “Due to this, Haryana police faced lot of problems in handling the law and order situation”, the ADGP wrote.

**BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE**  
Office of the Executive Engineer, Bommanahalli Project  
Division, Beguru Main Road, Bommanahalli,  
Bengaluru - 560 068.

No:BBMP/EE/BPD/Tend-05/2024-25      Dated: 06.12.2024

**INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)**

(Through GOK KPP Portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> only)

The Executive Engineer Bommanahalli Project Division, BBMP, Bengaluru-68 invites Tenders from eligible Contractors registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with KPWD/CPWD/BWSSB/Railways/MES/National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl No.	Name of the works
1.	Supply of Data Entry Operators to offices under the Joint Commissioner, BBMP Bommanahalli Zone (To be Deployed to the BBMP offices spread across the Bommanahalli Zone) Estimated amount: ₹ 195.00 Lakhs EMD: ₹ 2,92,500/-

**Calendar of Events :** (1) Tenders must be submitted online through KPP portal on or before **26.12.2024** at **4:00** pm. (2) Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPP portal from **10.12.2024**. (3) Pre-bid meeting will be held on **18.12.2024** at **11:00** am in the office of the Executive Engineers, Bommanahalli Project Division, HSR Layout, BDA Complex, Bengaluru-560102. (4) Last Date for Submission of Tender Documents on or before **26.12.2024** at **4:00** pm.(5) Technical bids will be opened on **27.12.2024** at **4:30** pm Onwards.

Sd/-

Executive Engineer, Bommanahalli Project Division

**KARNATAKA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION**  
Central Offices, Mechanical Engg. Dept.,  
K.H. Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560027

No: KSRTC/2024-25/IND0159(T-144)      Date: 07.12.2024

**SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION**

(Through KPP Portal Mode only)

(1) Short term Tender is invited through E-Procurement Portal for supply of 222" WB BS-VI fully built 70 Nos Non AC Sleeper Coaches & 30 Nos Non AC Seater cum Sleeper (Hybrid) for Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC).

(2) Tender Value Approximate: **Rs. 47 Crores**

(3) Last Date for Bid Submission in e-procurement portal: **16.12.2024 @ 17:30 Hours.**

For further, any addendum/corrigendum in respect of change in calendar of events, specification, scope, other tender terms & conditions etc, will be uploaded/ Published through e-portal only.

**NOTE:** Interested Bidders need to register in the Gok e-procurement portal. For further information log into <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> for details. In case of further assistance, the bidders may contact KPP portal cell (Phone No: 080-22230960 & 080- 22234115) Interested suppliers may also contact e-procurement cell for training on bid submission. E-mail to support [support@eprochelpdesk.com](mailto:support@eprochelpdesk.com) for further information if required. In case if bidders need any assistance from KSRTC, they can communicate the same at [cmep@ksrtc.org](mailto:cmep@ksrtc.org) (Contact: 7760988870, 7760990773, 7760990073, 7760990054).

Sd/- Chief Mechanical Engineer, (Tender Inviting Authority).

DIPRI/CPI/JA/3674/2024-25

<b>Regional Office :</b> <b>Krishna Honda Building</b> <b>Akharaghat Road,</b> <b>Muzaffarpur-842001</b>				 <b>बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा</b> <b>Bank of Baroda</b>		<b>POSSESSION NOTICE</b> (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)	
Whereas, the undersigned being the authorised officer of the BANK OF BARODA under the securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon the borrower(s)/Guarantor to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/Guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub section (4) of section 13 of the Act with rule 8 of the said rules. The Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties/ies and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the BANK OF BARODA for the amount and further interest there of the contractual rate plus, charge and expenses till date of payment. The Borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub section (8) of section 13 of the SARFAESI Act 2002, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.							
Name of the Branch/ Name & Address of the Borrower/Guarantors		Description of the Immovable Properties		Demand/ Possession Notice Date		Outstanding Amount	
Bank of Baroda Mohammadpur Branch		Equitable Mortgage of Residential Land & Building in name of <b>Mr. Abhay Kumar</b> , S/o Braj Kishore Singh & <b>Mr. Santosh Kumar Singh</b> , S/o Braj Kishore Singh situated at Mouza- Bishunpur Lakhansen, PS Baruraj, Thana No. 184, Anchal Motipur, Dist. Muzaffarpur, bearing Khata No. 44, Khesra No- 581, 583, Jamabandi No. 349, Area:- 13.75 Decimal, Vide Sale Deed No. 1978 Dated 13.03.2008, <b>Boundaries :-</b> N: Krishan Mohan Singh, <b>S:</b> Vendor, <b>E:</b> Road, <b>W:</b> Vendor.		<b>31-07-2024</b> / <b>03-12-2024</b>		<b>Rs. 2,28,271.31/-</b> together with further interest thereon 19.07.23 at the contractual rate plus all cost charges & expenses till date payments	
<b>Place : Muzaffarpur</b> <b>Date : 07.12.2024</b>				Authorised Officer Bank Of Baroda			

 <b>KALYANA KARNATAKA ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION</b> Central Offices, Kalaburagi : Stores & Purchase Department, Sarige Sadana, Main Road, Gulbarga-585 102. Tel. & Fax No. 08472-260502, Mobile No. 77606 86172 (COSF), 77609 92029 (S.O).				
No. KKT/CO/COSP/ 09 /2024-25		Date: 06.12.2024		
<b>SHORT TERM TENDER INVITING NOTICE (THROUGH KPP PORTAL ONLY)</b>				
Tenders through KPP portal (pre-qualification & commercial) are invited for supply / service of following items.				
Sl. No.	Tender No. & date	Tender Nomenclature	Value	Last date for submission of tender
1	G-42/ 06.12.24	Procurement of Lubricants	<b>Rs. 7.01 Crores</b>	<b>31.12.2024</b> at 15:00 hrs.
2	G-43/ 06.12.24	Procurement of SMF Batteries for UPS	<b>Rs. 0.83 Crores</b>	<b>31.12.2024</b> at 15:00 hrs.
3	G-44/ 06.12.24	Procurement of Automotive Batteries	<b>Rs. 1.94 Crores</b>	<b>31.12.2024</b> at 15:00 hrs.
4	G-45/ 06.12.24	Selection of an agency for providing Technical Assistants to KKRTC	<b>Rs. 15.73 Crores</b>	<b>31.12.2024</b> at 15:00 hrs.
5	G-46/ 06.12.24	Procurement of ERW GI Tubes	<b>Rs. 02.05 Crores</b>	<b>31.12.2024</b> at 15:00 hrs.
6	G-47/ 06.12.24	Procurement of Automotive Glasses	<b>Rs. 02.64 Crores</b>	<b>31.12.2024</b> at 15:00 hrs.
All the details of Tender, Registration, Tender form documents etc. are available at <a href="https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home">https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home</a> . Mail to <a href="mailto:cospnkrtc@gmail.com">cospnkrtc@gmail.com</a> or <a href="mailto:support@eprochelpdesk.com">support@eprochelpdesk.com</a> for further information if required. Further, any addendum / corrigendum related to changes in terms and conditions of tender, specification and calendar of events etc. will be uploaded only through KPP portal.				
Sd/- Controller of Stores and Purchases (Tender Inviting Authority)				
DIPRI/Kalaburagi/700/KSMCA&A/2024-25				

 <b>GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA</b> <b>OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER</b> <b>RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, CUTTACK</b> e-mail:- <a href="mailto:ceerwctc@gmail.com">ceerwctc@gmail.com</a>			
No:- Tender Online RWC- 20/24		Letter NO. -3362 <b>e-Procurement NOTICE</b> : Periodical Maintenance of 5 year completed PMGSY Roads.	
Date:- 03.12.2024			
1. Name of the work			
2. Class of Contractor			
a) Estimated cost more then Rs. 6.00 Crore & upto Rs. 50.00 Crore			
d) Estimated cost more then Rs. 1.00 Crore & upto Rs. 20.00 Crore			
e) Estimated cost more then Rs. 20.00 Lakh & upto Rs. 3.00 Crore			
3. Time for Completion			
4. Detail Projects			
5. Other Details			
Procurement Officer		Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding
1		2	3
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Cuttack		Tender Online RWC- 20/24	09.12.2024 at 11.30 A.M. to 23.12.2024 up to 05.00 P.M.
Further details can be seen from the website <a href="http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in">www.tendersodisha.gov.in</a>		Last Date & time of seeking tender clarification	21.12.2024 up to 02.00 P.M.
		Date & Time of opening of tender	24.12.2024 at 11.30 A.M
		Technical Bid	Will be Initiated later
OIPR-25097/11/0009/2425		Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Cuttack	

 <b>Govt. of Bihar</b>		
 <b>Bihar Institute of Public Administration and Rural Development</b> Brahmyoni Parvat, Kushi dhra, Gaya, Bihar-823001, Website: <a href="http://bipard.bihar.gov.in/">http://bipard.bihar.gov.in/</a> e-Mail: <a href="mailto:bipardgayaeproc@gmail.com">bipardgayaeproc@gmail.com</a>		
NIT No: PDATracking/BOR/2024/01/73		
<b>e- Short Tender Notice</b>		
Proposal for “Selection of Agency for the Development, Installation, and Operation of a Web and Mobile Software Solution for Accessing and Tracking Pending Demand and Recovery details for the Board of Revenue, Bihar”.		
Schedule of Bid Process:-		
Sr. No	Information	Details
1.	RFP No. and Date of availability	PDATracking /BOR/2024/01/73, Available for download from 04 <sup>th</sup> December 2024, 08:00 PM
2.	Last date for submission of written queries for clarifications	06 <sup>th</sup> December 2024, 05:00 PM
3.	Date of pre-bid conference	09 <sup>th</sup> December 2024, 03:00 PM <b>Google Meet meeting ID:</b> <a href="https://meet.google.com/tfq-xje-pua">https://meet.google.com/tfq-xje-pua</a> 11 <sup>th</sup> December 2024, 05:00 PM
4.	Release of response to clarifications	
5.	Last date of submission of bid	18 <sup>th</sup> December 2024, 03:00 PM
6.	Opening of Technical Bids	18 <sup>th</sup> December 2024, 04:00 PM
7.	Opening of Financial Bids	To be intimated
8.	EMD	INR 500,000/-
9.	Contact person for queries.	Shri Arya Gautam Senior Assistant Director, BIPARD, Gaya email id:- <a href="mailto:bipardgayaeproc@gmail.com">bipardgayaeproc@gmail.com</a>
For further details bid documents are available on the website: <a href="https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in">https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in</a> . Last date of submission of bid is 18/12/2024 till 03:00 PM. The document should be purchased and submitted online via e-Proc portal ( <a href="https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in">https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in</a> ) only. e-Procurement Help Desk Toll Free Number: 1800 572 6571 Email id: <a href="mailto:eproc2support@bihar.gov.in">eproc2support@bihar.gov.in</a> For further details please visit : <a href="http://www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar">www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar</a>		
PR. No.14068 (B & C ) 2024-25		
<b>Assistant Director, BIPARD (Gaya, Bihar)</b>		
नशामुक्त हो जाए बिहार, सुरक्षित रहे घर परिवार।		

 <b>GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA</b> <b>OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,</b> <b>P.H. DIVISION, BALANGIR.</b> Email. <a href="mailto:Idcephbgr@yahoo.co.in">Idcephbgr@yahoo.co.in</a> , Ph. No - (06652 - 234647)	
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS <b>NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement</b> Bid Identification No. SE PH BGR 29 2024-25 Dt. 07.12.2024	
01. Number of the Works	: 01 Nos.
02. Estimated Cost	: Rs. 250.47 Lakhs
03. Period of Completion	: 02 (Two) Calendar Months
04. Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	: From 11.00 AM of dt. 13.12.2024 to 5.00 PM of dt. 27.12.2024
05. Last date / time of receipt of bids in the portal	: 5 PM of dt. 27.12.2024
06. Date & Time of opening of bids	: At 11.30 AM of dt. 30.12.2024
07. Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid	: Superintending Engineer, P.H. Division, Balangir, At- Tulsinagar, Dist- Balangir-767001
Further details can be seen from the web site <a href="http://tenders.ori.nic.in">http://tenders.ori.nic.in</a> or <a href="http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in">www.tendersorissa.gov.in</a>	
Sd/- Superintending Engineer PH. Division, Balangir	
OIPR- 13005/11/0023/2425	

 <b>लद्दु जल संसाधन विभाग</b> “हर खेत तक सिंचाई का पानी” <b>निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना सं०-SBD- 02/2024-25</b> केवल ई० निविदा पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाईट ( <a href="http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in">www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in</a> ) पर संवेदकों से दर प्रतिशत दर पर निविदा									
पत्रांक-1506									
1.	विज्ञापनदाता का नाम	कार्यपालक अभियंता, लद्दु सिंचाई प्रमण्डल, आरा।							
2.	विज्ञापन निमित्त करने की तिथि	दिनांक- 03.12.2024							
3.	परिमाण विवरण प्राप्त करने की तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक-27.12.2024 से दिनांक-03.01.2025 के अपराह्न 05.00 बजे तक शिफ्ट वेबसाईट <a href="http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in">www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in</a> पर।							
4.	बी-बीड मीटिंग का स्थान, तिथि एवं समय	मुख्य अभियंता, लद्दु जल संसाधन विभाग, पटना के कार्यालय में दिनांक-30.12.2024 को पूर्वाह्न 11.00 बजे से अपराह्न 03.00 बजे तक							
5.	निविदा अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक-03.01.2025 के अपराह्न 05.00 बजे तक शिफ्ट वेबसाईट <a href="http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in">www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in</a> पर।							
6.	तकनीकी निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक-04.01.2025 के पूर्वाह्न 10.00 बजे से संबंधित प्रमण्डलीय कार्यालय में।							
7.	तकनीकी निविदाओं का मूल्यांकन-	दिनांक-10.01.2025 से लगातार।							
8.	वित्तीय बीड खोलने की तिथि	समय प्राधिकरण द्वारा बाद में घोषित किया जायेगा।							
9.	निविदा की वैधता की अवधि	120 दिन							
10.	कार्य की विवरणी								
क्र. सं.	योजना का नाम	जिला	प्रखण्ड	राशि (लाख में)	अवधन की राशि (लाख में)	परिमाण-विवरण का मूल्य (अप्रत्यक्षीय) (केवल ऑन लाईन मुद्रांक) (रुपये में)	बीडिंग का देय बीड प्रोसेसिंग मूल्य, सेवा शुल्क सहित (अप्रत्यक्षीय) (केवल ऑन लाईन मुद्रांक) (रुपये में)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	
1.	बायो आहार का जलसिंचाई कार्य।	आरा	अंगिऔंव	300.297	6.010	10000	5900	12 (बारह) माह	
विस्तृत जानकारी <a href="http://state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar">state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar</a> से प्राप्त की जा सकती है। कार्यपालक अभियंता लद्दु सिंचाई प्रमण्डल, आरा									
<b>नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार</b>									







RISING TO THE CHALLENGE

Kerala’s dialysis patients rose 341% in 3 yrs, now state has 107 facilities

Dialysis patients in state increased from 43,740 in 2020 to 1,93,281 in 2023: Govt

**SHAJU PHILIP**  
 TANALUR (MALAPPURAM),  
 DECEMBER 7

FOR THE last six years, Muhammedkutty has had a fixed routine. The 54-year-old undergoes dialysis three days a week at a centre attached to the government family health centre at Tanalur in Kerala’s Malappuram district. “For the first year-and-a-half, I was undergoing dialysis at a private hospital. When I ran out of money, I came to this centre, but even then, I have to find Rs 15,000 a month for related expenses and travelling. We are living on five cents of land (a cent is equivalent to 435.56 sqft), and no source of income,” says Muhammedkutty, who has had diabetes for 25 years and hypertension for the last eight years.

Riding on the back of rising lifestyle diseases such as diabetes and hypertension, Kerala has seen an unprecedented spurt in the number of dialysis patients since 2020. According to data submitted in the state Assembly by Health Minister Veena George, the number of dialysis patients has gone up from 43,740 in 2020 to 1,93,281 in 2023 – an alarming growth of 341 per cent in three years. The number doubled in the first year itself, shooting up to 91,759 and then 1,30,633 in 2022.

This spike in the number of patients has seen dialysis centres coming up in village panchayats like the one in Tanalur, which was set up in 2019. Currently, 105 hospitals under the Kerala health department, from district hospitals to family health centres or FHCs (previously called primary health centres or PHCs), besides the tertiary care hospitals, have dialysis units. Apart from the government centres, there are roughly around 200 private dialysis centres across the state.

Apart from Tanalur, FHCs at Erattupetta in Kottayam, Valavannur in Malappuram, Marakkara in Malappuram, and Uruvachal in Kannur also have dialysis centres that function with the support of charitable organisations.

According to state-wise data of the Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Programme (PMNDP), as on October 31, Kerala has 107 dialysis centres and 1,271 functional dialysis machines. Gujarat, a much bigger state, tops this list



The dialysis centre at Tanalur in Kerala’s Malappuram district. *Special Arrangement*

with 272 dialysis centres and 1,286 dialysis machines. In comparison, Uttar Pradesh has only 78 centres and 884 machines.

The FHC at Tanalur was one of the first such grassroot-level government-sector hospitals in Kerala to start a dialysis centre. The initiative came from the Tanalur village panchayat after the Malappuram district panchayat mooted the idea.

“We formed the Tanalur Panchayat Kidney Patients Welfare Society with 230 members,” says panchayat vice-president V Abdul Rasak. “The centre was established at the FHC compound with resources mobilised from the panchayat, MLA local area development fund and sponsorship.”

While the cost of a single dialysis ranges from Rs 1,200-2,500 in private hospitals, the centre offers the service free of cost but patients need to pay Rs 200 for related expenses. To keep itself running, the centre depends on the goodwill of its patrons – crowdfunding, philanthropists, or expatriates.

The Tanalur centre began with six patients but now has 36 patients working in three shifts. “Most of them are from the panchayat locality. We have another 21 patients on the waiting list. If we have to accommodate a new patient, an existing one should die or undergo kidney transplant. A survey conducted last year showed 57 dialysis patients within the panchayat area,” Rasak says.

Given the demand, another

**“We formed the Tanalur Panchayat Kidney Patients Welfare Society with 230 members,” says V Abdul Rasak, Tanalur panchayat vice-president**

private dialysis centre with 40 patients is already operating within the panchayat limit, and a third one is in the offing.

Eight kilometres away, the Valavannur FHC has a dialysis centre with 24 patients, with 38 more in the queue. Besides these, the nearby Tirur municipal town also has both private and government centres. Despite the mushrooming of these local dialysis centres, the state’s heavy disease burden threatens to overwhelm the system.

Some 100 km away, Alive Makham Charitable Society in Kozhikode’s Puthuppaday village too has reached its capacity. The centre, which started two years ago, has 20 patients – with 12 on their waiting list.

“They have to now depend upon other centres elsewhere,” its convenor Muhammed Musthafa says.

For patients, meanwhile, there is another major economic cost – the loss of livelihood. “Many (patients) are breadwinners between the age of 40 and 60... With three dialysis sessions in a week, they may not be able to go to work. The patient’s care-

taker also cannot go to work. This has a major impact on our families in Kerala,” says Dr M K Mohandas, head of nephrology department at the Government Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram.

Plugged into the dialysis machine at the Tanalur centre is N Baiju, 48. Diabetic for the last 15 years, Baiju, an autorickshaw driver, the sole earning member in the family, has been on dialysis for a year. The dialysis, thrice a week, means neither he nor his wife can go out to work.

“My two children are students and repayment of the loan for the auto rickshaw is overdue,” he says. “Friends have formed a committee to help us and we are fully depending upon such help. Transplant requires Rs 50 lakh, and efforts are on to find both the money and a matching kidney.

According to health experts, a major factor behind the explosion of dialysis cases is the high prevalence of diabetes in the state. According to the Indian Council of Medical Research-India Diabetes-17 (ICMR-IN-DIAB-17) study, the prevalence of diabetes in Kerala is 23.6 per cent – twice of the national average at 11.4 per cent.

Dr Mohandas of the Thiruvananthapuram Government Medical College, says that “in 60-70 per cent of patients, diabetes is the major factor that leads to renal failure and in the rest of the patients it is hypertension”.

“Since lifestyle diseases go unchecked, the number of kid-

ney patients in Kerala requiring dialysis will only further go up,” he warns.

The number of dialysis patients has been growing at an alarming rate in the last two decades, says Dr. Bijoy Antony, a nephrologist at Aster MIMS in Kannur. A patient typically needs 8-12 dialysis in a month and must shell out at least 15,000/month towards it.

“In 2004, when I joined the Government Medical College, Kannur, as a nephrologist, the number of dialysis done in a month was less than 200. But the figure had grown to around 3,000 a month in the same medical college in the next one decade. Despite the mushrooming of dialysis facilities across Kerala, we see many patients find it difficult to get slots every week. The only relief is that dialysis has increased the survival rate of kidney patients,” he says.

Apart from lifestyle diseases such as diabetes, hypertension and obesity, doctors see the “misuse of medicines for pain and gastric problems as major contributors to the renal failure”.

In June, the state health department launched a survey to identify lifestyle diseases of 1.77 crore people above the age of 30. Until last month, it found that of the 32 lakh people surveyed, nearly half – 15 lakh people – had risk factors that could lead to lifestyle diseases. The survey also found that 4.30 lakh people had hypertension, 2.86 lakh people had diabetes and 1.69 lakh had both diabetes and hypertension.

Pak national’s deportation stalled as his acquittal in terror case challenged in SC

A special court had convicted Mohammed Fahad in Feb 2023, but the Karnataka HC overturned this order

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
 BENGALURU, DECEMBER 7

THE BENGALURU police have filed an appeal in the Supreme Court against a recent Karnataka High Court decision to acquit three people in a 2012 terrorism case, including a Pakistani national whose deportation was ordered after the acquittal.

On September 25 this year, the Karnataka High Court had acquitted Syed Abdul Rehman, 36, Apsar Pasha, 43, and Pakistani national Mohammed Fahad alias Md Koya, 42, in a case filed under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, the Indian Penal Code, the Arms Act, and the Explosive Substances Act.

The high court had overturned a February 2023 conviction order of a special court for terrorism cases against Fahad, who has been in prison since 2006 over a previous terrorism conspiracy case; Pasha, a convict from a 2006 terror case; and Rehman, who was previously an undertrial prisoner in the Bengaluru jail.

Fahad and Pasha are accused of terrorism by the Bengaluru police for allegedly indoctrinating Rehman in prison to carry out terrorist acts and guiding him to obtain a gun and explosives through alleged Lashkar-e-Toiba links provided by the duo in 2012.

The Bengaluru police’s move to file an appeal in the Supreme Court on November 29 against their acquittal is expected to halt Fahad’s deportation. Fahad was first arrested in 2006 in Mysuru and has been housed in a state detention centre following the high

court order for his acquittal and deportation to Pakistan.

2012 terrorism case

In the terrorism case brought against Mohammed Fahad, Apsar Pasha and Syed Abdul Rehman in 2012, the Bengaluru police alleged that Rehman, who was in jail for theft, was indoctrinated in prison by Fahad and Pasha to take up terrorism. It was alleged that after Rehman was released on bail, Fahad and Pasha stayed in touch with him by phone and guided him to contact associates based abroad to get a gun and explosive materials.

The special court for terrorism cases in Bengaluru upheld the evidence placed in court by the Central Crime Branch of the Bengaluru police to award a life sentence to the trio for criminal conspiracy, with smaller punishments prescribed for the offences of terrorism and dealing with explosives, arms etc.

The high court division bench, however, overruled the trial court on the grounds that the charge of criminal conspiracy would not hold since a jail superintendent had stated in court that no phone usage was allowed in the prison.

“It is true that CDR [call data record] analysis made by PW16 [prosecution witness 16] shows telephonic communication among themselves. As deposed by PW26, there are certificates issued under section 65B of the Indian Evidence Act in respect of CDRs. But by considering the CDRs, no inference as to conspiracy can be drawn. Accused No.1 came out of jail on 31.12.2011, and the other two remained in jail.



KOLKATA KALEIDOSCOPE

Visitors at the 30th Kolkata International Film Festival on Saturday. *ANI*

2009 BENGALURU 40-KG GOLD HEIST

Woman’s 2-sec phone call to save husband’s number helped cops crack case

**KIRAN PARASHAR**  
 BENGALURU, DECEMBER 7

IN 2009, the east Bengaluru branch of a private finance firm found itself in the news after 40 kg of gold was found to have been robbed from its office in one of the biggest gold heists reported in the city. While investigators kept their sights locked on the branch manager, as fate would have it, a two-second phone call changed the course of the investigation and exonerated him.

An ‘accident’ and an abduction

Things were going well for Isaac John, branch manager of Muthoot Mini Nidhi Finance located on the first floor of a building on New Thippasandra Road. The finance company disbursed loans against gold, besides aiding money transfers and wealth management. After his working hours on June 2, 2009, John locked the firm’s strong room and main door and headed home on his scooter after keeping the keys in the vehicle’s underseat compartment.

As he approached 12th Main Road in Indiranagar, a motorbike

bearing the registration number KA02 ED15 hit John’s scooter from behind, causing him to fall on the road and sustain minor injuries. Occupants of a Maruti Omni car, which was passing by, decided to take him to a hospital in their vehicle.

Unbeknownst to John, the men who caused the accident and those who took him in the Omni van were part of the same gang. They snatched his mobile phone and used chloroform to render him unconscious. What they did not anticipate, however, was that the keys to the office were not on his person.

Getting the keys from the police station

The gang immediately began to suspect that the keys were in the scooter. One of the gang members returned to the accident spot only to find out that John’s scooter was taken to Jeevan Bhima Nagar traffic police station. Pretending to be his friends, two men went to the police station. Somehow convincing the police that the accident was minor and John was fine at the hospital, they took the scooter and managed to get hold of the keys.

Wasting no time, the gang

went to the Muthoot office and stole 40 kg of gold ornaments, valued at Rs 5.68 crore at the time (roughly Rs 28 crore at present).

A police officer recalled that the incident came to light only after 18 hours, adding that time is crucial in such cases. “Dumped in an isolated place, John gained consciousness the next morning and managed to reach a hospital for treatment. His first thought was that he was only robbed of Rs 20,000 (which was in his pocket). Before long, he managed to locate his scooter near Jeevan Bhima Nagar traffic police station. It was on checking the scooter that John realised that the office keys were also missing. He immediately informed the finance firm’s executives and rushed to the branch only to find that all the gold in the strong room was cleaned out. They approached the Jeevan Bhima Nagar police,” the officer said.

“Our first suspect was the victim (Isaac John). We had to question him and check his credentials and details for almost a day, and kept him under watch. By then, the media came to know about the case and started to flash news about the heist. As

the case was serious in nature, at least seven to eight teams were formed,” the officer added.

T Rangappa, S Badrinath, MK Thammaiah, Hanumatharayappa, Mohammed Rafiq and Srinivas – then police inspectors – headed the teams. “The case started with zero leads. There were no CCTV cameras on the road or in firms like how it is today. The Central Crime Branch (CCB) was parallelly investigating and there was a competition between the East Division police and the CCB,” a police officer said.

A call that proved costly for the gang

While collecting information from the vicinity of the finance firm, the police came to know that a footwear shop opened opposite the Muthoot office a month ago but was shut down in the days after the heist.

A police team contacted the owner of the building and got the number of the person who rented the space. “We took the mobile number that he had given to the owner and found that the number had only communicated with four to five other numbers frequently

within that month. It also turned out that the SIM card was bought using a fake identity,” said a police officer.

Next, investigators checked the Call Details Records (CDR) of those numbers, suspecting that they were all part of a gang which may have been involved in the robbery. However, even those four to five numbers had only communicated between each other. “Some random calls were made to divert police attention, but we tracked every person to whom a call was made. The investigation was so intense that each and every incoming and outgoing call made after the SIM cards were activated were checked as the connections were just 30 days old.

That’s when investigators noticed a call that lasted just two seconds, made to the number of a woman. An officer said, “We found out that the woman was the wife of Jayakumar, a resident of Mahadevapura in Bengaluru. He was arrested in a theft case before and was out on bail. We went to Jayakumar’s house and on questioning, his wife said that she had called from her husband’s new mobile number to her own number to save it.” This call happened 15

days before the crime.

Investigators said that one day, on noticing that her husband – who was sleeping – had another phone with him, Jayakumar’s wife picked up the second phone and called her number. She answered the call and hung up within two seconds. Her intention was to save the number so she could reach him when his usual number was unavailable. She never asked him about the new phone or its number. However, Jayakumar disposed of the mobile phone after the crime.

“By then, it was clear that Jayakumar was part of the gang. Upon interrogation, he revealed that they had built a team and planned the heist for at least three months,” an officer said.

Based on the information he shared, the police arrested Nirmal Raj Kumar, 35, Manoj Kumar, 29, Lawrence D Selva, 24, and Jagannathan, 28, all residents of Bengaluru, and Tamil Nadu residents Bhaskaran, 26, Setu, 30, J Madivanna, 33, and Das Prakash, 23. A police officer said Nirmal Raj and Bhaskaran met in prison and hatched a plot to commit a big heist so they could settle down. Others part of the gang were their friends.

After the heist, the accused partially sold the gold ornaments and went holidaying in Shimla, Delhi, Manali and Mumbai. “We made Jayakumar call one of them stating that he would join them to spend some time as the heist was successful. The accused fell prey to it and when they came to meet Jayakumar in Shimla, we caught all of them,” the officer said.

On June 12, 2009, then city police commissioner Shankar Mahadeva Bidari held a press meet stating that they had recovered 34.60 kg of gold. “Initially we were unable to recover all the gold ornaments. But after the arrest, when they went to prison, we found out that some gold ornaments were being sold or pledged. It was hidden in a farmhouse and then police inspector Hanumatharayappa played a crucial role in recovering another 6 kg of gold,” a police officer said.

Meanwhile, one investigator was also caught for trying to make a quick buck from the accused.

Janardhan, then police inspector of Mico Layout who was part of the investigation team, had collected a bribe of Rs 3.45

lakh from accused Jagannathan after promising to help him during the trial. When the matter came to light in 2010, Janardhan was suspended.

Planning the complex operation

According to the investigators, the gang had reced the finance firm and tracked its operations, including who carries the keys. They had also followed John, besides purchasing new mobile phones and SIM cards – using fake documents – for the same purpose. Significantly, they had also rented commercial space opposite the Muthoot finance firm, ostensibly to set up a footwear shop.

Without the crucial phone call establishing Jayakumar’s connection to the crime, the police would have struggled to crack the case, an official said.

Conviction

After gathering evidence and information, the Jeevan Bhima Nagar police filed a chargesheet against the accused.

On January 6, 2023, the 56th Additional City Civil and Sessions Court convicted the accused and sentenced them to 10 years of imprisonment each.



## EXPRESS NETWORK

# Crowded spaces, lack of toilets: What CAG found in Odisha hostels for ST girls

SUIJIT BISOIYI

BHUBANESWAR, DECEMBER 7

CROWDED LIVING space, shortage in lack of adequate toilets unavailability of purified drinking water and staff shortage are among various problems that the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has flagged in the Scheduled Tribe Girls Hostel (STGHs) run by the state SC/ST development department.

The CAG report tabled in the state assembly Saturday highlighted poor living conditions in the hostels.

The STGH is a government scheme aimed at providing hostel accommodation for tribal girls from remote and rural areas to encourage higher enrolment and reduce dropout rates.

Between 2007-08 and 2020-21, of which 1,471 are already functional, the Odisha government had sanctioned Rs 857 crore for construction of 1,524 STGHs in the state.

These hostels accommodate nearly five lakh tribal girls

According to the report of a CAG, which was prepared following physical inspection to 69 hostels, insufficient cots and bed

linen in some hostels compelled their residents to share beds.

"In 26 STGHs (out of the 69 inspected hostels) there were shortages (ranging from one to eight), in the number of toilets required. In three STGHs, there was no piped water supply. The girls had to fetch water from the bore well to meet their daily requirements. Kitchen spaces and dining spaces were not available in 39 and 41 STGHs, respectively," said the report.

The CAG found that 34 of the 69 verified STGHs had not been visited by the medical officers — vital for the health of adolescent girls.

Critical staff, such as hostel superintendents, wardens, cook-cum — such as attendants, sanitary workers, watch and ward staff — were found to be absent or inadequate. In at least four hostels, the absence of cook-cum-attendants meant the girl students were compelled to cook for themselves, the report said.

While most of the STGHs required repair and maintenance, the district tribal development agencies had not submitted the proposals to the state government seeking funds, the report said.

# Leopard attacks three people in Jaipur, sets off panic; captured

Animal sent to Nahargarh Biological park



The leopard was first spotted at the CPWD guest house in Vidhyadhar Nagar. *Express*

PARUL KULSHRESTHA

JAIPUR, DECEMBER 7

A 3-YEAR-OLD female leopard that ventured into a residential area in Jaipur Saturday afternoon attacked three people, causing panic and prompting a manhunt for the animal.

The leopard was first spotted at the CPWD guest house in Vidhyadhar Nagar at 1 pm, with residents alerting the forest department of its presence. It took over a dozen officials more than three hours to tranquillise the animal, officials said. By that time, it had already caused panic.

Arvind Mathur from Nahargarh Biological Park, who was leading the rescue operation, told the media that the presence of the public made the capture difficult.

"Whenever the leopard ventures out of the wild, it becomes shy and try to find a safe spot. It has become difficult to tranquillise the leopard in the public presence because it makes the leopard more anxious," he said.

DCF (Deputy Conservator of Forest) Jagdish Gupta said the leopard had been moved to the Nahargarh Biological Park and will be released in the wild.

Jaipur is close to Jhalana and Amargarh leopard reserves and there are estimated to be over 60 leopards in the area/ As a result, leopard sightings are not uncommon in Jaipur's residential areas.

The development comes at a time when eight people were killed in leopard attacks in Rajasthan's Udaipur causing terror in the area. Four leopards were captured in the ensuing hunt for man-eaters.

## GENOMIC ANALYSIS LINKS PROXIMITY WITH HTIN MAL COMMUNITIES LIVING ALONG THAILAND-LAOS'S NAN PROVINCE

# Nicobar tribe genetically linked to South, Southeast Asia: Study

ANJALI MARAR

BENGALURU, DECEMBER 6

THE NICOBARESE tribe inhabiting the Nicobar group of islands in the eastern Indian Ocean are genetically close to the South and Southeast Asians, a new study had said.

The Nicobar islands consists of seven large islands including Car Nicobar and Great Nicobar and some islands like Little Nicobar, Nancowry and Teressa with corals and sandy beaches.

While previous studies had stated that the dispersal of the Austroasiatic population (languages commonly spoken in Southeast Asia and the Pacific) in South Asia began some 4,500-5,000 years ago and their migration spread many agricultural

practices, knowledge of plants and domesticating animals, this is for the first time that such detailed genetic analyses of this tribe were conducted.

The genomic analysis of 1,559 people from this tribe linked the Nicobarese people's genetic proximity with the Austroasiatic language-speaking Htin Mal communities living along Thailand-Laos's Nan province.

"The Nicobarese have genetic lineage with the Southeast Asians. This is for the first time we have a detailed genetic proof," said Gyaneshwar Chaubey, lead author of the study and anthropologist at the Banaras Hindu University.

Along with BHU the study, published on Friday in the European Journal of Human



## INDIAN DELEGATION IN VATICAN

An Indian delegation led by Union Minister George Kurian meets Pope Francis in Vatican City, where it witnessed the elevation of Archbishop George Koovakad from Kerala as a Cardinal on Saturday. Koovakad, 51, who has been organising Pope Francis's international tours since 2020, is among 21 clergymen to have been elevated to the rank of Cardinal. In a post on X, the Prime Minister's Office said: "It is a matter of immense pride for India that Archbishop George Koovakad will be created as a Cardinal by His Holiness Pope Francis." *X/@PMOIndia*

# Christian MPs ask Bishops' group to stand with Muslims on Waqf Bill

NIKHILA HENRY

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 7

A SECTION of Christian MPs have told the Catholic Bishops Conference of India (CBCI) to stand with the Muslim community with regard to the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024. The church should take a principled stand in supporting minority rights which are enshrined in the Constitution, the Opposition MPs told the CBCI.

The opinion was aired in a meeting called in New Delhi on Tuesday by the CBCI, which represents the majority of Catholic churches in the country.

The bill was earlier referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) to take opinions of different stakeholders.

According to an MP, who attended the meeting, it was

brought to the notice of the church that the Waqf Amendment Bill infringes on constitutional values. It should be opposed even though there are individual cases of property disputes. For instance, the Kerala State Waqf Board has staked claim over 404 acres of land in Ernakulam district's Munambam coast — land inhabited for generations by some 600 Christian and Hindu families.

Cutting across party lines, the Opposition MPs also told authorities that "growing anti-Muslim hatred" should also be opposed by the church.

The meeting was chaired by Archbishop Andrews Thazhath, the president of CBCI. Among the attendees were Union Minister of State for Minority Affairs and BJP leader George Kurian, CPI(M) MP John Brittas, Trinamool Congress MP Derek O'Brien, Congress MPs Hibi Eden and Dean Kuriakose

and Zoram People's Movement Party MP Richard Vanlalhmangaiha.

The agenda for the meeting was decided by the CBCI in a "reminder", which was sent to the participants. It stated that the "agenda for discussion" included "proactive role of Christian MPs in supporting and protecting the community and its rights" and "increasing attack and threats against minorities, especially Christians". The CBCI had intimidated MPs that "points of discussion" would include "attacks on churches, institutions and persons, anti-conversion laws, Waqf law and amendment bill, Manipur issue, denial of ST rights to Dalit Christians, FCRA renewal and related issues and Papal visit".

In the meeting, concerns of the church, including violence in Manipur, anti-conversion laws in different states and denial of

FCRA clearance to Christian institutions were also raised, sources said. The meeting was important as it was the "first one called by the Catholic clergy in a few decades", sources said.

The CBCI, however, clarified that the meeting with Christian MPs was "an informal gathering". According to a release issued by CBCI, the meeting "was called for informal sharing and discussion among Christian MPs from various political parties and the CBCI".

The gathering concluded with a Christmas dinner which "fostered a spirit of camaraderie and festive cheer", the release read.

The release added, "The CBCI emphasises that his meeting was not a formal conference or a politically motivated event, but rather an opportunity for Christian MPs to come together and celebrate the true spirit of Christmas."

# Three-member panel to probe woman's death in lift collapse at Meerut hospital

NEETIKA JHA

MEERUT, DECEMBER 7

NEARLY TWO days after a 28-year-old woman died as a lift at a private hospital in Meerut collapsed, the district administration has formed a three-membered committee to probe the matter.

The incident happened soon after the woman, the wife of a nursing attendant in the Indian Army, had delivered a baby.

"We have ordered the CMO to form a committee to probe the matter at Capital Hospital," said District Magistrate, Meerut, Deepak Meena. He said that the panel will also look into the NOCs and check if maintenance was carried out timely at the hospital. The DM said the CMO will find out if the hospital, a registered one, was in violation of any other rules.

On Thursday, the deceased, identified as Karishma Mavi, was



admitted at Capital Hospital for the delivery of her second child. The baby was shifted to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) around half-an-hour after the delivery. Karishma was being shifted to the ground floor when the lift collapsed on Karishma's body and hit her chest. With no lift operator nearby, the family rushed to the nearest hospital and

to find a lift operator, but by then Karishma had died.

"It was our second child. I had returned from Kashmir three days ago, with her delivery scheduled for December 5," said Karishma's husband Ankush Mavi, 32.

"Two attendants had carried her inside the lift on a stretcher to take her to the ground floor. I was standing outside, waiting for



Karishma Mavi, who died in the incident at Meerut's Capital Hospital (left). *Express*

the nurse. Within seconds, the steel gate collapsed. She was breathing for around 15 minutes and was responding too. She could have been saved," alleged Karishma's brother, Hariom, 26.

An FIR was registered with the Meerut Police under Section 105 (culpable homicide) of Bharatiya Nyaya Samhita, against the hospital administration.

# UP badminton panel ex-secy, son get jail for harassment of players

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

LUCKNOW, DECEMBER 7

ASPECIAL court in Lucknow sentenced Dr Vijay Sinha, former secretary of the Uttar Pradesh Badminton Association, to five years in prison and his son Nishant Sinha to seven years in jail in a 2017 case filed in Lucknow involving allegations of sexual and mental harassment of players — including minors — linked to the Association.

Nishant was also accused of illegally and unauthorisedly holding the position of "officiating secretary" of the UP Badminton Association at the time.


"After the judgment by the

Poco court, Vijay Sinha and his son Nishant Sinha, who were out on bail, were taken into custody and sent to jail," said special counsel Abhishek Upadhyay.

A case under Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act was filed at a police station in Lucknow on February 21, 2017, based on complaints, particularly from female players, against Vijay Sinha and his son Nishant Sinha. According to the prosecution, the case was filed by the then chief security officer of the Babu Banarasi Das UP Badminton Academy in Lucknow, on the basis of a resolution passed by the executive committee of the UP Badminton Association on February 12, 2017.



Across  
THE AISLE



PCHIDAMBARAM

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# Pardon me, judges open Pandora’s box

I HAVE had a ringside view of the making of many laws. I always impressed upon the drafts persons of the Ministry of Law to keep the Bill short, crisp and clear.

One such law was ***The Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991***. In my view, it is short — only 8 Sections. It was crisp — it had one objective and that was to freeze the character of a place of worship as it existed at the dawn of Independence. It was clear — no ‘ifs’ or ‘buts’ or ‘notwith-standings’ or ‘without prejudices’.

I would urge everyone to read Section 3 and Section 4(1) the Act, which are as under:

**3. Bar of conversion of places of worship:** No person shall convert any place of worship of any religious denomination or any section thereof into a place of worship of a different section of the same religious denomination or of a different religious denomination or any section thereof.

**4. Declaration as to the religious character of certain places of worship and bar of jurisdiction of courts, etc.** — (1) It is hereby declared that the religious character of a place of worship existing on the 15th day of August, 1947 shall continue to be the same as it existed on that day.

The only exception was the place of worship commonly known as Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid situated in Ayodhya because there was an ongoing dispute.

There was widespread acceptance of the intent, purpose, spirit and scope of the Act. In my view, the Act achieved its purpose because there was peace and tranquility on issues concerning places of worship for nearly 30 years. By and large, the people accepted that a temple shall remain a temple, a mosque shall remain a mosque, a church shall remain a church, a gurdwara shall remain a gurdwara, a synagogue shall remain a syna-gogue, and every other place of worship shall retain the same character it had possessed on August 15, 1947.

**BENIGN NEGLECT**

Unfortunately, there is precious little information on the working of the Act. Queries to PRISM (a Parliamentary research facility) revealed that the govern-ment of the day gave bland answers on three occasions about the arrests and prosecutions under the Act. The best that can be said of the working of the Act is that successive governments have shown benign neglect of the Act.

Enter the Courts. On October 28, 2020, a Writ Petition was filed in the Supreme Court of India. The prayers are instructive: Declare that Sections 2, 3 and 4 of the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991 are void and uncon-stitutional in so far as they seek to vali-date ‘places of worship’ illegally made by barbaric invaders. Note that Sections 3 and 4 form the core of the Act. Absent Sections 3 and 4, there is nothing in the Act. These provisions have been chal-lenged in the Supreme Court on the grounds that they are violative of Articles 14, 15, 21, 25, 26 and 29 of the Constitution of India. Note also that these ‘places of worship’ were, according to the Petitioner, *illegally made by barbaric in-vaders*. In the paragraph leading to the three prayers, the Petitioner did not hide whose cause he was espousing and which was the target community. He wanted to restore the religious places of *‘Hindus, Jains, Buddhists and Sikhs’* by process of law. The Writ Petition has been pending since 2020.

**DISPUTE OVER GYANVAPI**

In 2023, the Supreme Court enter-tained a Special Leave Petition filed by the Committee of Management Anjuman Intezamia Masjid, Varanasi. The SLP chal-lenged the order dated August 3, 2023 of the High Court of Allahabad. The District Judge had directed an archaeological sur-vey of the area in which the Gyanvapi Mosque was situated. The High Court had dismissed the Appeal and the Petitioners approached the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court, by an order dated August 4, 2023, said that “we are unable to differ with the view of the High Court, particu-larly while exercising the jurisdiction under Article 136 of the Constitution, ... and recorded the submission of the Solicitor General ... that the entire process shall be concluded by any non-invasive method-ology that may be adopted by the ASI.”

Such was the manner in which the Pandora’s box was opened. The Court did not enquire into the motive of the Plaintiffs who had filed Civil Suit 18 of 2022 praying that they were entitled to perform rituals of deities which allegedly were present within the premises of the Gyanvapi mosque. The clear attempt of the Plaintiffs was to worship Hindu deities that were al-legedly present in a mosque. If they were permitted to perform the rituals and wor-ship the deities, it would convert the mosque, at least partially, into a temple. That was in the teeth of the plain language of Sections 3 and 4 of the 1991 Act.

**CHAIN REACTION**

Was it difficult to see through the mo-tive of the Plaintiffs and the consequences of allowing the prayers in the Suit? In my view, the Supreme Court should have in-voked its powers under Article 142 of the Constitution to do “complete justice”, called the suit to its file, and dismissed the suit holding that the Act that was hon-oured for 30 years should be upheld at all costs. Following the *Gyanvapi* order, there are disputes raised about the *Idgah mosque* at Mathura, *Sambhal* in Uttar Pradesh, the *Qutub complex* in Delhi, and the *Ajmer Sharif Dargah* in Rajasthan. Where will it end?

The *Gyanvapi* order will have con-sequences like the infamous *ADM Jabalpur* case.

Fifth  
COLUMN

TAVLEEN SINGH

Twitter @tavleen\_singh



## Religiosity is sick, not secularism

WHEN THE monstrous Taliban govern-ment announced last week that Afghan women would no longer be allowed to study medicine, my first reaction was hor-ror and then shock. Where are those hu-man rights watchdogs who make so much noise about much lesser crimes against humanity? Their silence is despi-cable, and they have been silent through-out the dehumanising of Afghan women that began for the second time after the Taliban returned to power three years ago.

It is hard not to conclude that this deaf-ening silence is because human rights ac-tivists tend to be leftist ideologically, and leftists have shown a peculiar empathy for jihadists of the kind that are currently running Afghanistan. These bearded fa-natics have already banned girls from sec-ondary education, from being seen in public unveiled and unescorted by a male relative and even from speaking too loudly. But this is truly the final blow be-cause if there are no women nurses and doctors left, who will deliver babies and tend to the medical needs of women?

Jihadist Islam is evil. There is no ques-tion about this and when it becomes mixed up with politics and governance, as in Afghanistan and Iran, it turns into a weapon that is nearly always used against women. When I said something like this on ‘X’, I got two reactions from Indians on social media and both worried me. The first reaction came from those who be-lieve that Islam is a terrible religion and wherever it exists, this kind of barbarism will become the norm.

## An inquisition by Akal Takht, featuring a king, a courtesan

history  
HEADLINE

MANRAJ GREWAL  
SHARMA



LONG BEFORE a group of Akali ministers stood at the Akal Takht and humbly ac-cepted religious punishment or *sewa*, there was a young king who stood at the same place with folded hands. It was 1802, and Ranjit Singh, the founder of the Khalsa Empire, was just 22 years old. He had been summoned by Akali Phula Singh, the commanding *jathedar* of the Akal Takht and a general in his army, who was almost twice his age.

Lore has it that Ranjit Singh was part of the *sarbat khalsa* (a convention of Sikhs) in 1800 that appointed Akali Phula Singh, a Nihang leader of the Budha Dai who had been raised as a saint-soldier, as the Akal Takht *jathedar*. A year later, Phula Singh intervened to avert a battle between Ranjit Singh’s army and that of Amritsar’s custodian, the Bhangi Misl’s Mai Sukhan, who later accepted Ranjit Singh’s rule.

Akali Phula Singh, who had joined Ranjit Singh’s army with 3,000-odd Nihang warriors, was enraged when he learned that the young king had married a Muslim courtesan named Moran. This act violated the moral code of conduct that forbade practising Sikhs from associating with prostitutes, let alone marrying one. Furious, Phula Singh declared Ranjit Singh a *tankhaiya*, and summoned him. The young king appeared on the appointed day. A pic-ture of humility, Ranjit Singh admitted his mistake. Akali Phula Singh sentenced him to 100 public whiplashes. Ranjit Singh quickly acquiesced, removing his kurtta. Some European writers suggest he was tied to a tamarind tree near the *sarovar* (holy pond) around the Harmandir Sahib. However, when Phula Singh asked the con-gregation whether he should proceed with the flogging, they urged him to spare the young king this humiliation. Phula Singh relented, imposing instead a fine of 1,25,000 rupees, a princely sum at the time.

Professor Indu Banga, a historian spe-cialising in Punjab history, notes that while there is no written record of this episode, the story has been passed down the gen-erations in Amritsar. European travellers who visited Ranjit Singh’s Lahore court also documented it. “By then, several *rehatna-mas* (codes of conduct) had already been written, outlining what a Singh could and couldn’t do, along with the associated pun-

ishments,” says Banga. Ranjit Singh was deeply enamoured with young Moran, renowned for her prowess in music and dance. “She was probably his first love, as his relationship with his wife Mehtab Kaur was acrimonious,” says Banga.

Diwan Amar Nath, in his *Zafar Namahe-Ranjit Singh*, written in Persian, devotes three full pages to describing Moran’s charm.

In *History of the Sikhs, Vol. V: The Sikh Lion of Lahore*, author Hari Ram Gupta notes that Ali-ud-din in his *Ibrat Namah* wrote that Ranjit Singh was so smitten with Moran that he spent nights at her house, and she joined him on his morn-ing horse rides. The late historian Sita Ram Kohli wrote that gold and silver coins is-sued under the influence of Moran are preserved in the Lahore Museum.

The Maharaja is said to have built a bridge over a canal dug during the reign of Emperor Shah Jahan, which brought water from the Ravi River to Lahore to ir-rigate the Shalimar Gardens. This bridge, intended to meet Moran, who hailed from Makhanwindi village in Amritsar, was long known as Pul Kanjri. Located about 5 km from the Wagah border, it is now part of the national heritage circuit and has been restored and renamed Pul Moran in her memory. In Lahore, he also built a mosque called Masjid-e-Tawaifan at her request, which was renamed Mai Moran Masjid in 1998.

Dr Fauzia Saeed of Pakistan, author of *Taboo: The Hidden Culture of a Red Light Area* on Lahore’s Heera Mandi, notes that Moran came from the *tawaf* community, dedi-cated to preserving the performing arts. She says that Ranjit Singh married Moran to up-lift her community, granting them land near Amritsar called Sharifpura and encourag-ing them to adopt other occupations.

In 1820, Ranjit Singh embarked on a 10-year project to beautify the Harmandir Sahib, covering it with gold and trans-forming it into what is now known as the Golden Temple. “Though it is commonly believed that Ranjit Singh coronated him-self as Maharaja in 1801, two years after conquering Lahore, the coronation is not mentioned by his court chronicler *Umdat-ul-Tawarikh*. Formal records show he was addressed as Maharaja only after the in-stallation of the plaque above the Golden Temple upon its completion,” says Banga.

By this time, Ranjit Singh was at the peak of his power. “In the 1820s and 1830s, he was the only sovereign ruler left in India. His kingdom stretched from Ladakh and Kashmir to Peshawar, Multan, and Punjab. He also had the strongest indige-nous army in Asia at the time,” adds Banga.

How to  
RAISE A BOY

REEMA AHMAD



THERE WAS a time when I thought it would be easy for me to raise a boy. I had walked out of an abusive marriage; I was armed with the strength of a tree bent after punishing storms. I believed that since I’d survived the demands of a boy-man twisted out of kindness into all sorts of vi-olence, I of all people would know how to shape my little boy into a man who was kind yet strong. “Not like his father at all” — that was the background score to all my early motherly endeavours.

We had pink and blue teacups and a plastic kitchen set, we played with both colours. We learned not to push and pinch playmates (especially if they were girls), and to say sorry often. We learned about body safety and consent; we learned to ex-press big feelings. We learned that Amma would listen when spoken to with respect and that this respect extended to everyone in the household, family and staff alike. We learned that Amma’s work was as impor-tant as Naanu’s and sometimes we had to wait to play.

Human hope is a stubborn thing. It feels betrayed despite a thousand signs that de-clare the same thing — life can go wrong even when we feel we’re doing everything right. I thought I was doing everything right. I learned to silence my own qualms and shift to make room for every frighten-ing question my son brought to me. I learned to talk about pornography, sex, abuse and relationships with ease. I learned to use story and song to reach my little boy’s imagination when words felt inadequate. I learned to listen to all the unnamed fears that sometimes turn sweet boys into an-gry young men. I even wrote a book about it all. I was on the right path until I was lost.

My mother swears by this adage from Imam Ali, “*Maine khuda ko apne iraadon ki nakaami se pelchana hai* (I have known God through the failure of my plans).” I can now safely say that God and I are on talking terms. We could even be friends. My plans to raise a boy who seemed as woke as pos-sible, said and did only the right things, used his words more than his fists, shared more and sulked less, played more and stared at screens less, were all derailed one after the other.

At first, there was religious bullying in school. We tried to talk about things, we tried turning the other cheek, and we tried complaining and counselling. And then one day, my son came home with a warning from school. I still wonder if there’s any ease answer to bullying and what it does to kids. Sometimes it leaves children with the

## ‘I was on the right path until I was lost’



Illustration: Suvajit Dey

knowledge that in this world, power is everything. My male friends used to tell me that teaching boys to be non-violent can also leave them very vulnerable and alone. I refused to believe them till I saw my son use his hurt like a weapon after all his gen-tle efforts were defeated.

Then, there was the pandemic, coupled with teenage for my son and a crippling ill-ness for me. I could no longer be vigilant for a young boy who needed all the vigilance in this world. When a single parent is con-fined in pain, shadows step in to lead a lost child — shadows that resemble absent fa-thers and popular portrayals of what be-ing a man looks like, shadows that seem attractive because they promise thrill and freedom; both paths that have defined manhood for millennia. I had believed my plan would supersede the pull of blood and evolution. I know now that parenting is very little about what parents do and so much more about what happens to them and their children. At best, parents are the soil children take root in. The universe de-cides what shape they take.

So how do I raise my son knowing that this is very small compared to everything else that also raises my son? Do I become a watchdog and hover over everything he watches, texts and shares? Do I ban the gym and boxing knowing that toxic as they are, they help him cope with the angry child within? Do I exact strict punishments when teenage rips through him like a mon-ster and all I can hear in my head is “just like his father” on repeat? Do I ban friends from the house when they break rules knowing that his friends are the only siblings he has in a house full of old and sick people? Do I keep being gentle when I know in my

bones that a mother’s love sometimes falls short in the absence of men who can show young boys how to be accountable?

I don’t know. What I do know is that an-swers often fall somewhere in the middle of what we think we should do and what we can actually do.

So I keep doing what I can. I muster up all my courage and fill up my body to be as big as him when his tall frame frightens me. I try and remember that beneath all that teen bravado, he is still a child who is becoming. I remind us both that I am still his mother and that while there will al-ways be love, there is also consequence. That while he may like to pump his fists and fantasise about fighting everything that hurts him, he is also the beautiful young man who keeps trying to “be bet-ter”. That even as he relentlessly chal-lenges me, he also celebrates his mother’s new life and dreams about being a “good” dad someday.

When I feel like I am in danger of be-coming indifferent like my father or harsh like my mother, I remind myself to choose repair because the only way out of toxicity is forgiveness and effort. We have our past, it cannot be changed. And we have our fu-ture. Sons will always have something of their fathers but they will also grow into men very different from their fathers. When I am afraid of losing everything we have strived for, I pray over my fear and re-member that life is simple and dangerous when understood in labels. Beyond the la-bels, where confusion abounds, possibility also takes shape in the muck.

Ahmad is an author, trauma counsellor and a mental space psychologist

she  
SAID

DEEPIKA SINGH



IT HAS been exactly five years since I set foot inside a salon or, as they say in my neck of the woods, a beauty parlour.

My relationship with them goes back a long time. From my mother taking me to one of the many “Chinese parlours” dot-ting my hometown for a trendy haircut, to me spending a substantial chunk of my salary on a chain outlet to get my almost entire body waxed — a visit to a salon was a monthly fixture. As I started inching to-wards my late 20s, and PCOD and its symp-toms started showing up, a visit to the sal-on became a necessity, and a bimonthly feature. I remember going even when I barely had the funds, or the will to spare.

## The joy of being salon-free

Steeling myself before each visit be-came a warm-up of sorts given all the un-solicited comments and recommenda-tions for my thin hair that I got every single time: this shampoo, that cream, this treat-ment, that ointment... There was barely a hairstylist who would just give me what I wanted — a haircut of my choice, no ques-tions asked.

And then there were the “waxing ladies”. They just did not seem to be able to make up their minds: “Too little growth in the underarms. Wax *mein aage hi nahi*. Come next week,” said one. “*Bahut growth hai...bahut growth hai*,” her colleague would remark in horror the following week.

Did I say waxing was the worst? That honour was reserved for the eyebrows.

Each tiny hair plucked would take the life out of me. Plus, there were so many rules: “Don’t crease your eyebrows, keep your hands steady...”

Then one day, I came across a beauty blogger talking about how she uses a ra-zor, coolly dismissing all the myths sur-rounding the equipment. “No, it does not make your hair come back harder”. I never went back for another waxing session.

Now, only one pain point remained, my eyebrows. I continued making the monthly visits, resisting the urge to scream my guts out. But then came Covid and I could not visit a salon for months. By the fifth or sixth month, as I started getting compliments for my eyebrows, I told myself, I might not be naturally in shape but my eyebrows somewhat are.

Thus ended the monthly “threading” sessions.

As for my hair, I decided to grow them out. And then, one day, my mum came down to Delhi and was horrified to see my matted locks. With a pair of kitchen scis-sors, she chopped off my hair to shoulder length as my brother held them firmly. I went to my workplace all furious until a colleague remarked that I looked “neat”. I knew I was not going back to a salon again.

Do I miss it? Not for a second. Oddly, I feel liberated. As someone who is not con-ventionally attractive, the parlours mostly made me feel inadequate about what I didn’t have. Besides, I am very lazy and getting hair removed from various body parts was hardly a motivation to get out of bed. I also liked that I didn’t have to time

a party or a dress or a date to my waxing calendar. Plus, the money saved — and di-verted to activities that made me truly happy — was a bonus.

This is not to say that I have anything against beauty salons. I am happy for women who actually find joy, not to men-tion employment opportunities, in the beauty business.

But I speak for women like me who don’t share the feeling. To them, I would like to say: You are fine. With your hairy body, fuzzy face and wayward eyebrows. And should you need an occasional ‘fix-ing’, you have a solution right at home. All you need is a good old razor and your regular bar of soap. And of course, a mother who has a lot of post-retirement time on her hands.



# 13 ECONOMY

SUBDUED JET FUEL PRICES ALSO HAVE LED TO A DOWNWARD PRESSURE

## Weak demand growth, airline capacity addition keeping airfares in check

SUKALP SHARMA  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 7

GROWTH IN airline seat capacity, an evident moderation in demand growth from the high pent-up demand levels seen in the couple of years following the COVID-19 pandemic, and relatively subdued jet fuel prices have led to a downward pressure on airfares, according to aviation industry insiders and ticketing data. This has meant that domestic airfares have generally not risen notably and, in fact, have seen a reduction or are broadly stable for a large number of domestic routes when compared to last year.

Airfare data from travel booking portal Ixigo for December travel on 32 popular routes—a mix of major metro-to-metro trunk routes and some other popular leisure routes—shows that airfares have either declined or are stable vis-à-vis the last month of 2023 in a majority of the cases. The data for advance bookings made 15 to 30 days before travel.

Average one-way airfares on 20 of the 32 routes have declined with the fall varying widely between 1 per cent and 32 per cent. As for the 12 routes that have seen higher fares, the rise is between 1 per cent and 2 per cent for five routes, and between 8 per cent and 27 per cent for the remaining seven, per the data from Ixigo.

Among the 32 routes, the highest drop was observed for the Chennai-Kolkata route with average one-way airfare down by 32 per cent year-on-year to Rs 5,688.



On the other hand, the highest increase was on the Delhi-Jaipur route with the average fare higher by 27 per cent at Rs 3,273.

To be sure, airfares depend on the demand and supply dynamics on the individual route level, which could throw up exceptions to the general trend. For instance, there may be cases where demand outstrips seat supply significantly, leading to a jump in fares, even as the broader trend points to stable or lower fares.

The other key factor to consider is the advance booking period. While it is a general rule of the thumb to book flights as early

as possible in order to pay less, there may be exceptions to this rule as well. In cases where demand is strong and load factors healthy, fares could be higher closer to the travel date. However, there may be cases where ticket prices fall substantially just before the travel date if the expected passenger load is weak. Air traffic disruptions leading to long delays and cancellations, including those related to weather, also tend to bump up spot or eleventh hour fares.

According to airline executives, there are clear indications that the supernormal rate of de-

mand growth that the industry had witnessed over in 2022 and 2023 have started to normalise, even as major Indian carriers—IndiGo and Air India group airlines—continue to add capacity with multiple new aircraft being inducted each month. Aircraft groundings due to engine issues and supply chain woes have also started declining in the recent months, leading to more airline seats being available for sale.

Aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices, too, have cooled off from higher levels seen last year. ATF usually accounts for 35 to 40 per cent of Indian airlines' operational expenses. For instance, ATF price in Delhi for the current month—Rs 91,856.84 per kilolitre—is 13.5 per cent lower on a year-on-year basis. In its September quarter earnings, the country's largest airline IndiGo reported that its available seat kilometres (ASK)—a measure of its seat capacity—was higher by 8.2 per cent than July-September of last year. As of September 30 this year, IndiGo had a fleet of 410 aircraft, up from 334 planes as of September 30, 2023.

In the past 18 months or so, the Air India group has inducted 100 new aircraft, taking the combined fleet to around 300. Over the last year alone, group airlines have inducted a new aircraft on average every six days, and the trend is likely to continue for a few months, Air India's chief executive officer Campbell Wilson said in a recent interaction with reporters.

Late October, IndiGo announced that it had started to see a reduction in the number of air-

craft grounded due to engine issues, and expects to see a progressive decline in these numbers over the coming months.

IndiGo's aircraft groundings had hit a peak of "mid-seventies" in the July-September quarter. It has now reduced to "high-sixties" and is expected to fall further to less than 60 by the end of this year, and then to "mid-forties" by the beginning of the next financial year, the airline's chief financial officer Gaurav Negi said in an investor call on October 25.

On the demand scenario, IndiGo's chief executive officer Pieter Elbers had told investors in that call: "...as experienced in the global markets we have also observed some normalisation in the demand in the last few months when compared to the very high base of last year".

A senior official at another Indian airline concurred. "There was significant pent-up demand that was skewing the demand-supply equation last year. Also, don't forget that Go First also went out of business last year, constraining supply to some extent. Now, demand growth is moderating to a more realistic level and carriers have been able to rapidly add capacity as well," said the official, who did not wish to be identified.

High airfares had become a major pain point for flyers for much of 2023, leading to even the government monitoring the fares and advising airlines to keep ticket prices reasonable. Airfares in India are not regulated by the government and are market-driven.

## Consumer confidence drops marginally; households expect inflation to rise

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU  
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 7

INDIAN CONSUMERS' confidence about general economic situation, employment scenario, their income and spending have weakened, according to the latest survey of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Domestic households also see inflation inching up further, showed another survey of the RBI.

"Consumer confidence for the current period declined marginally owing to weaker sentiments across the survey parameters except household spending," the RBI's bi-monthly consumer confidence survey (CCS), which was conducted during November 2-11, 2024, showed. The current situation index (CSI) moderated by 0.7 points to 94 in November 2024 from 94.7 in September 2024.

The survey collects current perceptions (vis-à-vis a year ago) and one year ahead expectations of households on general economic situation, employment



File

scenario, overall price situation, own income and spending across 19 major cities. Households displayed somewhat higher optimism on one year ahead outlook for major economic parameters, except prices. The future expectations index (FEI) improved by 0.5 points to 121.9 in the latest survey. The CCS survey showed that households anticipated higher spending over one year horizon on the back of higher essential as well as non-essential spending.

Separately, the RBI's inflation expectations survey of households

showed that households' median perception of current inflation rose by 30 basis points (bps) to 8.4 per cent, as compared to the previous survey round. One basis point is one-hundredth of a percentage point. Median inflation expectation for three months horizon moderated marginally by 10 bps to 9.1 per cent, whereas it inched up by 10 bps to 10.1 per cent for one year ahead period. In the monetary policy announced on Friday (December 6), the RBI raised its inflation forecast for FY25 to 4.8 per cent from an earlier estimate of 4.5 per cent. The consumer price-based index (CPI) inflation for Q3 FY25 has been revised to 5.7 per cent from 4.8 per cent and for Q4 it has been raised to 4.5 per cent from 4.2 per cent.

Compared to the September 2024 round of the survey, a somewhat larger share of respondents expects the year ahead price and inflation to increase, mainly due to higher pressures from food items and housing related expenses, the RBI survey showed.

## Why are SME IPOs flourishing amid Sebi concerns over misconduct?

GEORGE MATHEW  
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 7

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) on Tuesday cancelled the SME (small and medium enterprises) public issue of Trafiksol ITS Technologies, whose issue was oversubscribed 345.65 times, and asked the company to refund the money to the investors for alleged misuse of funds through a 'shell entity'. Even as the Sebi contemplates tighter IPO norms for SMEs in the wake of a series of misconducts, the SME IPO market is flourishing with huge oversubscriptions and listing at high premium. While many genuine SMEs have successfully raised money through IPOs, Sebi has raised concerns over the quality of some of the IPOs.

### Who are the big movers?

As many as 29 out of 61 SME IPOs that came to the market witnessed oversubscription of over 100 times since September this year. Rajputana Biodiesel which closed its IPO on November 28 was oversubscribed 718 times, Apex Ecotech 457 times, Lakshya Powertech by 573 times, Thinking



File

Hats by 322 times, Sodhani Academy of Fintech Enablers Ltd by 438 times and Travels and Rentals by 608 times. Several SME IPOs have gained ground by over 100 per cent after listing. Rajesh

Power which was listed on December 2 has gained 109 per cent, C2C advanced by 99.49 per cent (listed on December 3), Neelam Linens by 159 per cent, Danish Power by 168 per cent, Sahasra Electronics by 136 per cent.

### What are the concerns?

In a consultation paper, Sebi has observed of diversion of issue proceeds to related parties, connected parties, shell companies and inflation of revenue by circular transactions through related parties, connected parties and shell companies. In some SME companies, the entity diverted money raised through the IPO and subse-

quent Rights Issue to shell companies controlled by the promoters. In another instance, a company booked fraudulent sales and purchases through circular transactions amongst related parties and connected parties. By doing so, such companies try to create a positive sentiment to induce investors into purchasing their securities. Sebi has passed orders against such entities in the recent past.

### What's fuelling SME IPOs?

With a rise in number of SME issues, investor participation has increased in such offerings. The applicant to allotted investor ratio increased from 4 times in FY22 to 46 times in FY23 and 245 times in FY24, as per Sebi data. "The surge in SME stocks and strong listings gains in some of the companies are largely driven by three factors — high market liquidity has fuelled exaggerated price movements in smaller, less liquid SME stocks as investors chase high returns and disregard underlying risk. The fear of missing out on quick gains has spurred continued investment in SME IPOs. Increased retail investor involvement has amplified interest in SME segment," said Vaibhav Porwal, co-founder, Dezerv.

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### CRUDE WATCH

### OIL PRICES FALL ON SUPPLY GLUT FEARS

New York: Oil prices fell by more than 1% on Friday and cemented weekly losses as analysts projected a supply surplus next year on weak demand despite an OPEC+ decision to delay output hikes and extend deep production cuts to the end of 2026. REUTERS

## Rising credit score updation issues vex customers; CICs cite reliance on lender data

GEORGE MATHEW  
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 7

IN A high-level meeting held with Credit Information Companies (CICs) including TransUnion Cibil on January 2 this year, top Reserve Bank of India (RBI) officials took up the issue of the rising customer complaints related to the credit score status of customers and spoke about some concerns that emerged during RBI's supervisory assessment.

RBI Deputy Governor Swaminathan J highlighted six key areas for the CICs to focus on in the meeting attended by top RBI officials and MDs & CEOs of credit bureaus. These included the need to improve the data quality, timely redressal of customer complaints, strengthening of internal ombudsman framework, streamlining the process for handling data correction requests, strengthening of cybersecurity and data privacy through robust information security governance framework and concerns arising out of usage of data for consulting and analytics.

Credit score of a customer is important as banks look at the score while deciding the eligibility and interest rate of a loan.

The RBI's supervisory assessment had raised concerns about the functioning of CICs, prompting the central bank to take steps to address these issues. However, banking sources said the number of complaints has risen further.

Currently, there are 4 credit bureaus which are authorised by the RBI: TransUnion CIBIL, CRIF High Mark, Equifax and Experian — all are majority owned by foreign entities. CIBIL, which is the market leader, has access to the credit information of 60 crore people and has 2,400 members that include all types of lenders.

On Wednesday, highlighting issues with CIBIL scores and KYC norms, Lok Sabha MP Karti Chidambaram questioned their effectiveness and impact on small borrowers in Parliament. The major complaint from customers is that when a credit default is rectified by a customer, CICs don't update their status in its system. This leads to a low credit score and affects the chances of a customer to get a higher amount of loan at a low interest rate. The RBI's banking Ombudsman received 1,039 complaints against CICs, which were brought under its ambit, in FY23, the central bank said in a report. While this figure has gone up

**WHAT'S A CREDIT SCORE?**

A **CREDIT** score is an indicator of how consistent customers are with repaying their debts. When a customer borrows money from lenders, his repayment information is sent to credit information companies that compute a credit score. The higher a credit score, the better are chances

of securing loans with favourable terms. Credit score is usually expressed as a number based on the person's repayment history and credit files across different loan types and credit institutions. The CIBIL credit score is a three-digit number, which ranges from 300 to 900.

in FY24, many customers are unaware of redressal through the Ombudsman route.

According to banking sources, the major complaint of customers was the mishandling of data correction requests from them. There was inordinate delay in reporting updated credit information to the CICs resulting in wrong credit report, RBI's Ombudsman report said. Delays in reporting updated credit information has turned out to be a glaring loophole in the country's credit reporting system, with credit information companies relying solely on data fed by banks without verifying its accuracy. This has led to numerous instances of incorrect default information being reported, causing undue hardship to individuals. Despite requests from customers, these errors are not reviewed or corrected, highlighting a clear bias towards banks.

The lack of transparency in the credit scoring system has left individuals in the dark about how their ratings are calculated. Customers are forced to periodically check their scores, verify transactions, and appeal against errors. However, this process is often cumbersome and frustrating. Most customers are unaware of the significant role played by credit bureaus like CIBIL, which seems to be more focused on serving the interests of banks rather than individuals.

When contacted, TransUnion Cibil said in a statement to *The Indian Express*, "data is reported to credit information companies by banks and credit institutions that are members of the CIC. As per regulations, CICs are dependent on the data reported by credit institutions for making any updates." The RBI recently mandated improving the frequency of reporting of credit information by credit institutions to CICs from monthly intervals to a fortnightly basis or shorter intervals. "This is a

very progressive move which will significantly strengthen the credit information ecosystem," it said. "With more frequent data reporting by banks and credit institutions, CICs will be able to update credit records faster and this will translate into more updated data being available for making informed lending decisions by credit grantors. This will also help in resolving consumer disputes faster based on updated data in credit records," CIBIL said.

A consumer's CIBIL Score is calculated using the data reported by credit institutions as reflected on their credit report. An individual's CIBIL report displays the latest 36 months of credit history and their CIBIL score is calculated based on this data. Consumers can access their Free Annual Credit Report (FACR) via the TransUnion CIBIL website through an easy and quick authentication process and without any fees, the company said in the statement.

As per the governing CICRA law, CICs are not authorised to make any changes to the data they hold unless confirmed by the credit institution concerned. "If a consumer finds any inaccurate information on their credit report, they can raise a dispute with us in a number of ways including via our website and mycibil app, and also by directly contacting our consumer services helpdesk through email, letter or personal visit to our offices. We raise this dispute with the member credit institution concerned, which sends us correction instructions if they accept the dispute, and we update the information accordingly," TransUnion Cibil said.

"Banks also often adopt a lacklustre approach while informing CICs about the change in credit status, especially resolution of defaults. This delays the updation of score," a banking source said.

FULL REPORT ON  
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## CoC performance 'lacking', should enforce a code of conduct: RBI Dy Guv Rao

AGGAM WALIA  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 7

THE INSOLVENCY and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) should enforce a code of conduct for the Committee of Creditors (CoC), as their performance in insolvency proceedings has been "lacking in several aspects," Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Deputy Governor M Rajeshwar Rao said Saturday.

While the IBBI issued self-regulating guidelines in August to enhance the CoC's professional competence, Rao emphasised the need for enforceable regulations, arguing that "when incentives are not perfectly aligned, deviations from best practices become the norm." Speaking at the IBBI and INSOL India International Conclave, Rao also advocated for a market-driven compensation framework for resolution professionals (RPs) as opposed to a regulatory mandate.

"The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) assigns a central role to the CoC in the corporate resolution process. However, this is an area where significant improvements are needed. There have been instances where the CoC's performance has been found lacking in several aspects," Rao said. A CoC typically consists of financial creditors in insolvency cases under the IBC, and may also include operational creditors with limited participation and voting rights.

**The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) assigns a central role to the CoC in the corporate resolution process. However, this is an area where significant improvements are needed"**

— M RAJESHWAR RAO  
DEPUTY GOVERNOR, RBI

Rao highlighted several instances of subpar performance by the CoC, such as prioritising individual creditors' interests over collective interests, disputes over resolution plans due to concerns about undervaluation or viability, disagreements on distributing proceeds even after a plan's approval, poor attendance at CoC meetings, and inadequate engagement, coordination, and information-sharing among members. "Instances have been noted regarding the insufficient skill sets in areas like corporate finance, legislation and industry knowledge," he said. In August this year, IBBI issued guidelines for the CoC to curb delays, enhance transparency, and improve value realization by requiring it to disclose any conflict of interest, and maintain integrity, confidentiality, and objectivity. However, the guidelines were self-regulatory in nature.

"It is in the larger interest of the creditors themselves that the is-

sues relating to the conduct of the CoC are addressed by the members themselves without waiting for regulatory prescriptions. However, it is a fact that when incentives are not perfectly aligned, deviations from best practices become the norm. Therefore, we need an enforceable code of conduct for the CoC," Rao said.

He said the IBBI, which is the designated regulator under the IBC, should have the powers to enforce norms for the conduct of all stakeholders within the IBC framework.

Rao also called for a market-driven compensation framework for RPs to align their goals with the CoC's and avoid collusion with the preceding management. "The market should develop compensation structures for resolution professionals that are tied to outcomes of the resolution process. These measures could address the principal agent issue and align the RP's goal with that of the CoC, maximizing value for both parties. It would also attract experienced professionals, thereby benefiting the system as a whole," he said.

In 2022, the CoC was permitted to award performance-linked incentive fees to RPs at its discretion. An RP could earn up to 1 per cent of the realisable value for timely resolution of insolvency proceedings, and an additional 1 per cent of the difference between the realisable value and the liquidation value for achieving value maximisation. FULL REPORT ON  
[www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)



Classifieds

PERSONAL

I,Shama W/O Yasin Khan R/o H.No.D-22, Gali No-4,Kabir Nagar,Delhi-110094,have changed my name to SHAMA PARVEEN. Permanently 0040762752-5

I,Shaileendra Kumar,S/O,Ashok Kumar Dwivedi,R/O,137-C,Block-35,Sector-99,Best View-Apartments, Noida,PO: Maharishi-Nagar,DIST: Gautam-Buddha Nagar,Uttar-Pradesh-201304,have changed my name,from Shaileendra Kumar to Shaileendra Kumar Dwivedi. Henceforth,I would be known,by the name,of Shaileendra Kumar Dwivedi for,all future,purposes. 0040762785-1

I,SHAHABUDDIN,S/O UMAR DEEN,R/O B-6 BHASKAR COMPOUND ABAD FAZAL ENCLAVE PART-1 JAMIA-NAGAR,NEW-DELHI-110025,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME SHAHABUDDIN QURESHI,FOR ALL PURPOSE. 0040762764-1

I,SANJAY VERMA,S/O MOTI RAM,R/O-RZB-1, 86A-B-BLOCK,NEW ROSHAN PURA, NAJAFGARH,SOUTH WEST DELHI-110043,inform that SANJAY KUMAR and SANJAY VERMA,both names are same person. 0040762752-9

I, SWETTA ARORA,W/O SUMIT RAKESH KUMAR,R/O-45F, POCKET-1,SECTOR-22 ROHINI DELHI-110086,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SWETA ARORA 0040762777-2

I, Vellachali Augustine Shincy W/o Benny Puthuparampil Antony R/o, Flat-No.42F, LIG-Flats, Pkt-A3, Phase-3, Mayur-Vihar, Delhi-110096, have changed my-name to Shincy Benny. 0040762789-7

I, Yaseen S/O Mohd Islam R/o H No. D-22,Gali No-4,Kabir Nagar,Delhi-110094,have changed my name to YASIN KHAN. Permanently. 0040762752-4

I,Anita khurana W/o Shyam Sunder khurana R/o House-29,2floor,Nehru-road kewal park , Azadpur Delhi-110033,changed my name to Anita Rani. 0040762752-10

I,Deepa Jitendra Thakkar W/o Himmat Singh Rathore R/O-1778 Ferrera Mahagun Moderne Sector-78 Noida(U.P.)-201301,Have Changed My Name To Deepa Rathore. 0040762789-3

I,Depender Sharma,S/o Shri.Rama Shankar Sharma,R/o/House.No. 90,Ward.No.7,Vinod Nagar,Near-Dinesh MC,Hisar,Tehsil and District-Hisar,inform that in my,son's school records his name AAYUSH wrongly-written instead of correct name Aayush Sharma,for all,future purposes. 0040762752-8

I,GAURAV DHAWAN S/o Danvir Karan R/O B3/80,Ashok Vihar Phase-2,Delhi-110052,have changed my minor daughter's name,from CHESHTHA to CHESHTHA DHAWAN. 0040762764-9

I,KALPANA PANWAR W/O SH. ANURAG SINGH R/O MIG-1218,SECTOR-3,VASUNDHRA, GHAZIABAD, U.P.-201012,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME,TO KALPANA SINGH. 0040762785-2

I,Kamal Kumar Gupta,Kamal Gupta,S/o Durga Prashad,R/O C-32,Pushpanjali-Enclave, Pitampura, Delhi have changed my name to Kamal Kumar,for all purposes. 0040762752-1

I,LALAN Sharm,S/O Shyam Lal Sharma R/O RZ-7-48C,Dhayal Park West Sagarpur New Delhi-110046,Have Changed My Name To Lalan Sharma,Permanently. 0040762789-4

I,MEENU Rani,W/o KAUSHAL KUMAR,R/O-191,Haiderpur Banjara Wali Gali,Delhi-110088,have changed my name to MEENU,for all,future purposes. 0040762752-7

I,MOHAMMAD SUHAIL,S/O-SAGHEER AHMAD,R/O-EROS SAMPOORAM,SECOND FLOOR,Y-5/202, PLOT.NO-GH-01,SECTOR-2,GREATER NOIDA,SURAJPUR,GAUTAMBU DH-NAGAR, U.P-201306, changed my-minor son's name,MD ADI S to ADI S R. 0040762789-6

I,RAFIQUE YAZDAAN,S/O SYED RAFIQUE HUSAIN,R/O-A-32.G FLOOR,ELDECO GREEN MEADOWS SECTOR P POCKET-C,GREATER-NOIDA,GAUTAM-BUDHA NAGAR-201310, U.P.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO YAZDAAN RAFIQUE. 0040762752-3

I,RAJESH AGARWAL,S/o-BAL KRISHAN AGARWAL,R/O,A-701,Aditya-Mega City Bahivah-Khand,Indirapuram Ghaziabad,Uttar Pradesh, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME RAJESH AGARWAL TO RAJESH KUMAR AGARWAL,FOR ALL,FUTURE PURPOSES. 0040762789-1

I,Rajesh Bawangade S/o Shivshankar Dewaji Bawangade R/o R-242, Sector-21, Noida-201301, have changed my name to Rajesh Shivshankar Bawangade for all purposes. 0040762700-1

I,S.KULBIR SINGH S/O-TARLOCHAN SINGH R/O-3b-123,SECOND FLOOR,VISHNU GARDEN,TILAK NAGAR,DELHI-110018,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO KULBIR SINGH. 0040762764-2

I,Preeti Devi W/o Sonu R/o Mokhra Kheri Rojh (102) PO:MOKHRA ROHTAK (Haryana)-122004,have changed my name to Preeti. 0040762777-7

I,SHAILESH KUSHWAH,S/O LAL BAHADUR,R/O-91, 3RD FLOOR,POCKET-21, SECTOR-24,ROHINI DELHI-110085,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SHAILESH KUSHWAHA. 0040762777-6

I, RAKESH KUMAR,S/O RAM RATAN,R/O-26, IST FLOOR,POCKET-4A, SECTOR-23,ROHINI DELHI-110085,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RAKESH KANSAL 0040762777-3

I, RAHUL MITTAL,S/O DEV RAJ,R/O-67, 2ND FLOOR, POCKET 11-B, SECTOR-23, ROHINI DELHI-110085, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RAHUL 0040762777-4

I, Pragati Upadhyay W/o Deepak Kumar Pandey R/O Plot.No-274, TF3, Gayan khand-1, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad U.P.-201014, have changed my name from PARGATI UPADHYAY to PRAGATI UPADHYAY for all future purposes. 0070938754-1

I, PAWAN S/o Om Shankar R/o VPO Kundli Tehsil SONIPAT,HARYANA have changed my name from PAWAN to PAWAN KUMAR permanently 0040762694-2

I, Manjari Mishra Saxena, W/o Alok Saxena R/o B -04, Vrindavan Apartments, Plot No.1, Sector 6, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075 have changed my name to Manjari Mishra. 0070938770-1

I, MUKESH CHANDER BANSI S/o Lakhna Ram, R/o F-315, Gali No. 9, Jaitpur Extn Part-2, Badarpur, New Delhi-110044, have changed my name to MUKESH KUMAR for all purposes 0040762746-1

I, Lakshya Israni S/o Bharat Israni R/o House no-34/244, Vikram Vihar, Lajpat Nagar-4, South Delhi-110024 have changed my name to Lakshay Israni for all future purposes 0070938750-1

I, Harrshi D/o Nareesh Brij R/o 170-D,Kamla Nagar, Delhi-110007, have Changed my name to Harrshi Brij for all purposes. 0040762752-2

I, Deepak S/o Om Prakash R/o/H.No.281, Village Pitam Pura,North West Delhi-10034,have changed my name to Deepak Beniwal. 0040762789-5

I, Arti Devi W/o Rajesh Kumar R/o-X/972, Gali No.4,Chand Mohalla, Gandhi Nagar,Delhi-110031,have changed my name to Arti Gupta. 0040762789-2

I, Ainesh S/o Manoj Kumar R/o K-22, Punjabi Bazar, Kotla Mubarakpur, Lodhi Road Delhi-110003 have changed my name to Ainesh Gupta for all purposes. 0070938786-1

I Tanya Rawat D/o Vipin Rawat R/O A-804 Rishabh Paradise Ahinsa Khand-2 Cloud 9 Indirapuram Ghaziabad UP 201014 I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME from Taniya Rawat to Tanya Rawat. 0040762697-1

I S C Rustagi S/o Mangat Ram Rustagi R/o LU-5, I, Pitampara, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi-110088, have changed my name to Subhash Chand Rustagi 0070938763-1

I Ram Sudhar Verma S/o Babu Ram R/o House No-9679-9 Mohalla Bagh Rao Ji, Kishan Ganj, Delhi G.P.O, North Delhi-110006, have changed my name to Ram Sudhar Patel 0070938814-1

I,Sima Tiwari W/o Ajay Kumar Tripathi R/o C-203, Parsvanath Greenville,Sohna Road, Sector-48,Gurgaon (Haryana), have changed my name to Seema. 0040762777-9

I,Swaran Singh S/o Santa Singh R/o B-581,DDA Colony, Choukhandi, New Delhi-110018 have changed my name to Sarwan Singh. 0040762752-6

I,Vicky S/o Suresh Singh R/O Rular ratan thal (108) Po:-Rathanthral Rewari (Haryana)-123301,have change my name Vicky Singh. 0040762777-8

I,hitherto known,as Ms.Anisha Grover,daughter of,Shri Anil Nanda,residing at,House.No-S-526,Greater-Kailash,Part-I,New-Delhi-110048,have changed my name and surname and shall hereafter be known,as Anishaa Nanda. 0040762764-3

I,Computer W/o Sher Singh Khatri R/o WP-5 Wazirpur Village, Ashok Vihar, Delhi-110052 have changed my name from Computor to Kashmiri Khari vide Affidavit dated 16-10-2024 at New Delhi 0070938748-1

I,Rakesh Aggarwal S/o Om Prakash Aggarwal R/o-X-105 Siddhartha Apartment Pitampura Delhi-110034, have changed my name to Rakesh Kumar Aggarwal 0040762777-1

I, POONAM W/O VINOD CHAWLA,R/O-C2/12, JANAKPURI, DELHI-110058, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO POONAM CHAWLA 0040762777-5

I Md Asgar Ansari S/o Md Tohid Ansari R/o Vill-Fulkari, PO-Hussainabad, PS-Devipur, Devghar, Jharkhand-815353, have changed my name to Md Ali Asgar 0070938760-1

I, KRISHNA THAKRAL W/o Pooran Parkash R/o H.NO-7, NANDWANI NAGAR, SONIPAT, HARYANA have changed my name from KRISHNA THAKRAL to KRISHNA KUMARI permanently 0040762694-1

6 acre commercial Land for sale Front 455 feet Situated on main road near village Kheri Sangrur to Patran Road away 8 Km from Distt Sangrur Pb (Nh 52). This Land suitable for building School, College, Hospital, Outlet and Warehouse. Contact : 7719671102 0050256019-1

MAID, AAYA, COOK, GOVERNESS, PATIENT, BABY CARE, HELPER, PEON, FACTORY NURSE, Full & Part Time etc.Contact-8882826864. 0040762777-10

I,Kapil Mohan Bhadana S/o Sh.Satbir Bhadana,R/o-Mohan-Farm-29,Ikram road,V.P.O-Pali,Faridabad, Haryana-121004,I,informd that kapil Mohan Bhadana, and Kapil mohan is one and the same person.The Correct-name is Kapil Mohan Bhadana 0040762717-3

I,Manish Gupta S/o Ajit Parsad Gupta,R/o-85,J.K-Apartment Block-A-3,Paschim Vihar, Delhi-110063,have changed my minor son's name Natik Gupta to Naateek Gupta, Permanently. 0040762717-2

I,Deepak Jain, Karta of M/s S. K. Jain HUF, resident of BN-8, (East) Shalimar Bagh, Delhi-110088, hereby inform that I have lost the Builder-Buyer Agreement and Receipt No. 536 dated 22.03.2012, for a payment of Rs. 12,50,000/- pertaining to Apartment No. G-01-1703, located in Tower G01, The Grand at Crescent Parc, Sector-92, Gurgaon, Haryana. Any person who finds the above-mentioned documents is requested to return them to the following address: Deepak Jain, BN-8, (East) Shalimar Bagh, Delhi-110088. 0040762699-1

I Binod Prasad Singh S/o Harinandan Prasad Singh R/o J-204, Zodiac, Amarpalli, Noida have lost my Original Possession Letter of Flat No. J-204, Zodiac, Amarpalli, Noida. Finders may contact at above address. 0040762699-2

I, Mr. Pradeep Jhalani, hereby publish, in rem, that my BBA, Allotment Letter and All Receipts issued against the unit 5092 of ATS Marigold is lost. I have filed police complaint having no. 20240000939865 on 30-11-2024 as the incident occurred on 29-11-2024 evening. If found by someone, kindly handover the same to the nearest police station orto ATS tower, plot no. 16, sector 135, NOIDA-201305 0050255626-1

Seeking a simple, homely, & caring wife for an issueless divorced 53 yr tall handsome clean-shaven Sikh (MBA Finance) working in an MNC in Mumbai. Call/whatsapp 9820054157. 0130046874-3

My Client's NATHU KHAN S/O NASHIRUDDIN AND HIS WIFE ANISHA BEGUM W/O NATHU KHAN Ro H. NO. B-15, B-BLOCK, AMARWALI, SECTOR-1, ROHINI, BITHOLA NORTH WEST, DELHI DELHI-110085, ALSO AT PLOT NO. K. KHASRA NO. 909910, KIRARI, OPPPOSITE JAI MA, CHAKRAM KANTA, SULEMAN NAGAR, NORTH WEST DELHI-110086 sever all relations and debar his son "SHABIRUJI KHAN" and his wife "SABANA" from all movable and immovable properties due to their misbehaviour, disobedient, rude and they are not responsible for their any act/accidents in future. Sd/- AKSHAY KUMAR (ADVOCATE) Enr. No. D3416/2017 CH. NO.43, Lawyer's Chamber Block, Robini Court Complex, Delhi-110085

Be it known to General Public at large that my client Mr. Harish Chander S/o Mr. S.P. Anithwal and Mrs. Kiran (W/o Mr. Harish Chander both Ro H-05, Vijay Vihar Phase-2, Rohini, Delhi-110085, has divorced and severed all all their relations from their son Mr. Ashish Anithwal S/o Mr. Harish Chander and Mrs. Kiran, their Daughter-in-Law Lavali and their Grand Daughter namely Tasbi(Daughter of Ashish Anithwal and Lavali) Ro H-04/05, Vijay Vihar Phase-2, Rohini, Delhi-110085, and debarred from all of their movable and immovable properties/assets due to their misbehaviour, disobedient, rude and they are not responsible for their any act/accidents in future. Sd/- ROHIT KUMAR (ADVOCATE) Enr. No.D10135/2023

This is to inform the general public that my clients KANTA DEVI & HARI RATAN, both Ro C-37, Vishwakarma Colony, MID Road, Pindlipur, Delhi-110044 divorced and sever son Vikram Kalyan (s/o Ashvini Kumar, his wife namely Sheetal Kalyan D/o Sohna Lal and their son (my client's grandson) namely Nitish Kumar Kalyan (s/o Kaman, from all their immovable and movable property and sever all their relations with them due to Sheetal's ill behaviour towards her husband and my clients. My clients will hereby not be responsible in any way for any of their acts and their consequences. Anybody dealing with them in any manner will be solely responsible for the consequences. Sd/-SARAJEET SINGH BAWA & ASSOCIATES ADVOCATE (Enr. No. D-1006/1995; M: 9810486758 Cn. no. 865, Super Street, Courts, New Delhi-11

Public is hereby informed that (1) Shri Rajeev Kumar Dhuma, (2) Shri Sunil Monga, (3) Shri Atul Bhasin and (4) Shri Sunil Kabay has claimed to be the owner of Second Floor Without Roof Rights of Property Bearing No. WZ-406N/2, Built on Plot No. B-4/B Area Measuring 100 Sq. Yds., Part of Kharsa No. 1498, Situated in the area of Village Tehar, Colony Known as Janak Park, New Delhi, regularized by mod vide its resolution no. 16, on dated 02.04.1979 And, Hereinafter, has agreed to sell the same to Shri Manish Maggo and Smt. Vashila Maggo. And now, Shri Manish Maggo and Smt. Vashila Maggo has approached the LIC HOUSING FINANCE LTD for loan against mortgage of above said property, if any person has any right, claim, title or interest in any manner over the said property then intimate within 7 days to Vikas Khosher, Advocate, H-20, Basement, Balli Nagar, New Delhi-110015. Thereafter any kind of claim will not be accepted.

Public is hereby informed that (1) Shri Rajeev Kumar Dhuma, (2) Shri Sunil Monga, (3) Shri Atul Bhasin and (4) Shri Sunil Kabay has claimed to be the owner of Second Floor Without Roof Rights of Property Bearing No. WZ-406N/2, Built on Plot No. B-4/B Area Measuring 100 Sq. Yds., Part of Kharsa No. 1498, Situated in the area of Village Tehar, Colony Known as Janak Park, New Delhi, regularized by mod vide its resolution no. 16, on dated 02.04.1979 And, Hereinafter, has agreed to sell the same to Shri Manish Maggo and Smt. Vashila Maggo. And now, Shri Manish Maggo and Smt. Vashila Maggo has approached the LIC HOUSING FINANCE LTD for loan against mortgage of above said property, if any person has any right, claim, title or interest in any manner over the said property then intimate within 7 days to Vikas Khosher, Advocate, H-20, Basement, Balli Nagar, New Delhi-110015. Thereafter any kind of claim will not be accepted.

"IMPORTANT"

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**NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY**

Open Tender through E-Tendering CWM/Carriage & Wagon workshop North western railway Bikaner acting for and on behalf of the president of India invites E-Tender No. 17-MECH-BKNW-CAMC-WP-24 Closing Dated 27.12.2024.

1. Name of work and its location: Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract of Hydraulic Wheel Press M/c, Capacity-500 Ton (Make-Electropneumatics & Hydraulics India Pvt. Ltd.) in North Western Railway Workshop, Bikaner. 2. Estimated Cost of work: Rs. 83,50,000.00 (Inclusive of GST); 3. Earnest money: Rs. 1,67,000.00; 4. Last Date and time for submission and opening of E-tender: 27.12.2024 up to 14.30 Hrs. E-Tender will be opened at 15:00 Hrs. on same day. 5. Website particular where complete details of e-tender can be seen: www.ireps.gov.in 1405-AN/24 Please join us on  /NWRailways

**NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY**

E-Tender DRM (Mechanical) NWR Ajmer on behalf of The President of India invites E - Tenders for the following work up to 15.00 Hrs. on the mentioned date. Tender No.: DRM-ElectChg-02-24-25; Name of work: All Div.: Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of CCTV cameras in DA set Room & Panel room and remote monitoring device along with SIM card in Power Cars with CAMC for three years. Approximate cost of work: 48,40,407/-; Earnest Money: 96,800/-; Date of closing E-Tender: 23.12.2024; The details of above E - tender are available on website www.ireps.gov.in 1402-AN/24 Please join us on  /NWRailways

**Rural Works Department**

**Short Notice Inviting Tender (No.-RWD/PMGSY/Araria/ET/-24-25/02)**

Rural Works Department, Bihar invites Percentage rate Tender on behalf of Governor of Bihar (through e- procurement system) from bona fide, approved and eligible Contractors registered with RWD/RCD/CPWD/MES/ Railways/Other State/Central Govt. departments for the following PMGSY works including maintenance for five years after construction of roads and Bridges.

Sl. No.	District	Block	Package No.	Name of Bridge	Length (in m.)	Amount (Rs. in Lakh)	Earnest Money (Rs. in Lakh)	Time of completion Date	Amount Payable to Works Division
1	Araria	Jokihat	BR-01R-186	Bhansia Chowk-Badi Uda	75.24	394.508	7.89	12 Months	EE, RWD, Works Division, Araria
2	Araria	Jokihat	BR-01R-196	Dumara Kund-Surjapur LRP	64.62	351.776	7.04	12 Months	EE, RWD, Works Division, Araria

Date and Time for Downloading of Bidding Documents: From 12.12.2024 (09:30 AM) to 20.12.2024 (12:00 Noon)

Last date and Time of Online Bid Submission : 20.12.2024 up to 15:00 Hours.

(including Scanned copy of Affidavits)

Online Bid Opening Date and Time : 20.12.2024 at 15:30 Hours. : Place, date and time of Pre-Bid Meeting : 19.12.2024 from 15:00 Hours.

(Office of Respective Works Circle, RWD)

For further details please visit : [www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar](http://www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar)

PR- 014051 ( RWD ) 2024-25

Executive Engineer Rural Works Department Work Division, Araria

**नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार।**

**लघु जल संसाधन विभाग**

**हर खेत तक सिचाई का पानी” कार्यक्रम**

निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या-05/2024-25केवल ई० निविदा पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाइट (www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) पर संवेदकों से प्रतिशत दर पर निविदा पत्रांक-2370

क्र०	सिञ्चनप्रदाता का नाम	कार्यालक अभियंता, लघु सिचाई प्रमंडल, बांका।	दिनांक-03/12/2024	सिञ्चन निर्मित करने की तिथि	दिनांक-02/01/2025 से दिनांक-10/01/2025 के अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक सिर्फ वेबसाइट <a href="http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in">www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in</a> पर।	परिमाणु विवरण प्राप्त करने की तिथि एवं समय	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	लाला उदयवर्धन सिचाई योजना का निर्माण कार्य।	बांका	अमरपुर	बदरिया	47.896	0.960	5000.00	590.00	छः माह				
2	मालदेवचक्र उदयवर्धन सिचाई योजना का निर्माण कार्य।	बांका	अमरपुर	सलेमपुर	47.896	0.960	5000.00	590.00	छः माह				
3	रामपुर पर्वरा उदयवर्धन सिचाई योजना का निर्माण कार्य।	बांका	बोरी	निकरपुर	48.259	0.970	5000.00	590.00	छः माह				
4	चामरली उदयवर्धन सिचाई योजना का निर्माण कार्य।	बांका	बेलहर	धौरी	48.259	0.970	5000.00	590.00	छः माह				
5	बोरी उदयवर्धन सिचाई योजना का निर्माण कार्य।	बांका	बेलहर	धौरी	47.221	0.950	5000.00	590.00	छः माह				
6	मधुपुर उदयवर्धन सिचाई योजना का निर्माण कार्य।	बांका	बेलहर	साहेबगंज	46.567	0.935	5000.00	590.00	छः माह				
7	बेलगौर उदयवर्धन सिचाई योजना का निर्माण कार्य।	बांका	चांदन	मिरिनिया	48.259	0.970	5000.00	590.00	छः माह				
8	हिरारयडीह उदयवर्धन सिचाई योजना का निर्माण कार्य।	बांका	चांदन	जंदावरी	46.665	0.935	5000.00	590.00	छः माह				
9	जमुरी उदयवर्धन सिचाई योजना का निर्माण कार्य।	बांका	चांदन	गौरपुर	48.259	0.970	5000.00	590.00	छः माह				
10	पिपराडीह उदयवर्धन सिचाई योजना का निर्माण कार्य।	बांका	चांदन	कुसुमपुर	47.221	0.950	5000.00	590.00	छः माह				
11	दोमूहन उदयवर्धन सिचाई योजना का निर्माण कार्य।	बांका	चांदन	उत्तरी बाने	48.161	0.965	5000.00	590.00	छः माह				
12	पटवरा उदयवर्धन सिचाई योजना का निर्माण कार्य।	बांका	चांदन	उत्तरी बाने	47.605	0.955	5000.00	590.00	छः माह				
13	पुनराडीह उदयवर्धन सिचाई योजना का निर्माण कार्य।	बांका	चांदन	उत्तरी बाने	47.919	0.960	5000.00	590.00	छः माह				
14	मधुनपुर उदयवर्धन सिचाई योजना का निर्माण कार्य।	बांका	धौरी	साउध	48.259	0.970	5000.00	590.00	छः माह				
15	कामदेवडीह उदयवर्धन सिचाई योजना का निर्माण कार्य।	बांका	कटोरिया	छोडधार	49.712	0.995	5000.00	590.00	छः माह				
16	हेमनाथगौर उदयवर्धन सिचाई योजना का निर्माण कार्य।	बांका	कटोरिया	उत्तरी बाने	48.499	0.970	5000.00	590.00	छः माह				
17	जुनरीवरण उदयवर्धन सिचाई योजना का निर्माण कार्य।	बांका	कटोरिया	चरिया	48.433	0.970	5000.00	590.00	छः माह				
18	महेशगाम उदयवर्धन सिचाई योजना का निर्माण कार्य।	बांका	कटोरिया	बसदिया	48.433	0.970	5000.00	590.00	छः माह				
19	डोमरली उदयवर्धन सिचाई योजना का निर्माण कार्य।	बांका	कटोरिया	दमोदरा	48.538	0.975	5000.00	590.00	छः माह				
20	डोमरली उदयवर्धन सिचाई योजना का निर्माण कार्य।	बांका	कटोरिया	धौरगारा	48.675	0.975	5000.00	590.00	छः माह				
21	डोमरली उदयवर्धन सिचाई योजना का निर्माण कार्य।	बांका	कटोरिया	धौरगारा	49.067	0.985	5000.00	590.00	छः माह				
22	कटोरिया उदयवर्धन सिचाई योजना का निर्माण कार्य।	बांका	कटोरिया	हड़हार	47.982	0.960	5000.00	590.00	छः माह				
23	उमरायगमरिया उदयवर्धन सिचाई योजना का निर्माण कार्य।	बांका	कटोरिया	कटौर	49.276	0.990	5000.00	590.00	छः माह				
24	निजरी उदयवर्धन सिचाई योजना का निर्माण कार्य।	बांका	धूमरगंज	भरतनीला	48.364	0.970	5000.00	590.00	छः माह				
25	गिरौर उदयवर्धन सिचाई योजना का निर्माण कार्य।	बांका	धूमरगंज	बिरनीला	48.292	0.970	5000.00	590.00	छः माह				
26	करसोप उदयवर्धन सिचाई योजना का निर्माण कार्य।	बांका	धूमरगंज	करसोप	48.436	0.970	5000.00	590.00	छः माह				
					कुल--	1252.153							

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PR. No. 014061 (MWRD) 2024-25 सुरक्षित जीवन अपनाओ, अपनी नियमित एच.आई.वी. जांच कराओ।

कार्यालक अभियंता लघु सिचाई प्रमंडल, बांका






**UJVN LIMITED**  
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006  
Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508  
CIN No.U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website:www.ujvnl.com

Letter No: 1080  
Office of the Executive Engineer (E&M), Maneri Dam, Maneri, Uttarkashi invited bids from interested parties. Brief summary of tenders is given below:  
**1. Tender No.03/EE(E&M)/Maneri Dam/2024-25:** Name of work: SITC of 16 m High Mast at Maneri Dam  
**2. Tender No.04/EE(E&M)/Maneri Dam/2024-25:** Name of work: SITC of Electro-hydraulic Thruster brakes assembly and their spares for various gates of Maneri Dam  
**3. Tender No.05/EE(E&M)/Maneri Dam/2024-25:** Name of work: SITC of 1.5 HP submersible pump and detachable canopy for rope drum hoist mechanism at Maneri Dam  
**Estimated cost:** ₹12,74,125.00 ₹8,60,000.00, ₹4,86,000.00respectively (Taxes extra)  
**Date of availability of bid document on website:** 09.12.2024 at 10:00 hrs.  
**Last date of submission of bid:** 31.12.2024 at 16:00 hrs.  
For fuller & further details, kindly visit our nigram website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigram's website "www.ujvnl.com"  
**Executive Engineer (E&M)**  
**"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"**



**WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
DRINKY OFFICE TRD BRANCH, BHOPAL-34  
No. BPL/TRD/DRG/WC/437,  
Dated 07.12.2024  
**Open E-Tender Notice**  
**Sr. DEE/TRD/WCR, Bhopal,** acting for and on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders against following works, upto 11.00 hours on the dates mentioned against each tender. The complete tender documents and detailed information regarding tender is available on the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders. For any correction in this tender, if necessary, corrigendum will be uploaded on website prior to tender opening date which may be seen upto the date of tender opening.  
**Tender No.:** BPL/TRD/DRG/WC/437.  
**Description of work:** OHE work due to BPL Yard remodeling work, Phase I. Completion Period: 12 Months. Estimated Cost: ₹ 3,53,52,589.94. EMD: ₹ 3,26,800/-  
**Closing Date and Time for Submission of Tender:** 31.12.2024 at 11.00 Hrs.  
**स्वच्छ भारत अभियान एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर**

**NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY**  
**खुली ई-निविदा सूचना**  
मंडल रेल प्रबंधक (फैरिज व वेमन) उत्तर पश्चिम रेलवे जयपुर द्वारा भारत के राष्ट्रपति महोदय की ओर से नीचे दिये गये कार्य के लिए दो गई तिथि को 15.00 बजे तक ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। कोई भी मैनुअल टेण्डर स्वीकार नहीं किया जायेगा और अगर कोई मैनुअल टेण्डर प्राप्त होता है तो उस पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा। 1. ई-निविदा संख्या: AUDIO/ISUAL-JP-2024-25-RT-2. कार्य का नाम व स्थान: Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Audio Video system for conference room at Jaipur C&W Depot; 3. अनुमानित लागत: ₹ 58,03,417.00 मात्र (₹ अड़सिन लाख तीन हजार चार सौ सत्रह मात्र); 4. निड सिन्योरिटी राशी: ₹ 1,16,100.00 (₹ एक लाख सोलह हजार एक सौ मात्र); 5. ई-निविदा की अंतिम दिनांक और समय: 27.12.2024 समय 15:00 बजे; 6. ई-निविदा खोलने की दिनांक और समय: 27.12.2024 समय 15:30 बजे; उक्त ई-निविदा के सम्बन्ध में विस्तृत जानकारी रेलवे की वेबसाइट [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) पर उपलब्ध है।  
**1396-AN/24**  
Please join us on  /NWRRailways

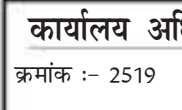


**HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED**  
(“A State Govt. Undertaking”)  
**\*Press Tender Notice\* (E-Tendering Mode Only)**  
Online Tenders are hereby invited for the following work:  

Tender Specification No.	Description of work
SSD-541/2024	DESIGN, MANUFACTURE, TESTING AT MANUFACTURER'S WORKS & DELIVERY AT F.O.R. DESTINATION STATIONS OF 220KV CURRENT TRANSFORMERS AT 220/132/33 KV Sub- Station, HPSEBL, Kunihar, under 220KV ES Division, HPSEBL, Kunihar Dist. Solan (H.P.)

  
The dates of sale, receipt and opening of Tenders are mentioned in the detailed Notice Inviting Tenders which can be downloaded free of cost from the website <https://hptenders.gov.in>. For other details on e-tendering please contact on Mobile No. 70180-50158.  
(Er. K.K. Bhardwaj),  
Superintending Engineer (Design),  
Electrical System, HPSEL Ltd., Hamipur (HP)-177001.  
E-mail: sadeshrm@gmail.com  
**Save Energy for the Benefit of Self and Nation**

**कार्यालय अधिशाषी अभियंता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, नगर खण्ड उदयपुर**  
क्रमांक :- 2519  
NIT No. 20/2024-25  
Short Term Notice Inviting Bid No.PWD2425A3192  
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से निम्न लिखित कार्य के लिये उपरक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार / केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संयोजन / केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग / डाक एवं दूरसंचार विभाग / रेलवे इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के उपयुक्त पत्र श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हों, से निम्नलिखित प्रपत्र में ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट प्रक्रिया हेतु अनिलदास निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।  
Finance (G&T) Department Notification Jaipur, October 22, 2021 (75A. Additional Performance Security- (1) In additional to Performance Security as specified in rule 75, an additional performance security shall also be taken from the successful bidder in case of unbalanced bid. The additional Performance Security Shall be equal to fifty percent of Unbalance Bid amount. The Additional Performance Security Shall be deposited in lump sum by the successful bidder before execution of Agreement. The Additional performance security shall be deposited through e-Grass, Demand Draft, Banker's cheque, Government Securities or Bank Guarantee.)  
कार्य का नाम भवन कार्य-कुल 1 (एक) कार्य  
निविदा की कुल लागत राशि रु. 106.000 लाख  
अनिलदास निविदा आवेदन डाउनलोड 06.12.2024 प्रातः 9:30 बजे से एवं अपलोड करने की तारीख 09.12.2024 प्रातः 11:00 बजे तक  
अनिलदास निविदा खोलने की तारीख 09.12.2024 दोपहर: 1:00 बजे से  
प्रोसेसिंग शुल्क एवं निविदा शुल्क विक्रि विभाग द्वारा जारी परिपत्र क्रमांक प.6 (5) वित्त / सविलेन / जमा करने की प्रक्रिया 2018 दिनांक 27.04.2020 के अनुसार ई-ग्रास पर अनिलदास के माध्यम से चालान द्वारा (परिपत्र संस्करण)  
1. प्रोसेसिंग शुल्क 8658-00-102-16-02 निर्माण विभाग  
2. निविदा शुल्क 0075-00-800-52-01  
3. धरोहर राशि 8443-00-108-00-00 ऑफिस आई.की. 12079  
निविदा से सम्बन्धित वेबसाइट विवरण समस्त "http://dipr.rajjasthan.gov.in", तथा "http://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in" पर देखा जा सकता है। सम्पूर्ण निविदा प्रक्रिया "sppp.rajjasthan.gov.in" "http://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in" पर अनिलदास सम्पादित की जायेगी।  
S.No. UBN NO.PWD2425A3192  
1 PWD2425WSOB11725  
हस्ता-  
(आर. के. मुंडड़ा)  
अधिशाषी अभियंता  
सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग  
नगर खण्ड उदयपुर



**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
**E-Tendering Tender Notice**  
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (Traction Distribution) N.C. Railway, Jhansi for and behalf of President of India invites Sealed "Open Tender" through on Line (E-Tendering) for the following work.  

E-Tender No.	Approx Cost	Earnest Money/Bid Security
JHS-TD-TENDER-2024-07R	Rs.: 11788038.90	Rs.: 209000.00

  
**Description of Work :** OHE modification work in connection with provision of 12M wide FOB at Banda (BDA), Morena (MRA) and Bhind (BIX) station of Jhansi division under Amrit Bharat Station Development Scheme.  
**Date of completion/period from issue acceptance letter :** 09 Months  

E-Tender No.	Approx Cost	Earnest Money/Bid Security
JHS-TD-TENDER-2024-08R	Rs.: 7933004.53	Rs.: 158700.00

  
**Description of Work :** OHE modification work in connection with provision of 12M wide FOB at Tikamgarh (TKMG) and Maharaja Chhatrasal Station Chhatrapur (MCSG) station of Jhansi division under Amrit Bharat Station Development Scheme.  
**Date of completion/period from issue acceptance letter :** 09 Months  

E-Tender No.	Approx Cost	Earnest Money/Bid Security
JHS-TD-TENDER-2024-10R	Rs.: 6077014.41	Rs.: 121400.00

  
**Description of Work :** OHE modification work in connection with provision of 12M wide FOB at Tikamgarh (TKMG) and Maharaja Chhatrasal Station Chhatrapur (MCSG) station of Jhansi division under Amrit Bharat Station Development Scheme.  
**Date of completion/period from issue acceptance letter :** 09 Months  




E-Tender No.	Approx Cost	Earnest Money/Bid Security
JHS-TD-TENDER-2024-05R	Rs.: 11869908.84	Rs.: 209400.00


  
**Description of Work :** Comprehensive and preventive maintenance of PSI assets in BLNR-UDMR & LAR KURJ-MBA section of Jhansi Division.  
**Date of completion/period from issue acceptance letter :** 25 Months  

E-Tender No.	Approx Cost	Earnest Money/Bid Security
JHS-TD-TENDER-2024-03R1	Rs.: 18657610.48	Rs.: 243300.00

  
**Description of Work :** Comprehensive and preventive maintenance of PSI assets in JHS-CNB section of Jhansi Division.  
**Date of completion/period from issue acceptance letter :** 03 Months  

E-Tender No.	Approx Cost	Earnest Money/Bid Security
JHS-TD-TENDER-2023-24R1	Rs.: 278405.31	Rs.: 5600.00

  
**Description of Work :** Calibration of various Electrical measuring instruments of TRD Jhansi Division.  
**Date of completion/period from issue acceptance letter :** 03 Months  
**Date of closing Tender :** for all E-Tender No. : 27.12.2024 15:00 pm. • Tender online can be submitted upto to 15:00 hrs on 27.12.2024. • For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) 2087/24 (D)  
 North central railways  [www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in)  @ CPRONCR




**बैंक ऑफ इंडिया**  
**Bank of India**

**ZONAL OFFICE, PATNA ZONE**  
1st Floor, Chanakya Place, R-Block, Patna-800001  
(Tel. 0612-2506639/2506932)  
**APPENDIX IV, Rule 8(1)**

**POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable property)**  
Whereas,  
The Undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the **BANK OF INDIA, PATNA ZONE** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002 issued a demand notice as detailed in the table hereunder written calling upon the below mentioned borrowers to repay the amount shown in the respective notices mentioned against their names in the table, within 60days from the date of receipt of the said notice.  
The borrowers/guarantors mentioned below having failed to repay the amount shown in the respective notices issued u/s 13(2) within the stipulated time, notice is hereby given to the aforementioned borrowers/guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property/ies (Secured Assets) described in the table given below in exercise of powers conferred on me under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rules on the date(s) mentioned against the respective property.  
The aforesaid borrowers/guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies mentioned in the table hereunder written and any dealings with the said property/ies will be subject to the charge of the **BANK OF INDIA** for the amount shown in the respective column of the table and table and interest thereon.  
The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.  

Name of Borrower	i. Branch, ii. Date & Amount as per Notice u/s 13(2)	Details of Property	Date of Possession of Assets
Mr. Shashi Bhushan Kumar and Mrs. Sunita Kumari (Co-Borrower)	(i) Srikrishna Nagar Branch, Patna (ii) Demand Notice Date : 17.09.2024 ₹ 39,34,000/- and interest thereon.	Description of the Immovable Property:- Residential Property situated Mauza: Chandpur Bela, P.S.: Jakkampur, Khesra Survey Plot No. 69, Thana No. 28, Khata No. 08, Tazui No. 27, Distt.: Patna, State: Bihar, Pin-800001, Total Area: 980 sqft., Bounded:- North: Sri Ram Babu Sah, South: Niz Vendor, East: Suryabanshi Prasad, West: 12 feet wide P.C.C Road.	05.12.2024


  
**\* With further interest at applicable rate till repayment.**  
**Place: Patna**  
**Date: 05.12.2024**  
**Authorized Officer**  
**Bank of India**




**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER**  
**RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BARIPADA**  
E-Mail ID: [serwcbbaripada@gmail.com](mailto:serwcbbaripada@gmail.com), Ph-No- 06792-261343/261344  
**Office Order No-3578/ Dt. 04.12.2024//**  
**1st Corrigendum to National Competitive Bidding e-procurement Notice No.3532 /Road work Dt.25.11.2024 (NCB No-360).**  
Due to unavoidable circumstances the important dates of tendering process for road works are being changed as follows.  

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender On-line for bidding	Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification	Opening of Technical Bid	Opening of Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6
Chief Construction Engineer Rura Works Circle, Baripada	Road Online N.C.B. No-360	Previously fixed on 05.12.2024 up to 11.00 am	Presently changed to At 11.00 am	Previously fixed on 20.12.2024 up to 5.00 pm	Presently changed to 06.01.2025 up to 5.00 pm
		Previously fixed on 20.12.2024 up to 5.00 pm	Presently changed to 06.01.2025 up to 5.00 pm	Previously fixed on 19.12.2024 up to 5.00 pm	Presently changed to 04.01.2025 up to 5.00 pm
		Previously fixed on 20.12.2024 up to 5.00 pm	Presently changed to 06.01.2025 up to 5.00 pm	Previously fixed on 21.12.2024 up to 11.00 am	Presently changed to 07.01.2025 up to 11.00 am
		Previously fixed on 20.12.2024 up to 5.00 pm	Presently changed to 06.01.2025 up to 5.00 pm	Previously fixed on 21.12.2024 up to 11.00 am	Presently changed to 07.01.2025 up to 11.00 am

  
All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.  
SD/ Er. A.K Nayak  
OIPR- 25130/11/0006/2425 Chief Construction Engineer R.W. CIRCLE, BARIPADA




**कार्यालय प्रधानाचार्य महर्षि देवस्हा बाबा स्वशासी राज्य**  
**चिकित्सालय महाविद्यालय, देवरिया, उ.प्र.- 274001**  
**विज्ञप्ति/सूचना**  
इस कार्यालय के पत्र सं०-मे०का०दे०/विज्ञप्ति/फैकट्टी/नियमित/ 2024-25 /1226 दिनांक-24.09.2024 द्वारा महर्षि देवस्हा बाबा स्वशासी राज्य चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, देवरिया के विभिन्न विभागों में विशिष्टतावार रिक्त आचार्य-15, सहा-आचार्य-22, सहायक आचार्य-21 के नियमित पदों पर विज्ञापन प्रकाशित किया गया था। इस क्रम में अर्ह अम्त्यर्थी से पुनः आवेदन आमंत्रित किए जाते हैं। जिनका आवेदन पत्र अधोहस्ताक्षरी कार्यालय में रजिस्टर्ड डाक अथवा स्पीड पोस्ट द्वारा समस्त प्रमाण-पत्रों की स्वप्रमाणित छायाप्रति सहित दिनांक-16.12.2024 को सायं 05.00 बजे तक जमा किये जायेंगे। विस्तृत विवरण कालेज के वेबसाइट [www.mdbmc.ac.in](http://www.mdbmc.ac.in) पर देखी जा सकती है।  
**नोट:-** इससे पूर्व में दी गई विज्ञप्ति संख्या-मे०का०दे०/विज्ञप्ति/फैकट्टी /नियमित/2024-25/1226 दिनांक-24.09.2024 के द्वारा आवेदित अम्त्यर्थी को पुनः आवेदन करने की आवश्यकता नहीं है।  
**प्रधानाचार्य**  
पत्रांक: मे०का०दे०/विज्ञप्ति/फैकट्टी/नियमित/सूचना/2024-25/1720 दिनांक: 07.12.2024




**कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय**  
**भवन निर्माण विभाग, भवन प्रमण्डल, धनबाद**  
**Mob. No-9973309316, Email Id:- eebcddhanbadjhr@gmail.com**  
**पत्रांक 2003/धनबाद शुद्धि पत्र दिनांक 07/12/2024**  
दैनिक समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित ई-निविदा संख्या 07/2024-25 पी०आर० सं० 341399 Building (24-25)\_D जिसकी निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि 13.12.2024 (11.00 बजे) एवं वेबसाइट में निविदा डालने की अन्तिम तिथि/समय 19.12.2024 11.00 बजे एवं खोलने की तिथि 20.12.2024 है, संशोधित करतें हुए सूचित किया जा रहा है कि अग्रघन की राशि को निम्नवत पढ़ा जाय।  

क्रमांक	कार्य का नाम	प्रास्तावित राशि (रु. में)	आग्रघन की राशि (रु. में)	सूचित राशि का मूल्य (रु. में)	कार्य सम्पाति की अवधि
1	RENOVATION AND CONSTRUCTION OF UTKRAMIT MIDDLE SCHOOL, CHHATAIAND, BELGARIA AT BALIAPUR BLOCK DIST. DHANBAD	2,18,18,100.00	4,37,000.00	10000.00	11 माह।
2	RENOVATION AND CONSTRUCTION OF UTKRAMIT HIGH SCHOOL, DHANGI AT BALIAPUR BLOCK DIST. DHANBAD	2,57,97,400.00	2,58,000.00	10000.00	11 माह।
3	RENOVATION AND CONSTRUCTION OF UTKRAMIT MIDDLE SCHOOL, PRADHAN KHANTA AT BALIAPUR BLOCK DIST. DHANBAD	2,38,31,000.00	4,77,00.00	10000.00	11 माह।
4	RENOVATION AND CONSTRUCTION OF UTKRAMIT MIDDLE SCHOOL, JAGDISH AT BALIAPUR BLOCK DIST. DHANBAD	2,11,22,700.00	4,23,000.00	10000.00	11 माह।
5	RENOVATION AND CONSTRUCTION OF RAJ BUNIYADI UTKRAMIT HIGH SCHOOL, PARASBANIA AT BALIAPUR BLOCK DIST. DHANBAD	2,80,54,300.00	2,81,000.00	10000.00	13 माह।
6	RENOVATION AND CONSTRUCTION OF MIDDLE SCHOOL KUSHMATAND AT BALIAPUR BLOCK DIST. DHANBAD	2,44,09,500.00	4,89,000.00	10000.00	11 माह।
7	RENOVATION AND CONSTRUCTION OF UPG HIGH SCHOOL BARDHAHA AT BALIAPUR BLOCK DIST. DHANBAD	3,00,99,000.00	3,01,000.00	10000.00	15 माह।
8	RENOVATION AND CONSTRUCTION OF UTKRAMIT MIDDLE SCHOOL, PARGHA KORADHI AT BALIAPUR BLOCK DIST. DHANBAD	2,82,90,500.00	2,83,000.00	10000.00	13 माह।
9	RENOVATION AND CONSTRUCTION OF UPG-2 HIGH SCHOOL AMTAL AT BALIAPUR BLOCK DIST. DHANBAD	2,90,10,100.00	2,91,000.00	10000.00	14 माह।
10	RENOVATION AND CONSTRUCTION OF UTKRAMIT MIDDLE SCHOOL, KALIPUR AT BALIAPUR BLOCK DIST. DHANBAD	2,77,66,300.00	2,78,000.00	10000.00	13 माह।
11	RENOVATION AND CONSTRUCTION OF UTKRAMIT UPG MIDDLE SCHOOL, BHIKRAIPUR AT BALIAPUR BLOCK DIST. DHANBAD	2,11,58,300.00	4,24,000.00	10000.00	11 माह।
12	RENOVATION AND CONSTRUCTION OF RAUKRIT MIDDLE SCHOOL, MUKUNDA AT BALIAPUR BLOCK DIST. DHANBAD	1,54,27,300.00	3,09,000.00	10000.00	09 माह।
13	RENOVATION AND CONSTRUCTION OF UTKRAMIT HIGH SCHOOL, DANGEPARKA AT BALIAPUR BLOCK DIST. DHANBAD	1,01,64,700.00	2,04,000.00	10000.00	07 माह।

  
अन्य शर्तें यथावत रहेगी।  
**PR 341490 (Building)24-25'D**  
**कार्यपालक अभियंता**  
**भवन प्रमण्डल, धनबाद**



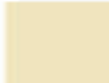
**EARTHWORK AND OTHER WORKS AT KATI HAR-KUMEDPUR DOUBLING PROJECT**  
**E-Tender Notice No. CON/2024/NOV/06 Date: 29-11-2024.** Open tender through E-Tendering system is invited from experienced and reputed contractors (s)/firm(s) for the following works: **Tender No. CE/ CON/K-MIS/2024/13. Name of work:** Earthwork in formation for railway BG embankment, blanketing work as per RDSO specification in revised alignment (Ch. 13.6 Km to 15.0 Km, Ch.-15.5 km to 17.8 km and 24.5 km to 27.9 Km), superstructure of Bridge No.-06 (OWG-1x30.5m), construction of RCC retaining wall and drain, protection work, 3 Nos of Gate goomy, 4 Nos of LOC huts, 2 Nos of OC huts, 3 Nos of auto huts; manufacturing, supplying & stacking of 50 mm size of machine crushed track ballast of approved quality conforming to latest RDSO Specifications within Railway boundary all along the section and yards as per requirement between stations Katihar (excluding) and Kumedpur (including) from Ch: Km 1.38 to Km 30.30; Linking of new BG track on PSC sleeper including auxiliary track, TRR by 10/20 rail panel, laying and linking of Points & Xings, SEJs, L-Xings, insertion of turnouts, carriage of material including sleepers & rails, spreading of ballast etc., modification of existing track of station section and all other connected works as per requirement in between stations Pranpur Road (excluding) to Kumedpur (including) from Ch: Km 19.70 to Km 30.30 and all other connected ancillary works of Katihar-Kumedpur in connection with Katihar-Kumedpur doubling project of N. F. Railway (Construction). **Tender Value:** ₹138,69,72,468.15/- **Earnest Money:** ₹70,84,900/- **Date & Time of Closing of Tender:** 14.30 hrs. of 09-01-2025 & opening at 15.30 hrs. of 09-01-2025. The complete information with tender documents of above e-tender will be available in website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)  
**Chief Engineer/CON/5**  
**NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY**  
(Construction Organisation)  
Serving Customers With A Smile




**Modern Coach Factory, Raebareli**  
**E-Advised Tender Notice No. 65/ET/2024-25 Dated: 05.12.2024**  

SN	Tender No.	Short Description	Qty.	Due Date
01	05241274	500 KVA (336KW), 750V, 3-PHASE Diesel Alternator Set for LHB POWER CAR.	116 Set	02/01/2025
02	05241280	110V/120AH VRLA SMF BATTERY SET	1056 Set	28/01/2025
03	12241452	Primary Vertical Damper for all type of LHB Coaches fitted with Fiat Bogie.	15191 Nos	30/12/2024
		Yaw Damper for all type of LHB Coaches fitted with Fiat Bogie.	7584 Nos	
		Secondary Lateral Damper for Fiat Bogies with air-Spring.	3856 Nos	
		Secondary Vertical Damper for LHB Non AC Coaches with Fiat Bogie.	4192 Nos	
04	12241479	Primary Spring (Inner to drawing).	2000 Nos	30/12/2024
		Primary Spring (Outer to drawing).	1905 Nos	
05	05241264	Harness of underframe and roof arrangement for LHB Power Car type Coaches.	54 Set	09/01/2025
		Harness of under frame and roof arrangement for LHB AC EOG Chair Car type coaches.	30 Set	
		Harness of underframe and roof arrangement for LHB non-ac Chair Car.	175 Set	
06	05241290	9KVA 750V/415V/ 190V AC, 3 Phase, Dry Type Distribution Transformer	807 Set	16/01/2025
07	05241293	Set of Electrical Brackets For LWSCN & LS Coaches.	852 Set	21/01/2025
08	12241481	Primary Spring (Inner to drawing No-LG01101, Alt-b) for FIAT Bogie of LHB NON AC Coaches.	5666 Nos	15/01/2025
		Primary Spring (Outer to drawing No-LG01100, Alt-b) for FIAT Bogie of LHB, NON AC Coaches.	6122 Nos	


  
**Website Address: [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) & [www.mcf.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.mcf.indianrailways.gov.in)**  
**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**




**SALUTE THE SOLDIER**  
**BORDER SECURITY FORCE**  
**CT SUKHA SINGH**  
27.08.1944 – 07.12.1971  
Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice while fighting enemy troops during 1971 Indo- Pak war at BOP Raja Mohmtam (Punjab)  
**CT MEGUNDAPPA HADAPPAD**  
23.07.1965 – 07.12.2002  
Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice while fighting militants in Srinagar (J&K)  
**CT LAXAM LAL**  
01.01.1969 – 07.12.1996  
Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice while fighting militants in Ganderbal (J&K)  
**NAIK BIREN BORGHAIN**  
01.03.1962 – 07.12.1996  
Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice while fighting militants in Ganderbal (J&K)  
**CT RAM SINGH, SENA MEDAL**  
05.01.1954 – 07.12.1971  
Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice while fighting enemy troops during 1971 Indo- Pak war at BOP Raja Mohmtam (Punjab )  
**CT NEM SINGH, PMG**  
01.07.1973 – 07.12.2002  
Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice while fighting militants in Jammu and Kashmir.  
**08 DEC 1971**  
**L/Nk Kul Bahadur Rai, Rfn Jai Prasad Limbu and Rfn Chandra Bahadur Limbu** of 1/11 Gorkha Rifles (BATALIK) had made the supreme sacrifice during OP CACTUS LILY in erstwhile East Pakistan on 08 Dec 1971 in a true act of valour. The brave soldiers will always be remembered for their enthusiasm. To these brave hearts we pledge that we shall always be guided by their immortal spirit and do their names  
**CO AND ALL RANKS, 1/11 GORKHA RIFLES (BATALLIK) (BRAVEST OF THE BRAVE)**  
**RFN SANTOSH THAPA 08 DEC**  
On this day 5042496W Rfn Santosh Thapa of 5/1 Gorkha Rifles made the supreme sacrifice during 'OP PAWAN', Sri Lanka on 08Dec 1987 in a true act of valour and courage. The brave soldier will always be remembered for his enthusiasm. To this brave heart we pledge that we shall always be guided by his immortal spirit and make his name proud.  
**CO AND ALL RANKS, 5/1 GORKHA RIFLES**



**CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF RAJASTHAN, KISHANGARH**  
**Reaccredited to Grade A++ by NAAC Category-I Status by UGC**  
No. CURAJ/R/F.161/2024/2296 Date:19.10.2024  
**Notice Inviting Tender**  
Central University of Rajasthan invites tender on or before 20.12.2024 for Comprehensive maintenance / services works (estimated cost: ₹,92,66,079/-) of CURaj campus from the interested eligible Private Agencies / Companies / State PWD / CPWD / MES / BRO / Public Sector Undertakings set up by the Central / State Government, etc. The details of NIT can be downloaded from Central University of Rajasthan website [www.curaj.ac.in](http://www.curaj.ac.in) and [www.eprocure.gov.in](http://www.eprocure.gov.in)  
**Registrar**



**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**  
**See Section 82 Cr.P.C.**  
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Daulat Ram S/o Ram Sahay R/o H. No. -16, Pkt.-2 Sector-16 J.J. Colony Dwarka Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in Case FIR No. 21/19 U/s 498A/406/506/34 P.S.: Budh Vihar Delhi, it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Daulat Ram**, cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Daulat Ram**, has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).  
Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Daulat Ram**, accused of FIR No. 21/19 U/s 498A/406/506/34 P.S.: Budh Vihar Delhi, is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 16.01.2025.  
**By Order**  
**Ms. Aishwarya Sharma**  
**JMFC Mahila Court-1**  
**Room No. -106, First Floor**  
**Rohini Courts Delhi**  
**DP/16010/RD/2024 (Court Matter)**



**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, KHUNTI**  
**e-Procurement Tender Notice, Two Envelope System**  
**Tender Reference No:-WRD/MID/KHUNTI/B.D./S.L.I.-15/2024-25**  

Letter No-
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BRIDGE

Dealer: East Vulnerable: East/West

NORTH

♠ J53

♥ Q852

♦ AQJ6

♣ A3

EAST

♠ AK1042

♥ A74

♦ K8

♣ KQ2

SOUTH

WEST

NORTH

EAST

1S♠

pass

2D♦

pass

3NT

pass

4C♣

pass

5C

pass

5S♠

pass

6S♠

pass

Pass

pass

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

There are times to be prepared for the worst and there are times to hope for the best. When do to do which is of great importance to a bridge player. When everything looks rosy and the contract seems to be in the bag, think what can go wrong and prepare for the worst. But when your contract needs the cards to be placed in a favourable way for your contract to succeed, just assume them to be so.

The West hand: S-H-K J963D-1074C-108764  
The East hand: S-Q876H-10D-9532C-J95

After winning the opening lead, South should cash one high trump (getting the bad news about the five-zero split). Declarer must not lead a second spade, which would automatically lead to the loss of two trump tricks. The only chance is to find East with a very favourable distribution in the side suits. South must cash the ace of hearts and the rest of the clubs, then four diamond tricks to discard two low hearts from his hand, and now lead a heart from dummy. East, down to all trumps, must ruff this heart lead; declarer can make the contract by undertrumping. East must then lead from the queen-nine-eight of spades, while South has king-ten-four and dummy the jack-five. East's potential second spade trick vanishes into thin air.

Dealer: West Vulnerable: East/West

NORTH

♠ J1095

♥ A6

♦ A862

♣ AKJ

SOUTH

♠ 8632

♥ 97

♦ 743

♣ Q742

SOUTH

WEST

NORTH

EAST

1H♥

dbl

2H♥

pass

pass

pass

dbl

pass

2S♠

pass

pass

pass

West leads the king of hearts. Plan the play.

SUNDAY CROSSWORD 2507

QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

1. Move house(colloq.)(2,6)

5. Wanders away(6)

9. A cutting tool(8)

10. Like better(6)

11. Kohima is the capital of this state(8)

12. Partial(6)

14. Deteriorate completely?(2,2,6)

18. Ultimately(10)

22. Yielding or giving up(6)

23. One who opposes war(8)

24. Like mosaic tiles(6)

25. Interrogate(8)

26. Outer edge(6)

27. Amaze(8)

DOWN

1. Not dispatched(6)

2. \_\_\_ the bat: attacks the ball wildly(6)

3. Affront(6)

4. Director of Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani(5,5)

6. Despotic(8)

7. Betroth(8)

8. Catch unawares(8)

13. Fellow-workers(10)

15. Square head scarf(8)

16. Our capital(3,5)

17. Foul-smelling(8)

19. Debacle(6)

20. Two-piece swimsuit(6)

21. Awful odour(6)

32. Regretting that another gun was produced with misguided ire(6)

23. With wild rage, give distress(8)

24. Mr. Lawrence, in some misery, behaves erratically(6)

25. British soldier right to retreat? Rubbish(8)

26. I'd seem upset by a death(6)

27. Someone with a down-to-earth approach(8)

15. Send round instrument to scene of action(5,3)

16. Parasitic creature with a recorder?(8)

17. Daring types of blazers?(8)

19. Scoffed about buffet put together(6)

20. Peter makes a name for himself in Russia(6)

21. He may help to make game available(6)

Solutions to 2506

QUICK CLUES Across: 8 Health, 9 Stalwart, 10 Broccoli, 11 Insets, 12 Gradient, 13 Cuddle, 14 Uppsala, 17 Windows, 20 Superb, 22 Roulette, 25 Landau, 26 Unwieldy, 27 Befriend, 28 Raglan Down: 1 Teardrop, 2 Placed, 3 Throne, 4 T-shirts, 5 Mariachi, 6 Twosided, 7 Grotel, 15 Spenders, 16 Labourer, 18 Withdraw, 19 Grounds, 21 Usages, 23 Unwary, 24 Emerge CRYPTIC CLUES Across: 8 Cashit, 9 Sea level, 10 Marchese, 11 Mobcap, 12 Vigilant, 13 Travel, 14 Rotunda, 17 Take off, 20 Podium, 22 Airspace, 25 Odity, 26 Lempest, 27 Lame duck, 28 Squint Down: 1 Palamino, 2 Chichi, 3 Stresa, 4 Asserts, 5 Dalmatia, 6 Verbiage, 7 Female, 15 Utillises, 16 Dummy run, 18 Focusing, 19 Catlike, 21 Oldham, 23 Remiss, 24 Popgun

If it's your Birthday

**Sunday December 8**  
You're completing part of a long-term pattern which dates back four or five years, and it may be satisfying to feel that you have come so far.

**Monday December 9**  
Your planets are in an expansive mood. Think big seems to be the most important message of the moment. You should be scrambling to success.

**Tuesday December 10**  
You're quite a broad-minded person at heart, and getting more so all the time. The more you are prepared to see other people's points of view, the better.

**Wednesday December 11**  
What a year this could be. If you play your cards right, you can have the best of both worlds. You can go off by yourself, but appreciate time with your partners.

**Thursday December 12**  
Your stars are in an positive mood. You'll be ready to go forth and multiply, in a financial sense that is. You see, one of those little light bulbs will come on.

**Friday December 13**  
You are blessed by wonderfully poetic planetary alignments. It's a perfect day for lovers to whisper sweet nothings in each other's ears.

**Saturday December 14**  
You know where you're going, and how to get there. That's great if your current goals cover all eventualities. But, ultimately, you'll realise that there's much more to life than you once thought.

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

♈

What an amazing time this is! Ethical and moral ideals seem to be uppermost, but you're in an impatient mood and such lofty considerations may be swept to one side. If romance is on your mind, you may be ready to make others aware of how you feel.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

♎

It's surprising just how stimulating money can be once you dream up new ways to earn more. On the whole, though, this is a time for spending. What's more, you should surround yourself with colour and luxury.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

♏

Sometimes reality is a very difficult thing and it's not surprising that you often try to sweep difficulties under the carpet. Now, however, friends and lovers are willing to give you a second hearing. They will be as ready as you are to forgive and forget.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 23)

♐

In many ways you are an utterly admirable individual. As usual, you're acting out of the very best of motives and your natural kindness is well to the fore. But give yourself all the time you need to prevaricate and change your opinions. Plus, it seems that there is passion around every corner.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

♑

The Moon gets you off to a flying start by bathing you in beneficial lunar alignments. Deal with monetary matters on Wednesday and save family gatherings for the weekend. Those three mystical planets, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto have helped in the past, and they'll be offering yet more assistance now.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

♒

Somebody who seemed to have a great deal of promise may now be seen in their true colours. Yet the fact is that the reality may be closer to your dreams than the mirage which once fascinated you. At work it is who you know, rather than what you know that counts.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

♓

You will be jolted into some surprising insights, one of which will be that not all your ambitions really suit your unique deeper interests. Long-distance romance beckons for travelling Pisceans, so you never know when love's arrow might strike.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

♉

You're much sharper with money than many people imagine. You'll come close to carrying off the financial coup of the century, such is your eye for a bargain. But, if you put one foot an inch out of place, then your profit may be turned into a loss.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

♊

Partners, loved ones, spouses, colleagues, rivals, people you like and people you don't, all have one thing in common. None of them can make up their minds or decide where they stand. However, you may force the pace after the week's middle.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

♋

Work, health and practical matters are highlighted, although it's uncertain whether you'll be pushing yourself to the limit or be flat on your back, worn out and exhausted. Emotionally, you are bound to feel continued benefits from Venus' helpful passage through your chart.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

♌

You can turn on the charm and sweep people off their feet. The way to deal with even recalcitrant children is to show them how to have fun. Family meetings may have a deeper meaning but, in general, it's a time for pleasure. Home decoration is important to you.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

♍

Astrology may be all about freedom of choice, but some changes are inevitable. The point is, though, that you can determine the exact shape and direction that they take. You may be unable to control events at home, so why not just let life take its own sweet course?

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.  
Every man is the architect of his \_\_\_\_\_. - Sallust (3,7)

RVEOR

CLRUNU

EFNOT

AORRFW

Answer: Every man is the architect of his own fortune. - Sallust

SUDOKU 5798

SOLUTION SUDOKU 5797

Difficulty Level 5s

Instructions

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

Difficulty Level

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

8

2

6

3

5

1

8

5

7

9

6

8

4

7

9

5

8

6

2

4

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

See Section 82 Cr. P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Shadab S/o Wali Mohammad @ Jamil Ahmed R/o H.No. O-382, Gali No. 4, Sunder Nagri, Delhi** has Committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 373/2018 U/s 279/338 IPC, PS Nand Nagri, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Shadab** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Shadab** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).  
Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Shadab** of case **FIR No. 373/2018 U/s 279/338 IPC, PS Nand Nagri, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint/case on or before **10.01.2025**.

By Order

Ms. Deepakshi Rana  
Judicial Magistrate First Class-03  
Room No. 19, Shahdara District  
Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

DP/16029/NE/2024 (Court Matter)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 CrPC

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **SOHIL KHAN S/o Gulfam R/o: Street No. 2/48, Beta-II, Near Pari Chowk, Greater Noida (U.P.)**, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **FIR No. 386/2020, Dt. 09.10.2020, U/s 392/411/34 IPC, P.S. Pul Prahlad Pur, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **SOHIL KHAN** cannot be found, and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **SOHIL KHAN** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant);  
Proclamation is hereby made that the said **SOHIL KHAN** accused of **FIR No. 386/2020, Dt. 09.10.2020, U/s 392/411/34 IPC, P.S. Pul Prahlad Pur, Delhi**, is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **06.02.2025**.

By Order

Sh. Himanshu Tanwar  
Judicial Magistrate First Class-10,  
Room No.-307, 3rd Floor, South East Distt.,  
Saket Courts, New Delhi

DP/15920/SE/2024 (Court Matter)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Woman namely **Anju W/o: Sanju, R/o: H. No. I-404, Sunder Nagri, Delhi** committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **FIR No. 761/2017, U/s 380 IPC** registered at P.S.: Nand Nagri, Delhi and the warrant has been returned writing upon that the said accused **Anju** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Anju** has absconded (or is concealing herself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Anju** accused **FIR No. 761/2017, U/s 380 IPC** registered at P.S.: Nand Nagri, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **09.01.2025**.

By Order

Ms. Deepakshi Rana  
Judicial Magistrate First Class-03  
Room No.19, First Floor, Shahdara District  
Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

DP/16101/NE/2024 (Court Matter)

कार्यालय प्रधान महाप्रबन्धक

उ.प्र. राज्य औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण,

ए-1/4 लखनपुर, कानपुर

ई-निविदा सूचना

एवम्/द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है, कि विभिन्न औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों के अन्तर्गत विकास/अनुसंधान/उद्योकरण कार्यों हेतु सरकार विभागों/सार्वजनिक उपक्रमों/निर्माण/प्राधिकरणों/परिषदों/नगर निगमों में पंजीकृत फर्मों/व्यक्तियों से ई-निविदार्थ आमंत्रित की जाती है, जिसको अपलोड करने की समयसीमा निम्नवत् है-

1. क्रम सं. 01 से 02 पर अंतिम निविदा दिनांक 10.12.2024 को पूर्वाह्न 11:00 बजे से दिनांक 31.12.2024 को अपरान्ह 5:00 बजे तक अपलोड की जा सकती है, जिन्हें दिनांक 01.01.2025 को पूर्वाह्न 11:00 बजे खोला जायेगा। (पूर्वप्रतिक)

निविदादाताओं द्वारा केवल राज्यपत्रों की मूल प्रतियाँ निविदा खोलने की तिथि से दो कार्यदिवस के अन्दर कार्यालय में जमा की जा सकेंगी। ई-निविदा के माध्यम से आमंत्रित की जाने वाली निविदाओं का विवरण निम्नवत् है-

क्रमांक	कार्य का नाम	कार्य की लागत रु. (लाख में)
1.	Construction of Proposed Entrance Gate, Security Hut, Public Toilet, Bus Shelter, Fire Station, EV Charging Station (Civil Works) and Integrated Command and Control Center at Kavi Nagar Industrial Area Ghaziabad (U.P.)	Rs. 670.43
2.	Construction of Entrance Gate Security Hut, Including Beautification 2 Nos, Bus Shelter-1 No., Upgradation of CFC Building 1 No., EV Charging / Smart Vehicle Parking (Civil Works)-1 No., Integrated Command and Control No. Center-1 in UPSIDA Industrial Area At Pratapur and Udyogpuram in Meerut (U.P.)	Rs. 223.65

नोट:- निविदादाता अपनी निविदाओं में समस्त कर सहित दरें अंकित करें। जी.एस.टी., अलग से देय होगा।  
निविदा सम्बन्धी विस्तृत जानकारी प्राधिकरण की website: [www.onlineupsida.com](http://www.onlineupsida.com) पर स्थित ई-लिंक एवं यूट्यूब चैनल की website: <http://etenderup.nic.in> पर देखी जा सकती है। अन्य जानकारी हेतु कार्यालय के प्रबन्धक (सिविल) के मोबाइल नं. 8791905769 पर सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है। प्रधान महाप्रबन्धक उ.प्र.रा.औ.वि.प्र., कानपुर

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

(See Section 84 BNSS)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Amit S/o Dharmvir R/o Ward No.6, Naroda Hisar Haryana** at **H.No. I-973 Gali No-21, I Block Hari Nagar Jaitpur, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 293/2024 U/s 110/3(5) BNS** at **P.S. Jaitpur, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrants of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Amit** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Amit** have absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).  
Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Amit of FIR No. 293/2024 U/s 110/3(5) BNS** of **P.S.: Jaitpur, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **07.01.2025**.

By Order

Chhavi Bansal  
Judicial Magistrate First Class-11,  
South-East, Court No.09,  
Main Building, Saket Court, New Delhi

DP/16118/SE/2024

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr. P.C.

Where as complaint has been made before me that accused (1) **Ashok Rai S/o Ramja Rai** & (2) **Ritesh Rai S/o Ashok Rai** both **R/o C-16/17, Harsh Vihar, Street No. 1, Hari Nagar, Part-III, Jaitpur, South Delhi** & C-30, Saurabh Vihar, Hari Nagar, Delhi has committed (or suspected to have committed) the offence in case registered vide **FIR No. 189/2019, U/S 406/420/468/471 IPC, P.S. Anand Vihar, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused (1) **Ashok Rai** & (2) **Ritesh Rai** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said (1) **Ashok Rai** & (2) **Ritesh Rai** has absconded (or is concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant).  
Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused (1) **Ashok Rai** & (2) **Ritesh Rai** of case **FIR No. 189/2019, U/S 406/420/468/471 IPC, P.S. Anand Vihar, Delhi**, is required to appear before this court (or before me) to answer the complaint on or before the day of **10.01.2025**.

By Order,

Ms Tista Shah  
Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate  
Room No. 62, 3rd Floor, Shahdara District  
Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

DP/15908/SHD/2024 (Court Matter)

बिहार राज्य भवन निर्माण निगम, लि० पटना

(बिहार सरकार का उपक्रम)

ई-निविदा / ई-पुनर्निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना सं०-42 / 2024-25

1 विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता

2 निविदा आमंत्रण की तिथि

3 निविदा कागजात प्राप्त (डाउनलोड) करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय

4 निविदा जमा (अपलोड) करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय

5 निविदा बिक्री का स्थान

6 प्री-बीड मीटिंग की तिथि, समय एवं स्थान

7 प्री-बीड मीटिंग की तिथि, समय एवं स्थान

8 निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय (टेकनीकल बीड)

9 निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय (वित्तीय बीड)

10 निविदा वैधता की तिथि

11 कार्य का विवरण

मुख्य महाप्रबंधक, बिहार राज्य भवन निर्माण निगम लि०, अस्पताल रोड, शास्त्रीनगर, पटना-800023

दिनांक: 05.12.2024

दिनांक: 20.12.2024 से 13.01.2025 को 15:00 बजे तक।

दिनांक: 14.01.2025 के 15:00 बजे तक।

केवल वेबसाइट [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) पर

दिनांक-29.12.2024 को 16:00 बजे संबंधित उप महाप्रबंधक के कार्यालय कक्ष में।

दिनांक: 30.12.2024 को 16:00 बजे, मुख्य महाप्रबंधक, बिहार राज्य भवन निर्माण निगम लि०, अस्पताल रोड, शास्त्रीनगर, पटना-23

दिनांक: 15.01.2025 को 15.00 बजे।

तकनीकी मूल्यांकन के बाद।

120 दिन

क्र०	जिला का नाम	कार्य का नाम	प्राकलित राशि (अनुश्रुति एवं गैर अनुश्रुति) (₹) में	अद्यतन की राशि (₹) में	परिमाण विवरण का मूल्य (अक्षरपरणीय) (₹) में	Bid Processing Fee	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि (माह में)	उप महाप्रबंधक का नाम
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	सारण	सारण जिलान्तर्गत जलालपुर प्रखंड के कोय में प्रथम वर्गीय पशु चिकित्सालय का निर्माण कार्य। (ई-पुनर्निविदा)	₹1,16,31,843.00	₹2,32,637.00	₹10,000.00	As per website	06 (छ)	सारण
2	समस्तीपुर	समस्तीपुर जिलान्तर्गत मोरवा प्रखंड के हलईहाट में प्रथम वर्गीय पशु चिकित्सालय का निर्माण कार्य। (ई-पुनर्निविदा)	₹1,12,42,718.00	₹2,24,855.00	₹10,000.00	As per website	06 (छ)	दरभंगा
3	पश्चिम चम्पारण	पश्चिम चम्पारण जिलान्तर्गत व्यवहार न्यायालय, पश्चिम चम्पारण (बंतिगा) के अंतर्गत अनुमंडलीय व्यवहार न्यायालय बनाई में निर्मित 15 कोर भवन (G+5), 180 कैंदी हाउस एवं एमनेंटी भवन में अतिरिक्त विद्युतीय कार्य। (ई-पुनर्निविदा)	₹43,99,228.00	₹87,985.00	₹5,000.00	As per website	02 (दो)	मुजफ्फरपुर
4	सारण	सारण जिलान्तर्गत परसा प्रखंड के परसा में प्रथम वर्गीय पशु चिकित्सालय का निर्माण कार्य। (ई-निविदा)	₹1,16,45,494.00	₹2,32,910.00	₹10,000.00	As per website	06 (छ)	सारण
5	नवादा	नवादा जिलान्तर्गत पकरीबराही प्रखंड के धमौल में प्रथम वर्गीय पशु चिकित्सालय का निर्माण कार्य। (ई-निविदा)	₹1,12,67,789.00	₹2,25,356.00	₹10,000.00	As per website	06 (छ)	गया
6	नवादा	नवादा जिलान्तर्गत सिरदला प्रखंड के लीड बाजार में प्रथम वर्गीय पशु चिकित्सालय का निर्माण कार्य। (ई-पुनर्निविदा)	₹1,04,61,459.00	₹2,09,230.00	₹10,000.00	As per website	06 (छ)	गया

12 भवन निर्माण विभाग के समुचित श्रेणी में निबंधित एवं अद्यतन नवीकृत संवेदक इस निविदा में भाग ले सकते हैं, जिन्हें सक्षम स्तर से विद्युतीकरण का भी निबंधन प्राप्त हो।

13 निविदा केवल ई-निविदा पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाइट ([www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)) पर निष्पादित किया जाएगा। ई-निविदा प्रक्रिया से संबंधित जानकारी Toll Free No.-18005726571 से प्राप्त किया जा सकता है।  
विरुद्ध जानकारी [www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar](http://www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar) से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

PR. No. 014165 (B&C) 2024-25 सुरक्षित जीवन अपनाओ, अपनी निर्यातित एच.आई.वी. जाँच कराओ।

मुख्य महाप्रबंधक,  
बिहार राज्य भवन निर्माण निगम लि०,  
पटना

epaper.indianexpress.com





England's Gus Atkinson celebrates with teammates after taking a hat trick. AP

NZ VS ENG: 2ND TEST

Atkinson bags hat-trick on an eventful day

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
WELLINGTON, DECEMBER 7

ENGLAND LED New Zealand by 533 runs with five second-innings wickets in hand Saturday after another day of extraordinary incidents and milestones, including a hat-trick on the second day of the second test at the Basin Reserve.

At stumps, England was 378-5 in its second innings with Joe Root 73 not out and captain Ben Stokes unbeaten on 35. Root was among the history-makers Saturday, reaching his 100th score of 50 or more in tests. When he reached his 65th half century, which goes along with his 35 centuries, he became the fourth player after Sachin Tendulkar, Jacques Kallis and Ricky Ponting to achieve that feat.

When Stokes declares, possibly overnight, New Zealand will have to achieve the highest successful fourth-innings run chase in test history to win the match and level the three-match series. England won the first test by eight wickets in Christchurch.

**Brief scores:** England 280 and 378 for 5 (Root 73\*, Stokes 35\*) lead **New Zealand** 125 (Atkinson 4-31, Carse 4-46) by 533 runs

SA VS SL: 2ND TEST

Paterson leads charge with career-best 5/71

REUTERS  
GOBERHA, DECEMBER 7

SEAMER DANE Paterson took a career-best 5/71 and Temba Bavuma was unbeaten on 48 as South Africa closed the third day of the second test against Sri Lanka at 191 for three in their second innings on Saturday, a lead of 221 runs.

Paterson helped bowl Lanka out for 328 in their first innings as they lost seven wickets for 67 runs against the South African new ball attack that was led superbly by the seamer.

Captain Bavuma, who already has two half-centuries and a ton in three innings in the series, will resume on the fourth day with Tristan Stubbs (36 not out).

The pair have put on a patient 82 for the fourth wicket to steadily build the home side's lead.

**Brief scores:** SA 358 and 191 for 3 (Markram 55, Bavuma 48\*, Stubbs 36\*, Jayasuriya 2-75) lead **SL** 328 (Nissanka 89, Kamindu 48, Mathews 44, Chandimal 44, Paterson 5-71, Maharaj 2-65, Jansen 2-100) by 221 runs

“I’m slightly disappointed with how that transpired, with a couple of the past innings. It is what it is. If they want to react like that and that’s how they want to represent themselves, then so be it.

TRAVIS HEAD, ON SIRAJ SEND-OFF

Day and Nightmarish Test

Australia firmly in control as India are reduced to 128 for 5 in 2nd innings; Head's quickfire century shifts momentum on Day 2



EXPRESS IN AUSTRALIA

SRIRAM VEERA  
ADELAIDE, DECEMBER 7

AT ONE point, Jasprit Bumrah went down in pain. He lay on the ground, stretching his leg, and the physio ran out. Six cricketing days into the series, that was the nightmare moment of dread. What if something happens to Bumrah; what would happen to the Indian attack? Luckily, the groin pain faded out with some treatment. “It was just cramps,” the bowling coach Morne Morkel would say later, but on a day Travis Head walloped them, a few concerns have propped up.

As harsh as it is to criticise someone as young as Harshit Rana, a couple of things have to be said. His bowling plan and skills involved were one, but while that still can be put down to his inexperience and part of an important learning curve for any rookie, his fitness seems to be a larger concern. Especially as that part should not be raised against a youngster.

He does run out of gas in his later spells; it was visible in Perth too; the pace drops, the venom in hitting the deck that he shows in his first spell lessens.

It also makes one wonder whether Akash Deep, the seamer who has the ability to get the ball to skid, would have been a better selection punt for the pink-ball Test. It won't be a surprise if Rana does get replaced by Deep for the next game.

It was never going to be easy to bowl to Head, especially for someone as new as Rana, as Head can make a mockery of lengths with his batting approach. What is a good length to others can almost be a touch short for him as he hangs on the back foot to whack them square. And when Rana tried to go fuller, Head would latch on to them as well.

Those errors are understandable, especially when one remembers the brute of a delivery he served to remove the same batsman in the first innings of the Perth Test, but the way his pace and intensity drops in later spells is a cause of concern. Rana, undoubtedly is likely to improve as a bowler, but as things stand, his bowling level would have been understandable had he been an allrounder, not enough for a specialist pacer.

Such was the state when he was getting repeatedly crunched by Head, Rohit Sharma couldn't even take him off the attack as who would he have turned to? With the next Test in Brisbane almost immediately on the heels of this one, Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj have to be saved up. It would definitely be a different attack had Mohammad Shami been fit and playing, but in his absence, a few kinks are showing up, as expected.

Not that everything went awry. Siraj produced one of his finest spells of his career in the morning, but would go wicketless. After a first, slightly wayward over where he was tailing in onto the middle and leg, Rishabh Pant had run across for a lengthy chat. It's not sure of course whether the subsequent change was a result of that, but things did change rather dramatically.



Australia captain Pat Cummins celebrates after dismissing his Indian counterpart Rohit Sharma on Saturday. AP

He had the ball fizzing around the off stump, tailing them in and straightening — and almost always making them play. A few balls flew past the edges of Marnus Labuschagne and Nathan McSweeney, and

sheepish-looking Pant.

As for India's batting, the refreshing highlights came right at the end in the way when Pant and later, Nitish Reddy joined him. Pant charged down the pitch to slam Scott Boland, who looked visibly surprised. Pant would specifically target Boland with his adventurism; falling on the off side to lap a short rising ball or going down the track to smear him through the off side.

Boland is a bowler who generally hits similar lengths consistently and Pant's approach was tailored to throw him off his

comfort zone. And it worked. Nitish too cottoned on to Pant's approach, and he even walked down the first ball he faced, and would crunch a couple of aggressive hits before stumps.

India again had a decent phase, albeit short, when Yashasvi Jaiswal was batting, but he perished off Boland's first delivery, edging an away-angler. KL Rahul had gone for a pull off Pat Cummins even though he was cramped for room by that ball on the leg stump, and gloved it behind to the wicketkeeper Alex Carey.

Virat Kohli was steadier than in the first innings, but he too fell, tentatively poking inside the line of a Boland delivery that just

about straightened to take the edge. Jaiswal and Kohli's dismissals had perhaps pushed Pant to do what he did to Boland.

Rohit's worrying dismissals

Just when it seemed Rohit Sharma might be able to survive the day with Pant, he too was dismissed. It was Cummins's best delivery of the Test. It landed on a length around off stump and straightened to hit the off peg.

Pretty similar to New Zealand's Tim Southee's dismissal of Rohit Sharma in the recent home series. This happens to Rohit due to the way he bats at times: he isn't quite forward and more importantly plays the line of the ball. And even slight deviation from what he expects can be enough to rush past the edge and hit the off stump.

Or move in to trap him lbw. Playing the line was one of the reasons for his success as Test opener in England in 2018, but his feet movement was crisper, quicker, and more purposeful then.

Australians are going to repeatedly target him with such deliveries as seen in this Test: the one that shades away just a touch to threaten his off stump or the one that moves back in more to threaten his pad. He will have to find a way out. But then, so does the Indian batting unit as a whole. It now rests on the adventurous Pant taking clever and calculated risks and the impressively plucky and skilful Reddy.

SCORECARD

AUSTRALIA VS INDIA  
ADELAIDE OVAL, AUSTRALIA  
Toss: India won, chose to bat

<b>INDIA</b>	<b>180</b>
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	<b>86/1 0/N</b>
<b>N McSweeney</b> c Pant b Bumrah	<b>39</b> (109b, 6x4)
<b>M Labuschagne</b> c Jaiswal b Reddy	<b>64</b> (126b, 9x4)
<b>S Smith</b> c Pant b Bumrah	<b>2</b> (11b)
<b>T Head</b> b M Siraj	<b>140</b> (141b, 17x4, 4x6)
<b>M Marsh</b> c Pant b Ashwin	<b>9</b> (26b, 1x4)
<b>A Carey</b> c Pant b M Siraj	<b>15</b> (32b)
<b>P Cummins</b> b Bumrah	<b>12</b> (22b, 2x4)
<b>M Starc</b> c H Rana b M Siraj	<b>18</b> (15b, 3x4)
<b>N Lyon</b> not out	<b>4</b> (6b)
<b>S Boland</b> b M Siraj	<b>0</b> (9b)
<b>Extras</b> (b 13, lb 1, nb 7)	<b>21</b>
<b>Total</b> (87.3 Ov, RR: 3.85)	<b>337</b>
<b>FoW:</b> 1-24 (U Khawaja, 10.6 ov), 2-91 (N McSweeney, 36.1 ov), 3-103 (S Smith, 40.1 ov), 4-168 (M Labuschagne, 54.3 ov), 5-208 (M Marsh, 63.4 ov), 6-282 (A Carey, 76.6 ov), 7-310 (T Head, 81.4 ov), 8-332 (P Cummins, 84.6 ov), 9-332 (M Starc, 85.1 ov), 10-337 (S Boland, 87.3 ov)	
<b>Bowling:</b> J Bumrah 23-5-61-4; M Siraj 24.3-5-98-4; H Rana 16-2-86-0; NK Reddy 6-2-25-1; R Ashwin 18-4-53-1.	

<b>INDIA</b>	
<b>Y Jaiswal</b> c Carey b Boland	<b>24</b> (31b, 4x4)
<b>KL Rahul</b> c Carey b Cummins	<b>7</b> (10b, 1x4)
<b>S Gill</b> b Starc	<b>28</b> (30b, 3x4)
<b>V Kohli</b> c Carey b Boland	<b>11</b> (21b, 1x4)
<b>R Pant</b> not out	<b>28</b> (25b, 5x4)
<b>R Sharma</b> b Cummins	<b>6</b> (15b, 1x4)
<b>NK Reddy</b> not out	<b>15</b> (14b, 3x4)
<b>Extras</b> (b 5, lb 2, nb 2)	<b>9</b>
<b>Total</b> 24 Ov (RR: 5.33)	<b>128/5</b>
<b>FoW:</b> 1-12 (KL Rahul, 3.5 ov), 2-42 (Yashasvi Jaiswal, 8.1 ov), 3-66 (Virat Kohli, 14.3 ov), 4-86 (Shubman Gill, 17.2 ov), 5-105 (Rohit Sharma, 20.5 ov)	
<b>Bowling:</b> M Starc 9-0-49-1; P Cummins 8-0-33-2; S Boland 7-0-39-2.	

Selectors await fitness report before flying Shami to Australia

BCCI is awaiting National Cricket Academy's nod to fly pacer Mohammed Shami to Australia for the remaining three Tests of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. The Indian Express understands that the senior selection committee is awaiting the latest fitness test results from NCA for his inclusion in the Test squad.

It is understood that the BCCI has already prepared the clothing for the pacer and even his visa is ready and once declared fit, will fly to Australia at the earliest. “The selection committee is waiting for the NCA's fitness clearance report on Shami. He travelled to Bengaluru to give a fitness test. He played the Ranji Trophy as well as the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20s, where he looked good. We are just waiting for the approval from the NCA,” a BCCI official said. Meanwhile, Mohammed Badruddin, Shami's childhood coach, isn't pleased with the lack of communication. “He is fit. He has played one Ranji Trophy match, helped Bengal reach the quarter-finals of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy. He bowled a long spell in the red-ball, takes field throughout the 20 overs in the white ball. How much more proof they want. If the Indian team management wants to win the series they will call him before the Brisbane Test,” said the coach. **DEVENDRA PANDEY**

Travis at it again as Australia make serious Headway in Adelaide

SRIRAM VEERA  
ADELAIDE, DECEMBER 7

A COUPLE of weeks back, Mohammad Siraj contacted former India bowling coach Bharat Arun with one specific request: to share tips to cut the ball away from a left-handed batsman from round the stumps.

His request was to nail Travis Head. Before the start of play on Saturday, with two right-handed batsmen batting overnight, R Ashwin had a long bowl at the pitch adjacent to the main pitch as part of warm-ups. It was all from round the stumps and the ball would slide in from outside off as if he were bowling to a left-hander. It seemed the Indians were more than aware that their main nemesis on the day, and possibly of this series, is Travis Head.

Their hunch proved right as Head smashed 140 to propel Australia to 337 and hand a 157-run first-innings lead. And the Australian bowlers ran through the top order to leave India gasping at 128/5, trailing by 29 runs.

The home crowd of course knew the main man was Head. As he walked out to bat, he received the loudest cheer that any Australian batsman got. If any Indian bowler messed around with him with stares or the lip, as Mohammad Siraj would after eventually getting his wicket with a yorker, they would boo them, loud and long. Especially the crowd

standing at the 'Hill', the grass-bank area just in front of the old scoreboard, the least-expensive ticketed section of the stadium. Head has the reputation of an 'everyday bloke' in this country. Never mind he recently bought a house that's worth three million dollars, it's his persona that makes him rather appealing to the Australian fans. A moustache out of 80s Australia, a batsman who had to struggle to get a spot in the team and work harder to retain it, someone who looks like one of the blokes; no gym-sculpted body or a posh demeanour and airs about him — just a regular Aussie bloke, as they call him. He might be loved by the home fans, but it must be annoying to bowl to him.

Head retreats to almost one spot, around the leg and middle, on the back foot primarily, crunching himself into that area as if he were travelling in a packed unreserved compartment of an Indian train and there is no space elsewhere. But he unleashes such mayhem from there, slashing, carving, stabbing, punching. He might not be a classical batsman, but he is a batsman with a very specific and conscious method. By stationing himself there, he casts this illusionary spell on the bowlers, dragging them into his space. A ball on off stump that can cramp up most batsmen appears as width to him. Even Jasprit Bumrah was snared by it, occasionally thinking he could hit that off stump, but would wince as Head, without foot movement of the conventional kind but main-



Travis Head smashed 140 to propel Australia to 337. Reuters

taining balance and springing up with his knee flex, would slash him through backward point. The hands just fly.

Then there is the other effect as Siraj would do. Seeing him in that space, the logical thought

is to hurl something really full — fuller than the lengths to other batsmen. And Head would rapidly get forward to absolutely cream it through the off side.

It also came through in the way he handled

Ashwin. The Indian offspinner's main weapon on a windy Adelaide day was to use the breeze and drift the ball in. Often releasing the ball from between his thumb and fore-finger, he would get the ball to skid in from outside off or around off. Time and again, Head would press back to push it away. And suddenly, he would lurch forward to blast a fuller-length ball. Or charge down the track to crash-land them into the stands. But all this free-flowing attack essentially comes from that backing movement. For all his whacking the ball around, Head is a batsman who needs and trusts that method. Anytime he deviates from it, he admonishes himself. He doesn't do it when he misses an attempted cut to what appears to be a full-length ball; he isn't worried as that's what he wanted to do. But if he has a flash at a ball that his method isn't suited for, he can be seen muttering.

In the days leading up to the Perth Test, he had batted for hours, in multiple sessions each day, at the nets, leading to quizzical looks from the Australian journalists who generally see him at nets only when he wants to polish some part of his game. It didn't come off in the first innings there as Harshit Rana produced a beauty that shaped away ever so late from round the stumps and rattled the off stump.

Head was particularly severe on Rana at Adelaide. Served a stream of balls that was like meat to his method, he cut, drove and pulled.

What's not short to other batsmen is short to him, because of the position he gets into. And Rana couldn't adjust on the day and bled runs.

Once he reached the hundred, the trademark helmet-over-the-bat-handle celebration came out, and he soaked in the moment, turning to all parts of the ground. And then began his next onslaught with a tweak. Where previously he would punch, he began extending his arm to go up and over with his shots — be it Bumrah or Siraj.

There was one astonishing six off Siraj, a ball before he was dismissed. It was a fairly good delivery, on the middle and leg from a good length, in an attempt to cramp him for room, but he somehow whipped it up and over the square-leg boundary. Siraj stood there, hand over his mouth, musing and staring.

The next ball was a yorker that dipped under the blade to hit the stumps, and Siraj screamed in celebration. Head had a look, and as Siraj kept screaming in joy, he said something to the bowler. Siraj mouthed something angrily, pointing to the dressing room.

The crowd cottoned on to the moment and began booing Siraj, who had to field near the boundary after an over, and smilingly egged them on, extending his arms and waving them up and down. The Indian section clapped in joy, the Australian sections boomed more. It was a minor event compared to the main box-office show of the day: Head slaying the Indians.



FIDE WORLD CHAMPONSHIP

Tiebreaks rapidly approaching

Gukesh running out of time as Game 10 ends in another draw; rapid format tiebreakers suit champion Ding Liren

AMIT KAMATH  
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 7

AT ONE of the press conferences at the on-going World Chess Championship, a weird question was tossed at the world champion and the teenage challenger.

Both players were asked if they had to visit one tourist attraction on Sentosa Island, which is hosting the World Championship, what would it be. Both were given three options: Adventure Cove Waterpark, Universal Studios or the Aquarium. But there was a catch in the question, the players had to visit one of these together.

“They are all for kids,” shot back Ding Liren.

At the World Championship, Ding Liren, incumbent crown-wearer and D Gukesh, audacious teenage challenger, are involved in a much more dangerous activity. The jenga tower of the World Chess Championship is getting increasingly unstable each time one more game ends in a draw and both players find themselves level on points. And with it, the players are getting more cautious, gingerly playing to avoid defeat.

Unsurprisingly then, for the seventh straight game at the 2024 World Chess Championship, Gukesh and Ding Liren agreed to a draw.

After the 36-move draw on Saturday, the prospect of tie-breaks appears increasingly likely. 10 games into this duel, both players are deadlocked at five points each. If there is no player who holds an advantage after four more games, the game will head into the tie-break, which is played in the rapid format. This will clearly suit Ding Liren, who had won the crown of the world champion in the first place by defeating Ian Nepomniachtchi last year in the rapid tie-break.

Gukesh started the World Chess Championship as the World No 5 in classical with a rating of 2783. The classical format is his forte. Meanwhile, the world champion from China was World No 23 with a rating of



Gukesh and Ding Liren played out a seventh straight draw. Eng Chin An/Fide

2728 before game 1. But in the rapid format, Gukesh has a rating of 2654 and a world ranking of 45 while Ding, at 2776, is ranked no 2 in the world.

“It seems that Ding has found his groove and made his intention known. If Gukesh wants to win this match, he has to take chances to break the deadlock. Ding is happy to chill his way into the rapid and blitz play-offs,” remarked chess legend Susan Polgar on X.

In Game 10, there was not really too much to separate the two with Ding Liren breaking with his custom of playing a different system in his opening when playing with white pieces. He went back to the London System for the second time, after having tried it in Game 6. As Ding had admitted after Game 9, now all the opening phase tricks have largely been used by both players in trying to catch their opponent off guard.

In the history of the World Chess Championship, the London System had made an appearance just thrice. And it’s always been the man from China attempting it, twice against Gukesh and once against Nepo last year.

The draw did not seem to bother both players too much. “I’m up for a game with both colours. But a solid draw like this with black pieces is a good result. The result is okay, just means we have four more inter-

esting games to go,” a nonchalant Gukesh said at the post-game press conference.

No margin for error

But the draw does mean that the match is now reduced to a best-of-four games match where the cost of even a misjudged pawn push could be the difference between the world seeing the coronation of the 18th world champion, or Ding Liren continuing his reign for a few more years.

“Obviously the cost of one game now is higher than it was before. But my approach and goal are still the same: play a good game every time. If you think about it, it’s not that different. Even if the cost of losing the first game was not that high, I would not have wanted to lose that game,” shrugged Gukesh.

“There’s not too much room for mistakes. Now we have to be careful with every move. A loss will be a very bad situation,” admitted Ding. The Chinese is yet to win a match at the ongoing World Championship after winning Game 1. Gukesh was the player who last tasted victory at the World Chess Championship after levelling the match scores in Game 3.

Asked if they would now just wait for the other player to make mistakes, Gukesh replied: “Mistakes are happening in every game. In general it’s hard in chess not to make mistakes. We’re just trying to outwit each other at this point.”

Gout, sprint sensation from Australia, must sidestep the ‘next Usain Bolt’ tag

NIHAL KOSHIE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 7

AWAY FROM the Australian summer of cricket, a 16-year-old sprinter and viral sensation Gout Gout is making heads turn Down Under. In the latest video with over three lakh views, the Queensland-born teenager of South Sudanese heritage speeds away from his competitors, slows down at the finish line yet wins by a huge margin. He then canters, stops and turns, raises his right arm with the index finger pointed skyward before bending down and smashing a clenched fist into the track.

The theatrics were in response to the display on the clock — 10.04 seconds. If not for the illegal wind speed, Gout Gout would have entered the record books as the fastest-ever youth athlete in the 100 metres. Not one to be deterred, Gout wrapped up the day by winning the final in 10.17 seconds. He walked away with the title of the fastest Under-18 Australian ever and moved to sixth on the all-time list.

On Saturday, Gout did even better by breaking Peter Norman’s 200 metre Australian record of 20.06 seconds set at the 1968 Olympic Games. Gout made it a one-horse race in the home stretch to clock 20.04.

This is not the first time Gout has hit the headlines. Nor the only instance when comparisons with Usain Bolt have emerged. Since the great Jamaican retired in 2017, many young sprinters have been labelled the ‘next Bolt’. After making waves as teenagers, the wheels have come off for young sprinters.

For Gout there is no escaping the early stardom in sport-crazy Australia.

In August, Gout caught the world’s attention. At the Under-20 World Championships in Lima, he won a silver medal with a personal best of 20.60 seconds. Bayanda Walaza, the winner from South Africa, was two years his senior. Gout joined the big league of Next-Gen stars when Adidas signed him up after Lima. His timing at the Peruvian capital immediately raised his profile. He had bettered Bolt’s gold-winning timing of 20.61 back in 2002. Bolt was 15 back then, Gout will turn 17 on December 29.

Lima was a stepping stone. A few months later at the Queensland School Championships, Gout went quicker (20.29s) for a new Australian Under-20 record with another Bolt-like finish, the rest of the field not even in the frame as Gout dipped at the finish line. There is a likeness in the running styles of Bolt and Gout. Gout’s tall, looks



Gout, 16, is of South Sudanese heritage and was born in Queensland. Reuters

CLOCK SHOCK

20.04s

Gout’s 200 metre gold winning timing in the Australia Schools Championship final. He broke the national record of 20.06 set by Peter Norman at the 1968 Mexico Olympics. He is also the second fastest on the Under-18 all-time list.

10.17s

Gout’s gold winning timing in the 100 metre in the schools Championship final — the fourth fastest by an Under-18 athlete.

amazingly unhurried on track for a sprinter, is a slow starter but has blazing speed in the last 30 to 40 metres. He’s aware of the long shadow of Bolt creeping up on him.

“I do see it (comparison with Bolt). My stride length is pretty long, my knee height is pretty high and just the amount of tallness I get when I’m running. I’m just me trying to be me. Obviously, I do run like him (Bolt). I do sometimes look like him, but obviously I’m making a name for myself, and I think I’ve done that pretty well. I just want to continue doing that and continue to be not only Usain Bolt but continue to be Gout Gout,” he told the Sydney Morning Herald.

Early next year Gout will have the golden opportunity to train alongside Noah Lyles, the Olympic Champion in the 100 metres. Since Bolt’s retirement, Lyles has become the rock star of men’s sprinting. Being in the same training group as Lyles couldn’t have come at

a better time for the 16-year-old with lots to learn. His coach Di Sheppard, accompanying him to Florida, realises that Gout’s peak is far away. “We know the job is not done yet... we haven’t even reached the base camp of Everest,” Sheppard told *The Guardian*.

Many false dawns

Not getting carried away by early triumphs is an important lesson in a sport where prodigious sprinters can plateau or burnout. There’s Trayvon Bromell. At 18, he ran a wind-aided 9.77 seconds at the NCAA Big 12 Conference. Seen as the next sprinting sensation, Bromell now 29, has never won an Olympic medal of any colour.

Japan’s Yoshihide Kiryu at 21 became the first from his country to run a sub-10 second 100 metre race. Prior to this, he had equalled the world junior record to raise hopes of the emergence of an Asian superstar. At 28, Kiryu has an Olympic silver and two World Championships bronze — all in the men’s 4x100m relay. Even in Australia, there is the cautionary tale of James Gallagher, a boy-wonder sprinter who peaked too early. When he was 14 years old, Gallagher from New South Wales, clocked 21.73 seconds in the 200 metres, faster than Bolt at the same age. Gallagher fizzled out at 16.

Erriyon Knighton, the 20-year-old who missed out on a podium finish at the Paris Olympics, is still seen as a legitimate successor to Bolt. He’s broken Bolt’s Under-18 and Under-20 in the 200 metres, has a bronze and a silver in successive World Championships. But he’s yet to challenge Lyles at the big events. Gout needs to look no further than Bolt to realise that setting junior records or being supremely talented does not guarantee a podium finish at the Olympic Games.

On the High Performance Podcast, Bolt talks about his reality check at the 2004 Athens Games, his first Olympics.

“Because of my talent I thought I was doing well... because I did well in the Jamaican trials. Then you get to the Olympics and meet up all these guys who have been training all year around and dedicated to their craft and I didn’t make it past the first round. For me that was a little bit of a wake up call. That showed how far behind I was,” Bolt said.

It took Bolt another three years to get his act together. Gout is bound to experience setbacks on the track. Whether he fades away, like the many of the ‘next Bolts’ or sprints to dazzling heights. Only time, split into one-hundredths of a second, will tell.

MARUTI SUZUKI

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Vol XXIII- 38 Regd.No. DL-21046/03-05 R.N.I. No.506/57 Printed and Published by R.C.Malhotra on behalf of The Indian Express (P) Limited and Printed at The Indian Express (P) Limited Press, A-8, Sector-7, Noida -201301 and Hindustan Media Ventures Ltd., Mauza-Daryapur, Police Station-Shahpur, Danapur District-Patna, Bihar-801503 and Published at The Indian Express (P) Limited, Mezzanine Floor, Express Building, 9 & 10, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi 110002. Editorial office: The Indian Express (P) Limited, Mezzanine Floor, Express Building, 9&10, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110002. Phone: 0120-6651500. Advertising office: The Indian Express (P) Ltd.,Express Building, B1/B, Ramnath Goenka Marg, Sector 10, Noida-201301. Phone:01206651291. Chairman of the Board: Viveck Goenka, Chief Editor: Raj Kamal Jha, Editor: Unni Rajen Shanker, Editor (Delhi): Rakesh Sinha \*\*\* Responsible for selection of News under the PRB Act. Copyright: The Indian Express (P) Limited. All rights reserved. Reproduction in any manner, electronic or otherwise, in whole or in part, without prior written permission is prohibited. The Indian Express®



# THE SUNDAY EXPRESS MAGAZINE

# eye



## SCREEN, PAGE 2

### The Winner Takes It All

Jimmy Shergill, Tamannaah Bhatia and Avinash Tiwary on the 'hustle' in the industry, meeting superstars and working with Neeraj Pandey



## BOOKS, PAGE 3

- Review of Rahul Bhatia's *The Identity Project: The Unmaking of a Democracy*
- Review of Aditya Iyer's *Gully Gully*
- Review of Sandhya Mary's *Maria, Just Maria*

An overnight sensation, Harshit Rana is being touted as the next big thing in India's fast bowling stable. But in his village on the Delhi-Haryana border, his parents unpack his bigger quest — breaching the 150-kph barrier

Pratyush Raj

## Inside a 150-kph dream

IN THE living room of Harshit Rana's house in Northwest Delhi's Ghevra village are two trophies the fast bowler won for bowling quick in the IPL. "This one is my favourite," his father Pradeep points at a gold plaque Harshit won for cranking 146 kph in the IPL final against Sunrisers Hyderabad in Chennai.

He has set his son a stiffer challenge. "I have challenged him to bowl 150 kph. I have told him I will consider you a player the day you touch 150 kph," says Pradeep.

Last month, he made a head-turning Test debut against Australia in Perth, enacting the perfect second fiddle to Jasprit Bumrah in one of India's most heroic victories abroad. He has become an overnight sensation, with former players and pundits touting him as the next big thing in India's fast bowling stable.

But the bigger quest continues — breaching the 150-kph barrier. From the time he picked a cricket ball for the first time in his life, in his adolescence, 150 was the magic number that obsessed the father and son. Pradeep, a former hammer thrower and weightlifter for CRPF, laid a simple brief to his son: "If you bowl 150 kph, no one will stop you from playing for India but if you will bowl 125 kph, even a local club will not select you".

Everything was channelled towards achieving the golden number — the back-breaking practice, the streak of ruthlessness and *badtameezi* that are his biggest weapons, according to coach Sharavan Kumar, the snarls and stares at batsmen, the flying kisses at them, and an unbreakable spirit that made him wade through the dark days of injuries and flimsy prophecies. "*Badtameez hai* (he is ill-mannered). He is aggressive but in Harshit's case he is ultra," laughs the 72-year-old coach, who had coached former India quick Ishant Sharma. "That is his strength. He has played all his cricket with that attitude and it has helped him reach this level," he adds.

After his exploits in the IPL, Harshit told this newspaper he won't curb his aggression. "I have always played my cricket like this. I am a fun-loving guy off the field but on the cricket pitch, I am not there to make friends, I want to win," he said.

In essence, he carries a slice of Ghevra's nonchalance to the cricket field. The village, like its neighbourhood that wiggles across the Haryana-Delhi border, is more Haryana than Delhi in sensibilities. Just 12 km down the road is Najafgarh, which produced Virender Sehwag, one of the country's greatest batsmen. An hour takes you to the SAI Centre in Sonapat, where the finest athletes train for the Olympics. The obscure diversions along the sprawling highway take you to the homes of the country's finest wrestlers and boxers.

Yet, for a part of the country that accounts for a three-fourth of Olympic medals, it has designed few true fast bowlers. Most of the cricketers from Delhi have been either batsmen or medium pacers. The one genuine quick, Ishant Sharma, was from South Patel Nagar. Haryana churned arguably the greatest cricketer of the country, Kapil Dev, but he was not exactly a tearaway. There, thus, has been no one like Harshit to have worn the Test stripes, one who is all bark and bite, all pace and rage.

You would imagine speedsters like him popping from every corner of this pocket, all *badtameezi* and *jigar* (pluck), with the shoulders of Hercules and the will of Atlas. But surprisingly, they have not. In that sense, Harshit's emergence has a wider potential, in turning the Olympics conveyor belt into a fast-bowling hub. Young men fired to nudge 150 kph. Like youngsters from Ranchi donning the gloves, growing long hair and blasting the ball over the cow cordon after their talisman MS Dhoni.

■■■

Pradeep proudly points to the entrance gate of his village, dedicated to Ghevra's bravehearts, flying officer Sajjan Singh Rana and pilot Jagmahendra Singh Rana. Right at the corner of the entrance, there is a 40 ft-tall tricolour and Pradeep proudly says, "My son plays for this flag."

In the one-and-a-half km journey from the entrance to the Rana household, Pradeep had to stop his Scooty at least a dozen times to greet well-wishers of his son. The elders, Pradeep's friends or the kids playing in the dusty lanes have discovered a new hero in Harshit. A 13-year-old Atul, who was putting his kitbag in his father's car, shouted at Pradeep: "Harshit *bhaiyya ko bolna* Perth *mei swaad aa gaya* (Tell Harshit, he was exceptional in Perth)." The way Pradeep is addressed has changed, too. He is now "Harshit's father".

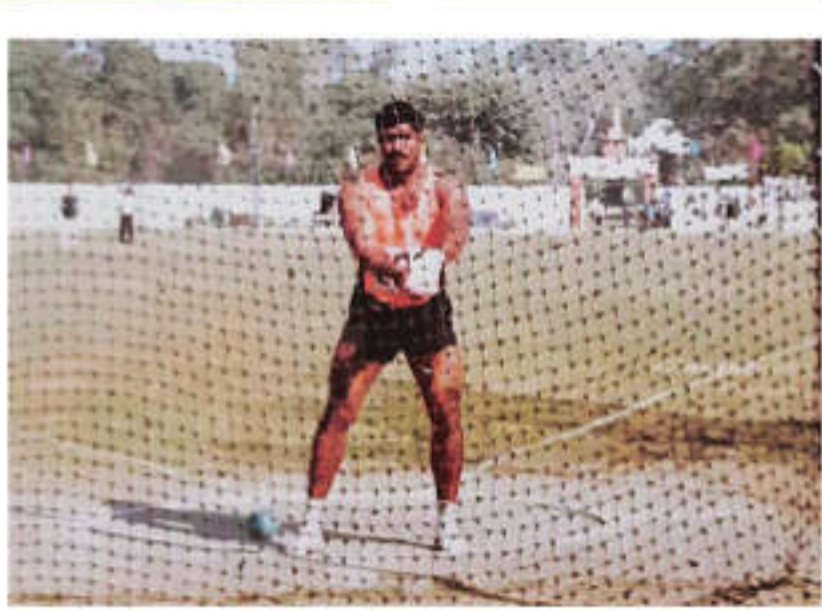
At his house, his wife Gita opens the door and screams in joy: "*Ukhaad di gilli* (He has got his first wicket). Harshit had bagged his first wicket against the Prime Minister's XI. By the



PRATYUSH RAJ



PRATYUSH RAJ



BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

### THE GOLDEN TICKET

(Clockwise from top) Harshit Rana; his father Pradeep Rana during his playing days; the entrance gate of Ghevra village, which was built by Harshit's father in 2023; parents Pradeep and Gita

time Pradeep settled down on the big sofa in his living room, Gita stepped out dancing "*Ek aur wicket* (one more wicket)." A few moments later, she shouted again, "*Teesri bhi* (third wicket as well)." Harshit ended with one more. "*Aaj toh kamal hi kar diya chor ne* (He has bowled exceptionally well today)," says Gita. She is upset that his son was taken out from the attack for he would have picked five. Pradeep consoles her: "*Arey abhi chaar match baaki hai* (There are still four matches to go)."

Pradeep, though, mutters, referring to his first four overs that leaked 34 runs: "*Engine*

*garam hone mey time lag gaya* (It took him time to get going)."

■■■

A doting mother, Gita shows a photograph of Harshit, when he was two years old. "*Ye mera bachcha, isne humara sapna pura kiya* India *khel kar* (My child has fulfilled our dream)," she says, wiping her tears.

Then shifting her gaze to Pradeep, she describes him as a "*haanikarak baapu*", a reference from the Aamir Khan-starrer *Dangal*, the

story of a taskmaster father moulding his daughters to champions. "He was living his dream through my son. He was a taskmaster. Harshit used to cry every night. I tried to stop him so many times that it was not the right way to treat a kid. He used to say, 'It is not easy to become a sportsperson. He is the one who told me that he wants to play cricket. It is sweat and blood and if he wants to quit, he can'. But Harshit never gave up," she says.

Pradeep started training Harshit when he was 10. For the next eight years, they would leave home at 5 am and return by 9 pm.

## FAST LANE

India's prolonged hunt for out-and-out quick bowlers has been somewhat fulfilled over the last decade. Several pacers have burst through the ranks and breached the 150-kph mark. A look at India's Club 150:

UMRAN MALIK

157 kph

(2022)

MAYANK YADAV

156.7 kph

(2024)

MOHAMMED SHAMI

153.3 kph

(2014)

JASPRIT BUMRAH

153.26 kph

(2018)

KARTIK TYAGI

153 kph

(2023)

NAVDEEP SAINI

152.85 kph

(2019)

AVESH KHAN

151.8 kph

(2018)

MOHSIN KHAN

151 kph

(2022)

PRASIDH KRISHNA

150.22

(2019)

■■■

Gita brings out a few medical reports of Harshit. She then recollects an incident when they took a 15-year-old to a *hakim* near the Feroz Shah Kotla Stadium. "We were taking him everywhere. He told my husband, 'Your son can never become an athlete'. Harshit's father fumed in anger," she adds.

Pradeep narrates Harshit's ordeal. "It began with a pain in his joints in the lower back to the knee in 2016. We took him to the Sports Injury Centre in Safdarjung. They told me to not train him. One day after returning home from the academy, he collapsed on the stairs. For two days, he couldn't move his legs or go to the loo on his own. He would say '*Papa, yeh zindagi bhi koi zindagi hai. Isse acha hota ki main mar jaata* (What kind of life is this? It is better to die than live like this)." He adds, "There is an ayurveda hospital in Khera Dabar, Najafgarh. I took him there. He was admitted for 20 days. A couple of weeks later, the pain recurred and he spent another week at the hospital."

In a year, he not only regained his fitness but also played for Delhi U-19 the next year and was picked for Ranji Trophy camp in 2019. "From the time I saw him bowling at Kotla nets, I told Awana (Parvinder) that he can easily play 70-80 Tests for India," says Narinder Negi, who was Delhi U-19's coach back then.

But in 2020, Harshit suffered a stress fracture in his lower back. "It was just before Covid. During the lockdown, he was doing gym sessions at home and it kind of escalated his injury. In September 2020, we went to Dr Saif in Gurugram. After the MRI, he told us Harshit has broken his back. In the MRI, one can clearly see it. He was bedridden for six months," says Pradeep.

The tryst with injuries recurred. A hamstring injury saw him miss the entire 2023-24 Ranji Trophy season. It was a wake-up call to get as fit as possible. From November 2023 to the start of the IPL 2024 in March, he shed 17 kg. The rest is well-chronicled.

■■■

After the IPL final, Pradeep met KKR owner Shah Rukh Khan, who told him "*Ladka jawan ho gaya hai Ranaji, ab meri tarah flying kisses de raha hai* (your boy has become a man now, he is giving flying kisses like me)." He was referring to Harshit's signature wicket-taking celebration. A few days before that Shah Rukh had promised Harshit that they would celebrate together after winning the IPL trophy.

"After I got banned for one match, I was very sad and then Shah Rukh sir came to me and said 'don't take any unnecessary tension, we will celebrate the IPL with a flying kiss'. He promised me and made sure that we did that with the trophy and our team," Harshit had said.

Coach Gautam Gambhir, though, immediately put this win in perspective. "Gambhir told him, 'Look Harshit, you have done well, congratulations. Enjoy this, but I want to tell you one thing, the joy you will get while representing your country will be bigger than this. The joy of representing 140 crore people is out of this world. So double up your training,'" says Pradeep.

He did, and in Perth he blew a few more flying kisses. The wicket that is still playing in Pradeep's mind is the pearly that dismissed the counterpunching Travis Head in the first innings. The ball pitched on the middle and off-stump before moving a shade to hit the top of Head's off-stump. "Probably the best ball he has bowled his whole life," says Pradeep, with a beaming smile.

The spell reminded the coach of Ishant's bowling at WACA in 2008. "It took me to 2008, when Ishant bowled that exceptional spell at WACA (the old stadium in Perth). Ishant went on to play 105 Tests. I want Harshit to achieve that feat as well," says Kumar.

Meanwhile, the Ranas are busy preparing for their first overseas trip. "We will go to Melbourne on December 20. We wanted to go for the Adelaide Test but since there was no direct flight, Harshit told us to come for the Melbourne Test," he says.

There, on the grandest stage, the Boxing Day Test at the MCG, in front of his parents, will Harshit keep his date with the 150-kph scorcher?



# ‘Once we create stories, a certain escape for those couple of hours, audiences will come back’

JIMMY SHERGILL, TAMANNAAH BHATIA and AVINASH TIWARY talk about the ‘hustle’ of entering the industry as outsiders, meeting superstars like Amitabh Bachchan and Shah Rukh Khan and working with Neeraj Pandey on their new film *Sikandar Ka Muqaddar*. The conversation was moderated by JYOTI SHARMA BAWA, Entertainment and Lifestyle Editor, Indian Express Digital

**Jyoti Sharma Bawa: What was it like to work with Neeraj Pandey in *Sikandar Ka Muqaddar*, which is now on Netflix?**

**Avinash Tiwary:** His is one of the most organised sets that I’ve been part of. He’s so meticulous and has such clarity. This was also one of the shortest shoots that I’ve done... it took just 20-25 days.

**Jimmy Shergill:** He’s very organised even if he’s shooting a scene that is chaotic. That’s what Neeraj is all about.

**Tamannaah Bhatia:** I don’t see this level of efficiency everywhere. Working with him reminds you of how important it is to actually prep. You have plan A, you have plan B and you have plan C! And it’s not just him. It’s also about the team. Everyone is in sync. It’s such great teamwork at play, almost like a beautiful dance.

**One thing that binds all three of you — you are all outsiders who came to Hindi cinema in three different decades. What was the struggle for each of you?**

**Jimmy Shergill:** I think it’s called hustle now. It was called struggle in our times. So the hustle is on. When I first met Gulzar sir, I thought he would hire me as his Assistant Director on *Maachis*, but he had other plans. He asked me, which part do you think is the best among these three roles? I said all three of them are great. He said, ‘But, if you have to pick one, who will that be?’ It was like a dream to be seated before a legendary director and being able to choose a character. I said, ‘Given an option, I will choose Jaimal Singh.’ He asked, ‘Why?’ I said, ‘His name is Jimmy and so is my pet name. Until now, Gulzar saab knew me as Jasjeet Shergill. He said, ‘Oh, okay, do me a favour, grow your beard and hair because you are doing that role.’ I almost fell off the chair. That is how it all started.

**Tamannaah Bhatia:** For me, I just knew at a very young age that I wanted to become an actor. I took every opportunity that came my way. My first break gave me inroads into south-Indian cinema; it was an ad film. I shot that during my preliminary board examinations. That’s when I also understood how much I actually care about this. I would shoot the whole day then study at night, then go give my examinations, then again shoot the next day. This went on for three days... My first successful film was in Telugu — *Happy Days*. And it truly did bring happy days into my life. But the biggest learning was languages. Now I speak Tamil and Telugu. And yeah, I got an understanding of a different culture because I came from Mumbai. My real hustle started when I felt I have had commercial success, but I’m hungry as an actor and I want more opportunities to perform different characters. Down the line, *Baahubali* happened. It was a game changer, it also broadened my perspective. Post *Baahubali*, the entire journey has been to reinvent myself. And now I am at a phase where I feel like a newcomer once again, bringing a film to audiences who haven’t seen me in this light.

**Avinash Tiwary:** I did a couple of years of theatre. I decided to train with Barry John in Delhi before going to the New York Film Academy, train there, came back and thought there would be a red carpet lying for me. From there on the so-called hustle started. I did a couple of shows on DD National because I thought that would be a great way to sustain myself. The only thing that I wanted to do was to get that one film. But 15 years is what it took to finally say I’m the protagonist of a film (*Laila Majnu*). But on the third day, the posters were taken down and I just didn’t know where to go with it. But thankfully, I’ve been built to just keep going on. And I’m here sitting with you, having *Madgaon Express* at the start of this year and the re-release of *Laila Majnu*. I feel happy as an artiste, but the hustle is nonstop.



SANKHADEEP BANERJEE

## THE WINNER TAKES IT ALL

(From left) Avinash Tiwary, Tamannaah Bhatia and Jimmy Shergill at the Screen Live event in Mumbai



**Do the job, and show that you can bring something to the table. That’s when the game changes. Then, you can actually make a bigger change in the larger ecosystem**  
Tamannaah Bhatia

**Tamannaah, as a woman, do you think an actress today has decision-making powers? Have we evolved to that level across industries?**

**Tamannaah Bhatia:** I feel we need to stop addressing ourselves as women, because I think we’re just people. If we can’t look at ourselves as equals, nobody else is going to. I look at myself as a person who can do many different things. Our profession is a collective art form. It’s so many people’s creative ideas that need to find a confluence. There is a hierarchy to it. The problem with it is that most women think that they can’t ask for what they want. We’ve all been trained to think like that. But that’s not the case. If you take that thought out of your mind and really do your job, I don’t see why anybody would not want you in. I would rather be like, do the job, be productive and just show that you can bring something to the table. And that’s when the game changes. Then people invest in you and things move forward. You can actually make a bigger change in the larger ecosystem.

**Avinash, you talked about *Laila Majnu*. The film didn’t work despite critical acclaim initially but found a lot of love upon its re-release. Going forward, is there a need for a renaissance, of a rethinking of, what cinema has to be in today’s day and age?**

**Avinash Tiwary:** Cinema has been a form of entertainment for sure. What has changed is the many other experiences that are available for entertainment. And the industry is trying to figure that out. There was a point where there was theatre, then there were films, and then television happened. And you felt that when DVDs and VCDs came out, this would shake the entire ecosystem. And now it’s social media. I think those reels



have become so addictive. As an audience myself, I don’t know what I want to watch. I have so many options. Now you somehow create a buzz and that’s what translates into films. But I think over a period of time, this would settle down. There are very smart people in the Hindi film industry. And I’m sure this would be looked at. Once we get back to the core of storytelling, create stories,

create a world, create a certain escape for those couple of hours, the audiences will come back. We have started seeing that. With a lot of fresh blood coming into the industry, we are all ready to have the audiences back and have our cinemas glowing and thriving as they did.

**Jimmy, the first time you met your *Mohabbatein* co-stars — Shah Rukh Khan and Amitabh Bachchan — what was the 20-something Jimmy thinking?**

**Jimmy Shergill:** I wondered, what did I do to deserve to be here? I feel sad that I didn’t take a photo with either of them. I still remember meeting Mr Bachchan for the first time in Yash (Chopra) Uncle’s house. There was a *havan* and we were all there. A few days before that, I had a fall and cut my hand badly. I had some 55 stitches and a bandage all the way up. Adi introduced me to Mr Bachchan and said that I was playing Karan (in the film). Bachchan’s reply was that, ‘He’s a method actor. He’s taking his role too seriously’. As for Shah Rukh Khan, at every stage, he was so helpful in every scene. That’s why I say, even before I came into the industry, Shah Rukh Khan was an inspiration and now that I’m in the industry, even after all these years, he continues to be one.

**What is SS Rajamouli’s secret sauce?**  
**Tamannaah Bhatia:** He’s a visionary, and he’s super brave and is willing to take risks. He doesn’t hold back when he’s trying to dream. He thinks big. Even when he made a film about a fly, he made the fly the hero. I feel the ones who dream big always find a way to make things happen.

**Avinash, what is your advice to your 20-something self, who is leaving engineering and heading to the US to**



**Even before I came into the industry, Shah Rukh Khan was an inspiration and now that I’m in the industry, even after all these years, he continues to inspire us all**  
Jimmy Shergill

## Audience Questions

**The title of the film is *Sikandar Ka Muqaddar*. What is your message to people who perceive failure as a negative thing?**

**Jimmy Shergill:** In a famous book called *Success Is Never Ending*, *Failure Is Never Final* says if you fail once, keep trying till you succeed. Read that book.

**Tamannaah, what is your take on sustainability in diamond jewellery?**

**Tamannaah Bhatia:** I don’t know if you know this, but my father is a jeweller. So, for me, a stone is never really about the caratage. When I look at a stone as a jeweller, it has to speak to me. I am ready to pay a price for it and I’m ready to own it and also make a memory out of it because jewellery has a kind of heirloom essence in my life. I should be able to pass this on. So, I appreciate this fact about its sustainability.

**Tamannaah, what’s that one suggestion you will give to the young generation?**

**Tamannaah Bhatia:** *Kaamchori mat karo* (Don’t shirk work). That’s been my mantra. In any pursuit, it could be creative or even if you just want to make money, if that’s your passion — go all the way. For this generation, the gratification in every way has to be instant. But are you ready for that? Most of us aren’t ready for the amazing things that are yet to happen to us, because if they do, that would probably destroy us completely. So first, we need to level up. And once you level up, amazing things start happening to you. So, wait a bit for it.

**study acting?**

**Avinash Tiwary:** I’m waiting for him to give me advice! Very honestly, he was smarter than I am! But one thing that I tell younger people is that social validation is warped. So don’t look for it.

**How was the first day on the sets of *Yudh* and working with Mr Bachchan?**

**Avinash Tiwary:** This was almost 10 years ago. The first time we met it was for an action sequence. I had never done one in my life. I was strung on this rope and I had to jump and fall, he kicks me, I jump, he punches me, I duck and I hit him on his back. But, unfortunately, I ended up hitting him on his head. The heart attack I had! On the set, I remember there was pin-drop silence. In my nervousness, I turned around and said, ‘Sir, do you mind if we do a rehearsal?’ He said, ‘But we’ll do it very slowly’. Then he came back to me and said, ‘Listen, action is like choreography. Dance, just dance.’ I swear to God I was so nervous. I was almost about to say, ‘Sir, but there is no music’. But I did not. I saved some grace, so yeah, I was awed by him. There were so many times that he would just turn back and look at me and I was like, ‘*Agneepath!*’ It’s one of my favourite memories. I had a seven-minute monologue in the film, and he came and hugged me and made the entire crew clap for me. As a young actor, someone like him giving that love and encouragement is something that I will value all my life.

# Why watching horror films is cathartic

American director Chuck Russell on returning to the horror genre and the possibility of setting a part of his next project in India

**Alaka Sahani**  
AS CHUCK Russell returns to the cinematic world of scare, scream and jump-cuts to helm the reimaging of the 1986-movie *Witchboard*, the American director says, “Horror is big again because we are dealing with all kinds of tension. When there is political, social or economic tension, watching horror becomes cathartic.” Russell made his debut with 1987’s *A Nightmare on Elm Street 3: Dream Warriors*, followed by *The Blob* (1988), a gory remake of a 1950s B-movie by the same name. He was at the recent 55th International Film Festival

of India, Goa, to hold a masterclass about genre movies.

Though the 66-year-old filmmaker found his initial success with horror movies, his breakthrough came with the success of *The Mask* (1994), featuring Jim Carrey and Cameron Diaz. He bagged an Academy Award nomination for Best Visual Effects for the film. In 2019, he directed *Jungle*, a Hindi-language, action-adventure film, set in India. And in 2022, he directed *Paradise City*, featuring John Travolta and Bruce Willis.

With *Witchboard*, scheduled to release next year, Russell wanted to direct “one last horror film”. “In *Witchboard*, I go further into nightmares, dreams, danger and imagina-



tion. The device that features in this film — an ancient pendulum board — is something I was fascinated with for years. It predates the ouija board (which is used in the original *Witchboard* movie, directed by Kevin Tenney),” says Russell.

For him, horror films are a way of making the audience face their worst fears. “They relate to the protagonists and imagine what they might do when they face their ultimate



## FEAR NO EVIL

(From Left) A still from *The Mask*; Chuck Russell; a still from *Jungle*

evil. Therefore, we try to scare the hell out of the audience and take them on a journey. I like to find the hero in every man, who can rise up in the face of great evil. In a theatre, we sit next to each other in the dark space, watching something horrific and screaming at the exact same moment. It is like we are sharing a nightmare. That’s an amazing human experience and releases endorphins when you survive that fear,” he says.



In early ’90s, Russell chose to move away from making horror movies and thought of universal themes. This made him lean towards comedy. Coincidentally, Carrey’s star-power and popularity was on the rise. “Jim was the perfect lead for *The Mask*. It was initially meant to be a horror film but I thought we’ve got to make a comedy,” he says.

According to Russell, the success of a comedy or a horror film depends on the set-up,

suspense and relief. “While watching a comedy film, we want to laugh and in the case of a horror movie, we want to scream. For a filmmaker, that is the most satisfying thing because you can hear how you are doing,” says Russell, unperturbed by the whirring of the coffee machine in the background when we meet at a Goan cafe.

Russell’s next, a futuristic film, is set in three different countries and India could be one of them. “My mother was a travel agent, who loved India. I was raised with stone carvings and images of gods and devils around me. I have read more mythology than comic books, including the Ramayana and parts of the Mahabharata. So when I got to direct *Jungle*, which is primarily an anti-poaching story, I immediately came on board.”

The connection that Russell shares with Indian cinema, however, dates back to *The Mask*. In one of the popular scenes from the film, Carrey sings and dances in Cuban style when surrounded by police officers. Eventually, the cops too start grooving with him. “In Indian cinema, the actors have the courage to break into a dance or a song suddenly. When Jim forces the police officers to dance, it is very Bollywood-like. The way they dance in Indian films without any excuses, simply because the audience like it,” he says.



# The Gavel's Echo

Revolutionaries on Trial reshapes how we look back at the Lahore Conspiracy Case

Akhil PJ Pradeep

APARNA VAIDIK'S *Revolutionaries on Trial: Sedition, Betrayal and Martyrdom* gives us a nuanced understanding of the colonial judiciary, its functions and faultlines through a vividly analytical narration of the Lahore Conspiracy Case Trial, which resulted in the hanging of India's revolutionary icons: Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru.

The book delves into great depth about how the British colonial administration used an efficient judiciary to get away with colonial violence, inflicted to maintain an impression of social order. It also narrates in great detail how the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA) used the trial for revolutionary propaganda, laying bare the farcical nature and colonial intentions of the British Indian judiciary.

The book begins with a narration of the events — the HSRA avenging the death of Lala Lajpat Rai by shooting Saunders, and the Delhi Assembly bombing to “make the deaf hear” — and how the subsequent investigation and arrests led to the trial of the revolutionaries.

Vaidik analyses the colonial judiciary's psyche, particularly its fear, with surgical precision: its need to present itself as the civilised and benevolent lawgiver at home and most notably its use of judicial proceedings to conceal the violent nature of the colonial state and make the violence legal. The British colonial government's use of arbitrary terms like sedition, conspiracy and violence, and its definition of sedition as “political disaffection,” gives us clarity about the administration's self-image as the “treasured ruler”, as well as its prejudices against its distant colonial subjects.

While we remember Bhagat Singh and his comrades as stellar icons of India's revolutionary past, we often forget how that image came into existence. From being considered violent fringe elements of the national liberation struggle to being hailed as the country's biggest heroes, the transformation was neither by chance nor sudden. The revolutionaries, as Vaidik shows us, had a clear plan to weaponise the trial as revolutionary propaganda, making sure the trial was delayed and had the dramatic effect needed to capture the attention of contemporary media. By constantly disrupting court proceedings and conducting hunger strikes in jail, they effectively brought about the farcical nature of the colonial courts as well as its capacity to perpetrate violence on its Indian subjects — even at the cost of HSRA member and revolutionary Jatin Das's life.

Another focal point of the book is the chaotic histories of renegades. Often pushed to the sidelines of nationalist historiography as defectors or traitors, the many narratives that the “King's witnesses” bring with them often have a distortive effect. From casting a shadow on martyrs like Sukhdev to doubting the revolutionary vigour of the much-hailed figures, the renegades bring us different nar-



THE FIRE RISES  
Bhagat Singh

atives of the same events. Such a Rashomon effect hints at the importance of listening to the multiple voices while recording convoluted histories.

The book also analyses martyrdom and its impact on a colonial society. While the revolutionaries find it their chance to make a covenant with death and immortalise their memory, they also explain it as the final step of revolutionary propaganda. An act of self-sacrifice to not just prove their commitment to their ideals but also to push the ideology deeper into the society to bring more youth onto their paths.

From being obsessed with the lives of the HSRA revolutionaries in prison to neglecting their fight against a colonial superpower, Indian media and the public have come a long way since the 1920s and '30s. Like a post-1991 world that relegated leftist revolutions worldwide to be mere reference points in history, India's view of its past also considers its revolutionary history as outbursts of nationalist fervour. This contrasts the ideals of pacifism that have found permanence in India's political culture — at least in theory.

A student of history taking a deep dive into the Lahore Conspiracy Case Trial might look for a question that the book has not dealt with. How decolonised has

our judiciary been? While the recent criminal justice overhaul was celebrated by the government as an attempt to decolonise our legal system, how do we still deal with hotter topics such as sedition and the situation of undertrial prisoners? Attempting to reflect our pasts on the present, the lives of HSRA revolutionaries in prison also shed light at how activists in modern India are being treated. From a Parkinson's patient who was denied a straw to a prisoner with 90 per cent disability being denied bail to attend his mother's funeral, the hints lie in plain sight. The shadow of Das's 1929 death as an undertrial prisoner still hangs over our judiciary, hoping for actual measures to deep-clean our system, to fast-forward an ongoing but slow process.



REVOLUTIONARIES ON TRIAL  
BY APARNA VAIDIK  
Aleph  
480 pages  
₹999



DEEP ROOTS

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh workers march in Jaipur on Vijaydashami this year

# The Making of Identities

Rahul Bhatia's *The Identity Project* blends history and ethnography to lay out contemporary India's poignant story

Kaushik Das Gupta

AT THE outset in *The Identity Project: The Unmaking of a Democracy*, Rahul Bhatia introduces the reader to an immensely affable uncle, who, almost inexplicably, begins to spout venom in 2014. Among many of the writer's relatives and acquaintances, anger, evidently suppressed for decades, seemed to find vitriolic expression. Arguments, says Bhatia, would time-travel till they settled on the most suitable villain, the Muslim. Bhatia's impulse for carrying out the research which has led to this rich study was, therefore, deeply intimate. Many of the characters in *The Identity Project* bear affinities with a section of his loved ones “who had begun to go mad” a decade ago.

This quest is likely to strike a chord with several readers — this reviewer included — who have had to mute family or school WhatsApp groups or even exit them, unable to stand the poison unleashed against minorities. Family ties have been soured in this othering project.

*The Identity Project* blends history and ethnography to lay out contemporary India's poignant story. Democracy is being unmade, Bhatia shows, as people's acrimony and the state's discriminatory programmes feed off each other. It's a story of citizenship laws, identification cards, neighbours turning against

each other, and the interminable wait of riot victims for justice, amid a system that shows little enthusiasm to nab the guilty. It's a search for the roots of the acrimony as well as a layered detailing of its contemporary expression. Bhatia connects the dots between the activities of the Arya Samaj, speeches of RSS and Hindu Mahasabha leaders like KB Hedgewar and BS Moonje and the trauma of Partition violence with donation drives and campaigns for the demolition of the Babri Masjid and what goes on in *shakhas* today.

Most of these stories are well-known and, at times, *The Identity Project* might even seem like speaking to the converted. But Bhatia's honesty and his keenness to understand the authors of this project in their multifarious aspects shines through the book, often leading the reader to stereotype-defying characters. The former RSS volunteer, R, for instance. Not a teenager when he joined the organisation, R's decision was a rebellion of sorts against a leftist father who saw nothing redeemable in the RSS. In the organisation, he asked questions — uncomfortable ones about brutal military campaigns by Hindu and Buddhist rulers, destruction of Vaishnav temples by Chola emperors, the pillaging by the Maratha warriors — and found an “imag-

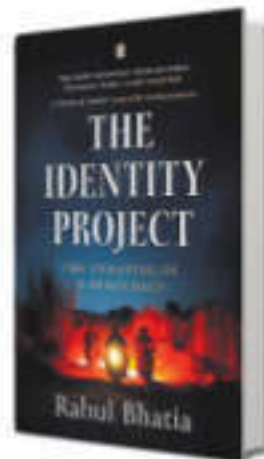
inary line” being drawn between him and the other children.

R's account is an interesting exposition of *shakha* manners. “His elders answered his questions patiently and he now marvelled at how much they accommodated his questions, but also remembered that their replies did not satisfy their curiosity”. Though for R, the “answers withered under sustained questioning” it's not difficult to imagine that a “less demanding interlocutor would have been impressed by the patience of the *shakha* members. When a 13- or 14-year-old R opposed his *shakha* leader's demand for donations to a Ram temple, suggesting instead a library as a more fitting tribute to the deity, the organisation did not treat him as a rebel. They began a funding drive for the library. After all, the RSS too laid great emphasis on information. R's description of the Sangh's indoctrination and operational apparatus, its neural network — “it carries enough reason for 99.9 per cent of the population, even though when someone challenges the limits of their knowledge, the whole thing comes apart” — is telling.

Also revealing is the account of another former member, Partha Banerjee, who had left the RSS “far behind,” and yet continues to think of it. Once outside the organisation,

he wrote a critique that was so scathing that his father, Jitendra, whose loyalty to the RSS tolerated no question, was heartbroken. Partha's account, coloured much by political disapproval, shows Jitendra as a dogmatic ideologue, and more. He wanted his son to partake in “the culture of the time”, while his “Islamophobia and racism” were also plain to see. The cost of Jitendra's commitment to the RSS was born by his wife and children. “We ended living in poverty... But that was the RSS,” Partha told Bhatia.

*The Identity Project* should be read not as the making of just one kind of identity. It's also a witness to the dogged resistance of several others. If there's despair in R's admission that, “we (those who do not agree with the RSS's ways) are in such a small minority, that it does not matter in the large scheme of things,” it also bears the longing for empathy and rapprochement, echoed in the sentiments of a riot affected: “They have filled people's heads with rumour and innuendo, so they hate each other. In the Quran, it is written that wherever you live, you should make it strong. But people don't read. They don't read their own books and try to understand”. Even as it details the hardening of communal identities, Bhatia's account does not gloss over the affection people have for one another. *The Identity Project* ends with one Shailendra exulting over the victory of a BJP candidate in a local election. But Shailendra also adores Nisar, a Muslim. Therein, perhaps, lies hope that democracy will not be unmade.



THE IDENTITY PROJECT  
BY RAHUL BHATIA  
Westland  
464 pages  
₹899



LOVE OF THE GAME

Fans outside Narendra Modi stadium ahead of the match between India and Australia in Ahmedabad

...  
The way each Indian city perceives cricket is different — each appreciating a unique flavour and pace  
...

or Bombay, sir. This is Tamil Nadu and our politicians might constantly stir other stupid things, but they don't do the Hindu-Muslim-Christian division here.” The line strikes a chord instantly, in a country that is getting progressively polarised.

Characters like him flicker in and out of the book, rendering it with an everyman voice that gives us a peep into the spectacular diversity of this country. He balances it

with academic voices like Chinmay Tumbhe as well as the sporting gravitas of former India captain Sourav Ganguly at his chatty best. His anecdotes — especially during the unfolding of the Eden Gardens heist of 2001, one involving his mother-in-law — whips up nostalgia. Some of the country's less-feted cricketers like Kedar Jadhav, Rishi Dhawan and Ravikant Shukla reveal the struggles they endured in their cricketing journey.

At the heart of the work is a narrative voice thrilled by the simple, everyday pleasures of being in the presence of an endlessly fascinating game, its fallible and heroic practitioners and the streets and cities that make them. So much so that the game and its heroes, the cities and its quirks, the streets and the men, swirl in the reader's mind and begin an imaginary dialogue with them, transforming sportswriting into literature that is both serious and delightful.

# A Good Innings

Aditya Iyer's book is a loving account of his journey through Indian cities that hosted the 2023 Cricket World Cup matches

Sandip G

THE MOST enduring literary works establish an emotional bond with the readers, when characters and images swirl in the reader's mind and begin an imaginary discourse with them. The author becomes a medium that connects different universes: the ones he had conceived and the ones he has enabled the reader to conceive. Journalist Aditya Iyer's *Gully Gully*, a masterfully constructed cricket travelogue, strikes this rare emotional connection.

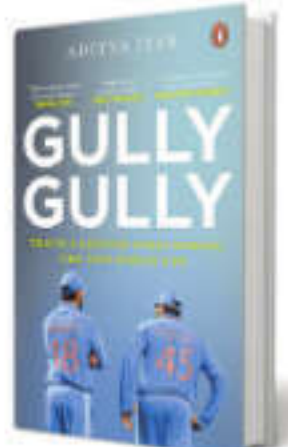
It's the writer's reflections and impressions of the nine Indian cities that hosted the 2023 World Cup. The protagonists are these cities, each with its own flavour, sensibility, tragic flaw and pace. Even the way these cities perceive and appreciate the game is different. The book follows the matches' chronology, from the first in Chennai on the southern coast to Ahmedabad near the western frontier, cutting through the sprawling Deccan and the Gangetic plains to the Himalayan foothills.

Iyer introduces us to the cities through the words of residents — surgically conscious to not turn judgemental — and blends seamlessly into describing the matches. Here lies his true craft: the storytelling does not break flow even if it shifts from the *gully* (the streets) to the *gully* (the fielding position). It

moves smoothly from the genial face of Liyaqath, the author's taxi-driver in Chennai, to the city's unconditional love for MS Dhoni; from Lucknow's tragic cricketer Ravikant Shukla to the fabled *tehzeeb* of the city; from the narrow trails leading to Dharamshala to the splendour of Triund sunshine, the popular trekking spot where when the “sun gets warmer, the snow begins to sizzle into puffs of vapour.”

Much of the skill in narrative writing lies in the strategic arrangement of facts and anecdotes. In that sense, this is one book in many, layer after layer weaved together to form engrossing prose. It's a World Cup diary, a pure sporting tale of triumphs and tragedies, exposing the invisible thread that binds the Wallajah Road and the Gostho Paul Sarani, the tributary that connects Sabarmati and Gomati.

It's also a subtle sociopolitical commentary of modern India, where even allotting World Cup games has political undertones. He presents the case of Mohali not getting a single game because Punjab voted AAP to the 2022 Assembly elections, of the most ubiquitous celebrity in Dharamshala, the politician Anurag Thakur, or his own inordinate fear when a taxi driven by a Muslim driver banged into the rear of one driven by a Hindu that it would acquire a communal hue. The driver says: “This is not your Delhi



GULLY GULLY  
BY ADITYA IYER  
Penguin House  
329 pages  
₹499

## SHELF LIFE

### Just Be Normal

CHILD PSYCHOLOGIST Haim Ginott, in his *Between Parent and Child*, remarked that “children are like wet cement. Whatever falls on them makes an impression.” But what does society teach us about being human? What does it mean to be normal?

Sandhya Mary's *Maria, Just Maria*, translated from the Malayalam by Jayasree Kalathil, explores these questions. The beautiful cover illustration by Nupur Panemangalore broadened my imagination, associating the story with wet earthy floors, soft cotton and soggy banana leaves.

The story begins in a mental hospital where Maria is recovering from the weight of being labelled “mad”. Having grown up in a Syrian Christian family in Kerala, raised by her grandparents and living a life “without structure or discipline,” Maria's journey of self-discovery unfolds against neglect, bullying and rigid societal expectations. We witness her whimsical childhood — with characters like a philosophical talking dog and a smart, chatty parrot — give way to a harsh life of isolation. Bullied by her siblings and ignored by her parents, she questions her place in a world that constantly imposes on her its definitions of normality. In its non-linear narrative, the story reflects Maria's fragmented thoughts. The novel makes the reader pause before judging someone's right or wrong. Maria dwells on grief, success and the cause of her madness.

As Maria interacts with others, the message becomes clear: anyone who de-

viates from societal norms is deemed abnormal. She reminded me of Pecola Breedlove in Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye*, who questioned societal judgments and highlighted the impact of external perceptions on self-worth. Maria's emotional turmoil is evident when she says, “I've yet to meet a child who personifies innocence, and for me, I don't remember any feelings other than fear and hatred.”

To me, Maria's sense of reality seems more authentic than the artificial constructs imposed on her. Her poignant question — does knowing the answers in school truly equate to intelligence? — challenges narrow definitions of success and prompts reflection on what it means to be truly “normal” or a “good human”.

Early in the novel, the narrator says, “Human life up until the age of twenty is nothing to be taken seriously. All it amounts to is the sum total of ignorance, immaturity, stupidity, and above all else, arrogance. It doesn't matter if it is Isaac Newton, Shakespeare, or Socrates; there is no one who does not think about some idiotic thing they did before they were twenty and say ‘aiyye’ with an embarrassed laugh.” Being normal is not about scoring at the top in mathematics or excelling in the arts; it's about being able to live one's own age.

The author gently reminds us that caring for mental health is not as simple as curing a seasonal cold; it requires constant support and questioning of the societal labels that define and confine us.

SUGANDHA MUKHERJEE



MARIA, JUST MARIA  
BY SANDHYA MARY  
HarperCollins  
218 pages  
₹499



SUGAR UNCOATED

DR AMBRISH MITHAL

Can a protein bar raise your blood sugar?

Junk anything that comes in a packet. It contains emulsifiers

ARE YOU having plant-based milk, flavoured yogurt or the low-fat mayonnaise, thinking they are healthy? Or taking diet supplements, protein bars and protein shakes? They could be raising your blood sugar. Anything that comes in a wrapper or packet, or something that's dried, has added preservatives to make it last longer. All of them have emulsifiers, compounds that help mix two substances that typically separate when they are combined (for example oil and water) and are used to improve the appearance, taste, texture and lengthen the shelf life of food. Examples of processed foods that contain chemical emulsifiers are commercially available cakes, biscuits, desserts, ice creams, chocolate bars, breads, and ready-to-eat meals.

How can emulsifiers increase the risk of diabetes?

Recent experimental studies have shown that emulsifiers modify the composition and function of the gut microbiota (micro-organisms, including bacteria, fungi and viruses that live in the digestive tracts). They then enter the gut lining, a mucus layer that keeps them away from the host cells, and cause inflammation. This leads to insulin resistance.

This year's study from France, published in the *Lancet-Diabetes and Endocrinology*, tracked 104,000 adults



FACT OF THE MATTER

Emulsifiers modify the composition and function of the gut microbiota, trigger inflammation and insulin resistance

between 2009 and 2024 and identified seven food additive emulsifiers with an increased risk of Type 2 diabetes. Participants with the highest exposure to emulsifiers in commercial food products were up to 15 per cent more likely to have diabetes.

Among the emulsifiers that increased diabetes risk was tripotassium phosphate (15 per cent), which is used in dry cereals, meat, sauces and cheeses. Guar gum, used in breakfast cereals, dairy products, gravy, processed vegetables and baked goods, increased risk by 11 per cent. Xanthan gum, used for thickening gravies, raised risk by eight per cent. Mono- and diacetyltartaric acid esters of mono- and diglycerides of fatty acids, used in biscuits, ice cream and salad dressings, upped diabetes chances by four per cent. Sodium citrate, which is used in club soda, ready-to-drink beverages, drink mixes and preservatives, increased diabetes risk by four per cent; carrageenans, a thickening agent, by three per cent and gum Arabic, used in chocolates, by another three per cent.

What diet changes are needed?

This study adds to mounting evidence against the widespread consumption of processed food. While it can be challenging to avoid such food items completely, we can start making an effort to reduce their consumption. People should focus on eating real, whole foods. Monitoring the frequency and amount of packaged food, i.e. chocolate or candy, packed snacks, baked goods, pre-packaged meals, is therefore advisable. Sticking to fresh or home-made food will eliminate emulsifiers from your diet.

The Food Standards and Safety Authority of India has a list of permitted emulsifiers, and may need to take a relook at their regulations. More clear disclosure and labelling of food items will help consumers make informed choices.

(Dr Mithal is Chairman, Diabetes and Endocrinology, Max Healthcare)



Rinku Ghosh

IT'S 8.30 pm and 15-year-old Sarah Michelle has just returned home after her math tutorials, humming the Tamil hit "Leo Das is a badass" inside her head. Cramming her life between school tests and preparatory tutorials for her class X board exams, this Chennai teen has no mobile phone, given up singing and has no time for even a walk in the park. It's just long hours of sitting at the desk or in front of the TV, her only shot at relaxation. "But it's the daily 15-minute dance break in school that keeps me going, refreshes my mind and helps me improve my studies," she says.

That dance class is an experimental form called THANDAV (Taking High-Intensity Interval Training [HIIT] And Dance to Adolescents for Victory over Non-communicable Diseases [NCDs]). This routine was devised as part of a study by Dr Ranjith Anjana Mohan of the Madras Diabetes Research Foundation and tested among 23 girls, aged between 10 and 17, to see if it could neutralise sedentary behaviour among school-going adolescents and improve their metabolism.

"Given the high burden of non-communicable diseases in India, we realised that we needed to reduce sedentary behaviour in the early years. One in four teens is obese. They are so bogged down by studies and the pressure to ace past competitive exams that any physical activity seems negotiable. Yet these early years are all about habit-forming and laying a foundation for good health. So we decided to choose a routine that would not take too much time, could easily fit into the school schedule or even at home and yet keep them fit, trim and active," she says.

WHAT IS THANDAV?

Dr Mohan's team mixed HIIT (High-Intensity Interval Training) routines — which involve short bursts of intense activity followed by cooldown time — with dance moves set to popular songs from Bollywood, Mollywood and Tollywood. "Doing this thrice a week for even 10 minutes gives you all the metabolic benefits of running 60 minutes a day every day of the week. When fitness becomes entertainment, you can sustain the drills as a physical activity without them looking like an imposition," she says.

HIIT regimens have been proven to significantly reduce body fat mass, weight and improve cardiovascular fitness in both adults and adolescents. The study showed that the girls achieved almost 80 per cent heart rate during a THANDAV session. "A faster heart rate during exercise helps your body move oxygen and blood to your muscles more efficiently, which can help you burn more calories, lower cholesterol and improve your cardiovascular fitness," says Dr Mohan.

The 10-minute HIIT routine consists of four loops to be done on four hit tracks, including a two-minute high energy (80-90 per cent heart rate) to 30-second low cooldown (50-60 per cent heart rate) moves. The movements are choreographed in a simple and repetitive manner so that they can be done in a loop without much stress.

As the randomised control trial is awaiting publication, Dr Mohan is happy with the results to go for larger trials. She says all adolescent girls, despite their sedentary hours for

A dance that gets teens out of their chairs

A HIIT-cum-dance routine is meant to cut sedentary behaviour. Thrice a week, 10-minute spells equal a 60-minute run every day

school work, reported weight loss, stamina and agility in just two to three months.

Sarah's mother Sheeba Rosario, who was worried about her daughter's "zero activity" levels and her weight gain, noticed a big difference in her physical appearance and her concentration levels. "There was a time when Sarah became sluggish. She couldn't make it to her school's 7 am basketball class and sleep late. Balancing school and NEET practice classes thrice a week, she was just pushing herself. She would mostly be sitting on a chair at her desk or on the couch in front of the TV. I got really worried when she once missed her periods, probably because of stress. The new dance routine has helped her relax and focus better," she recalls.

WHY SEDENTARY BEHAVIOUR IS A PROBLEM FOR INDIAN TEENS

Dr Mohan did this small study as a follow-up to her larger study that mapped sedentary behaviour in teens, between 11 and 19. This was part of the larger eight-month report of the International Physical Activity and Environment Network (IPEN) and tracked 6,000 teens across the globe. It showed how teenagers in India were spending eight to ten hours a day performing sedentary activities, such as watching television and playing video games, an excess of which is linked to obesity, diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, bone, mental and reproductive health issues in their adult years. However, in India, students had a lower device use — an



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average of 1.2 electronic devices in the bedroom and 0.5 personal electronic devices — compared to Western nations.

"Adolescents should not have more than three hours of sedentary time. But 10 hours of sitting, as per the study, is worrisome news because the body is virtually immobile for almost half a day! This included sitting during the almost four hours of travel time. However, Indian students were among the lowest users of devices and had much lower screen time compared to their Western counterparts. I hear many parents tell me that their child is studying 10 hours a day. Their recreation hour is also about sitting, gaming, chatting, which are passive activities," says Dr Mohan.

WHY YOUNG INDIANS AREN'T EXERCISING?

It wasn't just obsession with screen time

AIIMS finds Covid survivors breathless after 2 years

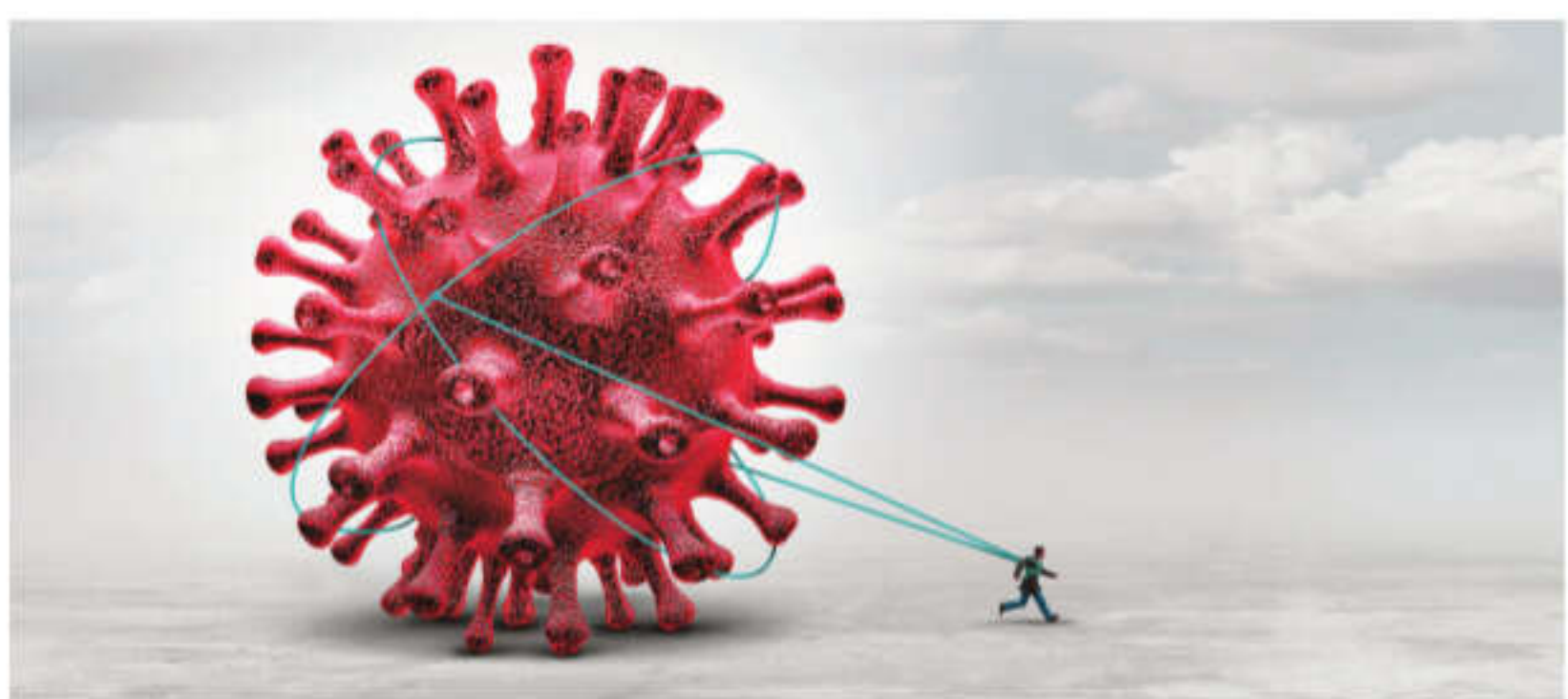
Even after two years, patients report impaired lung function, sleep problems, dietary and psychiatric changes

Ankita Upadhyay

ANKAN JAISWAL, 47, still gets dizzy and breathless when she climbs a flight of stairs or walks more than a kilometre. Sometimes her mind is in a haze. Three years after a Covid infection landed her in ICU, its after-effects still seem to get the better of her. She and other survivors were tracked at the long Covid clinic at AIIMS, Delhi, for three years as part of a study that found that at least a third of them weren't breathing properly or getting sufficient oxygen from the air to their blood.

The study is significant because it shows that after-effects can be quite severe and last beyond two years after initial Covid diagnosis. This was common especially in women, the elderly, those who had severe infection and smokers. "It is one of the first studies from a low- and middle-income country (LMIC) to report long-term pulmonary sequelae (after effects) of COVID-19. Some of them still need oxygen support occasionally," says Dr Anant Mohan, head of the pulmonology department at AIIMS Delhi.

He and his team conducted an observational study on patients who have been visiting the long Covid clinic regularly for more than two years. "The long Covid clinic has been running for three-and-a-half years and we are still running it because we have a couple of ongoing projects. We had around 1,426 Covid



survivors. Of them, 231 patients had been following up with us for over two years. We mapped their symptoms and found that they reported persistent dyspnoea (breathlessness and feeling suffocated) and impaired lung functions," he says.

WHAT DOES THE STUDY SAY?

A total of 1,426 patients were registered in the post-Covid clinic from 2020 as part of the long Covid multi-system observational study. The 231 patients included in the study are still coming to the hospital for follow-ups. Most of them had not one but overlapping symptoms. So 36.4 per cent had persistent self-reported dyspnoea, 48.1 per cent had impaired spirometry (how much air you can breathe in and out, and how quickly you can exhale) and 70.7 per cent patients had impaired lung diffusion (lungs are unable to efficiently exchange gases

or move oxygen from the air into the blood).

WHO IS MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO LONG COVID? WHAT ARE SYMPTOMS?

Dr Mohan included all kinds of patients above 18 — those with severe, mild and moderate Covid infection and those with no symptoms at all. Apart from hospital records of physical visits, the two-year follow-up was done in-person or telephonically. "During physical visits, the patients were invited to perform spirometry, lung diffusion test and a six-minute walk test," says Dr Mohan.

Long-term breathlessness was associated with those who were infected during the second wave of the pandemic, when the Delta variant was predominant

NEED TO KNOW

Long-term breathlessness was associated with those who were infected during the second wave of the pandemic, when the Delta variant was predominant

tion of women with long-term lung function abnormalities. Like Ankan, who has now moved to the US with her family as the pollution in Delhi worsens her symptoms. Seventy-year-old Savitri Devi was hospitalised at AIIMS for four days recently. "Her breathing difficulties worsen when pollution levels go up in Delhi. Post-Covid, she has not been able to walk long enough as she goes breathless and has coughing bouts," says her husband Mahavir, a resident of Delhi's Karawal Nagar.

Meanwhile, 48-year-old Mithilesh Kumar, says he misses running and walking fast, something which he did pre-Covid. He can't walk and talk to someone at the same time, cannot climb the stairs and gets breathless when his son holds or hugs him tightly.

Long Covid patients have also reported sleep disturbances, dietary and psychiatric changes, which are being looked at separately in other studies. "Other than respiratory symptoms, we found patients complaining of fatigue and sleep disturbances. We can now say we have a reasonable idea on what long Covid is all about," says Dr Mohan.

WHAT SHOULD PATIENTS DO THEN?

The study, according to Dr Mohan, is trying to compile all the symptoms of long Covid so that patients can seek early medical attention to address them and prevent complications. "Breathing exercises should be taken up on a regular basis by long Covid patients," says Dr Mohan.

The data looked at initial Covid infection, including the date of positivity of laboratory test, the severity of the illness, the need for hospitalisation, their hospital records, out-patient prescription slips and patient recall.