DAILY FROM: AHMEDABAD, CHANDIGARH, DELHI, JAIPUR, KOLKATA, LUCKNOW, MUMBAI, NAGPUR, PUNE, VADODARA



**JOURNALISM OF COURAGE** 

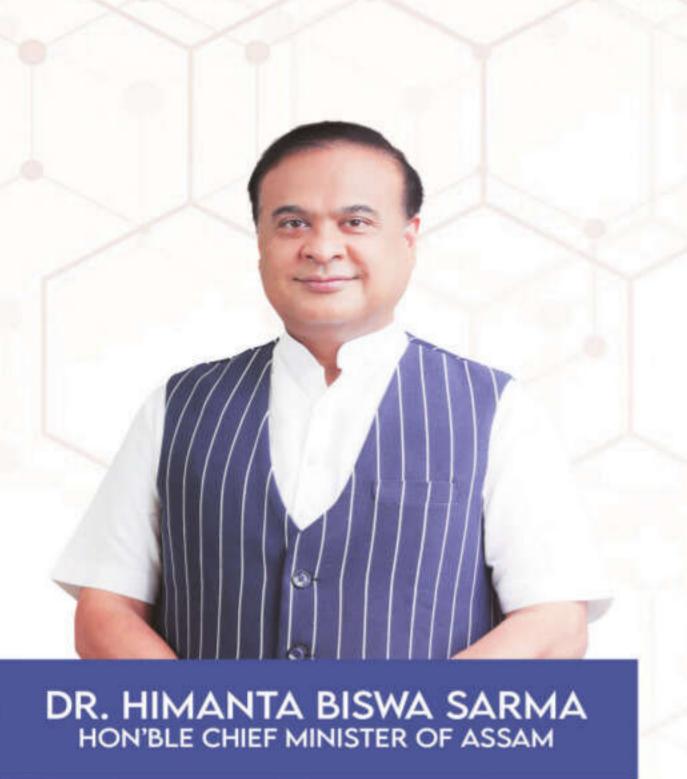
**SINCE 1932** 

₹7.00 (₹8 BIHAR & RAIPUR, ₹15 SRINAGAR) WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM



TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2025, NEW DELHI, LATE CITY, 18 PAGES





SHRI NARENDRA MODI

ADVANTAGE ASSAM2.0

Investment and Infrastructure Summit 2025

25-26 FEBRUARY 2025 GUWAHATI

## BRINGING GLOBAL FORCES TOGETHER FOR PROGRESS

Witness Assam's transformative journey as we uncover new growth avenues at the Ambassadors' Roundtable in Delhi on 7th January 2025

#### **SECTORS OF GROWTH**

Renewable Energy | Electronics & Semiconductors
Tourism | Food & Beverages | Aerospace and Defence Manufacturing
Infrastructure Development | Fragrance & Flavours | Mobility & Logistics













For more details kindly visit: advantageassam.assam.gov.in

Published by Directorate of Information & Public Relations, Assam

Connect with us















JANSANYOG-D/11440/24/07/Jan/25

Russia reports

'important' gains

in Ukraine amid

Relatives of Ukrainian Marines in Kyiv, on Monday. Reuters

**MAXIM RODIONOV** 

MOSCOW, JANUARY 6

der way.

Pokrovsk.

on Jan. 20.

& LUCY PAPACHRISTOU

The Russian defence ministry

said its forces had captured the

town of Kurakhove, 32 km (20

miles) south of Pokrovsk, a

Kurakhove, which had held out

for many weeks, would enable

Moscow's forces to step up the

pace of their advance in Ukraine's

Donetsk region. It also said it had

captured Dachenske, a settle-

ment within five miles of

DeepState, which tracks the front

line using open sources, showed

most of Kurakhove under Russian

control. Ukraine's Khortytsia

group of forces said Russian forces

continued to attack Kurakhove

but Ukrainian forces were work-

ing to identify and repel Russian

assault groups on that part of the

front. Both sides are fighting to

improve their battlefield posi-

tions before US President-elect

Donald Trump, who has pledged

to bring a quick end to the nearly

three-year-old war, takes office

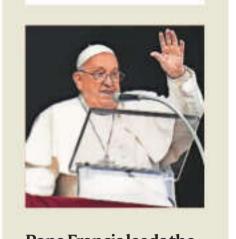
Ukrainian monitoring group

advancing for months.

fierce fighting

# THE WORLD

#### **TOPOFTHE** WORLD



Pope Francis leads the **Angelus prayer.** AP

#### Pope names first woman to head major Vatican office

Rome: Pope Francis on Monday named the first woman to head a major Vatican office, appointing an Italian nun, Sister Simona Brambilla, to become prefect of the department responsible for all the Catholic Church's religious orders. The appointment marks a major step in Francis' aim to give women more leadership roles in governing the church. While women have been named to No. 2 spots in some Vatican offices, never before has a woman been named prefect of a dicastery or congregation of the Holy See Curia, the central governing organ of the Catholic Church. The historic nature of Brambilla's appointment was confirmed

### **PAKISTAN**

by Vatican Media.

#### German envoy found dead in his apartment

Islamabad: A German diplomat, serving as the Second Secretary at the country's embassy in Pakistan, was found dead in his apartment in Islamabad, police confirmed on Monday. Thomas Fielder was living in his flat in Karakoram Heights located in the Diplomatic Enclave of Islamabad. The place lies within the limits of the Secretariat Police Station. Fielder's body was discovered by embassy staff, who became concerned after he had been absent from work for two days, Express News reported.

#### **GERMANY** Death toll from market attack rises to six

Berlin: The death toll in the attack on a Christmas market in the German city of Magdeburg last month has risen to six as a woman succumbed to her injuries, prosecutors said Monday.Prosecutors in Naumburg said the 52year-old woman died in a hospital, German news agency dpa reported. Authorities have said that the others who died were four women aged 45, 52, 67 and 75, and a 9-yearold boy.More than 200 people were injured in the December 20 attack. AP

#### 'IF I'M FIGHTING INTERNAL BATTLES, CAN'T BE BEST OPTION IN NEXT ELECTION'

## Trudeau announces plans to step down, to stay PM till Liberals name new leader

**DAVID LJUNGGREN** & ISMAIL SHAKIL

OTTAWA, JANUARY 6

CANADIAN PRIME Minister Justin Trudeau announced on Monday that he will step down as leader of the ruling Liberals after nine years in office but will stay on in his post until the party chooses a replacement.

Trudeau, under heavy pressure from Liberal legislators to quit amid polls showing the party will be crushed at the next election, said at a news conference that parliament would be suspended until March 24.

That means an election is unlikely to be held before May and Trudeau will still be prime minister when US President-elect Donald Trump — who has threatened tariffs that would cripple Canada's economy takes office on January 20.

"This country deserves a real choice in the next election, and it has become clear to me that if I'm having to fight internal battles, I cannot be the best option in that election," Trudeau said.

Trudeau, 53, took office in November 2015 and won reelec-

**Second warrant** 

against Hasina

in Bangladesh

Dhaka: Bangladesh's Intern-

ational Criminal Tribunal (ICT)

Monday issued arrest warrants

against deposed PM Sheikh

Hasina and 11 others, including

former military generals and an

ex-police chief, for their alleged

role in incidents of enforced disap-

pearances. This was the second ar-

rest warrant by the ICT against

Hasina, who fled to India after her

Awami League regime's toppling

following unprecedented anti-



Canada's PM Justin Trudeau closes the door of his residence, in Ottawa, Monday. Reuters

tion twice, becoming one of Canada's longest-serving prime ministers. But his popularity started dipping two years ago amid public anger over high prices and a housing shortage, and his fortunes never recovered.

Polls show the Liberals will badly lose to the official opposition Conservatives in an election that must be held by late October, regardless of who the leader is.

Parliament was due to resume on Jan. 27 and opposition parties had vowed to bring down the government as soon as they could, most likely at the end of

March. But if parliament does not return until March 24, the earliest they could present a non-confidence motion would be some time in May.

Trudeau said he had asked Canada's Governor General, the representative of King Charles in the country, to prorogue parliament and she had granted that request. Trudeau had until recently been able to fend off Liberal legislators worried about the poor showing in polls and the loss of safe seats in two special elections last year. But calls for him to step aside

have soared since last month, when he tried to demote Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland, one of his closest cabinet allies, after she pushed back against his proposals for more spending.

Freeland quit instead and penned a letter accusing Trudeau of "political gimmicks" rather than focusing on what was best for the country.

"Removing me from the equation as the leader who will fight the next election for the Liberal Party should also decrease the level of polarization that we're seeing right now in the House and in Canadian politics," Trudeau said.

The Conservatives are led by Pierre Poilievre, a career politician who rose to prominence in early 2022 when he supported truck drivers who took over the center of Ottawa as part of a protest against COVID-19 vac-**REUTERS** 

Ukraine's main achievement in the past five months of fighting has been to capture and hold on to a slice of territory inside Russia's Kursk region that could provide it with an important bar-RUSSIA SAID on Monday its gaining chip in possible peace forces had made important gains in eastern Ukraine while contintalks. Ukraine has not revealed uing to fend off a new Ukrainian details of the new offensive it offensive inside the Kursk region launched in Kursk on Sunday, of western Russia, where a secthough a senior Ukrainian official ond day of fierce fighting was unhas said Russia is "getting what it deserves".

#### Ukrainian gamble Independent military analyst

Franz-Stefan Gady said Ukraine was trying to hold on to its pocket of Kursk for as long as possible, even as Russia continued to push deeper into eastern Ukraine.

involved in this assault." Ukrainian and Western assessments suggest about 11,000 troops from Russian ally North Korea have been deployed in the Kursk region to support Moscow's forces. Russia has neither confirmed nor denied their presence. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Monday more than 1,000 North Korean troops had been killed or wounded. Reuters does not have access to the Kursk war zone and

#### Ukrainian logistics hub towards which Russian forces have been The ministry said taking

"There's a likelihood that we haven't seen the main thrust of this Ukrainian offensive operation

just yet," he told Reuters. "We are essentially talking about platoonsized, company-sized assaults with fairly limited gains thus far. It's fair to assume that there are several hundred Ukrainian troops

cannot verify casualty figures. **REUTERS** 

#### four years after 2021 riot at the Capitol throughout his 2024 campaign fought with police, smashing its way in through windows and that he harbored similar concerns, WASHINGTON, JANUARY 6 until his November 5 defeat of

US Congress certifies Trump's election,

**AGENCIES** 

A JOINT session of Congress Monday certified Presidentelect Donald Trump's victory in the 2024 election, peacefully performing a basic ritual of democracy that was brutally disrupted four years ago by a violent pro-Trump mob inflamed by his lie about a stolen election. There was no hint of a simi-

government protests in August last year. The tribunal has so far lar scene this time, although serecorded three cases against her. curity had been stepped up at "Justice Md Golam Mortuza the Capitol. Unlike Trump back Mojumdar, chairman of the tributhen, Vice President Kamala nal, issued the arrest warrant after Harris has not disputed her loss hearing a prosecution plea," an ICT in November, and unlike Republicans in the aftermath of



**US President-elect Donald** Trump

the 2020 balloting, Democrats in Congress made no objections during the counting of the Electoral College votes.

President-elect Trump continues to falsely claim that his 2020 defeat was the result of widespread fraud, and had warned

Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris. Unofficial results show Trump winning 312 electoral college votes to Harris's 226. His Republicans also captured a majority in the US Senate and held a narrow edge in the House of Representatives, which will give Trump leeway in implementing his agenda of tax cuts and a crackdown on immigrants living in the country illegally when he is sworn in on January 20.

Trump has also said he plans to pardon some of the more than 1,500 people charged with taking part in the Jan. 6, 2021, assault on the Capitol, when a mob doors and chanting "Hang Mike Pence," referring to Trump's then-vice president, in a failed bid to stop Congress from certifying Democratic President Joe Biden's victory. In the January 6, 2021, melee at the Capitol, rioters surged past police barricades, assaulting about 140 officers and causing more than \$2.8 million in damage. Multiple police officers who battled protesters died in the weeks that followed, some by suicide.

As a result of that day's violence, Congress passed legislation late in 2022 bolstering guardrails to ensure the certification process is administered in a legal manner.

### France's Sarkozy goes on trial over alleged Libyan campaign financing

**REUTERS** PARIS, JANUARY 6

FORMER FRENCH president Nicolas Sarkozy went on trial on Monday, on charges of having received millions of euros in illegal financing from Libya's late strongman Muammar Gaddafi for his successful 2007 presidential bid. Sarkozy, who was relaxed and chatting with lawyers and other defendants in the courtroom be-

ways denied the accusations. Sarkozy faces charges of "concealment of embezzlement of public funds, passive corruption, illegal campaign financing and criminal conspiracy with a view to committing a crime," the prosecutor's office said.

fore the hearing started, has al-



Former French President Nicolas Sarkozy arrives for **his trial on Monday.** Reuters

a corrupt pact with the Libyar government. At issue is a murky affair alleged to involve Libyar spies, a convicted terrorist, arms dealers and allegations Gaddafi provided Sarkozy's campaign with millions of euros shipped to Paris in suitcases.

## 'The Brutalist', 'Emilia Perez' triumph at Golden Globes

**REUTERS** 

official said.

CALIFORNIA, JANUARY 6

"The Brutalist," the story of a Holocaust survivor who chases the American dream, and musical thriller "Emilia Perez" took home the first major movie honors of Hollywood's awards season at the Golden Globes on Sunday.

"Wicked," the box office smash based on the popular Broadway musical, claimed the Globe for cinematic and box office achievement. Director Jon M. Chu spoke of his love for movies as he was surrounded by the cast on stage.

In a surprise, Demi Moore won best actress in a musical or comedy film for her leading role in "The Substance," the story of a fading actress seeking a fountain of youth.

Among other awards, Brazil's Fernanda Torres took the trophy for best actress in a movie drama for Portuguese language film "I'm Still Here." Sebastian Stan

was named best actor in a film musical or comedy for "A Different Man".

Kieran Culkin was named best supporting film actor for "A Real Pain," a dramedy about cousins who travel to Poland to explore their family's roots.

At the start of the show, firsttime host Nikki Glaser welcomed the celebrity crowd to "Ozempic's biggest night" and teased Timothee Chalamet, Harrison Ford, Selena Gomez and other power players in the audience.

Globe honorees were chosen by 334 entertainment journalists from 85 countries, compared with roughly 9,000 voters who select the Academy Awards. The Globes voting body has been expanded in recent years and organizers instituted reforms after being criticized for ethical lapses and a lack of diversity.

In TV categories, "Hacks" won best musical or comedy series, "Baby Reindeer" was named best limited series and "Shogun" earned best TV drama.

### Winners of Golden Globe Awards 2025

**Best drama**, The Brutalist Best comedy or musical **Emilia Pérez Best director Brady Corbet**, The Brutalist Best male actor, drama Adrien Brody,



**Best female** supporting actor Zoe Saldaña, Fernanda Torres,

Emilia Pérez Best female actor. comedy or musical Demi Moore, The Substance

Best male actor,

Sebastian Stan,

A Different Man

comedy or musical

Investigators allege he made

THE COUNTRY HAD EARNED ONE OF WORLD'S HIGHEST SCORES IN A GLOBAL SAFETY AUDIT

## Long before Jeju Air crash, South Korea rose to be a role model of air safety

**RIVER AKIRA DAVIS** TOKYO. JANUARY 6

IEIU AIR crash in South Korea last week, the deadliest plane accident in years, has stunned the global aviation industry. The country is regarded as a model for how to turn poor air safety practices into some of the world's best.

Three decades ago, South Korea had a dismal record of air safety. Its flagship airline, Korean Air, experienced several deadly crashes in the 1980s and 1990s. In 2001, the US Federal Aviation Administration downgraded South Korea's air safety rating for

failing to meet international stan-

Around the turn of the century, South Korea began an immense project to overhaul its aviation safety practices, drawing on the experiences of other countries including the United States. By 2008, South Korea had earned one of the world's highest scores in a safety audit conducted by the International Civil Aviation Organisation. At the time of the crash, it was considered one of the

safest countries for flying. Air safety experts cautioned that it was premature to speculate about what caused the crash December 29 of Jeju Air Flight 7C2216, in which 179 of the 181 people on board died. It was Jeju Air's first fatal crash in its twodecade history, and the worst ever on South Korean soil.

"Over the past few decades, Korea and its airlines and government authorities have done very well in terms of implementing safety management systems," said Hassan Shahidi, president of the Flight Safety Foundation, a nonprofit that provides safety guidance to the aviation industry.

In trying to determine what caused the crash, officials have said they would look into multiple factors, including damage to the plane from a possible bird



At the time of the crash, it was considered one of the safest **countries for flying.** Reuters

epaper.indianexpress.com

strike. The plane had descended without its wing flaps and landing gear activated and skidded down the runway at a faster-thannormal speed. But another key subject of scrutiny is a concrete structure at the end of the runway that the airliner slammed into before exploding in a fireball.

"The one area that we will see moving forward, after this investigation concludes, is really: What about the airports?" Shahidi said. "This comes into question given the issue with respect to the concrete wall at the end of the runway," he said.

In the United States, the FAA specifies that runway safety areas at most large airports should extend 1,000 feet beyond the runway's end and 500 feet on the sides. The International Civil Aviation Organization, a United Nations agency that sets global safety standards, recommends a standard buffer zone of about 180 to 300 meters (591 to 984 feet) from the end of the runway and ones on the sides at least twice the

width of the runway. Any structures within these zones should be "frangible," meaning they must be able to break or give way to minimize damage in the event of a crash. At Muan Airport, the hard, concrete structure, surrounded by a

250 meters, or 820 feet, from the runway's end, according to local officials. A series of deadly Korean Air

mound of dirt, sits approximately

crashes more than two decades ago helped spur South Korea to reassess its aviation safety protocols and rebuild with much higher standards. In response, Korean Air be-

gan new efforts to improve its safety record. It brought in specialists from Delta Air Lines and Boeing to help revamp training and other practices. Korean Air also invited the Flight Safety Foundation, based in Virginia, to take a look at its operations. **NYT** 

## BUSINESS AS USUAL By UNNY Make it official on Republic Day. Declare Silence

SC-APPOINTED PANEL

JANMEJAYA

SINHA

SPECIAL TO THE

**EXPRESS** 

**RUN UP TO BUDGET** 

2025-26

PAGE 10

**MEETS DALLEWAL** 

**VEHICLE TARGETED WITH IED IN BIJAPUR, CHHATTISGARH** 

## Maoists ambush securitymen on way back from operation, 9 killed



Security personnel at the site of the IED blast in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district on Monday. PTI

8 security personnel, their driver killed; ambush after road-opening party left

**JAYPRAKASH S NAIDU** RAIPUR, JANUARY 6

AT LEAST eight security personnel and a driver were killed Monday after Maoists attacked their vehicle in the jungle area of Kutru in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur

"Maoists blew up a police vehicle using an Improvised Explosive Device on the Kutru-Bedre road," Inspector General of Police for Bastar Range, Sundarraj P, said.

According to sources, the security personnel were returning after conducting an anti-Maoist operation in the Abujhmad re-

**POLL ANNOUNCEMENT IMMINENT** 



gion. The operation had started Friday, and on Saturday, an encounter broke out in Abujhmad, in which five Maoists and a District Reserve Guard (DRG) jawan were killed.

The security personnel killed Monday were identified as Head Constable Budhram Korsa and Constables Duma Markam, Pandru Ram Poyam, and Baman Sodi from the DRG, as well as Constables Somdu Vetti, **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** 

### NSA SULLIVAN MEETS PM, JAISHANKAR, DOVAL

## US eases curbs to push N-deal, 3 India entities may be off blacklist

US President to relax norms to allow tech transfer in space

**SHUBHAJIT ROY** NEW DELHI, JANUARY 6

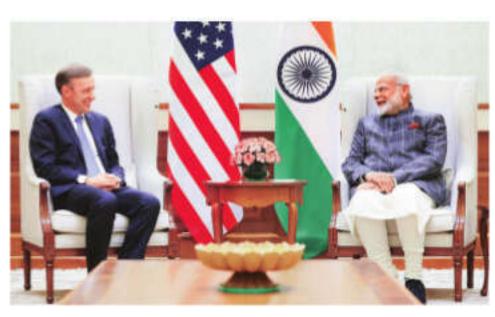
IN AN incremental step towards operationalising the Indo-US nuclear deal, US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan announced Monday that Washington is finalizing steps to remove longstanding regulations that have prevented civil nuclear cooperation between India's leading nuclear entities and US companies.

This includes removing Indian government entities from the US entity list, The Indian Express has learnt. Sources said these could include: Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC); Indira Gandhi Atomic Research Centre (IGCAR) and Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL) — all government-run institutions.

The US Entity List is a list of foreign individuals, businesses, and organizations that are subject to export restrictions and licensing requirements for certain goods and technologies. The list compiled by the Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) of the U.S. Department of Commerce is ostensibly used to prevent

unauthorized trade in items that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



PM Modi with Sullivan in New Delhi on Monday. PTI

### 2 key hurdles: US law that bars manufacturing here, Indian law on liability

**ANIL SASI** NEW DELHI, JANUARY 6

WHILE US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan did not spell out the details with sources suggesting that three entities may be taken off the blacklist, there are currently two key legal barri-

nuclear collaboration. On the American side, a significant impediment is the '10CFR810' authorisation (Part 810 of Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations (Part 810) of the US

ers to furthering Indo-US

Atomic Energy Act of 1954), which gives US nuclear vendors the ability to export equipment to countries such as India under some strict safeguards, but does not permit them to manufacture any nuclear equipment or perform any

nuclear design work here

This authorisation is a clear impediment from New Delhi's perspective, which wants to participate in the manufacturing value chain and co-produce the nuclear components for atomic power projects being jointly planned to be

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** 

set up in India, sources said.

### His ratings down, Trudeau announces resignation, opens a window to reset ties

Task easier said than done given Ottawa's hard line against New Delhi



Canada Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announces his resignation in Ottawa on Monday. AP

**SHUBHAJIT ROY** NEW DELHI, JANUARY 6

FACING LOSS of support within his party and low popularity in polls, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced Monday that he will resign as party leader and PM, but will stay on as the PM until the Liberal Party chooses a new leader.

On Trudeau's request, Governor General Mary Simon agreed to prorogue Parliament until March 24. This will give the Liberal Party time to hold a

shortened leadership contest. From New Delhi's perspective. Trudeau's time was up and

the assessment, going by opinion polls, was that he would have possibly lost the elections after being in office for 10 years — he became the Liberal Party's leader in 2013 and PM in 2015.

Trudeau is seen as someone who has taken a "scorched earth policy" in terms of India-Canada ties, especially after his allegation in September 2023 that Indian government agents were involved in the killing of Khalistan separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada.

Delhi has rejected Trudeau's allegations as "absurd" and "politically motivated", and accused his government of sheltering CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

### Unprecedented rush to be in Delhi voter list after last date, needs greater scrutiny: CEO

AAP vs BJP over additions, deletions from electoral list

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, JANUARY 6

AHEAD OF the announcement of the Assembly election schedule for Delhi – it is expected any day now – its Chief Electoral Officer Monday flagged an "unprecedented" rush for new voter registration since December 16 and said this "needs greater

The office of the CEO, in a statement, said it received new voter registration applications from 5.1 lakh people after the

**MOHAMED THAVER** 

THE LAWRENCE Bishnoi gang

had Salman Khan in its crosshairs

but instead targeted his close as-

sociate, NCP leader Baba

Siddique, owing to the height-

ened security around the actor

following the shooting outside

his Mumbai residence last year.

Branch outlined this shift in tar-

get in an 4,590-page chargesheet

The Mumbai Police Crime

MUMBAI, JANUARY 6

cut-off date of November 28. It said this was over and above the 3.08 lakh new voters added to the roll during the special summary revision in October.

"This trend of unprecedented increase... and that too after 20 days of the last date of receiving claims and objections as scheduled... is unexpected and needs greater scrutiny," the CEO said.

"Directions are issued to... scrutinise each and every form strictly as per ECI guidelines. 100% field verification shall be done... to identify the genuine eligible persons. EROs are also con-

Salman initial target, Lawrence gang

shot Siddique over proximity: Police

filed before a special court on

brother of imprisoned gangster

Lawrence Bishnoi, Anmol, has

targeted Salman over his in-

volvement in the 1998 killing of

The gang, led by the younger

Monday.

**NCP leader** 

was killed

on Oct 12

Baba

Focus shifted due to tight Salman security: Chargesheet

ducting personal hearings in doubtful cases as per ECI guidelines," the statement said, adding that eight FIRs had been filed against 24 people for submission of false or tampered documents

for obtaining voter IDs. Over the past month, the AAP has accused the BJP of filing objections letters and getting the names of "bona fide voters" deleted from the voter list. The BJP, on the other hand, has accused AAP of getting names of "bogus voters" added to the list.

On Monday, locking horns CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

a black buck, which is revered by

pute, the chargesheet lists a

number of reasons for the hit —

the gang trying to establish its

hold on the city; Siddique's prox-

imity to Salman Khan; alleged

links to Dawood Ibrahim; and

the custodial death of Anuj

Thapan, who was arrested over

the firing outside Salman's

These reasons were first

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Bandra residence.

Ruling out any property dis-

the Bishnoi community.

### UGC eases hiring contract teachers, opens V-C post to non-academics too

**ABHINAYA HARIGOVIND** & RITIKA CHOPRA NEW DELHI, JANUARY 6

IN A MAJOR overhaul of the process of appointment of leaders in higher education, the **University Grants Commission** (UGC) issued new rules Monday which effectively give Governors in states broader powers in appointing Vice-Chancellors and opened the position to industry experts and public sector veterans, thus breaking from the tradition of selecting only academi-

According to government sources, if approved as is, the new regulations will give Chancellors greater control over Vice-Chancellor selection. This will likely have significant ramifications for Opposition-ruled states such as Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, and Kerala, where the government and Governor (who serves as Chancellor of state universities) are currently locked in disputes over the top academic appointment process.

The new draft regulations titled 'University Grants (Minimum Commission

A new flashpoint

THE UGC'S draft norms

have safely provided that Chancellors would get to control the entire process of appointing V-Cs in state universities. Some state governments led by non-BJP parties have already proposed that the CM — and not the Governor, who is appointed by the Union government – should be the Chancellor. The new norms could become a new flashpoint.

Qualifications for Appointment and Promotion of Teachers and Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education) Regulations, 2025' — have also removed the cap on contract teacher appointments.

The 2018 regulations had CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**IIT Roorkee** 

9 men trapped in flooded coal mine in Assam, rescuers race against time

**SUKRITA BARUAH** 

**GUWAHATI, JANUARY 6** AT LEAST nine workers had been

trapped for over 12 hours in a coal mine in Assam's Dima Hasao district as of 10 pm on Monday, reportedly after it was flooded in the morning.

On Monday night, the state government released a list of the workers, aged between 26 and 57. One of them is from Nepal, one is from West Bengal's Jalpaiguri district, one is a local from Dima Hasao, while the rest are from different parts of Assam such as

Darrang, Kokrajhar and Sonitpur. The site of the incident is in the Kalamati area in Umrangso, in the hilly district of Dima Hasao. The area is remote around 150 kilometres from the district headquarters Haflong and the Superintendent of Police, District Collector and other senior government func-

tionaries were yet to reach the site as of 8:30 pm. "The incident took place in the morning, and rescue teams were rushed there as soon as we

were informed. The rescue operations have been ongoing for about seven hours now," the SP **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** 

## IIT: Placements dip, students look beyond campus too

PAGE 1 **ANCHOR** 

**VIDHEESHA KUNTAMALLA** NEW DELHI, JANUARY 6

IN AN indication of the changing hiring trends from the Indian Institutes of Technology, at least four older IITs have seen a decline in their campus placement percentages in recent years, even as surveys indicate the number of students getting jobs independently may be on the rise.

The trends, based on data obtained by The Indian Express, come against the backdrop of a shifting tech landscape, global economic uncertainties, and an increasing number of IIT graduates competing in a dynamic job market.

Five of the seven first-generation IITs responded to The *Indian Express's* request under the RTI Act for placement data spanning six years, from 2018-19 to 2023-24. IIT Madras and IIT Guwahati did not share details and instead referred to their anYour Right TO KNOW

AN EXPRESS RTI **APPLICATION** 

nual reports.

Among the institutes that disclosed placement rates (the percentage of students receiving job offers) across undergraduate, postgraduate, and research programs, IIT Kanpur, IIT Kharagpur, and IIT Roorkee recorded declines ranging from 5 to 16 percentage points (see chart).

IIT Bombay provided data only for 2022-23 and 2023-24, showing a drop from 82% to 75%. While IIT Guwahati's placement percentage for 2023-24 (71%) is higher than the pre-pandemic level of 2018-19 (67%), it is seven percentage points lower than the previous year, 2022-23 (78%).

IIT Delhi is the only institution that bucked the trend, maintaining a consistent placement percentage of 84% to 85 % since 2018-19, except for fluctuations during the pandemic epaper.indianexpress.com

years of 2020-21 (80%) and 2021-22 (75%).

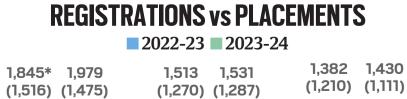
The factors — and some riders

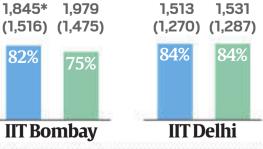
While the IITs refused to comment on the record, students and teachers associated with the campus hiring process attributed the drop to a combination of factors: the aftereffects of post-Covid mass hiring in 2022, a slowdown in key sectors like tech and software, and increasing batch sizes.

"In 2022, there was a spike in placement percentages as the

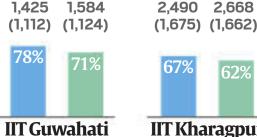
market recovered after Covid, with rates exceeding 85%. This spike followed a two-year hiring freeze. Hiring in 2023 was more conservative, with fewer top MNCs coming in and a decline in software and tech recruitment. Placements this year might improve over last year, but are unlikely to match 2022 levels. The numbers may normalise by 2025," said a source from IIT Kanpur.

Another person associated with placements at IIT Kharagpur pointed to growing batch sizes as CONTINUED ON PAGE 2





1,410 1,628 1,425 1,584 (1,126) (1,108) (1,112) (1,124)



**IIT Kanpur** 

 $^*$ Registered (vs Placed), Placement in %

**IIT Kharagpur** 

UGC eases hiring contract teachers

#### Window to reset ties

terrorists. This has led to a downslide in ties — to unprecedented levels, comparable only to India's ties with Pakistan and China. Dozens of diplomats have been expelled, including High Commissioners, visas have been impacted, no

pled in the last year-and-half. With Trudeau's departure, some view it as a time and opportunity to repair the damage done in the last year-and-half.

new project is being imple-

mented, and trade has been crip-

While the leadership race is open ahead of the Canadian elections which should be held by June this year, some have already thrown their hat in the ring including former Canada Bank Governor Mark Carney and former Dy PM and Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland, Foreign Minister Melanie Joly, Transportation Minister Anita Anand and Finance Minister Dominic LeBlanc as possible

According to polls, Liberals are widely expected to lose after 10 years in office, and Conservatives led by Pierre Poilievre are expected to come to power.

contenders.

With Trudeau gone, the temperature might be a bit lower in India-Canada ties — the acri-

mony and the sharp anti-India public statements and political rhetoric is expected to tone down a bit.

But Trudeau having made statements to the Canadian parliament — he first made the allegation on the floor of the House it shrinks the space for his party successor -- or from the Opposition if Poilievre were to become the next PM -- in a situation where they will find it extremely difficult to walk back. The Liberals, once in Opposition, will try to portray the Conservatives as a sell-out if they walk back. That's the major apprehension in Delhi.

Although Delhi has had communication channels open with other leaders of the Opposition and Liberal party, this scorched earth policy that Trudeau adopted in the last few years has queered the pitch in a fundamental way.

But a change in the leadership is expected to give a chance to "stabilise" ties. Efforts will be on to manage the current state of ties, although the Canadian judicial process and the investigations by law enforcement agencies will continue — and their outcomes and findings will shape some of the discourse in the months and years to come.

#### Siddique killing chargesheet

mentioned in a Facebook post put up by a Pune-based man, Shubham Lonkar, who has been named as a wanted accused in the Siddique murder case.

A police officer told *The Indian* Express: "In the shooting that took place outside the actor's residence on April 14, the gang wanted the shooters to empty their cartridges, firing over 50 rounds outside his residence, remove their helmets, and ride off slowly for effect. The shooters, however, managed to fire only five rounds and were soon arrested. The Bishnoi gang saw this as a failed attempt and decided to kill the actor to prove their credentials. They, however, soon realised that his security had been upgraded and it would be difficult to attack him. The next option was to go after someone close to him and hence they decided to gun down Baba Siddique as he had been photographed with the actor on several occa-

Another officer said that police filed a 4.590-page chargesheet in the Special Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA)

court. The chargesheet named three people — Lonkar, Yasin Siddique and Anmol Bishnoi — as wanted in the case. US immigration authorities detained Anmol Bishnoi on the charge of using a forged passport, and he is currently in their custody. Yasin Siddique and Lonkar are on the run.

Siddique, a former Maharashtra minister, was gunned down on October 12 in Bandra East outside the office of his son Zeeshan Akhtar. While two men were arrested from the spot, the main shooter fled from the scene and was arrested later by the Crime Branch. Police made 26 arrests in the case.

The Crime Branch found no evidence of claims that Siddique was murdered because of a dispute over Slum Rehabilitation Authority projects in the city.

A police officer said: "The investigation revealed that the shooting was orchestrated by Anmol Singh Bishnoi. The accused are believed to have conspired to establish the dominance of their criminal operations, using violence and terror."

#### • 9 men trapped in flooded mine

told *The Indian Express* at 7 pm. Progress was slow, with two motor pumps working to remove water from the mine pit, reported to be a few hundred feet deep. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced that the National Disaster Relief Force and the State Disaster Relief Force have been deployed to aid rescue efforts. The Army's assistance has been re-

quested too.

State Cabinet Minister Kaushik Rai is likely to reach on Tuesday morning. "There were 20-25 workers inside the mine. While the rest came out before it got flooded, nine remain inside. The workers who came out in the morning are in the care of the police. The SDRF has reached the site, the NDRF will reach soon, and the Army has started moving.

The rescue operations will start properly tonight," Rai told *The* Indian Express on Monday night.

Riki Phukan, the district disaster management official, said that details of what led to the incident were unclear. "No one was there for a clear preliminary report of the incident. Based on pieces of information from locals, we have understood that water entered the mine. From the visuals, we can see that it is a mine with a vertical hole in the ground We will have a clearer picture tomorrow," he said.

The site of the incident is located close to Assam's border with Meghalaya, which had in 2018 witnessed one of the worst mining mishaps of the region when 15 workers died after being trapped in a flooded rat-hole mine in Meghalaya's East Jaintia Hills.

### FROM PAGE ONE

FULL REPORTS ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

## US eases curbs to push nuclear deal

could be diverted to terrorism, weapons of mass destruction (WMD) programs, or other activities that are perceived by the US as going its foreign policy or national security interests.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who met Sullivan, posted on X: "The India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership has scaled new heights, including in the areas of technology, defence, space, biotechnology and Artificial Intelligence. Look forward to building upon this momentum in ties between our two democracies for the benefit of our people and global good."

Speaking at IIT Delhi, Sullivan, who met NSA Ajit Doval and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, said: "Although former (US) President (George W) Bush and former Prime Minister (Manmohan) Singh laid out a vision of civil nuclear cooperation nearly 20 years ago, we have yet to fully realize it... the Biden administration has determined that it is past time to take the next major step in cementing this partnership."

"So today, I can announce that the United States is now finalizing the necessary steps to remove long standing regulations that have prevented civil nuclear cooperation between India's leading nuclear entities and US companies. The formal paperwork will be done soon, but this will be an opportunity to turn the page on some of the frictions of the past and create opportunities for entities that have been on restricted lists in the United States to come off those lists and enter into deep collaboration with the United States, with our private sector, with our scientists and technologists, to move civil nuclear cooperation forward together", he said.

Sullivan added: "This is a statement of confidence in the progress we have made and the

Two key hurdles

On the Indian side, the Civil

Liability for Nuclear Damage Act,

2010, which sought to create a

mechanism for compensating

victims from damage caused by

a nuclear accident, and allocat-

ing liability and specifying pro-

cedures for compensation, has

been cited as an impediment by

foreign players such as GE-

Hitachi, Westinghouse and

French nuclear company Areva

grounds that the legislation

channelises operators' liability to

equipment suppliers with for-

eign vendors citing this as a rea-

son for worries about investing

in India's nuclear sector due to

fear of incurring future liability.

for the current trip was the

prospect of strengthening the in-

novation alliance under the US-

India initiative on Critical and

Emerging Technology (iCET). A

breakthrough agreement on

iCET that addresses the concerns

on both sides could pave the way

for plans to jointly manufacture

nuclear components for any new

project capacity being planned

for India by deploying American

is hoping to pitch itself as a cred-

ible destination to manufacture

nuclear reactors, especially small

modular reactors or SMRs that

have a capacity of between

30MWe and 300 MWe, cost-ef-

This also comes when India

atomic reactors.

Among Sullivan's mandates

This is primarily on the

(now called Orano).

progress we will continue to make as strategic partners and as countries who share a commitment to peaceful nuclear cooperation. It's also the result of India's open and transparent engagement with our administration over the course of four years, which has enabled us to open this new chapter together."

The announcement, a fortnight before US President-elect Donald Trump assumes office, is significant as the Indo-US civilian nuclear deal in 2008 has not been operationalised in more than a decade and half.

Sullivan also announced that India-US commercial and civil space partnership is set to "lift off" with President Biden signing "certain papers". This move, he said, will help bolster cooperation in areas of missile technology.

A joint statement said Sullivan briefed the Indian side on the "updates brought out by the Biden administration to US missile export control policies under the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) that will boost US commercial space cooperation with India".

Sources said this essentially means that some US regulations will be relaxed so that US can share some of its "high technolo-

gies, like in the area of rockets." Sullivan underlined the challenges faced by the Biden administration in dealing with India, "Of course, none of the work we've done together over any of these years has been easy. We have had to navigate our fair share of turbulence, legacy relationships, tensions over trade, as well as over human rights and the rule of law at home and abroad, but we've navigated these issues together with our eye on the long game, and our ability to do so reflects the deep and enduring resilience between the US and India, across

generations, across administra-

Beijing, too, is actively work-

ing on an ambitious plan to seize

the opportunity of global lead-

ership in the SMR space, unlike

large reactors where China has

SMRs as a tool of its diplomatic

outreach in the Global South and

that the country could shake up

the small reactor industry, just

as it has done in the electric vehi-

programme has expertise in

manufacturing smaller reactor

types – 220MWe PHWRs (pres-

surised heavy water reactors)

and above – the problem for

India is its reactor technology.

Based on heavy water and natu-

ral uranium, the PHWRs are in-

creasingly out of sync with light

water reactors (LWR) that are

now the most dominant reactor

Russians and the French, are

among the leaders in LWR tech-

dustry players said, could be a

positive for both the US and

India, given that both are ill-

placed to compete with China on

their own. India is faced with

technological constraints while

the US is seen as being impeded

by a relatively high cost of labour

and the growing protectionist

mood in that country.

The Americans, alongside the

A collaborative approach, in-

type across the world.

nology.

Though India's civil nuclear

cle sector.

Like India, Beijing is seeing

been a relative latecomer.

fectively and at scale.

tions and yes, across the aisle." Naming China for weaponis-

ing dependencies, Sullivan criticised China for its "predatory industrial strategies" in certain critical sectors including in chip manufacturing, clean energy and other emerging technologies. US companies looking for more resilience in both their markets and their supply chains are shifting out of China and expanding into India, he said.

"Take, for example, Apple's significant investment in Indian production. Within the next couple of years, over 1/4 of all iPhones in the world will be made right here in India," he said.

While talking about supply chains, Sullivan said the US, India and other key democratic nations have all been reminded "abruptly and sharply" that "we cannot ignore the ways in which interdependencies can be weaponized against us", in a thinly veiled reference to China.

"We've seen countries lose access to critical minerals that support our clean energy, we've seen companies struggling to compete against China's predatory industrial strategies in chips and clean energy and other emerging technologies," he said.

"We've seen repeated attacks on industries tied to our structure which is heightening the risks not only to cyber espionage but of destructive sabotage," the US NSA said. That's why, he said, India and the US are investing in national programs and sectors that have become "overly reliant on a single country". In his address, Sullivan also said that India-US collaboration is crucial for peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific.

In an oblique reference to Russia, Sullivan said, "...we see more and more new technologies diverted to unfriendly actors. The US and India are going to have to ensure that valuable dual use

technologies don't fall into the wrong hands." The US has been wary of the Russian S-400 air defence system and how that might compromise the security and integrity of US aviation platforms.

Sullivan credited NSA Ajit Doval for the establishment of Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET), a key Biden initiative, and underlined what he called their "deep personal relationship, deep professional relationship," that had take the bilateral partnership to a "new high".

The joint statement said, "The current visit gave them the opportunity to review ongoing progress in their high-level dialogue, including in diverse fields such as Defence, Cyber and Maritime Security."

Indeed, Sullivan's current visit is also to ring-fence iCET – this has got both NSAs to lead the conversation cutting across tech and strategic domains, from AI to quantum computing, semiconductors to space.

A Prime Minister's Office statement said, "Recalling his various meetings with President Biden, including during his visit to the US in September 2024 for the Quad Leaders' Summit, PM (Modi) appreciated President Biden's contributions towards strengthening of the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership, which leaves an enduring legacy. PM deeply appreciated a letter from President Biden handed over to him by NSA Sullivan..."

"PM reaffirmed his commitment to continue to deepen close cooperation between the two democracies for the benefit of the people of the two countries and for the global good," the PMO statement said.

Earlier in the day, after his meeting with Sullivan, Jaishankar acknowledged Sullivan's "personal contribution" towards a stronger India-US partnership.

#### Unprecedented rush to be in Delhi voter list after last date: CEO

over the issue again, the AAP demanded transparency and action against BJP members who had filed applications regarding voter deletion.

The BJP, on the other hand, accused the AAP of getting "outsiders, Bangladeshis and Rohingya" registered as voters in the Capital.

The AAP, in a statement, said, "If the Election Commission functions transparently, every BJP leader involved in these mass voter deletion applications will end up in jail... Our leaders, CM Atishi, Raghav Chadha and Sanjay Singh, have highlighted that the so-called petitioners have disowned any link to these applications. When will the Election Commission take note of this?".

Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva welcomed the revised voter list and expressed satisfaction that this time the AAP "has failed to register a large number of fake votes, especially of Rohingya and Bangladeshi individuals" between the Lok Sabha

"Frustrated by their failure to manipulate voter registrations, AAP leaders, especially Arvind Kejriwal and Chief Minister Ms Atishi Marlena, are now targeting the Election Commission and the BJP," he said.

and Assembly elections.

On December 12, AAP chief

Arvind Kejriwal promised to increase the amount for women under the Mukhyamantri Mahila Samman Yojana from Rs 1,000 to Rs 2,100 if his party is re-elected. Six days later, he announced a free healthcare scheme for residents above the age of 60.

For both these schemes, being a registered Delhi voter is the most significant eligibility criteria. Since the announcements were made, AAP volunteers have been going door-to-door, seeking people's details for registration under the schemes, and helping people fill forms for voter registration.

According to the Delhi CEO, 1.55 crore voters are eligible to vote as per the electoral rolls published Monday. A total of 1.67 lakh voters were added between October 29 and January 6, of which 96,426 were women and 70.873 men. The additions, the CEO said, also factored in total deletions of 1.41 lakh.

"The total number of electors in the finally published electoral roll today is 1,55,24,858 indicating a 1.09% increase over the electors in the draft electoral roll published on October 29, 2024," the CEO said.

As many as 52,554 first-time voters, aged between 18 and 19 vears, were added to the rolls, bringing their number to 2.08 lakh from 1.55 lakh.

#### nalised after the higher education regulator receives public feedback on the draft. "The Chancellor/Visitor shall

constitute the Search-cum-Selection Committee comprising three experts," the new regulations state. Earlier, the regulations mentioned that the selection for the post of Vice-Chancellor should be through proper identification by a panel of 3–5 persons formed by a Search-cum-Selection Committee but did not specify who would constitute the committee.

per cent of an institution's total

The new rules will be fi-

faculty positions.

According to a senior government official, there are at least two Supreme Court judgments that make the UGC regulations, especially those pertaining to academic appointments, applicable to state universities as well. In other words, Governors in

states who are Chancellors of state universities now have more control over the selection process and also have the final say on the V-C appointment. The draft guidelines also warn that non-implementation may result in debarring an institution from participating in UGC schemes or from offering degree programmes. "Every time we revise UGC

regulations, we try to make changes based on past experiences. As far as Vice-Chancellor appointments are concerned, we have tried to make the selection process as clear as possible, leaving no room for ambiguity," said a senior government official. When asked if the change was influenced by the tussle between the Government and Governors in some states, the official said, "The regulation doesn't mention the Governor anywhere. Whoever is the Chancellor will appoint the se-

Another key change in the draft regulations is that university Vice-Chancellors need not be professors, but can be individuals at senior levels in industry, public policy, public administration, or public sector undertakings, going by the University Grants Commission's (UGC) new draft regulations on appointment and promotion of teachers and academic staff in universities and colleges.

lection committee.'

Another key change in the draft regulations is that it does away with the Academic Performance Indicators (API) system – a score that determines the recruitment and promotion of teachers based on parameters such as publication in journals. Instead, "notable contributions" across nine categories are to be considered for recruitment and promotion of teachers, including "teaching contributions in Indian languages" and "teaching-learning and research in Indian Knowledge Systems."

According to UGC Chairman M Jagadesh Kumar, the API system in the 2018 regulations "heavily relied on quantitative metrics, reducing academic performance to numerical scores.'

"In the previous regulations,

candidates were often judged primarily on numerical criteria, such as journal or conference publication counts. The 2025 regulations discontinue the APIbased shortlisting and adopt a more qualitative approach, allowing selection committees to assess candidates holistically based on their notable contributions and broader academic im-

limited such appointments to 10 pact...," he said. Other notable contributions

> that will be considered are innovative teaching contribution, research or teaching lab development, consultancy or sponsored research funding as a principal investigator or co-principal investigator, student internship or project supervision, digital content creation for massive open online courses (MOOCs), community engagement and service and a "startup", registered with the Registrar of Companies as "a founding promoter, successfully raising funding through government, angel or venture funds to support the startup."

Kumar said the subject experts in the selection committee for these hirings will evaluate the notable contributions "in a transparent way as decided by the selection committee."

"The draft regulations expand the scope to identify leaders who can navigate complex systems, foster innovation, and build meaningful collaborations between academia, industry and society in alignment with the vision of NEP 2020," he said. Earlier regulations issued in

2018 had said that the V-C should be a "distinguished academician", with a minimum of ten years of experience as a Professor in a University or ten years of experience "in a reputed research and/or academic administrative organisation with proof of having demonstrated academic leadership." The new draft regulations say

that the V-C candidate is to be a "distinguished person possessing high academic qualifications and demonstrated administrative and leadership capabilities", with a minimum of ten years of experience as a professor in a higher educational institutions, or at a senior level in reputed research or academic administrative organisations, or at a senior level in industry, public administration, public policy and or public sector undertakings, with a "proven track record of significant academic or scholarly contributions.

On doing away with the cap on appointments of contract teacher Kumar said that it was done away with "to give some flexibility to higher educational institutions considering the fact that in many state universities, there are many faculty vacancies and they are making efforts to fill them up."

"Once the state governments fill up the vacancies, contract basis appointments are expected to be less," he said.

The general conditions for

appointment of teachers in the new draft regulations also say that if the candidate's subject at the undergraduate or postgraduate level is different from the PhD subject, the candidate will be considered eligible for appointment as a teacher in the subject in which they obtained the PhD. Additionally, if the candidate's subject at the undergraduate or postgraduate level is different from their subject in qualifying exams like the NET or SET, the candidate will be eligible for appointment as a teacher in the subject in which they qualified in these exams. The

"This is an important flexibility to remove rigid subject boundaries and allow faculty applicants to transition across disciplines, creating a more multidisciplinary eco-system within university campuses as envisaged in NEP 2020," Kumar said.

2018 regulations did not make

such specifications.

#### • IIT campus jobs dip, students seek pastures elsewhere

a factor. At IIT Kharagpur, the number of students registering for placement has increased from 1,757 in 2018–19 to 2,668 in 2023–24, while those placed grew from 1,375 to 1,662 during the same period.

"Placements in 2022-23 were among the best for the institute. but there hasn't been much improvement in the market since then, and the companies coming for placements this year haven't met expectations," the source said.

"The intake of students has been increasing gradually, with nearly 3,000 students sitting for placements this year, making it a challenging task to place everyone. While most IEE entrants are placed, companies have fewer roles for PG students," the person

IIT Guwahati too said that placement outcomes are better for B.Tech graduates. "Most IIT placement data focuses on B.Tech students. In 2022, the B.Tech placement percentage was 83%, and in 2023, it was 80%," an official from IIT Guwahati told The Indian Express. "PG students often prefer higher studies – they register for placements but do not

pursue them further. The actual

placement scenario is best reflected in undergraduate placements, where close to 80% of students secure jobs, while 10% go for higher studies, 5% opt for civil services, and others pursue MBA programs."

The official said that around 600 and 650 BTech students were placed in 2022 and 2023, respectively. Though the placement per-

centage at IIT Bombay dropped from 82.16% in 2022-23 to 74.53% in 2023-24, an official said it would be misleading to draw conclusions solely from this data as it only reflects on-campus placements and not other career paths. "Many students shown as 'not placed' take routes like higher education or off-campus placements or entrepreneurship. The dip does not offer a true reflection unless compared with the exit

survey," the official said. A newly introduced exit survey revealed that from 2018 to 2022, 57.1% of students were placed through campus placements, 10.3% found jobs independently, 1.6% initiated startups, 8.3% entered public services, 6.1% were still seeking jobs, and

12% pursued higher education in

epaper.indianexpress.com

India or abroad.

Of the six IITs, only three shared data pertaining to the average salary package offered to placed students. IIT Kanpur's average salary rose from Rs 22.1 lakh per annum (LPA) in 2020–21 to Rs 25.9 LPA in 2022–23, but dropped to Rs 23.7 LPA in 2023–24.

At IIT Kharagpur, the average salary increased from Rs 14 LPA in 2020–21 to Rs 18 LPA in 2022–23, before declining to Rs 17 LPA in 2023-24.

IIT Bombay recorded an average salary of Rs 21.50 LPA in 2021–22, slightly rising to Rs 21.82 LPA in 2022–23.

#### Why IIT Delhi stood out The increase in students

availing themselves of IIT Delhi's placement services rose from 1,471 in 2021-2022 to 1,531 in 2023-2024, largely due to a significant rise in participation from PhD scholars.

Nearly 190 PhD candidates, a sixfold increase, sought placements for the first time, affecting the overall placement percentage since regular job profiles for B.Tech and M.Tech graduates are not suitable for PhD scholars. volved in entrepreneurship.

To address this, IIT Delhi conducted a special recruitment drive for PhD students in June 2024, resulting in a seven fold increase in offers as compared to the previous year. An official said: "If you notice, the number of offers received in 2022-2023 (1,287) and 2023-24 (1,222) are comparable and only about 5% less than the previous year. Despite difficult market conditions and placements across the institutions in the country during 2023-2024, IIT Delhi managed to do reasonably well last year. We are striving to get our PhD and other students jobs to achieve a very good overall placement this year. We have a number of profiles lined up for this year and are hoping to cater to all aspiring students."

In an exit survey conducted by IIT Delhi this year, 1411 (53.1 per cent) students confirmed that they had received a job offer. On the other hand, 224 (8.4 per cent) students responded that they were self-employed, whereas 45 (1.7 per cent) students informed that they are working for a start-up and 66 (2.5 per cent) students were in-

#### Maoists ambush securitymen Sudarshan Veti, Subarnath Police, Kamlochan Kashyap, said,

Yadavm and Harish Koram from the Bastar Fighters. The civilian driver was identified as Tuleshwar Rana. The DRG and Bastar Fighters are Chhattisgarh security forces mainly focused on countering Left-wing extremism, and are made up of recruits from remote villages.

The Kutru area, where the IED blast took place Monday, is near Abujhmad — an unsurveyed region, larger than the state of Goa. It is said to be the last haven for top Maoist leaders in the country.

Officials said security personnel were travelling in 12 vehicles on the Kutru-Bedre road, near Ambeli village, at around 2.15 pm Monday when Maoists triggered an IED that severely damaged one of the vehicles.

Sources said the vehicle was a hired private SUV, and that the impact of the explosion was such that parts of the vehicle were found a few hundred metres away from the spot of the blast. The blast also left a crater around 25-30 feet wide and 10 feet deep.

Police said Maoists were hiding in the jungle, watching the movement of the vehicles, and that just when this vehicle was passing over it, they detonated the IED.

Deputy Inspector General of

"We suspect 60-70 kg of explosives were used. Forensic experts will be able to say more. The wire used to detonate it looks old and the surface above the wire had green grass on it, which indicates it was a very old IED. The road is

made of concrete and bitumen."

Kashyap acknowledged that "somewhere, a mistake has been made" that led to the attack on the vehicle carrying security personnel. "We will analyse it," he said.

A senior officer said the incident took place despite a roadopening party (ROP) having been deployed. ROPs involve security personnel checking the sides of the roads in jungles to ensure that there are no Maoists hiding before sending vehicles down that road.

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai said on X: "...Naxalites are frustrated with the ongoing Naxal eradication campaign in Bastar and are getting distracted and carrying out such cowardly acts. The martyrdom of the soldiers will not go in vain, our fight to end Naxalism will continue strongly."

In April 2023, 10 DRG personnel and one driver were killed in Aranpur, Dantewada. In the aftermath, one of the resolutions taken was to avoid moving in big vehicles and to use motorbikes.

2<sup>nd</sup> January 2025 Mrs. Sosin Revella Renowned National Faculty ANTHROPOLOGY 🔏 PERSONAL MENTORSHIP SosinIAS /////ACADEMY 99899 66744 / 90000 36699 www.sosinias.com Ashok Nagar X Road, Hyd-20 Contact for Advt. Booking: M/s Friends Publicity Service (M): 9212665841, 9212008155

C lassifieds

**EXPRESS EDUCATION** 

UPSC CSE

**ANTHROPOLOGY** 

ONLINE COURSE

Batch Starts on

City hospitals must be ready in case of surge in respiratory illnesses: Delhi govt on HMPV

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI. JANUARY 6

IN THE wake of two Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV) cases being detected in Karnataka, Delhi Health Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj Monday directed the health department to ensure hospitals are prepared as per the advice of the Union Health Ministry to handle any potential increase in respiratory illnesses.

He also instructed the Health Department to stay in touch with the Union Ministry to get timely updates about preparedness in the capital. "No need to delay action, bring issues to me immediately over (the) phone if directives (are) needed," he added.

He further instructed the health secretary to inspect three hospitals daily and submit reports to the department.

The health secretary has also been asked to report essential drug lists, medicine and Intensive Care Unit (ICU) bed availability, condition of equipment and pressure swing adsorption (PSA) plants, among others, daily.

The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) has also asked all chief district medical officers, medical directors and superintendents to ensure timely reporting of all influenza-like illnesses and severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) cases on the Integrated Health Information Platform of the Union Ministry of

Officials have been instructed to liaise with private hospitals in their respective districts to ensure proper reporting and treat-

"Ensure availability of the following: Paracetamol, anti-histamines, bronchodilators, cough syrups etc. for alleviating symptoms in mild cases; availability of oxygen and other support consumables," the directions added.

#### **ODISHA WOMAN RAPE CASE: CHARGESHEET FILED**

## GPS data, 700 CCTV clips used by cops to build case

**SAKSHI CHAND** 

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 6

LAST OCTOBER, a 34-year-old mentally ill woman from Odisha was found bleeding and wandering near Sarai Kale Khan in Southeast Delhi. Three men had chanced upon her on a road and allegedly raped her.

A team of officers then pieced together evidence to build their case. Relying on footage from 700 CCTVs, they reconstructed her route on the day of the crime -- from Sarai Kale Khan where she was found after police received a PCR call at 3.15 am on October 11 to Old Delhi Railway station where she exited the waiting hall at 10.14 am the previous day. Phone locations further put the accused at the

Police also gathered CCTV footage from other locations falling on the stretch --Kashmere Gate, police post at Red Fort, DCP office Daryaganj, Mahatma Gandhi Marg, Rajghat,

New Delhi railway station, Mathura Road, PWD headquarters, ITO building, and petrol/CNG pumps.

This extensive technical roadmap is among the major pieces of evidence that police put forward while filing the chargesheet in the case last month. The court has taken cognizance and the case is at the stage of scrutiny of documents. The Delhi Police will also file a supplementary chargesheet in the coming days.

The woman, meanwhile, continues to be under treatment at AIIMS. The three accused -auto driver Prabhu Mahto (28). scrap shop owner, Parmod (32), and a physically challenged beggar, Mohammad Shamsul (29) -- were arrested three weeks after the incident and continue to be in judicial custody.

According to police, Mahto was passing by in his vehicle on the night of October 10 when he saw two men assaulting the woman at ITO. He joined them. Police said after they were done,

Mahto took her to another location -- Sarai Kale Khan -- in his auto where he allegedly assaulted her again and abandoned her in a deserted area.

The chargesheet, which runs into over 400 pages, lists 32 witnesses. Twenty of them were policemen who had examined the victim, taken her to the hospital, jotted down her statement, and were a part of the team that arrested the accused men among other things. The auto-rickshaw used in

the crime, the blood-stained clothes of the victim, and the clothes the accused wore during the commission of the crime were some of the things that the police had recovered and are also on record in the chargesheet. Officers said the stains on the clothes of the accused matched those on the clothes of the vic-

Earlier, police had said it took them several days to gain the woman's trust before she revealed information about the as-

### Air pollution high in Delhi despite 71% reduction in farm fires: Report

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** 

DEEPER SYSTEMIC changes are required to cut the round-theyear emissions from a variety of sources in Delhi and the surrounding region, highlights the latest study by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) that underlines that the Capital has seen a surge in air pollution despite a decline in farm fires in Punjab and Haryana. Despite a 71.2% drop in stubble fire incidents between October and December last year, "the winter pollution remained high in the

Capital," as per the study. "There was a 37.5% drop in

recorded a 75% decline and Harvana farm fires reduced by 37%, the air pollution remained high in the city," read a statement by the CSE, highlighting the findings. The study, which was released on Monday, flagged an upward trend in the annual levels of fine particulate matter (PM 2.5), which is said to cause the largest health impacts globally, in 2024; a surge in pollution peak levels by 26%: and a notable decline in the number of good air quality days

among other findings. The study, authored by Anumita Roychowdhury, execu-

in Delhi in comparison with 2023,

2024 in the total annual fire tive director, research and advocounts in Delhi, Punjab, and cacy, CSE, and Sharanjeet Kaur, Harvana. Even though Puniab programme officer with CSE's Urban Lab, stated that the Capital's annual PM2.5 levels rose to 104.7 micrograms per cubic meter marking a 3.4% increase, compared to 2023.

"Delhi seems to be losing its air quality gains from past actions. Local and regional sources of pollution including vehicles, industries, open burning of waste, use of solid fuels, construction and dust sources have offset the gains -- undermining the longer term progress over the past decade," Roychowdhury has been quoted as saying in the official CSE statement giving details of the latest report.

## Woman's body found inside bed box, husband killed her over suspicion of affair

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, JANUARY 6

LASTWEEK, 24-year-old Deepa's mother — like she did every day — was out to feed the parrots close to her daughter's house, who lived nearby when she smelt something foul. As she got closer to Deepa's rented home in West Delhi's Janakpuri, she saw it was locked from outside. Tensed about the well-being of her daughter, she realised something was off. She called the police. The lock was broken, and as police searched the house, they found Deepa dead — inside the box of her bed, her mouth covered with duct tape. The body

had decomposed, and a few days had passed since the killing.

"On reaching the spot, a foul smell came out of the bedroom, which led to the discovery of the decomposed body," a police of-

Ashok Chauhan, Deepa's father, later told police her daughter's phone had been switched off since December 29. Her husband, Dhanraj, was missing. An FIR was registered and the needle of suspicion pointed towards the missing husband, who worked with a ride-hailing company, said officers. A search was launched to trace him.

With his arrest on Monday, officers said, police were able to connect the dots — he allegedly killed his wife because he suspected she was having an

"Dhanrai suspected that Deepa was having an affair with a 28-year-old man who worked with a delivery app. He taped her mouth and strangled her to death. He then put the body inside the bed box," the officer said. After allegedly killing her and locking the body in the bed cabinet, he fled.

Prima facie, it appears that Deepa was killed on January 1, 72 hours before the body was discovered, the official said.

After killing Deepika, Dhanrai allegedly went to his friend's house. While having alcohol with him, he admitted that he had killed his wife, said police.

"His friend revealed that Dhanraj had admitted to the murder. When Dhanraj learnt that his friend has been guestioned by the police, he contacted another friend and took his help to flee," the officer said,

Dhanraj was eventually ar-

rested from Karnal in Haryana. "Deepa and Dhanraj had been married for five years... their two-year-old child is currently living with his maternal uncle," DCP (Dwarka) Ankit Singh had earlier said.

The police are now questioning Dhanraj to get further details about the murder case.

gerprints so one has to look for

plain surfaces and smooth areas. The quality of fingerprints

also depends on atmospheric

conditions (dry or wet), articles

Devesh Srivastava, Special

on which they are found etc."

CP, Crime, said, "After imple-

mentation of new technology

many more cases are solved

through modern databases like

NAFIS and AFPIS. Since the in-

auguration of NAFIS in

September 2022 by the Home

Minister, searches have been

made on this system and a

large number of crimes have

been solved."

### Over 3 years, how oldest method of lifting fingerprints helped Delhi cops solve crime

**SAKSHICHAND** NEW DELHI, JANUARY 6

IN THE last three years, the number of cases that the Delhi Police solved with the help of its Finger Print Bureau (FPB) has increased. From 130 cases in 2022, the number stood at 257 last year.

The cases from 202 include 103 of burglary, 95 of unidentified dead bodies, 36 of theft, seven murders, and two rapes.

One such case was the murder of Swiss national Nina Berger last year. Berger, 36, was killed in Delhi on October 18 and her body was found two days later with her limbs tied with locked chains behind an MCD school in West Delhi.

The crime scene was examined and six chance prints were lifted; a search through the National Automated Fingerprint Identification System yielded no results. By then, police had a few suspects; the prints of one of them, a friend of the victim, were a match for four chance prints.

Established in 1987, the FPB is a specialised forensic unit



Fingerprint data of more than 5 lakh arrested/ convicted persons have been updated on the statelevel database. Credit: Komal

that provides infallible scientific evidence to investigation officers by comparing fingerprints obtained from crime scenes with existing records.

This helps identify potential suspects and establish connections between different criminal activities, said police.

Inspector Sudhir Bhalla, who has been working with the Bureau for the last 30 years, said with the introduction of NAFIS, the percentage of solving cases has increased. "NAFIS has databases of other states as well so the chances of finding a match are higher... Plus, if the accused was earlier in Delhi and is now arrested and lodged in prisons of other states, then that information is also available," Bhalla said. Located in the Kamla

in Central Delhi, the Bureau has a staff of 43 against a sanctioned strength of 77. The rest have either retired or quit. Sanjay Jha, Director of the

Market police station building

FPB, which functions under the Crime Branch, described the process of lifting prints. He said, "First, our experts reach the crime scene and look

for all possible locations where

there could be a fingerprint.

Rough surfaces don't yield fin-

"Fingerprint data of more than five lakh arrested/convicted persons have been updated on the state-level database i.e. AFPIS and the national database of NAFIS." he further

TRIPURA UNIVERSITY No.- F.TU/Teach-Rec/2025 EMPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION Date: 06.01.2025

ng up various vacant teaching positions of Tripura University The filling up of online application form will start from 9th January, 2025. Last date of Submission is 29th January, 2025. Details are available in the Tripura University website: <a href="https://www.tripurauniv.ac.in">www.tripurauniv.ac.in</a> and <a href="https://curec.samarth.ac.in">https://curec.samarth.ac.in</a> (NB:



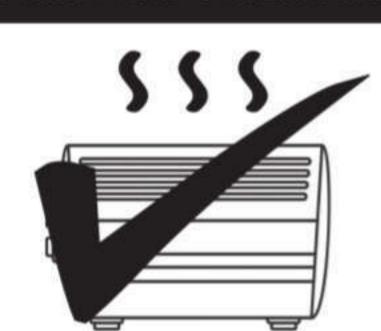


### KIND ATTENTION

RESIDENT WELFARE ASSOCIATIONS/BUILDERS/ PROJECT PROPONENTS/ NGOs/ CITIZENS

**AVOID OPEN BURNING AVOID AIR POLLUTION**  PROVIDE ELECTRIC HEATERS AND WARM CLOTHING TO **SECURITY AND OTHER STAFF** 





√ Avoid open burning of biomass & solid waste

Do not use coal and wood for heating purpose

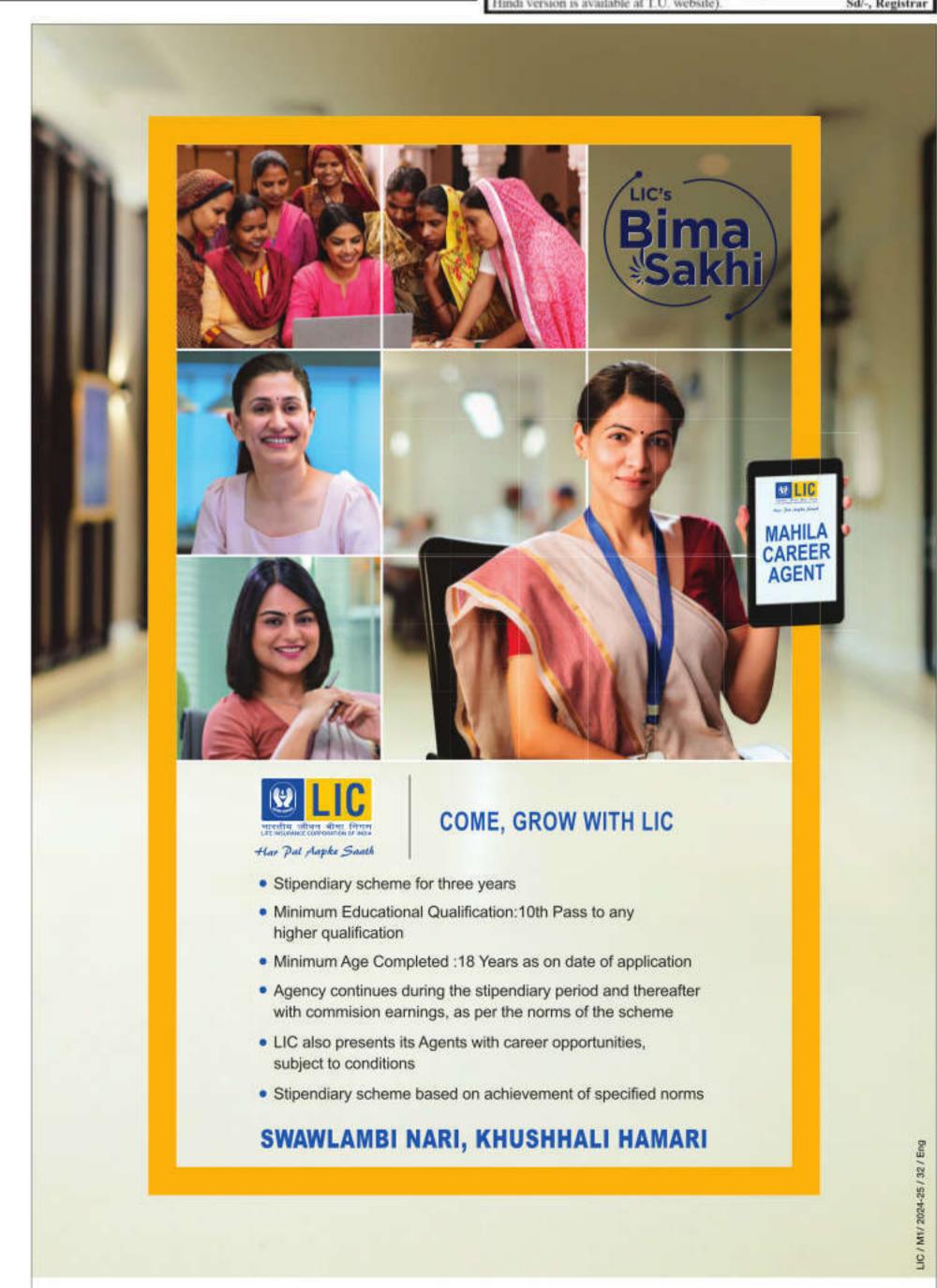
LET'S PROTECT OUR AIR TOGETHER!

**Delhi Pollution Control Committee** https://dpcc.delhigovt.nic.in

Scan OR code to Download Green Delhi App



epaper.indianexpress.com



For application, contact nearest LIC branch office or visit www.licindia.in

Follow us: 🛐 🔯 🔘 LIC India Forever | IRDAI Regn No.: 512

BEWARE OF SPURIOUS PHONE CALLS AND FICTITIOUS / FRAUDULENT OFFERS. IRDAI is not involved in activities like selling insurance policies, announcing bonus or investment of premiums. Public

receiving such phone calls are requested to lodge a police complaint. For more details on risk factors, terms and conditions, please read sales brochure carefully before concluding a sale

101-200 Moderate 201-300 Poor

Smog/moderate fog at most

### **MAX: 18**

SKYWATCH

January 7

#### FLAGS 'POLITICAL INTERFERENCE'

## **AAP** exerting pressure, says election officer

Atishi writes to CEC for another round of verification of voter deletion in New Delhi

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI. JANUARY 6

AHEAD OF the Assembly polls, the District Election Officer (DEO) of New Delhi Monday flagged concerns about "political interference" and "operational disruptions" as he claimed attempts by the AAP to "exert pressure" on him. DEO Sunny K Singh sought security measures to ensure smooth conduct of electoral duties. The ruling AAP, meanwhile, rejected the claims.

The New Delhi constituency will see AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal go up against BJP's Parvesh Verma and Congress's Sandeep Dikshit. Kejriwal has won three consecutive elections from the seat — in 2013, 2015, and 2020.

This development comes after the Election Commission released its revised voter list for Delhi, prompting political sparring. The AAP alleged "large-scale voter deletion fraud" is taking place in New Delhi constituency. The Delhi BIP, on the other hand, claimed AAP failed to "register fake voters" this time.

On Monday, Chief Minister Atishi wrote to the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and sought another round of verification of the voter deletions in New Delhi. In her letter, the CM said as per the rules, when deletion requests are more than 2%, then the ERO (election registration officer) has to personally verify each deletion request. "These rules have to be followed in this case as more than 2% votes are sought to be deleted in New Delhi. However, it is not being followed," the letter read.

The DEO, meanwhile, in a January 4 letter to Delhi's Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Alice Vaz wrote about multiple visits by AAP leaders — including party MPs Raghav Chadha and Sanjay Singh — to his office on December

21, 28 and 29, and January 3. "There have been attempts on

New Delhi: The BJP Monday al-

leged that the "real" cost of reno-

vation of AAP convenor Arvind

Keiriwal's official residence when

he was CM "remains unknown"

and the cost of items found at the

property must be included in the

CAG report. AAPMP Sanjay Singh

retaliated, alleging the BJP "lectur-

ing on corruption is like Osama

Sachdeva said, "The construction

of a house for the CM was far be-

yond the planned bungalow cat-

Delhi BJP chief Virendra

bin Laden preaching peace".

by asking for personal details of objectors and other such information that falls outside the purview of routine operations," he wrote.

He also flagged summons from CM Atishi. "The CM... has been calling me for meetings without a specified agenda... in the past, discussions regarding electoral rolls were held without prior notice," he wrote.

He also asked the Delhi CEO if he was allowed to attend meetings called by the ruling government "without a prior agenda".

Sunny K Singh, the District Magistrate also raised similar concerns in a letter to the Officer On Special Duty (OSD) to the Chief Minister, dated January 4, and requested that the meeting agenda be shared in advance.

Pointing out that issues regarding the electoral roll were discussed in the meeting, he wrote, "At 1.01 pm, a WhatsApp message from your office directed me to attend a meeting called by the CM at 2 pm. The agenda of the meeting has not been conveyed, making it difficult for me to come prepared."

Additional District Magistrate Nishant Bodh wrote to the area DCP, seeking police intervention to maintain order at the DEO's office. "Recently, several incidents of ruckus and intimidation have taken place, creating an atmosphere of tension and disrupting the smooth functioning of the DEO's duties," the letter stated. The AAP, meanwhile, said it

was an attempt to exert pressure. "Our leaders, CM Atishi, Raghav Chadha, and Sanjay Singh, have highlighted that the so-called petitioners (who submitted applications for voter deletion) have disowned any link to these applications. When will the Election Commission take note of this? Now, when the issue has been raised, they are trying to exert pressure by sending a backdated letter. This casts serious doubt on the Commission's impartiality," it said in a statement.

egory assigned to him... PWD in-

explicably declared this an emer-

gency project and issued the

work order on September 1, 2020,

while the rest of us were strug-

port comes in a sealed cover and

has not yet been tabled.

Meanwhile, the BJP is using

forged documents to push its

narrative. However, recent CAG

reports have exposed massive

corruption under BIP-ruled

states." ENS

Singh alleged: "The CAG re-

gling with impact of Covid..."

their part to exert pressure on me

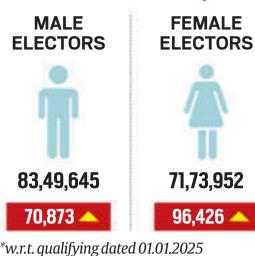
AAP-BJP tussle over Kejriwal's

official CM residence continues

### Assembly polls: Breaking down voters stats

Delhi's revised electoral roll has 1.55 crore voters, an addition of 1.67 lakh since Oct 29, 2024. Of this, 83.49 lakh are men and 71.73 lakh are women. The number of voters in the 18-19 age bracket stands at 2.08 lakh

#### Change in electoral roll between October and January



Category

PwD

**EP Ratio** 

Gender ratio

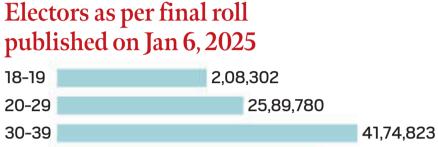
EPIC/PER

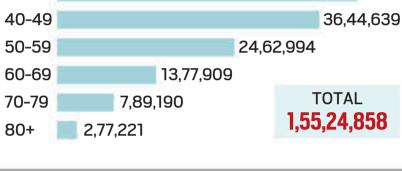
Total electors

Service voters





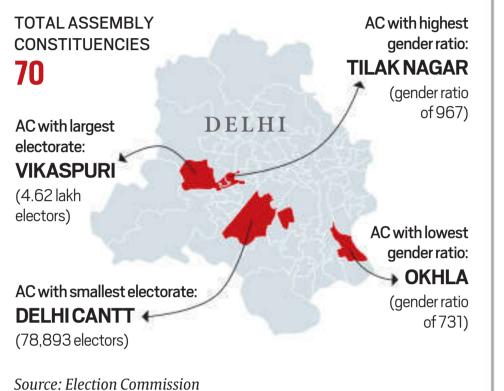






The Assembly polls are likely to be held in Feb. Archive

#### Biggest and smallest electorates



#### **AIMED AT DELHI'S WOMEN VOTERS**

### To counter AAP's cash sop, Congress offers own scheme

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, JANUARY 6

AHEAD OF the Delhi Assembly polls, Congress unveiled its first guarantee of a direct cash transfer scheme, Pyari Didi Yojana, that will provide a monthly allowance of Rs 2.500 to women. This is seemingly intended to counter the ruling AAP's Mukhyamantri Mahila Samman Yojana which promised Rs 2,100 a month.

Speaking to the press on Monday, AICC in-charge of Delhi, Qazi Nizamuddin, said, "The Congress is launching its first guarantee of social welfare and women empowerment today. People trust Congress and its leaders... Everyone remembers the false promises of the BJP, whether it is about promising Rs 15 lakh or providing employment to unemployed youth. Congress does not lie like the BJP."

Congress leaders also criticised the current governance in Delhi as the party pledged significant financial relief for women if voted to power. Delhi Congress Chief Devender Yadav said, "The compulsion of inflation will be removed, and women's expectations will be fulfilled with Rs 2,500. The money will be provided via direct bank transfer, just like it's being done in Karnataka. Be it Jharkhand, or in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, whatever elec-



Karnataka Deputy CM D K Shivakumar and Delhi Cong chief Devender Yadav

tion promises we had made, we fulfilled them. This is why people have full faith in the Congress."

Karnataka Congress Chief and Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, who was also present at the event, highlighted the schemes launched in his state when the Congress came to power, including a Rs 2,000 cash scheme for women.

"In Karnataka, we first launched the Gruh Jyoti Yojana to provide free power, followed by a cash scheme for which Priyanka Gandhi had asked me and (CM) Siddaramaiah to sign a cheque. A big Rs 2,000 cheque was distributed to every woman, and we assured them that in the first cabinet meeting, we would make decisions on these guarantees. After taking the oath, we passed all these programmes, and within three months, all the guarantees were being implemented," he added.

### 'Bidhuri seeking votes by abusing my father': CM Atishi breaks down

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, JANUARY 6

A DAY after BJP leader Ramesh Bidhuri's comments on Delhi Chief Minister Atishi and Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra sparked off a huge row, the CM Monday broke down at a press conference while objecting strongly to Bidhuri's remarks on her father.

On Sunday, Bidhuri, while referring to the Delhi CM's decision to stop using her surname 'Marlena', said during a public address in Rohini's Japanese Park, "Marlena has become Singh... She has changed her father. She was Marlena earlier, but has become Singh now." The former South Delhi MP, who is now contesting against Atishi and Congress's Alka Lamba from Kalkaji in the upcoming Delhi Assembly elections, was speaking before Prime Minister Narendra Modi started his address at an event to launch development projects.

Asked about Bidhuri's comments, Atishi said on Monday, "My father is a teacher. He has taught several children from economically weaker sections. He is 80 years old; he is unwell... can't walk without support. Is this the level that you will stoop to to win an election? Will you





Praveen Khanna start abusing an elderly man? I could never have imagined that this country's political discourse would stoop to such a low level."

She further said, "Ramesh Bidhuri ji has been an MP from Delhi for 10 years. He should tell the people of Delhi what he did for the people of his constituency. He should show that his work in 10 years is better than mine in the

Abhinav Saha CM Atishi tears up during a presser, Monday; (top) Ramesh Bidhuri's residence

was targeted for his

past five years. He should seek votes based on the work he has done, instead he is seeking votes by abusing my elderly father."

'anti-women' comments.

On Monday, Delhi BJP media department head Praveen Shankar Kapoor in a statement said political leaders should refrain from making "personal gender-related or family-related

comments" against others. He, however, added that "Atishi Marlena", while seeking an apology from Bidhuri, should ponder on the issue and "come forward and condemn her father for supporting Afzal Guru..."

### **SAMAN HUSAIN**

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 6

MARKED BY the 2020 riots, and by its diverse demography, comprising significant Purvanchali, Muslim, Dalit and OBC populations, Northeast Delhi is seeing a rash of regional outfits like the Asaduddin Owaisi-led AIMIM, Mayawati's BSP and Nitish Kumar's JD(U) try their luck for the coming Assembly polls.

AIMIM, which will make its debut in the Delhi Assembly polls, has fielded former AAP councillor Tahir Hussain from Mustafabad, which falls under Northeast Delhi and was hit by the riots. The party's Delhi unit chief,

Shoaib Jamai, said AIMIM is planning to contest 10-12 seats where Muslim population holds significant sway. "Discussions are on regarding multiple constituencies. We will likely field candidates from those seats where Muslims make up 30% of the electorate, but those seats where the community makes 25% of votes are also under consideration. However, our prime focus is on areas in Northeast Delhi. Our second list is likely to be out in the next few

days," he told *The Indian Express*. The Northeast Delhi Lok Sabha seat comprises 10 Assembly segments, of which AAP won seven

while three of the BIP's eight seats came from the region.

Riots and demography in mind,

small parties focus on NE Delhi

AIMIM's move to nominate Hussain, who was expelled from AAP after being named as an accused in the riots, has triggered strong reactions from his former party, which claimed it could "benefit BJP". Jamai defended the move and claimed it was a "symbolic gesture". "AAP nominated Naresh Yadav (he was later replaced by Mahender Chaudhary), who was convicted in a

Quran desecration case but Tahir, who was only accused in the riots, was expelled. This speaks a lot about the party. We will raise this 'two-faced' nature of AAP during the campaign," he said.

Alluding to Owaisi's "haqq and izzat (rights and respect)" comment during a recent rally at New Mustafabad, Jamai said the party's campaign will re-

**DECISION** 

volve around it. Unlike AIMIM, BSP has been contesting the Delhi Assembly polls since 1993 and fielded candidates in all 70 seats the past four times, and is planning to do so again. In 2008, it had won two seats — Badarpur and Gokalpur with a vote share of around 14%. But since then, its electoral fortunes have been on the decline with the party securing just 0.71%

of the votes in the 2020 polls. Nevertheless, in 2015, BSP

candidates played spoilsport as they garnered more votes than the victory margins in 17 seats four of them located in Northeast Delhi, including Gokalpur. Delhi BSP president

Lakshman Singh, said it was "too early" to announce candidates "However, aspirants are currently being interviewed. Some fresh faces are also in the mix. One can

say Northeast Delhi is a focal point but we are going to fight elections with our

full might," he said. Keeping the significant chunk of Purvanchali voters in mind, Bihar-based JD(U) is keen on throwing its hat in the ring and has

accused AAP of not doing enough for Purvanchalis during the pandemic, the issue around which it is expected to build its campaign. "We're in talks (over seat-sharing) with BJP... While we are hopeful of getting seats like Palam and Badarpur too, our focus will be on Northeast Delhi,

JD(U) working president Sanjay Iha told *The Indian Express*. In 2020, it contested from Sangam Vihar and Burari, both with significant Purvanchali base

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

and secured 28% and 23% of votes

#### ACCUSED IN DELHI RIOTS CASE, FORMER INU STUDENT WAS OUT ON 7-DAY INTERIM BAIL

## Family savours week with Umar Khalid: Sleep, home food & Campa Cola

**NIRBHAY THAKUR** 

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 6

IT WAS Umar Khalid's second visit home since he was jailed four years ago in the "larger conspiracy" case related to the 2020 Delhi riots. And it was a visit that left the 37-year-old former INU student leader's family in that twilight zone between worry and hope.

"He seemed a bit weak this time. All of us noticed that," Syed Qasim Rasool Ilyas told *The Indian Express* at their home in Jamia Nagar, hours after his son's seven-day interim bail to attend a relative's wedding ended on January 3.

"There was some weight loss... There was also the anxiety and excitement of interim bail," said Banojyotsna Lahiri, a Delhibased researcher and Khalid's close friend, speaking to this newspaper over the phone.

But then, both are hopeful, too. From someone who was anxious and disturbed two years

ago. Ilvas said he saw a changed man in Khalid this time. "This time, he's optimistic that he will get bail soon. He thinks the fake charges against him can't go on forever," the father said with a smile while sipping tea.

"We know this will be over soon. We all are optimistic," said Banojyotsna. She added that despite the weight loss, "he is doing fine".

Khalid's imprisonment in the riots case has been controversial, with his family and supporters calling the charges "fake" even as the prosecution has described him in the chargesheet as a "veteran of sedition" mainly in reference to his alleged remarks as an activist.

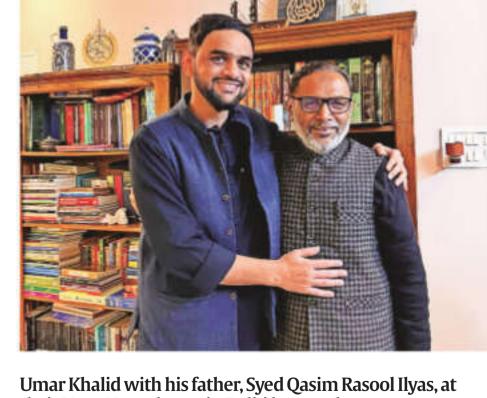
Khalid, along with others, is facing allegations of a "larger conspiracy" to allegedly cause the riots in Northeast Delhi between February 23 and 25, 2020, which left 53 people dead and over 700 injured. He has been booked for offences under the Indian Penal Code, Prevention of Damage to Public Property (PDPP) Act, Arms Act and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

Khalid's bail pleas have been rejected thrice — twice by the Karkardooma court and once by Delhi High Court. Khalid was granted interim bail once before – on December 23, 2022 – for a week.

"How can staying in a cage for four years be easy for someone who loves being out in public all the time... He was savouring every ray of sunlight. It was as if he had returned to the city from a cave in a jungle... he was so happy to have escaped the dark and entered the light," Ilyas said about his son.

For Khalid's mother, meanwhile, his brief return was also about preparing the food he likes. "She cooked non-vegetarian food for him every day... he's very fond of mutton. His friends got burgers, pizzas and cakes for him. He also likes cold drinks a lot," Ilvas said, adjusting his spectacles.

But the activist's father had



their Noor Nagar home in Delhi last week. Express

his own red lines, too. Ilyas is a critic of the US and Israel, and avoids Pepsi and Coca-Cola. The fridge was, therefore, full of Campa Cola. "Khalid has never been fussy about food. He can survive even on dal and roti... but you know how it is in jail... you

get watery dal... I wish he was allowed home-cooked food inside," Ilyas said.

Apart from food, the family was also happy that Khalid could get "sound sleep for six hours every day". "In jail, he would sleep on the floor with cold winds enconditions, Khalid could only meet family members, relatives

tering his cell," said Ilyas.

According to the interim bail

and friends, and had to remain at home "or at places where the ceremonies of marriage as mentioned by him will take place". He was also barred from using social media. However, Ilyas said "these restrictions were moderate com-

pared to those imposed when he was last granted interim bail two years ago". "He was just confined to the house. He couldn't sleep without medication," the father recalled.

Khalid's time in Tihar has also been taxing in other ways, said Ilyas. "There is a conception among others in jail that my son is a terrorist. It is not easy to convince them otherwise... But whenever any prisoner has court-related queries or difficulties comprehending English, they seek his help. Some of the money we send to Khalid, he donates to the poorer prisoners," said Ilvas.

Ilvas and his wife prefer video-calls — three every week — than travelling to Tihar to see their son. Seeing his hazy image behind the glass after hours of travelling affects them emotionally, said Ilyas. "Tihar has so many restrictions, too," he said.

Regarding the family wedding, Ilvas said updates about guests were conveyed to Khalid over video call. "Khalid's sisters came from the UAE and London to meet him... many relatives travelled from Mumbai and Nagpur just to see him," Ilyas said.

The family, meanwhile, had a message for all those well-wishers and supporters who wanted to meet him, according to Ilyas: "Leave Umar for his family."

He added, "Other than his relatives, only his close friends, including those from JNU, got the opportunity to spend the week with him. His friends have been very supportive."

would just laugh. We tried to

Banojyotsna, too, referred to those moments. "Every day, a few friends would gather and we

As he left home Friday evening, Ilyas said all Khalid took with him was a small bag with clothes, especially kurtas and pyjamas. "He donates so many of his clothes," he said. Finally, turning to the case

keep the mood light," she said.

against Khalid, Ilyas knows what his son is up against. The dates when Khalid's bail was argued are on his fingertips and the reasons for adjournment are etched in memory. He also remembers arguments of the defence and the prosecution. But what he recalls most clearly are the allegations against his son, which he calls "absurd". "There are hundreds of wit-

nesses... The trial might even take 10 years. Let's say an acquittal takes place. The people who spent years in jail would have already lost their social identity and real lives by then," he said. According to Banojyotsna, in-

terim bail "is a difficult thing". "A week gets over in two days and the pain that follows feels like it lasts forever," she said.

#### Govt notifies appointment of 2 HC judges

New Delhi: The Centre on Monday notified the appointment of two advocates as judges of the Delhi High Court (HC).

A Supreme Court Collegium, headed by former CJI D Y Chandrachud, had recommended the elevation of three advocates — Digpaul, Shankar and Shwetasree Majumder — as Delhi HC judges on August 21, last year. Majumder's recommendation has not been notified by the Centre.

**PAVNEETSINGH CHADHA** 

POLICE ON Monday booked

prominent Goan writer and

Sahitya Akademi awardee Datta

Damodar Naik on charges of hurt-

ing religious sentiments after re-

ceiving complaints that he la-

belled temple priests "looters" in

Naik (70), who is also a busi-

According to police, one com-

nessman, said he is a "staunch

atheist" and is not scared by the

plaint was filed at Canacona po-

lice station by Satish Bhat, who al-

leged that in an interview to a

regional news channel, Naik made

derogatory remarks about Shree

Samsthan Gokarn Partagali

Ieevottam Math, which is in

"In an interview, Naik referred

to temple priests as dacoits and

looters. In our culture, we respect

everyone's opinion, whether

someone is an atheist or not. But

through these remarks, he has de-

liberately hurt religious sentiments and insulted our culture."

Bhat told *The Indian Express*.

critics': Patnaik

joins stir against

'Message to

price rise

**SUJIT BISOYI** 

JANUARY 6

BHUBANESWAR,

ASTHE results of last year's

assembly polls continued

to cast its long shadows

over his party, BJD presi-

dent took to the streets of

Bhubaneswar Monday to

protest the rising prices un-

der the Mohan Majhi-led

years, Patnaik lashed out at

the "double-engine" BJP governments at the Centre

and the state, saying that the

Majhi government had "no control over the market"

and was in "deep slumber"

even as the price of essential commodities skyrock-

eted. The rally comes at a

time when the party's poor showing at last year's

Assembly polls and its rele-

gation to principal

Opposition party after being

24 years in power appears

to set it on shaky grounds, sparking an exodus within

the party. The party was re-

duced to 51 MLAs in the

147-member House, a significant downgrade from

"In the seven months of BJP's rule in Odisha, people

have only heard long

speeches, but no action is being taken to control the

price rise. The government

claims to be a people's gov-

ernment but it seems it has

no concern towards their well-being," Patnaik told

the rally. The BIP has assumed power by making

false promises to the peo-

ple, he said. "The BJP showed a rosy picture in

the trailer but when the

film released — the MM (Mohan Majhi) Sarkar is like Mahanga Mada (price rise) sarkar," said Patnaik.

"Double engine... double mada (blow)... hitting peo-

ple from two sides—price

Patnaik that the rally is significant: this is also the first

such public agitation

against the state government for the BID in over

two decades. Party insiders

said the rally was a "show of strength", with Patnaik's

presence aimed at boost-

ing workers' morale.

But it isn't just for

rise and the GST."

the 113 it won in 2019.

Speaking at his first protest rally in the last eight

BJP government.

Partagali, South Goa.

PANAJI, JANUARY 6

a recent interview.

development.

### High Court flags crevasses, landslide risks in Bageshwar, suspends soapstone mining

**AISWARYARAJ** DEHRADUN, JANUARY 6

Sahitya Akademi awardee booked

for 'hurting religious sentiments'

**Datta Damodar Naik** 

Another complaint was

lodged at Panaji police station on

Saturday by Jayesh Thali from

Gomantak Mandir Mahasangh

and Religious Institutions

Federation. The complaint al-

leged that Naik committed a

grave offence by labelling the

"Bhat-Purohit" (priests) as "loot-

ers". "While belief in God is a

personal matter, making such

public statements branding

priests, temples and monaster-

ies as looters is an offence under

the law as it hurts religious sen-

timents and has led to social un-

lodged under BNS section 299

(deliberate and malicious acts that

are intended to insult or outrage

the religious feelings of any class

Police said an FIR has been

rest," the complaint read.

No./COA/2024-25/2046

report and the photographs CALLING IT ironic that trained ofclearly demonstrate complete ficers have permitted mining oplawlessness by the miners and are erations at the base of a hillock proof of local administration turnwhen there are habitations in reving a blind eye to the transgresenue villages at the top, the sion. Further, the report and the Uttarakhand HC Monday susphotographs, prima facie, demonpended all mining operations in strate that further mining opera-Bageshwar until further orders. tions... are likely to result in landslides and definite loss of lives," The decision was taken after court-appointed commissioners said the order. submitted a report on soapstone

The report states that there

of citizens) and an investigation

am a staunch atheist and I have

been in public life for several years.

At a recent event... I said that tem-

ple priests looted money from

people... Later, I clarified that I

meant to say they 'extracted'

money... It is true, temples are ex-

tracting money. I questioned what

was built with this money? Have

they built any schools, hospitals?

police complaint had been

lodged against him. "I do not

know whether it has been con-

verted to an FIR. Anyway, I am not

scared. What will they do? Arrest

me? I have the freedom to ex-

press my opinion and I am not

afraid. What about my senti-

ments as an atheist? The space

for rational thinking and dialogue

Marathi and English. He won the

Sahitya Akademi award in

Konkani in 2006 for his collection

of essays, Jai Kai Jui. In the early

1990s, he founded Samata

Andolan, a group for rationalists

Date: 06 January, 2025

Naik has written in Konkani,

is shrinking," he said.

from across Goa.

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU KRISHI VISHWA VIDYALAYA,

JABALPUR (M.P.)-482004

CORRIGENDUM

With reference to Advertisement No./IPRO/COA/2024/87 dated

19.12.2024 for walk in Interview for the post of Research Associate- RS &

GIS (SI. No. 2), Senior Research Fellow-RS & GIS (SI. No. 4) in the project

entitled "Development of Climate, resilient. Bio-fortified HYV of Paddy for

Madhya Pradesh in collaboration with IRRI " has been postponed due to some representations. Interview for the post of Research Associate (RS &

GIS) & SRF (RS & GIS) will be conducted later and shall be updated on

He said he was aware that a

Where is all this money going?"

Naik told The Indian Express, "I

has been initiated.

"The report is not merely

alarming but is also shocking. The

were alarming levels of land subsidence and "soapstone mining in the region is leading to critical environmental and socio-economic issues for which the community is at the receiving end".

The court said photographs indicate huge crevasses, indicating impending landslides that could lead to the loss of many lives. "Hence, pending further orders, all mining operations in Bageshwar district shall stand suspended with immediate effect," the court said.

The report also said that there was illegal tree felling, unauthorised use of forest land by mine operators, employment of foreign labour from Nepal and flouting of labour laws. It also pointed to pollution and drying up of springs. The issue of land subsidence was found in villages of Kanda-Kanyal,

Kanda and other mining sites. As per a report submitted in the NGT by Centre, the area's flora includes oak, cedar and cypress, and the wildlife includes leopard, wild boar, and fox.

#### **CCI ANTI-TRUST PROBE**

### SC transfers pleas against Amazon, Flipkart to HC

*New Delhi:* The Supreme Court Monday transferred all petitions pending before various courts against the antitrust probe by the Competition Commission of India (CCI) into the activities of e-commerce majors Amazon and Flipkart to the Karnataka High Court where a single-judge

bench is hearing similar pleas. On being informed that five more petitions on the matter have been filed before high courts after CCI moved the Supreme Court, the bench of Justices A S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan directed that they, too, be transferred to the Karnataka High Court.

CCI had ordered a probe into alleged malpractices by Flipkart and Amazon India in January 2020 on a complaint by MSME body Delhi Vyapar Mahasangh. The body claimed that the retail-

क्रमांक 04/ एस.डब्लू.एम/न.नि/य्वा.

जनसंपर्क RO क्रमांक 9

एन.आई.टी. क्र.

ers were engaged in deep discounting and preferred selling mobile phones and related accessories "which have led to a foreclosure of other non-preferred traders or sellers from these online marketplaces". The firms challenged this be-

single judge and a divisionbench turned down their prayer. On appeal, the Supreme Court refused to interfere with the high court order. In its probe, which concluded

fore the Karnataka HC where a

in August 2024, CCI found the ecommerce companies violated local competition laws.

Subsequently, petitions were filed before different high courts, including Karnataka, by sellers associated with the e-commerce giants, challenging various aspects of the CCI probe.

SC: Can't acquit

2002 MURDER OF TWO RSS/VHP WORKERS

solely because of faulty probe

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, JANUARY 6

STATING THAT an accused cannot seek acquittal solely on faulty investigation, the Supreme Court on Monday dismissed an appeal against the April 12, 2011, Kerala High Court judgment upholding the conviction of five men for murdering two RSS/VHP workers.

"On appreciation of the evidence, we are unable to find any fault with the judgment and order dated 12.04.2011 passed by the High Court of Kerala at Ernakulam in Criminal Appeal...Accordingly, we arrive at the conclusion that the present appeal deserves to be dismissed," a bench of Justices Sudhanshu Dhulia and Prasanna B Varale ruled.

The Supreme Court also pulled up the Kerala Police for not investigating the case property but added that the accused cannot take benefit of that, especially so when there is enough evidence to nail the guilt of the

"A cumulative reading of the entire evidence on record suggests that the investigation has not taken place in a proper and disciplined manner. There are 4 was "honest, truthful, and various areas where a proper in-

vestigation could have strengthened its case.... the principle of law is crystal clear that on the account of defective investigation. the benefit will not inure to the accused persons on that ground

alone," the apex court ruled.

"It is well within the domain

of the courts to consider the rest of the evidence which the prosecution has gathered such as the statement of the eyewitnesses, medical report, etc. It has been a consistent stand of this court that the accused cannot claim acquittal on the ground of faulty investigation done by the prosecuting agency. As the version of eyewitnesses in specifically naming the appellants have been consistent throughout the trial, we find that there is enough corroboration to drive home the guilt of the accused persons,'

said the judgment. Though the counsel for the accused alleged material contradictions in the testimonies given by the prosecution witnesses, particularly the eyewitnesses, the court said "though there is a variance in the statements of the witnesses, it is minor and not of such a nature which would drive their testimony untrustworthy". It said that the deposition of prosecution witnesses 1, 2 and

Lokpal disposes of corruption plaint against former CJI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, JANUARY 6

THE ANTI-CORRUPTION ombudsman Lokpal has disposed of a complaint alleging corruption against former Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud for being "barred by jurisdiction", according to an official order.

A complaint was filed on October 18, 2024, "against the sitting Chief Justice of India (CJI) as on that date, for alleged abuse of office, amounting to corruption and malicious exercise of power to favour and protect a certain politician and political party", it said.

CJI Chandrachud demitted office on November 10.

The Lokpal examined in detail if a sitting CJI or a Supreme Court judge was amenable to its jurisdiction under Section 14 of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act and decided to "eschew from dilating upon the diverse allegations contained in this complaint running into 382 pages".

"...we dispose of this complaint as being barred by jurisdiction, said the order by Lokpal chairperson Justice A M Khanwilkar and five other members.

The order said the complainant was free to pursue other

remedies, as permissible in law. "We may not be understood to have expressed any opinion on the merits of the allegations, one way or the other including about the maintainability of the legal remedies to be resorted to

by the complainant," it added.

### म्या. दिनांकः 03/01/2025 दिनांक : 06-01-2025 संभावित राशि पूर्णता अवधि 3,27,00,000/- 30 दिन

, इच्छक बोली दाता वेबसाइट http://gmc.mptenders.gov.in पर एनआईटी देख सकते हैं। 2. एनआईटी में संशोधन यदि कोई होता है, तो केवल, वेबसाइट पर प्रकाशित किया जावेगा और समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित नहीं होगा। नोडल अधिकारी, एस.बी.एम./एस.डब्ल्.एम., नगर निगम ग्वालियर

नियम 92 (1) (क) (ii))

ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना का प्रारूप

मध्यप्रदेश शासन,

Supply of 3.3 Cubic metre capacity

Four Wheeler CNG Closed Garbage Tipper- 30 Nos. of make TATA/

MAHINDRA BOLERO/ASHOK LEYLAND

of equivalent chassis and as per

attached Technical Specifications.

Registration of Vehicle from RTO Gwalior

MP Minimum One Year Zero

Depreciation and Comprehensive ins

urance of each Vehicle from reputed

under warranty Vehicle Service at relevant

Company Service Centre at Gwalior

(Minimum 03 Services per vehicle in one

year) File No. 135/24x2/10 1st Call

नगर पालिक निगम ग्वालियर

ਸ਼ਰ: 10:30

04.01.2025

03.02.2025





Dean, College of Agriculture, JNKVV, Jabalpur





बिहार लोक प्रशासन एवं ग्रामीण विकास संस्थान BIHAR INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT Hosts

Mission Karmayogi Workshop for CTIs, State ATIs & State Governments

07th January 2025

**Chief Guest** 

Mr. Adil Zainulbhai

Chairman, Capacity Building Commission

Representatives of CTIs, State ATIs & Secretaries/ Principal Secretaries from across the States

Mission Karmayogi, envisioned by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, aims to transform civil servants by shifting their approach from rule-based to role-based public service delivery.

This workshop will bring together CTIs, State ATIs along with Secretaries/ Principal Secretaries from across the states. It will play a pivotal role in :-

- Disseminating knowledge
- Driving Mission Karmayogi's implementation at the state level.

# **BIPARD CAMPUS, GAYA (BIHAR)** 07th Jan 2025

Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/PS, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites bids through e-Auction through IREPS (https://ireps.gov.in/) for the allotment of Automated Teller Machine/Digital Banking Unit/ Banking e-Lobby Contracts, at following Railway stations/locations:

**NORTHERN RAILWAY** 

(E-Auction Notice)

E-Catalogue No.	Date & Time of bidding	Railway Stations/Locations/Sites
DLI-ATM-01- 2025	20.01.2025 at 11.00 Hrs.	Vivek Vihar (VVB)-1, Anand Vihar (ANVT-1), Nizamuddin (NZM-1), Karainthi (KHV-1), Delhi Shahdara (DSA-3), Tilak Bridge (TKJ) - 2 Sites), Shivaji Bridge (CSB) - 2 Sites, Samar Gopalpur (SMF)-1, Kinana (KIU)-1, Julana (JNA)-1, Nilokheri (NLKR)-1

All bidders who intend to participate in the e-auctions conducted through E-Auction Leasing module of

IREPS should fulfil following mandatory requirements before they can submit their bids: Registration on IREPS for E-Auction Leasing module - Active IREPS User Account for E-Auction Leasing Module. Payment of One Time Registration Fee; Current Account in State Bank of India; Integration of SBI Bank

Account with IREPS Account; Lien Marking of Funds; Updation of Turnover Details A new mechanism namely Virtual Account Number (VAN) has been introduced now for E-Auction Leasing module, which can be used by the bidders as an alternative to Lien Marking Mechanism.

 The bidders are free to switch between Lien Marking Mechanism (if activated) and VAN mechanism at any point of time, before entering the bidding room. VAN mechanism does not require the bidder to have a current account in State Bank of India. The users are free to transfer money from any of their existing bank accounts in any bank to their VAN account, which enables them to participate in IREPS E-Auctions.

Contractors who do not have IREPS account for any module of IREPS can submit their online request for registration by clicking on New Vendors / Contractors (E-Tender /E-Auction Leasing) link on IREPS Home page. Railway Authority to contact, in case of any query: Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Commercial Branch, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055. Email: publicitycelldli@gmail.com, Tel: 011-23743084 No.: 3PUB/ATM/DLI-DIV/E-auction/2022 Date: .01.2025

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is to inform the general public that Radhika Heights Limited, Radicura Infra Limited, Cabana Construction Private Limited, Nirmala Buildwell Private Limited, Sunanda Infra Limited (Companies), have revoked the General Power of Attorney dated 10.12.2019, executed by them in favour of Bestech India Pvt Ltd., 51, Sector-44, Gurgaon, Haryana alongwith its Directors, Mr. Dharmendra Bhandari r/o A 126 Sushant Lok, Gurugram, Haryana and Shri Sunil Satija, r/o A 125 Sushant Lok, Gurugram, Haryana ('Attorney') and registered at the office of Sub registrar, Harsaru, Haryana, under Vasika number 40 on 12.02.2020.

The aforesaid General Power of Attorney is no longer valid and stands cancelled vide Revocation/ Cancellation of General Power of Attorney registered vide Vasika No. 151 dated 02.01.2025 at the office of Sub Registrar, Harsaru, Haryana and aforesaid Attorney is no longer authorized to act, represent, or make decisions on behalf of Companies regarding any matters covered under the aforementioned General Power of Attorney.

The general public and all concerned parties are warned to take note of this cancellation/ revocation. Any transactions or actions undertaken by Attorney on behalf of Companies, post cancellation of aforementioned General Power of Attorney will not be binding on aforesaid Companies and they shall not be held responsible for any such acts.

On behalf of Radhika Heights Limited, Radicura Infra Limited, Cabana Construction Private Limited, Nirmala Buildwell Private Limited, Sunanda Infra Limited.

Date: 06.01.2025

**VIVEK BHANDARI** 

**ADVOCATE PUNJAB AND HARYANA** HIGH COURT CHAMBER NO. 27

Ph: +91-7814447555 | 0172-25444000 Email: bhandari\_bharat@aol.com

# GOVT & POLITICS

## How \$1 million prize for deciphering Indus Valley script Ahead of first train is a chapter in Stalin government's 'Dravidian' narrative to Kashmir, PM

EXPLAINED

**ARUN JANARDHANAN** CHENNAI, JANUARY 6

TAMIL NADU Chief Minister M K

Stalin's offer of a \$1 million prize for anyone who deciphers the Indus Valley script serves a purpose beyond solving the lingering mystery regarding the 5,000year-old civilization. The announcement on the

back of a study by the state Archaeological Department showing many similarities between the signs and graffiti found in Indus Valley and those discovered during digs in Tamil Nadu bolsters attempts by Stalin to recast himself as an upholder of "Dravidian interests" — and to position himself and his party as a staunch opponent of the BJP and its ideology.

Authored by researcher K Rajan, and R Sivananthan of the Tamil Nadu State Department of Archaeology, the study 'Indus Signs And Graffiti Marks of Tamil

B'DAY PREPARATIONS

SAMAJWADI PARTY workers and leaders in Mainpuri and

Kannauj have started preparations for the birthday of MP

Dimple Yadav on January 15. While Dimple prefers to keep it

simple, party workers are planning 'havans', blanket distribu-

tion, and cake cutting at party offices in both the districts.

Dimple is now the second-time MP from Mainpuri and has

grown in stature over the years with her becoming more ac-

tive in public life. Some of her followers are even planning to

get cakes from a popular bakery in Lucknow. The design of

DEDICATED TO DR SINGH

HYDERABAD'S SECOND longest flyover has been named after

former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh. The flyover spanning over 4.5 km between Zoo Park and Aramghar was inau-

gurated and opened to the public by Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Monday. Hyderabad's longest flyover —

11-km Expressway — is named after former Prime Minister

3 HMPV cases confirmed,

Govt says 'virus not new'

the cake is still being discussed, it is learnt.

PV Narasimha Rao.

New Delhi: The Indian Council of

Medical Research (ICMR)

Monday confirmed three cases

of human metapneumovirus

(HMPV) — two in Karnataka and

one in Gujarat — even as the

Union Health Ministry said the

virus was "not new" and there

was detected in a 3-month old

girl and an 8-month old boy who

were being treated at the Baptist

In Karnataka, the infection

was "no reason to worry".

Nadu – A Morphological Study' involved documentation, digitisation and categorisation of over 15,000 graffiti-bearing pot shards from 140 archaeological sites across Tamil Nadu. These were then compared against 4,000 artefacts recovered from Indus Valley sites, including seals.

As per the study, 42 'base signs', 544 'variants' and 1,521 'composite forms' were identified at the Tamil Nadu sites. "Out of 42 base signs and their variants, nearly 60% found parallels in the Indus script," the authors wrote. Furthermore, "more than 90% of the graffiti marks of South India and the graffiti marks of the Indus Valley Civilisation had parallels".

The researchers explicitly state that theirs is a "morphological approach" and not linguistic, focusing on physical comparisons, with their observation being that the Indus script may not have disappeared but evolved into different forms. "Extensive

comparative study of graffiti marks and Indus scripts... suggests that both are undeciphered signs," the authors wrote.

The key excavation sites in Tamil Nadu where the researchers focused were Keeladi, Sivagalai and Thulukarpatti. As per the study,

Thulukarpatti alone yielded nearly 5,000 graffiti marks, while in Keeladi, just southeast of Madurai, hundreds of inscribed pot shards were found. These included carnelian beads, agate, black and red ware, and high-tin bronze objects.

The occurrence of identical graffiti marks at Indus Valley and South India sites, the study says, suggest a cultural contact between them. The study also says that recent chronometric dates indicate that when the Indus Valley was going through the Copper Age, South India was in the Iron Age (that is, a more advanced period).

"In this sense, the Iron Age of South India and the Copper Age of Indus are contemporary. If both

there is a possibility of cultural exchanges either through direct or intermediate zones," the study says, adding that more material proof and tangible data were needed to support the view.

are contemporary,

How does it fit into Tamil Nadu govt's larger plank?

In 2019, a DMK governmentsupported advanced carbon dating of Keeladi artefacts concluded that the Tamil Brahmi script dates back to 600 BCE, much earlier than the previously accepted date of 300 BCE. The Stalin government has claimed that the Keeladi excavations hence narrow the gap between the Indus Valley Civilization and Tamil Nadu settlements.

The dating of the scripts was

surrounded by a row as the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) had earlier not proceeded with the advanced carbon-dating tests, with an ASI researcher who initiated the study transferred out of the state.

TUdhayachandran, the Tamil Nadu Finance Secretary who is also in-charge of the state Archaeological Department, is a key face behind the Stalin government's push for these digs. However, the preceding AIADMK government had also persisted in this in the face of alleged dragging of feet by the ASI.

Proof that civilization developed in the South parallelly with Indus Valley counters the dominant Aryan-centric narrative of the subcontinent's history – particularly when the BJP dispensation has put its weight behind the theory that Aryans were not "outsiders".

Two years ago, before he launched the study that has come out with its findings now,

Stalin said in the Assembly that his party's goal was to establish, through scientific methods, that the history of India be rewritten from the Tamil land. He then announced the state Archaeology Department would begin work on a comparative study of graffiti found in Keeladi and the signs of the Indus Valley Civilization.

On Sunday, while talking about the findings of the study, he tied it to broader symbols of Tamil identity, particularly linking Indus Valley seals with the image of the bull to the Tamil tradition of bull-taming sports like Jallikattu.

"There were bulls in the Indus Valley. Bulls are Dravidian symbols. Bulls spread from the Indus Valley to Alanganallur (a village near Madurai famous for Jallikattu). Ancient Tamil literature has rich references to bulltaming sport and one of the Indus Valley seals has impressions of a man trying to tame a bull," Stalin said.

# launches Railway division for Jammu

**ARUN SHARMA** JAMMU, JANUARY 6

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi Monday virtually inaugurated the Jammu Division of Indian Railways — a move that fulfils a long-pending demand from the region. This comes weeks before the Modi government launches the first direct train service to Kashmir in six decades.

Modi, who described the move as a "monumental step", inaugurated the division through a video link as part of a series of new Indian Railway projects. The new Jammu Division, which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is the Indian Railways' 70th overall and the sixth under Northern Railways after Ambala, Delhi, Lucknow, Moradabad and Firozpur.

The inauguration of Jammu Division of the Indian Railways comes ahead of the official inauguration of the Katra-Reasi railway section and the official launch of the Vande Bharat train up to Srinagar. The rail section, trial runs for which is ongoing, will formally establish a railway link to the Kashmir Valley and, seen in conjunction with the likely inauguration of Vande Bharat train services to Kashmir on January 26, could give a significant economic boost to the region.

Speaking at the event, Modi said the government's new railway initiatives, which include expansion of the country's metro rail network to over 1000 km, and Namo Bharat train in Delhi-NCR are "further testimony to the fact that the nation is moving forward together". Modi also inaugurated the new Charlapalli New Terminal Station in Telangana and laid the foundation stone of Rayagada Railway Division Building in

Odisha at the same event. "The Jammu railway division will not only benefit J&K but also Himachal Pradesh and several cities of Punjab and Leh-Ladakh," he said. "Jammu and Kashmir is achieving new milestones in railway infrastructure, with the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla



PM Modi launches railway projects virtually, Monday. PTI

rail line, which is being discussed

all over the country today." The Jammu Division has a total rail network of 742.1 km, with

sections such as Pathankot-Jammu-Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla (423 route km) Bhogpur-Sirwal-Pathankot (87.21 route km), Batala (excluding)-Pathankot (68.17 route km) and Pathankot-Joginder Nagar (narrow gauge section, 163.72 route km) coming under it.

Thus far, these sections were part of the Firozpur Division of the Northern Railways.

Currently, the railway line runs up to Katra and Reasi in Jammu. Once opened, the 62km-long track between Katra and Sangaldan, Reasi, in Jammu will also boast the world's highest bridge over Chenab.

Meanwhile, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari highlighted various highway development projects in the union territory - including the construction of a four-lane stretch of road on NH-44. The road is meant to bypass Banihal town in Ramban, which would see fre-

quent traffic jams.

"In J&K, we have successfully completed a 4-lane, 2.35 km bypass to Banihal town at a cost of Rs 224.44 crore. Strategically located on the Ramban-Banihal section of NH-44, the bypass features 4 viaducts spanning 1,513 meters and 3 culverts, effectively addressing the persistent bottleneck caused by roadside markets and shops," said Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari in his

#### SC ADJOURNS HEARING, NEXT ON JANUARY 10

# Dallewal meets SC-appointed panel, but refuses medical aid

**KANCHAN VASDEV & ANANTHAKRISHNAN G** CHANDIGARH, NEW DELHI, JANUARY 6

THE FARM protest impasse continued Monday as the high-powered committee formed by the Supreme Court met fasting farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal, who declined medical aid. The committee's chief, retired

Punjab & Haryana HC judge Justice Nawab Singh, told the 70year-old leader: "(SC Judge Justice Surya Kant) is worried about your health. On every date of hearing, he keeps issuing directions to ensure your good health." But Dallewal, whose fast at

Khanauri border between Punjab and Haryana entered Day 52 Monday, responded that the committee should press the SC for a direction to the Centre: "I re-



The panel members at Khanauri on Monday. Harmeet Sodhi

spect Justice Surya Kant but how do I ask him why he does not give any direction to the Centre, when our issue is to be sorted by Centre? When the Punjab Advocate General (AG) asks him to direct the Centre, then Surya Kant ji does not listen. Union Minister (Shivraj Singh Chouhan) says if the SC tells them, they will

comply with orders. If SC is not ready to give this direction to the Centre, then we do not have hope from anywhere."

Dallewal said he would break his fast if the Centre accepted the demands of the farmers protesting at Khanauri and Shambhu border points. The demands include a legal guarantee for the The discussions came hours

after Punjab, represented by Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal, informed the SC that the protesters had agreed to a meeting with the committee — which also comprises former DGP BS Sandhu. economist RS Ghuman, agriculture expert Devinder Sharma and Puniab Farmers' Commission chairperson Sukhpal Singh.

The bench of Justices Surya Kant and N K Singh then adjourned the hearing on a plea on compliance with its directions to the state to shift Dallewal to a hospital.It fixed January 10 as the next date of hearing.

Meanwhile, late Monday, doctors from the NGO attending to Dallewal, claimed his pulse rate was falling steeply late Monday. A team of doctors from Rajindra Medical College and Hospital was examining Dallewal at press time.

#### Dhami invites PM to National the session by reading the **Games 2025**

Dehradun: Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami on Monday met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and invited him to the National Games 2025 to be held in the state from January 28.

The CM also said that the first phase of the Rishikesh-Karnaprayag rail project is progressing rapidly, and the survey for the Tanakpur-Bageshwar rai sought approval and full financial support from the Centre for its exsure of the old railway station in Rishikesh and requested that all train operations be shifted to the new Yog Nagari Railway Station.

He also updated the PM on the progress of the Jal Jeevan

### Governor walks out of TN House over anthem row

**ARUN JANARDHANAN** CHENNAI, JANUARY 6

IN AN extraordinary turn of events, Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi abruptly walked out of the state Assembly Monday morning, citing a breach of protocol after the national anthem was not played at the beginning of the session. The incident has deepened

the rift between the Governor and the state government, reigniting debates over constitutional propriety and political one-upmanship.

According to TN Assembly protocol, the Tamil Thai Vaazhthu, the state's official song, is performed at the opening of proceedings, while the national anthem is sung at the end Hospital, Bengaluru, and had no Chandkheda for treatment. **ENS** of the day's session. The Raj

Bhavan's insistence on changing this protocol is seen as an overreach by the DMK government. The drama unfolded when

the Assembly convened for its first session of the year. As per tradition, the session began with the recital of the Tamil Thai Vaazhthu. However, the absence of the national anthem triggered objections from the Governor, who reportedly appealed to Chief Minister M K Stalin and Speaker M Appavu to ensure its inclusion. His request was declined, prompting Ravi to leave the Assembly less than five minutes after the session began.

In a statement released on social media shortly thereafter, the Raj Bhavan accused the state government of "brazen disrespect" to the Constitution and the national anthem.

"The Constitution of Bharat the House of its Constitutional



Governor R N Ravi, Chief Minister M K Stalin

and the National Anthem were once again insulted in the Tamil Nadu Assembly Respecting the National Anthem is among the first fundamental duties as enshrined in our Constitution. It is sung in all the state legislatures at the beginning and the end of Governor's address. Today, on arrival of Governor to the House, only Tamil Thaai Vaazhthu was sung. Governor respectfully reminded Duty and fervently appealed to the Hon'ble Chief Minister who is the Leader of the House and the Hon'ble Speaker for singing the National Anthem. However, they cussedly refused.

"It is a matter of grave concern. Not to be a party to such brazen disrespect to the Constitution and the National Anthem, the Governor in deep anguish left the House," the statement read.

Governor's customary address, prepared by the state government, in Tamil. The address, a highlight of the opening session, traditionally outlines the government's agenda for the year. However, the Governor's ab-

sence overshadowed the proceedings, triggering protests and walkouts by legislators across party lines.

While Congress MLAs, wearing black badges, condemned the Governor's perceived interference in state affairs, the BJP and PMK MLAs protested what they described as inaction in the Anna University sexual assault case and the suppression of opposition voices in the Assembly.

Evicted by the Speaker, AIADMK legislators protested demanding justice in the sexual Speaker Appavu continued assault case at Anna University.

### project has been completed. He ecution. He also proposed the clo-

### From Sangh-BJP ties to Priyanka factor: 5 trends to watch out for in 2025

epaper.indianexpress.com



in national politics — and why

TO PREDICT anything in a country like India is a risky proposition. However, last year's developments point to certain trends I would like to point to five that may influence the country's trajectory in 2025.

#### Women voters

On top of the chart are women, a potent political currency. Women have become a vote bank that no party can ignore and that was apparent in the Maharashtra Assembly elections and earlier in Madhya Pradesh

and Chhattisgarh. In Delhi, both the AAP and the Congress have promised monthly

allowances for women — the Arvind Kejriwal-led party Rs 2.100 under the Mahila Samman Yojana and the grand old party Rs 2,500 under the Pyaari Didi Yojana — if they come to power.

international travel history.

Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah

said he had instructed the state

Health department to "take ap-

propriate precautionary meas-

ures", adding, "People need not

panic about the virus. It is

was reported in Chandkheda

area, where a two-month-old

child from Rajasthan was admit-

ted to a private hospital in

In Gujarat, the HMPV case

enough to be cautious."

For many women, receiving money is empowering, increasing their economic worth and strengthening their sense of autonomy. As a result, these women are ready to vote even differently from their spouses. Political parties view women as "labharthis (beneficiaries)" but even this has its limits.

Increasingly, women will demand their due place under the sun and not just be satisfied with "revdis". In the immediate run, women will be decisive in both the Delhi elections and in Bihar towards the end of the year. Women played a decisive role in the victories of both Arvind Kejriwal and Nitish Kumar in the last few elections. They are among the few constituencies today that cut across religion and caste affiliations.

#### The 'D' factor

Dalits have been an established vote bank of different parties at various times. Of late, parties, always quick to smell the direction of the wind, have realised the growing, not diminishing, import of Babasaheb Ambedkar. BJP and Congress MPs even had a scuffle in Parliament over Ambedkar during the recent Winter Session.

Both Modi and Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi will be expected to sharpen their pitch this year to win over Dalits. The speed with which the community reacted in the Lok Sabha polls to the possibility of the "400 paar" narrative ending reservation showed how well-networked young and educated Dalits are today. They were instrumental in robbing the BJP of a clear majority.

The "S (Sangh)" factor will be

Sangh-BIP ties

watched with great interest as the RSS centenary celebrations get underway and the powerplay in the larger Hindutva family resets the BJP-RSS agenda.

A recalibration of the relationship between the Sangh and the BIP may well be on the cards in 2025 as they may face new challenges from within the larger Hindu ecosystem. Whatever the Sangh's reservation about "vyaktivaad (personality cult)" — an allusion to the support Modi enjoys — it is not likely to rock the Modi boat and do anything that strengthens Gandhi.

But it would like to ensure that personality-oriented politics does not develop in the BIP anymore and the party goes back to "collective leadership". The selection of the next BJP president will indicate how much of the Sangh's concerns the party brass has been taken on board. Some have clearly been addressed as the RSS cadre put their best foot forward to ensure the BJP's vicin Harvana and tory Maharashtra.

Mohan Bhagwat's recent

statement that the time had come to stop looking for mandirs under every masjid took many by surprise. With Yogi Adityanath seeming to be fashioning a political line, and following, independent of the BJP and the Sangh, the sarsanghchalak was seen to be sending a signal

to the Uttar Pradesh CM. When PM Modi recently sent a chadar for the shrine at Ajmer Sharif, he underlined a sentiment similar to the one Bhagwat expressed. And both were in sync with the Supreme Court's direction barring civil courts from registering fresh suits challenging the ownership and title of any place of worship or ordering surveys of disputed religious places until further or-

However, Adityanath has A fourth term will make kept bringing up the issue and Kejriwal a serious national

the Akhil Bharatiya Sant Samiti, a body of sants, has criticised Bhagwat for "interfering" in what was the dharmacharyas' (religious leaders) domain. It is unlikely that these sants or others in the Hindu Right would speak so forthrightly without some political backing and that signal seems to be coming from Aditvanath. The UP CM may want to leverage the independent following he has in the 2027 Assembly elections. As is well known, he does not come from the RSS stream but heads the famous Gorakhnath Math in Gorakhpur.

#### What will regional parties do?

Will it be a year of the regional parties, of the "R" factor? Much will depend on how Kejriwal fares in the Delhi elections and what Nitish decides to

player who cannot be easily dismissed. That is why both the BIP and the Congress want him to lose and both see him as enemy number one. His victory will boost Mamata Banerjee's claim for the leadership of the INDIA bloc, putting the Congress at a disadvantage. Sharad Pawar and Lalu Prasad have also welcomed the idea of Banerjee in the lead Again, much will depend on

what Pawar's Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar) decides to do. Will it reunite with Ajit Pawar's NCP? Talks are afoot to bring this about and it will naturally have implications for national politics.

#### Will Priyanka have an impact?

Premature though it is to talk about this, the "P or Priyanka" factor will also be at play in 2025. Will there be a face-off with Modi? Going by her debut

will depend on the role the Congress leadership assigns her Knowing her potential, BJP has already initiated its counter-

speech in Parliament and her

ability to catch eyeballs, much

attack. Its Wayanad candidate Navya Haridas has filed an election petition challenging Priyanka's election and the matter is likely to be taken up in January. The year promises to be far

from uneventful. But then again, Indian politics is rarely dull. The Census is due to be held this year and the government will have to take a call on whether to go ahead with Rahul Gandhi's demand for a caste census, bringing the controversial "C" factor to the centre stage.

(Neerja Chowdhury, Contributing Editor, The Indian Express, has covered the last 11 Lok Sabha elections. She is the author of How Prime Ministers Decide)

# EXPRESS NETWORK

#### **BRIEFLY**

#### **KARNATAKA** Techie, wife,

#### minor children found dead

*Bengaluru:* Four members of a family were found dead in Bengaluru in their rented house Monday, said police. The deceased have been identified as Anup Kumar, 38, his wife Rakhi, 35, their five-year-old daughter, and two-yearold son. They hailed from Prayagraj. Anup Kumar, a software consultant, had quit his job 45 days ago. A police officer said the daughter was suffering from ailments. The police said that the couple might have smothered or poisoned the children before hanging themselves. "Initial probe has revealed Anup Kumar had sent an email to his brother explaining the reason behind the extreme step which he read in the morning...," the police

#### **KERALA**

said.

#### MLA gets bail in DFO office 'vandalism' case

*Malappuram:* A local court in Malappuram district on Monday granted bail to Independent Kerala legislator PV Anvar in a case relating to charges of vandalising the District Forest Office (DFO). While considering the bail plea of Anvar, the Nilambur Judicial First Class Magistrate court rejected the application moved by the police seeking custody for further investigation. Anvar, who had been lodged in the Thavanur Central Jail, was released by the evening, according to a police officer. **PTI** 

#### **ASSAM**

#### Girl, mother escape rhino attack in KNP

Kaziranga: A woman and her daughter had a close shave in Assam's Kaziranga National Park when they fell off a safari vehicle with rhinos in close proximity, an official said Monday. The driver was suspended and an enquiry was ordered, DFO and **KNP's Deputy Director** Arun Vignesh said. The incident happened when the driver accelerated and took a sharp turn after seeing two rhinos nearby, Vignesh said.

#### **TRIPURA**

#### 5 held for human trafficking: Cops

Agartala: Five suspected human traffickers were arrested from Madhupur area in Sepahijala district, police said Monday. The accused were sent to 3-day police custody. "... a joint team of GRP, BSF and intelligence agencies carried out a raid at Harihardola area Sunday night and arrested five human traffickers," Officer in Charge, Agartala GRP police station Tapas Das said.

### From bike mechanic to journalist with YouTube channel, Mukesh's story was one of perseverance

**JAYPRAKASH S NAIDU** RAIPUR, JANUARY 6

From working as a bike mechanic to renting an office to pursue journalism and starting his own YouTube channel, 32-yearold Mukesh Chandrakar's life had a unique trajectory before it was snuffed out, allegedly by his own relatives who were angered by a report he did.

Mukesh was born in Basaguda in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district – a village that was among the worst affected in the mid-2000s when armed militias and Maoists unleashed violence.

His family was displaced by the violence and moved to a government shelter in Bijapur. After his father died when Mukesh was a child, he and his elder brother Yukesh were brought up by their mother, an anganwadi worker. In 2013, she died of cancer.

"He did his best to try and save his mother, but he just had Rs 50,000. As friends, we helped him with whatever we could," said a close friend.

"He loved his mother a lot, but due to the conditions in Bijapur, she had to send him away to a school in Dantewada so he could

**ANONNA DUTT** 

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 6

agency said Monday.

IN A milestone for ISRO, the cow-

pea seedlings it sent to space as

part of a biological experiment

on December 30 have sprouted

their first leaves, the space

biological experiment in space,

was part of CROPS (Compact

Research Module for Orbital

Plant Studies), an automated

platform designed to cultivate

and sustain plant life in micro-

Sarabhai Space Centre, it involves

growing eight cowpea (Vigna un-

guiculata) seeds within a con-

trolled environment equipped

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** 

ISRO has postponed its key dock-

ing experiment scheduled for

Tuesday to January 9, it said,

adding more ground simula-

tions were needed based on an

"abort scenario" that has been

the accuracy may be improved."

the ambitious Space Docking

Experiment (SpaDeX) mission,

"This has been done so that

ISRO successfully launched

identified.

officials said.

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 6

Developed by the Vikram

gravity environment of space.

The experiment, ISRO's first

Cowpea seeds were sent to space by ISRO on December 30

ISRO's cowpea seeds

sprout leaves in space



**Mukesh Chandrakar** 

complete his studies. He sold mahua liquor and worked as a bike mechanic to make ends meet," the friend said.

Seeing his brother Yukesh working as a freelance journalist, he developed a liking for the profession, which soon became his passion. He worked for several news channels, including Sahara, Bansal, News18, and NDTV, and made a name for himself by doing ground reports from encounter spots deep inside forests that are typically Naxal territory.

During his freelance assignments, Mukesh highlighted the poor condition of hospitals and medical facilities in Bijapur.

He was also known to help other journalists navigate the state, often taking them to hardto-reach areas on his motorbike. One such journalist said, "I still

with active thermal management

onboard ISRO's POEM-4 module.

three sprouted leaves. "This

accomplishment not only

demonstrates ISRO's capability

to grow plants in space, but also

provides valuable insights for fu-

ture long-duration missions,"

experiment marks a promising

step towards sustainable human

presence in space," ISRO said.

POEM during the recent launch.

cells in microgravity, by Amity

University, and the growth curve

of gut bacteria in space, by

Bengaluru's RV College of Engine-

ering, were also carried out.

ISRO's PSLV C60 carrying

SpaDeX and its payloads,

**lifts off in Sriharikota.** File

"The success of the CROPS

The cowpea experiment wasn't the only one carried on board

Experiments to study plant

ISRO said on X.

Of the eight seedlings, at least

#### MAIN ACCUSED HELD FROM HYDERABAD

Raipur: The Chhattisgarh police Sunday arrested the main accused Suresh Chandrakar from Telangana in connection with the murder of journalist Mukesh Chandrakar. The police arrested three persons, including Suresh's brothers Ritesh Chandrakar and Dinesh Chandrakar, and construction supervisor Mahendra Ramteke. "Suresh was arrested late at night on Sunday from Hyderabad," said a senior police officer. The police said on Saturday that Mukesh's cousin Ritesh allegedly murdered him with Mahendra's help, and also allegedly took help from his brothers Dinesh and Suresh to dispose of the body. **ENS** 

remember him telling me, 'Dada kaunsi story hai? Kab aa rahe ho? (Brother what story are you doing? When will you come?).' He worked purely out of journalistic vigour. Not once for a story was there anything offered to him but friendship. For a vast majority of

state correspondents, Mukesh was the person who took them to the spot. He earned a paltry amount for the news stories that he provided... As a young journalist, all he had was enthusiasm."

"We would go to Bastar and come back, but local reporters like Mukesh live there and always carry the risk of being targeted. For four-and-a-half years, Mukesh did this over and over again, not just for me, but for many others. It was on his back that stories about Bastar and the state-Maoist conflict were told. If one core principle of journalism is to inform, to reach new areas, to give voice to the voiceless, journalists like Mukesh are peerless," he said. Ranjan Das, a journalist from

Dantewada and a close friend of Mukesh's, recalls how in 2016, Mukesh took him in when he had moved to Bijapur from Dantewada. "He lived in a mud house, paying Rs 2,200 rent. He allowed me to live with him for five years as we were both facing financial issues... He was extremely sensitive to Adivasi issues, especially jal, jungle aur zamin (water, forest and land). His coverage of protests by villagers, fake encounters, civilian killings, poor infra-

health facilities made him popular among adivasis too," Das said.

"For his ground reports, he faced pressure from the government several times, and was also threatened by Maoists when he criticised them for the destruction of public property. We feared being harmed by them (Maoists), but never could we imagine being harmed by a criminal," he said.

Taking inspiration from other journalists, Mukesh started his own YouTube channel — Bastar Junction — which has 1.66 lakh subscribers. "He started by getting a few hundred to a thousand rupees depending on our news. But his YouTube channel got him ₹20,000 a month, and once even ₹50,000. Just when his life had become stable, this tragedy occurred," said Das.

Mukesh did a report that came out in NDTV on December 25 that highlighted the poor condition of a road in Bijapur, after which the government initiated an inquiry. The contractor for this road was Mukesh's cousin Suresh Chandrakar. Angered by his story, Suresh's brother Ritesh allegedly killed Mukesh, police said. Police said Suresh was the mastermind behind the murder.



Jan Suraaj party founder Prashant Kishor after he was released on bail, in Patna on Monday, PTI

## **BPSC** protests: **Prashant Kishor** arrested, later released on bail

Had refused conditional bail after arrest

**SANTOSH SINGH** PATNA, JANUARY 6

JAN SURAAJ party founder Prashant Kishor was arrested in the early hours of Monday from Patna's Gandhi Maidan, where he had been on a fast unto death since last week. He was later granted bail.

Kishor has been fasting since January 2 under Mahatma Gandhi's statue at Gandhi Maidan in support of protesting BPSC aspirants, who have been demanding the cancellation of the prelims held last month.

After his arrest, he had refused conditional bail saying that it would require him to not engage in any protest.

Police said Kishor was arrested for conducting his fast at Gandhi Maidan, where protests are prohibited according to authorities. Patna DM Chandrashekhar

Singh told *The Indian Express*, "Police have arrested Kishor and detained 43 others, mainly protesting BPSC students.' While the students were later released from police custody, Kishor was taken to AIIMS, Patna, and later to a community health centre for a check-up.

Subsequently, he was produced before court, where he refused conditional bail.

Just before he was being taken to jail from the court, Kishor had told reporters, "Our campaign has been against the lathi culture of the Nitish Kumar-BJP government. My fast-unto-death will continue from inside jail. As long as the state government does not order BPSC prelims re-test, this protest will continue.'

Kishor's lawyer, Shivanand Giri, said, "Accepting bail conditions would mean that Kishor was accepting his offence. Protests and dharna are one's democratic right. We will discuss our next course of legal action

However, later, he was granted unconditional bail. Meanwhile, protesting BPSC students returned to the protest site at Gardanibagh.

A Jan Suraaj party source said, "The protest will gather momentum after Kishor's arrests. More students from across the state are likely to join the protest in the coming days."

Two days before he began his fast last week, Kishor had issued a 48-hour ultimatum to the Chief Minister Nitish Kumar-led government to resolve the matter, failing which the protests would be intensified.

A day before that, police had used water cannons and resorted to lathi charge to disperse protesters who tried to break through barricades set up to stop them from going towards the Chief Minister's residence.

Hundreds of candidates who had appeared for BPSC prelims, on December 13 at 912 centres across Bihar, have been protesting in Patna since December 18, calling for the cancellation of the exam, alleging that CCTV cameras and jammers had not been functional at several examination centres and that question papers had been distributed late

The BPSC has so far agreed to reschedule the exam only for those who took it at one centre in Patna, where an exam official died of heart attack amid ruckus.

at some locations.

### structure, malnutrition, and poor Centre regularises commando camps in Assam reserve forests, orders penalty for violations

**NIKHIL GHANEKAR** NEW DELHI, JANUARY 6

THE CENTRE has regularised two commando camps of the Assam government which were built on forest land without prior approvals in violation of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of India's Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) has granted expost facto clearances to these camps in the Geleky and Hailakandi reserve forests for nonforestry use of 26 hectares and 11.5 hectares of land, respectively.

While granting approval, FAC has ordered the Assam government to pay a penalty for the violations and directed its regional office in Shillong to act against senior officers of the Assam Forest Department.

The ministry's panel granted ex-post facto clearances to these camps even as it has submitted before the NGT that they were built without obtaining prior permissions from the Centre. While NGT's principal bench is hearing the Hailakandi case suo motu, the eastern bench is hearing the Geleky case based on a

SDX01 (Chaser) and SDX02

(Target)—along with 24 payloads

from Sriharikota on December 30.

ment, the two small satellites

will come together — with the

Chaser slowly reducing the dis-

tance progressively to 5 km, 1.5

km, 500 m, 225 m, 15 m and 3 m,

ment will make India the fourth

country in the world — after US.

Russia, and China — to have the

A successful docking experi-

before joining with the Target.

During the docking experi-

petition filed by Assam-based environmental activist Rohit Chowdhury.

"No future expansion shall be

allowed and further diversion of forest land for any expansion purposes shall be allowed in the instant case... the instant case shall not set any precedent or regularisation of ex-post facto approval in similar matters. The approval accorded in the instant proposal shall be subject to the order of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal and other orders in this regard," FAC stated.

The Assam government, on its part, had submitted to the Centre, despite conclusions of illegality, that it had constructed these camps for "forest protection and conservation", especially keeping in view the threat from armed encroachers.

"It is not out of any greed of land by Assam Forest or Assam Police or any diversion for commercial purposes of forest land that the Battalion has been allowed to set up. The battalion has been set up in conditions which cannot be mitigated by any other means by the State Govt...Govt. of Assam through its two Department namely Assam Forest and Assam Police have done best possible for the protection of the

tegrity of the state," the Assam Forest Department had submitted to the Centre on ex-post facto Further, it asked the Centre to

Forest and maintaining the in-

condone the "inadvertent mistake", if any, of its principal chief conservators of forest (PCCF) and head of forest force (HOFF). "The PCCF and HOFF acted on behalf of the state govt. in the interest of forest protection only and not otherwise," the state government submitted. The state government was

referring to its top forest officer M K Yadava, who approved the construction of these camps. The environment ministry's regional office in Shillong had found Yadava's actions violative of the forest conservation laws and even issued a show-cause notice to him last year.

It also requested the Centre not to impose penalties under the forest conservation laws, saying the forest land was diverted only for the "protection of the forest." It said it sacrificed 40 odd hectares of degraded land devoid of tree cover to save thousands of hectares of remaining forests from undergoing further degradation, denudation, encroachment and settlements.

#### SpaDeX docking deferred to January 9 Indian nurse's case handled by Houthis, her death penalty not ratified by President: Yemen embassy with the PSLV C60 rocket carrying two small 220-kg satellites —

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** 

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 6

THE CAPITAL punishment handed to Indian nurse Nimisha Priya by a Yemeni court has not been ratified by President Rashad al-Alimi, the Yemen embassy in New Delhi said Monday.

In its clarification while responding to a media report, the Yemen Embassy said that the Yemeni government emphasises that the entire case has been

handled by the Houthi militias, and therefore, Rashad Al-Alimi, Chairman of the Presidential Leadership Council, Yemen, has not ratified this judgment.

Hailing from Kollengode in Kerala's Palakkad district, Nimisha Priya was found guilty of murdering a Yemeni citizen in July 2017. The 37-year-old nurse is presently lodged in a jail in Sana'a, the Yemeni capital city that is under the control of Iran-backed Houthis.

According to reports, Nimisha Priya was handed capital punishment by a trial court in 2020 which was upheld in November 2023 by the Yemen's Supreme Judicial Council.

Last week, India said it is closely following the developments in the case. "We are closely following the developments around the sentencing of Nimisha Priya. The government is extending all possible help in the matter," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said Friday.

Nimisha Priya has been accused of murdering Mehdi by al-

legedly "injecting him with sedatives to get her passport that was in his possession". The nurse had been residing in Yemen for over a decade and working in private hospitals. After her husband and daughter returned to India due to financial reasons, Nimisha Priva set up her clinic in Yemen

In a plea moved by Nimisha Priya's mother, the family alleged Mehdi tortured the nurse for years and took away her passport to ensure she could not leave Yemen.

with assistance from Mehdi.

## 19 yrs after woman, twins killed, cops use AI tool to track down ex-Armymen

**SHAJU PHILIP** THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JANUARY 6

ON FEBRUARY 10, 2006, Santhamma returned from the panchayat office in Anchal, Kollam, to find her daughter and her 17-day-old twins lying in a pool of blood, their throats slit. Police soon narrowed in on the suspects – two Armymen from Kerala, Divil Kumar and Rajesh, who were then posted at the Pathankot military base in Punjab. The accused were, however, never traced and the case went cold.

Nineteen years later, the CBI arrested them on January 4 from Puducherry, where they had

taken on new identities – Divil Kumar, 42, as Vishnu and Rajesh, 48, as Praveen Kumar, both engaged in interior design works and married to teachers. What helped the investigators track down the two was a mix of technology and some old-fashioned doggedness.

Kerala ADGP (Law and Order) Manoj Abraham told *The Indian* Express, "Our technical intelligence wing, which does digital analysis of long-pending cases, used Artificial Intelligence to track down the accused. Old photos of the accused were developed to see what they would look like 19 years later. Several options were tried out - from changes in hairstyles to other facial features – us-

ing AI. These images were matc-

hed with photos on social media. We got matches from around the world, but the AI image of one of the accused had a 90% match with a wedding photograph shared on Facebook. We probed further and tracked Rajesh down to Puducherry, who led us to the other accused, Divil. Since the case was with the CBI, we alerted their Chennai unit, which arrested the two." He added that it was unusual for AI to be used to solve such a long-pending case.

According to the police, Ranjini and Divil, neighbours at Alayamon in Kollam, were allegedly in a relationship. But when Ranjini got pregnant and insisted on going through with the pregnancy, their relationship broke down. Kumar, subse-



capability.





(from left) Victim Ranjini, accused Rajesh and Divil Kumar

quently, went back to Pathankot. Late in January 2006, Ranjini gave birth to twin daughters at a

hospital Thiruvananthapuram. It was here that Rajesh, a native of Sreekandapuram in Kannur, allegedly befriended her as 'Anil Kumar', a native of Kollam.

According to the police, Rajesh and Divil were colleagues in the Army and the two had allegedly colluded to kill Ranjini. The police probe found that Divil and Rajesh were both on leave in Ianuary that year.

Ranjini, meanwhile, obtained an order from State

be brought back from the military camp and subjected to a DNA test to prove his parenthood of the children.

Women's Commission that Divil

Congress leader Jyothi Kumar Chamakkala, who is from Ranjini's village in Kollam and has been involved in a campaign since 2006 seeking the arrest of the accused, recalls, "Rajesh approached Ranjini while she was in hospital for her delivery. As he befriended her and she told him about Divil, he promised to help her settle the matter and track down Divil."

Police say that after Ranjini was discharged from hospital, Rajesh helped her find a rented house at Anchal, away from her family home, saying it would keep her, an unwed mother, and relatives. On February 10, 2006, Rajesh

away from prying neighbours

went to Ranjini's house and convinced her mother Santhamma to visit local panchayat office, where she had to submit a few applications related to birth of the babies. Police say Rajesh, allegedly acting at behest of Divil, stabbed Ranjini and slit the throat of the babies.

Talking to The Indian Express, Santhamma said, "Rajesh had befriended us at the hospital, introducing himself as Anil Kumar. He had approached us inquiring whether we required blood for Ranjini's caesarean delivery. Even though we did not need blood, he deliberately hung around the hospital. When we

came there too. Everything he did was with a plan. Divil Kumar and his family raised questions about my daughter's character. Which is why she wanted him to undergo a paternity test." As police began probing the

moved to a rented house, he

role of 'Anil Kumar' they came across the registration certificate of a two-wheeler at the crime scene. Their investigation into the ownership of the two-wheeler took them to the military camp at Pathankot, where Rajesh and Divil were posted. But had gone into hiding, leaving the police clueless.

In 2010, the Kerala HC, acting on a plea by Santhamma, handed the case over to CBI. In 2013, the CBI submitted a chargesheet but the two remained elusive.

WORDLY WISE

AWARDS ARE LIKE APPLAUSE, AND EVERY ACTOR LIKES TO HEAR APPLAUSE.

— RALPH FIENNES

### The Indian EXPRESS

∽ FOUNDED BY ∽

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

### A STRONGER STEM

More women in IITs is reason for cheer. It is important to ensure that passage from classroom to workplace remains unhindered

HE INCREASING REPRESENTATION of women in the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) marks a pivotal moment in the journey toward greater inclusivity and gender equity in India's premier institutions of higher education. It is also welcome affirmation of the larger and irreversible shift in society that top-down institutional reforms can help make deeper and wider. Data obtained by this newspaper under the Right to Information Act has revealed that six years since the implementation of a supernumerary quota of 20 per cent for women in undergraduate engineering programmes, in which extra seats were created instead of reserving them within the existing pool, IITs are witnessing a significant surge in female students. At IIT-Kanpur, the number of women rose from 908 in 2017 to 2,124 in 2024; IIT-Roorkee saw a 76.36 per cent jump between 2019-20 and 2024. IITs in Chennai, Mumbai, Guwahati and Kharagpur, too, saw commensurate jumps in enrolment.

The upsurge reflects a positive correlation between individual ambition and availability of opportunities that is a result of good-faith affirmative action. Initiated in 2018, the quota in IITs goes beyond numbers in reshaping an academic space that has historically been male-dominated. There have been infrastructure upgrades in the form of more hostels, washrooms and recreational facilities for women. Some campuses have a special open-door policy for female aspirants and their parents to learn about campus life. These are all welcome departures from a masculine imagination of the classroom where women were expected to man up or ship out, where safeguards against everyday sexism were few and far between. The change challenges the old narrative that STEM is a field for men, and signals a future where women's voices, ideas, and innovations will be indispensable in shaping the country's intellectual and technological future. Given that of the total enrolled students in engineering and technology — according to the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) for 2021-22 — women still comprise only 11.3 lakh, while 27.6 lakh are men in the undergraduate programmes, it is crucial to bridge the gap.

But as with medicine, where for every 100 men there were 100 women enrolled in medical colleges in India in 2020-21, the increased presence of women in IITs can only be counted as a job well begun. It underscores the need for greater systemic support to ensure that the progress of women does not stall, that the passage from classroom to workplace remains unhindered. The focus must now shift to ensuring that the IITs continue to create an environment where women can thrive free from biases, and are equipped with all the support and resources they need to succeed. The India Human Development Survey, by the University of Maryland and the National Council of Applied Economic Research, that has tracked changes in the lives of Indian households between 2004 and 2024, shows that despite ongoing transformations in their lives, one area where women continue to be let down is in terms of economic opportunities. With more women poised to enter the workforce, it is time to ensure that gender-neutral policies, mentorship, and a culture of inclusivity allow them to realise their potential more fully.

### READING THE FALL

Stock markets are weighed down by global, domestic factors. For investors to reassess positions, more clarity is needed

N MONDAY, STOCK markets crashed, with the BSE Sensex ending the day down 1.6 per cent. The Indian markets were, however, not an outlier. Some of the other Asian markets also witnessed weakness. The Nikkei index was down 1.5 per cent while the Hang Seng fell by 0.4 per cent. In the Indian markets, the selling pressures were broad-based, not just limited to the larger companies. The BSE Midcap index fell by 2.4 per cent, while the Smallcap index declined by more than 3 per cent. The Nifty VIX, a fear gauge, was up 15.6 per cent.

The triggers for the fall appear to be both global and domestic. On the global front, investors are apprehensive about the possible changes to US policy after Donald Trump is sworn in as president on January 20. Concerns over the possibility of higher tariffs weigh heavy. The policy stance of the US Fed is of equal concern. The first meeting of the Fed which will be held later this month will provide greater clarity on how tight its monetary policy is likely to be. This will have implications for the dollar and the rupee. On the domestic front, after a depressed earnings quarter (July-September), there are concerns over the performance of the corporate sector in the just concluded quarter (October-December). While some are hopeful of a bounce back, others are circumspect, expecting earnings to be subdued. There is a view that after the slump in the second quarter, the economic momentum has picked up, what is less clear is the extent of the pick up. Government spending also remains weak. The Centre's capital expenditure, which has been a key driver of growth in recent years, has been waning — during April-November it was actually 12 per cent lower than last year — and foreign investors appear circumspect. In the first few days of the new year, foreign portfolio investors have been sellers with (net) investments of -\$836 million. Some reports suggest that investors may have also been spooked by the virus outbreak in China.

Clarity on some of these issues will emerge over the next few weeks, prompting investors to reassess their positions. Alongside, how the upcoming Union budget and the February meeting of the monetary policy committee provide support to the economy will also influence sentiment.

#### THE COMEBACK

After a rough few years, the Golden Globes is doing what it does best: Getting the party going

HO DOESN'T LOVE a great comeback story? The Golden Globes certainly does. On Sunday night, Demi Moore's return to the zeitgeist with The Substance was recognised with the Best Female Actor (Musical or Comedy) award — the first such honour for the actor in her 45-yearlong career. Recalling the day when the script for the Coralie Fargeat film came across her

The universe might well have whispered these words to the Golden Globes which, after a rough few years, appears to have recovered some of its lost mojo. Never quite as prestigious as the Academy Awards or the Emmys — the other two major events at which Hollywood celebrates itself — the Globes ceremony was, nonetheless, the glamorous party that set the tone for the rest of awards season. Scandals, including allegations of corruption and racial bias within the Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA, the body that ran the Globes) and sexual assault accusations against a former HFPA president, led to a boycott by the industry's biggest names in 2021 and broadcast cancellation in 2022. Steadily declining viewership only seemed to ensure the Awards' consignment to irrelevance, and the ratings for the 2024 ceremony were among the worst in its eight-decade history.

desk in her acceptance speech, Moore said, "The universe told me, 'you're not done yet."

With the 82nd ceremony, the Golden Globes has scripted its own comeback. Hollywood seems to have thawed towards the event and the red carpet was as glamorous as could be hoped for. The awards themselves, for both film and television, were predictable and uncontroversial, even if some snubs, such as to Payal Kapadia's *All We Imagine As Light* (nominated for Best Foreign Language Film), sting. This year's ratings, unlike the chartbusting song from Wicked (winner of the Cinematic and Box Office Achievement award), may not be "defying" gravity", but the Globes has done what it's always done best: It's got the party going.

# Hindutva's Ambedkar puzzle



Hindu unity, Savarkar's project, was the opposite of what Babasaheb sought

ASHUTOSH VARSHNEY

A VIGOROUS DEBATE in the recently concluded Winter session of Parliament has brought into the limelight one of the most important political issues of our times. What is the relationship between Babasaheb Ambedkar, the architect of India's Constitution, and Hindutva?

Two contradictory impulses appeared in the debate. The BJP's principal claim was that it had done more than any other major party, targeting the Congress in particular, to restore the justly great status of Ambedkar in the national public realm. However, the speech of Home Minister Amit Shah seamlessly slipped into the claim that the iconisation of Ambedkar had become too much of a political fashion, and if only similar attention was paid to God, one would earn a place in heaven. The former was an attempt to embrace Ambedkar politically, the latter was barely concealed ridicule. Which of the two truly represents the core of Hindu nationalism?

Perhaps one could begin with how the original thinkers of Hindu nationalism saw the relationship, going all the way back to the 1920s and 1930s. For those early years, there is no better guide for us than VD Savarkar, the father of Hindutva.

Luckily, a new book — Savarkar and the Making of Hindutva (Princeton University Press, 2024) by Janaki Bakhle, Professor of History, University of California, Berkeley gives us novel insights into Savarkar's thinking Ten years in the making, Bakhle's book comprehensively examines Savarkar's voluminous writings in Marathi, including his plays, poems and essays, which are well-known in Maharashtra but not having been translated in English, little known outside. Savarkar wrote copiously about caste, religion and nationhood, and also commented on Mahatma Gandhi and Ambedkar.

As Vikram Sampath's biography of Savarkar had also earlier noted, Bakhle emphasises that Savarkar was a persistent critic of caste. But Savarkar's position was different from both Gandhi and Ambedkar. Gandhi's unrelenting focus was on untouchability, a "sinful" denial of basic dignity to millions of Indians. As for the other castes, hierarchy was the problem, not caste per se. While untouchability required eradication, the four-varnabased caste system simply needed reform. Minus the hierarchy and untouchability, the historical links of castes with occupations. Ambedkar disagreed. The entire caste sys-

caste system, according to Gandhi, could sim-

ply function as a division of labour, given the

tem required annihilation, not just untouchability. The caste hierarchy and its horrors were anchored in religious texts, without which Hinduism was inconceivable. Brahminism was as big a problem as untouchability. Ambedkar was born a Hindu, but did not want to die as one. Before his death, he converted to Buddhism with his followers. Bakhle shows that Savarkar's views on

caste were located somewhere between Gandhi and Ambedkar. He was constantly critical of Sanatana Dharma. To him, caste was "an enduring structure of stupidity, naivete and even innocence"; rituals were a mere idiotic superstition; and "the cow, Vedic chants and prayers were themselves not sacred". But Savarkar also believed that Brahmins deserved no special ire for their behaviour. Rather, prejudice and oppression ran through the entire system. Kshatriyas and Vaishyas oppressed everyone beneath them; upper Sudras lorded over the lower Sudras; the "untouchable Mahars", a caste to which Ambedkar was born, did not look kindly at those below them in the hierarchy. These "rules of bad behaviour" can be altered if we change our minds. The "untouchables", according to Savarkar, can and should be given access to Vedic rituals and embraced by all castes.

But why should all of this be done? Though critical of caste, Savarkar never argued that the caste system was a centuries-long structure of dominance and oppression, and a birthbased, radically unequal, distribution of group dignity was built into it. Anti-Brahmin arguments, ruling many intellectual and political circles in Bombay and Madras Presidencies at the time, did not draw his sympathy. Indeed, he argued, the project of Hindu unity could be pursued under "enlightened Brahmin leadership". Thus Savarkar "attempted to have it both ways: To enact radical reform without completely alienating the privileged elite".

This equivocation allows Bakhle to make a key argument. Savarkar's criticism of caste was "instrumental". It was "primarily motivated by what he saw as an urgent and immediate need to unite Hindus against Muslims (in marked contrast with Gandhi whose critique of caste was primarily related to the need for a unified nationalist movement against British rule)". Over time, opposing British rule became less important to Savarkar than creating a united Hindu community against the Muslims, who might rise again and dominate the Hindus, but whose disloyalty to India was, to him, far too evident. If the "untouchables' and lower castes are not incorporated in the Hindu family, they "will join forces with the Muslims", whose demographic numbers needed contraction, not expansion by conver-

sion. To put it in modern social science terms,

Savarkar's project of Hindu unity meant merg-

ing all castes into a singular Hindu ethnicity. To Ambedkar, Hindu unity was exactly the opposite of what his own project sought. He wanted to "annihilate" caste and leave Hinduism altogether. Though Savarkar initially had some sympathy for Ambedkar, the fundamental clash between the two projects became all too obvious. Savarkar's final judgement was unambiguously clear. He called Ambedkar "a man... burning with hatred against Hinduism".

The Home Minister's Ambedkar ridicule is arguably rooted in Savarkar's ultimate judgment of Ambedkar as a Hindu hater. But so is Hindutva's Hindu unity strain embedded in Savarkar. Batenge toh katenge (if divided, we will be decimated), the new political refrain of Hindutva, is a perfect contemporary illustration of Savarkar's Hindu unity project, to be pursued without an attack on caste hierarchy, but with Muslims as an enemy.

The electoral significance of Dalits stems from their numbers. They are numerically larger than the estimated demographic size of Brahmins, if not all upper castes together. Ambedkar's status has become so great that large proportions of Dalits not only view him as an icon, but they also see the Constitution, made under his leadership, as an emblematic canon. A fuller incorporation of Dalits into the Hindu unity project is not possible if Ambedkar and "his" Constitution are threatened. However, since Ambedkar had no interest in Hindu unity, Hindutva's Ambedkar ambivalence continues, and is not easily resolvable.

The writer is Sol Goldman professor at Brown University, where he also directs the Saxena Center for Contemporary South Asia at the Watson Institute. Views are personal



### BUDGET AND THE FARM

Uniform taxation across agri-markets, research funding, can turn sector around

AJAY VIR JAKHAR

IT'S SAID THAT mistakes don't kill us but persisting with them can be fatal. The government should introspect on why farming seems to be imploding. In the pre-budget discussions on agriculture with the Finance Minister, I suggested that the government order an audit of its programmes by beneficiaries. The government acknowledges the need, but given the bureaucratic obduracy, this critical audit is bound to get sidestepped.

I have pondered for years as to why the FM should be meeting farmer representatives, especially when the budget allocations are made at the specific request of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare. Most of the suggestions are either repeated annually or have no relevance to the budget. But I must acknowledge the FM's remarkable patience to engage with critics for hours in these "consultations with farmers and economists" where, invariably, representatives of agro-industry find their way in.

It was heartening to learn that the Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare met farmer representatives prior to the budget session, possibly the first Union minister for agriculture to do so. The Indian agricultural research system has consistently failed to meet expectations in terms of closing the yield gap in crop productivity. Part of the blame is on the lack of funding support and the tendency to spread scarce resources thinly over all crop types/classes such that a critical inertia for transformative change is not achieved in any

The GoI does not even have the data on revenue collection for later years. Even optimistically, if the collections doubled over five vears, it would not exceed Rs 2,000 crore. Shorttermism of financially constrained states would make them reluctant to forego revenue and label such a nudge as an assault on the federal structure.

Though critical of caste,

the caste system was a

Savarkar never argued that

centuries-long structure of

dominance and oppression,

and a birth-based, radically

group dignity was built into

it. Anti-Brahmin arguments,

ruling many intellectual and

political circles in Bombay

and Madras Presidencies at

sympathy. Indeed, he argued,

the time, did not draw his

the project of Hindu unity

leadership'. Thus Savarkar

'attempted to have it both

ways: To enact radical reform

alienating the privileged elite'.

could be pursued under

'enlightened Brahmin

without completely

unequal, distribution of

crop. The legacy of ticking all boxes is not tenable; it never was.

To consider three nutritionally vital crops

with the potential to double the yield and where India is excessively dependent on imports, we proposed to the FM that the government deploy Rs 1,000 crore per year on gram/chickpea in pulses and in oilseeds, soyabean(kharif) and on mustard (rabi) for eight years. That is the time to achieve a research breakthrough. India cannot continue to invest

as it has been doing and expect sharp improvements in agriculture productivity. Nearly 45 per cent of Indian farmers grow only field crops (no horticulture or animal husbandry) and over a decade, have witnessed near zero or negative growth rates in value of output. They are distraught. Meanwhile, problems around marketing of perishable horticulture produce remain unresolved. Broadly, even a 5 per cent increase/decrease in production can lead to an inverse 50 per cent fall/rise in farmgate prices. Cognisant of the problem, the government had tried to literally ram through reforms to un-regulate agricultural markets. Since then, the complexities around reforming the sector, governed by the states, by enacting new laws or councils, have only increased Equally, uniform taxation in agricultural markets across India (like GST) will pave the way for improved governance, mitigation of food petition to benefit farmers and consumers.

The market fees and other charges from horticulture produce collected by all the states vary and collectively amounted to Rs 908 crore in 2018-19. The GoI does not even have the data on revenue collection for later years. Even optimistically, if the collections doubled over five years, it would not exceed Rs 2,000 crore. Short-termism of financially constrained states would make them reluctant to forego revenue and label such a nudge as an assault on the federal structure. The Bharat Krishak Samaj proposed a smarter way forward — that the Centre, through the 16th Finance Commission, could offer to financially compensate the states for five years for the reduction in their fees and charges on horticulture produce to 0.1 per cent. A nominal fee should be charged for purely administrative reasons like collecting and mining real-time data. This is in line with the proclamation of the benefits

of "One Nation, One Tax". The stakes for India couldn't be higher, especially when past budget allocations regarding agriculture prove that strategic thinking on the use of land for meeting competing objectives is missing. This has left the nation unprepared for climate change or making Bharat "viksit". So, even as I am optimistic about India, as far as its farmers are concerned, there are reasons for pessimism. As a farmer, my approach is try and fail, rather than not try at all.

The writer is chairman, Bharat Krishak Sama

# JANUARY 7, 1985, FORTY YEARS AGO STALEMATE ENDS

AKALI DAL WILL respond favourably to any initiative from the Centre for an amicable settlement of the Punjab problem, elements in the Akali leadership claim. The realisation has grown among the Akali ranks that continuance of the stalemate and adoption of a negative attitude towards a positive initiative from the Centre would complicate matters further.

PM On Punjab

PRIME MINISTER RAJIV Gandhi has said that the Army could be withdrawn from Punjab when its internal security duties are ended. But "the time schedule for the Army's withdrawal depends a lot on the response from the Sikhs," and "the Army has to come out, and the sooner its internal security duties are ended there the better," said Gandhi

inflation and price fluctuations. Most impor-

tantly, the expectation is that this will ignite

entrepreneurial spirit to drive regulated com-

#### US-SOVIET ARMS TALK

US SECRETARY OF State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko arrived in Geneva for talks on re-opening arms negotiations between the two superpowers. The talks between Shultz and Gromyko will be the first known discussions since the Soviet Union walked out of negotiations on medium-

range nuclear missiles in November 1983 in

protest over the US deployment of new missiles in Europe. "I hope (the talks) will set our countries on a path toward new negotiations on equitable and verifiable agreements,' Shultz said.

#### BJP POLL STRATEGY

BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY has left to its state units to hold talks on seat adjustments for the forthcoming assembly elections with other non-communist opposition parties. This was indicated by BJP general secretary LK Advani after the conclusion of the party's national executive. The party was anxious to avoid the division of Opposition votes, Advani said.

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2025

# THE IDEAS PAGE

# MSP guarantee is feasible

Those opposing it paint an unfair picture of its financial burden



BY KAVITHA KURUGANTI, Kirankumar Vissa and Yogendra Yadav

IS A LEGALLY guaranteed Minimum Support Price (MSP) to the farmers an idea whose time has come? Today is the 43rd day of the indefinite fast on this issue by farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal. In the midst of this fast, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing (with a majority of MPs from the ruling NDA) has made an unprecedented recommendation of "legally binding" MSP. The Samyukt Kisan Morcha, the largest platform of farmers' organisations, is likely to announce a major action plan with the same demand as the farmers protesting at Khanauri.

to be in no mood to consider this demand. Notwithstanding the PM's repeated assertion "MSP hai aur rahega" — the government has not even initiated a dialogue with the protesting farmers. The PM's "New Year gift" to the farmers — a stale declaration about continuing crop insurance and subsidy on fertilisers — bypasses the MSP. On the contrary, the government's recently released draft

However, the Union government seems

Marketing" for the next 10 years does not even mention the MSP, let alone consider legally binding MSP.

"National Framework for Agricultural

In the midst of this deadlock, the farmers continue to suffer. Take Merta, an important major agricultural market in Rajasthan where moong (green gram) is a major kharif crop. The officially declared MSP for moong is Rs 8,682 per quintal. However, during December 2024, the average price was only Rs 6,467. The farmers had to sell at a loss of Rs 2,215 per quintal, below the official MSP. Thus, the total income lost by farmers in this one market for this one crop in one month was over Rs 10 crore. In the market at Jalana, Maharashtra, the average price of jowar (sorghum) received by farmers in December was Rs 2,456 per quintal, Rs 915 below the official MSP of Rs 3,371. Maize price in Madhya Pradesh markets was Rs 1,980, whereas the MSP is Rs 2,225. The average market price for soybeans during the three months between October and December was Rs 4,076 in Maharashtra and Rs 4.148 in Madhya Pradesh, while the MSP was Rs 4,892. Herein lies the MSP story and the ra-

The government officially declares MSP for 23 crops every year with a fanfare that makes public believe that the government has done a great favour to the farmers. In reality, the government does precious little to ensure that farmers get this "minimum" price. If the government does not take any action when the market price goes below MSP, the words "minimum" and "support" become meaningless. Clearly, an MSP that is not guaranteed is no MSP. The farmers simply want the government to redeem its promissory note.

tionale for the farmers' demand.

However, every time the farmers' demand comes up for discussion, an outcry is orchestrated in the mainstream media, portraying it as unreasonable, operationally impossible or a fiscal disaster. Much of this criticism is either directed at an earlier version of this demand that the farmers' movement has outgrown or is deliberate scaremongering. The demand for legally binding MSP is logically coherent and operationalisable. What is more, the country can afford it. Here is how it can be done. (We draw upon our article 'A question of how, not why', Frontline, March 22, 2024).

Let us begin by getting rid of the idea that legally binding MSP entails that the government must procure the entire produce of all the crops, or at least those crops that sell below the official MSP. This is neither feasible nor necessary. It is also not simply a matter of declaring any trade below MSP as illegal and relying on a punitive mechanism. This has been attempted and such a legal provision by itself does not work.

The basic principle of a legally binding MSP is very simple: Farmers must have a legal entitlement to receive — and the state would have a corresponding legal obligation to ensure to farmers — at least a remunerative MSP for all agricultural produce. The point of this definition is that the state's obligation is to "ensure" that the farmers receive the statutory price for their produce, not necessarily to "purchase" the farmers' produce. Correspondingly, the farmers' entitlement is to "receive" the statutory price, irrespective of who they receive it from.

This principle can be operationalised through three main mechanisms: Expanded procurement, effective market intervention and assured deficit payment. Let us examine these three.

Expansion and fine-tuning of the existing procurement operations would be the first step in this direction. Higher procurement of millets, pulses and oilseeds and expanding their inclusion in the food security schemes would help redress the present imbalance in procurement. The second modality can be smart market interventions. This can take multiple forms: Limited purchase whenever prices start dipping below the MSP, setting the floor price in APMC market auctions to MSP, fine-tuning international trade policy, improving the existing warehouse receipt scheme and strengthening the Farmers Producer Organisations (FPO) to bolster the capacity of small farmers to hold their crops until prices rise. Finally, if these methods do not succeed in keeping the market price at or above the MSP level, the government would be legally required to compensate the farmer for the difference between the MSP and average market price. The legal guarantee of a fallback "price deficiency payment" would ensure that farmers' entitlement to receiving

Is a legally binding MSP affordable? The scaremongers use a deliberately misleading calculation to flash astronomic figures like Rs. 14 lakh crore and paint the MSP demand as a ridiculous or impossible ask. These calculations assume that the government would need to purchase every single quintal of every crop. As we have seen above, that is not what the farmers' demand entails. Besides, the actual expenditure incurred by the government would be the difference between the price at which the government purchases and the price at which it sells the crop. Moreover, not all commodities require an intervention; any government intervention is required only when the market price is

the MSP becomes a legal right.

C R Sasikumar

Is a legally binding MSP affordable? The scaremongers use a deliberately misleading calculation to flash astronomic figures like Rs. 14 lakh crore and paint the MSP demand as a ridiculous or impossible ask. These calculations assume that the government would need to purchase every single quintal of every crop. As we have seen above, that is not what the farmers' demand entails. Besides, the actual expenditure incurred by the government would be the difference between the price at which the government purchases and the price at which it sells the crop. Moreover, not all commodities require an intervention; any government intervention is required only when the market price is below the MSP.

We calculated the total cost of legally binding MSP for the top 15 crops (that account for more than 95 per cent of the value of crops for which MSP is declared) for the marketing year 2022-23. The total deficit for all the crops that sold below the announced MSP came to Rs 26,469 crore. This is for the MSP at the rates announced by the government, using a partial cost [(A2+FL)+ 50 per cent)] concept. We also performed the same calculations considering the MSP demanded by farmers (or Swaminathan MSP), which is based on Comprehensive Cost (C2+50 per cent). The total deficit below the demanded MSP came to Rs 2,00,710 crore.

The actual expenditure would be less than that. Timely market intervention and all other measures mentioned above can ensure that market prices would automatically be close to MSP, and thus the deficits would be significantly lower. At the present rates, a legally guaranteed MSP would cost about 0.5 per cent of the Union budget. Even if we consider the higher rates demanded by the farmers, the total cost would be 4.2 per cent of the Budget, about 0.6 per cent of GDP. Considering the additional purchasing power this would put into the hands of agricultural households in the country setting off positive growth in the economy, this expenditure is eminently justified. It is now a matter of political will.

Kuruganti is co-convenor of Alliance for Sustainable & Holistic Agriculture (ASHA), Vissa is co-founder of Rythu Swarajya Vedika, a farmers' organisation in Telangana and AP, and Yadav is member, Swaraj India, and national convenor of Bharat Jodo Abhiyaan

#### WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"While some leave the country due to persecution, the vast majority are economic migrants, many hailing from relatively prosperous parts of Punjab. Victims have said economic hardship made them opt for illegal migration, while others are inspired by compatriots who made it 'big' in Europe." - DAWN, PAKISTAN

## How not to criticise Nehru

Certainly, he could have done more in primary education. But he did quicken a moribund economy, a historic achievement



PULAPRE BALAKRISHNAN

IT IS A measure of India's rising confidence that there is now a critical gaze upon all aspects of our past and present. One area that has received attention recently is the performance of the economy in early independent India, and Jawaharlal Nehru's role in it. Into the 21st century, we are in a good place to examine these, for three reasons. We have the quantitative methods that allow us to identify turning points in economic history without resorting to judgement; we have the theoretical models that help us understand how an economy grows; and we have the experience of the rest of Asia to compare our own past policies and achievements with.

For Nehru, the single-most important goal of economic policy was to increase the level of income, which was unacceptably low for the overwhelming majority of Indians. This is evident in the statement he made in parliament in May 1956 when the main vehicle of the Nehru-Mahalanobis strategy for development, the Second Five-Year Plan, was launched. He said "The whole philosophy... is to take advantage of every possible way of growth and not to do something which suits some doctrinaire theory or imagine we have grown because we have satisfied some text-book maxim of a hundred years ago." It would be difficult to detect ideology in this; actually, it is not only pragmatic but cautioned against taking an ideological approach to the economy. And what was the impact of Nehru's stated objective? In one sphere at least, it was nothing short of remarkable.

From the work of S Sivasubramonian, an early student of India's national income accounts, we find that the average annual rate of growth in Nehru's time was 4 per cent as opposed to less than 1 per cent in the last half-century of the British Raj. This is lower than the approximately 6 per cent growth achieved in the last decade, but the performance should be seen in perspective. It would be naïve to imagine that an economy can leapfrog from 1 to 6 per cent without traversing the intermediate growth phase, especially when emerging from two centuries of exploitation by an external power. For an international comparison — in Nehru's time, India grew slower than Korea but faster than China.

What about the economy's performance during 1950 to 1965 has received particular criticism? The allegations are, first, that agriculture was neglected in the craze for industrialisation. Second, that the public sector was a blackhole, sucking the nation's savings without yielding any returns. Third, that the licensing of private investment repressed the private sector.

Sivasubramonian's data shows that agriculture was the sector that performed the

best during Nehru's time, leading the transition to a permanently higher growth path. To understand this, it would be useful to recognise that agricultural production benefits from industrial inputs and the spread of publicly-provided infrastructure. Public policy towards agriculture itself was forward-looking, seen in the invitation to the world's leading agricultural scientist Norman Borlaug to visit India in 1963. The Green Revolution followed soon after.

I turn now to the performance of the public sector. Most interestingly, the savings of the public sector grew faster than that of the private corporate sector, both of which drew upon savings of the household sector. This record of the public sector need not surprise. The planner Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis had actually imagined public enterprises as a potential source of revenue to step-up public investment. Their subsequent degeneration is entirely due to the dispensation that followed Nehru, which succeeded in turning them into welfarist traps.

Finally, on the alleged repression of the private sector due to controls. Going by their investment record, the private corporate sector, taken as a whole, flourished under Nehru. The private corporate investment rate surged, growing at least as much as that of the public sector. Again, this need not surprise at all. While a certain narrow understanding of the "market" views it purely as an institution for exchange, the original economists saw it as the aggregate demand for goods. Thus, in the 1950s, as public investment stepped-up, it expanded the market for the private sector which could now meet demand for their products that may not have arisen otherwise. (The data referred to here are presented in my book, India's Economy from Nehru to Modi A Brief History).

So, was economic policy under Nehru optimal? Far from it. There were errors of commission and omission. As an economist, I am perplexed most by the absence then of a mission-mode approach to spreading primary education, and getting older children especially girls, into school given the abysmally low literacy rate in 1947. If there is one feature that distinguishes India from East Asia which has been far more successful in raising income levels and ending poverty, it is schooling. It is not as if alarm bells had not been rung early. Bombay University's B V Krishnamurti had pointed to the meagre outlays on education the very moment the second five-year plan was launched in 1956. Later, Amartya Sen in the 1960s and the educationist J P Naik in the 1970s flagged this continuing neglect. What is troubling about it is the visible class bias. It left the vast majority of Indians without the human capital to raise their productivity and the freedom to pursue the life they value. This is a monumental democratic deficit to contemplate. For sure, Nehru could have done more here, but he did quicken a moribund economy, a historic achievement without which there could not have been much human development anyway.

> The writer is honorary visiting professor, Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram

# Home lies in between

below the MSP.

In Gwalior, I ached to get away. In the big city, I long for belonging

THE CITY AND I



There is a "notable people" section on Wikipedia pages about cities. I was obsessed with Gwalior's list: Tansen, Nida Fazli, Kartik Aaryan. Which Gwalior did they inhabit? In my city, fame meant clearing exams and earning merit. How did the same city produce musicians and poets and actors? Fazli had returned to Gwalior and his interview took the entire back page of the weekend city edition of the leading Hindi newspaper. When asked why he left Gwalior for Mumbai, he didn't mention riots or lack of opportunities. He romantically recited, "Apni marzi se kahaan apne safar ke hum hain/ Rukh hawaon ka jidhar ka udhar ke hum hain" (My journey is not determined by my choice, I go where the direction of winds take me). I reminisced about this

But Gwalior felt distant even when I lived there. It was replete with monuments not mentioned in our history textbooks. It was brimming with myriad forms of culture moving bookstores, Tansen Sangeet Samaroh, concerts and plays, and the Gwalior Vyapar Mela. Yet, it was merely a prelude for a different end. Our engagement with art and litera-

ghazal for years and sobbed in a foreign city.

ture remained focused on facilitating the single-minded pursuit of escaping. Chasing an unknown object of undefined desire. Like Vivian Gornick writes in The Odd Woman and the City, "From earliest adolescence, I knew there was a center-of-the-world and that I was far from it." I wanted to seize the centre; little did I know, the "centre does not hold".

I worked hard to reach the centre, I coaxed merit to feature in my stars so that I could get away from my restricted girlhood in Gwalior. The anonymity pro-

vided by the big city allowed me to par-

ticipate in political rallies with strangers, give speeches in language on anyone's tongue in autos, cabs, protests, sleep in monuments, watch films alone at midnight, chat away with men on long dates. This life seems unthinkable in Gwalior. But my shadow lives back home: What if I did not escape? What if I could live the same life at home?

On some days, I pull up Gwalior's map, so much wider than the one I imagine. I wonder, in which area would children feel safe on the roads? I learnt where you could buy straw bas-

kets in the big city. I wondered where one could find straw baskets in my city. During heritage walks in other cities, I have stopped and wondered about the lanes of Gwalior, My experiences remained limited, not inclusive of sunrises and night skies. A friend from home once lamented, "We don't even know a good chai ki tapri in this city."

In the big city, I longed for a sense of belonging. I noted the similarities and differences of language with diligence. An easy familiar-

ity develops between migrants in the metropolitan. Whenever I hear my

epaper.indianexpress.com

construction sites, beauty salons, I ask them where they are from and make sure that they know that I'm not from the big city. I want to belong to this homelessness at least.

How many years does it take to belong somewhere? The illusion of merit carried me here, merit's more meritorious cousin marriage has made my migration legitimate. But I still feel suspended in the interim. Inauthentic in this city and inexperienced in the one I come from. I can humour myself by believing that home is still a possibility, one I can put together, a road not taken — or I can pride myself on this escape: I have made it! I have buffets to choose from, instead of bhandaras where you have a messy mash of only

what you are served. Every visit back home chips away at the ambition of coming back. Because the current location and destination are both moving points. Fazli says in the documentary Yeh Kahan Aa Gaye Hum, "Shehar jaane waale ka kuch din rasta dekhta hai aur jaane waala jab waapas nahi laut ta to shehar khud apni jagah se door chala jaata hai. Aur jab wo lautne waala waapas aata hai to itni der ho chuki hoti hai ki uska shehar apne hi shehar mein nahi milta."(A place waits for the person who leaves only for a few days, but when the person doesn't come back, then the town itself goes off to some other place, and when the person comes back, by then it is so late that his city cannot be found in his town).

> Upadhyay is a writer and researcher based in Delhi

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### EMPLOYMENT CRISIS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Behind jobs data' (IE, January 6). The India Employment Report 2024 shows several problems exist on the nation's employment front. It is estimated that about 83 per cent of the unemployed population of India are young. What is more appalling is the claim by the chief economic advisor that the government cannot be expected to solve the employment problem. Such a remark is unacceptable given the serious consequences of unemployment on economic growth. It is high time that the Modi government devises a well-thought-out, forward-

looking employment policy. Khokan Das, Kolkata

#### INDIA-US TIES

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Old and new' (IE, January 6). The strategic relationship between India and the US has seen tremendous progress. During the Trump and the Biden administrations, Indo-US ties moved forward albeit some hiccups. US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan's visit is a significant step in strengthening bilateral relations, demonstrating continuity regardless of changes in US leadership. A particularly important development is the initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies, which marks a pivotal enhancement in defence collaboration. It is yet another win for India even as uncertainty about Trump's second term gains momentum. Megha Kumar, Ahmedabad

### **BUILD COMMUNITY**

tered the country illegally.

DATA-DRIVEN POLICY

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Playing

with spectres' (IE, January 4). Illegal im-

migration has been a topic of intense de-

bate across India. It presents significant

challenges, especially in border states,

but inflammatory rhetoric cannot be the

way forward. The government must take

urgent steps to collect data regarding the

affected regions. With this data, effective

measures such as better border control,

enhanced surveillance, and cooperation with neighbouring countries can be im-

plemented. There must be appropriate legal frameworks for those who have en-

Sanjay Chopra, Mohali

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Imagine a trust-based society' (IE, January 6). Political trust is crucial for public institutions. The erosion of trust can lead to disharmony and lessen the impact of welfare programmes. Times of crisis, especially the recent COVID-19 pandemic where global leaders influenced the masses to take vaccinations and precautionary measures, show that trusting governing bodies is key. There is also a pressing need for transparency and dialogue in leadership decisions. This will increase the legitimacy of institutions, promote meaningful investments in human resources and new employment opportunities and foster a sense of community.

Vaibhav Goyal, Chandigarh

# 10 ECONOMY



**⊘** ₹79,000

**USD RATE** 

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) per barrel as of January 3

**⊗** ₹85.68



\$76.57

**SILVER** 

₹90,700

SENSEX: 77,964.99 ▼ 1258.12 (-1.59%) NIFTY: 23,616.05 ▼ 388.70 (-1.62%) NIKKEI: 39,307.05 ▼ 587.49 HANG SENG: 19,688.29 ▼ 71.98 FTSE: 8,232.49 ▲ 8.51 DAX: 20,172.16 ▲ 266.08

### FOREIGN INVESTORS SOLD ₹2,575.06 CR OF DOMESTIC SHARES ON MONDAY

# Sensex, Nifty plunge over 1.5% on FPI selling, new virus scare

**HITESH VYAS** 

MUMBAI, JANUARY 6

DOMESTIC STOCK markets witnessed a sharp decline on Monday, with Sensex and Nifty falling by 1.6 per cent on concerns over outbreak of human metapneumovirus (HMPV), muted corporate earnings during the third quarter and continued selling by foreign portfolio investors (FPIs).

The BSE's 30 share Sensex tanked 1,258.12 points, or 1.59 per cent, to close at 77,964.99. The index declined by 1,441.49 points during intraday trades. The Nifty 50 lost 388.7 points, or 1.62 per cent, to finish at 23,616.05.

The market capitalisation, or the total value of all listed shares, of the BSE-listed firms declined by Rs 10.98 lakh crore to Rs 438.79 lakh crore.

"Fears related to the new human metapneumovirus (HMPV) have added to the bearish sentiment, triggering fresh rounds of selling after the recent counter-trend pullback rally," said Santosh Meena,

head of research. Swastika Investmart.

Two cases of the HMPV infection in India were detected in a three-month old girl and an eight-month old boy in Bengaluru. A three-month-old baby tested positive for the HMPV in Ahmedabad, making it the third case to be reported from the country.

Analysts expect the market to remain volatile until concerns over the new virus eases.

Heavy selling in the market by investors was also in anticipation of slower corporate earnings in the third quarter.

"There are already concerns that the forthcoming third quarter earnings could be muted for several sectors due to weak government spending and subdued demand, which is pushing investors, especially the FIIs (foreign institutional investors), to further slash their domestic equity bets," said Prashanth Tapse, senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd.

On Monday, foreign investors sold Rs 2,575.06 crore of domestic shares. This was balanced by buying by domestic institutional investors who purchased Rs 5,749.65 crore of

PRE-BUDGET MEETING WITH FINANCE MINISTER NIRMALA SITHARAMAN

the most, shedding over 3.5 per cent. Fear of weak

corporate

earnings

CONCERNS OVER weak

corporate earnings for the

third quarter, outbreak of

movirus (HMPV) and con-

tinued selling by foreign

portfolio investors (FPIs)

led to a sharp sell-off in

local equities, the BSE's provi-

January 6), overseas investors

have sold Rs 7,160 crore worth

of Indian shares, according to

the National Securities

Depository Ltd (NSDL) data.

The sell-off by FPIs is due to

strong dollar, higher US bond

yields and on expectation of

lacklustre quarterly corporate

profit booking at higher levels,

with the public sector banks

and capital market indices lost

In January so far (until

the markets.

sional data showed.

human metapneu-

On Monday, both Nifty and Bank Nifty slipped below their 200-day moving averages (DMA). Nifty PSU Bank index dropped 4 per cent.

"We believe that the current market texture is weak but oversold; therefore, level-based trading would be the ideal strategy for day traders," said Shrikant Chouhan, head equity research, Kotak Securities.

For day traders, as long as the market is trading below 23,750/78,200, weak sentiment is likely to continue. Below this level, it could retest the 23,500/77,600 mark. Further downside may also occur, potentially dragging the index down to 23,400/77,300. Conversely, if it rises above 23,750/78,200, the market could bounce back to the 23,900-23,950/78,600-78,800 range, he said.

Investors will now focus on Among the sectors, all mathe ext month's Union Budget jor sectoral indices witnessed announcement and the government's action plan to boost demand and measures to overcome global challenges.

### Make all pay for water, give a laptop to kids from 8-18, measure Indian missions by tourists from those countries

I HAVE five wishes that I would like to see in the Budget of 2025-26. They are:

1. Fiscal deficit: I would like the gradual consolidation path that the Finance Minister has charted since Covid on fiscal consolidation to continue. It has allowed us to have some weapons in our armory in a very uncertain world. So, achieve 4.9 per cent this year and target 4.5 per cent next year but no more than that.

**2. Water:** The most urgent and profound crisis that India faces is the shortage of water. India's current water consumption stands at 1,385 m<sup>3</sup> per capita, is a third of the global average and below that of low-income countries.

Water requires a GST-level council to create consensus on water pricing. All sectors including agriculture need to pay for water. In addition, the Centre should create a fund to provide low-cost loans for building and maintaining sewage treatment plants in all cities that are close to water bodies — sea, rivers or lakes; and to municipal corporations to replace all old pipes supplying water in their municipalities.

3. Ease of doing business (EODB): It would be wonderful if we change the metric to capture ease of doing business in India by State.

Construction is well recognised to be one of the highest employment creating businesses in India. Anecdotally I have been told that to construct a 42-story building in Mumbai takes 4 years though it takes less than one year in China. My friends in the business tell me that they provision around two years to just obtain government clearances, and the additional one year is on account of the lower productivity of our manpower.

The right target to check EODB should be time taken to construct and deliver a building by State (from start to occupancy certificate date) and published. It will give a truer picture of EODB by State.

4. Computers for chil**dren between 8-18:** India is going to supply manpower for the world given age demographics and aging in the



Janmejaya Sinha

CHAIRMAN, BOSTON

#### SPECIAL TO THE **EXPRESS**

CONSULTING GROUP, INDIA



rich world including China. Our education outcomes are currently very poor. We must supplement learning efforts and prevent digital apartheid by providing a free computer to all children between 8-18 with pre-loaded learning programs.

There should also be a building in each tehsil or village with 24-hour power and wifi connections, and learning competitions should be introduced as incentives for children.

5. Encouraging tourism: Tourism is a big employment creator. India is doing very poorly in attracting international tourists. Of even the 10 million international tourists that come to India most are non-resident Indians or business travelers. The genuine international tourists are unlikely to be more than 3 million.

We need to act on multiple fronts. Firstly, given how hard it is to get tourists to come to India when here we must get full value from them,

so the mantra should be "ek din aur" before we try to get "ek tourist aur." A tourist should not go see the Taj Mahal and return to Delhi the same day, there should be a night programme too.

The government must address the root causes. Why does Patna have no good ho-

Land acquisition and land leases for constructing hotels are a nightmare. Getting to important Buddhist sites like Bodh Gaya, Nalanda and Rajgir is hard. It needs to be easier. In fact, coming to India itself should be simplified. We should provide 15-day visa

free entry for international

tourists from selected coun-

tries based on tourism poten-

tial and not reciprocity. We should also consider a tax holiday for private players to encourage them. GST rates for hotels and restaurants need to be moderated. The government should conduct a cost benefit analysis of its GST collections from hotels versus the tourist earnings foregone. In fact, a bureaucrat friend told me he chose to go to Bentota in Sri Lanka, rather than any Indian location be-

cause it was cheaper to do so

(including flights).

Finally, all Indian missions should also be measured on the number of tourists that have come from that country. Each state should identify its message for international tourists as Kerala had done with its "God's Own Country" campaign. Bihar might consider religious sites for Buddhist and Jain, Rajasthan its places, other states may focus on historical monuments, temples, medical tourism, beaches, hill resorts, wildlife,

tional institutions. State governments should be encouraged to post one state bureaucrat to target location missions with the task of facilitating tourists come to

plantations, or even educa-

This is India's decade but to really make it our own we should remember Benjamin Franklin's pithy invocation "you may delay but time will not"!

their state in India.

(Views are personal)

#### BRIEFLY

#### 'Services sector growth hits 4-mth high in December'

New Delhi: India's services sector growth touched a fourmonth high in December, supported by new business inflows on strong demand conditions and easing inflationary pressures, a monthly survey said on Monday. The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Services Business Activity Index, rose from 58.4 in November to 59.3 in December, highlighting the strongest rate of expansion in four months. In the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

#### FIU-IND signs MoU with Irdai

Delhi: Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND) and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) on Monday signed a MoU for sharing of intelligence and information to check money laundering. The MoU was signed as part of continued coordinated efforts in effective implementation of requirements of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act and Rules, the Finance Ministry said in a statement.

#### 'IIFCL can grow book size by ₹1 lakh crinnext 3 years'

New Delhi: Financial Services Secretary M Nagaraju has said state-owned infra financier IIFCL has the potential to grow its book size by Rs 1 lakh crore in the next three years. **PTI** 

#### Adani teams up with Thailand's Indorama

New Delhi: Gautam Adani's group has teamed up with Thailand's Indorama Resources Ltd for a foray into the petrochemical business as the ports-to-energy conglomerate looks to expand in adjacencies. Adani Petrochemicals Ltd, a subsidiary of the group's flagship Adani Enterprises, "has completed the incorporation process of a joint venture company namely Valor Petrochemicals with Indorama Resources Ltd, Thailand," Adani Enterprises said in a stock exchange filing.

## Realty sector seeks higher tax benefit on home loans, urges focus on rental housing

**ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU** NEW DELHI. JANUARY 6

THE REAL estate sector has requested the government to pay greater attention to the expansion of rental housing and provide higher tax benefit on home loans, in a pre-Budget consultation with the Finance Minister on Monday.

"Until now we are only talking about ownership housing but a focus needs to be given to rental housing as well," managing director of Hiranandani Group and chairman of the National Real Estate Development Council Niranjan Hiranandani said after the meeting.

In the last Budget, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced that rental housing with dormitory-type accommodation for industrial workers would be facilitated in the public-private partnership mode with viability gap funding support and commitment from anchor industries.

"So our idea is that we need to expand it to other people," he said, adding that even in the richest country in the world, the United States, 50 per cent of

the people live in rental housing.

The pre-Budget consultation was attended by representatives from the infrastructure, energy and urban sectors, besides senior officials. There were also discussions

on giving infrastructure

status to the housing sector and making funds available so that more affordable housing can come up. Another proposal made at the meeting was increasing the exemption limit on interest on

housing loans to Rs 5 lakh from Rs 2 lakh. The meeting also discussed redevelopment of slums in Mumbai. Besides Hiranandani, chairman of business GMR Group B V N Rao, managing director of Afcons Infrastructure S Paramasivan, and head indirect taxes at Larsen and Toubro Gurinder Pal

tions on infrastructure. Representatives from the energy sector included chairman of ReNew Group Sumant Sinha, CEO of Waree Energy

Singh attended the consulta-

Pawan Kumar Agarwal. The urban development group had seven representa-



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman with Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary and Finance Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey at the pre-Budget consultation with trade union members in New Delhi.

### Trade unions seek minimum EPFO pension at ₹5,000/mth

Govt eases conditions

for specialty steel PLI

New Delhi: The government on close on January 31. The reopen-

Monday relaxed conditions of the ing was accompanied by easing of

New Delhi: Trade unions on Monday pressed for increasing minimum EPFO pension 5 times to Rs 5,000 per month, immediate constitution of the 8th Pay Commission and higher taxes on super rich in the upcoming 2025-26 Budget.

In their customary pre-Budget meeting with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, trade union leaders also demanded an increase in income tax exemption limit to Rs 10 lakh per annum, social security scheme for gig workers, and restoration of old pension scheme (OPS) for government employees. After the meeting TUCC national general secretary S

production-linked incentive (PLI)

scheme for specialty steel and re-

opened the application window

for companies to attract invest-

ments in product categories that

saw no or low participation in the

first round. Steel and Heavy

Industries Minister H D

Kumaraswamy launched the

scheme at an event at Vigyan

P Tiwari said the government should stop all privatisation and corporatisation of PSUs and impose an additional 2 per cent tax on super rich to fund social security for informal workers. Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh organising secretary (Northern Zone) Pawan Kumar said minimum pension under EPS-95 should be increased from Rs 1,000 per month to Rs 5,000 as a first step and subsequently linked to the variable dearness allowance.

CITU National Secretary Swadesh Dev Roye also demanded that the 8th Pav Commission should be constituted immediately.

conditions for companies willing

to invest in making cold rolled

scheme follows extensive con-

vegetables (onion, tomato and

potato), rice, dal, curd and salad.

A non-veg thali has the same el-

ements except for dal, which is

replaced by chicken (broiler).

known as electric steel.

### Budget FY26: AMFI calls for restoration of long-term indexation benefit for debt funds

**ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU** MUMBAI. JANUARY 6

THE ASSOCIATION of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) has called for restoration of the long-term indexation benefit for debt schemes of mutual funds which was withdrawn in the Budget 2024.

grain oriented electrical steel, also In its proposals for Union Budget 2025-26, the mutual "The new version of the fund body has also requested the government to restore earlier tax sultations with the industry since rates on capital gains, amend definition of equity oriented funds, August last year where it was felt that there was a scope for more allowing mutual funds to launch applications," secretary in the pension-oriented MF schemes with uniform tax treatment as National Pension Scheme (NPS) and a uniform rate for deduction of surcharge on TDS (tax deducted at source) in respect of NRIs (non-resident Indians).

The Budget 2023 discontinued the indexation provision for new investments prospectively from April 1, 2023, which clearly implied that all investments up to March 31, 2023 shall be permitted to avail indexation benefit. However, in July 2024 Budget the said indexation benefit was withdrawn retrospectively for all old long-term investments in debt funds made even prior to or upto March 31, 2023 also.

man's expenditure. The data also "It is our humble and a logical reveals the ingredients (cereals, pulses, broilers, vegetables, request to kindly revisit the withdrawal of indexation on long term debt investments and restore the status quo ante by amending the tax laws re-introducing the indexation benefit on body has also requested the government to restore earlier tax rates on capital gains, amend definition of equity oriented funds, allowing mutual funds to launch pensionoriented MF schemes with uniform tax treatment as NPS and a uniform rate for deduction of surcharge on TDS in respect of NRIs

long term capital gains from debt funds in respect of all investments in debt funds made up to March 31, 2023," AMFI said in its

benefits will boost the confidebt market and help in the development of the economy.

respect of listed bonds. Currently, debt mutual fund is considered as short-term capital asset irrespective of the holding period and are taxed at appli-

In the Budget 2024, the short term capital gains tax was hiked from 15 per cent to 20 per cent, increasing tax liability by 30 per cent. The long term capital gains tax was raised from 10 per cent to 12.5 per cent, increasing tax liability by 25 per cent.

The mutual fund body, in its Budget 2025 proposal, has requested to reinstate the earlier capital gains taxation rates as the percentage of hike is large.

AMFI has also proposed that for mutual funds as an investor, the STT (Securities Transaction Tax) on futures and options should be reinstated to the earlier rates. In the last budget, the STT was increased in futures from 0.0125 per cent to 0.02 per cent. for options it was hiked from

0.0625 per cent to 0.1 per cent. The mutual fund body has requested to amend the definition of equity oriented funds (EOFs) to include fund of funds (FOF) investing in equity oriented funds A FOF scheme of a mutual fund scheme invests in the units of

other mutual fund schemes.

Under current income tax regime, a FOF scheme is treated as an EOF only if a minimum of 90 per cent of the total proceeds of such fund is invested in the units of EOFs; and such EOFs also invest a minimum of 90 per cent of their total proceeds in the equity shares of domestic companies listed on a recognised stock

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

exchange.

#### various aspects of tech, innovation and AI in our meeting".PTI Bhavan in New Delhi. ministry of steel Sandeep The application window will Pondrik said. Non-veg thali prices rise by 12%: Crisil

**ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU** MUMBAI, DECEMBER 6

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Microsoft CEO Satva

Nadella during a meeting in New Delhi. In a post on X, PM

said, "It was indeed a delight to meet you, Satya Nadella!

Glad to know about Microsoft's ambitious expansion and

investment plans in India. It was also wonderful discussing

THE REPRESENTATIVE cost of home-cooked vegetarian thali rose by three per cent and that of non-vegetarian thali by 12 per cent on a year-on-year in December, rating firm Crisil said.

The increase in non-vegetarian thali cost was driven by an estimated 20 per cent on-year rise in the price of broiler, which accounts for 50 per cent of a nonvegetarian thali cost. The sharp surge in broiler prices is attributable to a low base of last year, when production was high, Crisil



said. Crisil said the rise in vegetarian thali cost was driven by an increase in tomato and potato prices, which collectively account for 24 per cent of the cost of a thali. Tomato price rose 24 per cent to Rs 47 per kg in December 2024 from Rs 38 per kg in December 2023. Potato

price surged 50 per cent on a low base last year to Rs 36 per kg in December 2024 from Rs 24 per kg in December 2023 due to an estimated 6 per cent on-year December line in production, Crisil said.

Adding to the cost was a 16 per cent on year jump in vegetable oil prices due to importduty hike, coupled with higher demand during the festive and wedding seasons.

vided a partial offset.

The average cost of preparing a thali at home is calculated based on input prices prevailing in north, south, east and west India. The monthly change reflects the impact on the common

However, an 11 per cent onyear drop in LPG fuel cost (to Rs 803 per 14.2 kg LPG cylinder in Delhi from Rs 903 last year) pro-

spices, edible oil and cooking gas) driving the change in the cost of the thali, Crisil said.

epaper.indianexpress.com

**FULL REPORT ON** www.indianexpress.com A veg thali comprises roti,

#### THE WISH LIST ■The mutual fund

proposal. The restoration of indexation dence of retail investors in the

To encourage retail participation in bond markets, the mutual fund body has requested that capital gains on redemption of units of debt oriented mutual funds held for more than one year should be taxed at the rate of 12.5 per cent, as applicable in

cable rates.

If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to explained@indianexpress.com

#### THIS WORD MEANS

#### **ARTESIAN WELL**

When water is confined under pressure between layers of impermeable rock, and gushes forth on its own

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** JAIPUR, JANUARY 6

THE RESIDENTS of Taranagar village in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer district witnessed an unusual phenomenon last month — large amounts of water began to gush out of the ground. The flow began on December 27, and stopped without any external intervention in the night of December 29.

Some on social media claimed the flow was from the underground Saraswati river, mentioned in ancient Vedic texts. Scientists have pointed to a geological event instead.

#### What happened in Jaisalmer?

A local farmer had contracted a firm to dig a tube well on his land to extract groundwater. On the morning of December 27, when the well had reached a depth of 850 feet, water began spouting from the ground.

In about an hour, it began to flow at high pressure — so much so that a truck and a drilling machine were stuck in it. Around 25 bighas of land was submerged by the water, which created a large depression in the ground. A small amount of non-inflammable gas was released along with the water.

Dr Narayan Das Inakhiya, Senior Hydro-Geologist at the Rajasthan State Ground Water Department, attributed the incident to an "artesian condition".

#### What are artesian conditions?

According to the United States Geological Survey website, an artesian aquifer refers to water stored under pressure between layers of sediments and soil below the Earth's surface. It is also described as "confined" water because of the hardy materials that lie above and below the subterranean reservoir.

Unlike water that is extracted through tube wells or wells, however, artesian water can spout on its own; the reservoir is also located deeper below the Earth's surface. The water is surrounded by poorly permeable rocks that result in high pressure. When a rupture (like through



Gushing subterranean water flooded **a large area.** *Screengrab from video* 

drilling) happens, the underground pressure forces the water upward.

The word "artesian" is specifically used when water is "confined under pressure below layers of relatively impermeable rock". It comes from the town of Artois in France, the old Roman city of Artesium, where the best known flowing artesian wells were drilled in the Middle Ages, the USGS says on its website.

#### Is it unusual for this water to gush out in the desert?

Dr Inakhiya explained that in desert regions, water is confined underneath a geological layer of sandstone. As soon as the top layer is punctured, water starts flowing upwards due to the high pressure. This phenomenon has previously been observed in Rajasthan in places such as Mohangarh and Nachana Samiti Panchayat.

"But the intensity with which the water was flowing (in Taranagar) has never been seen before," Dr Inakhiya said.

Artesian conditions have also been seen in desert regions of Australia and Africa.

### A clue on why new memories do not overwrite old ones

**PAPER** 

RESEARCHERS have found clues on a long-standing mystery — how the brain avoids overwriting old memories when new ones are created.

They have found that in mice, the brain processes new and old memories in separate phases of sleep, which might be helping in separating new

and old memories. The study, 'Sleep microstructure organises memory replay' was published in the journal *Nature* last week. It was carried out by scientists based at Cornell University in

the United States. For their analysis, the researchers, over the course of

**NEW RESEARCH** a month, taught a variety of tasks to a group of mice. They then equipped the mice with brain electrodes and tiny spy cameras that hung in front of their eyes to track their pupil dynamics when they went to sleep.

"One day, the mice learned a new task and when they fell asleep, the electrodes captured their neural activity and the cameras recorded the changes to their pupils," according to a press statement. The researchers interrupted the

mice's sleep at different moments and subsequently, tested how well they recalled their learned tasks.

It was found that new memories are repeated and consolidated when the pupil is smaller during a sub-stage of non-REM sleep — the stage of sleep most associated with

> when the pupil is larger. Azahara Oliva, co-author of the study and a physicist at Cornell University, told *Nature*, "The brain was preserving the

memory consolidation. Old

memories are repeated

older memories during this large-pupil sub-state, but incorporating new memories during the small-pupil substate,". This two-phase system is a "possible solution to this problem of how the brain can incorporate new knowledge but also maintain the old knowledge intact".

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** 



#### **EXPLAINED HISTORY**

# Mystery of the Indus script

For a century, scholars have tried and failed to decipher the script of the Indus Valley Civilisation. There is now a \$1-million prize for anyone who succeeds. Why is the answer so elusive? Is the 'script' not for real?

**ADRIJA ROYCHOWDHURY** KOLKATA. JANUARY 6

TAMIL NADU Chief Minister MK Stalin has announced a \$1 million prize for deciphering the script of the Indus Valley Civilisation, an enigma that endures more than a century after Sir John Marshall announced the discovery of the Bronze Age culture that thrived in valley of the Indus between c. 3300 and 1300 BCE.

Many archaeologists, epigraphists, linguists, historians, and scientists have made more than 100 documented attempts to decipher the writing system of the Harappans, without success.

The announcement by Stalin followed the publication of a study of Indus Signs And Graffiti Marks of Tamil Nadu by the state's Department of Archaeology, which identified "parallels" between "more than 90% of the graffiti marks of South India and the graffiti marks of the Indus Valley Civilisation".

The study compared marks on 15,000 pot shards found in 140 archaeological sites in Tamil Nadu with 4,000 artefacts, including seals, discovered at Indus Valley sites, and identified 42 "base signs", 544 "variants" and 1,521 "composite forms".

#### Signs in the script: how many?

The Indus Civilisation, which reached its zenith between 2600 and 1900 BCE, sprawled over more than 800,000 sq km in what is today Pakistan and parts of northwestern India. It was the world's most sophisticated urban culture at the time, with an elaborate system of trade, taxation, and drainage.

The plethora of inscriptions on seals and terracotta tablets found at Indus sites contain a variety of symbols — human and animal motifs, and what scholars have identified as parts of a forgotten script. However, there is no agreement on the number of symbols in the supposed script.

Archaeologist SR Rao, who pioneered the deciphering effort, postulated in 1982 that the script contained 62 signs. This was refuted by the Finnish Indologist Asko Parpola, one of the most authoritative voices on the subject — he said there were 425 signs (Deciphering the Indus Script (1994)). Then, in 2016, archaeologist and epigrapher Bryan K Wells suggested the presence of 676 signs.

This is only the first of many scholarly disagreements on the nature of the Indus script. The lack of a Rosetta Stone-equivalent has meant that scholars of the Indus Civilisation have sometimes resorted to speculation, tinged with ideological biases.

#### The 'Dravidian connection'

Scholars have long attempted to find linkages between the Indus script (and language) and Sanskrit. This is a part of the larger nationalist project to link the civilisation of the Indus Valley to that of the Vedic period, emphasising the indigeneity of India's people and culture. Rao was the most notable of these voices — but other specialists disagreed.

Andrew Robinson wrote that Rao seemed "determined to prove that the Indus language was the ancestor of Sanskrit, the root language of most of the modern languages of North India, and that Sanskrit was therefore not the product of the so-called Indo-Aryan (Indo-European) 'invasions' of India from the West via Central Asia but was instead the expression of indigenous Indian (Indus) genius".(Lost Languages: The Enigma

of the World's Undeciphered Scripts (2008)) In an interview to The Indian Express last year, Parpola explained why Sanskrit, the language of the Vedic Aryans, could not be connected to the Indus script. "There is archaeological evidence to suggest that the Aryans came to the Indus Valley only in the second millennium BCE which is after the Indus Valley Civilisation," he said.

Parpola's research, which began in 1964. concluded that the Indus script — a logosyllabic script of the kind used by all major cultures around 2500 BCE — has Dravidian roots.

The script used a concept called 'rebus', in which pictograms represented the word for the object or action depicted, or any other word

## Why is it so difficult to decipher the Harappan writing system?

**ARJUN SENGUPTA** NEW DELHI, JANUARY 6

TO DECIPHER a script, the following subproblems have to be solved in order, Italian philologist Fabio Tamburini wrote in 2023 (Decipherment of Lost Ancient Scripts as Combinatorial Optimisation using Coupled Simulated Annealing).

■ Deciding if a set of symbols actually represent a writing system;

Devising appropriate procedures to isolate or segment the stream of symbols into a sequence of single signs;

■ Reducing the set of signs to the minimal set for the writing system forming (its alphabet, syllabery, or inventory of signs) by identifying all allographs (the same sign written in a variant form, for example a printed 'a' and a cursive 'a');

■ Assigning to each symbol their specified value, whether phonetic or otherwise; ■Trying to match these values to a specific language.

In the case of the Indus script, scholars have struggled to solve many of these subproblems. This is due to three main factors. **No multilingual inscriptions:** What is

perhaps most helpful to decipher unknown scripts is direct comparison with known ones, made possible by multilingual inscriptions which have the same content in two or more scripts. There is evidence that the Indus Valley Civilisation had robust trade links with the contemporaneous Mesopotamian Civilisation whose cuneiform script was deciphered in the early 19th century — but no multilingual inscriptions have been discovered so far.

The most famous multilingual inscription is the Rosetta Stone, which contains a decree passed during the reign of Ptolemy Vin 196 BCE in three scripts: Greek, demotic (a later ancient Egyptian script), and hieroglyphics. The inscription was instrumental for the decipherment of Ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics in the 1820s by French philologist Jean-François Champollion.

**Language not known:** Undeciphered scripts/languages fall in three basic categories, according to Andrew Robinson, the author of the influential Lost Languages: The Enigma of the World's Undeciphered Scripts (2008). These are: "an unknown script writing a known language; a known script writing an unknown language; and an unknown









(Clockwise from the top left) The Pashupati seal of Mohenjodaro; a seal bearing the very common unicorn motif; the mould of a seal showing a man fighting two tigers; the mould of a seal showing an elephant in movement. All the seals have symbols from the Indus script inscribed on top. Wikimedia Commons

script writing an unknown language." Of these, the third category is the most

challenging to decipher as they provide scholars with the least number of points of reference to go by. The Indus script falls in this category. Although scholars have variously postulated the script representing different languages, there is no clinching evidence to seal the debate. Without knowing what language the script represented, scholars have struggled to allocate phonetic sounds to the script's symbols.

Not much known about civilisation: The greater the availability of material evidence — in the form of inscribed artefacts — the higher the likelihood of a script being deciphered. This is because each different artefact, and the context in which it was found, can provide some insight into

the script it is inscribed with. Although some 3,500 seals have been identified till date, given that each seal has on average only five characters inscribed, scholars simply do not have enough material to analyse. Add to this the fact that very little is ac-

tually known about the Indus Valley Civilisation, compared to contemporaneous ancient civilisations in Mesopotamia and Egypt. Many Harappan sites remain undiscovered, and those which have been uncovered remain underexplored. This general paucity of information

has made it difficult to decipher its script. A lot more archaeological work will have to be carried out to provide philologists, epigraphists, and linguists greater opportunity to understand the writing system.

with a similar sound, irrespective of meaning. "Basically the signs were pictures which stood for complete words by themselves," he said.

The fish sign, found in abundance on Indus seals, is unlikely to have meant actual fish, Parpola said. Rather, he connected it to 'star' — a homophone (words with the same pronunciation but different meaning) of the Dravidian word for fish (min or meen).

Starting with this hypothesis, Parpola claimed to have found the Old Tamil names of all planets in the Indus script. His theory has found support from both Western and Indian scholars, including Iravatham Mahadevan, the leading Indian researcher on the Indus script.

The existence of Brahui, an extant Dravidian language spoken by a small ethnic group in Balochistan in present-day Pakistan, appears to lend further weight to the Dravidian hypothesis.

#### What if it isn't a 'script' at all?

From the early 2000s onward, questions have been raised on whether the so-called Indus "script" represented any language at all. This hypothesis was based mainly on the fact that all the Indus inscriptions are very short — with only about five characters on

average. The longest has 26 characters. In a paper published in 2004, historian

Steve Farmer, computer linguist Richard Sproat, and Indologist Michael Witzel claimed that the Indus "script" did not constitute a language-based writing system, but mainly comprised nonlinguistic symbols of political and religious significance. Parpola rejected the principal claim of the

paper (The collapse of Indus Script Thesis: The Myth of a Literate Harappan Civilisation) that writing systems necessarily produce longer texts than the ones found on Indus inscriptions — pointing out that Egyptian hieroglyphic writing was of a similar nature. Recent scholarship has, however, sup-

ported some of the conclusions of Farmer, Sproat, and Witzel. Bahata Ansumali Mukhopadhyay, a software engineer who has researched the script, has said that while the Harappans may not have been "illiterate", the symbols "do not phonologically spell words of any language".

In a paper published in the journal Humanities and Social Sciences Communications in 2023, she argued that the inscribed Indus seals were mainly used as tax stamps, while the tablets were used as permits for tax collection, craft making or trading. The script was not used for religious purposes, nor did it phonetically spell out words to encode names of ancient Vedic or Tamil deities, she wrote.

Linguist Peggy Mohan, author of Wanderers, Kings, Merchants: The Story of *India through Its Languages* (2021), told *The* Indian Express last year that one must stop referring to the signs on Indus seals as being part of a script, and consider them to be a hallmarking system. "Even today dhobis have signs which are useful for them but they are not what you would call language," she said "Most prehistoric societies did not write the kind of things we write today. Commercial information was perhaps the first thing that any society would record in writing".

Ansumali Mukhopadhyay noted that "When Linear B (among the earliest Greek scripts) was being deciphered, some scholars hoped to find snippets of Homer's Iliad and Odyssey", but found a palace book-keeping record instead. Nonetheless, it provided significant information about the palace economy

"Similarly, in the case of the Indus script even though it is just giving us commercial information, it can tell us a lot about how the economy functioned at that time," she said.

## HMPV, the old 'new' virus that has infected two infants in Bengaluru

**ANONNA DUTT** NEW DELHI, JANUARY 6

AT LEAST two cases of human metapneumovirus (HMPV) were detected during routine surveillance of respiratory infections by the Indian Council of Medical Research, the Union Health Ministry confirmed on Monday.

This comes after reports of a surge in respiratory infections in China, attributed to HMPV among other pathogens. There is usually an increase in respiratory infections during winter months owing to poorer immune response and conditions favourable to transmission.

"HMPV is not a new virus, it is known to cause respiratory tract infections. We do see a few cases every year. However, it often

doesn't get detected because people do not get tested for it," Dr Rajesh Chawla, senior consultant of pulmonology at Indraprastha Apollo Hospital, said.

#### What is HMPV?

Unlike Sars-CoV-2 that caused the Covid-19 pandemic, HMPV is not a new virus and was first identified in 2001. The virus is related to the avian metapneumovirus that leads to a variety of symptoms in different birds. Since its discovery, several studies have detected HMPV in patients with respiratory infections around the world.

In India, a multi-centre study on respiratory infections between 2016 and 2018, found HMPV in 3.4% of patient samples. For context, influenza was the most commonly detected virus, found in 15.4% of samples, according to

the 2022 study headed by AIIMS Delhi, ICMR National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases in Kolkata, and Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences in Srinagar.

Another study during the same period from Chennai, found HMPV in 4% of the samples, the same as a study by ICMR Regional Medical Research Centre in Gorakhpur, which also reported the death of one in four persons testing positive with HMPV.

There was an outbreak of HMPV in Puducherry between November 2022 and March 2023. During this period, Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER) found the virus in 9.6% of the samples. The researchers found that HMPV was more prevalent in children below the age of 1 year, in those with a history of wheezing, and seizures. During the outbreak, the researchers also identified new lineages of the virus, highlighting its evolving nature.

"HMPV is an RNA virus, the likes of which are notorious for mutations. This is the reason surveillance should be maintained and samples tested by research laboratories," Dr GC Khilnani, chairman of PSRI Institute of Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine and former head of pulmonology department at AIIMS Delhi, said.

#### What are the symptoms of HMPV? How to prevent and treat it?

HMPV usually causes symptoms such as cough, fever, runny nose, sore throat, wheezing, and shortness of breath. It may sometimes lead to more severe symptoms like pneumonia – a lung infection that causes air sacs to be filled with fluids — in children who get infected for the first time, in the elderly, and those with a weakened immune system.

The infection is transmitted through the air borne droplets that are released when a sick person coughs or sneezes. It can also be spread when someone touches surfaces where the virus may have settled.

This is the reason general precautions such as frequent washing of hands, masking up, maintaining social distance, and avoiding crowded places can help. Dr Chawla said that people must not step out when they have symptoms such as cough and cold to prevent spreading the infection to others.

There is no specific medicine or vaccine for HMPV. Dr Chawla said that treatment is symptomatic, and that people may take paracetamol if they have fever. However, no antibiotics should be consumed without

consulting a doctor, he said.

#### How does the government conduct influenza surveillance?

After the 2006 bird flu outbreak and 2010 swine flue H1N1 outbreak, the Indian Council of Medical Research and Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme started routinely testing samples of patients with respiratory illnesses.

Patients' samples are first tested for various strains of influenza virus. If found negative, they are tested for RSV, HMPV, Rhinovirus, and Adenovirus. Recent data from the network shows that Influenza A H3N2, Influenza B victoria lineage, and RSV were the most common cause of respiratory illnesses during the last week of December and first week of January.

Karambeli, (Gujarat).

Last Date & Time of submission

www.tenderwizard.com/CCIL.

Date & Time of Opening

Tender No.

02 07240113

03 07240302

Estimated Cost

(MITTER STREETS AND STREETS)
(A GOVT, OF INDIA UNDERTAKING, MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS)
New MDBP Building, 2nd Floor, Okhla Indl. Estate (Opp. NSIC Okhla Metro Station), New Delhi-110020

CON/AREA-II/KEBG/HANDLING/2025/85993

Rs.2.23,65,720 /- (including GST) for Three (1+2) years.

On 22/01/2025 up to 16:00 hrs.

Group General Manager/Area Head-II

532 NOS

791 NOS

S. E. RAILWAY - TENDER

E-Tender Notice No. E-DRM-Engg-

ADRA-01-04-25 Dated: 03.01.2025.

30-01-25

30-01-25

On 23/01/2025 at 15:30 hrs.

TENDER NOTICE (E-Tendering Mode Only) Online E-Bids are invited for Handling of Containers (Cycle Model) at CRT

Date of Sale (On Line) From 07/01/2025 at 15:00 hrs. to 21/01/2025

For eligibility criteria and other details please log on to www.concorindia.com

or eprocure.gov.in or www.tenderwizard.com/CCIL. Bidders are

requested to visit the websites regularly. For complete details log on to

(up to 16:00 hrs.)



#### सार्वजनिक सुचना

सर्वसाधारण को सुचित किया जाता है कि निम्नलिखित भूमि नौएडा प्राधिकरण द्वारा आपसी समझौते के आधार पर क्रय किया जाना प्रस्तावित है–

ग्राम का नाम	खाता संख्या	खसरा संख्या	रकवा (हे. मे)	नाम काश्तकार व पता	क्रय करने का उद्देश्य
हैबतपुर	240	323	0.2770	सुखवीर, लखमी पुत्रगण	March Co. Bridge Co. Co.
		384	0.9990 है. में से 0.1050 हे.	राम सिंह, विद्यादेवी पत्नी रामसिंह, विजयपाल, धर्मपाल पुत्रगण विशम्बर व मोहरवती पत्नी विशम्बर, संदीप पुत्र सुखपाल व संतरा पत्नी स्व. सुखपाल, राजे, कालू उर्फ बिजेन्द्र पुत्रगण इन्छा व माया देवी पत्नी स्व. इन्छा, ओमवीर, मनोज पुत्रगण रिच्छन व कालूराम पुत्र रघुवर निवासी ग्राम गढी चौखण्डी	विकास

उपरोक्त भूमि क्रय किये जाने में यदि किसी जन साधारण को संबंधित भूमि के संबंध में कोई दावा / आपत्ति देनी हो, तो सार्वजनिक प्रकाशन के 15 दिवस के अन्दर भलेख विभाग नौएडा के कार्यालय में प्रस्तुत कर सकता है। महत्वपूर्ण सचना-

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

#### CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

NORTHERN RAILWAY CORRIGENDUM

Ref: (i) Tender Notice No. 73/2024-2025 dated 19.11.2024

(ii) Tender No. 15245204 due on 29.01.2025 02. In reference to above tender, the due date has been extended from

06.01.2025 to 29.01.2025. All other terms and conditions remain unchanged. The Corrigendum has

been published on website www.ireps.gov.in 63/2025

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE



New Okhla Industrial Development Authority Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, G.B. Nagar (U.P.) Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.in

#### E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tender are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on NOIDA Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.in & http://etender.up.nic.in. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

. 40/GM/Sr.M.(E&M)-II/2024-25/ET, Annual Maintenance of Window/Split Type Air-Conditioner in Staff Quarter, Sector-14A, Noida, Cost Rs. 61.23 Lacs.

50/GM(E&M)/S.M./E/M-III/24-25, Maintenance of Authority Building(Annual maintenance of Barat Ghar in Sector 99, Naya bans Sec-15, Sector 31, Ambedkar Vihar Sector-37 and Toilets of Different Sectors) Noida. Cost Rs. 32.52 Lacs. 52/GM (E&M)/S.M./E/M-III/24-25, Annual maintenance of Electrical

works for Main Administrative Building in Sector-6, Noida, Cost Rs. 41.38 Lacs.

Which can be uploaded by date:-20.01.2025 Upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date:- 21.01.2025 at 11.00 AM. General Manager (E&M), NOIDA

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

Approximate Work value: Rs.38.27 Crore

RFB No. OIIPCRA-AND/W2-7/2024-25

EMD 1% of the Work value

DIPR / 49 / Tender / 2025

A-770

Name of work

No. of works

Estimated cost

Cost of Bid Document

Availability of bid documents

Last date & time of receipt of bid

Period of receipt of bid security

Date of opening of technical bid

Date of opening of financial bid

Digital signature certificate of Bidder

OIPR-32108/11/0019/2425

इंडियन बैंक

🛕 इलाहाबाद

The detail tender call notice can also be seen in the DOWR website

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement market place in

Indian Bank

ALLAHABAD

the Indian Bank, Rajendra Path Siwan Branch, Secured Creditor, from

Sri Harendra Kumar (Borrower) S/o Gena Yadav

Choudhary, East-Rasta, West-Ganga Choudhary.

Encumbrances on property

Bid Incremental amount

Date and time of e-auction

support.ebkray@psballiance.com

Alliance Pvt. Ltd, Contact No. 8291220220.

property in the website with https://www.ebkray.in

E-Auction

Website

Reserve Price

**EMD Amount** 

Property ID No.

Date: 07.01.2025

Place: Siwan

Bank Website

www.indianbank.ir

QR Code

2. Smt Hiramati Devi (Co-Borrower) W/o Harendra Yadav

APPENDIX-IV-A"[See proviso to rule 8(6)]

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and

Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and

Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the

Secured Creditor, the Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised

Officer of Indian Bank, Rajendra Path Siwan Branch, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As

is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 06.02.2025 for recovery of Rs.

16,34,789/- (Rupees Sixteen lakhs Thirty Four thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty

Nine Only) (as on 02.01.2025.) with further interest charges and expenses thereon due to

The Specific details of the property intended to be brought to sale through e-auction mode are

Detailed Description of the property: All the part & parcel of the Property (land and

building) belongs to Sri. Harendra kumar Yadav s/o Late Gena Choudhary, Tileshwari Devi

w/o Late Gena Choudhary, Parsuram Yadav s/o Late Gena Choudhary, Nitish Kumar S/o

Parsuram Yadav, Reema Kumari and Sima Kumari D/o Parsuram Yadav (Borrower and

Legal heirs of Mortgagor Late Gena Chaudhary), through Sale Deed no. 15227 Dated

03.09.1975. situated at Mauja-Barahani, Thana-Pachrukhi Thana no 346, District-Siwan,

Pin 841227, Khata No- 191, Plot no.864 Tauzi no.983 Khesra No. 864, Area- 3 Katha 4

Dhur 10 Dhurki OR 5224.5 SQ FT, Boundary: North: Purchaser, South: Mangaru

Bidders are advised to visit the website (https://www.ebkray.in) of our e auction service

provider PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. to participate in online bid. For Technical Assistance Please

call 8291220220. For Registration status and for EMD status please email to

For property details and photograph of the property and auction terms and conditions please visit: https://www.ebkray.in and for clarifications related to this portal, please contact PSB

Bidders are advised to use Property ID Number mentioned above while searching for the

Document

Photos of Property

Not Known

IDIB358432365

Rs.1,23,63,000/- (One Crore Twenty-Three

Lakh & Sixty-Three Thousand Only) Rs.12,36,300/- (Twelve Lac & Thirty-Six

Thousand & Three Hundred Only)

Rs.10,000 (Ten Thousand Only)

06.02.2025 from 11 am to 03 pm

Both Above (1 & 2) Resident at Atasua ke Tola, Gaushala Road, Siwan Bihar-841227

read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Date of Pre-Bid Meeting

Period of completion

**GREATER CHENNAL CORPORATION** 

**BRIDGES DEPARTMENT** 

e - TENDER NOTICE

e-Tenders are invited by the Superintending Engineer (Bridges)

for the following works in Two Cover System as per details furnished below.

i) Demolition and Re-Construction of bridges across B-Canal connecting ECR & OMR

3 locations in Zone 14 & 15. Work value: Rs.16.87 Crore, and ii) Construction of ROB in

lieu of existing LC No. 2A at Ennore High Road in Dn. 38, Zone - IV by DEPC method.

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA** 

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION ANADDAPUR

AT/P.O-SALAPADA, DIST-KEONJHAR, PIN-758020

ODISHA INTEGRATED IRRIGATION PROJECT FOR CLIMATE RESILIENT

**AGRICULTURE (OIIPCRA)** 

(WORLD BANK PROJECT ID: P163533)

**REOUEST FOR BIDS (RFB) E Procurement Notice** 

NATIONAL OPEN COMPETITIVE PROCUREMENT FOR SMALL WORKS

Superintending Engineer (Bridges)

Modernisation to Head Work of Kalimati MIP, under

: Rs. 279.33 Lakhs Approx (Total estimated cost of

From 09.01.2025 from 10.00 Hrs to 07.02.2025 up to 15.00 Hrs. in

the e-procurement website (https://tendersodisha.gov.in)

To be paid online along with the bid. Bank Guarantees also

To be intimated online after off-line evaluation of Technical Bid

The bidder must possess compatible digital signature certificate

Superintending Engineer, M.I. Division, Anandapur. AT/P.O-Salapada,

**Superintending Engineer** 

M.I. Division, Anandapur

Rajendra Path

Siwan Branch

Dist-Keonjhar, PIN-758020, E- Mail:- mianandapur@yahoo.co.in

Superintending Engineer, M.I. Division, Anandapur

M.I.Division, Anandapur

: 01 Minor Irrigation Tanks

: 17.01.2025 As per Para-7 of DTCN

acceptable subject to verification

On dt: 07.02.2025 at 15.30 Hrs

https://tendersodisha.gov.in

(DSC) of Class-II or III.

Up to 07.02.2025, 15.00 Hrs. through online

https://dowrodisha.gov.in, https://octdms.in

01 tanks Rs. 279.33)

: Free of Cost

Date. 18.12.2024

Tender pre-bid meeting date and Time: 20.01.2025 at 3.00 P.M

Tender Last date and Time: 04.02.2025 up to 3.00 P.M

Tender open date and Time: 05.02.2025 at 3.30 P.M.

For more information see http://tntenders.gov.in

#### ANDHRA PRADESH TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED #55-17-2 to 4, 5th Floor, Stalin Building, Autonagar, VIJAYAWADA-7.E-mail: engg@aptdc.in ("e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE)

Tender Notice No. 07/SE/Engg/APTDC/2024-25, Dt: 06-01-2025 Name of the work: APTDC Limited is inviting bid for "Development of Borra Cave Experience at Araku in Alluri Seetha Rama Raju District" under EPC Mode with estimate value of Rs.29.88 Cr (Incl. Taxes). The details can be

seen at 'e'procurement market place. i.e www.apeprocurement.gov.in, for further clarification please contact on 9848306437. Sd/- Smt. K. Amrapali, IAS, Managing Director.

#### NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE No.: 01/2025/RS/JHS Date: 03.01.2025 E-Tender Notice

For and on behalf of President of India, the Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (Rolling Stock) North Central Railway, Jhansi invites open tenders through online (E-Tendering) for the following work:

Tender No.:JHS-RS-WC-T13-2024-25 RT1 Tender value :₹ 4383919.00 Earnest Money: ₹87700.00 Completion period from the date of issue of LOA:15Month

Description: Repairing & overhauling of Tri-Plate pneumatic panel (FTRTIL make) of conventional type Electric Locomotive. Tender No.:JHS-RS-WC-T22-2024-25 Tender value :₹ 9834390.00 Earnest Money: £196700.00 Completion period from the date of issue of LOA: 24Months

Description: Repairs/rehabilitation of spare parts of 5400 KVA Transformer for WAP-4/WAG-7 locomotives. Tender No.:JHS-RS-WC-T23-2024-25 Tender value :₹ 7079130.00 Earnest Money: ₹141600.00 | Completion period from the date of issue of LOA:12Months Description: Rehabilitation of N-32 Tap Changers (Ganz make) o

conventional locos Tender No.:JHS-RS-WC-T24-2024-25 Tender value :₹ 1180000.00 Earnest Money: 723600.00 | Completion period from the date of issue of LOA: 18Month

Description: Replacement of defective & rusted pneumatic pipelines of conventional Electric Locomotives. Closing date of all tender: 27.01.2025

Tenderer will submit the tender online upto 27.01.2025 (15:00 Hrs.). Complete details

& for submission of tenders can be seen in Indian Railway website 29/25(DG) http://www.ireps.gov.in. North central railways 🔀 @CPRONCR 🥅 www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

**NORTHERN RAILWAY** 

Principal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:-S. Tender **Brief Description** Closing NO No. Date 01 07250228 SPEED SENSOR WITH WIRE HARNESS 206 NOS 30-01-25

Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system

04 77259001 RGC FOR TWS (T-6155 & T-6280) 1100 SET 03-02-25 RGC NOTE -1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for details. 2. No Manual offer will be entertained.

DIRECT MOUNTED DOUBLE ROW SELF

G 20 SPEED SENSOR ALONG WITH

Tender Notice NO. 86/2024-2025 Dated: 06.01.2025 64/2025 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

#### **GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE CHIEF** CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, RAYAGADA E-Mail ID: ccerwcrayagada@gmail.com

- "e" Procurement Notice for PMGSY Maintenance Works :- Periodical Renewal work including 5 year routine maintenance Name of the work
- for the 5 year completed post DLP PMGSY Road (15 Nos). :- "B", "A" & Special Class of (Odisha PWD) or relevant Class of contractor
- Estimated Cost :- Varies from Rs.108.40 Lakhs to Rs.369.95 Lakhs (Approximately)

class of other licensing authority

Details projects as per: Annexure attached

Officer	Identification tender On-lin			ng Tender		Opening of Tender		
		From	То	Clarification	Technical Bid	Financial Bid		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
Chief Construction	CCERWCRGD -	10.01.2025	24.01.2025	22.01.2025	27.01.2025	To be intimated		
Engineer, Rural Works	Online -	at	up to	up to	at	separately		
Circle, Rayagada	03/2024-25	11.00 A.M.	5.00 P.M	2.00 P.M	11.00 A.M.			
5. The details of works car			1 0 0	ov.in for PMGSYma	aintenance works.	101		
<ol><li>Any CorigendumAdden</li></ol>	ıdum will be displaye	d in the above e-	tender web site					
					Chief Constr	uction Engineer,		

OIPR-25196/11/0003/2425

संवरां0-02डींव / शिवरथां0-10-36 / 2023-

Rural Works Circle, Rayagada



#### अनु० जाति एवं अनु० जनजाति कल्याण विभाग

ः आवश्यक सूचना ः

कॉउंसिलिंग कार्यक्रम स्थगित करने के संबंध मे।

बिहार लोक सेवा आयोग, पटना द्वारा आयोजित प्रधानाध्यापक भर्ती परीक्षा (विज्ञापन सं0-26 / 2024) एवं विद्यालय अध्यापक भर्ती परीक्षा (विज्ञापन सं0-22 / 2024, TRE-3) के परीक्षाफल के आधार पर अनुशंसित अभ्यर्थियों का दिनांक-07.01.2025 से 11. 01.2025 तक काउंसिलिंग करने हेत् विभिन्न दैनिक समाचार पत्रों में विज्ञापन प्रकाशित किया गया है।

उक्त के आलोक में सुचित करना है कि अपरिहार्य कारणों से उक्त अवधि में होने वाले कॉउंसिलिंग कार्यक्रम को स्थिगत किया जाता है।

कॉउंसिलिंग की तिथि बाद में निर्धारित की जायेगी जिसे विभागीय बेवसाईट http://state.bihar.gov.in/scstwelfare पर देखा जा सकता है।

सरकार के उप सचिव PR. No. 016444 ( SC & ST Welfare )2024-25

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



#### **Raxaul Branch**

#### APPENDIX-IV-A"[See proviso to rule 8(6)] SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and

Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank, Raxaul Branch, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is" 'As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 06.02.2025 for recovery of Rs. 54,44,064/-(Rupees Fifty-Four lakh Forty-Four thousand & Sixty-Four only) (as on 03.01.2025.) with further interest charges and expenses thereon due to the Indian Bank, Raxaul Branch, Secured Creditor, from

M/s Aditya Lahthi & Nail Polish Udyog (Firm), Prop Sri Ajay Kumar Kushwaha

Situated at Sabji Bazar, Raxaul, East Champaran, Bihar 845305 2. Sri Ajay Kumar Kushwaha (Proprietor Cum Mortgagor), S/o Bhulotan Mahto

Mrs. Asamita Devi (Guarantor) W/o Ajay Kumar Kushwaha.

Above (2 & 3) Resident at Post Koiriya Tola, Raxaul, East Champaran, Bihar 845305

Mr. Raj Kishore Kushwaha (Guarantor) S/o Jai Kishun Mahto,

Resident at Main Road, Raxaul, Dist.-East Champaran, Bihar 845305

The Specific details of the property intended to be brought to sale through e-auction mode are enumerated below:

Detailed Description of the property: All that part & parcel of property land situated at Raxaul Koiriya Tola, Thana Raxaul, Thana No. 7, Sub Registry Raxaul, in the name of Ajay Kumar Kushwaha, S/o Bhulotan Mahto, Property 1.- Khata No. 119, Khesra No. 922, Area-1 Katha 6 Dhur, Vide Deed No- 533, Dated 17/02/2011, Boundary : North: Chandrika Mahto South: Hissa Bhulotan Mahto, East: Vinod Prasad Kushwaha, West: Mohan Lal Sikariya. Property 2.- Khata No. 119, Khesra No. 1684, Area- 1 Dhur 11 Kanwa, Vide Deed No- 533, Dated 17/02/2011, Boundary: North: Hissa Bhulotan Mahto, South: Hissa Dhoda Mahto, East: Road, West: Ganesh Das.

Not Known

Reserve Price	Rs.10,50,000/- (Ten Lakh & Fifty Thousand Only)
EMD Amount	Rs.1,05,000/- (One Lac & Five Thousand Only)
Bid Incremental amount	Rs.10,000 (Ten Thousand Only)
Date and time of e-auction	06.02.2025 from 11 am to 03 pm
Property ID No.	IDIB30143113768
	bsite (https://www.ebkray.in) of our e auction serv

provider PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. to participate in online bid. For Technical Assistance Please call 8291220220. For Registration status and for EMD status please email to support.ebkray@psballiance.com.

For property details and photograph of the property and auction terms and conditions please visit: https://www.ebkray.in and for clarifications related to this portal, please contact PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd, Contact No. 8291220220.

Bidders are advised to use Property ID Number mentioned above while searching for the property in the website with https://www.ebkray.in Date: 07.01.2025

Sd/- Authorised Officer Place: Raxaul Indian Bank (Erstwhile Allahabad Bank) QR Code

Bank Website	E-Auction	Document	Property	Video of	
www.indianbank.in	Website		Location	Property	
		·		G	

Photos of Property



Encumbrances on property























#### (A Statutory Organisation under Govt. of West Bengal) St. Georges' Gate Road, Kolkata-700 021 Ph. No.: 033-2253-4133/2248-5833 Email: direc.pldn@gmail.com

#### NOTICE INVITING ELECTRONIC BID (ABRIDGED) NIeB No. HRBC/03/2nd Call/DIRPLDN/2024-2025

HRBC through Director (PI & Dn), HRBC invites online E-Bid from the bidders through online e-procurement portal of the Government of West Bengal, viz. https://wbtenders.gov.in from individual or Company registered under Company Act. or Limited Liability Partnership Firm or Registered Partnership Firm, including Joint ventures, for the following work:

Name of the work: Collection of Toll at Vidyasagar Setu, Kolkata including handling, operation, maintenance (existing and upgraded systems), renewing and renovation, upgrading of existing electronically operated Toll Collection system as per requirement.

Period of Contract: 3(three) years.

Outline of major Eligibility Criteria: Minimum 3 years' experience of operating Toll Bridges or Toll Roads during the last 10 years and experience of operating one Toll Bridge/Toll Road having at least 8 lanes with fully electronically operated toll collection system for minimum one year; also experience of handling minimum 30,000 (thirty thousand) vehicles per day in any single Toll Bridge/Toll Road at a single location in India. The bidder's minimum average annual Toll collection over the last 3 years in all of its locations in India should be Rs. 35 (thirty five) crore. The bidder must have average annual Turn Over of Rs.150 (one hundred fifty) crore for the last 3 years and a Net Worth of at least Rs. 100 (one hundred) crore as on

Earnest Money / Bid Security: Rs. 2,20,00,000/-. Closing date of Bid submission (online): 28.01.2025 at 13.00 HRS.

The NIeB containing the details of scope of work, eligibility criteria, terms and

conditions of contract etc. can be obtained from https://wbtenders.gov.in. The prospective bidders may consult the websites: https://wbtenders.gov.in and www.hrbc.org.in regularly to see Corrigenda/Addenda which may be issued by HRBC from time to time.

Director (Pl. & Dn.), HRBC



No. CEE/RT and R&D/EE/KCO-79//2024-25/667 Dt: 06.01.2025 BRIEF SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

#### (Through KPPP mode only)

KPTCL invites Bid on electronic mode for the following work against following Enquiry Number:

**Tender Enquiry No./Name of the work** KPTCL/2024-25/OW/ WORK INDENT1794

Dismantling, Transportation (TO & FRO), Repair of Faulty 31.5 MVA & below capacity Power Transformer, Testing, Assembling, Erection and Commissioning of Repaired Power Transformer at KPTCL Destined Station on Rate Contract Basis.

The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only. The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to the KPTCL website https://kptcl.karanataka.gov.in with hyperlink 'E Procurement KPTCL' or to https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. on or after 08.01.2025 at 15.00 hrs. The Last date and time for receipt of bids is 13.02.2025 at 15.00 hrs. Any extension of due date for bid submission will be intimated in the **KPP Portal.** Any details required in this regard can also be had from the Office of the undersigned during office hours. All Corrigendum/Addendums shall be noticed by the bidder before the last date of submission of bids.

Sd/-Chief Engineer, Electy, RT and R&D, KPTCL, 5th floor, Kaveri Bhavan, Bengaluru-560009, Ph.: 080-22211573.

#### Divisional Railway Manager (Engg)/Adra invites 04 (Four) nos. e-tenders for Gate Goomty, Tunneling and Misc. Works as mentioned hereunder: SI. No., Tender Notice No. & Description of works are as follows: (1) No. E-DRM-Engg-ADRA-01-25, Dtd. 03.01.2025, (1) Construction of El Gate Goomty in connection with Conversion from MLB to ELB of Engineering Gate No. BG-5 in between Bhoiudih-Shewbabudih section. (2) Construction of El Gate Goomty in connection with Interlocking of Level crossing No. AM-38 in between Bhaga-Layabad Section in Adra Division of S.E. Railway. Tender Value : ₹ 1,05,89,589.96. No. E-DRM-Engg-ADRA-02-25, Dtd. 03.01.2025, Rebuilding of stone slab bridge with pipe pushing dia 1800 mm & 1200 mm by Micro tunneling method in Adra Division of S.E. Railway. Tender Value ₹ 20,27,69,095.14. (3) No. E-DRM-Engg-ADRA-03-25, Dtd. 03.01.2025. (1) Construction of El Gate goomty in connection with conversion from MLB to ELB of Engineering Gate No. PK-3 in between Purulia-Gourinathdham Section & AM-7 in between Sanka-Rukni Section. (2) Construction of El Gate Goomty in connection with Interlocking of Engineering Gate No. MR-32 in between Pundag-Radhagaon Section & (3) Construction of 5 (five) bedded Rest Room with Lavatory for Lady RPF Train escorting staff at Bokaro Railway station in Adra Division. Tender Value : ₹ 1,84,01,531.69. (4) No. E-DRM-Engg-ADRA-04-25, Dtd. 03.01.2025, Bishnupur : Proposal for dismantling UP and DN main line cross over at both ends to eliminate the facility of DN main cum UP loop by provision of UP loop line as common loop at Bishnupur (VSU) station with recaption facility from Gokulnagar.

#### "IMPORTANT"

Tender Value : ₹ 1.21.23,680.39. The

Closing date and time of e-tenders is

on 03.02.2025 at 15.00 hrs. Details of

above e-tenders may please be seen at

website www.ireps.gov.in

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

manner whatsoever.

Date: 07.01.2025

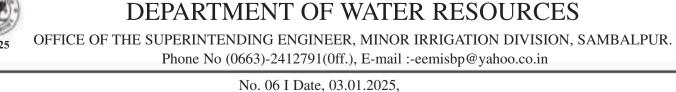
DGM (CMM)

#### **Noida Power Company Limited, Greater Noida** Electric Sub Station, Knowledge Park-IV, Greater Noida-201310 (CIN: U31200UP1992PLC014506)

**TENDER NOTICE** Sealed tenders under two Bid System (Commercial & Technical) are invited for following jobs from all interested bidders. **Brief Item Description** Due Date & Time NIT No. (Rs) of Submission (I) Licenses of Software Modules for Network Analysis & NPCL/FY24-2.0 Lacs 28.01.2025 (up to 15:00 hours) 25/NAS/027 (II) Integration Software between GE Smallworld EO GIS Database & Network Analysis Software. 1.50 Lacs Supply and Implementation of Perimeter Firewall NPCL/FY24-28.01.2025 25/PAFW /021 (up to 15:00 hours) Cost of Individual Tender Document (Incl. GST) Rs 1180/-For other tender details and further amendment/corrigendum, please visit our website

www.noidapower.com-->Procurement-->Tenders

**GOVERNEMENT OF ODISHA** 



e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE BID REF No: SE,MID,SBP/10/2024-25 : Civil Construction Works : 06 (SIX) Nos.

: Varies from approximately Rs. 26.53 lakh to Rs. 49.95 lakh for 05 Nos. of works (Rs. 240.20 Lakh)

: Referred to DTCN : Referred to DTCN. : From dt. 09.01.2025 at 11.00 AM dt. 18.01.2025 up to 05.30 PM in website(www.tendersorissa.gov.in) Period of receipt of bid through online: From dt. 09.01.2025 at 11.00 AM to dt. 18.01.2025 up to 05.30 PM through online.

Date of opening of bid documents : On dt. 20.01.2025 at 11.00 AM. onwards. Digital signature certificate of Bidder: The bidder must possess compatible digital signature certificate (DSC) of Class-II or Class-III. The detail tender call notice can also be seen in the DOWR website- http://dowrorissa.gov.in

: Superintending Engineer, M.I.Division, Sambalpur At-Motijharan, PO-B.S.S.Nagar, Dist:-Sambalpur Name & Address of the OIT PIN-768001, Ph-0663-2412791, E-mail ID-eemisbp@yaho0.Co.in Further details can be seen from the : http://tendersorissa.gov.in

> **Superintending Engineer** M.I.Division, Sambalpur.

epaper.indianexpress.com

Ajay Kumar- Branch Manager- 7007365813

Video of

Property

Name of work

Estimated cost:

Tender paper cost

Period of completion

Availability of bid through online

e-Procurement market place.

OIPR-32036/11/0012/2425

No. of work

Sd/- Authorised Officer

Indian Bank (Erstwhile Allahabad Bank

Property

Location

I,Bhawna Dogra,W/o-Sanjay

Dogra,R/o-L-128B,Shastri

Changed Name to Arun Kumar

Giri to Arun Giri, for All Purpose

Chaudhary R/o Holly Mohalla,

Buddha Nagar, UP-201009, have

changed my name to Anubhav

I,Anju W/o-Lokesh kumar,Add-

Flat no-D-3 4th floor, plot no-

2,Indirapuram, Shipra suc

I,ABBAS AHMAD S/O NAFIS

AHMED R/O C528/2 MULLA

COLONY GHAROLI, DELHI-

I, kirshan Kumar Army No-

Gurwari, Tehsil-Palwal,

22050323A Rank-SEPOY, S/o

Sh.Vikram Singh, R/o-Village

Haryana-121102. I inform that

my mother name kamla devi

record. The Correct, and Actual

name is Kamal. 0040767288-1

wrongly-metion in my army

I,GURMUKH S/O HARBANS

to GURMUKH SINGH.

SINGH,R/O A-31-B,SECOND

I. Yaseema W/O Mohammad

Haroon R/O Tahbarpura,

Miranpur UP-251315, have

changed my name to Vaseema.

I, Shambhu Dayal Aggarwal S/o

Mahabir Prasad Agarwal, R/o-

110085, have changed my name

Floor, Kucha Tara Chand, Darya

Gani, New Delhi-110002, have

I, Sanjay S/o Subedar Yadav R/o

H-138, Gali No-5, Saurabh Vihar,

I, Sanjay Kumar S/o Bhoop Singh

110064 have changed my name

R/o D-18, Hari Nagar, Delhi-

to SANJAY KUMAR BADLIYA

No.14892430Y, Sep/MT Kapil

Kithana, Chirawa, Jhunjhunu,

Dev, R/o Ward No.12, V.P.O.-

I, SULOCHANA, mother of

Rajasthan-333028, have

changed my name from

SULOCHANA to SILOCHANA

DEVI, vide affidavit dated:-

06/01/2025, before Notary

I, Sajid Beg, S/o Islam Baig, R/o-

Gate Delhi, have changed my

I, Prem Chand S/O Sh. Sukhdev

R/o H.No. 196, Block-C-6, Sultan

name to Sajid Baig for all

Puri, Delhi-110086 have

Prem Chand and shall

I, Zafar S/O-Mohd Zahid,

Address- 15/442, Trilokpuri

Chilla Saroda Khadar Delhi-

110091, Changed My Name To

I, Pinkey W/o Pushpender Singh

Greater Noida, Kasna, Gautam

Buddh Nagar U.P.-201310 have

changed my name to Pinkey

Yadav for all future purposes.

I, Neeraj Kumar gupta S/o Late

second floor Shakti Nagar.

Amba prasad gupta R/o 33/15,

Delhi-110007 that Neeraj Kumar

gupta & Neeraj gupta both are

one and same person. That My

correct & actual name is Neeraj

Kumar gupta S/o Late Amba

I, Naisha D/o Pushpender Singh

R/o 23c Royal Sehakari Awas

Greater Noida, Kasna, Gautam

Buddh Nagar U.P.-201310 have

changed my name to Naisha

Singh for all future purposes.

I, Mukesh Kumar s/o Mange

Nagar, Delhi-110064 have

**KUMAR VERMA** 

Ram Verma r/o B-339, FF, Hari

changed my name to MUKESH

**LOST & FOUND** 

I,SHOBHA RANI AGGARWAL W/O

NARESH KUMAR AGGARWAL

have Lost my original Share

Certificate and Allotment

Flat, No. 80-A, Hil C.G.H.S.

Plot No.17, Sector-13,

Letter in respect of, Society

Ltd.knownas Hil Apartment.

Rohini, Delhi-110085, have

LR.No.LR No:2462316/2025

lodged an FIR/NCR vide

Dated.04/01/2025 finder

Contact-9891115100

Samiti Ltd, Sector-sigma-4,

prasad gupta

R/o 23c Royal Sehakari Awas

Samiti Ltd, Sector-sigma-4,

changed my name Prem to

hereafter be known as Prem

2340, Chatta Momgran, Turkman

Public, Delhi.

purposes.

Chand.

Mohd Zafar.

Jaitpur, Delhi-110044 have

changed my name to Sanjay

to Shambhu Dayal Agarwal.

I, Shahina W/o Mohammad

Kamran R/o 3246-3247, 4th

changed my name to

Shaheena.

Yadav

A-204.Manay Apartment.

Sector-9. Rohini. Delhi-

Mirapur Mujffarnagar

FLOOR, UDAY VIHAR BLOCK-B

NILOTHI EXTN, NANGLOI DELHI-

110041, have changed my name

110096 HAVE CHANGED MY

NAME TO ABBAS AHMED, FOR

c, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-

201014, changed my name to

48, shakti khand-

Anju Dayal.

FUTURE.

Chipiyana Buzurg, Gautam

Chaudhary permanently

I,Anubhav S/o Gaurav

0040767304-2

0040767308-5

0040767304-7

0040767318-1

0040767317-1

0040767318-8

0040767253-1

0040767283-3

0070943746-1

0040767246-1

0040767241-1

0040767318-7

0040767257-1

0040767313-1

0070943697-1

0070943687-1

0070943699-1

0040767245-1

0040767308-10

#### THE INDIAN EXPRESS, TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2025

### Classifieds

I, Mohammad Farugan S/o Mohammad Salam R/o 2147, M.P.Street Pataudi House, Darya Ganj, New Delhi-110002, have changed my name to Mohammad Furkan.

**PERSONAL** 

0040767283-2

I, Md Riyazuddin, S/o Haji Abdul Rashid, R/o-D-15/16, Okhla Vihar, Jamia Nagar New Delhi-110025, have changed my name to Mohd Reyazuddin

0040767318-6 I, Khakshan Sayyed D/o Nasim Ahmad R/o Plot no. 38-B Vikas Nagar Block-S Uttam Nagar New Delhi-110059 have changed my name to Kahkashan Sayyed for all amended accordingly. future purposes 0070943738-1

I, KM. DOLLY RANI W/o Romil Kumar Goyal R/o Yucca-905, Paramount Symphony, Crossing Republik, Ghaziabad, UP-201016 have changed my name to SHWETA GOYAL for all 0070943743-1 purposes.

I, Junaid Mohammad S/o Mohammad Furkan R/o 2924, Gali Saadat Ali Sir Syed Ahmed Road, Darya Ganj, New Delhi-110002, have changed my name to Mohammad Junaid.

0040767283-1

I, IK Verma S/o Sihiva Shanker Verma R/o LIG-34, Kaushlesh Kunj Colony, Ayodhya, Faizabad(U.P) have changed my name to Ishwar Kumar Verma for all purposes.

I, Bhushan chander S/o Late Mithan lal R/o 20/11, first floor Shakti Nagar, Delhi-110007 that Bhushan chander & Bharat Bhushan both are one and same person. That My correct & actual name is Bhushan Chander s/o late Mithan lal

0070943757-1

I, Baboo Khan S/o Lalloo Khan R/o T-11/1, F/F, Flat No-5, MB Road, Pul Pehladpur, Delhi-110044 have changed my name 0070943753-1 to Babu Khan

I. Avasha Nigar W/o Naeem

Uddin R/o Masjid, Masjid Compound, Gurudwara Ragab Ganj Road, New Delhi-110001, have changed my name to Ayesha Mirza, for all future purposes. 0040767271-1

I, Anamika Tyagi alias Anamika, W/o Sapan Tyagi, R/o D110, Vivek Vihar, Noida Sec-82, UP-201303, have changed my name to Anamika, for all purposes.

0040767325-1

I, Amit Kumar Verma, S/o Roop Chand Verma, R/o A-26, Chander Lok Shahdara, Delhi-110093, have changed my minor Son's name from Vansh Kumar Verma to Vansh Verma for all purposes. 0070943755-1 I Vidhi Alias Mahak Bhatnagar,

D/o Chavi Bhatnagar R/o Flat No-857, Akshardham Apartments, Pocket-3, Sector-19, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075, have changed my name to Vidhi Bhatnagar 0070943666-1

I Sunita Rani Bansal W/O, Virender Kumar Bansal R/o I-1/11 Sector 16 Rohini Delhi 110089 have changed my name to Sunita Bansal. 0040767303-1

I Sanjay S/o Kishan Lal R/o D-68/9, Block-D, Tomar Colony, Kamal Pur, Burari, North West Delhi-110084, have changed my name to Sanjay Pandey

0070943669-1

I Rukshar D/o Mohd Shamim Akhtar R/o E-552, Shastri Market, South Moti Bagh, South West Delhi-110021, have changed my name to Shabina Khatoon 0070943667-1

I Parveen Garg S/o Jagdish Lal Garq R/o C-431, Gali No-10, Majlis Park, Adarsh Nagar, N.S Mandi, Delhi-110033, have changed my name to Parveen Kumar Garg 0070943660-1

I Meenakshi D/O, Madan Lal Dogra R/o 363, Jawahar Lal Apartment, Plot No. 9, Sector 5, Dwarka, New Delhi 110075 have changed my name to

Meenakshi Dogra. 0040767296-1

I, Gita Rani W/o Khushi Ram R/o U-94 Subhash park, uttam nagar, west delhi-110059 have changed my name to Geeta

Malhotra 0070943655-1 I Amit Kumar Mittal s/o Kashmiri Lal Mittal R/o A-58 Budh Vihar Ph-1 Delhi-86 had changed my name Amit Mittal

to correct name as Amit Kumar Mittal for all future purposes. 0040767244-1

I Akash Kumar Sahu S/o Ashok Kumar Sahu R/o L-35, Gali No-19, L-Block, H-Block, Dispendry, Mahendra Park, Delhi-110033, have changed my name to Aakash Kumar Sahu for all future purposes 0070943751-1

I.FIRST NAME CHAMELI DEVI (MENTIONED IN MY, PASSPORT).W/O-SURENDRA PRASAD PANDEY, R/O KAMLA NAGAR KHAGA, KHAGA, FATEHPUR, UTTAR-PRADESH-

212655.HAVE CHANGED,MY NAME TO FIRST.NAME CHAMELI LAST NAME DEVI.

0040767323-2

I,KARAN S/O RAM NATH PRAJAPATI R/O-T-58 Opp. A-134, Rajpura Gurmandi Delhi-110007, have changed my name to KARAN PRAJAPATI

0040767308-2

I.ATAR ALI son of ASGAR ALI KHAN, H.NO-123, GAFUR NAGAR, JAMIA NAGAR, OKHLA, DELHI-110025, have changed my name to ATHAR KHAN, for all, future 0040767313-3 purpose.

I, ANKITANAND S/o ABHAY KUMAR R/o H.No 69E, POCKET-K, SHEIKH SARAI PHASE-2, DELHI-110017 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ANKIT CHOUDHARY FOR ALL PURPOSES IN FUTURE.

Pradeep Mittal S/o Omkar Nath Mittal R/o A-1514, Gaur Valerio, Ahinsa Khand-II, Indirapuram

0130047897-1

Ghaziabad 201014, have changed my name to Pradeep Kumar Mittal for all future 0070943739purposes. It is for general information that I,Surender Kumar,S/o-Mishri Lal,R/o-H.No.204, Block-B

2nd, Madangir, Dr. Ambedkar Nagar, Pushpa Bhawan, Delhi-110062, declare that name of my minor son namely Shobhit Rajora aged-14 years has been wrongly written as Shobhit in his school records. The actual name of my minor son is Shobhit Rajora, which may be

0040767318-10

I,ZIAUDDIN KHAN S/O MOHAMMAD IDRISS.H.NO.898.A DARGAH MAKHDUMSHAH, ward.no-8 MEHRAULI NEW DELHI-110030, have changed my name to HAFIZ ZIAUDDIN, all future purposes. 0040767304-4

I,Yogesh Kumar,R/o-H. no. 119 Gali.No. 1, Anand-Vihar, Loni-Ghaziabad UP-201102, have my father's name incorrectly spelt as Yamuna Prasad in my CBSE matriculation Certificate and mark sheet. The correct name is Yamuna Prasad Ojha and should be considered so, for all 0040767319-2 purposes. I,USHA MEHTA W/o Sh. Ashwani

Pruthi R/o 4/72, Subhash Nagar, New Delhi-110027 have changed my name to BHAWNA PRUTHI. 0040767318-3

I.Tarun S/o Santosh Kumar, H.No.-2114, Gali No.-72, Near Radhey Sweets, Laxman Vihar Phase-2,Gurgaon (Haryana),have changed my name to Tarun Kumar. 0040767317-7

I,Sobiya Rani,W/O Mohammad Umair,R/O D,97 Gali no.9,Near jama Masjid, Village wazirabad Delhi-110084, have changed my name to Sobiya Umair, for all purposes. 0040767304-3 I,Shaweta Bhatia W/o Manoj

Kumar Madaan R/o KP-274 Maurya Enclave Pitampura Delhi-110034 have changed my name to Shweta Madaan 0040767308-4

**I,Satinderjit** Kaur Sethi,W/o Surject Singh Sethi R/o-3711, First Floor, Sector-23, Gurgaon, Haryana-122017, have changed my name to Satinder Kaur Sethi. 0040767317-3

I,Sarbjeet Singh s/o-Harjeet Singh r/o-2 F 15 Nit Faridabad Haryana, have change my name to Sarvjeet Singh permanently. 0040767313-10

I.SUSHMA CHAUHAN,W/O AJAY,H.NO-111/8 PRAKASH MOHALLA EAST OF KAILASH DELHI-110065, have changed my name to SEEMA, for all, future purpose. 0040767313-4

I,Sanjay Dogra,S/o-Tarsem Singh,R/o-L-128B,Shastri Nagar, Delhi-110052, declare that Sanjay, and Sanjay Dogra, both names are same and one person, shall hereafter known as Sanjay Dogra, for all future purpose. 0040767323-4

**I,SUNITA** KUMARI/SUNITA T. TRAKROO,W/O,AJAY TRAKROO, R/O, FLAT.NO.-1105,TOWER-A,GALAXY NORTH AVENUE, GAUR CITY-1, PLOT.NO.-GC-3, GREATER NOIDA WEST, PO-NOIDA, GAUTAM-BUDDHA NAGAR, UTTAR-PRADESH-201301.HAVE

CHANGED MY NAME TO SUNITA TTRAKROO. 0040767323-1 I.SHREYA.D/O.VIJAY KUMAR,R/O-B-805,8TH FLOOR, ROYAL TOWERS

APARTMENT, SECTOR-61, NOIDA, GAUTAM BUDDHA NAGAR, U.P-201301, have changed my name to SHREYA MATHUR. 0040767318-9

I,SATISH KUMAR SHARMA,S/O-HARBANS LAL SHARMA, H. NO-E-7, E-BLOCK,2ND FLOOR.MODEL-TOWN PHASE-2,MODEL-TWON-II, NORTH-WEST DELHI, DELHI-110009, changed my name to SATISH SHARMA, for all, future

purposes. 0040767317-6 I,Rachna Gakkhar,W/o-Parveen Kumar Gakkhar.R/o-5A/29,Third Floor,Near-Tilak-Nagar Police Station.Tilak Nagar, West Delhi, Delhi-110018, have changed my name

to Rachna Dikshaa Gakkhar, for

all, future purposes. 0040767304-8

I,RUKHSHANA W/O ABBAS AHMAD,R/O C528/2 MULLA **COLONY GHAROLI DELHI-**110096, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RUKHSANA PRAVEEN FOR FUTURE. 0040767318-2

I,ROSHNI D/O-MO NAUSHAD R/O-3757, J J COLONY, BLOCK-E. **BAWANA DELHI-110039 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO** ROSHANI. 0040767317-4

I.RAM NATH S/O HIRA R/o-T-58 Opp.A-134 Rajpura Gurmandi Delhi-110007, have changed my name to RAM NATH PRAJAPATI

0040767308-3 I.Chander shekhar S/o-Raghbar

Dayal, Add-Flat no-D-3,4th floor,plot no-48 shakti-khand-2, Indirapuram, Shipra suc c, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh -201014, changed my name to Lokesh kumar. 0040767304-6

I.Chandan Singh Jat Kaniar S/o Lakshman Singh Jat Kanjar R/o F-1206, ACE-Aspire, Greater Noida(West), have changed my name to Chandan Singh Jat for all purposes. 0040767249-1 I.Parveen Kumar Gakkhar, S/o Tara Chand Gakkhar, R/o 5A/29,Third Floor,Near Tilak-Nagar Police Station, Tilak Nagar, West Delhi, Delhi-110018,That I have changed the name of my minor son aged

about-14-years, from Shivaansh Gakkhar to Shivaanshh Gakkhar, for all future purposes. 0040767304-10 I,PRIYA PRAMODKUMAR MALIK,W/O-PRAMOD KUMAR

MALIK,R/O-KADAM 303,SHIPRA SRISHTI, AHINSA KHAND-1 **INDIRAPURAM** GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH-201014, CHANGE MY NAME TO PRIYA MALIK, FOR FUTURE, ALL **PURPOSE** 0040767318-5

I,PRITI W/O-NITIN MITTAL R/O-WZ-19A 3RD-FLOOR NEAR-**GURUDWARA BHAI LALO PART-**1,VISHNU GARDEN, DELHI-110018, HAVE

CHANGED MY NAME TO PRITI

MITTAL. 0040767304-5 I,PRAMODKUMAR SOMNATH MALIK,S/O-SOMNATH RAMMAL MALIK, R/O-KADAM 303, SHIPRA-SRISHTI, AHINSA-KHAND-1, INDIRAPURAM GHAZIABAD UTTAR PRADESH

201014, CHANGE MY NAME TO

PRAMOD KUMAR MALIK, FOR

ALL FUTURE PURPOSE. 0040767318-4

I.Nandni Dhawan D/o Surinder Kumar, R/o-G-144, Vikaspuri, New Delhi-110018, have changed my name as Nandini Dhawan, for all future purposes. 0040767242-1

I,NITIN RAI,S/O OM PRAKASH R/O WZ-A/103, A-BLOCK GULAB **BAGH UTTAR NAGAR DELHI-**110059, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO NITIN KUMAR RAI.

0040767313-2

I,NIRAJ ANAND,S/o Late S.K.Malik,R/o 11/15,2nd Floor, West Patel Nagar, New Delhi-110008, have changed my name to NERAJ K ANAND, for all, future purposes.

0040767313-9

I.SURINDER SINGH S/O BHIRAM SINGH R/O E-3/142 SULTAN PURI DELHI -110041, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO **SURENDER SINGH.** 0040767313-8

I.MAYA PRADHAN.W/o RAM BAHADUR PRADHAN, R/o MANABARI BASTI, MAL JALPAIGURI, WEST BENGAL-735222, have changed my name from MAYA PRADHAN TO KALI PRADHAN, for all purposes.

0040767311-2

I.MADTI DEVI.W/o SH.BUDH RAM,R/o-VILLAGE-BEELWA, **POST-BEELWATEHSIL** KHETRI, DISTT-JHUNJHUNU, RAJASTHAN, have changed my name from SUPIYAR DEVI to MADTI DEVI, after marriage for all, future purposes.

0040767311-1

I,M PRADEEP KUMAR, son of, M Karna Rao, Presently, residing at,Flat.No.403,Gopalan Grande

Nagar, Hanamkonda, Distt. War angal, Telangana-506009, have changed my name from M PRADEEP KUMAR to MULLE PRADEEP KUMAR, videaffidavit Date-06.01.2025.

0040767308-9

I,Kamal Kant s/o SS Ahuja, R/O-699 32B jawahar-colony nit Faridabad Haryana, have change my name to KAMAL KANT AHUJA Permanently.

0040767308-1

I,KAJAL W/O GURWINDER SINGH,R/o PLOT NO-114, G/F,KH,NO-34/15,BLOCK-N **UDAY VIHAR, PART-3 NILOTHI EXTEN NANGLOI.Delhi-**110041, have changed my name to KAJAL JAIN, permanently.

0040767313-5

I,KS Bhatia alias Khussvinder Singh.S/o-Jagan Nath Bhatiya, R/o-GH-5and7,Flat.No.762, Paschim-Vihar, Delhi-110087, have changed my name to Khushinder Singh Bhatia.

0040767313-7

I,Jatinder Pal Singh S/o Manohar Singh R/o-11/206, Geeta Colony Delhi-31, have Changed my name to Jatinder Paul Singh Bedi. 0040767317-5

I,Jasprit Singh Arneja,W/o Inder Mohan Singh Arneja, R/o-J3/35, Second-Floor, Rajouri-Garden, Delhi-110027, have changed my name to Jasprit Singh.

0040767317-2

I,Jai Prakash,R/o,B-11,1st Floor, Sector-12, Noida, Gautam Buddha-Nagar, U.P-201301, have changed the name of my minor daughter Vaishnavi Raikwar, aged-4-years and she shall hereafter be known as Taanshi Raikwar. 0040767304-9

I.HEMA SHARMILA VELLAI SAMY.W/O RAJENDRAN.R/o-**BLOCK-CA NO.6A DDA** FLAT, VTC: MUNIRKA JNU (POST)SOUTH WEST DELHI-110067, have changed my name to HEMA SHARMILA.

I,HARISH KUMAR,S/O VIDYA DHAR DHOUNIDIYAL R/O 11/X-2.BLOCK-C DILSHAD GARDEN. SHAHDARA DELHI-110095,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO HARISH

KUMAR DHOUNDIYAL. 0040767311-3

0040767304-1

I,Garima Kalra,D/o Sanjay Kalra, W/o Karan Mehta R/o-HG-2, 6/83, Kartike Appartment, Rajendra Nagar, Sector-2, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201005, have changed my name to Garima Mehta, for all future-0040767313-6 purposes.

HNO.171.PKT-11B.SECTOR-23,ROHINI,DELHI-110085.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ASHOK KUMAR SHARMA. 0040767319-1

I,ASHOK SHARMA S/O DINA

NATH SHARMA R/O

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

Nagar, Delhi-110052, declare that Bhawna, and Bhawna Dogra, both names are same and one parson, shall hereafter known as Bhawna Dogra, for all future purpose. 0040767323-3 I,Arun Kumar Giri,S/O-Girja Shanker, R/O, F-1/35, D, Sharma-Colony Ph-2, Budh-Vihar North West-Delhi-110086, have

(MANOJ KUMAR

**PUBLIC NOTICE** It is for general information that VIBHA GANGAHAR ALIAS VIBH DATTA D/o PRAMOD DATTA EX WIFE OF SHANTANU GANGAHAR R/O H.NO. 91, AMAR COLONY LAJPAT NAGAR-4, LAJPAT NAGAI SOUTH DELHI DELHI-11002 declare that I got divorced from m husband SH. GANGAHAR vide court decree HM. No. 862/18 dated 05.05.2018. Further have changed my name and my min daughter PRINA GANGAHAR age 12 years and we shall hereafter known as VIBHA DATTA and PRINA DATTA for all future purposes

PUBLIC NOTICE Be it known to all concerned on the behalf of my clients Sh. Luqman S/ Mohammand Baz, age about 54 years r/o N-17 B/271, Patharwala Bagh Wazirpur JJ colony, Ashok Vihar, Delhi 110052 that he has disowned/disinherited and debarre his Son Mohammad Nizamuddir his moveable disrespectful, disobedient behavior. ny-body deals with Mohamma zamuddin in any manner, He/She shall do so at his/her own risks, cost and consequences. My client shall no be liable or responsible for the sam

Pitampura, Delhi-34

Talwar Wife of Shri Ashwani Kuma Talwar both Resident of Property Bearing No. 1698, Ground Floor, Prata Street, Chuna Mandi, Pahargani, Nev Delhi-110055 notify you that we have disinherited, disowned and debarred ou Son i.e. Shri Gaurav Kumar Talwa properties due to utter misconduct and

Shri Gaurav Kumar Talwar will do so at his/her /their own risk and responsibilities and my clients will not be responsible for any act, deed or lealing done by Shri Gaurav Kuma Talwar

> SHUBHAM AGARWAL Advocate Enrl. No. D/2806/2017 G-27, Kailash Colon New Delhi-110048

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

Freehold SFS Flat No. 130, First Floor Category-III., Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi owned and possessed by presen Seller by virtue of Sale Deed, duly registered vide Regd. No. Regd. N 29822, dated 16.09.2005/19.09.200 and the same is proposed to be offered as Security with State Bank of India Branch: RACPC, Naraina, New Delh and as per present owner(s) version the said property is/are free from al sorts of encumbrance.

It is hereby notified that any person legal heir and/or Bank, financia institution having any claim, any charge, interest or lien or claim and / or objection to thereof, he/she/ they may lodge / notify the same to the undersigned with documentary proof court judgment within 15 days from the day of publication of this public notice, failing which any further/future claim/ objection(s) shall be rejected and my client/prospective buyer (s) as a bona-fide purchaser conclude the title / Sale Deed proposed to be executed in favor of my client or in the name of his/her/ their nominees shall be deemed to be clear and marketab without any defect, encumbrance

flaw and impediment, SATYENDER YADAV (ADVOCATE) no. 561, 5" Floor, Saket Courts New Delhi; Mob.: 9711212421

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is hereb informed that my client intending to purchase the below mentioned schedule of propert from its owner of 1/8th undivided share viz., Ashok Kumar Wahi s/c Madan Lal Wahi r/o 4, Pusa Road, New Delhi 110005. Am other person(s)/ institution government authorities having any sort of right, claim, title or interest of any kind whatsoever it the said property or any par thereof or anybody else claiming are required to put forth his/ its claim with the undersigned, within 15 days of publication of this notice, failing which the sam shall not be binding on my clien and my client shall proceed to complete the transaction for the purchase of 1/8th undivided share from the above owner, free fror all encumbrances whatsoever Schedule of property: 1/8th undivided share of free-hold built-up property no. 4, Road no 34, bearing Municipal no. 12032 Khasra no. 862/767, ward no. Xv situated at Western Eastern Avenue, Karol Bagh, New Delhi (commonly known as 4. Pusa Road, New Delhi), measuring 450 sq. Yds Sd/- Sanat Kapo Advocate 12, Central Lane Ground Floor, Bengali Market New Delhi 110001 Ph: 011-41525806.

Cell: 9818336706 email:sanat.kapoor@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Mr. Mukesh Jain has

approached ICICI Bank Ltd. Rohini, Delhi (Bank) to avail : loan for purchase of Property No. CP-214, (126 sq. mtrs.) Pitampura, Delhi from Mrs Harjeet Kaur Lamba. Mrs Harjeet Kaur Lamba has

represented that she is the absolute & sole owner of said property, having inherited from her father Mr. Kulwant Singh (being his only Class- I legal heir), who was owner vide Conveyance Deed dated 12.07.1993 (Doc. No. 5576). anybody, person, body corporate has any right, lien or claim whatsoever on the said Property by way of inheritance or otherwise, then he/she/it may contact the undersigned with documentary proof of claim within 10 days of publication of this notice, otherwise it shall be deemed that either there are no claims or the same have been waived off. No claim or objection shall be entertained thereafter and Bank shall proceed to advance the loan on

Amit Kumar, Advocate **GNA & Associates** D-28, Jangpura Extension New Delhi-110014.

mortgaging of the said property.

**PUBLIC NOTICE** he public at large is hereby informed that ients Mr. Ramdutt S/o Sh. Telu Ram & Smt. Shakuntala W/o. Sh. Ramdutt Goya both R/o Flat No.108, Keshav Bhawar Kureni, North- West-Delhi, Delhi-110010 have debarred and disinherited their daugh Ms. Heena Goyal, Aadhra No.4012 8994 206 om. their movable and immovable proper and also snatched their relation from her due er bad conduct and disobedient towards n lients and my clients have no control in an anner over her. If anyone deals with her wi be at his/her own risk then my clients will a

> ADVOCATE D/884/2023

SHANTANI

Muzammil Usmani (Advocate 362, II Floor, Kohat Enclave

**PUBLIC NOTICE** This is for information to all concern-

that My Clients i.e. Shri Ashwani Harbans Lal Talwar and Smt. Monika from all my immovable and movable That anybody dealing with my Son i.e.

Public at large is hereby informed that

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

advertisement in E-mail: syadav 7887@gmail.com manner whatsoever.

For All Advertisement Booking

#### **SALUTE THE SOLDIER**

**BORDER SECURITY FORCE** 



**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

To be known to all that my clients, (1) SHRI

RAJBEER SINGH SACHDEVA. (2) SHRI

BALDEEP SINGH SACHDEVA. (3) SHRI

SHRI JASNEET SINGH SACHDEVA AL

SONS OF LATE SARDAR SURINDER

SINGH & GRANDSONS OF LATE

SARDAR SANTOKH SINGH ALL R/O C

3/151, JANAK PURI, NEW DELHI

110058. Allottee/ Mutatee (Mutatio

Allowed As Per DDA Dated:-27/10/2005

3/151, JANAK PURI, RESDL, SCHEME

NEW DELHI-110085, VIDE FILE NO

NO.F-21(132)1973/LAB(R). The original

documents i.e. Allotment letter, handing

over possession letter, site possession

Form-D, Building Sanction plan, Mutation

letter, all DDA related documents of the

And FIR /NCR/IR NO 2457057/2025

dated 02/01/2025 to this effect has been

lodged in P.S. Crime Branch, Delhi. Any

person(s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in

possession of original documents, may

write /contact with above named person a

above Address/Phone No. 9811791717

within 15 days from the date of publication

of this notice. The person claiming any

right, interest, objection with respect to

this property, can personally inform o

write to Astt. Director (LAB) Residentia

DDA Vikas Sadan INA New Delhi-

Court Enrol no D3370/99 Chamber no 1005 chamber complex sector 14

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

Harish Khurana S/o Late Sh. M.

Khurana and Smt. Raj Khurana R/o E

89, Upper Ground Floor, Mansarovai

Garden, Kirti Nagar, New Delhi

110015 declares that name of my fathe

has been wrongly mentioned as Arjun

Dass in my Electrol Photo Identity Car

bearing No.SZM2550408 and in my Par

Card bearing No.AAJPK2736Q as well as

in my Driving License bearing No. DL04

20069142544 and name of my Father and

Mother have been wrongly mentioned a

Arjun Dass Budhiraja and Phool Wanti in

my Passport bearing No. T-1515807.

accordingly, submit that my name in all

official records and documents be read a

Harish Khurana and the names of my

father and mother be amended as M.L

Khurana and Raj Khurana, respectively.

PUBLIC NOTICE

TB now gwood by Mr. Manish Sachdova S/O Late

hri Newal Kishare Sachdeva have

Dated 31/12/2024 reparting this matt Subsequently, TDI Infracorp India Ltd. 1a/

rrifled true copy of said plot Buyer to preement & Allotment letter from registrar (

id handover to party as in future used as origina

perty papers, they are kindly requested mit them to 100 Intracorp ( India) Ltd, UK

Palisce, Delly, And also inform the rightful owner, Mr. Manish Sachdeva S/O Late Shrt Nawal

Cistors Sachdess 9811058611 Industry by TOI NEWACORP INDIA LTD NEW DELHI.

PUBLIC NOTICE

'Be it known to all that my client has agreed to sell

Flat No. Y - 302, Third Floor, The Tai Sartai

CGHS (Tai Enclave), Geeta Colony, Delhi-

The Original GPA executed by Abdul Jabba

Khan in favour of Smt. Leena Ali and SPA

xecuted by Smt. Leena Ali in favour

Iohammad Arashad has been lost for

LR No. 2468231/2025 has also been lodge

the Owner in respect of the said lo

tle deeds/documents. If anyone found t

the undersigned. Further, ALL PERSONS

COMPANY / FIRM / FINANCIAI

soever are requested to put their claim

proof therein, within 15 days hereof failing which

and the process of mortgage of the Property ma be completed at HLC, SBI, Delhi."

idered to have been waived and/or abandone

CA-19, Avantika, Near Sudarshan Dham

agreements with advertisers

or otherwise acting on an

Ankit Dixit (Advoca

Mob: - + 91-880080779

Ghaziabad U.P. 201002

E- mail:- ankit12dixit@gmail.com

nderwriting with undersigned with docume

rances, charges, liens, and mortgages et

r sale, purchase, mortgaga, or any other logs nancial transactions. If anyone locates the orig

AKEGROVE APARTMENT, K

f flat KLD T-13/0503

Rohini courts Delhi.

110023 Ms USHA Advocate Delhi High

06.06.1972 - 07.01.2012 Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice in a vehicle accident, while on operational duty in area of BOP Arjun (West Bengal)

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

CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE 7 January 1990

militants opened fire from a house. L/Nk Mohan Lal, leading from the front, bravely confronted the attack, taking the first volley of fire and sacrificing his life in the line of duty.

**7 January 2001** 

three-day long-range patrol, Constable CRPF troops of 133 Battalion received intelligence about a

Maoist meeting in Jalra Banjhari Bhuyan Tola. The troops cordoned off the village, prompting heavy firing from the Maoists. Despite being critically injured in the chest, Constable A.R. Malviya displayed extraordinary courage, killing two Maoists before succumbing to his



Constable **Mane Kumar** 01-06-1963 To 07-01-2005 23 Bn

23 Battalion of CRPF were deployed to guard the ITO building at Lal Chowk, Srinagar. Around 1600 hours, two militants launched an attack, opening fire and hurling

**Shaheed Head** 

Constable

Rohtash

Singh

11-07-1969 To

07-01-2013

134 Bn

**Shaheed** 

Constable

**Sunil Kumar** 

15-08-1983 To

07-01-2013

134 Bn

**Shaheed** 

**Constable** 

Champa Lal

Malwiva

08-01-1983 To

07-01-2005

112 Bn

**Shaheed** 

**Constable** 

Babu Lal Patel

11-12-1983 To

07-01-2013

112 Bn

severe injuries, bravely retaliated and neutralized one militant. The second militant fled into the building, firing indiscriminately before setting it ablaze. Amidst the fierce gunfight, HC Mane Kumar succumbed to his injuries, making the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty.

**7 January 2013** 



**Shaheed** Constable Yashbir Singh 16-08-1968 To 07-01-2013





Kisku 20-05-1979 To 07-01-2013 112 Bn

**Shaheed** 

Constable

Shankar Lal

Choudhary

07-01-2013

112 Bn

12-07-1990 To

uphill, they faced heavy firing

Registered Office:ICICI Bank Limited, ICICI Bank Tower, Near Chakli Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodara, Gujarat. Pin- 390007 PUBLIC NOTICE - E-AUCTION OF ASSIGNMENT OF FINANCIAL ASSETS

regulatory guidelines, ICICI Bank hereby invites EOI from interested Scheduled Commercial Banks/ Small Finance Banks/ARCs/NBFCs/Fis for purchase of thirteen Non-Performing Asset ("Financial Asset") on the terms and conditions indicated herein under "Swiss Challenge Method". It is hereby clarified that confirmation of the name of successful bidder will be subject to final approval by the competent authority of ICICI Bank: Minimum Mark up Base Bid Price Term of sale

	Rs. 260.0 million 1009	100% Cash basis		5% on Base Bid
Schedu	le for E-Auction:		1.00	
Sr. No.	Activity			Date & Time
1.	Submission of Expression of Interest ("EOI	")	January 09, 202	5 latest by 5:00 P.M.
2.	Execution of Non-Disclosure Agreement (* (if not already executed with ICICI Bank)	'NDA")	By January 09, 2	2025 latest by 5:00 P.M.
3.	Release of Offer Document along with Preliminary Information Memorandum (*P		By January 09, 2	2025
4.	Access to data room for due diligence		January 10, 202	5 to January 24, 2025
5.	Submission of Bid Form		January 27, 202	5 latest by 11:30 A.M.
6.	Process of e-bidding		January 27, 202 auto extension o	5 From 2:30 P.M. to 3:30 P.M. with of five minutes till sale is completed

TERMS & CONDITIONS 1. The auction for the financial Asset is under "Swiss Challenge Method", based on an existing offer in hand, who

will have the right to match the highest bid. In case no bid is received which crosses the minimum mark up, Base Bid will be designated as the winning bid if it qualifies as per terms and conditions stipulated. 2. The sale of aforesaid Financial Asset(s) is on "As is Where is Basis", "As is What is Basis", and "Without

process shall be subject to terms & conditions contained in the offer document which will be made available to Parties post execution of NDA. For any further clarifications with regard to data room, terms and conditions of the auction, kindly contact Mr.

Shubham Bansal (7977715165) and for submission of EOl/Bids, email at shubham.bansal5@icicibank.com, anshu.j@icicibank.com or send by post to Mr. Shubham Bansal at ICICI Bank Limited, NBCC Place, Bhishma Pitamah Marg, New Delhi – 110 003

control of the Bank. Interested Parties are expected to take efforts to find out the status of communication sent by them to ICICI Bank to ensure their participation in the auction process. This notice and contents hereof are subject to any prevailing laws, rules and regulations of India. SD/- Authorised Officer

ICICI Bank Limited

CT MAHABEER PRASAD

**BORDER SECURITY FORCE** SH S S RAWAT, DC 27.08.1969 - 07.01.2005

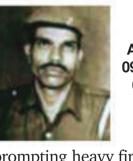


Shaheed Constable **Sher Singh** 01 Bn 16-09-1937 To 03-01-1963

38 Battalion was deployed in Tarn Taran, Punjab, to assist the state police in countering terrorist activities and restoring normalcy. On 7 January 1990, during a combing operation in Khem Karan panchayat,

**CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE** 

Shaheed On 7 January 2001, during a



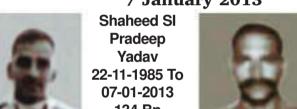
A.R. Malviya 09-05-1966 To 07-01-2001 133 Bn

injuries. Ensuring his rifle didn't fall into enemy hands, he

handed it to a fellow trooper before attaining martyrdom. His gallantry was posthumously honored with the President's Police Medal for Gallantry. CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE **7 January 2005 Shaheed Head** On 7 January 2005, troops of

grenades at the gate. HC Mane Kumar and the sentry, despite

**CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE** 













On 7 January 2013, CRPF troops of 112 and 134 Battalions launched an operation against Maoists in Amwatikar village, Latehar district. As the troops moved

and IED blasts from an ambush. Despite being in disadvantageous positions, the troopers fought valiantly, forcing the Maoists to retreat. The encounter was intense, with both sides suffering losses. Nine brave CRPF personnel made the supreme sacrifice during the operation, while Constable Mahesh Kumar succumbed to his injuries on 22 January, attaining martyrdom.

Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra- Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai- 400051 Regional Office: ICICI Bank Limited, NBCC Place, Pragati Vihar, New Delhi- 110003 In terms of the policy of ICICI Bank Limited ("ICICI Bank") on Sale of Financial Assets and in line with the

	Rs. 260.0 million 100% (	asn basis	5% on Base Bid
Schedu	le for E-Auction:		III)
Sr. No.	Activity		Date & Time
1.	Submission of Expression of Interest ("EOI")	January 09,	2025 latest by 5:00 P.M.
2.	Execution of Non-Disclosure Agreement ("NI (if not already executed with ICICI Bank)	DA") By January	09. 2025 latest by 5:00 P.M.
3.	Release of Offer Document along with Preliminary Information Memorandum ("PIM	By January	09, 2025
4.	Access to data room for due diligence	January 10,	2025 to January 24, 2025
5.	Submission of Bid Form	January 27,	2025 latest by 11:30 A.M.
6.	Process of e-bidding	January 27,	2025 From 2:30 P.M. to 3:30 P.M. with

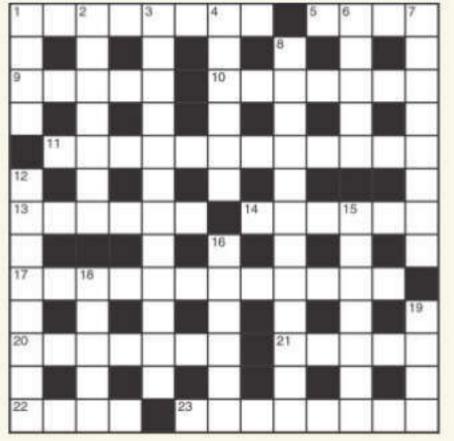
Recourse Basis". 3. The e-bidding process, if required, will be conducted through M/s e-Procurement Technologies Ltd (Auction tiger) on the website of auction agency i.e. https://icicibank.auctiontiger.net as detailed above. The e-bidding

ICICI Bank will not be responsible/liable in case of non-receipt of EOI by ICICI Bank for the reasons beyond the

Date : January 07, 2025 Place : New Delhi

## 14 CALENDAR

#### **CROSSWORD 5567**



**DOWN** 

turn (12)

be detected (6)

Zealander (5)

(12)

8 Having no like?

musical note (7)

in Virginia (5)

**19** Service charges

1 Compel to manufacture

3 Doing someone a good

4 Is deep perhaps but may

**12** Made up to appear calm

18 House constructed badly

**15** Work with a kind of

**16** A quarter cent rise

**6** I wander up to a New

**2** Final layer of paint is worn

#### **ACROSS**

**1** 1 That many were treated badly was important (8) **5** Surrounded by a shadowy reflection (4)

**9** Article in weekend place is ruined (5) **10** Where to find persons of conviction (7)

11 The family's failure makes a wretched story (4,8)13 Offender dismissed by decree 7 Is untied loosely and split

**14** Shoot something to eat (6) 17 Flags on the street

20 One hears it being broken

**21** I start to scold, being furious (5) **22** Cart is moved back three feet(4)

23 Vertigo surprises

Solutions Crossword 5566 Across: 1 Shellfish, 8 Oriel, 9 Austria, 10 Minima, 11 Stolid, 12 Encroach, 15 Whistler, 18 Reload, 20 Losers, 21 Snapper, 22 Clogs, 23 Horseplay Down: 2 Haunt, 3 Lately, 4 Fair deal, 5 Hosier, 6 Digital, 7 Clear head, 11 Showplace, 13 Currants, 14 Mission, 16 Thrush, 17 Slip up, 19 Arena

#### **OVER THE HEDGE** by Michael Fry & T Lewis

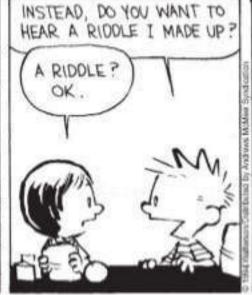






#### **CALVIN & HOBBES** by Bill Watterson









#### **MARVIN** by Tom Armstrong







# HOW COULD ANY KID WHO DOES



#### **JUMBLED WORDS**

**TOPIS** 

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. Learning without thought is labour lost; thought without learning is \_\_\_. - Confucius

**ITWER IINTLS** 

Answer: Learning without thought is labour lost; thought without learning is  $oldsymbol{perilous}$  -Solution: WRITE, POSIT, INSTIL, RUMPLE

**LUMPER** 

#### Difficulty Level 2s 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				7			
	6		8	9		2	4	
				3	6	5		
	3					8	1	4
7								5
2	1	8					9	
		4	6	2	_ °			
	9	2		7	8		6	
			1				6 8	

#### SOLUTION SUDOKU 5827 2 6 8 3 4 2 6 2 6 5 9 4 3 5 2 5 4 8 6 6 9 3 8 5 6 4 6 9 8 5

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE

APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr. P. C.

Whereas a complaint has been made before me that accused

person namely Jitender Pal Singh Redi (Prop. of M/S Grooms by

solution) R/o K-9/1/301, Vikash Puri, Delhi, have committed (or is

suspected to have committed) the offence under CC.No. 849/2019

U/s 138 NI Act., has been registered at P.S. Bhajanpura, Delhi

and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued

that the said, Jitender Pal Singh Redi cannot be found and

whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said

Jitender Pal Singh Redi has absconded (or is concealing himself

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Jitender Pal

Singh Redi of CC.No. 849/2019 U/s 138 NI Act., registered at

P.S. Bhajanpura, Delhi is required to appear before this court to

By Order

Sh.Pankaj Rai, JMFC-01, (NE)

Room No.73, Karkardooma Court, Delhi

answer the said complaint on or before 14.02.2025.

to avoid the service of the said warrant).

DP/16873/NE/2024

#### **DAY TODAY**

BY PETER VIDAL

**ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)** Mars has now commenced a new cycle which is going to lift

your morale and give you a massive shot in the arm - but only if you turn your attention to all unfinished business and left-over tasks. How can you make the most of all your many talents and abundant energy?

**TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)** Move carefully, flitting about behind the scenes, doing your best without being spotted! The coming phase in your life is one for discretion, so plan accordingly. Also, if a friend or partner lets you down, don't be too hard on them:

#### they might have no choice. **GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)** This should be

a somewhat sensitive day, but no less confident for that. The golden rule is never to take offence, and always to realise that little slights may be unintended. Partners really are in need of your care and understanding, so you'll have to be patient.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

You are undoubtedly well aware of certain emotional undercurrents, and it's thanks

to your intuitive skills that you're more in tune than many other people with the choices that should now be faced. That doesn't mean that you'll come up with the right answers, though, so tread carefully.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

Don't expect any letup of daily pressures even if today's stars are more relaxed than usual. You should realise that any tension can work to your advantage, giving you the excuse to make long-overdue improvements, especially at work.

#### **VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)**

occasion when partners may be better equipped to take control. At work employers should be listened to and obeyed, although they in their turn should recognise

your role as a conciliator. It's all a matter of mutual respect.

### LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

The best relationships are those based on joint interests, and the happiest social life is that built on good conversation. Consider the legal situation, and make sure that you know your rights. And don't give anyone the wrong idea

#### SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

The cycle you're now entering is one which warns you about the danger of burning yourself out, but offers you the chance to get your physical well-being together, cleaning up your diet, improving your exercise

#### SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)



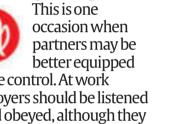
authority, extracting the truth



#### warm welcome. AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19) Circumstances

may now force you to abandon certain plans are still in a state of some uncertainty, while domestic entertaining looks favourable. Take advantage of any

#### PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20) Other people may



not intend to mislead you, and what you mistake for opposition could be support. If someone seems to

be standing in the way, it may be that they are somehow forcing you to make a response which is more

#### **PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE** APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

#### See Section 84 BNSS

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Rakesh, S/o Babu Lal, R/o Village Ahmad Garh, PS Jhinjana, Distt. Mujaffar Nagar, U.P. and C-140, Partap Nagar, Mandoli, Nand Nagri, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 71/2006, U/s 392/34 IPC, P.S. Rajender Nagar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Rakesh cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Rakesh has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said Rakesh accused of FIR No. 71/2006, U/s 392/34 IPC, P.S. Rajender Nagar, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 25.03.2025. By Order

Ms. Preeti Judical Magistrate First Class-03 Central District, Room No. 150 Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE

**OF ACCUSED PERSON** 

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused

Danish@Mohd. Adil S/o Mohd. Akil R/o 105-A, Block-A

Subhash Mohalla, Gali Bajrang Bali Wali, Maujpur, Delhi, has

committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in

Case FIR No. 393/13 U/s 379/411 IPC P.S.: Daryaganj Delhi. it

has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that

the said accused Danish@Mohd. Adil, cannot be found and

whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said

accused Danish@Mohd. Adil, has absconded (or is concealing

Proclamation is hereby made that the said Danish@Mohd.

Adil, accused of FIR No. 393/13 U/s 379/411 IPC P.S.: Daryaganj

Delhi. is required to appear before this Court to answer the said

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE

OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused

Person namely Ratan Singh S/o: Kalyan Singh, R/o: Pink

Colour Ka Makan, 3rd Floor, Gali No. 21, Village Bawana, Delhi

also at Village Khiriya Kalan, Mohaba, Jaitpur, P.S. Ajhar, Uttar

Pradesh (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in FIR

No. 421/2022, U/s 323/341 IPC, registered at P.S.: Bawana,

Delhi and the warrant has been returned writing upon that the

said accused Ratan Singh cannot be found and whereas it has

been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Ratan

Singh has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the

service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that

the said Ratan Singh accused FIR No. 421/2022, U/s 323/341

IPC, registered at P.S.: Bawana, Delhi is required to appear

before this court to answer the said complaint on or before

By Order

By Order

Sh. Sarthak Panwar, LD.

Judicial Magistrate First Class

Room No. 114, Rohini Courts, Delhi

Sh. Dr. Raj Kumar Singh

JMFC-05, Room No. 241

Tis hazari Court Delhi

himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

complaint on or before 11.02.2025.

DP/176/CD/2025

(Court Matter)

13.02.2025.

DP/171/ON/2025

(Court Matter)

DP/152/CD/2025

#### APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON (See Section 82 Cr. P.C./84 BNSS)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE

Whereas complaint has been made before me that the

accused Ajay Sharma S/o Sant Ram Sharma R/o H No 153, Near L-163A, Back Side of Khasra number 106/9/1, Gali NO.5 Raja Puri, New Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in CT Case no.284/2023 U/s 135 I.E. ACT P.S. Bindapur, Delhi and it has been returned to warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused Ajay Sharma cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Ajay Sharma has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that Ajay Sharma in CT Case no.284/2023 U/s 135 I.E. ACT P.S. Bindapur, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 06.02.2025.

By order Shri Vinod Kumar Meena Additional Sessions Judge (South-West) Special Court (Electricity) Room No. 609 Dwarka Dist. Court, New Delhi

DP/218/DW/2025

#### PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

#### See Section 82 CrPC

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person (1) Neelu Shiekh @ Neeru Sheikh D/o Ruhib Sheikh @ Ruhab Sheikh R/o Jhuggi Bangali Colony, Sahabad Dairy, Delhi, (2) Vicky Dass @ Vicky S/o Sadhan Dass R/o Jhuggi Bangali Colony, Sahabad, Daulatpur, Delhi, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in FIR No. 28/20, U/S 25 Arms Act, P.S. Daryaganj, Central Distt., Delhi-02 and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused (1) Neelu Shiekh @ Neeru Sheikh (2) Vicky Dass @ Vicky cannot be found. and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused (1) Neelu Shiekh @ Neeru Sheikh (2) Vicky Dass @ Vicky has absconded (or is concealing themself to avoid the service of the said warrant);

Proclamation is hereby made that (1) Neelu Shiekh @ Neeru Sheikh (2) Vicky Dass @ Vicky the said accused of FIR No. 28/20, U/S 25 Arms Act, P.S. Daryaganj, Central Distt., Delhi-02, is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 25.02.2025. By Order Dr. Raj Kumar Singh

Judicial Magistrate First Class-05 (Central), DP/182/CD/2025 Central Distt., Room No.-241, (Court Matter) Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE

APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(See Section 82 Cr.PC)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused

Sahjad, S/o Jainudeen R/o H.No.B-49, Gali No.5, DCM

Colony Ibrahim Pur, Delhi also at Vill. Admapur PS-Manjha

Ghar Distt. Gopal Ganj Bihar has committed (or is suspected

to have committed) the offence in case FIR No.017478/2022

u/s 379/411/34 IPC, P.S. Burari, Delhi and it has been returned

to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused

Sahjad cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my

satisfaction that the said accused Sahjad has absconded (or is

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Sahjad of

FIR No.017478/2022 u/s 379/411/34 IPC, P.S. Burari, Delhi is

required to appear before this Court to answer the said

Judicial Magistrate First Class-09 (Central), Room No.286,

concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

complaint on or before 13.02.2025.

DP/149/N/2025

#### PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

#### See Section 82 CrPC

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Harjeet Singh, S/o Sh. Hardeep Singh, R/o Patti Choudhran, Baraut, Baghpat, UP has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case registered vide FIR No. 384/22, U/S 3/4/5/55 G. Act, P.S. Jagatpuri, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused Harjeet Singh, can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Harjeet Singh, has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Harjeet Singh, of FIR No. 384/22, U/S 3/4/5/55 G. Act, P.S. Jagatpuri. Delhi is required to appear before this court (or before me) to answer the complaint on or before the day of 14.04.2025. By Order

Ms. Aayushi Saxena Judicial Magistrate, First Class-05, Second Floor, Shahdara Distt. DP/17076/SHD/2024 (Court Matter) Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

#### PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE **OF ACCUSED PERSON**

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Ravi @ Daikait, S/o: Sh. Manohar Lal. R/o: B-82, Gali No. 1 Prem Nagar, Shiv Vihar, Karawal Nagar, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in Case FIR No. 2561/2020 U/S 379/411 IPC, P.S.: Bhajanpura, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Ravi @ Daikait cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Ravi @ Daikait has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said Ravi @ Daikait accused of Case FIR No. 2561/2020 U/S 379/411 IPC, P.S.: Bhajanpura, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 13.02.2025. By Order

Sh. Pankaj Rai Judicial Magistrate, First Class-01 DP/16632/NE/2024 Room No. 73, Karkardooma Court, Delhi

#### Own & Operate (BOO) for Design, Survey, Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning, Operation & Maintenance of grid connected

distributed solar power plants for solarization of selected Agriculture/Mixed Load feeders at 19 Sub-Stations in MESCOM jurisdiction, its associated 11kV line to connect the plant with concerned Substations and Remote Monitoring System (RMS) of solar power plants through RESCO mode, for 25 years under Component C - Feeder Level Solarization of PM-KUSUM scheme" vide Bid enquiry no. MESCOM/2024-25/SE0049 (19 Packages).

https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 07.01.2025.

### For Power Related Complaints & Assistance Call Toll Free Number 1912

#### See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Yash Raj Pal, S/o: Sh. Hargovind, R/o: A-98, Mohan Garden Extn., Uttam Nagar, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in Case FIR No. 385/11 U/S 419 / 420 / 472 / 34 IPC, P.S.: Rajouri Garden, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Yash Raj Pal cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Yash Raj Pal has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the

Proclamation is hereby made that the said Yash Raj Pal accused of Case FIR No. 385/11 U/S 419 / 420 / 472 / 34 IPC, P.S.: Rajouri Garden, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 15.02.2025.

Metropolitan Magistrate

By Order,

Ms. Payal Singal

#### (Court Matter) Central District, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

DP/16820/WD/2024

(Court Matter)

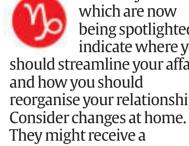
about your intentions.

### chronic complaints.

and tackling niggling



However, when it comes to dealing with people in may be like getting blood out of a stone. That doesn't mean that you shouldn't try. CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)



### beyond your control

schemes, or at least reach a major compromise. Family opportunities for pleasure.

## mature than in the past.

#### ANDHRA PRADESH CAPITAL REGION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY(APCRDA) Lenin Center, Governerpet, Vijayawada – 520002 (A.P.) E Procurement Tender Notice NIT No. 62/PROC/MAU61-USI0HB(BG)/15/2024-HB Name of Work: Name of the work: WORLD BANK & ADB

Development Program related to "Completion of Balance works in External Infra Development viz." Providing Water Supply, Underground Sewerage System, Storm Water Drainage System, Street Lighting, Internal Roads, External Electrical, Plumbing and Sanitary Systems, Firefighting Systems, HVAC Systems, Building Security Systems, Landscaping etc., for 1440 nos. multi-storied apartment quarters in 14 towers of (S+12) floors pattern buildings for Gazetted Officers Type-I & Type-II and Group-D Officials near Nelapadu, Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh on Lumpsum Contract (% percentage ender) System with the DLP of 2 years". Est. Cost - Rs.226.26 Crores. The bid can be downloaded on AP e-procurement portal from 07.01.2025 to 28.01.2025 up to 14.00 Hrs. Due date for submission of Bid is 28.01.2025 up to 15.00 Hrs, Technical bid opening 28.01.2025 @16.00 Hrs. For further

details Please refer to www.apeprocurement.gov.in and www.crda.ap.gov.in. | 866 Conglistoms, APCRA Vibranti

#### Metro Railway, Kolkata

Tender Notice for e-tendering is invited by Principal Chief Engineer, Metro Railway, Kolkata for and on behalf of President of India for the following work: Name of work: "Renovation, Repair and Interior works of 120 DPS Road (Annex of RPF Barrack), Tollygunge of Metro Railway, Kolkata". Approx. Cost of Work: ₹7,29,33,099.10. Earnest Money: ₹5,14,700/-. Completion Period: Six (06) Months. Date and Time of Closing: 28.01.2025 at 12.00 Hrs. The Tender Document and other details can be obtained from the website: www.ireps.gov.in Amendments/Corrigendum, if any, would be uploaded only on the website

Abridged e-Tender Notice No. : Civil-2484-2024(Open)

Follow us at : M/metrorailwaykol ()/metrorailkolkata MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED

#### (A Government of Karnataka undertaking) Corporate Office, "MESCOM BHAVANA", Bejai, Mangaluru - 575004 Ph: 0824-2885796 CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425

#### No: MESCOM/SEE(PROJ)/EE(APR)/2024-25/2371 Date: 03-01-2025 SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-Procurement Portal Only) MESCOM Re-invites tenders from the eligible bidders for the

"Selection of Solar Power Generators (SPGs) on the basis of Build

The interested eligible bidders may log on to e-procurement portal

DIPR/ADM/KSMCA/1127/24-25 dt: 06.01.2025 Sd/-, Superintending Engineer (Ele) (Projects)

#### PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

service of the said warrant).

By Order Sh. Shashank Nandan Bhatt

Room No. 356, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi



Oh, I didn't get too fazed. Unfortunately, Uzi got out. He was trying to buy some time a little bit. It was probably my fault, but it happens. It's cricket. Credit to Bumrah. He got the wicket, but obviously great performance from the team."

**SAM KONSTAS,** ON HIS HEATED EXCHANGE WITH BUMRAH



Serendipity meant a flight booking error, being locked out of the house and a forced New Year dinner of a McD burger ended up holding the most memorable treasures on a tempestuous cricket tour

# Sandwiched between two warm hugs a scoop and many heart-warming tales



SRIRAM VEERA

#### **ASHWIN PERSPIRES**

Nov 21, Perth

The media cafeteria is downstairs at Perth. As one enters, the sound of the ball hitting the stumps and the 'thud, thud' of spiked boots is heard. From a door crack one can see Ravichandran Ashwin at it, on his own at the indoor nets, all through that Test. Little does one realise that these visuals will pop up in the mind when he announces a shock retirement midway through the series. Lunch on that opening day in Perth was lamb shanks, if memory serves right; the day's special could have been cooked better. Just like the ending of Ashwin's career.

#### **WARM HUG ON A SUNNY DAY**

Nov 27, Perth

By oversight, the flight out of Perth had been booked two days after the Test ended, and one day later than the rest of the media pack. Turns out to be the best decision ever as former England batsman Robin Smith, with the fiercest square cut imaginable, agrees to meet on what was to be the final day of the Test. We meet on a sunny airy day at an outdoorsy cafe where he opens his heart on how he fought darkness inside him. Takeaway memory? The warmest hug imaginable at

The Australian press is already making a big deal of a throwaway line from Josh Hazlewood and the headlines are splashed across newspapers: 'Divided Team'.

Steve Smith's photo of playing with his eyes shut is splashed across the West Australian with the headline 'R.I.P.' alongside a pic of a skull: 'Australia's old and out-ofform team humiliated' runs the slug. Somewhat similar texts and visuals would be said about the other team in a month's time. Such is life.

#### A BRAVE AFGHAN GIRL

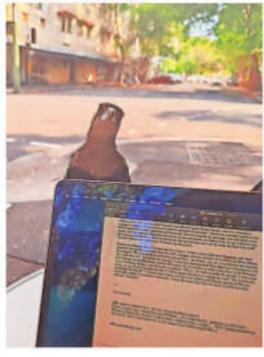
Dec 1, Canberra

Another decision on the fly proves gold. Canberra, where the Indians play a tour game against the Prime Minister's XI, wasn't originally part of the schedule but a cheap flight without check-in baggage is booked. The luggage is kept in an airport locker and a backpackers' dorm becomes home for the next few days. The first sighting of selfie-king Sam Konstas is had, and also a remarkable young Afghan girl Benafsha Hashimi, a 22-year-old who had fled Kabul as a 18-year old cricketer along with her teammates, is met on the day

after the game, before driving to the airport. On a tour, where brave gutsy bowlers hound down batsmen, Benafsha remains the most courageous person I met. Also, the quietest quaintest capital city perhaps stirs up

















Cricket-trotting through Australia's iconic cities wasn't too different from reading signs of the storm approaching, punctuated by still sunsets even as glory eluded India. Sriram Veera

'Deep Throat' tells a story or two from the Indian camp. Put the phone down, drop the raised eyebrows with a couple of rum shots, and call the boss.

#### **UNPRINTABLE PAKISTAN TALES**

Dec 4, Adelaide

The pretty old-age home of Australia, where the rest of the country seems to come to live their life after retirement, beckons next with the pink-ball Test. Couple of days at the Indian nets, it's pretty easy to suss out that this game was going to be a lost cause. They find spotting the ball difficult from the hand, get rapped on the pads a lot more, and the question was how long this game would last.

An ex-colleague in India, currently an absolute star of the Australian media, Bharat Sundaresan throws a house party at his beautiful home up in the hills. The stories from Sunil Gavaskar on Javed Miandad's witty repartees and tales of Pakistan crowds who took a fancy to Roger Binny are absolutely hilarious, but sadly unprintable.

The next day, the old manual scoreboard operator tells a tale from Virat Kohli's first tour of Australia when the scoreboard plate carrying his name was dented by the Australian players celebrating their series win. Write that story out, omitting the offending Aussie player's name. Sometimes sense prevails over sensationalism. A cricketball shaped pastry at the media cafeteria is the highlight of the Test.

#### 'CAN'T WAIT TO GET YOU AT GABBA'

Dec 18, Adelaide

Last time in Brisbane was 12-13 years ago. It's almost unrecognisable now, heavily corporatised and an aspirational city. Staying at a grimy neighbourhood though where the local tobacconist stays under a locked-door shop. A tobacco mafia war is on in Australia and firebombs are being hurled at shops selling cheaper cigarettes. Smoking kills, definitely. Rain keeps hurtling down, marring an interesting Test, but there are lovely side-

lights. Bishan Singh Bedi's son from his first wife Gavasinder Singh comes to meet the person he is named after: Gavaskar. Ian Healy, former wicketkeeper, agrees for a chat on his career, and shows his twisted curly knockedabout fingers. Shudder. "Can't wait to get you at the Gabba, Mate" has a whole other meaning now. Gabba gets Ashwin, and he walks behind Rohit Sharma into the press confer-

ence to announce his retirement. A night later, have the best food of the tour at a Nepali restaurant. The dish was

called 'Laping'. Send a picture to the wife, get a response: 'I have had it in Kathmandu when I went on the Mount Everest base camp climb'. Grrr, can't win that. Beers are ordered and the fat tummy is patted.

#### REDDY GAARU UNWRAPS GIFTS

Dec 26, Melbourne

Melbourne proves all Christmassy for Nitish Reddy, the break-out star with a lovely maiden Test hundred. He kneels down to plop his helmet atop his bat; and his uncle would tell its significance a day later: "He was showing that he has planted his flag in Australia at MCG with his first hundred". Pity, instead of being inspired, India go down stunningly in the final session of the final day of an enthralling Test. Gautam Gambhir has a stern honest meeting with the team that evening. Some more developments take place as one leaves the city.

#### FIREWORKS AND HOT STORY

Dec 31, Sydney

The morning of December 31, New Year's eve, is spent locked out of the home of a kind stranger who had agreed to let a couple of journalists stay at his place as

the AirBnB host had cancelled our booking for the night. Since he was out of the country but didn't possess a key to the door-knob, a locksmith had to be called and the issue sorted out. Phew. The late evening/night, while most of Sydney spent revelling at the fireworks show in the city, this journalist spent time at a pub on the city outskirts speaking, collating information from colleagues, writing out the story of simmering chaos in the Indian camp, and picking up a burger at McDonald's at 11:55 pm.

Saunter out, see a small paddock opposite the fast-food joint where a few strangers are sitting on the grassy banks staring at a distant horizon which is dimly lit up with a trail of fireworks in minutes. The burger tasted just fine.

The new year was upon us. A video call with wife and kid is made; neither interested in talking as they are at a restaurant with friends and asking to shut up as 'New vear is still a few hours away'. Oh, well.

#### AN ACT OF GRATITUDE

Jan 5, Sydney

The final Test hurtles along at a frenetic pace on a grassy knoll and the Indians are shot down on the third day. Jasprit Bumrah

is stuffed physically, Mohammed Siraj is totally knackered, getting treatment by the boundary on his muscles, and revving himself up to bowl the next over.

Game, series done. Spot Sunil Gavaskar by the boundary instead of the dais where Allan Border is standing before the ceremonies. Tell a friendly Australian journalist look-

ing for some scoop and he is abuzz, rushes down, speaks to Cricket Australia, to Gavaskar and files his story in a blink. Nearly 20 years earlier, that journalist

Robert 'Crash' Craddock, had written a lovely line about Indians sleepwalking on that tour: 'Wake up India, Get Angry, Shake a leg, move, Do something' - words that had remained tattooed in the brain.

Get him to repeat those lines after he is done with the 'Gavaskar angry at not being allowed to present' story.

Crash is older now, but still happily thirsty for a scoop, utters that line dramatically, and embraces with a warm hug.

The tour started with a hug from Robin, ended with one from a journo. In between, there were a shoulder-barge, scoops, heartwarming stories and inspirational persons. And oh, by the way, a senior Indian player is right now planning a ... just kidding.

Happy New Year!

#### **NEW BALL GAME**

some more drama.

### Spicy pitches, new version of Kookaburra made life difficult for batters

VENKATA KRISHNA B JANUARY 6

WITH A place in the World Test Championship (WTC) final up for grabs and every team trying to exploit home advantage, pitches for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy (BGT) were expected to be result-

came into effect, the number of drawn Tests has reduced and so has the number of games going into the final day.

oriented. Ever since the WTC

EXPLAINED The BGT, which Australia won for the first time since 2014/15, saw the pacers setting the tone at each of the five venues, as the aggregate match total exceeded 1,000 only once – at the Boxing Day Test, which incidentally went into the final session on Day 5.

While the pitches have played their part, a lot of it is also the effect of the new variety of Kookaburra balls. In complete contrast to the white balls used for limited-overs cricket which offer less swing, this version happens to be bowler-friendly.

Combined with surfaces that assist fast bowlers, it added up to a formidable challenge for batsmen.

Steve Smith, who scored centuries in

it is to face the new variety of the Kookaburra. "Since 2021, when they changed the Kookaburra ball, batting has definitely got more difficult, particularly at the same time wickets got greener as well. So, it's like a perfect storm coming together," he said. "So, the last three years have probably

Brisbane and Melbourne, summed up how

been the hardest that I've experienced in my career. Batting-wise, in terms of the amount of movement that's been generated. You can see that in the way the scores have come down as well. Bowling averages come down, batting averages

#### What is the new variety of the Kookaburra?

In the past, bowlers have found the Kookaburra balls going soft once the seam flattened. So to ensure the ball stays harder for longer, extra lacquer was applied, which meant seam movement for longer.

But it is just one part of the modification. What is also causing more deviation off the seam is the presence of a ridge under the seam which has been made by the centre of the ball being housed in two plastic cups raised at the point at which they meet (un-



epaper.indianexpress.com

The new Kookaburra ball remains harder for a longer period.

der the seam basically).

Since this ridge now sits below the stitch of the seam – which in the past used to go flat by the 15th over or so – it now stays intact for longer because of the ridge. So when

a pace bowler hits the pitch with the seam. there is a strong chance of him getting the ball to deviate more than before. Add the green, lively decks, and batsmen have their task cut out.

#### What does it mean? In the past, openers were advised to see

off the new ball for the first hour or the first session. But with the new variety, it has become challenging for batsmen to survive for that long and as a result, even the middle order is getting exposed to the new ball. With runs coming at a premium, one of the reasons why Australia turned to Sam Konstas was in the hope that his aggressive approach could at least get them some quick runs.

"Particularly the first 35 overs of an innings are very challenging at the moment with the significant seam movement. But the ball stays hard. So, if you get through that period, the ball still bounces off the bat a lot harder than it used to. I think the last three years have probably been the hardest that I've experienced in my career," Smith said.

Numbers tell a story Before heading to Australia, touring batsmen usually focused on getting used to the extra bounce. But right now, conditions have been hard to decode, especially with regard to seam movement. It means fewer runs and batsmen not facing as many overs.

Right through this series, batsmen encountered green, lively pitches with the one

at the SCG for the final Test being the spiciest of the lot. The Kookaburra ball has been altered after the iconic 2020/21 Border-Gavaskar Trophy that India won. Back then, the Brisbane Test saw 1,328 runs while 1,228 were scored at Sydney.

The Boxing Day Test witnessed 791 runs, while the Pink Ball Test saw just 564 runs. Except for the Adelaide Test, the remaining three Tests saw 399.5, 424.2 and 306.4 overs being sent down respectively. Since the new variety of Kookaburra

came into play, the average of batsmen in Australia has come down to 26.40 from 32.08 in the previous cycle between 2016-

"Probably five years ago, you're putting consistent 400s, 500s in the first innings. If you put a three in front of it these days. you're usually in a pretty strong position. If you get a big score, you're going to need some luck to do it. And you're going to have to play really well," Smith felt.

Only one Australian player's average has improved through the period: Travis Head's up to 55 from 47.

"If we can sort of get to 30-odd overs when Travis comes in, it makes a big difference to the team. The seam probably starts to settle down around 30, 40 overs and the ball stays quite hard," Smith added.

# Poets can use pragmatic prose too

United coach Amorim must learn to strike a balance between flexibility and idealism the way his Liverpool counterpart has done

**SANDIP G** JANUARY6

AFTER PLANTING a red flag in the corner of Friends Arena, where his Manchester United had just toppled Ajax to hoist the Europa League title, Jose Mourinho stormed into the press conference and mocked the sport's system-evangelists, the romantics that never sacrificed principles for functionality or trophies: "There are a lot of poets in football but they don't win titles."

Mourinho was the pragmatist, who bended teams on their strength. His Inter Milan brigade that stunned Pep Guardiola's tiki-takaing Barcelona blended impregnable defending and needle-eye counterattacking. His first Chelsea iteration, brandished fluid and dynamic football.

The comment, though, didn't age well. Mourinho has not won another major trophy yet; he has slumped from being one of the hottest managers in Europe to one that is pursued by the clubs from outside Europe's top five leagues. Men of systems have captured the consciousness of football, the clan of Jurgen Klopp and Pep Guardiola, Hansi Flick and Xabi Alonso, and even the modestly successful Roberto De Zerbi. So much so that every aspiring club wants not just titles, but also a clear and distinct identity, pushing the pragmatists to the lower echelons of the league, even at the expense of titles.

At the heart of the function-ideal debate, caught in neither worlds, are some of the leading clubs. Like Manchester United. They hired Ruben Amorim because they were not only impressed by the unbeaten, title-winning streaks, but also by the dynamic brand of football Sporting CP embraced. But he came at the wrong club at the wrong time. The United team at his disposal possesses none of the virtues required to thrive in a three-man defence formation that the Portuguese adamantly clings to. Rather, it has exactly the men ill-fitted for such a high-energy structure.

The hard-fought, high-intensity draw at Anfield shouldn't be construed as a triumph of system, but rather reflected the rage, the hurt pride and individual quality this team possesses, for all its collective dysfunction. In doesn't alter the reality that Amorim's convictions are still teething in, and would only bear fruits next season if could add at least a



On the back of a poor run, Manchester United coach Ruben Amorim (L) inspired his side to a deserved draw at Liverpool. Reuters

couple of players accustomed to the dynamics of the system.

Three-man defence thrives when the wingbacks are quick and robust, when the double midfield pivot are strong and strapping, when the forwards are incessant pressers and runners. In just a couple of practice sessions, Amorim would have realised that he cannot replicate a 3-4-3 or a 3-4-2-1 here. Yet, he remained religiously wedded to his dogma, despite shuddering reality checks every week. Like for instance, starting with midfield pair of Cristian Eriksen and Casemiro against the muscular and faster trio of Bruno Guimaraes, Sandro Tonali and Ioelinton.

But Amorim would stick to his beliefs. "I was here because of my idea and I will continue to do my idea until the end. I have to sell my idea. I don't have another one," he

The team at Amorim's disposal possesses none of the virtues required to thrive in a three-man defence that the Portuguese adamantly clings to. Rather, it has exactly the men ill-fitted for such a high-energy structure.

He did make minor tactical tweaks or ingame alterations, but everything was frameworked in an inflexible three-man defence. The consequence was a wholly incoherent and scattered bunch, sleepwalking through a game.

It is not to suggest that philosophy-slaved managers are living a delusional world. There are benefits if the team is guided by a definite theme. Movements become synchronised, hence more aesthetic; the roles are

clear, everyone knows what everyone is supposed to do; the squad is unified by a guiding vision; the scouts and recruiters know what kind of players to hire. It promises sustenance and smoother inheritance, as Liverpool discovered in Arne Slot.

ample of someone striking the balance of being flexible as well as idealistic. He has by and large stuck to Klopp's dogma, but made subtle changes too. Like, repurposing Mohammed Salah to the centre-forward role (but on the right wing). He has lost a few yards, but sharpened his shooting skills even more. Trent Alexander Arnold is now the marauding orthodox full back rather than one who dropped into the midfield. Encouraged by the resurrection of Ryan Gravenberch, Liverpool progressed the ball through central channels.

As unwilling to budge has been

#### **NUMBER PLATE**

Arne Slot has replaced Liverpool legend Jurgen Klopp seamlessly as head coach. The team has been so dominant under the Dutchman that the draw against United on Sunday was only the fifth time they dropped points in a game all season.

Midway through their season, Liverpool have confirmed themselves as title favourites with a six point lead over secondplaced Arsenal with a game in hand.

Tottenham Hotspur manager Ange Postecoglou. Come feast or famine, hell or high water, his teams spot a high defensive line, despite being burned repeatedly, even though most of his first-choice back four had been absent this season. Southampton's Russell Martin was similarly deluded by his expansive build-up before the club axed him. The Spurs manager would recently say: "I do not know what a Plan B or C is," he said. "If people want me to change my approach, it's not going to change. We are doing it for a rea-

The great idealist Guardiola too has not been averse to change, though not of a radical nature. He changes functions within functions of the player. Like John Stones in the treble-winning season operating as sweeper-playmakers, or Joao Cancelo functioning as a full-back forward.

Another fitting example is Carlo Ancelotti. Klopp's successor is perhaps the best ex- In his first year at Parma, he refused to buy Roberto Baggio because he didn't play with No 10s (but twin strikers). Baggio went to Bologna and netted 22 goals that season (1997-98). He picked the essence of coaching from that incident. "After that season, I was convinced that I should plan my style according to the strengths of my team," he once said. Two years later, he joined Juventus and moulded one of the best no 10s in the world, Zinedine Zidane. The challenge, thus, is not about tearing the temple, but adding more practical layers so that the soul doesn't rot. A manager can be a poet, but a few lessons of prose would not do harm.

### Soorma HC clinch shootout win over Delhi



**PRESSTRUSTOFINDIA** ROURKELA, JANUARY 6

SOORMA HOCKEY CLUB secured a thrilling 3-1 shootout victory over Delhi SG Pipers after a late brace by **Harmanpreet Singh** in the final quarter levelled the match in regulation time here on Monday.

After a quiet first half, Tomas Domene (43')

and Manjeet Singh (45') scored to grant Delh SG Pipers a two-goal lead in the third quarter. However, Harmanpreet (48', 57') found the

back of the net twice with his drag flicks to get Soorma back on level terms in the last quarter and force penalty shootouts.

Vivek Sagar Prasad, Nicolas Keenan and Boris Burkhardt scored in the penalty shootouts, while Vincent Vanasch pulled out three saves to snatch the bonus point for Soorma Hockey Club. After the first half ended goalless following a series of missed opportunities, Maninder Singh earned Soorma's first penalty corner five minutes into the third quarter but Della Torre's low flick was easily deflected out. The Pipers remained undeterred in their search for a goal and as the third quarter came to a close, Ky Willot found Domene on the right wing, who shook his marker and pushed the ball through Vanasch's legs to grant Delhi SG Pipers the lead in the game.

With a minute left in the quarter, the Pipers ventured on a counter attack through Jake Whetton who blazed a cross in front of goal and Manjeet Singh was alert to dive and deflect the ball to the roof of the net and further increase their lead. Soorma went on to earn their second penalty corner soon after and Harmanpreet powered the ball through Benjamin Rennie's legs to pull a goal back for Soorma. They kept the pressure on and earned another penalty with four minutes left in the game and Harmanpreet stepped up again to find the bottom right corner and restore parity.

#### BRIEFLY ———

#### Sumit Nagal exits in Auckland opener

Auckland: India's top singles player Sumit Nagal put up a spirited fight before falling to his USA rival Alex Michelsen 7-6 (8), 4-6, 2-6 in a gruelling two-hour, 40-minute battle. Nagal edged the first set in a tense tiebreak but Michelsen's improved consistency and stronger service game in the subsequent sets proved too much for Nagal. Nagal fought valiantly, saving 70 per cent of break points and taking the first set with a gritty tie-break win. His return game remained competitive, winning 58 per cent of points on Michelsen's second serve. However, Nagal struggled to maintain momentum, particularly on his second serve, where he managed just 33 per cent of points. Michelsen capitalised on these weaknesses, using his six aces and dominant first serve to advance into the pre-quarters.

#### Focus on SatChi at season opener

Kuala Lumpur: India's doubles duo of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will aim for a strong result, Lakshya Sen will look to build on his recent form and HS Prannoy will hope to shake off rust after a lengthy break at the season-opening Malaysia Super 1000 tournament starting here on Tuesday. For Satwik and Chirag, seeded seventh, this USD 1,45 million event marks the start of a new season like it did in 2024. Last year, although they narrowly missed out on the title, the pairing went on to reach three more finals, winning two of them. The Asian Games gold medallists were in exceptional form and will be hoping to replicate that success this year. Having reunited with Malaysian coach Kim Tan Her, the former world number ones are determined to go the distance, but they face a tough challenge ahead.

#### Mandhana to captain in Harman's absence

New Delhi: Prolific opener Smriti Mandhana was on Monday named captain of the Indian women's cricket team for this month's threematch home ODI series against Ireland after regular skipper Harmanpreet Kaur was rested. Also given a break was pacer Renuka Singh Thakur, the BCCI announced in a press release. The short series against Ireland will begin on January 10 at Rajkot and all three games will be played at the same venue. PTI

## SA win 7th successive Test, sweep series 2-0 over Pak



South Africa, having sealed qualification to this year's World Test Championship final, won the series against Pakistan on Monday.

**ASSOCIATED PRESS** CAPE TOWN, JANUARY 6

SOUTH AFRICA earned a seventh successive win after beating Pakistan by 10 wickets on day four of the second test at Newlands on Monday and swept the series 2-0.

Pakistan, which was forced to follow on after 194 in the first innings, fought hard to avert an innings defeat with only 10 batters after Saim Ayub was injured on the first day. It was bowled out for 478 in the last session, leaving South Africa only 58 runs to win. David Bedingham and Aiden Markram

knocked off the runs in just 7.1 overs to wrap up the series after their narrow twowicket win at Centurion, also inside four days. Since beating the West Indies by 40

runs at Providence last August, South Africa has achieved 2-0 series wins against Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Pakistan and qualified for its first World Test Championship final in June in London.

Ryan Rickelton's 259 in South Africa's decisive first innings total of 615 earned him the player of the match, but he didn't take the field on Monday because of a groin injury.

Pakistan's long resistance on the flat, dry pitch was largely based on a determined century from captain Shan Masood, who batted for just over six hours before falling for 145 to 18-year-old debutant Kwena Maphaka after lunch.

Pakistan started the day on 213-1 and nightwatchman Khurram Shahzad frustrated South Africa in the morning before Marco Jansen had him caught at point on

18. Jansen came close to also dismissing Kamran Ghulam without scoring in the same over but Bedingham missed an easy catch at first slip.

Ghulam hit four boundaries in a 28 but was undone by Kagiso Rabada off a delivery that just came back enough to hit the off stump as the batter attempted a loose drive and missed the line of the ball.

The Proteas took the new ball after lunch and struck twice in the next two overs.

Rabada found the outside edge of Saud Shakeel on 23 and the left-hander was caught in the slips, then South Africa got the big wicket of Masood. A successful lbw referral showed Maphaka's sharp delivery hit the Pakistan captain on the front pad.

Masood helped to narrow the deficit to 109 but Pakistan was five wickets down with only four wickets left.

Salman Ali Agha (48) and Mohammad Rizwan (41) survived close lbw reviews early in their innings before spinner Keshav Maharaj, who bowled long spells on Monday, dismissed both batters. No. 9 batter Mir Hamza (16) smashed

Rabada for a straight six before he was the last man out, top-edging the pacer, who finished with 3-115. Maharaj (3-137) and Jansen (2-101) also

helped as the South Africa had to grind out

122.1 overs.

Bedingham opened the batting for the Proteas in the absence of the injured Rickelton and hit an unbeaten 44 off 30 balls with four boundaries and two sixes. **Brief Scores: South Africa** 615 & 61/0 (David Bedingham 47\*) beat **Pakistan** 194 & 478 (F/O) (Shan Masood 145, Babar Azam 81; Kagiso Rabada 3/115, Keshav Maharaj 3/137) by 10 wickets.



\*Indicating coupon rates for monthly options only. Refer Prospectus dated December 31, 2024 to view effective yield for monthly, annually and cumulative options. To Know More: Visit Nearest ICL Fincorp Branch | To Download Application: Visit www.iclfincorp.com For Enquiries: Call 1800 31 333 53, +91 85890 01187, +91 85890 20137, +91 85890 20186 DEBENTURE TRUSTEE STATUTORY AUDITOR LEAD MANAGER TO THE ISSUE REGISTRAR TO THE ISSUE CREDIT RATING COMPLIANCE OFFICER & COMPANY SECRETARY CRISIL VIVRO VISAKH T.V COMPANY SECRETARY AMES OF THE SIGNAPORES AT THE TIME OF SIGNING OF THE MEMORANDOM OF ASSOCIATION COMPANY AND THE NUMBER OF SHARES SUBSCIENCE FOR BY THEM AT THE TIME OF SIGNING THE MEMORANDOM OF ASSOCIATION:

10 schemes with 10 ISIN's

**OPTION IV** 

Payout options: Monthly, Annually & Cumulative

**OPTION II** 

Corp. Office: ICL Fincorp Limited Main Road, Innialskuda, Thristur-680121, Kerala, India Branches: Kerala | Tamii Nodu | Andhra Pradesh | Telangana | Karnataka | Maharashtra | Odisha | Ouarat | T. @ @ idfinoorg

IECON Credents. Tradepthip Services Limited under Regulation 8 of the SEBI NCS Regulations has by thi letter durint December 20, 2020 given in consent for its appointment as Deberman's Tradepthip that make and for its source to be

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® epaper.indianexpress.com

Vol XCIII- 50 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 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. 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: Unni Rajen Shanker, Editor (Delhi): Rakesh Sinha \*\* \*\* Responsible for selection of News under the PRE