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MY FRIEND MANMOHAN
By JAGDISH BHAGWATI
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PM: World trusts us, for peace... I tell Russia & Ukraine, Israel & Palestine

'My tagline is nation first... willing to leave old things and accept new ones'

VIKAS PATHAK
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 10

UNDERLINING THAT "the world trusts us because there is no duplicity in us", Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Friday while "we are not neutral... I will co-operate in every effort" for peace, be it between "Russia and Ukraine, Israel and Palestine".

In a conversation with Zerodha co-founder Nikhil Kamat, Modi said India's standing in the world had increased because of its actions.

"The world trusts us because there is no duplicity in us. What we say is clear. We repeatedly said we are not neutral. I am in favour of peace, and I will co-operate in every effort for it. I tell this to Russia and Ukraine, Israel and Palestine. Our credibility has increased because of this. The world thinks that India says what it believes."

"In Abu Dhabi, when I wanted a temple for Hindus, I got it from the Crown Prince in a moment. What a happy moment this was for crores of Hindus," he said. He recalled how Chinese President Xi Jinping once told him that they shared a "special connection".

He said when he became Prime Minister in 2014, "Presi-

EARLIER, MOST SENIOR EC WAS DEFAULT CHOICE TO SUCCEED CEC

In a first, selection process for next Chief Election Commissioner casts wider net

As per new law, panel of five to be sent to committee of PM, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Minister

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 10

TRADITIONALLY, the successor to the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) has been the next senior most Election Commissioner. For the first time, as per the Chief Election Commissioner And Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service And Term of Office) Act, 2023, the net can be cast wider. Current CEC Rajiv Kumar

demits office on February 18. The Election Commission comprises the CEC and two election commissioners — Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu at present.

Gyanesh Kumar could still be in contention but according to Sections 6 and 7 of the Act, the Ministry of Law will set up a Search Committee chaired by the Law Minister to prepare a panel of five names for the Selection Committee.

The Selection Committee, comprising the Prime Minister,



CEC Rajiv Kumar with ECs Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu. File

a Cabinet minister and the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, can select from this

EXPLAINED
E Break from tradition?

WHEN THE Election Commission is under scrutiny, the new law gives the Government the space to break from tradition. With the Leader of Opposition on the panel, a debate over who is next is not ruled out.

panel or consider "any other person" from outside.

Section 6 of the Act specifies this process for the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners.

Even as Gyanesh Kumar remains a potential candidate for the top post, the Act gives the selection committee the option of considering names from outside the Election Commission.

This comes against the backdrop of the EC facing the heat
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Should not call any disputed structure a mosque, says UP CM Adityanath

Those who claim Kumbh area as Waqf land will face denting, painting: CM

BHUPENDRA PANDEY
LUCKNOW, JANUARY 10

AMID A series of temple-mosque disputes, with several suits pending before various courts, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Friday that any disputed structure should not be called a mosque.

"Kisi bhi vivadit dhaanche ko masjid nahi bolna chahiye. Hum jis din masjid bolna bandh kar denge, uss din log jaana bhi bandh kar denge. Waise bhi yeh Islam ke sidhanto ke khilaaf hai ki kisi ki bhi aastha ko thais pahuncha kar wahan masjid-numa dhaancha khada kar diya ho, aise sthaan par kisi prakaar ki hone waali ibadat



CM Yogi Adityanath in Prayagraj on Friday. ANI

Khuda ko bhi manzoor nahi hoti hai. Islam me upasana ke liye structure ki zaroorat nahi hai, jab ki yeh Sanatan Dharma me hai," he said.

("Any disputed structure should not be called a mosque. The day we stop calling it a
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SC orders status quo in row over well at Sambhal mosque, calls for report in 2 weeks

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 10

THERE WILL be no worship or holy bath at the well near the Shahi Jama Masjid in Sambhal in Uttar Pradesh.

On Friday, the Supreme Court stayed the execution of a "notice", purportedly issued by Sambhal municipal authorities, regarding the well. It sought a status report in two weeks even as the UP government contended that the well was situated on government land.

This, after the mosque management committee said that the notice, a public poster which bore the name of the Sambhal Nagar Palika, referred to the well



The Shahi Jama Masjid in Sambhal, UP. File

as being located in a corner of the Hari Mandir.

Hindus and Muslims have been locked in a dispute over the mosque, with the former claiming that the Mughal-era mosque was built after destroying a
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



ON TRACK FOR J&K

A Vande Bharat Express train, designed to operate in J&K's winter conditions, at the Shikharbasti depot in New Delhi on Friday. The 272-km Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link project will connect the Valley to the rail network. Praveen Khanna

Amid Lt Governor-Omar rift, J&K remains without Advocate General

ARUN SHARMA
JAMMU, JANUARY 10

FOR OVER two months now, Jammu and Kashmir has been without an Advocate General, with the impasse between the Lieutenant Governor's office and Omar Abdullah-led government that is reportedly holding up the appointment showing no signs of a resolution.

Hearing a petition against the new J&K reservation policy last month, the Jammu and Kashmir



J&K L-G Manoj Sinha with CM Omar Abdullah. File

and Ladakh High Court had expressed concern over the matter, and issued a notice to the Union Territory.

As per norm, following the swearing-in of the National Conference-led government on October 18 last year, the existing Advocate General, D C Raina, had submitted his resignation. He was appointed to the post by former L-G Girish Chandra Murmu on November 1, 2019, a day after J&K officially ceased to be a state.

However, when Raina called on Omar Abdullah after his resignation, the Chief Minister asked him to continue in office.

Since there was no official
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EXPRESS NETWORK

FAMILY OF FIVE KILLED IN MEERUT
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2024 was hottest year ever, breached 1.5 degree Celsius warming threshold

AMITABH SINHA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 10

THE LAST year, 2024, has become the first year to breach the 1.5 degree Celsius warming mark, the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) said on Friday. Average annual global temperature in 2024, based on data from six different datasets,

was 1.55 degree Celsius higher than pre-industrial times (average of 1850-1900 period), it said.

One of these datasets, from Copernicus Climate Change Service run by the European Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting, found the warming to be 1.6 degree Celsius higher than pre-industrial levels.

2024 now overtakes 2023 as the warmest year ever recorded.

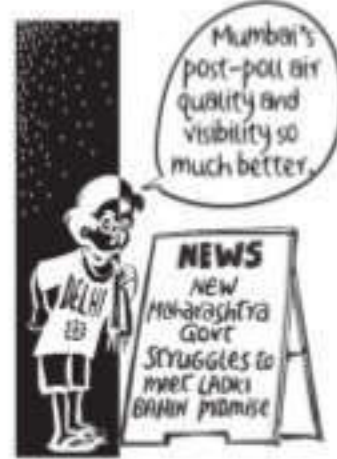
2023 was recorded to be 1.45 degree Celsius warmer than pre-industrial times.

WMO said each of the six datasets it had used had put 2024 as the warmest year ever, but not all of them recorded the
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BUSINESS AS USUAL

BY UNNY



BIG PICTURE



The **KUMBH ECONOMY**

PAGE 11

Long after the ignition turned off, Delhi Police's last two Ambassadors are set to be auctioned

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

ALOK SINGH
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 10

INSIDE THE Delhi Police's old security unit at Central Delhi's Vinay Marg is a graveyard of sorts for vehicles used by the force over the years. In the crowd of rusted cars are Delhi Police's last two Ambassadors which, after years of lying idle, are set to be auctioned, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

The two vehicles were deployed in the security unit before they were damaged in separate accidents at Mandir Marg and Delhi Cantonment in early 2000. One of the accidents had claimed the life of a Delhi Police officer.

Due to court hearings and legal procedures, the auction of both vehicles was delayed, a police source said, adding, "They are now ready for auction after receiving necessary permission from the respective courts — Patiala and Saket."

Besides being in bad shape due to the accidents, the two cars have long surpassed their oper-



Condemned vehicles at Delhi Police yard. Alok Singh

ational tenure of six-and-a-half years. The lifespan of a petrol-or diesel-run four-wheeler in the Delhi Police is either 1.5 lakh kilometres or six-and-a-half years, whichever comes first, a police officer said.

One of the cars was bought for Rs 1.53 lakh in 1994, and the other for Rs 3.20 lakh in 1999. After they became defunct, the vehicles were stationed at Mandir Marg and Delhi Cantonment police stations, before being brought to the security wing during court hearings.

Manufactured by Hindustan
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

"JAI JAWAN JAI KISAN"

Lal Bahadur Shastri Institute of Management, Delhi
pays homage to the 2nd Prime Minister of India
Bharat Ratna
Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri
(October 02, 1904 - January 11, 1966)
on his 59th Punyatithi

"The basic idea of governance, as I see it, is to hold the society together so that it can develop and march towards certain goals"
Lal Bahadur Shastri

"मेरी समझ से प्रशासन का मूल विचार यह है कि समाज को एकजुट रखा जाये ताकि वह विकास कर सके और अपने लक्ष्यों की तरफ बढ़ सके"
लाल बहादुर शास्त्री

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SPADEX MISSION

Spacecraft 1.5 km apart, to come closer today, says ISRO

After 2 postponements, space agency will now ‘dock and inform’: Official

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, JANUARY 10

THE INDIAN Space Research Organisation on Friday said the Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX) satellites — SDX01 (Chaser) and SDX02 (Target) — were moving in orbit at a distance of 1.5 km and the manoeuvre to bring them to a distance of 500 metres is likely to be achieved on Saturday.

The space docking experiment has so far missed two publicly announced schedules, on January 7 and January 9, due to technical issues in bringing together the two spacecraft. “Spacecrafts are at a distance of 1.5 km and on hold mode. Further drift to 500 m is planned to be achieved by tomorrow morning,” ISRO said in a post on X.

An ISRO official said, “After the last manoeuvre, the satellites drifted away, but they were safe. Now, we are re-attempting the entire process. There are certain fixed hold points, the satellites would be brought to these hold points again, before we attempt docking again.”

As per the plan, the Chaser satellite would be progressively brought closer to the Target satellite, holding positions at a distance of 5km, 1.5km, 500m, 225m, 15m, and 3m, before joining together.

With the docking experiment missing two publicly announced schedules — January 7 and January 9 — the space agency has now decided to “dock and inform” the people, according to an official.

The postponement of the docking schedule came amid the

EXPLAINED
Why ISRO needs space docking

THE DOCKING-UNDOCKING capability is needed for Bharatiya Antariksh Station that will be built by bringing together five modules, the first of which is planned to be launched in 2028. The Chandrayaan-4 mission will require docking capability for its re-entry module, which will be designed to withstand the heat while entering the Earth’s atmosphere. The transfer module carrying samples from the Moon will dock with the re-entry module in the Earth’s atmosphere.

announcement of a change of guard at ISRO. The government announced the appointment of V Narayanan, who is currently the director of Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC), Thiruvananthapuram, as the new ISRO Chairman on January 7, the day the original SpaDeX docking was scheduled. Dr Narayanan will succeed Dr S Somanath, the current ISRO chief, on January 14.

A successful docking experiment will make India the fourth country in the world — after the US, Russia and China — to have the capability. ISRO would require it to achieve its visions of bringing samples from the Moon, setting up its own space station by 2035, and sending a human to the Moon by 2040.

Meet Modi not Akal Takht chief if you want me to end fast, Dallewal tells BJP

RAAKHI JAGGA
LUDHIANA, JANUARY 10

THE PUNJAB unit of BJP should approach Prime Minister Narendra Modi and not the Akal Takht if they want him to end his fast-unto-death, Jagjit Singh Dallewal Friday said, a day after a saffron party delegation urged Jathedar Giani Ragbir Singh to intervene and get the farmer leader to end the indefinite hunger strike.

In a video message, the 70-year-old, whose fast entered day 46, reiterated that he will end his fast only after the Centre accepts farmers’ demands, including a legal guarantee for Minimum Support Price for crops.

A BJP delegation on Thursday had met Akal Takht Jathedar and expressed concern over Dallewal’s deteriorating health. Dallewal said, “the leaders of the Punjab unit of BJP appealed to the Akal Takht to intervene in order to end Dallewal’s fast-unto-death. (They appealed to the Akal Takht that) a direction be given so that he should end his fast. I respect the



SKM members meet farm leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal in Sangrur on Friday. PTI

Akal Takht. But the Punjab BJP should approach Modi ji, the Vice President, Agriculture Minister (Shivraj Singh Chouhan), (Home Minister) Amit Shah ji. Instead of meeting them, they are approaching the Akal Takht Jathedar.”

Meanwhile, Samyukta Kisan Morcha (non-political) and Kisan Mazdoor Morcha (KMM), the two forums protesting at the Khanauri and Shambhu border points, appealed to the Samyukta Kisan Morcha to strengthen their agitation without delay in the wake of Dallewal’s “deteriorating” health.

You brought NEET to TN, only Centre can cancel it: Stalin to Opp

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHENNAI, JANUARY 10

TAMIL NADU Chief Minister M K Stalin on Friday said the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test would have been abolished had the Ind alliance captured power, but only the Central government can now cancel the test.

The DMK has consistently opposed NEET and was involved in efforts aimed at scrapping the test, he told the Assembly.

“NEET did not enter Tamil Nadu as long as our leader Kalaignar (late Chief Minister M Karunanidhi) and late Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa were in power. The exam was introduced only during your regime,” Stalin said responding to the Leader of the Opposition AIADMK Edappadi K

Palaniswami’s charge that the ruling dispensation had done precious little to abolish NEET despite its promise in the run-up to the 2021 assembly election.

“Does Opposition Leader Palaniswami not know that only the Union Government can cancel NEET? If the INDIA Alliance had come to power at the Centre, then NEET would have definitely been cancelled,” Stalin said responding to a volley of charges by former Chief Minister Palaniswami.

Accusing Stalin of assuring to scrap the national level screening test before coming to power but not doing so after coming to power, Palaniswami asked “why the double standards?”

Stalin accused Palaniswami of remaining ‘silent’ for nearly a year during his tenure as chief minister when the Centre introduced the test.

FROM PAGE ONE Selection for next CEC casts wider net

FULL REPORTS ON
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

from the Opposition parties over a range of issues — from the purity of electoral rolls to the efficacy of EVMs. On Tuesday, Kumar rebutted the allegations calling them “irresponsible.”

When asked about the panel, a Law Ministry official said that the process is yet to begin.

Said a senior EC official: “The change means that outsiders (other than the two serving Election Commissioners) may have an opportunity to head the Commission.”

On the implications of this change, former CEC O P Rawat said, “It opens the option of correcting a decision of a previous dispensation if, after an election, the government changes. It can also make the system vulnerable

to erosion of credibility of the Commission.”

The Law Ministry spokesperson and Secretary Rajiv Mani were not available for comment.

As per Section 5 of the Chief Election Commissioner And Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service And Term of Office) Act, 2023, the candidates for the post would be current or former Secretary-level officers.

Section 6 states, “A Search Committee headed by the Minister of Law and Justice and comprising two other members not below the rank of Secretary to the Government of India, shall prepare a panel of five persons for consideration of the Selection Committee, for appointment as

the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners.”

This Act was brought after an intervention from the Supreme Court, following a clutch of petitions filed between 2015 and 2022 challenging the Centre’s exclusive powers in picking the Election Commissioners.

The court had noted that the Constitution’s founders never intended to give the Executive exclusive appointment powers.

Concerned about the “devastating effect” of leaving appointments solely to the Executive, the court established a new process.

In March 2023, the Court ruled that the appointment of the CEC and ECs would be done by the President on the advice of a com-

mittee comprising the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition and the Chief Justice of India. This arrangement was to prevail until the Parliament enacted a law for the appointments.

The Union government eventually brought a law in December 2023, which made it mandatory to appoint the CEC and ECs by way of a shortlist panel and a selection committee. However, the Chief Justice of India was dropped as a member of the Selection Committee. The two ECs Kumar and Sandhu have been appointed as per this new provision.

On Wednesday, the Supreme Court said it would consider in February petitions challenging the Act, particularly the exclusion of the CJI.

● PM: We are for peace... I tell Russia & Ukraine, Israel & Palestine

the (Gujarat) Assembly for the first time. Within three days as MLA, news came of the Godhra carnage. I said I want to go to Godhra, taking a helicopter from Baroda. There was just a single-engine ONGC helicopter available at that time. They refused, saying a VIP cannot be flown in a single-engine helicopter. I said I would give an undertaking in writing that I was willingly taking the risk. I took the helicopter to Godhra, and saw the bodies. I felt restless but I knew that in my post (as CM), I had to control myself and rise above emotions.”

He also mentioned how he was denied a visa to the US after the Gujarat riots. “I was an elected Chief Minister here, and the US refused to give me a visa. I felt this was an insult to the country and an elected government, just because some people spread some lies. I addressed a press conference that day and said I want an India where the world will stand in a queue for our visa. I can see the time now is India’s,” he said.

Stating that becoming a politician was one thing and succeeding in politics quite another, Modi said the latter required living among the people and associating with their lives. He said be-

coming a politician was not the same as becoming an MLA or MP alone, emphasising that dedication and commitment were far more important. Oratory, he said, could stand a politician in good stead for a while, but communication was more than oratory.

He cited the example of the Mahatma. “Look at Mahatma Gandhi. Personality-wise, he was thin. His oratory was next to nothing. But he became a leader because his life conveyed his message. He could make the country rise. Today, we appreciate oratory. It may work for some time, but the final thing is commitment. Communication is more important than oratory. Mahatma Gandhi walked with a stick taller than himself but was non-violent... He did not wear a cap but the Gandhi topi became popular... He never went after power or office but his memorial is called Raighat.”

Modi said while ideology had a place in politics, idealism was far more important. The mission, he said, could be the same even if the paths taken are different. In this context, he cited the examples of Gandhi and V D Savarkar.

“My tagline is nation first. I do whatever fits it, without getting

bound by ideology or traditions. I am willing to leave old things and accept new ones. But I never change the benchmark. It remains nation first. More than ideology, idealism matters. Before independence, freedom was the ideology. Gandhi’s path and Savarkar’s were different, but both wanted freedom,” he said.

Modi accepted that he too might have committed mistakes, but that he never had any wrong intention. “*Main bhi manushya hi hoon, koi devata thode hi na hoon* (I am also human, I am not a god),”

He said politicians should be sensitive and also accept that there will be personal attacks on them. He said he often told children, who asked him how he coped with criticism, a joke about people from Ahmedabad: “I tell children a joke. An Ahmedabadi, riding a scooter, came very close to a collision. As the other person began to abuse him, the Ahmedabadi stood quietly. Asked by someone why he was silent while being constantly abused, the Ahmedabadi said the person was giving him something, and not taking something away from him. That is what I believe. Let them abuse, but you should be true to yourself and not have

wrong intentions.” “There was a time when we Jana Sangh people were abused even if we had done nothing wrong. But those were days of the print media. Today, you have alternative means to seek the truth. The youth of today verify things,” he said.

Asked whether he had been able to live up to his slogan ‘Minimum Government, Maximum Governance’, Modi said, “People misinterpreted the meaning of the slogan of Minimum Government, Maximum Governance, thinking there would be fewer ministers and officials. I did not think about that — I made Skill, Cooperative and Fisheries Ministries too.” What he meant, he said, was to cut down long processes. He said he had removed 40,000 compliances, revoked about 1500 laws, and changed the penal laws. “This is my idea of Minimum Government, Maximum Governance.”

“Today I can send money in the accounts of 10 crore farmers in 30 seconds. Jan Dhan removed corruption. Foreign dignitaries get surprised seeing our UPI. I tell them to go to a vendor and see. I say that nothing is needed after one has a mobile phone in the pocket,” he said.

● 2024 was hottest year ever, breached warming threshold

warming to be in excess of 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Incidentally, 2024 was warmest for India as well, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) had said earlier, though not to the extent of breaching the 1.5 degree threshold. Temperature records over India do not extend to pre-industrial times, and even otherwise, the warming over the Indian land area is significantly less than the global average.

The 1.5 degree Celsius mark is an important threshold mentioned in the 2015 Paris Agreement, which calls upon the world to restrict the rise in global temperatures to “well below 2 degree Celsius” from pre-industrial

levels while “pursuing efforts” to keep this within 1.5 degree Celsius. The Paris Agreement says that pursuing the 1.5 degree Celsius target “would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change.”

The 2024 breach, however, does not necessarily mean that the 1.5 degree Celsius goal is over. The 1.5, or 2, degree Celsius targets are meant to be seen in the context of long-term temperature trends and not in year-to-year, or month-to-month, temperature variations. For example, monthly average temperatures have crossed the 1.5 degree Celsius mark several times during the last two years. Daily average temper-

atures have breached this mark hundreds of times.

From the climate change perspective, however, the 1.5 degree mark would be considered to have been breached only if the averages over a decade or two remain above the thresholds.

“It is important to emphasise that a single year of more than 1.5°C for a year does not mean that we have failed to meet the Paris Agreement long-term temperature goals, which are measured over decades rather than an individual year. However, it is essential to recognise that every fraction of a degree of warming matters. Whether it is at a level below or above 1.5°C of warming,

every additional increment of global warming increases the impacts on our lives, economies and our planet,” WMO Secretary-General Celeste Saulo said in a statement.

The two consecutive years of record-breaking temperatures, 2023 and 2024, have ensured that each of the past ten years (2015-2024) now figures in the 10 warmest years on record. Every month since July 2023, except for July 2024, exceeded the 1.5 degree warming, ECMWF data shows.

However, the year 2025 is unlikely to follow the trend of the last two years. Early estimates suggest that this year is not expected to create a new temperature record.

● J&K remains without Advocate General

communiqué though, Raina could not resume office. After waiting for a few weeks, he started appearing as a counsel for private parties in High Court. Meanwhile, an official word on who is the Union Territory’s Advocate General is still to come in.

According to sources, the Raj Bhavan has not cleared the continuation of Raina, despite the CM’s go-ahead, as it did not take kindly to him resigning on his own and then choosing to approach Omar for further instructions.

Incidentally, the other government counsel, including Additional Advocates General, Deputy Advocates General etc, who did not resign after the formation of the elected government, continue to stay in office. Meanwhile, the website of the UT Office of Advocate General still shows Raina as Advocate General, with Manoj Sinha as L-G and Achal Sethi as Secretary, Law, J&K.

Raina refused to comment when approached by *The Indian Express*, and has also maintained silence over what transpired at the meeting with Omar.

The Raj Bhavan did not respond to a questionnaire sent on the matter. There was no response either by the Principal Secretary and Media Advisor to the L-G, or the advisor to Omar on the relationship between the CMO and Raj Bhavan.

On December 4, when it noted the absence of an Advocate General, the HC had requested the assistance of Advocate General for the next hearing.

While the NC government has said that it does not want confrontation with Delhi and, by extension, the L-G, there have been several points of friction between the CMO and Raj Bhavan. Since he was sworn in, Omar has not called on Sinha even once.

Last month, in an embarrassment for the Omar government, the list of public holidays cleared by the L-G did not include the birth anniversary of NC founder Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah (December 5) and Martyrs’ Day (July 13) that marks the killing of

22 people by Maharaja Hari Singh’s forces in Srinagar in 1931.

Both of these were gazetted holidays prior to the abrogation of Article 370, and have not been in the official list since 2020. However, with the elected government back, it was supposed to take a call on the matter. The General Administration Department (GAD), which issues the list of holidays, is with Omar.

The CM is also facing the heat over Delhi’s continued silence over restoration of statehood, despite PM Narendra Modi’s promise regarding the same. At its first Cabinet meeting, the Omar government recommended restoration of statehood. The Cabinet proposal was sent to the L-G, who forwarded it to the Centre. But there has been no word since.

The statehood demand was itself seen as a climbdown, with NC opponents saying it showed that the party would not press on the more contentious issue of return of special status.

Omar’s appointment of senior party leader Nasir Aslam Wani as

his Advisor also remains in limbo. The GAD issued an order on October 16 in this regard, adding that “the terms and conditions of the appointment shall be notified separately”. This has not happened yet, with a senior government official saying that “the file is under process”.

The Centre is also yet to notify business rules clarifying the powers of the CM and his ministers under the UT structure.

Following the abrogation of Article 370, the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019, defined the powers of the L-G over the Home Department and All India Services (AIS). However, there is no clarity on the powers of the CM and his Cabinet. So, while the LG is the sole authority officially to transfer IAS officers, orders for shifting of Kashmir Administrative Service officers are being issued by both the LG and the elected government.

The CM has said on a number of occasions that “having two power centres anywhere is a recipe for disaster”.

Huzefa Ahmadi, appearing for the mosque committee, said the Sambhal administration “is conducting a purported drive to revive old temples and wells... with five reports indicating that at least 32 old unused temples have been revived and 19 wells have been identified which are being made operational for public prayers/use”. One of these, he said, was the well located near the mosque.

The CJI asked what was the harm in allowing others to draw water from the well and use it. To this, Ahmadi said the well was currently being used for the purposes of the mosque. “We have been drawing water from the well since time immemorial,” he said. “They will dig it,” he said.

Ahmad referred to the poster and said, “But see the notice. They are calling it a Hari Mandir and puja etc will be started now.”

● Should not call any disputed structure a mosque: Adityanath

mosque, people will stop going there. Hurting anyone’s faith by constructing a mosque-like structure does not align with Islamic principles, worship at such sites is not acceptable to God too. Islam does not mandate the construction of a structure for worship, but Sanatan Dharma does.”

Adityanath was speaking at an event hosted by Aaj Tak in Mahakumbh Nagar, Prayagraj. His remarks come at a time when the Supreme Court has barred civil courts across the country from registering fresh suits challenging the ownership and title of any place of worship, and from ordering surveys of disputed religious places until further orders. Petitioners relating to the Places of Worship Act are also before the Supreme Court.

“Sanatanis go to temples for worship, (this is not so) for Islamic practices. Therefore, it is unnecessary and counter-productive to insist on calling any structure a mosque. This is a time to embrace the vision of a new India and move forward with progressive thinking. We must focus on building unity and harmony instead of clinging to disputes of the past,” he said.

Responding to claims of the Maha Kumbh being held on Waqf Board land, Adityanath said the event was being held at the site in Prayagraj for thousands of years now. “If someone now calls this land Waqf Board property, we must ask whether it belongs to the Waqf Board or land mafia,” he said, adding that such “malicious tendencies” need to be curbed.

“We will put an end to this,” he said, warning that those who come to the Maha Kumbh with the intention of “claiming the land” would face “denting-painting”. “Those who claim this land as theirs and seek to occupy it may face consequences, including corrective action,” he said.

Adityanath elaborated on recent amendments, requiring a thorough review of land records dating back to 1363 Fasli, for any property claimed by the Waqf Board. “If the term ‘Waqf’ appears, we examine the original ownership and take steps to reclaim the land. Public-use properties, lands of holy places associated with Hindu faith, or government-owned land will not be allowed to fall into the hands of any so-called land mafia boards,” he asserted.

On the issue of the Jama Masjid in Sambhal, Adityanath pointed to discrepancies in claims regarding land ownership. “There are assertions that more land than the entire Sambhal district belongs to the Waqf Board, which is absurd. In the Puranas... Sambhal was prophesied as the birthplace of Kalki, the tenth in-

carnation of Lord Vishnu. Everything in Sambhal today is rooted in Sanatan Dharma. Five thousand years ago, there was no Islam on this earth, so how could there be a mention of Jama Masjid in that era,” he said.

“The Ain-i-Akbari mentions that in 1526, the Jama Masjid structure was erected by demolishing a Shri Hari Vishnu temple. This mistake should be acknowledged, and the land should be voluntarily returned. This country will not function under the mindset of the Muslim League, but in alignment with the faith and cultural ethos of India,” he said.

“There is both scriptural evidence and evidence of faith regarding such matters. I believe the issue should not require judicial intervention. Instead, it would be more appropriate for the followers of Islam to voluntarily and respectfully acknowledge the truth and extend a gesture of reconciliation by saying, ‘this is yours’. Such mutual respect is the cornerstone of trust and harmony,” he said.

He said the Ain-i-Akbari also records that in 1528, a structure was built on the Ram Janmabhoomi in Ayodhya after demolishing the temple of Ram Lalla. “If the Hindu community insists on reclaiming these sacred sites, their voices must be heard,” he said.

Regarding the Places of Worship Act, Adityanath said: “I believe the honorable court is examining the matter and will ensure justice. Faith will undoubtedly be respected. India is a nation deeply rooted in faith, and the Maha Kumbh is a testament to that, where devotees from across the country, and the world, gather without any discrimination.”

“By God’s grace, Ram Lalla was installed in Ayodhya a year ago, ending the wait of 500 years; the Maha Kumbh is being held at such an auspicious time after 144 years,” he said.

Saying that people from some northeastern and southern states could not participate in previous Maha Kumbhs, he said: “This time, Maha Kumbh will truly reflect the spirit of Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat, with pilgrims from across the country in attendance.”

Targeting the Opposition, he said: “We never said the BJP had associated itself with the organisation of the Maha Kumbh. Who stopped this faith from reaching new heights? Before 2017, this event was synonymous with filth, and there was chaos. What was the situation of the Maha Kumbh in 2013?” He claimed that the then Mauritius Prime Minister had come to take a dip in the Ganga, but could not do so because of the disorder and filth.

● Delhi Police’s Ambassadors are set to be auctioned

Motors till 2014, the iconic cars were based on the Morris Oxford series model that was first made in the United Kingdom. They were commonly used in the Police Control Room (PCR) unit and by DCP-level officers.

It was in 2011 that the Delhi Police decided to phase out its oldest inductee. The bulky Ambassadors, a mainstay on city roads until the 2000s, soon made way for sleeker Hyundai Accent and Maruti SX4 vehicles, as they were easy to maintain and fuel efficient. The then Police Commissioner, B K Gupta, was the first to switch to a white SX4, a senior officer said.

The Delhi Police now has vehicles like the Toyota Innova and Fortuner, Maruti Ciaz and Ertiga, Mahindra Bolero and Tata Safari. Among these, Innova, Ertiga and Bolero are used in the PCR unit. Fortuners are used for jammer systems and in VIP convoys. Ciaz and Ertiga are used by ACP- and DCP-level officers, while the new model of Tata Safari SUVs is given to district DCPs, Special Commissioners and the Police Chief.

The force has also stopped buying Gypsies and replaced them with SUVs, though over 400 Gypsy vehicles still remain with the Delhi Police, said a source.

According to an officer, once a police vehicle passes its lifespan, it is declared ‘condemned’. Tenders are then floated to auction these vehicles in a lot, the officer said. Private bidders take the vehicle to get it scrapped, which can take one to two months.

The last auction was done on December 12, 2024, for 90 vehicles, including a bus, a truck, a Gypsy, an old Toyota Innova, a Tata Safari, Ambassador cars, and some motorcycles. The last two Ambassadors will similarly be auctioned alongside other vehicles, the officer said.

An officer said they are in the process of auctioning other vehicles lying in the police yard as well.

A Delhi Police assistant sub-inspector, who used to drive an Ambassador, recalled that the vehicle was incomparable in terms of design and raw power. “But Ambassadors used to overheat quickly, so officers had to turn off the AC,” said the ASI, who drove the vehicle while being posted in the Special Cell. He added that the vehicles, while smooth, were notorious fuel guzzlers.

So I put that query.” The CJI said the court was “keeping a close watch so that peace and harmony is maintained”.

Appearing for the UP government, Additional Solicitor General KM Nataraj said the well is located on government land.

Ahmadi said the “state is being partisan”. Advocate Fuzail Ahmad Ayubi, also appearing for the masjid committee, later told *The Indian Express* that the notice being referred to was a “poster” put up by the Nagar Palika and referred to a Hari Mandir and the well nearby.

BRIEFLY

Cop dies
by suicide

New Delhi: A Head Constable from Provincial Armed Constabulary (PAC) allegedly died by suicide after he shot himself with his licensed weapon at UP Bhawan, Friday. Jagram Singh Yadav worked as a guard in-charge on the premises, police said, adding that he had gone home to Kanpur on leave and had returned to Delhi a few days ago. Police are attempting to extract his call detail records to determine what made him take such a step. **ENS**

Chhota Rajan
in AIIMS

New Delhi: Underworld don Chhota Rajan was admitted to AIIMS in Delhi on Thursday for a minor nose surgery, which is likely to be conducted on Saturday, the police said. He is serving life sentence in Tihar Jail for the murder of Mid-Day journalist Jyotirmoy Dey in 2011. "He was admitted to a private ENT ward around 9 am on Thursday due to a sinus problem," a senior officer said, adding that after the surgery, he is likely to be brought back to Tihar Jail and kept at the prison hospital. **ENS**

Airport's T2 to be
closed for over 4
months for revamp

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 10

DELHI INTERNATIONAL Airport Limited (DIAL) on Friday unveiled an ambitious plan to refurbish Terminal 2 or T2 of the Capital's Indira Gandhi International Airport, which was built by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) four decades ago. T2 will undergo refurbishment to prepare for projected growth in air travel demand, it said in a statement.

The work is set to commence in the 2025-26 financial year, with completion targeted by the second quarter, it added. During the renovation, T2 will temporarily close for four to six months, with operations shifted to the newly expanded Terminal 1.

According to DIAL, the refurbished terminal will see six new passenger boarding bridges sourced from South Korea, which will be operated with autonomous docking technology for the first time in India. These bridges will also have elevated ramps for wheelchair accessibility, swing doors for better operator safety, and cushioned side covers for added aesthetics and safety. Additionally, significant upgrades to heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems and fire safety mechanisms will ensure security throughout the terminal.

It further said that aesthetic



At Delhi airport on Friday. PTI

improvements to T2 will include the installation of modern ceilings and skylight designs, contributing to a more welcoming ambience. Smart washrooms, advanced flooring, and enhanced road connectivity will further bolster passenger convenience. Canopies in the forecourt area will provide protection from adverse weather. Operationally, T2 will see improved real-time flight tracking capabilities with the installation of high-resolution Flight Information Display Systems alongside revamped signage for clearer communication, particularly for persons with reduced mobility, the DIAL said.

DIAL CEO Videh Kumar Jaipuriar said, "The refurbishment of the four-decade-old Terminal 2 is the need of the hour. We, at DIAL, are committed to enhancing the overall passenger experience by upgrading key infrastructure, improving operational efficiency, and elevating passenger comfort..."

Bomb scare at Delhi schools: Cops nab
student, probe points to a larger group

Group may have been sending hoax threat emails to several schools for months, say police officers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 10

TWO DAYS after 16 schools in Delhi received bomb threats via email, police said they have apprehended a student of a private school in connection with their probe. Based on his questioning, police claimed to have found crucial evidence, which indicates he is part of a group that has allegedly been sending bomb threats via email to several schools for many months.

However, police are verifying the evidence with help from forensic experts before taking legal action. A senior police officer in the Delhi Police headquarters confirmed that they have apprehended one of the students, and are currently probing the roles of others.

On Wednesday, Delhi Fire Service officials said that while Tagore International School was the first to inform them about the threat at 11.17 am, Bluebells School International informed authorities at 11.40 am.

Police said the email was also sent to Mother's International School, Modern School, Springdales School, G D Goenka Public School, St Columba's School, Salwan Public School, Amity International School, Air Force Bal Bharati School, Delhi Public School in Vasant Vihar and R K Puram, and Frank Anthony Public School, among others.

The email warned the schools of "massive and highly dangerous explosives" being present on its premises. It spoke about a large group from the dark web being

behind the operations. It also explained the timing of the email, citing examinations being conducted in schools, which would result in a large number of students congregating in the targeted schools.

As part of their investigation, the police from the South district checked the emails and found that the user had sent the hoax using Gmail.

"Using technical surveillance, police traced the location of one of the students and brought him in for questioning. He eventually

told investigators that the emails had been sent by him and some other students," said a police source familiar with the probe.

The initial probe indicates that all students are from the same school. "They are tech-savvy and would send emails using VPN, said the source.

Delhi schools have received a spate of such threats over the past few months, which mostly have turned out to be hoaxes. A blast, however, took place last October outside the CRPF school in Rohini. No one was hurt in the incident.

Suspected Al Qaeda
operative arrested near
Ranchi by Delhi Police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 10

AN ALLEGED AQIS (Al Qaeda Indian Subcontinent) operative was arrested near Ranchi by the Delhi Police Special Cell, in a joint operation with the Jharkhand Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS), about a fortnight ahead of Republic Day celebrations.

Officers said the accused, Shahbaz Ansari (21), had been on the run since last August.

He had escaped during a police crackdown on alleged AQIS operatives during which 11 people, including alleged mastermind Dr Ishtiyak Ahmed, a radiologist, were arrested after raids were conducted across three states — Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand — the Delhi Police had said.

Ansari was allegedly being trained in weapons handling, along with six others, in an alleged AQIS camp in the forests of Chopanki, which comes under Rajasthan's Bhiwadi, when Delhi Police raided the location in August.

"Ansari managed to escape during the raids in August and had been on the run. He was being tracked across the Mewat region and Uttar Pradesh. Recently, information was received showing his location in Lohardaga, near Ranchi. He belongs to Jharkhand," a senior police officer with the Special Cell (New Delhi Range) said.

During the August raids, Dr Ahmed and two others were nabbed from Ranchi while six were arrested from Bhiwadi. Police said Ansari was the seventh member.

An AK-47 rifle, a .38 bore revolver, live cartridges of various calibers, a dummy Insas rifle, an air rifle, and a hand grenade were also confiscated in August.

"Dr Ahmed was aspiring to declare Khilafat and execute serious terrorist activities within the country," the Delhi Police had said in a statement.

Ansari is currently in Ranchi and will be brought to Delhi on a transit remand, a police officer said.

On the run for 25 yrs, man wanted for murder arrested from Himachal

HIMANSHU HARSH
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 10

IN 2000, Ajay Kumar Dahiya allegedly killed his friend and ran away with the latter's wife from Delhi. Their relationship, however, didn't last. Dahiya, still on the run, then relocated to Panchkula and got married. For the next 25 years, he moved his family to multiple locations, assuming multiple identities, to stay off the police radar. His luck ran out this week.

On Tuesday morning, the Delhi Police nabbed Dahiya, now 59, from Kala Amb, a town nestled along the border of Haryana and Himachal Pradesh, where he had been selling tea. A team from the Crime Branch arrested Dahiya who had evaded capture for over two decades, said DCP (Crime Branch) Satish Kumar.

Recounting the case, the DCP said a woman, Krishna Sethi, reported the disappearance of her daughter-in-law on July 1, 2000. "She suspected that her daughter-

in-law, Saroj, had an affair with a man named Ajay Kumar Dahiya and the two of them had murdered her son Ashwani Sethi," the DCP said.

Ashwani's body was subsequently found in Dahiya's village, Birdhana in Haryana's Jhajjar, with gunshot wounds. "Dahiya lured Ashwani to his village and shot him dead," DCP Kumar said.

Dahiya and Saroj initially hid in Baddi in Himachal Pradesh, where he worked as a labourer. "He would frequently fight with

Saroj so she left him in 5-6 months," said DCP Kumar.

Dahiya then relocated to Panchkula in 2001 and got married, said police. He also took on the alias "Sompal" and forged an Aadhar Card, the DCP said.

In 2008, he and Saroj were declared proclaimed offenders.

In July 2024, a Crime Branch team led by Inspector Sanjay Kaushik was tasked to track him down. "Since it had been almost 25 years... finding him based on an old picture was tough... He used

multiple fake identities, changed his locations almost every year, and kept a low profile," an officer part of the operation said.


"Following trails of his old records, we went to his previous hideouts and then to his village... After tracking his family members, we started tapping into their phone calls," the officer said. Among the calls, the team grew suspicious of one caller and through further technical surveillance traced it to Kala Amb.

For three days, the team

camped there. On January 7, the trap was set and Dahiya was arrested from his tea stall.

"He was living with his wife and four children - three sons and a daughter... Every time someone decent-looking went to his tea stall, he would hide inside his home... under the bed or behind the almirah," said a police officer who was part of the operation.

Dahiya's wife told police that in such situations, "he feared that police had come to arrest him for his crimes".



Cash awards to all top three winners from each of the 11 districts

1st	₹ 10,000
2nd	₹ 7,000
3rd	₹ 5,000

Participation Certificate to all Participants

मुख्य निर्वाचन अधिकारी, दिल्ली
Chief Electoral Officer, Delhi

Golden opportunity for Delhi voters on the occasion of 15th National Voters Day

DELHI ELECTION QUIZ 2025

Registration Opening Date: 6th January 2025 ✓
Registration Closing Date: 19th January 2025 ✓
Online Quiz Date: 21st to 23 January 2025 ✓
Result Announcement Date : 24th January 2025 ✓
Prize Distribution Date: 25th January 2025 ✓

RULES AND CONDITIONS

Eligibility

Registered Electors of Delhi having valid voter ID, Aadhaar Card or School/College ID can register on the website before 19th January 2025.

Competition Format

The quiz will be conducted online (accessible via computer, laptop, or mobile). The duration of the quiz will be 60 minutes. The top 3 participants from each district will be awarded cash prizes.

Registration and Exam

The quiz is completely free to participate in. Upon successful registration, participants will receive the quiz details with their username and password. Each voter is allowed to participate in the quiz only once.

REGISTER NOW



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4 DECISION 2025

DELHI
ASSEMBLY
ELECTION

IMAGE OF THE DAY

Workers paint over the names of political leaders after the Election Commission imposed the Model Code Of Conduct ahead of Delhi elections, Friday. *Praveen Khanna*

Cong writes to Delhi CEO, seeks directive to police to act without bias during polls

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 10

A DELEGATION of the Delhi Congress, led by state unit chief Devender Yadav, met the Delhi Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Friday seeking that written instructions be issued to the police to act in an unbiased manner during the electoral process and maintain discipline on polling day.

DPCC chief
Devender
Yadav.
Amit Mehra

In a letter to the CEO, the party also sought that directions be issued to smoothly manage polling without unnecessary delay in constituencies that would see higher voter turnout to ensure there are no long queues and late night voting. It added that no deletion or addition in the voters list should be carried out without proper verification. "It had been experienced that Congress workers are mostly harassed by police in disguise of the model code of conduct, which is against electoral practices and healthy democratic process," Yadav wrote.

He added, "You are also requested to take into the account the above-mentioned concerns by issuing directions in writing to police to maintain discipline by acting in an unbiased manner and to follow directions issued by the Election Commission qua activities carried out by workers of political parties inside/outside polling stations, including putting tables, party flags, symbols and other material so that unnecessary harassment of party workers may be avoided."

Yadav said the Delhi CEO assured the delegation that its demands will be addressed fairly.

AAP-BJP tussle over Purvanchalis continues, Congress too wades in

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 10

THE DELHI BJP's Purvanchal Morcha protested outside former Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's residence Friday, accusing him of making derogatory remarks against the Purvanchal community and demanding a public apology.

The protest saw the participation of several BJP leaders including NDMC member Dinesh Pratap Singh, Purvanchal Morcha President Santoshi Ojha, Laxmi Nagar MLA Abhay Verma, and MP Manoj Tiwari, alongside party supporters. Protesters clashed with police as they attempted to breach barricades; police used to water cannons to disperse them and detained several people.

At the Mandir Marg police station, Tiwari met the detained protesters and criticised Kejriwal for his alleged insults toward Purvanchalis, autorickshaw drivers, and slum dwellers.

Addressing the media, he called Kejriwal's remarks a reflection of his "mental imbalance" and vowed that the Purvanchal community would mobilise to oust him from power in the upcoming elections. "Sanjay Singh, being a Purvanchali himself, should confront his leader for branding them deceitful," he said.

NDMC member Singh accused Kejriwal of consistently undermining the dignity of the Purvanchal community, referencing hardships during the Covid lockdown as evidence of neglect. Ojha alleged Kejriwal had treated the community as a mere vote bank while prioritising illegal settlements of Rohingyas and Bangladeshis in the city. Verma decried the marginalisation of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh migrants, asserting their contributions were instrumental in running the city.

AAP, in response, emphasised its developmental achievements, particularly for the Purvanchal community. Kejriwal highlighted efforts to transform unauthorised colonies, build infrastructure, and improve public

Delhi BJP's Purvanchal Morcha protested outside Kejriwal's residence, Friday. *PTI*

lic services such as education and healthcare.

Accusing the BJP of failing to deliver for Purvanchalis while exploiting divisive rhetoric, he said: "BJP deletes their votes and calls them infiltrators, while we have uplifted their lives with tangible developments."

AAP MP Sanjay Singh accused the BJP of hypocrisy, stating that while they label Purvanchalis as "Rohingyas" and "Bangladeshis", they simultaneously attempt to garner their votes. Singh cited examples of vote deletions and alleged the BJP was trying to create fake votes in favour of its workers while disenfranchising long-term residents from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. "Our government has ensured respect and dignity for the Purvanchal community, unlike the BJP's politics of exclusion," Singh asserted.

Meanwhile, the Congress attempted to woo the Purvanchal votebase by promising a dedicated 'Sharada Sinha Ghat' along the Yamuna banks for Chhath Puja, elevating it to a festival akin to the Maha Kumbh, if the party returns to power.

Bihar Pradesh Congress Committee president Dr Akhilesh Prasad Singh criticised both AAP and BJP for treating Purvanchalis as mere vote banks.

Highlighting the Congress' role in Delhi's development, he condemned the Kejriwal government's handling of the pandemic, which forced Purvanchalis to make their way home from Delhi on foot. He also called out BJP chief J P Nadda for equating Purvanchalis with illegal immigrants.

KEJRIWAL HITS OUT AT BJP, AMIT SHAH FOR 'FAILING TO CONTROL DELHI'S CRIME'

AAP's latest poll promise: Funds for RWAs to hire private security guards

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 10

IN A fresh poll promise, AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal Friday announced that Delhi's Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) will be given funds to hire private guards if his party returns to power in the February 5 elections.

Speaking to mediapersons, Kejriwal said guidelines on the amount to be provided to RWAs and the number of guards to be appointed by using the funds will be laid down later.

Accusing BJP and Union Home Minister Amit Shah of failing to control crime in the Capital, he said, "Over the past several days, people from across Delhi have been coming to meet me. I, too, have been traveling across Delhi, talking to people. The BJP-led Centre, especially under Union Home Minister Amit Shah, has turned Delhi into the crime capital of the country."

The crime rate has "skyrocketed" with "rampant" thefts, robberies, chain snatching and even gang wars being reported, he added. "Women now find it difficult to step out of their homes. People are extremely scared and feel highly insecure. The BJP and its central government have no concern for the people of Delhi. They actively hate the people of Delhi, and this hatred is the reason why the BJP has not been able to come to power in Delhi for the past 27 years," Kejriwal said.

Asserting that the 2 crore people in Delhi were like family to him, he said their safety was the top priority of the AAP. "If 2 crore people of Delhi are hurt, I am hurt. These 2 crore people

AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal. *Praveen Khanna*

are my family, and they are suffering due to a lack of adequate security measures. If someone in Delhi suffers, Kejriwal feels the pain. We cannot sit silently in the face of this," he added.

"I have been assuring people across the city that if the AAP forms the government, all RWAs will be provided with appropriate funds from the government to appoint security guards in their areas. A systematic approach will be developed to ensure fairness and proper implementation," Kejriwal said, adding that these guards would complement the existing security measures.

Maintaining that "no one can replace the police," Kejriwal said: "... we do not intend to do so... these security guards will help maintain basic safety in neighbourhoods. For instance, if a thief tries to escape after committing a crime, these guards can catch them. They will also ensure that unauthorised individuals do not enter the area."

He also mentioned AAP's plan to build upon the existing safety measures, such as installation of CCTVs across Delhi, to effectively manage security challenges.

In response, the BJP accused Kejriwal of making "false" promises again.

BJP's Parvesh Verma, who is up against Kejriwal from the New Delhi seat, in a post on X, asked the AAP chief if he remembered his previous promises to RWAs in 2018 and 2022.

Ahead of the MCD polls in 2022, Kejriwal had promised to grant "financial and political powers" to RWAs with their own "mini councillors". Before the 2015 Assembly polls, he had promised local area development funds after giving legal status to the RWAs by passing a bill in the Assembly.

United Residents Joint Action (URJA) president Atul Goyal said, "We appreciate the announcement but some promises were made earlier as well, which makes it difficult to fully trust this one."

B S Vohra, president of North Delhi RWA Federation, added: "Last time, it was promised that councillors would be appointed, but we are still waiting for them... It would be fine if funds were provided for private guards and hope previous promises by the party would also be met."

WITH PTI INPUTS

Amid 'Sheesh Mahal' row, a look at CAG's scope

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 10

THE COMPTROLLER and Auditor General of India (CAG) is again in the spotlight amid a political row triggered by its report on the cost of renovation at the office and residence of ex-CM Arvind Kejriwal.

As *The Indian Express* reported last week, the CAG is learnt to have shown that starting from preliminary estimates of Rs 7.91 crore, the total cost of the work on the premises of 6, Flag Staff Road stood at Rs 33.66 crore when the PWD completed it in 2022. The CAG's findings have sparked a war of words between the BJP and AAP ahead of the Delhi Assembly polls next month.

The CAG, which is the country's supreme audit body, has submitted a dozen audit reports to the Delhi L-G in recent years. But the AAP government has not laid them in the Assembly, triggering a backlash from the BJP whose MLAs have approached the High Court. Some of these reports, including performance audits on several burning issues such as liquor supply in Delhi, prevention and mitigation of air pollution, and functioning of the Delhi

6, Flagstaff Road, where Kejriwal lived when he was CM *Archive*

Transport Corporation, were presented to the L-G four years ago.

Here is a look at how the CAG chooses subjects for audits, how reports are prepared, and what happens afterwards:

What are the various types of audits CAG conducts?

The CAG conducts three kinds of audits: compliance audit, or an assessment of whether provisions of the applicable laws, rules, and regulations, and various orders and instructions issued by the competent authority are being followed; performance audit, or an assessment of the implementation of schemes or pro-

grammes; and financial audit, or certification of government's accounts and the accounts of PSUs.



How does it select audit subjects?

Before finalising a subject, it follows a risk assessment procedure that accounts for various factors such as size of the outlay of a project, what's being written in newspapers about the issue, and its own inspection reports over the years. It also consults guidelines laid down by the International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions that spell out what is of relevance to citizens.

Based on these criteria, the CAG's office approves an annual

audit plan that is implemented in the field offices. There is also an Audit Advisory Board that meets twice a year and suggests subjects and methodologies for audit. The government or courts can also recommend CAG audits.

What happens after the CAG selects a subject?

Once a subject is chosen, the CAG holds an entry conference with the department or organisation being audited. At this conference, CAG officials inform the body concerned about matters such as their plans for the audit, the methodology to be followed, and a tentative timeline. They also seek assistance in accessing records and documents.

After the audit, officials from the auditor general's office hold an exit conference to share their findings with the department or organisation and seek their reply. The entry and exit conferences are held for every performance and compliance audit. CAG shares a draft report with the department audited. Normally, the department has to respond in six weeks. Thereafter, the CAG signs the report and sends it to the government (President or Governor). Then the government lays

the report before the legislature.

What does the Constitution say on tabling a CAG report?

Article 151 provides for laying CAG reports in Parliament or state legislatures but no time limit is specified. A CAG report becomes public only after it's laid in the House. The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) examines the selected reports and seeks a response from the government. The PAC also asks the government to take action on the recommendations and submit an report.

Do CAG reports have any impact?

The audit reports highlight losses to the exchequer, procedural losses and also provide recommendations that play a key role in changing rules and procedures. Among the CAG reports that have had a big impact in recent decades is the one on licences and allocation of 2G spectrum, tabled in November 2010. It had a massive political effect, damaging the image of the Manmohan Singh-led UPA government that was ultimately voted out in 2014.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

Tahir Hussain seeks interim bail from HC to contest polls

SOHINI GHOSH
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 10

FORMER AAP councillor and 2020 Northeast Delhi riots accused Tahir Hussain, who joined the AIMIM last month and is due to contest the Delhi Assembly elections from Mustafabad constituency, Friday moved the Delhi High Court seeking interim bail from January 14 to February 9 to participate in the polls.

Initially listed before the court of Justice Amit Sharma, the court recused itself from taking up the matter. The plea was then listed before Justice Neena Bansal Krishna but could not be taken up. The matter is now expected to be taken up on Monday.

Hussain, who has been in custody since March 16, 2020, faces charges of killing Intelligence Bureau staffer Ankit Sharma during the 2020 Northeast Delhi riots. AAP suspended him after he was named an accused in the case.



The ex-AAP councillor has been fielded by AIMIM

Hussain is seeking interim bail to "fill nomination papers and also for canvassing and campaigning." While candidates can file nominations till January 17, polling is scheduled to take place on February 5.

Submitting that all candidates must be "treated with parity and afforded equal opportunities to participate in the electoral process," Hussain said in his plea that canvassing forms an "integral and indispensable" part of the electoral process.

To make his case, he has also relied on the SC judgment in favour of AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal in 2024, when it had granted him bail to participate in the Lok Sabha polls.

ALL HANDS ON DECK

As payback for AAP's 'Haryana ka laal', Manohar Lal & Nayab Saini among state's BJP bigwigs to hit Delhi trail

VARINDER BHATIA
CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 10

WHILE CONTESTING the Haryana Assembly polls last year, the AAP had projected its chief Arvind Kejriwal's Haryana roots in its campaign, calling him "Haryana ka laal". It is now the turn of the Haryana BJP brass to take the battle to the AAP's bastion in Delhi.

The BJP has deputed 16 senior leaders from Haryana, including former and current ministers, to campaign for the February 5 Delhi polls. Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini and Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar feature on this list in view of the significant chunk of Punjabi and OBC voters in the Capital.

A BJP leader said Khattar and Saini would play a "major role" in

the BJP's Delhi campaign, especially after they ensured the "decimation" of AAP in the Haryana polls, where the Congress was the BJP's principal rival.

The AAP's "Haryana ka laal" pitch — centred on Kejriwal being from the Bhiwani district of the state — failed to deliver results in the Assembly polls, as the party managed to garner only 1.76% votes with most of its 89 candidates forfeiting their deposits.

For the Delhi poll campaign, the BJP has asked its Haryana leaders to focus on "achievements" of the Saini government, besides underlining the BJP's performance in the Haryana polls, where it secured a third consecutive win.

BJP sources said Khattar, Saini, Haryana BJP chief Mohanlal Badoli and Union Minister of State Rao Inderjit

A BJP leader said Nayab Singh Saini and Manohar Lal Khattar would play a 'major role' in BJP's Delhi campaign. *Archive*

Singh would be assigned specific campaign duties for the Delhi polls. Several BJP leaders have also been assigned various areas in Delhi for poll management.

Union Minister and Faridabad MP Krishan Pal Gurjar has been given the responsibility of all 10 Assembly seats falling under the South Delhi parliamentary seat, while Haryana Education

Minister and Panipat Rural MLA Mahipal Dhandha has been given charge of West Delhi. Narwana MLA Krishan Bedi, Israna legislator Krishan Lal Panwar and former MP O P Yadav have been assigned Trilokpuri, Kondli and Badli, respectively.

Other BJP leaders roped in for the party's campaign in various Delhi seats include former

Haryana Assembly Speaker Gian Chand Gupta (Model Town), former ministers Kamal Gupta (Chandni Chowk), Banwari Lal (New Delhi), Manish Grover (Greater Kailash), J P Dalal (Bijwasan), and Kamlesh Dhandha (Palam). Former Sirsa MP Sunita Duggal and former MLAs Bishamber Singh and Aseem Goel have been assigned Deoli, Ambekar Nagar and Karol Bagh.

The caste composition of Delhi's electorate — which has a significant presence of Punjabis, Jats, Gujjars, Brahmins and Dalits — too seems to have played a part in the BJP's pick of leaders from Haryana.

Saini belongs to the OBC Saini community while Khattar and Grover are Punjabis. Gurjar belongs to the Gujjar community, Badoli is a Brahmin while Goel,

Kamal Gupta and Gian Chand Gupta are from the Baniya community. Dalal is a Jat, while Bishamber Singh belongs to the Valmiki (Dalit) community.

"A large number of people registered as voters in Delhi live in Gurgaon, Faridabad, Sonipat, Rohtak and Jhajjar. Those working in Haryana are well aware of the BJP's governance model in the state since 2014, and have friends and relatives in Delhi. The Haryana results will have an impact on Delhi polls," a senior BJP Haryana leader told *The Indian Express*.

Sources in BJP said the party's Haryana leaders have been told to focus on urban as well as rural areas besides the people living in slums.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

SAVARKAR DEFAMATION CASE

Rahul Gandhi appears virtually before Pune court, granted bail

CHANDAN HAYGUNDE
PUNE, JANUARY 10

A PUNE court Friday granted bail to Congress MP and Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi in a case filed against him for allegedly defaming Hindutva ideologue Vinayak Damodar Savarkar. Gandhi appeared before the MP/MLA court, presided over by special judge Amol Shinde, through video conferencing. The court granted him bail on a surety bond of ₹25,000. Congress leader Mohan Joshi from Pune stood as surety for Gandhi. Savarkar's grandnephew Satyaki Savarkar filed a complaint before a magistrate court in Pune against the Congress MP for allegedly making defamatory remarks against Savarkar during in London on March 5, 2023. The case was later transferred to the MP/MLA court. Despite the court's order that Rahul Gandhi "must personally appear", he remained absent during the previous hearings. His lawyer Milind Pawar told the court that Gandhi could not appear due election campaigns and Winter Session of Parliament. Satyaki's lawyer Sangram Kolhatkar filed an application seeking a non-bailable warrant against Gandhi and that action be taken against him under IPC

Section 174.

Advocate Pawar argued being LoP in Lok Sabha, Gandhi's presence for the Parliamentary session was important and so he may be exempted from appearing before the court. Court allowed the plea and ordered him to appear on January 10. Advocate Pawar told the court Friday morning that Gandhi would appear through video conferencing. But advocate Kolhatkar argued there was no provision in law that allows first appearance of the accused before the court virtually, on the basis of a Maharashtra government notification dated December 19, 2024, regarding the "High Court of Bombay Rules for Video Conferencing for Courts 2022".

After hearing both sides, the court rejected Kolhatkar's application. Soon, Rahul Gandhi appeared virtually before the court.

“INDO-TIBETAN BORDER POLICE FORCE”
(MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS)
GOVT. OF INDIA

RECRUITMENT FOR THE POST OF ASSISTANT COMMANDANT
(TELECOMMUNICATION)

Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force invites online applications from male and female eligible Indian citizens to fill up 48 vacancies of Assistant Commandant (Telecommunication) Group A Gazetted Post (Non Ministerial).

2. Details of vacancies are as under:-

Name of Post	Total vacancies	UR	SC	ST	OBC	EWS
Assistant Commandant (Telecommunication)	48	21	7	3	13	4

3. Total vacancies includes backlog vacancies and may increase or decrease due to administrative reasons without any notice. ITBP reserves the right to make changes in sequence of the recruitment process after publication of this advertisement. ITBP also reserves the right to cancel or postpone the recruitment at any stage without assigning any reason.
4. Pay Scale-Level-10 (56,100-1,77,500) in the Pay Matrix as per 7th CPC.
5. Applications from candidates will be accepted through ON-LINE MODE on ITBPF Recruitment website i.e. <https://recruitment.itbp.nic.in> only. No offline application will be accepted. For detailed information about pay and allowances, eligibility conditions, procedure of filling online application form, recruitment procedure and tests etc. the applicants are advised to go through the advertisement appearing in the above website. The applicants are advised to go through eligibility criteria carefully before applying.

ONLINE APPLICATION MODE WILL BE OPENED W.E.F. 21.01.2025 AT 00:01 AM AND WILL BE CLOSED ON 19.02.2025 AT 11:59 PM.

Sd/-

DIG (Rectt.)

CBC-19143/11/0038/2425

Directorate General, ITBP

File No. Admin-12011(16)/4/2024-coffice
Government of India
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Directorate General of Health Service
Central Drugs Standard Control Organization
(Drugs Section)

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare invites application from eligible candidates for filling up the following posts at Central Drugs Testing Laboratory, Hyderabad. The last date for receiving the applications will be within 60 days from the date of publication of this advertisement in the Employment News.

2. For further details please visit Ministry's website <https://mohfw.gov.in> or CDSO website <https://cdsco.gov.in>.

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Pay as per 7th CPC	No. of Post	Method of Recruitment
1.	Deputy Director	Pay Level 12 of 7th CPC (Rs. 78800- 209200)	1 (one)	Deputation (Including Contract) / Promotion
2.	Senior Scientific Officer	Pay Level 11 of 7th CPC (Rs. 67700- 208700)	1 (one)	Deputation (Including Contract) / Promotion
3.	Scientific Officer	Pay Level 10 of 7th CPC (Rs. 56100- 177500)	1 (one)	Deputation

CBC-17197/11/0018/2425

कार्यालय परियोजना प्रबन्धक, यूनिट-9
कन्स्ट्रक्शन एण्ड डिजाइन सर्विसेज
उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम (नगरीय)
(30 प्रो सरकार का उपक्रम)
2-शंकरनगर (बियर संदीप गैस एजेंसी),
दिल्ली रोड, सहानगर
प्रधान कार्यालय: टी.सी.-38वीं, विमलखण्ड,
गोमतीनगर, लखनऊ
को. नं० :-91-9999094522
e-mail id:- pnu9cds@gmail.com

पत्रांक : 19/E-Tender/07
दिनांक :- 07.01.2025

अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना

उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम(नगरीय) की ओर से अधोहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा CONSTRUCTION OF GOVT. HOMEOPATHIC HOSPITAL AT CHHAPAR DISTT-MUZZAFARNAGAR (U.P) अनु. लागत ₹21.69 लाख, हेतु दिनांक 25.01.2025 की अपरान्ह 15:00 बजे तक ई-निविदाएं आमन्त्रित की जाती हैं। उक्त कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक 10.01.2025 से दिनांक 25.01.2025 के मध्य उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार की e-procurement की वेबसाइट <https://etender.up.nic.in> से डाउनलोड किये जा सकते हैं तथा ई-निविदा दिनांक 25.01.2025 को अपरान्ह 17:30 बजे कार्यालय परियोजना प्रबन्धक, यूनिट-09, सी. एण्ड डी.एस., उ.प्र. जल निगम (नगरीय), सहानगर में खोली जायेगी। ई-निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य ₹3,00,000.00 + GST(18%) अतिरिक्त देय होगा।

निविदा से सम्बन्धित विस्तृत विवरण विभाग की वेबसाइट www.cdspjn.org एवं प्रोक्योरमेन्ट पोर्टल <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है। समस्त शुद्धि पत्र (Corrigendum) <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर ही अपलोड किये जायेंगे, इनका पृथक से कोई प्रकाशन नहीं किया जायेगा। निविदादाताओं को सलाह दी जाती है कि वे उक्त वेबसाइट का समय-समय पर अवलोकन करते रहें।



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER, DELHI
OLD ST. STEPHEN'S COLLEGE BUILDING, KASHMERE GATE,
DELHI-110006
Helpline No. 1800-111-400 and 1950: www.ceodelhi.gov.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

AFFIDAVIT OF CANDIDATES (FORM 26) IN GENERAL ELECTION TO
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NCT OF DELHI 2025

It is for information of General Public that the affidavits in Form-26 being filed by the candidates (in all 70 Assembly Constituencies of NCT of Delhi) in the General Election to Legislative Assembly of NCT of Delhi 2025, have been uploaded and is available on the website of CEO, Delhi i.e. (www.ceodelhi.nic.in). The affidavits, inter-alia, contain information about the candidate's educational qualification, movable & immovable property, Court cases including conviction & sentence, Government dues, other liabilities etc.

sd/-

(Rajesh Kumar)


Spl. Chief Electoral Officer, Delhi

DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0362/24-25

For voting, your name in the Electoral Roll is mandatory

NO VOTER TO BE LEFT BEHIND

epaper.indianexpress.com




**पावरग्रिड
POWERGRID**

IMPORTANT NOTICE ISSUED BY POWERGRID IN PUBLIC INTEREST

Possibility of accident/loss of life from
High tension power lines due to Kite Manjha

**Flying kites near
High Voltage Electric Lines
can be hazardous**



Residents of areas of National Capital Region Delhi (NCR) such as Maharani Bagh, Chilla Gaon, Nanakpura, ITO, Shastri Nagar, Pandav Nagar, Krishna Nagar, Geeta Colony, Laxmi Nagar, Garhi Mandhu, Sonia Vihar, Majnu ka Tila, Shastri Park, Chauhan Patti, Harampur, Gandhi Nagar, Pusta, Loha Pul, Ganesh Nagar, etc., besides Meerut-Ghaziabad area of Uttar Pradesh, various areas/villages of Haryana, Khandawali and Ballabhgarh, Bahadurgarh, various areas/villages of Jaipur (Rajasthan) such as Neemka Thana, Bassi, IG Road, Hirapura, Chaksu, Jagatpura, Phagi, Lalsot, Tonk Road are hereby informed that high tension power lines of 765000, 400000, and 220000 volts are passing nearby your village. It has been observed that these high-tension power lines are often getting tripped due to kite flying which causes loss to the public due to disruption in electricity supply.

It is also informed to all of you that this banned kite string may also prove to be fatal if it touches the power line. Many such fatal incidents have already taken place in the past years. Both buying and selling of this banned kite string is an offence under law and can be punishable with fine or imprisonment of both if caught. Therefore, the general public and all the villagers are requested not to let their children or relatives fly kites near these high-tension power lines. **POWERGRID will not be liable for any accident or loss of life or property related to this.**

Issued by
POWER GRID CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD
(A Government of India Enterprise)
Northern Reg.-1 HQ, SCO Bay No. 5 to 10, Sector-16A
Faridabad - 121002 (Haryana) Ph.: 0129-26666500
A Maharatna PSU

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
ENERGY DEPARTMENT**

**Invitation of application for the post of Managing Director
in Odisha Hydro Power Corporation Limited (OHPC)**

Odisha Hydro Power Corporation Limited (OHPC), incorporated as a hydro power generating company of Odisha in 1995 is functioning under Energy Department, Govt. of Odisha. OHPC beginning with an installed capacity of 1273.53 MW, now has installed capacity of 2099.8 MW. OHPC is an ISO 9001:2008, ISO 14001 and OHSAS 18001 certified Gold rated State Public Sector Undertaking with 6 (six) projects within the State and one inter-State project in operation. OHPC is also promoting investment in renewable energy projects through GEDCOL (a wholly owned subsidiary of OHPC). The Company is also taking up new hydro power projects on its own including the Pumped Storage Projects and Small Hydro Projects.

The Energy Department, Govt. of Odisha is seeking qualified and experienced candidates for the post of **Managing Director** for Odisha Hydro Power Corporation Limited (OHPC) in its Corporate Office located at Bhubaneswar. The pay will be Cost to Company (CTC) pattern and shall be in line with the industry. Performance based service conditions and Market Based Salary (MBS) structure shall be offered, wherein the CTC ranges between Rs.35 Lakhs to Rs.70 Lakhs per annum. Over and above this, the post carries additional facilities like official vehicle, Company accommodation/HRA, Medical facilities, broadband & telephone facilities, etc as per the rules of the Corporation. The Pay protection will be allowed only to the officers from the Central/State Governments/CPSEs/State PSUs or any other Government Organization.

This position is on full time contract basis for a period of 05 (five) years or up to the age of 63 years, whichever is earlier. The Managing Director being the Chief Executive of the Company shall be accountable to the Chairman, Board of Directors, Government of Odisha.

Detailed requirement for the position along with the application format is available in the Energy Department, Government of Odisha website <https://energy.odisha.gov.in>

Complete application in the prescribed format with enclosures and a passport size photograph should be sent to the Principal Secretary to Govt., Energy Department, Kharavela Bhawan, Bhubaneswar-751001 by Speed post/Registered Post only so as to reach by 28.02.2025. Envelope containing the application should be super-scribed as **"Application for the post of Managing Director, OHPC"**. Outstation candidates appearing the interview will be provided Economic Class Air fare for to & fro journey on submission of original documents.

**Principal Secretary to Govt.
Energy Department, Kharavela Bhawan,
Bhubaneswar-751001**

**AIR FORCE JUNIOR SCHOOL
AIR FORCE STATION NEW DELHI
(An English Medium Co-Education School)**

Recruitment Of PRT (For empanelment only)

1. Air Force Junior School invites application for the post of PRT (Regular).

2. Eligibility for the post and other relevant details are available on the website of AF School www.racecourseschools.in. Applications must be received by mail airforceschools@gmail.com/drop box at Main Guard Room, Air Force Station, Race Course, New Delhi-03 on or before **28 Jan 25**.

3. Chairman, School Management Committee reserves the right of cancelling the selection process at any stage even after the advertisement without any notice or assigning any reason.

**Chairman
School Management Committee**

**AIR FORCE SCHOOL NARAINA
AIR FORCE STATION NEW DELHI
(An English Medium Co-Education School)**

Recruitment Of PRT & PRT (Games) (For Empanelment Only)

1. Air Force School Naraina invites applications for the post of PRT & PRT (Games) (Regular).

2. Eligibility for the post and other relevant details are available on the website of AF Schools www.racecourseschools.in. Applications must be received by mail (afsdeldhi@gmail.com)/drop box at Main Guard Room, Air Force Station, Race Course, New Delhi-03 on or before **28 Jan 25**.

3. Chairman, School Management Committee reserves the right of cancelling the selection process at any stage even after the advertisement without any notice or assigning any reason.

**Chairman
School Management Committee**



**महाराजा छत्रसाल बुन्देलखण्ड
विश्वविद्यालय, छतरपुर (म.प्र.)**
E-mail : mchhatrasaluniversity@gmail.com
Website : <https://mcbu.ac.in>

विज्ञापन क्र. 246/प्रशा./विज्ञापन/2025 छतरपुर, दिनांक : 09.01.2025

**शैक्षणिक संवर्ग के सहायक प्राध्यापक के पदों पर
सोधी भर्ती हेतु विज्ञापन 2025**

महाराजा छत्रसाल बुन्देलखण्ड, विश्वविद्यालय, छतरपुर (म.प्र.) के शैक्षणिक विभागों के 10 विषयों के शैक्षणिक संवर्ग के सहायक प्राध्यापक के कुल रिक 40 पदों पर सोधी भर्ती से नियुक्ति हेतु विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग (UGC) द्वारा निर्धारित अर्हताधारी अभ्यर्थियों से आवेदन पत्र दिनांक **11.02.2025** सायं 5 बजे तक आमंत्रित किए जाते हैं। विज्ञापित पदों का संक्षिप्त विवरण निम्नानुसार है :-

सहायक प्राध्यापक – 40 पद - (जैव-प्रौद्योगिकी-04, वनस्पतिशास्त्र-04, रसायनशास्त्र-04, वाणिज्य-04, अंग्रेजी-04, भूगर्भशास्त्र-04, गणित-04, सूक्ष्म जीवविज्ञान -04, भौतिकशास्त्र-04, समाजशास्त्र-04) रिक पदों का विस्तृत विवरण/आवेदन प्रपत्र/सामान्य नियम एवं शर्तें आदि विश्वविद्यालय की वेबसाइट <https://mcbu.ac.in> पर उपलब्ध है।

म.प्र. माध्यम/118258/2025 **कुलसचिव**

**GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL
CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI
EXCISE, ENTERTAINMENT &
LUXURY TAX DEPARTMENT**

**L-BLOCK, Vikas Bhawan, IP Estate,
New Delhi-110002**

PUBLIC NOTICE

In the event of General election to Delhi Legislative Assemble 2025 Department of Excise, Entertainment & Luxury Tax, GNCT of Delhi has set up a 24X7 Control Room-Cum Complaint Monitoring Cell. The designated land line numbers for registering complaints are 011-23370705, 011-23379752 and e- mail id is dcexcise@nic.in. The identity of the complainant shall not be disclosed.

Sd/-

(Tanvir Ahmad)

Deputy Commissioner Excise

Govt. of NCT of Delhi

DIP/SHABDARTH/CLASSIFIED/0360/24-25

इंडियन बैंक
INDIAN BANK

इलाहाबाद
ALLAHABAD

Indian Bank
INDIAN BANK

ALLAHABAD

Zonal Office :
Om Shanti Complex
Opposite zila School,
Muzaffarpur-842002

DEMAND NOTICE

Notice under Sec. 13 (2) of The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 Sent on 31.12.2024 by Regd. Post/Speed Post/Courier To.

1. **Mr Manoj Kumar Banka** S/o Shri Motilal Banka (Borrower)

2. **Mrs. Poonam Devi Banka** W/o Manoj Kumar Banka (Borrower/ Mortgagee).

3. **Mrs. Preeti Devi Banka** W/o Amit Kumar Banka (Borrower/ Mortgagee).

4. **Mr Amit Kumar Banka** S/o Shri Motilal Banka (Guarantor), All above (1,2,3 & 4) resident at Mohalla- Sikandarpur, Ward No. 13, Near Krishna Talkies, beside Devi Dayal Singh, PS- Town Anchal Mushhari, Dist Muzaffarpur-842001

5. **Mr Santosh Kumar Poddar** S/o Late Mali Ram Poddar (Guarantor), resident at Sutapatti, PS- Town, PO- HPO, Anchal- Mushhari, Dist Muzaffarpur-842001

Sub: **Loan A/c** 50155729308 with Indian Bank Jawahar Lal Road Branch, Muzaffarpur.

You committed default in repayment of loans to the tune of Rs.19,43,278.00 with further interest at the agreed rate from 30.12.2024 till date of repayment

The Bank, issued notice under the Act on 30.12.2024 calling upon you to repay the outstanding amount of Rs.19,43,278.00 as on 30.12.2024 The notice was sent to you by "Regd post"/courier"/speed post has been returned unserved. A copy of the same is affixed at Sikandarpur, Ward No. 13, Near Krishna Talkies, beside Devi Dayal Singh, PS- Town Anchal Mushhari, Dist. Muzaffarpur-842001

You are called upon to pay Rs 19,43,278/- (Rupees Nineteen Lakhs Forty Three Thousand Two Hundred and Seventy Eight only) together with interest from 30.12.2024 till date of payment within 60 days from the date of this notice failing which Bank, will be constrained to exercise rights of enforcement of security interest as against the secured assets given in the schedule hereunder. This Notice is without prejudice to any other right/remedy available to the Secured Creditor.

"We draw attention to the provisions of Section 13(8) of the SARFAESI Act and the Rules framed there under which deals with your rights of redemption over the securities"

This Notice is without prejudice to any other remedy available to the Secured Creditor including its right to proceed with the proceedings presently pending before DRT/RO of DRT/DRAT/Court and proceed with the execution of order/decreed obtained/to be obtained.

The Specific details of the assets in which security interest is created are enumerated hereunder

Mortgaged Assets : Sale Deed No. 31069 dated 28.11.2012, Property Located Mohalla- Sikandarpur, Ward No. 13 Near Krishna Talkies, beside Devi Dayal Singh, PS- Town Anchal- Mushhari, Dist- Muzaffarpur- 842001. Khata No.- 214, Khata No.- 1762, Thana no-478 Area 2 Decimal, **Boundary- North:** Mr Devi Dayal Singh, **South:** Mr Satyanarayan Sabarnam, **East :** Digar Kharidarad, **West :** Road 10 feet in the name of Mrs Poonam Devi Banka W/o Manoj Kumar Banka And Mrs Preeti Devi Banka W/o Amit Kumar Banka.

**The Authorised Officer
Chief Manager of Indian Bank**

No tree felling in Mumbai's Aarey without our nod: SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 10

THE SUPREME COURT Friday ordered the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation's (BMC) Tree Authority not to allow further tree felling without the top court's permission in Mumbai's Aarey Colony, where a Metro car shed that triggered protests is located.

A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Aravind Kumar said if a request came up, the Authority could process it and approach the Supreme Court for further orders.

The order came after the Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation Limited (MMRCL) told the court that there was no pending proposal to cut more trees in the area. The SC had asked the Maharashtra government to inform if there was any proposal to fell more trees in Aarey.

SC relief for JEE (Advanced) aspirants who dropped out of courses from Nov 5 to 18

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Friday permitted students who dropped out of their courses between November 5 and 18, 2024, to register for the JEE (Advanced), to do so.

A bench of justices B R Gavai and A G Masih passed the order after noting that a press release by the JAB (respondent number 2) on November 5, 2024, said the students who cleared their Class 12 board exams in 2023, 2024 and 2025 would be eligible to take the JEE (Advanced) but this was withdrawn 13 days later.

The new statement from JAB dated November 18 said only those who clear their Class 12 exam in 2024 or 2025 will be eligible. Some students dropped

The SC listed the hearing next on March 5.

On October 4, 2019, the Bombay HC dismissed petitions challenging the decision of the BMC's Tree Authority to allow felling of 2,185 trees, and transplantation of 460, on a 33-hectare land at Aarey for the construction of a depot for the Metro Phase 3 project. Following the HC order, the felling of trees began on October 4 night itself. This led to protests and even saw tensions between the then ruling allies BJP and Shiv Sena.

Subsequently, the SC took cognisance of a letter by some law students, who raised the issue and registered it as a Public Interest Litigation. Hearing it, the SC ordered a status quo.

In April 2023, the SC imposed a fine of Rs 10 lakh on MMRCL for trying to "overreach" its order permitting the felling of only 84 trees and instead cutting down 177.

out of their course during this believing they would sit for the exam and cannot now be prejudiced by denying that, the court held.

"It is clear that in the press release dated November 5, 2024, a clear promise was made to the students that those who had appeared for the 12th standard examination in the academic year 2023, 2024 and 2025 would be eligible to appear for the JEE (Advanced) entrance examination. If the students acting on the said representation have dropped...the withdrawal of the promise on November 19, 2024, cannot be permitted to act to their detriment," the Supreme Court observed. **ENS**

Kerala MLA Anvar joins TMC months after ruling CPM snaps ties with him

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JANUARY 10

KERALA'S INDEPENDENT legislator P V Anvar, who snapped ties with the Communist Party of India (Marxist)-led Left Democratic Front in September, Friday joined the Trinamool Congress. The decision was announced by TMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee on X.

"A warmest welcome to Shri PV Anvar, the esteemed MLA from Nilambur, Kerala, as he joins the @AITCofficial family. His dedication to public service and his advocacy for the rights of the people of Kerala enrich our shared mission of inclusive growth. Together, we will strive for a progressive India where every voice matters and every dream is realized," he wrote.

Anvar joined the TMC a year ahead of the assembly elections in Kerala. A two-time CPI(M)-backed legislator, Anvar had a falling out with the party after he openly revolted against the Pinarayi Vijayan government, particularly about the function-



TMC general secretary Abhishek Banerjee (centre) with MLA PV Anvar (left) on Friday. PTI

ing of the chief minister's office and his political secretary, P Sasi. In September, the party announced it had snapped ties with the Nilambur MLA.

Anvar then formed a collective Democratic Movement of Kerala, and fielded a candidate in the November by-election in Chelakkara, although it failed to make any impact as CPI(M) retained the seat.

Since his falling out with the

CPI(M), Anvar has been scouting for asylum, even unsuccessfully trying to cozy up to the Congress-led United Democratic Front. He was arrested earlier this week after he led an attack on the divisional forest office at Nilambur after a tribal youth was trampled to death by a wild elephant but was eventually granted bail. The arrest drew criticism from the Opposition, including the Congress.

Shivaji Statue collapse: Bombay High Court grants bail to sculptor

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, JANUARY 10

THE BOMBAY High Court on Friday granted bail to sculptor Jaydeep Apte, who was arrested in September, 2024 for the collapse of the 35-foot statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in Sindhudurg district in August, last year.

The court granted bail on furnishing a personal bond of Rs. 25,000 among other conditions.

A single-judge bench of Justice Nitin R Borkar on Friday granted bail to Apte, who had

filed bail plea through advocate Ganesh Sovani. Apte had approached HC after the sessions court rejected his bail plea. The bench said that as the probe was complete in the case, his incarceration was not required.

In December, the HC had granted bail to structural consultant Chetan Patil, arrested in connection with the August 26, 2024 Shivaji statue collapse that was inaugurated on December 4, 2023, at the Rajkot Fort in Malvan.

Justice Anil S Kilor, granting bail to Patil had observed that there was no case made out to implicate Patil as he had not

been appointed as the statue's structural designer and had only submitted a structural stability report for the pedestal of the statue, which was intact even after the collapse.

The sessions court had observed that the collapse of the statue within a few months of its construction prima facie spoke upon the quality of work.

Apte, in his plea, claimed that the sessions court failed to consider that the FIR was filed in haste by a civil engineer who had no expertise in metallurgy and the case was not based on any scientific report.

Fighting to make Azam Khan respect women: Jaya Prada

Moradabad: Former MP and film actress Jaya Prada said she is fighting a court case to teach a lesson to Samajwadi Party leader Azam Khan to respect women. She said while times have changed, it is not easy for women to get justice.

The actor made the remarks in Moradabad where she was Thursday for a hearing. She was called for her statement against former MP and SP leader S T Hasan at an MP-MLA court. **PTI**

Stalin's struggles amid growing challenges — alliance differences to governance 'gaps'

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, JANUARY 10

DESPITE SCORING resounding wins in multiple elections in Tamil Nadu in recent years, the M K Stalin government is now facing mounting challenges on various fronts ranging from the DMK organisation and party-led alliance to the state administration.

Last week, tension within the ruling alliance flared up after former state CPM secretary K Balakrishnan launched a scathing attack on the DMK-led government, alleging the state police denied the CPM permission for holding a rally during the party state conference in Villupuram.

Addressing the conference, Balakrishnan asked: "CM M K Stalin, have you imposed an undeclared emergency in Tamil Nadu?" Balakrishnan's remarks gave ammunition to the Opposition, including the AIADMK and the BJP, following which DMK mouthpiece *Murasoli* published a front-page piece castigating him for attacking CM Stalin despite having access to him.

Subsequently, senior DMK leader A Raja went after Communist leaders, saying at an



Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin

event that the ideology of communism declined as its leaders turned "selfish and corrupt".

Hitting back at Raja, the CPM's new state secretary P Shanmugan rejected his allegations against the communist leaders as "unfair and unfounded". Shanmugan also echoed Balakrishnan's criticism of the DMK-led government's alleged bid to curb protests in the state.

The Stalin government has been plagued by several incidents of police high-handedness and administrative lapses, which are alleged to have betrayed "systemic gaps in governance".

The hooch tragedies in Villupuram (May 2023) and Kallakurichi (June 2024) claimed about 70 lives. The state suffered several cases of major violence like the Kallakurichi bus burning incident in 2022 over the death of a school student. Last year, state BSP

PM Modi to visit France in Feb, take part in AI summit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PARIS, JANUARY 10

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi will embark on a state visit to France and then participate in the AI Summit to be held here in February, President Emmanuel Macron has said.

"France will be hosting on February 11 and 12 the AI Summit, a summit for action, which will enable us to have a discussion on artificial intelligence," Macron said. Even though Macron said February 11 and 12, the "AI Action Summit" is to be held on February 10 and 11.

"Prime Minister Modi will be there immediately after the state visit to our country. This (the AI Summit) will enable us to have a dialogue with all the powers, IEA, US, China and major nations such as ... India which has a role to play as well as the Gulf States," he said.

He presented his foreign policy for 2025 and spoke on a number of topics, including its equation with the US post-

Trump win, according to his speech livestreamed on France24.

Modi's last meeting with Macron was on November 18 on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. It was the third meeting between the two leaders in 2024, after President Macron's visit to India as the Chief Guest for the Republic Day celebrations in January.

During the November 2024 meeting, the two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to advance the India-France Strategic Partnership as well as their shared vision for bilateral cooperation and international partnership, outlined in the Horizon 2047 roadmap and other bilateral declarations.

They commended the progress achieved in bilateral cooperation, including in strategic areas such as defense, space and civil nuclear energy, and committed to accelerating it further with a view to reinforcing their shared commitment to strategic autonomy, the MEA said.

Singapore President on India visit from Jan 14 to 18, two skilling pacts on table

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 10

INDIA AND Singapore will likely sign two skill development agreements during President Tharman Shanmugaratnam's visit from January 14 to 18.

This will be Shanmugaratnam's first state visit to India and the first by any Singapore president to India in 10 years. The last visit was by former president Tony Tan King Yam in February 2015.

President Tharman's visit commemorates the 60th anniversary of the establishment

of India-Singapore diplomatic relations. He will likely visit New Delhi and Odisha.

In New Delhi, besides meeting President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he is likely to meet External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari, Health Minister J P Nadda, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnav and Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Skill Development Jayant Chaudhary.

He will be traveling to

Bhubaneswar to meet Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and visit the Konark temple. One of the two pacts on the table is on skilling in semiconductors in Odisha.

Shangmugaratnam will confer the Honorary Citizen award to Tarun Das, former DG of CII. India-Singapore relations were elevated to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership during PM Modi's visit in September 2024.

Singapore is India's largest trade partner in ASEAN and a leading source of FDI. There is collaboration between India and Singapore to establish skill development centres in various sectors.

कार्यालय परियोजना प्रबन्धक, युनिट-९
कस्डरुशन एण्ड डिजाइन सर्विसेज
उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम (नगरीय)
(उप प्र. सरकार का उपक्रम)
2-शंकरनगर (नियर संदीप गैस एजेंसी),
दिल्ली रोड, सहारनपुर
प्रधान कार्यालय: टी.सी.-३८बी, विष्णुखण्ड,
गोमतीनगर, लखनऊ
मो. नं० :-91-9999094522
e-mail id:- pnu9cds@gmail.com

पत्रांक: 20/E-Tender/08
दिनांक: 07.01.2025

अपकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना

उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम(नगरीय) की ओर से अयोध्याखरी द्वारा **CONSTRUCTION OF GOVT. HOMEOPATHIC HOSPITAL AT FATEHPUR KALA DISTT-SAHARANPUR (U.P)** अनु. लागत **₹21.69 लाख**, हेतु दिनांक **25.01.2025** की अपरान्ह **15:00 बजे** तक ई-निविदाएं आमन्त्रित की जाती हैं। उक्त कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक **10.01.2025** से दिनांक **25.01.2025** के मध्य उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार की e-procurement की वेबसाइट <https://etender.up.nic.in> से डाउनलोड किये जा सकते हैं तथा ई-निविदा दिनांक **25.01.2025** को अपरान्ह **17:30 बजे** कार्यालय परियोजना प्रबन्धक, युनिट-09, सी. एण्ड डी.एस., उ.प्र. जल निगम (नगरीय), सहारनपुर में खोली जायेगी। ई-निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य **₹3,00,00,00 + GST(18%)** अतिरिक्त देय होगा।

निविदा से सम्बन्धित विस्तृत विवरण विभाग की वेबसाइट www.cdsupjn.org एवं प्रोक्योरमेन्ट पोर्टल <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है। समस्त शुद्धि पत्र (Corrigendum) <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर ही अपलोड किये जायेंगे, इनका प्रपत्र से कोई प्रकाशन नहीं किया जायेगा। निविदादाताओं को सलाह दी जाती है कि वे उक्त वेबसाइट का समय-समय पर अवलोकन करते रहें।

कार्यालय परियोजना प्रबन्धक, युनिट-९
कस्डरुशन एण्ड डिजाइन सर्विसेज
उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम (नगरीय)
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गोमतीनगर, लखनऊ
मो. नं० :-91-9999094522
e-mail id:- pnu9cds@gmail.com

पत्रांक: 21/E-Tender/09
दिनांक: 07.01.2025

अपकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना

उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम(नगरीय) की ओर से अयोध्याखरी द्वारा **CONSTRUCTION OF GOVT. HOMEOPATHIC HOSPITAL AT PURKAI DISTT-MUZZAFARNAGAR (U.P)** अनु. लागत **₹21.69 लाख**, हेतु दिनांक **25.01.2025** की अपरान्ह **15:00 बजे** तक ई-निविदाएं आमन्त्रित की जाती हैं। उक्त कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक **10.01.2025** से दिनांक **25.01.2025** के मध्य उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार की e-procurement की वेबसाइट <https://etender.up.nic.in> से डाउनलोड किये जा सकते हैं तथा ई-निविदा दिनांक **25.01.2025** को अपरान्ह **17:30 बजे** कार्यालय परियोजना प्रबन्धक, युनिट-09, सी. एण्ड डी.एस., उ.प्र. जल निगम (नगरीय), सहारनपुर में खोली जायेगी। ई-निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य **₹3,00,00,00 + GST(18%)** अतिरिक्त देय होगा।

निविदा से सम्बन्धित विस्तृत विवरण विभाग की वेबसाइट www.cdsupjn.org एवं प्रोक्योरमेन्ट पोर्टल <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है। समस्त शुद्धि पत्र (Corrigendum) <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर ही अपलोड किये जायेंगे, इनका प्रपत्र से कोई प्रकाशन नहीं किया जायेगा। निविदादाताओं को सलाह दी जाती है कि वे उक्त वेबसाइट का समय-समय पर अवलोकन करते रहें।

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-NOTICE INVITING TENDER
For and on behalf of President of India, Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (RSO), Northern Railway, Delhi Division, New Delhi invites E- Tender' in prescribed tender form for the following work.

1. Name of work with its location	Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning, and integration of complete Equipment's of Terminal Support System (Hardware) & allied accessories for computerized crew management system application at various lobbies Shakurbasti, Delhi Sarai Rohilla, Delhi, Meerut City, Rohtak, Jind & Jakhal over DLI division as per CRIS Specification no. 2007/CRIS/NDLS-HQ/CMS/Project/Rollout-II/0030/PH-II date 26.07.2024.
2. Approx. Tendervalue (Rs.)	Rs. 48.51,137.89/- (including GST)
3. E.M.D (Rs.)	Rs. 97,100/-, Note:- Online payment mode available on IREPS website.
4. Date & time of tender opening (immediately when tender submission ends)	03.02.2025 on 15:00 hrs.
5. Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in

TENDER NOTICE No. -NIT-04-2024-25-Elect-RSO, Dt. 09.01.2025 114/2025

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

MADHYA PRADESH JAL NIGAM
(A Govt. of Madhya Pradesh Undertaking)
"8" Arera Hills, Bhopal - 462004, Ph. : 0755-2579034, 2579874
Website : www.mpjalnigam.mp.gov.in, E-mail : mpjalnigam@mp.gov.in
CIN : U41000MP2012SGC028798

NIT No. : 36/Proc./MPJNM/2024-25 Bhopal, Dated : 09.01.2025

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

Online Lump-sum rate bids for "Lump-Sum Contract for Survey, Design Verification/ Confirmation, Validation, Engineering, Procurement, Construction and Testing of Balance Works and Commissioning, Trial Run and Operation & Maintenance for 10 Years of Multi-Village Drinking Water Supply Schemes in Single Package on 'Turn-Key Job Basis' :-

NIT No.	Scheme	District	Villages	PAC (Rs. Cr.)	EMD (Rs. Lakh)	Cost of Tender Document (Rs.)	Time for Completion (Including Rainy Season) (Months)
36	Balance Works of Sangamghat MVS	Seoni	86	17.50	10.00	30,000	12 Months

Interested bidders can view/download/purchase the bid document online from M.P. Government E-Procurement Portal from **14.01.2025, 17:30 Hrs.** Bidding process dates mentioned as critical dates on M.P. Government E-Procurement Portal will be applicable. Corrigendum/Addendum in NIT, if any, would be published on portal only and not in newspapers.

M.P. Government E-Procurement Portal - <https://mptenders.gov.in>
M.P. Madhyam/118240/2025 **MANAGING DIRECTOR**

NAGAR NIGAM LUCKNOW
T.N. Road Lalbagh Hazratganj, Lucknow-226001

Ref. No.: Date : 228/CE/24-25 **E-Tender Notice** Date : 10-01-2025
Chief Engineer, Nagar Nigam Lucknow invites Percentage-rate bids on <https://etender.up.nic.in> from eligible bidders for the following package under the CM-GRID scheme.

S. N.	Nagar N. Nigam	Package No.	Included Roads	Length of Road (km)	Estimated Cost Excluding GST (Rs. Lakh)	Total Estimated Cost of Work (Rs in Lakh)	Earnest Money Deposit (Rs in Lakh)	Duration of Construction work (in Months)	Tender Fee Including GST	
1	Lucknow Nagar Nigam	LKO/ CM G-11/01	●FROM MAHATMA GANDHI MARG TO RANA PRATAP MARG (MOTI MAHAL MARG) ●AYODHYA MARG SERVICE ROAD VISHALMEGAMART TO AWADH BUS STATION	1.88	4188.29	67.72	4256.01	50.00	15	41300.00

Timeline :

S.N.	Event	Date and Time
1	Availability of tender document on E-Tendering portal	15/01/2025, 12:00 PM
2	Pre-Bid Meeting	28/01/2025 3:00 PM @3rd Floor URIDA, Sector-7, Gomti Nagar Extension, Lucknow-226002
3	Last date of uploading the tender document on E-Tendering portal	07/02/2025, 03:00 PM
4	Opening of tender (technical bid)	07/02/2025, 04:00 PM

Any Corrigendum/addendum or any other additional information related to the tender will be available on above mentioned website.

Chief Engineer
Municipal Corporation, Lucknow

Photos indicate soapstone mining on despite Uttarakhand HC's ban order

High Court asks police to seize all machinery from the mines

AISWARYA RAJ
DEHRADUN, JANUARY 10

OBSERVING THAT soapstone mining continued despite a ban, the Uttarakhand High Court on Thursday asked the Bageshwar Superintendent of Police to depute personnel to inspect mines and seize all machinery found at the site.

The bench of Chief Justice G Narendran and Justice Manoj Kumar Tiwari on January 6 ordered the suspension of soapstone mining in Bageshwar after a court-appointed report showed evidence of land subsidence in the area.

The HC said the report was "not only alarming but also shocking". On Thursday, the Amicus Curiae submitted material, including photographs reflecting GPS coordinates. It said despite the court's order prohibiting mining, "certain anti-social elements have proceeded to violate the orders... and

The report demonstrates that further mining, which has already damaged dwelling houses, is likely to result in landslides and loss of lives, the court said.

have continued the mining activity".

The order said they also produced the transit pass forms issued by the Directorate, Geology and Mining Department, showing that it was issued on January 6 at 7:39 pm. The photographs indicated that illegal mining was carried out on the intervening night and the next day, January 7.

Stating that though the Director issued orders to his subordinate officers in this regard, mining appears to have continued, the court said, "We direct Chandra Shekhar Godke, Superintendent of Police, Bageshwar,

to immediately instruct the Station House Officers under his command and jurisdiction and also depute the personnel required to inspect the mines and wherever machinery is found... shall be seized, and an inventory of all stock of material shall be drawn up and shall be reported to this court by tomorrow (Friday)."

The court remarked that it was constrained to assign the task to the police because the mining department officials "did not appear inspired to act on the court's orders".

Earlier, following the perusal of the report, the court reprimanded officers and said, "The report and the photographs clearly demonstrate complete lawlessness by the miners and are proof of local administration turning a blind eye to the transgression. Further, the report and the photographs, prima facie, demonstrate that further mining operations, which have already damaged dwelling houses, are likely to result in landslides and definite loss of lives."

7 Govt & Politics



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



PARIKSHA PARTICIPATION

THE DEPARTMENT of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, which comes under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying headed by Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh, has asked all its officers and staff to participate in the 8th edition of ‘Pariksha pe Charcha’, an annual event in which Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with students, teachers and parents in a town hall-format meeting. The event is likely to be held this month. In an order issued with the approval of the competent authority on Thursday, the department also “requested” the officers and staff to encourage their children to participate in the event.

DATE CLASH

THE SANGH Parivar is unhappy with the announcement of Delhi elections on February 5, which falls in the Kumbh Mela period. In a statement, VHP national spokesperson Vinod Bansal said the poll schedule would deprive many devout Hindus from Delhi from exercising their franchise since they would be in Prayagraj. “Kalpavasi Hindus cannot leave the holy land of Prayagraj for the whole month. It is necessary to evaluate and think about all these things. Will all those Hindus of the Capital not be deprived of their voting rights,” he asked.

150-YR CELEBRATIONS

ONE OF the oldest scientific institutions in the country, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) will complete 150 years on January 15. Several events have been planned to commemorate the contributions of the department, which was set up in 1875. The IMD has invited several neighbouring nations, including Pakistan, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Maldives among others, for the 150th anniversary celebrations, which will be attended by PM Narendra Modi.

SAD accepts Sukhbir’s resignation, polls for new chief on March 1

First time in 29 years that a Badal is not at helm of oldest regional party

RAAKHI JAGGA
LUDHIANA, JANUARY 10

THE SHIROMANI Akali Dal (SAD) working committee on Friday accepted the resignation of Sukhbir Singh Badal as the party chief, nearly two months after he submitted the papers and four days after the Akal Takht Jathedar asked it to implement the religious body’s December 2 edict as soon as possible.

The working committee also announced a new membership drive on January 20 and said an election for the new party president will be held on March 1, general secretary Daljeet Singh Cheema said. He said Balwinder Singh Bhundar will continue as the party’s working president until a new president is elected.

Sukhbir, who was first elected party president in January 2008, remained in the role for 16 years: he was unanimously re-elected every five years. Before him, his father, Parkash Singh Badal, served as SAD president from 1996.

Sukhbir reporters after the meeting, “When I was to go to the Akal Takht Sahib, I had made up my mind to go as a humble Sikh. But it (my resignation) was



Sukhbir was party chief since 2008

not accepted due to some reasons. The working committee should start a new membership drive and thereafter, a new president can be elected.”

On December 2, the Akal Takht ordered Sukhbir and other leaders to serve religious punishment for the “mistakes” committed by SAD and its government will be held on March 1, general secretary Daljeet Singh Cheema said. He said Balwinder Singh Bhundar will continue as the party’s working president until a new president is elected.

The Akal Takht also directed SAD’s working committee to accept Sukhbir’s resignation as party chief.

Sukhbir served the punishment on December 3, however the SAD working panel had not accepted his resignation, which he had tendered in November 16 last year, until now.

Akal Takht Jathedar Giani Raghbir Singh had on January 6 questioned the Akali Dal on delay in implementing the order pertaining to accepting the resignation of Badal as party chief and on reorganisation of the party.

18TH PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIVAS CONVENTION CONCLUDES IN BHUBANESWAR

Indian diaspora integral to vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047: Murmu

Diaspora will help define our image as a resurgent civilisation: EAM

SUJIT BISOIYI
BHUBANESWAR, JANUARY 10

TERMING THE “Viksit Bharat 2047” initiative a “national mission,” President Droupadi Murmu on Friday called for “proactive and enthusiastic participation” of all Indians, including the diaspora, for achieving it.

In her valedictory address at the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in Bhubaneswar, where she also presented the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman, Murmu said India’s vision for a Viksit Bharat aligned with its growing stature on the world stage, particularly as a leading voice for the Global South.

This vision was about creating an ecosystem that not only meets India’s needs but also contributes to global well-being, she said,



President Droupadi Murmu, Odisha Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi in Bhubaneswar. PTI

adding, “The Indian diaspora is an integral part of this vision.”

“Your global presence gives you a unique perspective and your achievements place you in a position to significantly contribute to the realization of a developed India,” the President said. “The diaspora, whether through entrepreneurship, philanthropy, or knowledge-sharing, will play an essential role in

achieving this vision,” she added.

On safeguarding the interests of Indians abroad, she said the government has launched a number of missions to assist those in distress. She also praised the Odisha government’s decision to appoint a nodal minister to engage with the diaspora for projects and investments.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said India at present

approaches the world with the twin perspectives of “India First” and “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (world is one family)”. “When India progresses, so does one-sixth of humanity. When we do global good, our own people stand equally to gain. This is now an era of greater inter-dependence.. In many ways, it is the diaspora that will help define our image as a resurgent civilization,” he said.

‘Event a powerful expression of India’s commitment to strengthening ties with her children across world’

IN HER virtual address as the chief guest at the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention in Bhubaneswar, Trinidad and Tobago President **CHRISTINE CARLA KANGALOO** called herself “a daughter of the Indian diaspora, a national of Trinidad and Tobago, and a citizen of the world.”

In an exclusive email interview with **DIVYA A** from Port of Spain, Kangaloo, who was among the recipients of this year’s Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards, talks about the India-Trinidad ties, the role of the Indian diaspora, and how she regrets missing out on her first-ever India visit. Edited excerpts:

India was one of the first countries to establish diplomatic relations with Trinidad and Tobago (T&T), which gained independence from the United Kingdom in 1962. What do you think about the trajectory of the relationship so far?

Trinidad and Tobago’s ties with India go back well before our countries established diplomatic relations in 1962: they go back to May 30, 1845, when the first ship — the *Fatel Razack* — carrying 225 Indian indentured workers reached the shores of

Trinidad, then a British colony. For 72 unbroken years thereafter, more than 1.43 lakh Indians came from states such as Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal, reshaping Trinidad and Tobago’s social, demographic, economic and cultural landscape forever.

Our countries, therefore, share unerasable historical ties and the relationship has always been extremely close and cordial. Our trade relations are now robust, with T&T exporting iron, steel, ammonia, aromatic bitters and other products to India, while importing pharmaceuticals, cashew nuts, fabrics and diamonds. And we also enjoy a rich cultural cooperation.

India’s kindness and generosity to the people of Trinidad and Tobago are legendary and have been shown time and again, including during the pandemic, when 40,000 doses of Covid-19 vaccines arrived here as a result of the gracious response from Prime Minister Narendra Modi to a letter sent by our PM.

How do you view the diaspora event (Pravasi Bharatiya Divas)?

In hosting the event, the Indian government and the peo-



ple give powerful expression to their commitment to strengthening the ties between India and all of her children throughout the world.

It is impossible to overstate how uplifting it is to members of the Indian diaspora to know that the country of our origin carves out for us this sacred space during the convention to reach across the seas, to find us in whatever parts of the world we are, and to embrace us.

Vaishnaw: 50 Amrit Bharat trains to be manufactured at ICF in 2 yrs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHENNAI, JANUARY 10

THE MINISTRY of Railways has added 12 major improvements on the Amrit Bharat Version 2.0 trains including modular toilets and emergency braking system and 50 such trains will be manufactured at the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) over the next two years, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said Friday.

The Union Minister, who inspected the ICF here, told reporters: “Very happy to see the Amrit Bharat Version 2.0 (being



Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw

manufactured here). As you can recall, the Amrit Bharat Version 1.0 was launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi last January 2024 and based on the experience in the last one year, many improvements have been made in the Amrit Bharat Version 2.0.”

Sharing some of the salient

features that have been improved in the Amrit Bharat trains, Vaishnaw said, “12 major improvements have been done in the entire train”.

“Semi-automatic couplets, modular toilets, chair pillars and partitions, emergency talk back feature, emergency brake system, continuous lighting system like Vande Bharat trains, seats and berths with new ergonomic design have been improved,” he said.

He said the entire pantry car in the Amrit Bharat Version 2.0 trains have been built using a new design.

Won’t defame CM Sawant’s wife: AAP’s Sanjay Singh to Goa court

PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA
PANAJI, JANUARY 10

AAP LEADER Sanjay Singh on Friday told a court in Goa that he would not make any defamatory statements against BJP leader Sulakshana Sawant, the wife of Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, until January 24 or until Singh files a reply to her plea against him, whichever is later.

The submission was made in connection with a defamation plea filed by Sulakshana Sawant alleging Singh made defamatory



AAP leader Sanjay Singh

statements during a press conference by accusing her of involvement in a “cash-for-jobs scam”.

Sulakshana sought an injunction restraining Singh from making public statements maligning her and sought Rs 100 crore in damages. The plaintiff also asked that the AAP leader be

restrained from republishing or sharing on social media the video and transcripts of the press conference.

The matter was listed before the court of Adhoc Civil Judge Senior Division in Bicholim, North Goa, on Friday.

Singh’s counsel, advocate S Bodke, also sought time to file a written statement and reply to the temporary injunction application. The matter has been fixed for January 24.

In the “cash-for-jobs” scam, Goa Police filed at least 32 FIRs and made 44 arrests as of last month.

H-1B: Trump set to take office, Indians in US say ‘cautiously optimistic’

SUJIT BISOIYI
BHUBANESWAR, JANUARY 10

AMID THE debate and a surge in backlash against H-1B Visa professionals by far-right groups in the US, the Indian diaspora there supported the visa programme saying it brings skilled workers from across the globe.

At the 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in Bhubaneswar, members of the diaspora that *The Indian Express* spoke to say they are waiting for policies of the new administration under President-elect Donald Trump to be clearer. Trump will be sworn in as the 47th President of the US on January 20 — his second term.

Trump’s re-election in November brought renewed focus on the programme, with two groups of his supporters battling over whether stricter immigration controls were needed.

Sharad Lakhanpal, a Lucknow-based doctor who has been living in the US for the last 40 years and is now an American citizen, said the business class there need the

H-1B Visas and highly-skilled Indians. “Though it’s a political issue and we have a new president — Trump — coming, we have to see what his policies will be. don’t think Trump’s tenure will be averse to Indians as he has already appointed many Indians in high-level positions like Vivek Ramaswamy in the newly created Department of Government Efficiency,” said Lakhanpal.

Sarada Panda, an Odia living in Dallas for last 25 years — vice-president at CitiBank — believes the business class there needs the Indian workforce. “Maybe that is why there is a lobby there to increase the number of H-1B visas,” he said. Currently, there is an annual cap of 65,000 visas/year under the programme, with an extra 20,000 available to those with a master’s degree or higher from a US university.

Hariaarjun Patro, a Dallas-based businessman who is from Odisha, said, “The US government has been supporting professionals from outside countries like India and other countries. It should be continued.”

Odisha plans to map blue-collar workers who migrated abroad

Bhubaneswar: The Odisha government has been planning to conduct a census to find out the number of blue-collar workers who migrated to different countries to engage in various sectors, said officials.

“We are planning to have a census to map how many of the blue-collar workers from Odisha are going abroad... This is aimed to help us plan for them... various activities,” said Manoj Ahuja, the Chief Secretary of Odisha.

During a media interaction after the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas concluded, Ahuja said the state government has been trying to upgrade skills of the blue-collar workers.

Though there is no official figure, sources said over one lakh plumbers from Odisha’s Kendrapara district are working in various countries. Kendrapara is known to be the state’s plumber capital.

Creating a database of the workers is crucial amid reports of exploitation faced by them including their employers not paying them wages, detaining them in adverse conditions and snatching their database. **ENS**

Ram Mandir replica vs Babri Masjid copy: Game of one-upmanship in Bengal

RAVIK BHATTACHARYA
KOLKATA, JANUARY 10

A MONTH after a Hindu outfit backed by local BJP leaders in West Bengal’s Murshidabad district announced the construction of a replica of the Ayodhya Ram Temple, efforts to go through with the plan have picked up pace.

A Trust for the construction of the temple was formed on Wednesday, with its president saying that the “bhoomi puja” ceremony would be held on January 22, exactly a year since the temple in Ayodhya was consecrated. TMC MLA Humayun Kabir, whose comments about building a Babri Masjid in

Murshidabad sparked the BJP and Hindu Right’s initial response about building the temple, meanwhile, said a Trust for the construction of the mosque would be set up in February.

These developments come two months after communal tension flared up in Beldanga in Murshidabad forcing the administration to impose prohibitory orders and an Internet ban. According to the 2011 Census, Muslims make up 66.27% of the population in Murshidabad district, which borders Bangladesh.

“The ‘bhoomi puja’ will take place on January 22. We have identified the land and will shortly finalise it. Villagers will donate about 28 to 30 bighas of

land. However, we are not revealing the location right now. It will be a replica of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya. Though the structure will be exactly like the one in Ayodhya, the idols will reflect Bengali culture. Unlike in Ayodhya, the idol of Sri Ram will be accompanied by idols of Sri Laxman and Sita Maa. An idol of Durga Maa will also be there,” Ambikananda Maharaj, the president of the Bongiyu Ram Sevak Parishad Charitable Trust told *The Indian Express*. BJP spokesperson Debjit Sarkar is one of the vice-presidents of the Trust.

“The temple will also showcase Bengali culture and tradition. It hurts when a section of people say Ram is not a Bengali



Ambikananda Maharaj, leader of the Hindu outfit that wants to build the Ram Mandir in Murshidabad; (right) TMC MLA Humayun Kabir has called for building a copy of Babri Masjid.

god. We call on people of all castes and creeds to support us and visit the temple when the work is finished. We will also invite leaders of all political parties, be it Adhir Chowdhury or



Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee,” he added.

Last month, Humayun Kabir, the MLA from Bharatpur in Murshidabad, had spoken about building the Babri Masjid.

Kabir told *The Indian Express* that the Trust for the construction of the mosque would be floated in February and the foundation stone would be laid on December 6, the day in 1992 when Hindu kar sevaks razed the Babri Masjid in Ayodhya. The Ayodhya temple has been built at the site where the mosque once stood.

“The Trust will be formed by February. It will be a 300-member body that will plan and implement the construction of the Babri Masjid. It will be a replica of the Babri Mosque but on a smaller scale. We have seen a 12-bigha land. The mosque will come up on six bighas and a small hospital with a guest house will be built on the rest of

the land. We will lay the foundation stone on December 6 and the project is expected to be completed in three years, by 2029 (the time of the next Lok Sabha polls),” said Kabir, adding that the mosque would come up somewhere between Beldanga and Rejinagar.

Asked how the mosque would be funded, Kabir said, “Many people from across the districts are approaching me with donations. I will personally put in Rs 1 crore of my money after selling some land. I don’t think funds will be a problem.”

This is playing out at a time when TMC chairperson and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has attempted

to corner the BJP with its own brand of temple politics by expediting the Jagannath temple project in Digha, a coastal town in Purba Medinipur district.

“In a district where we are seeing demographic changes and hearing separatist voices, if Lord Ram stands guard, there is nothing better. If one wants to celebrate a foreign invader, it reflects that person’s mentality,” said BJP Rajya Sabha MP Samik Bhattacharya.

TMC state vice-president Jay Prakash Majumder said the mosque was Kabir’s personal initiative. “Anyone can build a temple and worship. However, since BJP leaders are involved one has to see whether it is another attempt at divisive politics.”



Government of Maharashtra

Directorate of Sports and Youth Services, Maharashtra State

Notice For Tender

Purchase Of Sports Science Centre Equipment & Providing Technical Manpower for Functioning of Sports Science Centre in Nagpur, Nashik, Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar & Kolhapur under Mission Lakshyavedh scheme

Directorate of Sports and Youth Services, Maharashtra State, Pune is inviting Request For proposals from interested Company/ Firm/LLP/Registered Trust through e-tender for Purchase of Sports Science Centre Equipment & Providing Technical Manpower for Functioning of Sports Science Centre in Nagpur, Nashik, Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar & Kolhapur under Mission Lakshyavedh scheme

For the detailed Tender document, interested bidders should visit <http://mahatenders.gov.in>. Tender submission would be online and the last date for submission of the proposals is 30th January 2025 upto 04.00 PM

Sd/-

Commissioner,

Sports & Youth Services, Pune

dgipr/2024-25/5563

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED

(Regd Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala)

Corporate Identity Number: U-40109PB2010SGC003813

Website: www.pspcl.in, (Contact No. 96461-07151)

Tender Inquiry No. 649/GHTP/EMC/SSMC-247

Dated: 09.01.2025

Dy. Chief Engineer/Electrical Maintenance Circle, Guru Hargobind Thermal Plant, Lehra Mohabbat, invites e-tender for Reclamation of Power Transformer Oil with LOW Resistivity & IFT (Inter-Facial Tension) at GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat as per detailed Scope of work mentioned in the technical specifications.

For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 14/01/2025 from 11:00 am onwards.

Note: Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

No. 40675/PSPCL

GHTP 03/25

INDIAN RAILWAYS

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (BHARAT SARKAR)

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAIL MANTRALAYA)

(RAILWAY BOARD)

No. 2023/RS(E)/TM/3

New Delhi, Dated: 09.01.2025

CORRIGENDUM No. 3

Sub : E-open Global Tender No: 2023-TM-3 closing on 18.02.2025 for Design, Manufacture, Supply, Testing & Commissioning of 138 nos. of 'Dynamic Track Stabilizer (DTS)' along with Training of Indian Railway personnel and 3 years post warranty AMC.

Some of the terms and conditions of the subject tender have been modified and uploaded on IREPS website. The prospective bidders are requested to visit website: <https://ireps.gov.in> for more details.

129/2025

Director, Railway Stores (F)

(Railway Board)

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED

(Regd Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)

Corporate Identity Number: U-40109PB32010SGC003813

Website: www.pspcl.in, (Contact No. 96461-17659)

Tender Enquiry No. 1749/MAMC/O&M/PC-2624

Dated: 10.01.2025

Chief Engineer/O&M (P&P Cell-II), GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat-151111 Distt. Bathinda invites E-tender for the Procurement of Hydrogen Gas., Quantity as per NIT. For detailed NIT & tender Specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 10-01-2025 at 17:00 hrs. onwards.

Note: Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

No. 40680/PSPCL

GHTP 04/25

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement systems

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. No.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Closing Date
01	18241073	CONTINUOUS PAPER COMPUTER STATIONERY	3750 REAM	03-02-25
02	19242115	GEAR WHEEL 65 TEETH	66 NOS	05-02-25
03	14250835	REFRIGERANT R-407C,	13264 KGS	06-02-25
04	77246604	37 DEGREE ANGLE PROBE	288 NOS	10-02-25

Note : 1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for details. 2. No Manual offer will be entertained.

Tender Notice No. 88/2024-2025 Dated:- 10.01.2025

131/2025

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Applications are invited under scheme of

'One Station One Product' for setting up

A. Total Nine (09) Stall at: Gurgaon, Subzi Mandi, Palwal, Delhi, Delhi Cantt, Panipat, Meerut City, Meerut Cantt. & Delhi Shahdara stations.

B. Total Twenty Two (22)Trolley at: Delhi Sarai Rohilla, Okhla, Faridabad New Town, Tughlakabad, Ballabhgarh, Khekra, Noli, Baghpat Road, Baraut, Nangloi, Shakurbasti, Julana, Sampla, Sakoti Tanda, Delhi Safdurganj, Shivaji Bridge, Tilak Bridge, Muradnagar, Deoband, Khatauli, Partapur & Modinagar stations.

• The period for setting up of stall at Gurgaon, Subzi Mandi, Meerut Cantt. stations per spell will be 90 days.

• The period for setting up to Trolley at stations mentioned in (B) above will be 30 days per spell.

• Registration fee for NSG 1, 2,3 & 4 stations will be charged @ rate of Rs. 2000 for each spell of thirty days and for NSG 5 (Meerut Cantt. Khekra, Baghpat Road, Okhla, Julana, Sampla, Khatauli, Shivaji Bridge, Tilak Bridge, Muradnagar, Deoband & Delhi Safdurganj) & NSG 6 (Sakoti Tanda & Partapur) registration fee will be charged @ rate of Rs. 1000 for each spell of thirty days.

• The following are the eligibility criteria for participant viz.

a) Holder of Artisans/Weaver ID card issued by Development Commissioner Handicraft, Development Commissioner Handloom, or by the requisite state/Central Government Authority.

b) Individual artisans/weavers/craftsmen enrolled/ registered with Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED)/National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC)/Khadi/Village Industries Commission (KVIC)/ associated with Social Organizations, State Govt. bodies and associated with registered micro enterprises on the Udyam Portal of the Ministry of MSME and NGOs etc.

c) Self Help Groups registered with PMEGP (Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme).

d) Marginalized or weaker sections of society.

e) No separate logo shall be allowed.

• The applicant will have to submit an undertaking to the Station Superintendent indicating that no activity would be undertaken to adversely affect the train operations, passenger safety and image of the Railways.

• Application should be addressed and can be submitted to Station Superintendent at station by the applicant till 15:00 hrs of 15.01.2025, which will be opened on same day.

• Station Superintendent will make priority roster of all approved participants and priority will be established through a draw of lots conducted at the station in the presence of all approved applicants by the Station Manager /Sectional CMI and nominated Finance representative.

• The One Station One Product scheme shall be governed by Railway Board's Commercial Circular No. 12 of 2022 and 09 of 2023 respectively available at [website:www.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.indianrailways.gov.in) & URL: https://indianrailways.gov.in/railwayboard/uploads/directorate/traffic_comm/Comm_Cir_2022/OSOP%20Policy.pdf & https://indianrailways.gov.in/railwayboard/uploads/directorate/traffic_comm/Comm_Cir_2023/CC%20%2009%20of%202023.pdf

• For any queries applicant may contact Station Superintendent or CMI of the respective stations.

124/2025

Serving Customers With A Smile

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता का कार्यालय

ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, हरनौत (नालन्दा)

शुद्धि पत्र

ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, हरनौत से निर्गत निविदा प्रकाशन सूचना संख्या- RWD/PMGSY/ET/2024-25/01 जिसका PR No.- 015585 (RWD)2024-25 है की निविदा की अंतिम तिथि अपरिहार्य कारणवश आगे बढ़ाई जाती है। जिसकी विवरणी निम्न प्रकार है :-

निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या	PR No	पूर्व निर्धारित अंतिम तिथि	संशोधित अंतिम तिथि	Period For Downloading of Tender Document	Date Time & Place of Pre-Bid Meeting	Last Date & Time for uploading tender Document by bidder	Date, Time for online opening of Technical Bid
RWD/PMGSY/ET/2024-25/01	015585 (RWD) 2024-25	10-01-2025	31-01-2025	23.12.2024 To 31.01.2025	28.01.2025 From 15:00 Hrs, at RWD Circle, Nalanda	31.01.2025 Time 15:00 Hrs.	31.01.2025 Time 15:30 Hrs.

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता

ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग,

कार्य प्रमण्डल, हरनौत

PR. No.16744 (RWD) 2024-25

नशे की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।

HARYANA TOURISM

Come, holiday with us !

E-AUCTION NOTICE

E-Bids are invited for licensing out Oasis Fast Food at Pinjore of Haryana Tourism Corporation Ltd. The e-auction will be held on 21st January, 2025 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. Last date for submission of documents is 20th January, 2025 till 11:00 am. For enquiry please contact concerned DDO of the complex (Sh. Anil Kumar, AGM M. No.94666-36541).

E-Auction documents along with details of activity are available at the website of HTC i.e. www.haryanatourism.gov.in as well as on NIC portal <http://eauction.gov.in> for online participation. Managing Director, HTC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without assigning any reasons.

ISSUED BY

MANAGING DIRECTOR

NO 31656/HR

स्थानिक अभियन्ता का कार्यालय

भवन प्रमंडल, नई दिल्ली

अति-अल्पकालीन कोटेशन आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या 05/2024-25

बिहार भवन, बिहार निवास, चाणक्यपुरी नई दिल्ली हेतु निम्नलिखित कार्यों के लिए बिहार राज्य अंतर्गत भवन प्रमंडल में कार्यरत चतुर्थी श्रेणी में निबंधित संवेदक बिहार लोक निर्माण विभाग में होने वाले कार्यों के लिए मुहर बंद कोटेशन आमंत्रित की जाती है।

1. विज्ञापनदाता का नाम एवं पता :- स्थानिक अभियन्ता, भवन प्रमंडल, नई दिल्ली।

2. परिमाण विपत्र के बिक्री की तिथि :- 23-01-2025 (अपराह्न 1:00 बजे तक)

3. निविदा प्राप्त करने की तिथि एवं समय :- 24-01-2025 (अपराह्न 3:00 बजे तक)

4. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :- 24-01-2025 (अपराह्न 3:30 बजे तक)

5. परिमाण विपत्र बिक्री का स्थान : (1) स्थानिक अभियन्ता कार्यालय बिहार निवास चाणक्यपुरी, नई दिल्ली। (2) सहायक अभियन्ता कार्यालय बिहार सदन, द्वारका नई दिल्ली। (3) अंशक्षण अभियन्ता कार्यालय दक्षिण बिहार अंचल, भवन निर्माण विभाग बिहार पटना।

6. निविदा प्राप्ति का स्थान :- स्थानिक अभियन्ता कार्यालय बिहार निवास चाणक्यपुरी, नई दिल्ली। कार्य का विवरणी:-

SI. No

Name Of Work

01 AMC work of Split A.C and Window A.C at Bihar Bhawan and Bihar Niwas, New Delhi for the year 2025-26

02 AMC work of Plumbing system, cleaning of sewer line and grease chamber of Bihar Bhawan and Bihar Niwas, New Delhi for the year 2025-26

03 AMC work of Pest and Rodent Control at Bihar Bhawan, New Delhi for the year 2025-26

04 AMC work of fire fighting and fire Extinguisher at Bihar Bhawan and Bihar Niwas, New Delhi for the year 2025-26

05 AMC with parts of Sensor Lock at Bihar Bhawan and Bihar Niwas, New Delhi for the year 2025-26

06 AMC work of R.O System at Bihar Bhawan, New Delhi for the year 2025-26

07 AMC work of CCTV Camera at Bihar Bhawan and Bihar Niwas, New Delhi for the year 2025-26

अधिक जानकारी हेतु संबंधित उप स्थानिक अभियन्ता एवं अधोहस्ताक्षरी कार्यालय में संपर्क करेंगे विशेष शर्तों, मद् एवं मात्रा की विस्तृत जानकारी हेतु सूचना पट्ट या अधोहस्ताक्षरी कार्यालय से संपर्क करें।

स्थानिक अभियन्ता

भवन प्रमंडल, नई दिल्ली

विस्तृत जानकारी www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

अपने जीवन साथी के प्रति वफादार रहें,

किसी अनजान स्त्री/पुरुष से असुरक्षित यौन संबंध से बचें।

HARYANA TOURISM

Come, holiday with us !

E-AUCTION NOTICE

E-Bids are invited for licensing out Parking at Yadavindra Gardens Tourist Complex, Pinjore of Haryana Tourism Corporation Ltd. The e-auction will be held on 21st January, 2025 (11:00 am to 4:00 pm). Last date for submission of documents is 20th January, 2025 till 11:00 am For enquiry please contact concerned DDO of the complex (Sh. Anil Kumar, AGM, Tourist Complex Pinjore. M. No.94666-36541).

E-Auction documents along with details of activity are available at the website of HTC i.e. www.haryanatourism.gov.in as well as on NIC portal <http://eauction.gov.in> for online participation. Managing Director, HTC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without assigning any reasons.

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MANAGING DIRECTOR

NO 31657/HR

"IMPORTANT"

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GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU

DEPARTMENT OF INTEGRATED CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

No.1, Dr. M.G.R.Salai, Taramani, Chennai - 600 113.

Notification for supply of Unisex ready-made uniforms to the pre-school children attending anganwadi centres in 434 Project of Tamil Nadu.

e-TENDER NOTICE Ref. No.8678 / NC-3 / 2024 Dated 09.01.2025

Bids are invited from the manufacturers / dealers for the supply of Unisex Ready-made uniforms to the pre-school children attending anganwadi centres in 434 projects of Tamil Nadu under the department of Integrated Child Development Services. The details are available in the e-procurement portal- <https://tntenders.gov.in>

DIPR/136/TENDER/2025

Director cum Mission Director

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता का कार्यालय

पूर्वी तटबंध प्रमण्डल, कोपरिया

कोपरिया

शुद्धि पत्र

जल संसाधन विभाग, बिहार अन्तर्गत कार्यपालक अभियन्ता पूर्वी तटबंध प्रमंडल, कोपरिया के पत्रांक 01 कैम्प गया दिनांक 26.12.2024 द्वारा निर्गत अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या 02SBD / 2024-25 जिसका पी0आर0 रा10-15866 (WRD) 2024-25 है, में निम्नलिखित संशोधन किया जाता है।

विवरण	निर्गत निविदा अनुसार	सुधारोपरांत
निर्गत निविदा के अंग्रेजी में अनु सं0 02 का कार्य	A.E work for spur K.K. 116.20 & spur K.K. 117.15 of E.K.E. (Agenda no EKE/K/02/2025)	A.E work for spur K.M. 116.20 & spur K.M. 117.15 of E.K.E. (Agenda no. EKE/K/02/2025)
निर्गत निविदा के अंग्रेजी में क्रमांक 33	According to the letter No-2175 Dt-06.06.2017 of Joint Secretary Engineering W.R.D, Patna- (i)It is mandatory for the bidder to protect and control the work site of A.E. work /Flood protection work during flood-2024 by flood fighting work, in case of erosion (ii)The bidder will liable to storage of sand, filter material and sand filled E.C. Bag/ Geo-bags/Mega Geo-bags in different points of said reach as per instruction of concerned C.E/S.E/E.E during flood period-2024 for flood fighting works(iii) Related to the above Para-36 (i) & (ii) the bidder have submit an Affidavit regarding above consent as-	According to the letter No-2175 Dt-06.06.2017 of Joint Secretary Engineering W.R.D, Patna- (i)It is mandatory for the bidder to protect and control the work site of A.E. work /Flood protection work during flood-2025 by flood fighting work, in case of erosion (ii)The bidder will liable to storage of sand, filter material and sand filled E.C. Bag/ Geo-bags/Mega Geo-bags at different points of said reach as per instruction of concerned C.E/S.E/E.E during flood period-2025 for flood fighting works(iii) Related to the above Para-36 (i) & (ii) the bidder have submit an Affidavit regarding above consent as-
निर्गत निविदा के हिन्दी में क्रमांक 33 के (i)	“(i) I will responsible to protect/control to the work site executed by me through A.E/ Flood protection work before flood-2024 in case of erosion during flood period-2024. (ii) During flood period-2024, I will also responsible for storage of sand, Filter material and sand filled E.C. bags/Geo-bags/ Mega Geo-bags at different points of said reach as instructed by the concerned C.E/S.E/E.E during flood-2024.” This Affidavit must be submitted in each tender in original	“(i) I will responsible to protect/control to the work site executed by me through A.E/ Flood protection work before flood-2025 in case of erosion during flood period-2025. (ii) During flood period-2025, I will also responsible for storage of sand, Filter material and sand filled E.C. bags/Geo-bags/ Mega Geo-bags at different points of said reach as instructed by the concerned C.E/S.E/E.E during flood-2025.” This Affidavit must be submitted in each tender in original
निर्गत निविदा के हिन्दी में क्रमांक 33 के (ii)	बाढ़-2025 के पूर्व कटाव निरोधक/बाढ़ सुरक्षात्मक कार्यों के कार्य स्थलों पर बाढ़ अग्रधि-2024 में कटाव की स्थिति में कटाव को नियंत्रित करने/स्थल के सुरक्षा बाढ़ संघर्षात्मक कार्य करने की जिम्मेवारी मेरी होगी।	बाढ़-2025 के पूर्व कटाव निरोधक/बाढ़ सुरक्षात्मक कार्यों के कार्य स्थलों पर बाढ़ अग्रधि-2025 में कटाव को स्थिति में कटाव को नियंत्रित करने/स्थल के सुरक्षा बाढ़ संघर्षात्मक कार्य करने की जिम्मेवारी मेरी होगी।
निविदा की अन्य सभी सूचनाएं एवं शर्तें यथावत होंगे।	PR- 16767 (W R D) 2024-25	कार्यपालक अभियन्ता पूर्वी तटबंध प्रमंडल, कोपरिया।

नशे की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA

TENDER NOTICE

SR. No.

NAME OF BOARD/CORP/ AUTH

NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER

OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIMES)

AMOUNT / END (APPROX.) IN RUPEES

WEBSITE OF THE BOARD/CORP/AUTH

NOBAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL

1

HARYANA POLICE HOUSING CORPORATI ON PANCHKULA

CONSTRUCTION OF STP (SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT) ALONG WITH NEW SEWERAGE LINES AND STORM WATER LINES IN B.S.E.H, BHIWANI (PROVIDING WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM AND SEWERAGE SYSTEM) + 5 WORKS

09.01.2025 16.01.2025

30.99 CRORES

www.hphc.org.in

9463200487 dphpanckulaj@yahoo.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.etenders.hry.nic.in

No 31634/HR

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, PWD (BUILDING)

ASSAM, CHANDMARI, GUWAHATI-3

No.CE/TB-VII/02/2025/2

PRESS NOTICE FOR TENDER

The Addl.Chief Engineer, P.W.D (Planning), Assam on behalf of the Governor of Assam invites bids from Govt. registered eligible Contractors having experience in similar nature of works for the following work.

Details of bid may be seen at e-procurement portal www.assamtenders.gov.in. The bidders must be enrolled in www.assamtenders.gov.in

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Approx Value of Work (Bid Value)	Completion Period	Bid Security	Cost of Bid (in Rs)
1	Construction of Co-District Office at Haj Bhawan at Jalukbari, Guwahati, Assam	Rs. 2,28,92,650.00	12 (Twelve) Months	Rs. 4,57,853.00 for General category, and Rs. 2,28,927.00 for Reserved category	Rs. 4580.00

N.B:-
1. Value of work may vary according to the detail NIT.
2. The Press Notice will form a part of the Bidding Document.

Janasanyog/C/6493/24/11-JAN-25

Addl. Chief Engineer, P.W.D. Planning Chandmari, Guwahati-3

OFFICE OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

ASSAM STATE TRANSPORT CORPORATION,

PALTANBAZAR, PARIBAHAN BHAWAN, GUWAHATI-781008

No. ASTC/CE/1048/2023/618

PRESS NOTICE FOR TENDER

The Managing Director, ASTC, Paltanbazar, Assam hereby invites request for proposal from the eligible contractor registered under State PWD(B)/ CPWD category having experience in similar nature of works for Construction of EV Charging Station belonging to Assam State Transport Corporation within the State of Assam. Complete RFP documents shall be available at Assam e-procurement portal website i.e.www.assamtenders.gov.in. Intending contractor shall register in e-procurement portal to participate through e-tender process. The last date and time of online submission proposal is on 2.00 PM of 03/02/2025.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Approx Value of Work	Completi on Period	Bid Security (2% General, and 1% for Reserved Category)	Cost of RFP Document (including GST)
1	Construction of EV Charging Station at ISBT.Betkuchi Station	Rs. 2,73,26,143.00	2(Two) Months	Rs. 5,46,523.00 (For General) Or Rs 2,73,261.00 (For Reserved Category)	Rs. 5,000.00

N.B.:- Value of work may vary according to the detail NIT.

The Press Notice will form a part of the Bidding Document.

Managing Director, ASTC, Paltanbazar

JANASANYOG/CF/3211/24/11-JAN-25

epaper.indianexpress.com

BRIEFLY

GUJARAT
HMPV infection in 8-year-old boy confirmed

Himmatnagar: An eight-year-old boy from Gujarat's Sabarkantha district has contracted human metapneumovirus infection, taking the number of HMPV cases in the state to three, an official said on Friday. The boy, who belongs to a family of farm labourers from Prantij taluka, was found positive for HMPV in a test run by a private laboratory but health authorities had sent his blood samples to a government lab for confirmation, he said. The child, who is currently admitted to a private hospital in Himmatnagar town, had been considered a suspected HMPV case until now. **PTI**

CHHATTISGARH
Four Maoists with explosives held in Bijapur

Bijapur: Four Naxalites were arrested and explosives were seized from them in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district on Friday, a police official said. "They were apprehended by the local police and Central Reserve Police Force between Murdanda and Timpapur under Awapalli police station limits during road opening and security duty exercise. A tiffin bomb, cordex wire, beer bottle bomb, electric wire, battery and other Maoist materials were recovered from them," the official said. **PTI**

MADHYA PRADESH
Crocodiles found during IT searches

Bhopal: Crocodiles were rescued on Friday from a house in Sagar district in Madhya Pradesh by forest department officials who were tipped off about the presence of the reptiles by Income Tax personnel raiding the place. Confirming the development, MP Head of Forest Force Aseem Shrivastava told PTI that a case has been registered under the Wildlife Protection Act in this regard. **PTI**

RAJASTHAN
Tutor found dead, suicide suspected

Kota: A 25-year-old coaching tutor was found dead in his rented house in Kota, with police suspecting that he may have died by consuming some poisonous substance. The deceased has been identified as Vivek Sharma, a native of Bharatpur. He had been living in Kota for the last four years and worked as a tutor at various coaching institutes of the city, officials said. **PTI**

Family of five killed in Meerut home, 3 detained as cops probe property angle

NEETIKA JHA
MEERUT, JANUARY 10

ON WEDNESDAY evening, 35-year-old Asma was distributing laddoos to her neighbours — construction was almost complete on their new one-room home and the family of five would shift soon.

The next night, Asma, her husband Mohammad Moin (38), and their three minor daughters were found dead at their rented one-room house in Meerut. Moin's body was tied to a bed while those of his wife and children — aged eight, four and one — were stuffed inside the storage compartment of their bed.

The motive, according to police, was likely a property dispute. Police on Friday detained three suspects — Moin's stepbrothers and a sister-in-law —



The Meerut locality where the bodies were found. *PTI*

and picked up another relative for questioning.

"We have detained three of them, but the main accused, who seems to have planned the entire crime, is missing. He went

missing once the matter came out in the open," said Meerut Senior Superintendent of Police Vipin Tada.

"Moin had recently bought a piece of land in Meerut. For now,

our probe says this could have been the reason for their death," he said.

According to neighbours, Moin's family had shifted to their rented house in Meerut around two months ago and were waiting to shift to their own house that was being constructed 50 metres away.

"We suspect whoever killed them had planned to transfer the body to some other place, but that could not be done," said an officer — pointing to the way the bodies were packed in plastic bags.

Neighbours say that Moin, a mason, had shifted to Meerut from Uttarakhand's Roorkee. "He came across as a nice man, but did not talk much to others," said Ehsan Ali, 60.

Ali said he had often seen the children play outside but never saw visitors. "Even on Thursday,

due to the winter cold, most of us were indoors. We heard no scream, no yelling from their house".

The deaths came to light when another of Moin's brothers, Saleem, arrived at the house and found the door locked from the outside. Suspecting something was amiss, he informed the police.

There are around 50 houses in the area where Moin's family stays, most of them small and single-storied. Most residents are small-time labourers or vegetable and fruit vendors. The roads are pockmarked with pot-holes and puddles.

On Friday, most of the local residents stayed indoors. Among those who peeped out of their windows and doors was a common refrain: "How did five people get killed but we saw no one?"

Assam tells police to act against finfluencer over ‘misinformation’

SUKRITA BARUAH
GUWAHATI, JANUARY 10

THE ASSAM government on Friday directed the state police to take "appropriate action" against financial influencer — or finfluencer — Abhishek Kar, accusing him of "spreading misinformation" about Assam in a podcast on YouTube.

Assam Police chief G P Singh confirmed to The Indian Express that the state's Crime Investigation Department (CID) has been asked to take "lawful action" against Kar.

A clip from a recent YouTube podcast in which Kar was a guest was flagged by the Office of the Chief Minister on Friday evening. The clip was shared by multiple Assam-based social media platforms.

"A video from a YouTube channel, named Riya Upreti, is in circulation where an individual named Abhishek Kar is seen making unacceptable comments on Assam's history and traditions. Appropriate action may be initiated against the said individual for spreading misinformation," read a post on X by the official handle of the Chief Minister of Assam's Office, tagging the Assam Police.

In the clip, Kar can be heard



Abhishek Kar had made the comments on a YouTube podcast flagged by the CMO

talking about Mayong village in Assam's Morigaon district.

He could also be heard claiming that the women there have such power "that you go there as a person, they can convert you into a goat or any other animal, and then at night, turn you into a person again and have sambhog with you. Why? Because there are a lot of tantric practises..."

The Mayong region in Central Assam has long been associated with mysticism and 'magic' practices, but these are largely centred on folk medicine.

Abhishek Kar has his own YouTube channel, with 1.86 million subscribers, in which he uploads videos giving advice on the stock market, trading, finance and business. He has 2.9 million followers on Instagram.

Gujarat: Class 3 girl dies of suspected cardiac arrest

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, JANUARY 10

AN EIGHT-YEAR-OLD girl collapsed and died within minutes due to suspected cardiac arrest on Friday morning at a private school in Ahmedabad. Police are probing the incident to ascertain the exact cause of death.

Gargi Tushar Ranpara, a Class 3 student, arrived at schools as usual and climbed the stairs to her classroom on the first floor.

Within minutes, CCTV footage from the school showed, she sat on a chair in the corridor. "Within moments, she collapsed.

Our teachers immediately administered CPR and rushed her to the nearest hospital," the school said in a statement.

School authorities said that she was alright when she arrived at the nearby Zyodus Hospital. "Despite their efforts, the doctors informed us that she suffered a cardiac arrest and was pronounced dead shortly after arriving at the hospital. The hospital authorities informed the police and they have already started their investigation.

Senior police officials visited the school campus," the school's executive director, Manan Choksi, told *The Indian Express*.

now, in his absence, I am... I earn around Rs 5,000 per month for the family by doing labour work at Vanakbara port. But that is not enough for us," Bharati told *The Indian Express*.

"My father-in-law Veljibhai is paralysed and my mother-in-law Dhaniben can't move much due to knee problems. I am facing a lot of problems to make both ends meet. Medicines for my father-in-law cost around Rs 7,000 per month. Due to shortage of money, we have stopped buying them," says the Diu resident.

Bharati has two children, seven-year-old son Tanish and three-year-old daughter Hansika. Tanish studies in Class I. Making an appeal to the Centre, she said, "It is my request to the Indian Government and Prime Minister



PRE-KUMBH MEET

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Friday, ahead of the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj which begins Jan 13. *@myogiadityanath*

Pune BPO murder: NCW forms panel, highlights inaction by onlookers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PUNE, JANUARY 10

Days after a 28-year-old accountant at a BPO firm in Pune was hacked to death in plain view by her colleague, the National Commission for Women (NCW) Friday constituted a fact-finding committee to investigate the matter while flagging the inaction by bystanders.

Shubhada Shankar Kodare was attacked by Krishna Satyanarayan Kanoja (30), at around 6.15 pm on January 7 in the parking lot of the company, WNS Global Services in Yerawada. Kanoja has been arrested.

NCW chairperson Vijaya Rahatkar tasked the fact-finding committee with "recommending necessary measures to prevent the recurrence of such crimes", stated a press release issued on Friday.

"The NCW has taken suo motu cognisance of a series of

disturbing incidents, including a recent case in Pune, where a woman working in a BPO company was tragically hacked to death by her colleague over a money dispute. The crime took place in the parking lot of the company, and despite the presence of several onlookers, none intervened to stop the attack, highlighting the growing phenomenon of the bystander effect," the statement said.

A minute-long video of the attack, shared widely on social media, shows the accused with a cleaver in the parking lot of the firm in the presence of dozens of bystanders — none of whom intervene during the attack. The video shows them overpowering Kanoja after the attack.

The police said colleagues of Kodare, a diabetic, took her to the hospital where she succumbed due to excessive bleeding.

A court has remanded Kanoja in police custody until January 13.

Court to CBI: Give three days' notice to Karti in case of arrest

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 10

A DELHI court Friday directed the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to give three days' notice to Congress MP Karti Chidambaram in case his arrest is required in the fresh corruption case lodged against him by the agency. "...the investigating agency shall give three days written notice prior to the applicant in case his arrest is required after he joins the investigation of the case upon return to the country on 12.01.2025," said Special Judge Kaveri Baweja.

The agency has accused Karti of receiving "suspicious" fund transfers from liquor company Diageo as well as venture capital fund Sequoia Capital.

The court was informed by the CBI that the anticipatory bail plea moved by Karti was premature and there was no apprehension of his arrest at this stage.

Pregnant woman dies, four others ill at Bengal hospital; saline under lens

SWEETY KUMARI
KOLKATA, JANUARY 10

A PREGNANT woman died on Friday at the Midnapore Medical College and Hospital in Paschim Medinipur, leading to protests from the family members who raised serious concerns about the quality of medical supplies. The woman, Mamni Das, had been admitted to the maternity ward earlier this week and her condition deteriorated after she and four other pregnant women were allegedly administered "defective" saline, sources said citing the family members.

The incident follows a series of alarming events at the hospital, sources said. Five pregnant women became "critically ill" after being administered saline, leading to allegations by family members that "expired" saline may have been used. Two of these patients were admitted to the Critical Care Unit (CCU) and one to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

"We have taken cognizance of the incident. The affected pregnant women are undergoing treatment. We have constituted a medical board to look into the cause," Medical College Superintendent Jayant Kumar Raut told mediapersons.

Later on Friday, the relatives of the deceased submitted a written complaint to the hospital authorities demanding an investigation into the matter.

A large police contingent has been deployed on the hospital

premises.

State Health Secretary Narayan Swarup Nigam said that a multidisciplinary team, comprising medical experts, cardiologists, and gynaecologists, would visit Medinipur on Saturday to look into the issue.

"There was a similar incident in Karnataka last year. The Centre and state governments are jointly looking into this. A team is going there for a thorough investigation," said Nigam.

Meanwhile, according to sources, a "primary" report on the incident has reached Swastha Bhawan. The report indicates that the saline used may have caused an allergic reaction after which the women's condition deteriorated, the sources said.

This incident echoes a similar tragedy in Karnataka last year, where four maternal deaths were linked to the use of "defective" Ringer's Lactated (RL) saline linked to a particular firm. Soon after, the West Bengal health department banned the use of saline linked to the firm.

Following an order from the Drugs Control authority, West Bengal's primary supplier of 14 essential medical items, Paschim Banga Pharmaceutical, was instructed to halt manufacturing until further notice. To ensure uninterrupted supply, the health department has authorised Pharma Impex Laboratories to supply seven of the 14 items at the same rate. This information has been updated in the Store Management Information System.

Days after relief in graft case, Shimla ED official arrested on extortion charge

JAGPREET SINGH SANDHU
PANCHKULA, JANUARY 10

TWO DAYS after securing relief from arrest in a CBI case from a special court in Mumbai, Enforcement Directorate (ED) Assistant Director Vishal Deep was on Friday arrested by the Panchkula Police on charges of extortion from Mumbai.

Deep was airlifted to Panchkula on Friday. He was produced before the Panchkula District Court and was remanded in four-day police custody.

The arrest comes after Panchkula resident Vikas Bansal filed a police complaint on January 4 in which he alleged that Deep, in collaboration with Rohit Gujjar, a purported member of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, threatened to kill him and his family unless they paid Rs 50 lakh.

Vikas, who is the brother of chairman of the Himalayan Group of Professional Institutions Rajnish Bansal, had earlier lodged a corruption complaint against Deep with the CBI.

According to the complaint, Vikas's nephew received a WhatsApp call on January 3 from a person who identified himself

as Rohit Gujjar. The caller allegedly threatened the family, warning them to stop pursuing the corruption case registered against Deep or face harm. The threats escalated with multiple calls and messages, including specific details about the family's residence in Kurukshetra, police said.

Vikas added in his complaint that his nephew got scared and switched off the phone and informed him. Thereafter, Rohit Gujjar allegedly started calling him multiple times, police said.

Vikas claimed that the extortion and threats were orchestrated on the instructions of Vishal Deep. Screenshots of the WhatsApp chats and audio recordings were submitted to the police. An FIR was registered against both Deep and Rohit under Sections 308 (2) and 308 (4) of BNS with the sector 14 police station in Panchkula.

Meanwhile, the Chandigarh office of the CBI has directed Vishal Deep to appear on January 11 at 3 pm for questioning over the corruption allegations. Deputy SP Prakash Chand is leading the investigation into the case.

On Wednesday, a court in Mumbai had directed the CBI to release Deep who was arrested in connection with a "scholarship scam" probe in Shimla.

‘Has not even seen son’s face’: Families of fishermen in Pak jail write to Centre

PARIMAL DABHI
AHMEDABAD, JANUARY 10

THE SOLE breadwinner of her house since August 2022, 32-year-old Bharati Solanki's attempts to fight back her tears fail as she bursts out, weeping profusely, while detailing her ordeal. The responsibility of the house fell on her after her husband Sanjay, who is among the 180-odd fishermen from Gujarat and Diu languishing in Pakistan jail, was caught by the Pakistan authorities in September 2022 while fishing near Okha, a news she was made aware of a few days later.

Fifty three of these fishermen have reportedly been in Pakistan jail since 2021.

Feeling helpless in establishing any communication with their husbands or sons jailed in Pakistan and struggling to run their homes in their absence, several women from Gujarat and Diu on Friday addressed a press conference in Ahmedabad seeking the Centre's intervention.

They have also written to External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to get the fishermen released and to get an Agreement on Consular Access, 2008 signed between India and Pakistan implemented.

"I spoke to him (Sanjay) over phone in August 2022. He was fishing somewhere near Okha. By September end, I got to know that he was caught by Pak authorities. He was the main breadwinner of the family. And

now, in his absence, I am... I earn around Rs 5,000 per month for the family by doing labour work at Vanakbara port. But that is not enough for us," Bharati told *The Indian Express*.

"My father-in-law Veljibhai is paralysed and my mother-in-law Dhaniben can't move much due to knee problems. I am facing a lot of problems to make both ends meet. Medicines for my father-in-law cost around Rs 7,000 per month. Due to shortage of money, we have stopped buying them," says the Diu resident.

Bharati has two children, seven-year-old son Tanish and three-year-old daughter Hansika. Tanish studies in Class I. Making an appeal to the Centre, she said, "It is my request to the Indian Government and Prime Minister



The family members of the fishermen at a press conference in Ahmedabad on Friday. *Bhupendra Rana*

Narendra Modi to get the fishermen repatriated. There are many women like me who have young

kids. There is no one to earn at their homes. How do we survive? How do we raise our children and

educate them? How do we (medically) treat our old in-laws?"

The press interaction was held under the aegis of Samast Machhimar Samaj Welfare Foundation (SMSWF).

Sharing her plight, another Diu resident Jayaben Chavda (50), said, "My son Alpesh (28) got married in 2020 and he was apprehended by Pakistan in 2021. His wife Arati was pregnant when Alpesh was caught. She has delivered a son and Alpesh has not even seen his son's face." "My husband is dead and I cannot work due to health issues. Arati is earning for the family by cooking meals for people... we now have a debt of over ₹1 lakh," she said.

SMSWF secretary Usmangani Sherasiya said, "According to the

rules in Pakistan, the punishment for apprehended fishermen for crossing border without passport is three months. Around 180 of them have served the punishment and their national verification is also completed. Still, the process to repatriate them has not been done... Since Covid pandemic, the process to communicate through letters also stopped."

"It is necessary to revive the India-Pakistan Judicial Committee on Prisoners. The last meeting of the committee was held in October 2013. The committee was functioning effectively as the members used to visit the other country and meet the prisoners," reads a letter to Jaishankar.

As part of the Agreement on Consular Access, Sherasiya said, on January 1 and July 1 every

year, India and Pakistan exchange a list of people in each other's custody and then the process to get them released starts. "January 1 has gone and the fishermen are still locked," he said.

He added that 82 fishermen from Pakistan are currently jailed in India.

Jatin Desai, Mumbai-based journalist who has been working for the community for years now and was present at the press conference, said, "Currently, there are 217 fishermen from India in Pakistan jail; 18 of them are from Maharashtra, 18 from Tamilnadu, one from Uttar Pradesh and the rest from Gujarat and Diu".

Gujarat Fisheries Minister Raghavji Patel could not be reached for his comments despite repeated attempts.

aptdc **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. 09/SE/Engg/APTDC/2024-25, Dt.10.10.2025

Name of the work : APTDC Limited is inviting bid for "Development of Enriching the fort and Gorge Experience in Gandikota, YSR Kadapa District" with estimate contract value of Rs.52,43,27,846/-. The details can be seen at 'e' procurement market place. i.e www.apecprocurement.gov.in, for further clarification please contact on 9848306437.

Sd/- Smt. K. Amrapali, IAS, Managing Director.

GREATER VISAKHAPATNAM MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
VISAKHAPATNAM

Tender Notice No: 2/2024-25/SE(MECH)/EE(MECH)/DB-II/GVMC DT:10.01.2025

Number of Works: 1, Value of Works: Rs.191.15 Crores

Tender Opening Date: 11.01.2025, Closing Date: 21.01.2025

Note: Further details at <http://www.tender.aeprocurement.gov.in>
O/o, the EE (Mech) Cell No: 9966333342

Note: For any other details required in respect of above Tender Notice, please contact E.E (MECH) @ www.tender.aeprocurement.gov.in in website

Sd/- Commissioner, GVMC, Visakhapatnam

EX-SERVICEMEN CONTRIBUTORY HEALTH SCHEME STATION HQ (ECHS CELL) HEMPUR EMPLOYMENT NOTICE Mob-9756428490 Email esmcellhempur@gmail.com				
1. ECHS INVITES APPLICATIONS TO ENGAGE FOLLOWING MEDICAL, PARA MEDICAL & NON MEDICAL STAFF ON CONTRACTUAL BASIS IN ECHS POLYCLINIC HEMPUR FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR RENEWABLE FOR ADDITIONAL PERIOD OF ONE YEAR/TILL ATTAINING THE MAXIMUM AGE SUBJECT TO PERFORMANCE OF CANDIDATES/OTHER CONDITIONS ACCORDING TO THE CRITERIA AS MENTIONED AGAINST EACH POST :-				
Appointment	Minimum Qualification	No of Vac	Fixed Remuneration	Reservation for ESM
OIC Polyclinic	Graduate Minimum 05 years work Experience in health care institutions or managerial positions	01	75000/-	100%
Medical Officer	MBBS, Work experience Minimum 05 years after internship Preferable additional qualification in medicine/surgery.	01	75000/-	60%
Dental Officer	BDS. Minimum 05 years work experience	01	75000/-	60% @
Dental Hygienist/ Dental Assistant	Diploma Holder in Dental Hyg/Class-1 DH/DORA Course (Armed Forces). Minimum 05 years experience in Dental Laboratory	01	28100/-	70%
Nursing Assistant (General)	GNM Diploma/Class I Nursing Assistants Course (Armed Forces). Minimum 5 years experience.	01	28100/-	70%
Pharmacist	B Pharmacy from a recognized institute or (1) 10+2 with science stream (Physics, Chemistry, Biology) from a recognized Board And (i) Approved Diploma in Pharmacy from an Institute recognized by the Pharmacy Council of India and registered as Pharmacist under the Pharmacy Act 1948. Work experience Minimum 03 years.	01	28100/-	70%
Lab Tech	(i) B.Sc. (Medical Lab Technology) Or (i) Matriculation/Higher Secondary/Senior Secondary (10+2) with Science from Recognized Institution/Board. (ii) Diploma in Medical Lab Technology from a Recognized institution. Minimum three years experience as a Lab Assistant in Medical Lab	01	28100/-	70%
CLERK	Graduate/Class 1 Clerical Trade (Armed Forces) Minimum five years work experience.	01	22500/-	70%
Driver	Education 8th Class, Class-1 MT driver (Armed Forces) Posses a civil driving license. Minimum 05 years experience as driver.	01	19700/-	70%
Chowkidar	Education Class 8th or GD trade for Armed Forces personnel	01	16800/-	70%
Female Attendant	Literate, Min 5 years work experience in Civil/Army Health institutions.	01	16800/-	70%
Peon	Education-Class 8th GD trade (Armed Forces). Minimum 5 years service	01	16800/-	70%
@ In case no ESM apply for the post, Civilian candidates who is already emp on the vac will be given extn on the satisfactory performance of the previous year and no fresh interviews will be conducted for second year				
2. For Terms & Conditions, Application Form & Remuneration . Kindly see our website www.echs.gov.in For additional details please contact Stn HQ (ECHS Cell) Hempur at tele No 9756428490 & E mail ID esmcellhempur@gmail.com. Also approach concerned ECHS Polyclinic for details. Preference will be given to the Ex-servicemen.				
3. Last date of receipt of application as per format given at our website. Application as per requisite format alongwith self attested photocopies of testimonials in support of education qualifications and work experiences will be submitted to OIC, Stn HQ (ECHS Cell) Hempur by 02 Feb 2025 in duplicate. Any application received after 1100 hours on 02 Feb 2025 will not be accepted.				
4. Interview date, Timing & Venue. Candidate must reach Stn HQ Hempur at 1000h on 10 Feb 2025 for interview to be held between 1030 h to 1345h. Candidates must bring all the original certificate / mark sheets/degree of 10th, 10+2, Graduation / post graduation / diploma / course, work experience and disc book, PPO, service records and 02 PP size colour photographs at the time of interview. NO TA/DA is admissible. Only candidates meeting the Qualitative Requirements may apply.				

 GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE 						
SR. NO	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	PWD B&R AMBALA CANTT	CONSTRUCTION OF ADDITIONAL 100 BEDDED HOSPITAL BLOCK (PHASE-II) IN THE CAMPUS OF LNJP HOSPITAL KURUKSHETRA (PDG. EI ONLY).	10.01.2025 23.01.2025	219.27 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0171-2630877 pwd-eeod-ambala@hry.nic.in
2	CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT HARYANA CHANDIGARH	ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT AND CAMO SUB-CONTRACT OF KA B200GT AIRCRAFT (FUSION), VT-HCA (MSN-BY-328)	10.01.2025 24.01.2025		https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01722709386 cavation@hry.nic.in
3	PWD B&R FATEHABAD	CONSTRUCTION OF GOVERNMENT VETERINARY DISPENSARY AT VILLAGE KANHERI IN FATEHABAD DISTT.	08.01.2025 16.01.2025	24.45 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01667-220120 pwd-eeepd-fatehabad@hry.nic.in
4	PANCHAYATI RAJ PANCHKULA	BUNGA VANGY CONS OF COMMUNITY CENTER (BALANCE WORK) + 1 WORKS	09.01.2025 15.01.2025	54.31 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9467628236 prexeeng.pki@hry.nic.in
5	PANCHAYATI RAJ PANCHKULA	RAMGARH: CONST. OF SC DHARAMSHALA AT VILLAGE RAMGARH MC AREA PANCHKULA D-PLAN 2024-25.	09.01.2025 15.01.2025	13.88 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9467628236 prexeeng.pki@hry.nic.in
6	BPS GMC FOR WOMEN KHANPUR KALAN SONIPAT	TENDER PROVIDING AIR COMPRESSURE AT BPS GMC KHANPUR KALAN SONIPAT +3 OTHER WORKS	11.01.2025 23.01.2025	40000/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9727897827 bpsgmc.purchase@gmail.com
7	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA KARNAL	REPAIR OF DAMAGED PATCHES OF TAIL MINOR FROM RD 0 TO 43050. + 5 WORKS	03.01.2025 13.01.2025	11.62 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0184-2255291 kridvn.335@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.etenders.hry.nic.in

Ro. 31653/HR

	<h2 style="margin: 0;">KALLAKURICHI MUNICIPALITY</h2> <p style="margin: 0;">Tender Notice</p>	<p style="margin: 0;">Dated: 09.01.2025</p>																		
<p style="margin: 0;">Roc No: 2226/2021/E2</p>	<p style="margin: 0;">Form of contract: Item rate (Two cover system)</p>																			
<p>Bids are invited by the Commissioner, Kallakurichi Municipality & his authorized person for Providing Under Ground Sewerage Scheme Kallakurichi Municipality & Operation and Maintenance of Under Ground Sewerage Scheme Collection System for 5 Years in Kallakurichi Municipality at an estimate cost: Rs.13198.25 Lakhs & Design, construction and Erection of 8.46 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant on Design, Build, Operate and Transfer (DBOT) Basis and Operation and Maintenance of 8.46 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) SBR Technology Works for 10 Years in Kallakurichi Municipality at an estimate cost: Rs.3518.37 Lakhs under SBM/Urban/2-KMAT/2024-25 & 2025-26, PS&G & General Fund. The bid documents can be downloaded from the website https://tenders.gov.in free of cost. Only E-auctioning of tenders will be accepted. Amount of Earnest Money Deposit will be 1% of the value of the tender for a package/ Work. Any additional / further details and conditions related to this tender can be had from Engineering section of this office on all working days during office hours.</p>																				
<p>Important dates</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 5%;"></th> <th style="width: 85%;">Date and time of Pre-bid meeting</th> <th style="width: 10%;">Date and time of Pre-bid meeting</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Bid document download from</td> <td>20.01.2025</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Date and time of Pre-bid meeting</td> <td>31.01.2025 at 11:00 AM</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>Last date and time for downloading bid documents</td> <td>19.02.2025 at 3:00 PM</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>Last Date and time for submission of bid document (Online submission)</td> <td>19.02.2025 at 3:00 PM</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>Date and time of opening of the Bid</td> <td>19.02.2025 at 3:30 PM</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>In the event of specified date for submission of bids is declared a holiday, bids will be received and opened on the next working day at the same time and venue. Date of opening of Price bid will be informed after scrutinizing the Technical bid to the eligible bidders.</p>				Date and time of Pre-bid meeting	Date and time of Pre-bid meeting	1	Bid document download from	20.01.2025	2	Date and time of Pre-bid meeting	31.01.2025 at 11:00 AM	3	Last date and time for downloading bid documents	19.02.2025 at 3:00 PM	4	Last Date and time for submission of bid document (Online submission)	19.02.2025 at 3:00 PM	5	Date and time of opening of the Bid	19.02.2025 at 3:30 PM
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<p>DIPR/ 226/ TENDER/2025</p>		<p>Commissioner, Kallakurichi Municipality.</p>																		


Govt. of Bihar
BIHAR INDUSTRIAL AREA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
 1st Floor, Udyog Bhawan, East Gandhi Maidan, Patna-04
 Website: www.biadabihar.in
 Email: biada-bih@gov.in & (0612-2675998 & 2675991)

Short Notice Inviting Quotation No.-15/BIADA/2024-25

Quotation for the rate finalisation is invited for the work of Design, Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning of various Plant & Machineries for the BIADA Mega Food Park, Motipur, Muzaffarpur from the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM)/Authorised Dealer/Supplier till 21/01/2025, 5:00 PM

Quotations for Supply and Installation of following machines shall be submitted in a sealed envelope to: **DGM- Technical, 3rd Floor, Udyog Bhawan, East Gandhi Maidan, Patna- 800004**

Sl. No.	Description	Unit	Quoted Rate per Unit in Figure.	Quoted Rate per Unit in Words.
1	Design, Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning of Plant & Machineries including Puff Panel works and Mezzanine floor for Stacking Arrangements for Potato Cold Storage -5000 MT.	01		
2	Design, Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning of Plant & Machineries including Puff Panel works and Mezzanine floor for Stacking Arrangements for Onion Cold Storage - 5000 MT.	01		
3	Design, Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning of Plant & Machineries including Puff Panel works for Banana Ripening Chamber - 80 MT	01		
4	Design, Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning of Plant & Machineries including Puff Panel works for Litchi Packhouse - 6 MT/Batch	01		
5	Design, Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning of Plant & Machineries for the IQF with Pre-processing line- 2MT/Hr.	01		
6	Design, Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning of Plant & Machineries including Puff Panel works for the Frozen Storage - 4000 MT.	01		
7	Design, Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning of Plant & Machineries including Puff Panel works and Stacking Arrangements for Potato Cold Storage -3000 MT and the packhouse for potato capacity 2MT/Hr.	01		

Note: Detail breakup of all above items & the machineries including specification details for above mentioned components is available on the BIADA website:
<http://biada1.bihar.gov.in>

- This notice has been invited for the finalization of rates only.
- The rate quoted shall be inclusive of all charges, taxes and freight.
- The quotation shall be submitted along with GST Certificate.

For further details or information regarding above subject, interested one may contact on dgmnorth.tech@bihar.gov.in

PR- 16761 (B & C) 2024-25

नशे की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।

DGM-Technical



बिहार सरकार

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, लघु सिंचाई प्रमंडल, बांका

(संत जोसेफ स्कूल के निकट, जगतपुर, बांका-813102)

E-Mail ID-ee.mil.ban-bih@gov.in, Mob No-7782917633

शुद्धि पत्र

कार्यपालक अभियंता, लघु सिंचाई प्रमंडल, बांका के पत्रांक-2370 दिनांक-03.12.2024 द्वारा आमंत्रित निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या-05/2024-25, जिसका P.R. No 014061 (MWRD) 2024-25 एवं पत्रांक-2581 दिनांक-31.12.2024 जिसका P.R. No 016235 (MWRD) 2024-25 है, के निविदा से संबंधित तिथियों में अप्रत्याशित कारणवश निम्न प्रकार संशोधन किया जाता है :-

क्र०	विषय	पूर्व निर्धारित तिथि एवं समय	संशोधित तिथि एवं समय
1.	परिमाण विवेक प्राप्त करने की तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक-11/01/2025 से दिनांक-17/01/2025 के अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक।	दिनांक-16/01/2025 से दिनांक-23/01/2025 के अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक।
2.	प्री-बीड मीटिंग का स्थान एवं तिथि	मुख्य अभियन्ता, लघु जल संसाधन विभाग, भागलपुर के कार्यालय मे दिनांक 13/01/2025 को पूर्वाह्न 11.00 बजे से अपराह्न 3.00 बजे तक।	मुख्य अभियन्ता, लघु जल संसाधन विभाग, भागलपुर के कार्यालय मे दिनांक 18/01/2025 को पूर्वाह्न 11.00 बजे से अपराह्न 3.00 बजे तक।
3.	निविदा अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक-18/01/2025 को अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक।	दिनांक-23/01/2025 को अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक।
4.	तकनीकी निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक-20/01/2025 को पूर्वाह्न 10.00 बजे से।	दिनांक-24/01/2025 को पूर्वाह्न 10.00 बजे से।
5.	तकनीकी निविदाओं का मूल्यांकन	दिनांक-20/01/2025 से लगातार।	दिनांक-24/01/2025 से लगातार।

शेष सभी नियम एवं शर्त यथावत रहेगा।

PR. No.16748 (MWRD) 2024-25

नशे की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।

कार्यपालक अभियंता

लघु सिंचाई प्रमंडल, बांका



स्थानिक अभियंता का कार्यालय

भवन प्रमंडल, नई दिल्ली

अति-अल्पकालीन कोटेशन आमंत्रित सूचना संख्या 04/2024-25

बिहार भवन, बिहार निवास, चाणक्यपुरी नई दिल्ली हेतु निम्नालिखित कार्यों के लिए बिहार राज्य अंतर्गत भवन प्रमंडल में कार्यरत चतुर्थ श्रेणी में निम्नलिखित संवेदक बिहार लोक निर्माण विभाग में होने वाले कार्यों के लिए मुहर बंद कोटेशन आमंत्रित की जाती है ।

1. विज्ञापनकारिता का नाम एवं पता

2. परिमाण विपत्र के विक्री की तिथि

3. निविदा प्राप्त करने की तिथि एवं समय

4. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय

5. परिमाण विपत्र विक्री का स्थान

6. निविदा प्राप्ति का स्थान

7. कार्य का विवरण—

— स्थानिक अभियंता, भवन प्रमंडल, नई दिल्ली ।

— 23-01-2025 (अपराह्न 1:00 बजे तक)

— 24-01-2025 (अपराह्न 3:00 बजे तक)

— 24-01-2025 (अपराह्न 3:30 बजे तक)

— (1) स्थानिक अभियंता कार्यालय बिहार निवास चाणक्यपुरी, नई दिल्ली ।

(2) सहायक अभियंता कार्यालय बिहार सदन, द्वारका नई दिल्ली ।

(3) अधीक्षण अभियंता कार्यालय दक्षिण बिहार अंचल, नवोन निर्माण विभाग बिहार पटना ।

— स्थानिक अभियंता कार्यालय बिहार निवास चाणक्यपुरी, नई दिल्ली ।

Sl. No	Name Of Work
01	Renovation of Balcony of Bihar Bhawan, New Delhi for the year 2024-25
02	Renovation of Gym including view cutter of Bihar Bhawan, New Delhi for the year 2024-25
03	Providing and fixing fountain at Bihar Bhawan, New Delhi for the year 2024-25
04	Renovation of Horticulture of Bihar Bhawan, New Delhi for the year 2024-25
05	Supply fitting and fixing porta cabin of Bihar Bhawan , New Delhi for the year 2024-25
06	Urgent repair of furniture and bath fittings of Guest room of Bihar Niwas, New Delhi for the year 2024-25
07	Supply and installation of films for glass door at Bihar Sadan, New Delhi for the year 2024-25
08	Supply and installation of Canopy of Bihar Sadan, New Delhi for the year 2024-25
09	Supply fitting and fixing additional fire equipments for Bihar Sadan, New Delhi for the year 2024-25

अधिक जानकारी हेतु संबंधित उप स्थानिक अभियंता एवं अधोहस्ताक्षरी कार्यालय में संपर्क करेंगे विशेष शर्त, मद एवं मात्रा की विस्तृत जानकारी हेतु सूचना पट्ट या अधोहस्ताक्षरी कार्यालय में संपर्क करेंगे जानकारी।

state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar से प्राप्ता की जा सकती है ।

स्थानिक अभियंता
भवन प्रमंडल, नई दिल्ली

PR- 016730 (BCD) 2024-25

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

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE
APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**

See Section 82 CrPC

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Rachana W/o: Rakesh, R/o H.No. J-118, Mangolpuri, Delhi-110083**, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **FIR No. 1482/2021, U/S 323/376/498A IPC, 4/6 Pocco Act & 9/10 Protection of Child Marriage Act, P.S. Mangolpuri, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Rachana** cannot be found, and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Rachana** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant);

Proclamation is hereby made that **Rachana** the said accused of **FIR No. 1482/2021, U/S 323/376/ 498A IPC, 4/6 Pocco Act & 9/10 Protection of Child Marriage Act, P.S. Mangolpuri, Delhi**, is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **13.02.2025**.

By Order
Ms. Susheel Bala Dagar
Addl. Sessions Judge-01, North-West,
Room No.-210, 2nd Floor,
District Courts, Rohini, Delhi

DP/501/00/2025
(Court Matter)

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE
APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas proclamation has been made before me that accused person **Rahul @ Gautam @ Gautam** S/o Vikram R/o H. No. WZ-161/294, Jhuggi No. 11/12, Phase-I, Mayapuri, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence case FIR No. 331/2022 u/s 379/411/34 IPC at P.S. Mayapuri, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Rahul @ Gautam @ Gautam** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Rahul @ Gautam @ Gautam** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proceeding u/s 82 Cr.P.C. has been initiated in the case. Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Rahul @ Gautam @ Gautam** accuse FIR No. 331/2022 u/s 379/411/34 IPC at P.S. Mayapuri, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on **15.02.2025**.

**By Order: Sh. P. Bhargav Rao,
Judicial Magistrate First Class-03 (West),
Room No. 292, 2nd Floor,
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi**

DP/396/WD/2025

कार्यालय परियोजना प्रबन्धक, युनिट-9
कन्स्ट्रक्शन एण्ड डिजाइन सर्विसेज
उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम (गंगोत्री)
(30 प्रो सरकारी का उपक्रम)
2-शंकरनगर (मिस्ट्रि स्ट्रीट नर्स एजेन्सी),
दिल्ली 110 014, भारत
प्रधान कार्यालय: टी.सी.-38वीं, विमुक्तिखण्ड,
गंगोत्रीनगर, सहायक
मो. नं. :- 91-9999094522
e-mail: id_pnu9cds@gmail.com
पत्रांक :- TENDER/06
दिनांक :- 07.01.2025

अस्पतालकी ई-निविदा सूचना

उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम(गंगोत्री) की ओर से
अध्यक्षतावादी द्वारा CONSTRUCTION OF
GOVT. HOMEOPATHIC HOSPITAL AT
BANAT, DISTT-SHAMLI (U.P) उप. लागू
2021.69 लाख, हेतु दिनांक 25.01.2025 की
अपराह्न 15:00 बजे तक ई-निविदाएं आमंत्रित
की जाती हैं। उक्त कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा प्रणाली
द्वारा दिनांक 25.01.2025 से दिनांक 25.01.2025 तक
अध्यय उत्तर प्रदेश सरकारी की e procurement की
वेबसाइट <https://www.cdspun.in> पर
पोस्टल कोड 201004 किये जा सकते हैं तथा ई-निविदा
दिनांक 25.01.2025 को अपराह्न 17:30 बजे
कार्यालय परियोजना प्रबन्धक, युनिट-09, सी
एचएस, पी.एस., उ.प्र. जल निगम (गंगोत्री)
सहायनपुर में खोली जायेगी। ई-निविदा प्रपत्र का
मूल्य **₹ 3,00,000.00 + GST(18%)** अतिरिक्त देय
होगा।
निविदा से सम्बन्धित विवरण विवरण विषयक ई-
वेबसाइट www.cdspun.in एवं प्रकोयमेन्ट
पोर्टल <https://tender.up.nic.in> पर
उपलब्ध है। समस्त शुद्धि पत्र (Corrigendum
<https://tender.up.nic.in> पर ही अपलोड
किये जायेंगे, इन्का प्रपत्र से कोई प्रकाशन नहीं
किया जायेगा। निविदादाताओं को सलाह दी जाती
है कि वे उक्त वेबसाइट का समय-समय पर
अवलोकन करते रहें।

POOMPUHAR SHIPPING CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Tamilnadu Enterprise)
692, Anna Salai, IV Floor, Nandanam, Chennai - 600 035, India
Telephone No. : 044 - 24330505 / 807, Fax : 91-44-24344593 / 24335706,
E-mail : pscship@gmail.com CIN : U63090TN1974PLC006596

Global e-Tender notice
No.PSC/PMS/001/2024-25., Dt 08.01.2025
Notice inviting tender
for Ship Performance Monitoring Services for one year.

On-line Bid submission

start and end Date : 10.01.2025 : 17.00 to 29.01.2025 : 12.00 Hrs
Bid opening Date : 29.01.2025 : 15.00 Hrs
EMD : Rs.20,000 /-
Value of Tender : Rs.20,00,000/-

Prospective bidders are advised to refer our website www.tamilship.com / <http://tenders.gov.in/nicgep/app> for download the tender specifications and the specific important details. Bidders can download the documents at free of cost. The bids should be uploaded through the NIC portal <https://tenders.gov.in/nicgep/app> and the bids will be opened through the above web portal. The condition / requirements mentioned in the website shall meet out by the bidders. This advertisement is an invitation for bid only. The details given in the website are comprehensive, Tender Opening Venue: Poompuhar Shipping Corporation Ltd., IV Floor, 692, Anna Salai, Nandanam, Chennai - 600 035. Further, all communication will be updated through web portal only.

DIPR/148/TENDER/2025 **GENERAL MANAGER (OPNS)**

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH CHANDIGARH

E-Tender Notice No. PI(EP)/24-25/06

Phone No. 0172-2756469

Tender applications are invited for purchase of various items against tender No. 1-11 from the Manufacturers or their sole authorized distributors/applications. The bidders can place their bids as per terms & conditions contained on <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>.

S. No.	Equipment Item Name	Qty.	EMD	Bid submission Date	Bid Opening Date	Dept Name
Pre Bid case						
1	Lower Tract Endoscopy Set for TURP, TURBT, TUR-C, Cystoscopy	01 Set	Rs.1,20,000/-	01-02-2025	03-02-2025	Urology
Non-Pre Bid case						
2	Lower Tract Endoscopy Set for Ring, OT	01Set	Rs.70,000/-	-	-	Urology
3	Myra Endoscopic Surgical Set	10 Nos.	Rs.30,000/-	-	-	OB/GYN
4	Probi Extraction Set	25 Nos.	Rs.50,000/-	-	-	OB/GYN
5	General Plastic Surgery Instruments Set	02Nos.	Rs.40,000/-	03-02-2025	04-02-2025	Plastic Surgery
6	Microinstruments (for punch clamp)	01Nos.	Rs.15,000/-	-	-	Immunology
7	Ionic and Non-Ionic Contrast Media	As per technical specification	Rs.30,000/-	-	-	Diagnostic Medicine
8	Breath Test System	01 No.	Rs.30,000/-	-	-	Gastroenterology
9	Tube Top Centrifuge Machine (Bio Rack)	01 No.	Rs.24,000/-	04-02-2025	05-02-2025	OB/GYN
10	Combined Unit (Ultrasonic, Cap Meds) + Low Frequency Current (Blue Back Base)	01Nos.	Rs.14,000/-	-	-	Physiotherapy
11	Intravenous Cannulation insertion device with intravenous cannulation needles	Device 4 & needles 100	Rs.14,000/-	-	-	Internal Medicine

Tender document can also be downloaded from website www.pgimr.edu.in and can be applied on website www.eprocure.gov.in. Bid Security (EMD) should be for the amount as per the instruments defined in tender documents having its validity at least for one year & duly placed in favour of Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh. The tenders will be opened on the dates given above at 12:00 PM in the presence of the authorized intending tenders. Tenders not submitted on the prescribed form, not accompanied with Bid Security will be summarily rejected.

The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders received without assigning any reason thereof.

“PRE-BID CONFERENCE” WITH INTENDING BIDDERS FOR ITEM Sr. No. 01 shall be held on 17.01.2025 from 03:00 P.M. ONWARDS IN THE (PIEP), OFFICE, PGIMER, CHANDIGARH. The intending bidders are free to join Pre Bid Conference through video conference. For more details contact 0172-2756469 at Procurement Branch (Import).

NOTE 1. The terms and Conditions of the original Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) available on PGIMER Website will remain same. However on switching over to e-tendering on e-Procurement, the bids will be received in electronic form on e-Procurement website and no bid will be received in Physical form. The EMD will be received in Physical form in Procurement Branch (Import) and scan copy is to be uploaded in electronic form on e-procurement website, CPPP Portal (Central Public Procurement Portal).

NOTE 2. If any of the tender opening dates happens to be a holiday in PGIMER, Chandigarh, then the same shall be opened on next full working day.

Additional Terms and Conditions.

I. The Institute has adopted amended Notice Inviting Tenders (NIT) which is available on e-Procurement website (<https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>) and Website: www.pgimr.edu.in. Therefore the bidders are requested to go through the Instructions Carefully before submitting bids.

The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders received without assigning any reason thereof.

Professor In-Charge (EP)

**Office of The Additional Chief Engineer,
PHED NCR Region Alwar**

No. 4923-36 Date: 3.1.2025

CORRIGENDUM NO. 1

For this office NIT No. 08/2024-25 UBN No. PHE2425WLOB07289


In continuation of the NIT No. 08/2024-25 issued by this office vide letter no. 4243-55 dated 17.12.2024, following amendments are hereby issued. Bidder/s may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.raj.nic.in>). Remaining conditions will be same.

Sd/-

Add. Chief Engineer


PHED NCR Region Alwar

DIPRC/C/361/2025



I-HUB QUANTUM TECHNOLOGY FOUNDATION, ISIR PUNE

First Floor, Main Building, ISIR Pune Campus, Dr. Homi Bhabha Road, Pune 411 008



Tel: 020-29308647 Email: qtf_purchase@quantech.org.in Website: www.quantech.org.in

Tender Notice

I-HUB Quantum Technology Foundation, ISIR Pune invites bids for the following scientific equipment:

- ★ **Excimer Laser**

Last date for bid submission is: 06-02-2025

Details of tender are provided in the tender documents published on:

• gem.gov.in
• quantech.org.in/tenders

Advt. No: I-HUBQTF/AD/24-25/003 Dated: 07/01/2025 PROJECT DIRECTOR, I-HUB QTF

 **पीएम श्री केंद्रीय विद्यालय
सेक्टर 08 रोहिणी, दिल्ली** 

नीलामी सूचना

पीएम श्री केंद्रीय विद्यालय सेक्टर 08 रोहिणी दिल्ली में पुराने एवं अनुपयोगी सामानों जैसे कंप्यूटर, यूपीएस, प्रोजेक्टर, प्रिंटर, एसी, इलेक्ट्रॉनिक सामग्री, फर्नीचर, खेलकूद सामग्री, प्रयोगशाला सामग्री, संगीत सामग्री, विद्यालय मरम्मत सामग्री की "जैसे हैं जहाँ हैं" की स्थिति में सार्वजनिक नीलामी दिनांक 18.01.2025 को दोपहर 2:00 बजे होना सुनिश्चित हुआ है।

कंप्यूटर एवं इलेक्ट्रॉनिक वस्तुओं के क्रेताओं के पास भारत सरकार या राज्य सरकार से मान्यता प्राप्त E-Waste Management प्रमाणपत्र होना आवश्यक है

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए विद्यालय की **website**
[https:// rohinisec8.kvs.ac.in](https://rohinisec8.kvs.ac.in) में संपर्क करें

GOVERNMENT OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE
ITANAGAR

No. PHQ/WT/PP-01/2021 (VOL-II) Dated Itanagar, the 17th Dec '2024

TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, Director General of Police of Arunachal Pradesh invites Sealed Tender under two Bid systems (Technical & Financial Bid) preferably from manufacturers, authorized agents/dealers/suppliers of reputed firms based in Arunachal Pradesh for entering into contract for Up-gradation of Digital VHF communication system at Itanagar Capital Region (ICR) through VPN with supporting WT equipments and accessories against SP(Telecom) Office, Chimpu, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh. For details please visit our web site www.arunpol.nic.in.

Sd/-
Director General of Police
Arunachal Pradesh
Itanagar

DIPR/ARN/000138

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Ram Kumar Patel, S/o Parma Nand Patel, R/o H. No. 12/60, Subhash Nagar, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 834/2021, U/s 283 IPC, P.S. Rajouri Garden, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Ram Kumar Patel** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Ram Kumar Patel** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Ram Kumar Patel** accused of **FIR No. 834/2021, U/s 283 IPC, P.S. Rajouri Garden** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **21.02.2025**.

By Order
Sh. Shashank Nandan Bhatt
Judicial Magistrate First Class-02
Room No. 356, 3rd Floor
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

DP/190/WD/2025

11 BIG PICTURE

WHAT DRIVES THE MELA ECONOMY

The Kumbh Currency

From luxury tents that cost up to Rs 1 lakh a night to budget homestays, from corporate firms to small businesses that hope the event will keep them afloat — days ahead of the Maha Kumbh, ANAND MOHAN J travels to Prayagraj, where a pop-up economy has taken shape on the banks of the Ganga

BENEATH THE kaleidoscopic chaos of the Maha Kumbh Mela in Uttar Pradesh lies an economic juggernaut, powered by the faith of an estimated 40 crore people who are expected to descend on the banks of the Ganga in Prayagraj starting January 13.

In his seventh-century writings, Chinese traveller Xuanzang documented this convergence of faith and commerce at the Kumbh Mela, where rulers and wealthy merchants are said to have bathed in the sacred waters and offered lavish donations. That spirit of enterprise has lived on in the modern version of the 40-day event, attracting businesses from across India and transforming this stretch of the Ganga into a sprawling arena of spirituality and trade.

It is a vast, pulsating marketplace where every decision — whether it is to set up a food stall, lease a tent city, or launch a floating jetty room — carries the weight of opportunity and risk.

The Yogi Adityanath-led BJP government has initiated 549 projects, from infrastructure development to sanitation, for the Maha Kumbh at a budget of Rs 6,990 crore. In comparison, Kumbh Mela 2019 had 700 projects at a cost of over Rs 3,700 crore. The Mela officials estimate revenues of Rs 25,000 crore from the event and an overall impact of Rs 2 lakh crore on the economy of the state.

From luxury tents with tariffs of up to Rs 1 lakh a night to lucrative corporate sponsorships; from the bustling puja market where small-time traders bet their savings on a 10-fold turnover to the boatmen of the Ganga who live in the hope that the event will keep them afloat — Kumbh is as much about living as it is about faith.

A mela of options

The historical city of Allahabad has seen several Kumbhs — since “anaadi kaal” or times immemorial, as the locals say — and gone through many iterations, including a name change to Prayagraj. But this year, as the government launches a massive blitz as it prepares to host what is likely to be a record turnout, the city and its economy are hoping to get a leg-up.

Officials said the government has focussed on creating a massive economic impact through the Mela. For the next 40 days, the Mela grounds, spread across 4,000 acres on the banks of the river, will host pilgrims in a range of tents — from basic to luxury — and offer them food options through the many stalls.

As part of the process to allot space at the Mela grounds, the state government had invited private entities to bid for spots through a tender. At the end of a competitive bidding process, those with the highest bids were allotted stalls. The first installment of 50 per cent had to be given to the government within seven days of allotment, while the second and third installments had to be submitted within 45 days from the issuance of the allotment letter.

Additional District Magistrate Vivek Chaturvedi says, “We have received Rs 1-2 crore from each bidder to set up stalls in Kumbh. The impact is immense.”

On the huge turnout expected at the Mela, he added, “We took the help of Allahabad University to figure out how to increase the footfall at the Mela by augmenting the infrastructure. Special corridors have been designed to handle an influx of 10,000 to 20,000 pilgrims at a time. Floating jetties, water sports and temple tourism have been introduced to enhance the appeal of the event while boosting tourism retention.”

Professor A K Malviya, Dean of Commerce at University of Allahabad, who has worked with the UP government on bolstering the economic impact of the Mela, says, “We did a socio-economic impact study of the Kumbh Mela and the government adopted many of our suggestions. The idea was to make it a tourist-friendly spot with improvements in parking facilities, ghat development, cordial policing, multilingual signages, and improved sanitation at temples.”

Regional Tourism Department officer Aparajita Singh says, “There was a push to improve hotel infrastructure. We now have 100 homestays registered with us compared to just 15 last year. There are over 7,000 vendors in the city, of whom 2,000 have undergone skill development training for digital payments. We have set up a team of 1,000 guides, and expanded on the food court systems to ensure we give tourists all modern facilities.”

Food and hospitality are among the biggest drivers of this pop-up economy.

Brothers Mitesh and Ashwin Thakkar, directors of RR Hospitality Pvt Ltd., have invested Rs 12-13 crore to establish food courts and outlets across 14 of the 25 sectors of the Mela, employing over 500 workers. Their most expensive outlet was won after a bid of Rs 1.23 crore at a food court near the Sangam area.

“We were competing for a tender for Rs 7 crore, but lost out to an amusement park vendor who bid Rs 11 crore,” says Ashwin.

So far, they have managed to attract international brands such as Starbucks, Coca Cola and Domino’s and are aiming for a Rs 100-200 crore turnover. Despite missing out on bagging a contract from McDonald’s due to “time constraints”, they say they have already achieved break-even with sponsorship backing from major brands.

In March last year, the brothers took a boat trip across the Ganga as part of a reconnaissance trip, as they scouted for locations for food stalls at the Mela.

For Mitesh, speed and flexibility is key. “See, we were planning to set up a food stall near the Dome City (on the Aerial Ghat, near Sangam). But that is still being constructed and the main Mela dates are almost here. So we took a decision to shift our food courts away from there,” he says.

Room for all

What’s staggering in scale is the investment on accommodation — for the



(From the top) The Aerial Dome City is a highlight of the Kumbh Mela; sadhus have been allotted land by their Akharas to set up tents; the Ganga bustles with life and brightly painted wooden boats Vishal Srivastava, Anand Mohan J

next month and a half, every inch of the banks of the Ganga is prized real-estate.

The UP government has set up 1.6 lakh tents, of which 2,200 are luxury tents and the rest are several smaller ones on the river banks. Besides, there are 218 hotels, 204 guest houses and 90 dharamshalas across the city.

The super-deluxe tents and villas, priced between Rs 18,000 and Rs 20,000 a day, include amenities such as private bathrooms, blowers, Wi-Fi, and even butler services. Premium accommodations, such as those at the privately owned Sangam Nivas Prayagraj on the river banks, command tariffs of Rs 1 lakh per night for two guests, featuring en-suite bathrooms, heating, and high-end services. Demand is high, with all 44 super-luxury tents at the property sold out on auspicious bathing days, UP government officials said.

The Uttar Pradesh State Tourism Development Corporation (UPSTDC) has four categories of tents — Villa, Maharaja, Swiss Cottage and Dormitory — with the prices ranging from Rs 1,500

The Mela officials estimate revenues of Rs 25,000 crore from the Mela and an overall impact of Rs 2 lakh crore on the economy of the Uttar Pradesh

a night for the dorms to Rs 35,000 for the high-end ones.

One of the highlights of the Mela stay is the Aerial Dome City, run by Evo Life Space Pvt. Ltd., in collaboration with the UP Tourism Department. Spread over 3.25 acres of the river bank on the Aerial Ghat, the 44 transparent domes, each with 32 sq ft space, claim to provide state-of-the-art comfort.

However, with three days left for the Kumbh Mela, a team of workers are still setting up the domes. Inside these igloo-shaped structures, made of transparent plastic panels and supported by metal frames, violet drapes hang limply, some of it pooling onto the artificial grass floor below.

A night’s stay in these domes comes with three meals, bonfire and a trip to the Sangam, and a tariff of Rs 61,000. “We are almost booked but the preparations are continuing. Most of the domes in the area are nearing completion, we got the land very late,” says Mukesh, who was at the site, overseeing the construction of the domes.

KUMBH IN NUMBERS

DEVOTEES	BUDGET
40 CRORE	₹6,990 CRORE
TENTS	TOILETS
1.6 LAKH	1.5 LAKH
Projects	549
Lights	67,000
Wall murals/ street art	18 lakh sq ft
Buses	7,000
Water pipelines	1,249 km
Saplings planted	3 lakh
Temporary ghats	12 km
Total ghats	16

AVERAGE BID FOR STALL AT SANGAM AREA

OVER ₹1 CRORE

GOVERNMENT’S TURNOVER ESTIMATE

₹25,000 CRORE

Besides the tents on the river banks, there are hotels near the Mela site, built over nine months, that charge between Rs 10,000 and Rs 25,000 a night.

Shikhar Keshwani, owner of City Lights Inn, opened his hotel just a month ago. “Our hotel is 80 per cent booked for the whole month. On important dates, we are full,” he says.

Private homestays have also mushroomed, with investments ranging from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 1 crore to accommodate visitors.

Dayanand Sharma, who spent over Rs 15 lakh on his homestay near the Sangam area, says, “We are hoping to triple our turnover. This will cover the construction cost and pay off the loan,” he says.

It’s not just the middle-class tourist who will have to shell out a fortune to stay in Prayagraj. Sadhus, who are allotted free land by their Akharas, have also been complaining about rising costs.

Naga sadhu Digambar Bhavani Giri’s tent near the Sangam, propped up by poles, has asbestos sheets for the roof and wall. He says he spent Rs 10,000 on a green carpet to line the tent and over Rs 2,500 on firewood.

Pancham Giri, another sadhu, shares that his savings of Rs 50,000 were fast running out. “The government should give us

free firewood and carpets. The tents are of poor quality and offer no shelter from the cold,” he says.

Something for everyone

For small and large businesses on the Mela grounds and beyond, Kumbh represents both a gamble and an opportunity, where faith, hard work, and market dynamics intersect.

Professor Badri Narayan, Director of Govind Ballabh Pant Social Science Institute (GBPSSI) in Prayagraj, says that the Maha Kumbh Mela touches everyone — from a rag picker to a luxury hotel owner.

“According to most estimates, the Kumbh Mela may generate around Rs 200 crore in business this year. Small-time vendors, workers in the informal sector, and those providing everyday goods and services establish temporary livelihoods during the event. Even ragpickers benefit economically. This is a significant economic resource,” he says.

Mahendra Kumar Goyal, president of the UP chapter of the Confederation of All India Traders, says, “We predicted a turnover of Rs 25,000 crore from this event. This includes turnovers of Rs 5,000 crore from puja items, Rs 4,000 crore from dairy products and Rs 800 crore from flowers. The hospitality sector, especially the luxury hotels, is expected to have a combined turnover of Rs 6,000 crore.”

Alok Shukla, President of the UP chapter of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), describes the Maha Kumbh as a “golden opportunity” for local businesses, with “revenues equivalent to one year worth of business compressed into two months”.

At his food stall near Parade Grounds in the Sangam area, Ashish Mishra, after a string of phone calls to coordinate inventories, talks about why he is hopeful about his business. “On *snan* days, profits are 10 times higher than usual,” says Ashish, who has stocked up on potatoes, onions, tomatoes, rice and flour a month in advance. He spent Rs 92 lakh to bid for his stall. “If even a crore people spend Rs 1 each, I’ll be happy,” he smiles.

Pankaj Mishra, who has set up one of the biggest kachori stalls at the Mela, says he spent Rs 92 lakh to set up the stall and employs over 100 workers, including cooks and cleaning staff. “It all depends on police barricading. If the devotees come, it’s fine. Otherwise, we’re done,” he says while settling the day’s wages for each of his workers.

Away from the Mela grounds, the river bustles with life as passengers settle into brightly painted wooden boats. Raju Nishad, a paddle boat operator, waits for customers — a group has just turned down his fee of Rs 75 per passenger.

“I had to take a loan of Rs 1 lakh to buy this boat. I will have to earn at least Rs 3-4 lakh this year if I have to survive. Every time the VIPs come, our boats are stopped. I have to work twice as hard to earn,” he says. Minutes later, he finally gets his first ride of the day.



The Indian EXPRESS
FOUNDED BY
RAMNATH GOENKA
BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

My friend Manmohan



JAGDISH BHAGWATI

His life reflected his concern with values.
His example endures

CRUMBLING FORETOLD

Delhi election frames the key question for INDIA: What remains of it, should it even exist?

THE CRUMBLING OF the INDIA bloc is unsurprising and, in all likelihood, it will go unlamented with Delhi's electoral wind. After all, even when it was being put together in the run-up to the 2024 Lok Sabha election, it seemed to be a last-minute patchwork of short-term calculations and compulsions, egos and ambitions, against the dominant BJP, lacking a stitched-together story or theme. The LS results in June 2024 -- with the alliance getting 234, restricting the BJP to 240, and Congress nearly doubling its own tally to 99 -- gave it an appearance of coherence. But that impression proved to be shortlived. It was dispelled all too soon following the setbacks to INDIA constituents in Haryana and Maharashtra and the BJP's victories. Now, as the Delhi election approaches, as Congress takes on the AAP which is fighting off the challenge from the BJP, and the TMC and SP throw their (symbolic) weight behind the AAP, the Opposition alliance faces an existential question that has been raised both within it and outside: What remains of it, and should it even continue to exist?

The central problem with the INDIA bloc is that the party at its centre is weak and pretends not to know it. Congress, the largest member of the alliance, does not command the respect of its regional allies because its hauteur is not matched by its performance. It did well in the Lok Sabha polls but that was in comparison to its own unchecked waning, and by all accounts, its regional partners in different states contributed to its tally. In Delhi, where it once ruled for a straight three terms, in the last two elections, both assembly and parliamentary, Congress did not win a single seat, and its vote share has been in steep decline, dipping from 40.31 per cent in 2008 to 4.26 per cent in 2020. It does not take much political acumen to see why the AAP, which has weaned away most of the Congress vote in Delhi, would not want to cede any ground to it, especially after Congress refused to give it any quarter in the Haryana assembly poll most recently. If in Delhi it is the AAP which is the face of the fight against the BJP, in Bihar, the only other assembly election this year, it will be the RJD. In both elections, Congress is barely in the reckoning.

In the absence of a larger conviction or binding commitment, the INDIA alliance may not withstand the strains of a hardheaded politics. Even if it dies, however, the space that it occupies will arguably continue to exist. The BJP's dominance has received a dent or two but it is undoubtedly the primary pole of the polity, which shapes and structures the political terrain and contest. A national alternative to it remains a democratic imperative. But for it to be enduring and persuasive, it will need its main pole, the Congress, to be bigger and stronger. Or more generous and humble if it has to get anti-BJP parties to come together and pool their strengths, not on the basis of short-term convenience, but to tell a thought-through and shared story. That, from the evidence so far, is hardly evident.

CEO CAN'T SEE

Asking employees to put in more hours at the cost of health, family life, recreation shows a lack of empathy — and ideas

HERE IS A crisis of imagination and no amount of perks, ESOPs or staggering six-figure salaries seem to square up to it. The future of productivity, if industry bros are to be believed, lies not in work-life balance but in work-work sublimation. After Narayana Murthy's prescription of a 70-hour work week in 2023, Larsen and Toubro (L&T) chairman S N Subrahmanyan has urged employees to put in 90 hours at work every week and to even forgo weekends in the pursuit of professional excellence. In between, corporate leaders of all stripes -- from Bhavish Agarwal of OLA to Bombay Shaving Company's CEO Shantanu Deshpande -- have advocated harsher work regimens for a variety of reasons, ranging from character building to nation building. After all, as Subrahmanyan said in the annual company meeting, "How long can you stare at your wife, how long can the wife stare at the husband?" He could well be saying, "Who wouldn't want to sacrifice their health, relationships, and interests in exchange for more targets?" To a work force struggling with high stress, low income, fewer opportunities and inadequate support systems, the hard bottom line and cold condescension could not be clearer: Turnover above all.

Of course, this hasn't exactly been a secret from employees at the receiving end of HR's exhortations to colour-coded festival celebrations, attendance regularisation, impractical targets and support for little else. As it is, employees in Asian countries work an average of nearly 49 hours a week in contrast to 37.9 hours per week in North America and about 37-odd hours in Europe. But when it comes from those at the top of the pyramid, such statements show a shocking lack of consideration for the human cost of such benchmarks. The suggestion that more hours translate to greater productivity and success has no basis in facts. It overlooks employee well-being, both physical and mental, familial demands, and long-term sustainability. A 24/7 work culture presupposes the luxury of a structure of support and care in homes, out of the realm of possibility for a majority on account of income or availability.

In a country where even the prime minister valorises working for 22 hours, bucking the trend is hard work. It requires an intuitive acumen to align individual needs with corporate demands and the ability to internalise what the International Labour Organisation highlights in its Preamble: "Labour is not a commodity". That's a bottom-line most CEOs fail to read.

A SONG SUNG TRUE

Untrained, but with an innate understanding of melody, P Jayachandran's voice transcended the limits of time and language

IT CAN'T HAVE been easy being a singer at the same time as K J Yesudas, a vocalist who has towered over the various South Indian film industries, especially Malayalam, for over half a century. How did G Jayachandran manage to create a niche for himself, with the bittersweet notes of songs sung by him in the 1960s, like "Manjalayil mungi thorthi", still resonating with listeners? What helped Jayachandran, who died at the age of 80 this week, establish himself as Kerala's "bhava gayakan" (soulful singer) was his naturally light yet expressive voice, which flew from note to note with remarkable grace.

Over the course of his career, Jayachandran won fans across the Malayalam, Tamil, Kannada and Telugu film industries, as well as a National Film Award (1985, for Sree Narayana Guru) and several state film awards in Kerala and Tamil Nadu. His debut in 1966 was the result of a chance encounter with filmmaker A Vincent. Jayachandran was not trained, but his voice captivated all who heard it. From G Devarajan and M S Baburaj, to M S Viswanathan and Ilaiyaraaja, composers credited some of their biggest hits to his mel-low voice. His innate understanding of what each composition demanded resulted in sometimes astonishing results, like when he recorded three songs for Ilaiyaraaja for the 1983 Tamil film *Vaidehi Kathirunthal* in a single day -- with all three becoming huge hits.

A story that is often shared about Jayachandran involves one of the songs, "Rasaathi unna", that he recorded that day. It is said that when the song was playing at a theatre in Cumbum, Tamil Nadu, a herd of wild elephants emerged to listen, quietly returning to the forest after it ended. This may or may not be true. But Jayachandran's voice, as it transcends the limits of both time and language, continues to echo in many hearts.

THE SIREN OF a speeding ambulance has become part of urban life across India. The only time uncaring drivers are willing to give way to a fellow citizen is in response to the wailing of an ambulance. An increase in chronic diseases and road accidents has spurred the demand for emergency services and hospitalisation. Ambulance services are an important link for transporting patients who require emergency care.

For long, ambulances were available only at a hospital. In the 1980s, non-government organisations stepped in, particularly in southern India, to provide voluntary and free ambulance services. Over the last decade, several state governments have provided ambulance services for women in the reproductive age group and for children below five years. Ambulance services were introduced to transport expectant mothers to healthcare facilities mostly in urban areas. Under the National Rural Health Mission, ambulance services were introduced in a public-private partnership mode.

More recently, several private ambulance services have been introduced both by corporate hospitals and companies. Blinkit, an online delivery service, has recently launched a "10-minute" ambulance service in Gurugram. A press release says that their ambulances will be equipped with life-saving facilities for patient transport.

A "10-minute" ambulance service, like the 30-minute pizza delivery offers, sounds far-fetched given the bumper-to-bumper traffic in urban India. It exerts enormous pressure on the ambulance driver, as is the case with delivery service providers. There is no mention, however, of the cost of Blinkit services and how it compares to other ambulance services available in the market.

According to recent reports, the Indian ambulance market, valued at \$1.5 billion in 2022, is projected to grow by over 5 per cent com-

pared to the 2021-2028 period. Despite this, the focus remains largely on patient transfer rather than critical emergency care. Out of 17,495 operational ambulances currently, only 3,441 have Advanced Life Support (ALS) units.

Moreover, there is much variation in the availability of ambulance services across states. Western states, including Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Goa, followed by southern Indian states with a large private healthcare sector, dominate the market for ambulance services. There is, however, a significant shortage in northeastern states.

There is much variation in ambulance services offered. These range from just transporting of patients, with no support services, to those that have Basic Life Support (BLS) to ALS units. Each is designed for specific medical needs. While BLS ambulance services are equipped for immediate care like cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and oxygen therapy, ALS units offer advanced interventions with cardiac monitors, defibrillators, and ventilators. Additionally, there are specialised ambulances such as air ambulances for swift long-distance transport and ICU ambulances equipped for critical care.

A recent study by Niti Aayog shows that not all these services have the required infrastructure, equipment and technical staff to qualify as ambulance services. It revealed that 88 per cent of the hospitals had in-house ambulances but only 3 per cent of them had Emergency Medical Technicians. Only 12 per cent of all the hospitals have provisions for specialised care during transportation. Studies evaluating some of these services have suggested a range of policy issues that need to be addressed. First, one must recognise that a large number of the so-called ambulance services are nothing more than patient transport facilities. Even in the case of well-equipped ambulances, poor planning of

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roads and traffic congestion in metros make navigating ambulances in emergencies problematic and delay timely treatment.

Mere expansion of ambulance services does not ensure quality. In fact, the lack of regulation of quality is a serious concern. Several studies have shown that the lack of availability of assured ambulance service, required and functioning equipment, trained staff and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) are serious gaps. The non-availability of a standard pan-India toll free number, along with the lack of a systematic plan for monitoring and accountability to ensure timely and optimal care are some of the other areas needing action.

The unregulated growth of private ambulance services is a serious shortcoming in the provisioning of services. There is a need for investment in developing standard protocols for general and specialised ambulance services. Skilling and certification of paramedics for ambulance services is essential. Weak regulatory provisions affect service standards, operational efficiency and liability issues. The regulatory landscape is fragmented with central and state level regulations, guidelines and licensing requirements. This leads to bureaucratic hurdles, inconsistencies and corruption for licensing of ambulance services.

Given increased longevity, contributing to the need for elder care, as well as increasing incidence of health emergencies, the provisioning of efficient and modern ambulance services will remain an attractive field for private investment. However, publicly-funded services, public-private partnerships and civil society sponsored services have a critical role in a society that can ill-afford high cost private services.

The writer is retired professor, Centre of Social Medicine and Community Health Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi

SYMPTOM OF A LARGER MALADY

Blinkit's '10-minute' ambulance highlights critical gaps in healthcare delivery



RAMA V BARU

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Delhi from London on or around January 15 to resume negotiations with the Indian government on the future of Mizoram within the framework of the Indian Constitution. His family members have been living in London's suburb of Woking since he arrived here nearly two years ago after his abortive negotiations, first with Morarji Desai's and then Indira Gandhi's government.

THE US VIA USSR

PRIME MINISTER Rajiv Gandhi will visit the Soviet Union before he goes to Washington in June. While the dates of his visit to the Soviet Union are yet to be finalised by the two governments, it is possible that the PM will visit

Moscow in either April or May, mainly because he, by that time, will be free from assembly elections which are likely to be held in early March. The Centre's budget would also have been presented by that time.

GAS LEAK CHAOS

MORE THAN 108 people were affected when sodium hydro sulphate gas leaked from four drums kept in a transport company's godown in the Baldev Baug area in Jabalpur. People in the area were running helter-skelter and leaving their homes in panic. Those who inhaled the gas complained of intense irritation in their eyes and throat. They were treated at different hospitals.



JANUARY 11, 1985, FORTY YEARS AGO

SLOW ON TALKS

ALTHOUGH PRIME Minister Rajiv Gandhi appointed a cabinet committee on Punjab about a week ago, a lot of spadework is yet to be done before starting a dialogue with the Akalis. It appears that any further progress in this regard may be made only after the Parliament session beginning next week, which will be only for about 10 days. There has not been any direct contact between the Government and the Akalis so far, according to reliable sources.

LALDENG IN DELHI

LALDENG IS scheduled to fly back to New

Where daughters can't play

The world has failed Afghanistan's girls and young women.
No wonder its women cricketers fled their homeland



SANDEEP DWIVEDI

GURINDER CHADHA'S MUCH-ACCLAIMED and charmingly funny 2002 movie *Bend It Like Beckham* starts with the football-crazy teen Jess imagining herself as David Beckham while watching England's set-piece superstar on television. But then, that's not what girls in families with Indian roots settled in Hounslow, West London are "supposed to do". They can't play ball, it's Barbies for them. Not training partners, they are supposed to look for life partners. Good Indian girls also don't get coached to master free-kicks, they are taught to get that perfect brown on their aloo-gobi.

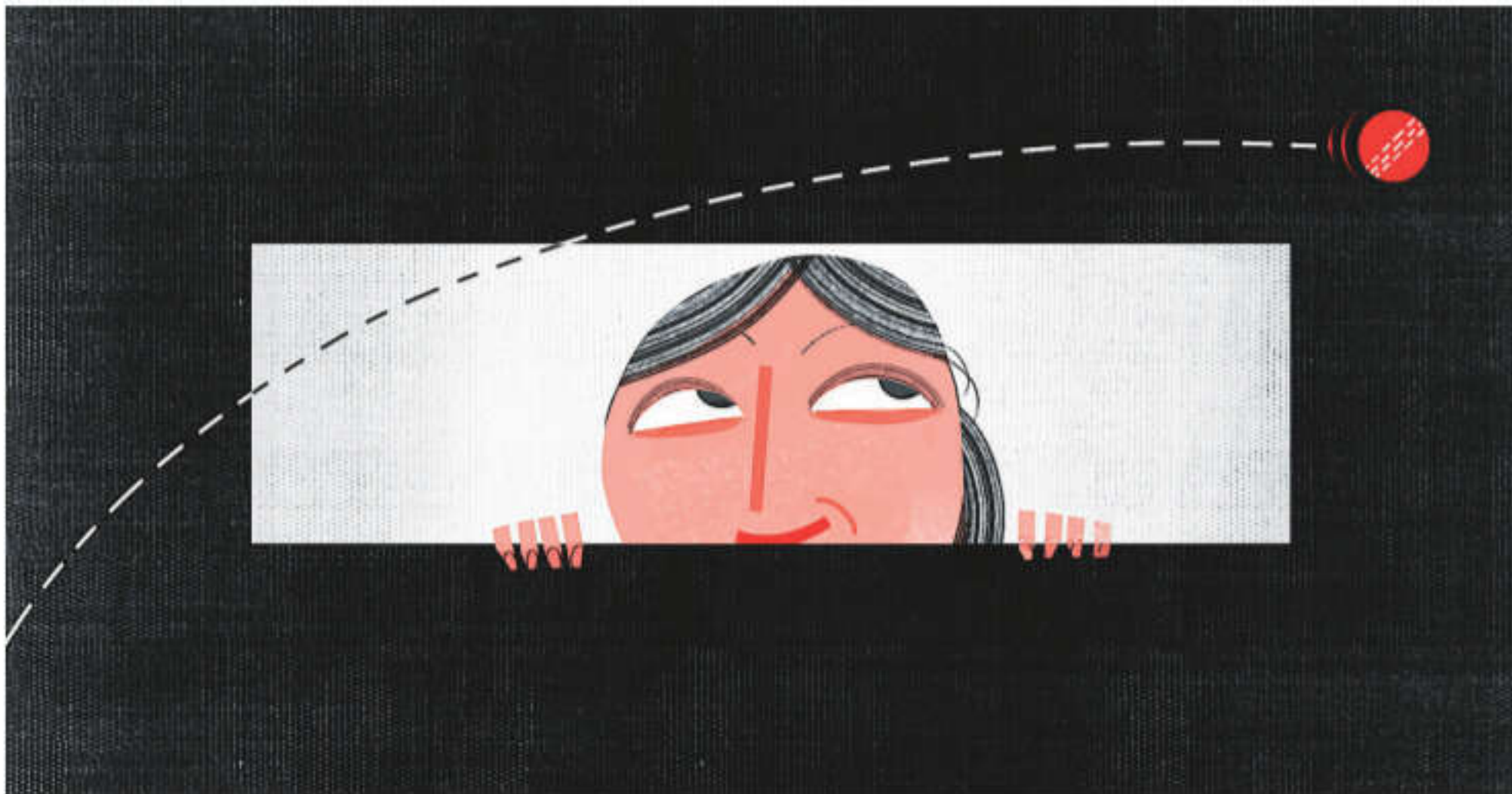
Jess's elder sister is getting engaged, her mother, the highly-inflammable Mrs Bhamra, is in a tizzy. Losing her temper over her daughter's indifference to festivities at home, she shouts: "Football, shootball! ... Your sister's getting engaged and you're watching this skinhead boy!" That's when Jess says something very important but is lost on her mother -- and might have gone over the head of most parents of a girl-child across the globe, world leaders, especially the Taliban. "Mum, it's Beckham's corner!" Jess says in helpless exasperation, underlining what the sport and the sporting star mean to her -- the world.

It's a short dialogue that captures the essence of the film, explains why one sees more boys than girls on sporting fields and also the staggering male-female gap in athletic endurance that gets used to undermine women's sport. A Beckham corner, even for a girl, can be an event to switch off from the world around her and get inspirationally transfixed. Jess and other sporty girls too can have what are viewed as unreasonable sporting dreams and work towards making them come true.

The fact that young girls, like boys, too want to rush out of their homes, run in their lanes, allow the breeze to hit their faces and have dirt on their feet, is surprisingly lost on those who set the rules, and make the big calls. If half of this world is encouraged to kick a ball, jump over a hurdle, shoot an arrow and wrestle on the mat, why can't the other half do the same? It's elementary and thus fundamental to any human's right to equality.

In Afghanistan, women have historically been systematically ostracised. Things got worse when the Taliban returned to power in 2021. Among the many tribal doctrines they put in place was to ask women to cover themselves from head to toe and keep away from sports, besides education. It was a blow for the many Jesses in Afghanistan. If shattered dreams made a sound, Afghanistan could have heard their loudest blast around the time the Taliban were settling in Kabul.

Those defying the rules would be arrested, imprisoned or stoned. Of late, things have turned worse. Under the new bizarre infra policy, no new building can have windows through which a passer-by can see women. The windows of existing buildings needed to be bricked or permanently covered. "Seeing women working in kitchens, in courtyards or collecting water from wells can lead to ob-



C R Sasikumar

scene acts," the Taliban government spokesperson is said to have announced. The Afghan women cricketers had seen it coming and that's why they fled their homeland.

Nahida Sapan was the Afghanistan team's all-rounder and would also do scoring duty during games. Days after the Taliban takeover, when she was at the university, her professor told them the class was over and they all needed to go home for good. On the depressing trip back, the girls would see Kalashnikov-toting Taliban guarding the streets. Sapan knew that her days of playing cricket were over. In a matter of days, women's cricket was reduced to ashes.

That wasn't enough for the Taliban, they wanted to track down each woman cricketer. "If we catch one, we will catch all of them," they would proclaim. Sapan and other cricketers changed houses for days before deciding to cross the border to Pakistan, hiding behind their face-covering burqas. From Pakistan, with international support, the brave sporty Afghan women would fly to Australia.

Since then, the "runaway" women cricketers from Afghanistan have been in Australia as refugees. While covering the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, *The Indian Express* reporter Sriram Veera would meet one of them -- 21-year-old Benafsha Hashimi. Her heart-rending story of courage is about Hashimi going to impossible lengths and breaths, to keep the cricketer in her alive.

Not very different from Sapan's moment of panic, Hashimi too got an overwhelming scent of fear within days of the regime change. Her family sent her out to withdraw cash where the teenager would hear gunshots fired by Taliban soldiers near the bank. She knew it was time to leave, there was no chance she could play the sport her late father encouraged her to play with his brothers in the street.

Hashimi's home in Kabul was very different from the Bhamra household, the one created by Gurinder in her movie. The feisty Afghan girl proudly shared how her father wasn't like most Afghan males who longed for sons. "He treated me like a little princess. ... distributing laddoos when I was born. He wanted me to study. 'I am a special one I could do whatever I want' -- he

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would tell me."

Not just the family, it takes a village to raise a child with sporting dreams. But not in a country with regressive anti-women decrees and a world not truly committed to wiping out gender discrimination. That's why Afghan sports women couldn't do what they willed all their life and though the blame falls squarely on the Taliban this time, there are broader issues. Women only have seasonal and not fully committed backers who mostly offer lip service and practice double standards. Once again "Support Afghan women cricketers" is trending. International cricket will come to Pakistan with the Champions Trophy and this is another chance for the world leaders to launch into the chorus of hollow moral support.

The other day UK prime minister Keir Starmer appealed to the ICC to follow the book and ban Afghanistan cricket. Next was South Africa's Sports Minister Gayton McKenzie adding his two bits. "As a man who comes from a race that was not allowed equal access to sporting opportunities during Apartheid, it would be hypocritical and immoral to look the other way today when the same is being done towards women anywhere in the world," he would say.

It's a valid and timely shout-out for the Afghan women but why have the influential global leaders allowed the Taliban government to implement anachronistic policies, starting with barring education? And in a case of terrible timing, India, disregarding Afghanistan's gender apartheid, has extended a helping hand to the war-torn country and met officials of the Taliban government. The irony is hard to miss. While the political class continues to remain blind to the Taliban way, it wants ICC to come down heavily on Afghanistan cricket.

It's a pity that we live in a complex world that is governed by many-layered geopolitics. The world has failed Afghanistan's girls and women. All that the Sapan, Hashimis and their cricket sisters wanted was to run in their lanes, let the breeze hit their faces, dirty their feet and swing the ball like Megan Schutt. Or simply, "Bend it like Bumrah".

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WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Nepalis were caught unaware by the 2015 earthquake; awareness programmes gained momentum in its aftermath. Predictably, complacency has crept in with the passage of time. Not only has reconstruction of earthquake-resilient houses slowed, even basic safety measures are ignored." — **THE KATHMANDU POST**

A destination and journey

Kumbh Mela is not just a religious congregation but also a place to consider the challenges that humanity faces



RAM RAJYA

BY RAM MADHAV

INDIA IS THE land of festivals. The Maha Kumbh Mela, set to start in the Prayagraj city of Uttar Pradesh in the coming week, is the festival of festivals. Over 40 days, this massive festival of religion and spirituality attracts hundreds of millions of devotees from all across the world, including tens of thousands of non-Hindus.

Swami Vivekananda had described India as "Dharma-Praana Bharata" -- "Bharat with dharma as the soul". Everything, including the festivals, revolves around dharma. For ease of understanding, we tend to use the word religion for it. But where religion is defined as a set of "beliefs" in a given god or a book, dharma is a path of continuous exploration for self-discovery and purification of one's soul.

The religion of Hindus, which is more a creed than a faith, insists on search and inquiry about noble and sacred truth rather than blind belief. In the Hindu creed, there are no believers in religion; there are only seekers of truth. Mahatma Gandhi encapsulated this aspect so beautifully by saying "If I were asked to define the Hindu creed, I should simply say: Search after truth through non-violent means. A man may not believe in God and still call himself a Hindu. Hinduism is a relentless pursuit after truth... Truth is God. Denial of God we have known. Denial of truth we have not known."

All festivals in Hindu tradition are occasions for soul-searching and truth-seeking. The Kumbh Mela, a 12-yearly mega spectacle, is also one such occasion. Religions in the world were born mostly through prophets and sacred books. But the creed of Hindus was born through a "Bhadra Iccha" -- "benign wish" of the sages for "Abhyudaya" -- "welfare and wellbeing in this life and hereafter". Hindu history tells that the sages of yore had come together, again and again, to contemplate and deliberate on the meaning and purpose of "existence", and out of those deliberations emerged the "benign wish" for creating a worldview based on principles of universal good. That became the Dharma or creed of Hindus.

Kumbh Mela too began millennia ago as one such occasion when the saints and sages came together for weeks to deliberate on the dharma. Like in any other religion, myths abound in Hinduism too. The word "myth" sometimes evokes negative reactions in India, whereas in the sphere of religion globally, myths are the stories of yore, not viewed from the binary of truth and falsehood. Mythology is story and history too. One such mythological story explains the significance of Kumbh Mela in the context of the battle between Devas -- gods -- and Asuras -- demons -- for owning "Amrit" -- the holy elixir. At the end of "Samudra Manthana" -- churning of the oceans, jointly undertaken by the gods and demons, when the holy elixir emerged -- a competition erupted between the two groups to capture it. To pre-

vent the Amrit from falling into the hands of the demons, the divine bird Garuda lifted the pitcher and flew away. As the Asuras and Devas clashed with each other in pursuit of the Amrit, which lasted for 12 divine days equal to 12 human years, a few drops of Amrit fell at four places on earth: Prayagraj, Haridwar, Nashik, and Ujjain. The Kumbh Mela is held at these four places once in 12 years. Kumbh means the pitcher, a reference to the orb from which the elixir had dropped.

Although it began as an assembly of holy men, Kumbh Mela acquired the character of a massive human congregation over centuries due to the patronage of successive rulers across the country like the Nandas, Guptas, Cholas and Pallavas. Huen Tsang, the famous Chinese traveller, had recorded in his travelogue about attending the festival in the seventh century. Even some Mughal and British rulers too were said to have patronised the massive spiritual congregation over centuries. In 2017, UNESCO inscribed it in the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Western worldview looked at nature as an avenue of exploitation for human good, whereas in Hindu tradition, nature is considered divine and integral to the existence of the universe. The *Atharva Veda*, one of the four Vedas, dedicated one *sukta* or chapter to the praise of the earth, called "Prithvi Sukta". Seeking to instil reverence about Mother Earth and nature, the Prithvi Sukta declared: "Mata Prithvi; Putroham Prithvyah" -- meaning, "this earth is my mother, and I am her offspring". All Hindu festivals, including Kumbh Mela, are designed to rekindle that sense of sacredness about nature in the human consciousness.

Mega festivals like Kumbh Mela are not just religious congregations meant for divine blessings for individuals. They are supposed to be the occasions for contemplation and inquiry into the challenges that humanity faces and finding answers to them. Over the last few centuries, the Hindu religious and social order has become lethargic and increasingly confined itself to revelling in rituals and the past. As a result, India's contribution to the world's contemporary wisdom became increasingly small.

Today, when the world is faced with economic challenges, answers are sought from institutions like the World Economic Forum; and when it comes to challenges of climate, we turn to the COP series of conferences. The solutions that these Western-dominated institutions offer are not very different from what traditional Indian wisdom can offer. For example, the WEF is promoting the idea of "stakeholder capitalism" as an answer to present-day challenges. It is not much different from the concept of "dharma karta" in ancient Indian thought. Similarly, India can offer better answers to humanity's challenge of climate than the COP summits that focus more on setting limits on climate destruction and settling demands for climate financing.

The UP government deserves praise for hosting the "Kumbh Global Summit on Sustainability and Development" as part of the Mela this year to offer an Indic vision for climate mitigation. India should take the lead in offering guidance to the world in shaping the future on the basis of Eastern wisdom. Festivals like Kumbh can be a great occasion for that.

The writer, president, India Foundation, is with the BJP. Views are personal

The fallen tree on Akbar Road

As the Grand Old Party gets a new house, tales from its old address



RASHEED KIDWAI

IN MAY 1999, a storm brought down a large tree on the premises of 24 Akbar Road, killing an eight-year-old boy and demolishing a makeshift temple inside the Congress party office. The tree and the temple held a special significance for the thousands who thronged 24 Akbar Road, seeking election tickets. Old-timers recalled the tree had been there when the Congress office moved to 24 Akbar Road in 1978 after the split in the party. The temple had been constructed by a holy man from Karnataka after he had been given a party ticket. Many ticket aspirants believed that the temple deity and the tree had the power to grant the fulfilment of one's political aspirations.

Most AICC general secretaries rushed out of their offices wondering how the tree had fallen in a storm that had lasted a mere 10 minutes. When the news reached Sonia late that night, the then-AICC chief was visibly upset. She was told the tree had had a "weak foundation" -- its roots had been decaying for long. Some disgruntled party men drew a parallel between the fallen tree and the Congress, claiming that the tree and the party were probably of the same age. The tree had appeared invincible till it had suddenly collapsed. The Congress under Sonia in 1999 looked good, but its roots were decaying as the party was then hopelessly placed in big states such as Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu. However, 24 Akbar Road proved the cynics wrong when the Congress marched

forward onto two back-to-back electoral successes in 2004 and 2009.

24 Akbar Road was not Indira's choice on January 1, 1978, when the then Congress president, K Brahmananda Reddy announced that she had been expelled from the party. Reddy had the support of many powerful leaders such as Y B Chavan, Vasantdada Patil and Swaran Singh. The CWC met at the residence of Maragatham Chandrasekhar at 3 Janpath. Twelve out of 24 members sided with Indira, but the AICC chief was not in an accommodating mood. Buta Singh, A P Sharma, G K Moopanar, Syed Mir Qasim, Maragatham Chandrasekhar and Budh Priya Maurya, marched to Reddy's house to challenge Indira's expulsion. Buta, who was formerly with the Akali Dal, spoke harshly to Reddy, demanding to know how Nehru's daughter could be expelled from the Congress.

Though she was greatly pained to lose her party's invaluable archives, when she returned to power with a thumping majority in 1980, Indira refused to stake a claim on 7 Jantar Mantar. "I have built the party from scratch, not once, but twice. The new office premises will rejuvenate the party rank and file for decades," she told her politician son Sanjay who broached the subject of returning to 7 Jantar Mantar.

This was not 24 Akbar Road's first brush with history. For two years beginning in 1961, it had played host to Aung San Suu Kyi, Nobel laureate and leader of the non-violent move-

ment for human rights and democracy in Myanmar (the erstwhile Burma). Suu Kyi was barely 15 when she arrived at 24 Akbar Road with her mother, Daw Khin Kyi, Aung San's widow, who was appointed Myanmar's ambassador to India. 24 Akbar Road was named Burma House by Jawaharlal Nehru in recognition of Daw Khin Kyi's special status. The house built by Sir Edwin Lutyens between 1911 and 1925 was regarded as a singular example of British colonial architecture and a masterpiece of early modernism.

Suu Kyi was a young girl when she chose for herself the room that was later occupied by Rahul Gandhi in his capacity as general secretary of the All India Congress Committee (AICC). She picked the room because it had a huge piano. Years later, while under house arrest in a dilapidated lakeside habitation on University Avenue in Rangoon, Suu often played the piano for long hours to relieve the depression of her confinement.

During Narasimha Rao, Sitaram Kesri and Sonia Gandhi's tenures as AICC head, 24 Akbar Road changed in appearance. Its eight rooms expanded to thirty-four. While the main bungalow remained more or less intact, it had five ancillary portions added to it. Office-bearers lounge about by a nearly-depleted library. At the back of the house stands a row of more than a dozen rooms constructed during the P V Narasimha Rao regime. Then there are two blocks of outhouses, a square of 10 rooms that accommodates most of the secretarial staff,

and the residential block, which has dozens of low-roof structures that house the party *karamcharis* and their families.

Most of these constructions should have been declared illegal, but successive political regimes have looked the other way. Each time Congress ruled Delhi, the urban development or housing minister made it a point to prove his loyalty by bending and flouting rules even further to let 24 Akbar Road expand from within.

The period between 1978-1980 was tough for Congress. But Buta's innovative thinking helped. All visiting party leaders were requested to "donate" money to the new party. Buta also took the lead in organising meals when visiting party members were hungry. If he was short of cash, Buta would quietly leave for Gurdwara Bangla Sahib and bring *langar*. Often, Buta would walk across the road to 2 Motilal Nehru Marg, the residence of Khurshed Alam Khan, son-in-law of former president Zakir Hussain and father of Salman Khurshid, who later served as AICC office-bearer at 24 Akbar Road. This mild-mannered management graduate from University of Pennsylvania and his family were always willing to help. Normally they had elaborate, non-vegetarian meals, replete with kebabs, stews and shorbas, but they would add vegetables freshly grown in their kitchen garden to cater to the vegetarians.

Kidwai is a journalist and author of 24 Akbar Road

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DELHI & KABUL

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Engaging Taliban' (IE, January 10). Last year, India signed a 10-year deal with US sanctions-hit Iran to operate the Chabahar port. The move aimed to boost India's trade links with Afghanistan and Central Asia and bypass the ports of Karachi and Gwadar in Pakistan. Chabahar also figured in the talks between Vikram Misri and Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttaqi. It appears that India has realised that the Taliban is going nowhere. For better or worse, it's worthwhile to engage with them.

Khokan Das, Kolkata

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Engaging Taliban' (IE, January 10). Afghanistan is geopolitically important, and India's nuanced engagement with Kabul reflects the new regional realities. The talks pave the way for cooperation in humanitarian aid, connectivity and financial support. However, any attempt to normalise relations must not come at the cost of India's security, human rights, and the Taliban's ties to insurgent groups operating in Pakistan. India's commitment to helping the Afghan people remains strong. But we should not forget that this is a regime that has shown little regard for the rights of women and minorities.

Sanjay Chopra, Mohali

WAIT AND WATCH

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Fight for capital' (IE, January 9). AAP may find itself on a sticky wicket vis-a-vis the BJP. Congress is independently contesting and is likely finishing at the bottom, as was the case in 2015 and 2020. The BJP had managed to win all seven Lok Sabha seats during the 2024 general elections despite Congress and AAP putting up a joint fight. All we can do now is watch how the parties campaign and wait for the Delhi voters to decide who will govern them.

SK Gupta, New Delhi

BJP'S DOUBLESPEAK

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Terms of inclusion' (IE, January 9). Projecting PM Modi's participation in Christmas Day celebrations as an outreach to the Christian community is problematic, particularly in light of the Sangh Parivar's continued campaign against minority communities. It is reflected in reports of harassment and assaults on nuns and priests, vandalism of places of worship, and disruption of prayers, all of which occur more in BJP-ruled states. These incidents have risen since 2014, when the Modi-led BJP came to power. It would be wise for the BJP to address this mistreatment of minorities before claiming to support them.

LR Murmu, New Delhi



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EXPLAINED TECHNOLOGY

WHY FACT-CHECKERS HAVE BEEN DUMPED BY META, HOW NOTES WORK

KARAN MAHADIK
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 10

META, THE company behind Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp, recently announced changes to content moderation across its apps in the US. It will eliminate fact-checking labels from fact-checkers, replacing them with a 'Community Notes' system similar to X (formerly Twitter). The decision has ignited a broader debate over the most effective strategy to combat misinformation on social media.

Behind the change

Nine years ago, Meta began flagging fake news with help from external fact-checkers. Its independent fact-checking programme was expanded after reports said Russian disinformation campaigns had targeted American voters during the 2016 presidential election campaign.

So far, fact-checkers and experts certified by the International Fact-Checking Network (IFCN) would independently review and rate potential misinformation by citing their original reportage, interviewing primary sources, consulting public data, and analysing media. Meta would ensure that content rated as "false" was less visible to users.

Meta has now changed tack. It says that this approach is flawed, and experts may have biases — which "showed up in the choices some made about what to fact check and how".

IFCN has pushed back. "The fact-checkers used by Meta follow a Code of Principles requiring non-partisanship and transparency," IFCN director Angie Holan said in a statement. She said that Meta's decision "comes in the wake of extreme political pressure from a new administration and its supporters".

US President-elect Donald Trump has

been critical of big tech companies for allegedly censoring conservatives online.

Community Notes

Community Notes was first piloted as a programme called Birdwatch by Twitter in 2021, that is, before Elon Musk purchased the platform and renamed it. It allows users to add facts and context below a specific post. A Community Note shows only if enough contributors vote that it provides helpful context. Anyone on X can add Notes if they meet certain criteria, like having a six-month-old account, a verified phone number, and no violations of X rules.

Initially, contributors are only allowed to rate Community Notes as helpful or not. Over time, they are allowed to write and attach their own Notes. All contributions are publicly available, allowing anyone to download the data and flag issues. Meta's model will likely be similar.

Crowdsourcing concerns

Given its crowdsourced nature, Community Notes could be vulnerable to coordinated manipulation. To address this challenge, X uses a bridging algorithm to determine whether a Note appears below a post. This means that a Note will be shown only if it has been rated as 'helpful' by people who have tended to disagree in their past ratings.

X claims this helps "prevent a single group from being able to engage in mass voting to determine what notes are shown". It also claims to proactively invite the inputs of contributors offering different perspectives.

But challenges remain. Community Notes may not be as effective in stopping the spread of misinformation from one platform to another. Their ability to capture the nuance that goes into fact-checking political news has also been questioned.

EXPLAINED CLIMATE CHANGE

What breaching 1.5°C means

It's official: 2024 was the first year to breach the 1.5 degree Celsius threshold. With global emissions continuing to grow, this was very much expected. The planet will only get warmer in the coming years

AMITABH SINHA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 10

THE YEAR 2024 has now been confirmed to have breached the 1.5 degree Celsius global warming threshold, becoming the first calendar year to do so.

The annual average temperature of Earth's surface in 2024 was 1.6 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial times (average of the 1850-1900 period), according to data from the Copernicus Climate Change Service run by the European Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (ECMWF).

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) used six datasets, including the one used by ECMWF, to conclude that 2024 was 1.55 degrees Celsius warmer than pre-industrial levels. Each of the six datasets found 2024 to be the warmest year ever, but not all of them recorded the warming to be in excess of 1.5 degrees Celsius.

An arbitrary mark

The 1.5 degree mark is an arbitrarily decided threshold. In terms of climate change impacts, there is nothing new that will begin to happen once this threshold is crossed. Science only says that the climate impacts are expected to become more severe and frequent as warming increases.

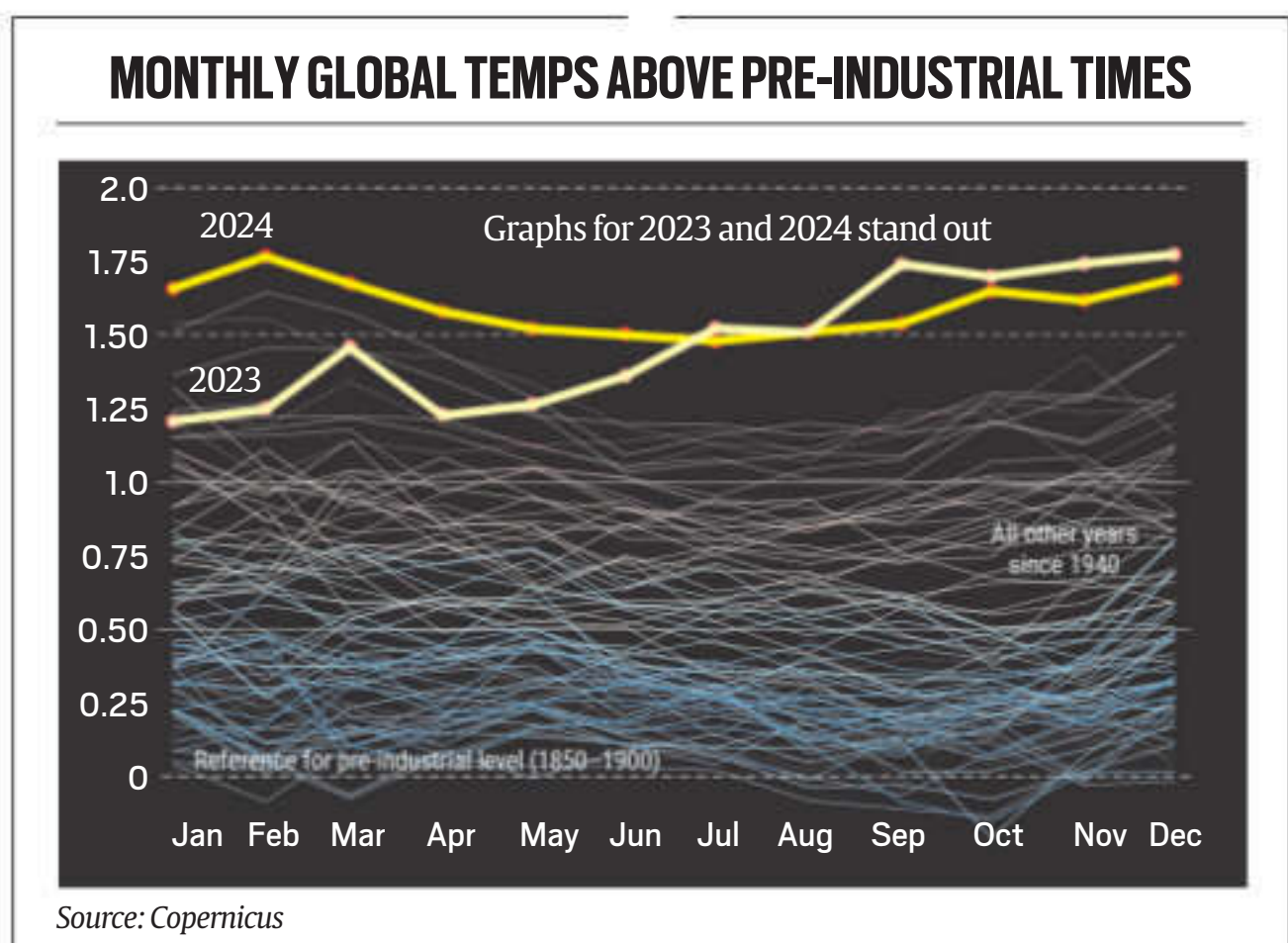
The 2024 breach does not mean that the 1.5 degree target is over. This target, mentioned in the 2015 Paris Agreement, refers to long-term temperature trends, usually over two to three decades, not annual or monthly averages.

The breach does not come as a surprise. The WMO as been saying for more than two years now that this threshold was almost certain to be crossed before 2027.

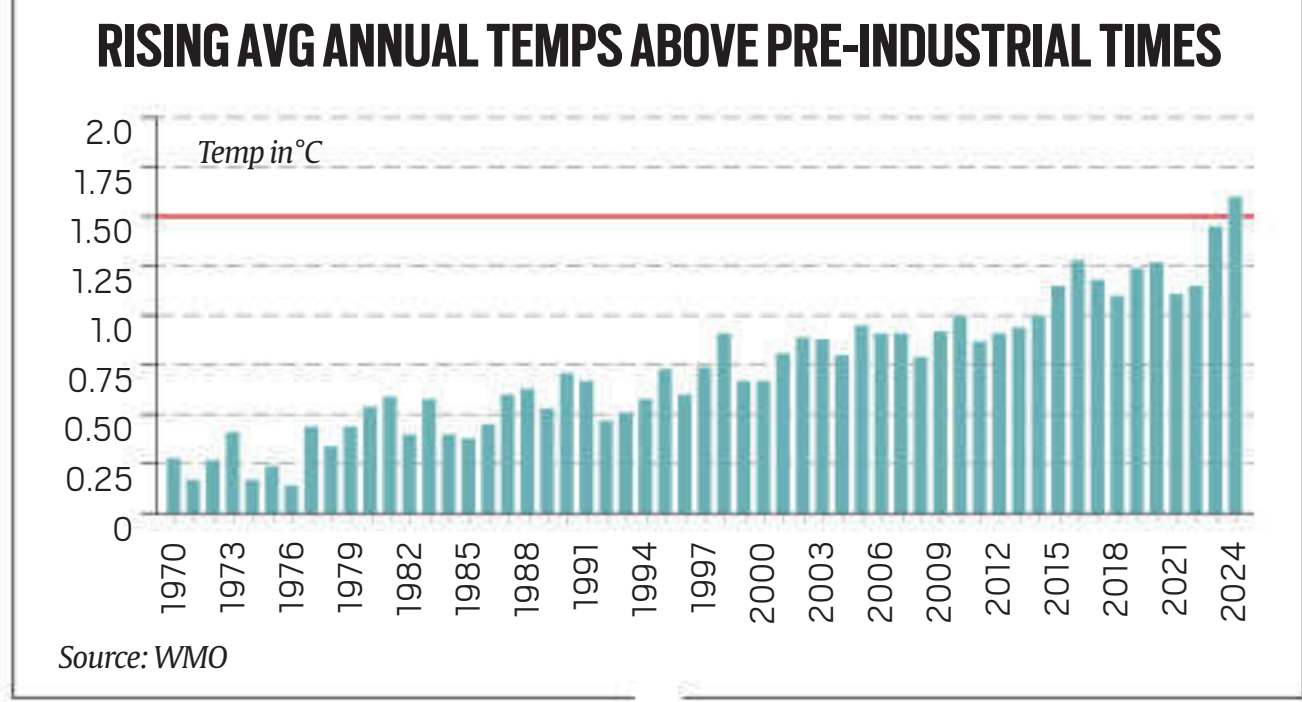
As a result, this new data is unlikely to trigger any fresh response measures from countries to deal with the problem of climate change — something that has so far been severely inadequate.

Global emissions are still on the rise, and the 2030 emission cut targets are almost certain to be missed. Therefore, there is every likelihood that the breach that has happened in 2024 would become a norm within the next decade.

"One or two years that exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial level does not imply that the Paris Agreement has



Source: Copernicus



Source: WMO

been breached. However, with the current rate of warming at more than 0.2 degrees Celsius per decade, the probability of breaching the 1.5 degree target of the Paris Agreement within the 2030s is highly likely," the ECMWF said in a statement.

2023, 2024 exceptionally warm

The year 2024 has now become the warmest year ever, taking over from 2023 which was 1.45 degrees Celsius warmer than pre-industrial levels. Together, these two years were exceptionally warm, and

witnessed several record-breaking temperature events. Every month since July 2023, with the exception of July 2024, has been more than 1.5 degrees Celsius warmer than the corresponding monthly average of pre-industrial times.

The years 2023 and 2024 stand out even in the rapidly warming trend witnessed in the last decade, ECMWF said. For instance, the previous warmest year, 2016, which was 1.29 degrees Celsius warmer than pre-industrial levels, was influenced by a very strong El Niño — a periodic oceanic phenomenon in

COFFEE IS GOOD FOR YOU — BUT ONLY IN THE MORNING: LARGE STUDY

PEOPLE WHO drink coffee in the mornings reap benefits that are not seen by those who consume the beverage later in the day, a study published in the *European Heart Journal* on Wednesday found.

Morning coffee drinkers were 16% less likely to die of any cause, and 31% less likely to die from cardiovascular disease than those who did not consume the beverage. There was, however, no significant reduction in mortality for all-day drinkers compared to non-drinkers.

These benefits came irrespective of how much coffee one drank. "It's not just whether you drink coffee or how much you drink, but the time of day when you drink coffee that's important," Lu Qi, one of the paper's authors, and an expert in nutrition and epidemiology at Tulane University in New Orleans, told *The Guardian*.

The analysis was based on data collected from 40,275 adults who participated in the US National Health and

Nutrition Examination Survey between 1999 and 2018. It was verified using data from the Women's and Men's Lifestyle Validation Studies (2010-13) which included the seven-day dietary record of 1,463 American adults.

Although this study did not explain the rationale behind these findings, previous research has highlighted the deleterious impact that the consumption of caffeine — the main stimulant in coffee — has on human sleep. An oft-cited 2013 study found that caffeine consumption even six hours prior to bedtime can have major disruptive effects on sleep, which in turn has harmful effects on the heart, and overall health.

Prof Thomas F. Lüscher, in an accompanying editorial to the study, referred to the growing body of evidence suggesting that coffee drinking is indeed beneficial to human health. He wrote: "Drink your coffee, but do so in the morning!"

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE



PAPER CLIP

NEW RESEARCH

ALIND CHAUHAN
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 10

AT LEAST 10 people have been killed in the wildfires that continued to rage in Southern California on Friday, powered by Santa Ana winds that gusted to 112 kmph in some places.

The fires have destroyed thousands of acres of land, entire streets, and thousands of buildings in the Los Angeles area, forcing the evacuation of more than 200,000 residents.

How many fires?

This is not the annual fire season in this part of the United States. But as of Friday afternoon (in India), at least five gigantic fires were burning to the north, east, and west of the Los Angeles area.

The Palisades fire, the largest and most destructive, had destroyed more than 17,000 acres in the Pacific Palisades neighbourhood to the west of LA. It was only 6% contained as of Friday afternoon, *The New York Times* reported.

The next biggest fire, the Eaton fire, is burning to the east of LA. It has so far burned 10,000 acres in the San Gabriel Mountains to the north of Pasadena. It has not been contained at all.

The Hurst fire, Lidia fire, and another fire



Firefighters trying to contain a wildfire in California on Wednesday. Reuters

that broke out in LA's West Hills neighbourhood have burned through between 300 and 1,000 acres so far.

The Santa Ana winds

These winds blow when high pressure builds over the Great Basin — the area between the Rocky Mountains and Sierra Nevada — and pressure is low over California's coast. The difference in pressure triggers pow-

erful winds that move from the Basin's inland deserts east and north of Southern California towards the Pacific Ocean.

As the wind comes down the mountains, it compresses and heats up, and its humidity falls — sometimes to less than 10%. The hot, dry wind dries out forests, and fuels wildfires.

Santa Ana winds are a natural part of California's climate pattern, and usually blow from October to January. "Winter weather patterns allow high pressure to build near the surface of the Great Basin, which then interacts with low-pressure air over the Pacific," Rose Schoenfeld, a National Weather Service meteorologist in Oxnard, California, told *Bloomberg*.

Role of climate change

California experienced its hottest ever June and July, and the second hottest October in 2024. Much of Southern California has had no rain since July, even though half the normal rainy season has already passed. This is the second driest spell in the region in 150 years.

The excessive heat and absence of rain had already turned the vegetation very dry when the Santa Ana began to blow, making the forests even drier and vulnerable to fires.

California's wildfire season has become longer in recent decades. The state now has

the eastern Pacific Ocean that has a big impact on global weather. El Niño has a general warming effect, while its opposite phenomenon, called La Niña, has a cooling effect.

There was an El Niño prevailing during 2023 and 2024 as well, but it was mild compared to the 2015-2016 event. ECMWF said the unusual warming of 2023 and 2024 could be because of several other factors, though there was no one dominant reason. It cited "unprecedented" El Niño-like systems in multiple other ocean regions as one of the possible reasons.

An underwater volcanic eruption near Tonga in the southern Pacific Ocean in January 2022, and lower sulphur dioxide emissions from the shipping industry in 2024 could also have contributed to the warming, ECMWF said. Sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere reflects some solar radiation, thus preventing it from reaching Earth.

The unusual warming could also be because of the Sun, which was in its solar maximum phase in 2024 during its routine 11-year solar cycle. During the cycle, the magnetic poles of the Sun flip from one end to the other. ECMWF said an increase in the solar energy reaching the Earth during the solar maximum phase could have contributed to the warming.

But these are only possibilities. A more definitive analysis of the potential causes of the 2023-24 warming will come later.

Looking at 2025 and beyond

The exceptional trends seen in 2023 and 2024 are unlikely to continue this year. As of now, 2025 is not expected to emerge as the warmest year. However, it is unlikely to be substantially cooler either. In the last decade, annual temperatures have been between 1.1 and 1.4 degrees Celsius higher than pre-industrial levels, and this year is expected to fall in the same bracket.

Incidentally, the UK Met Office, in a forecast issued last month, said 2025 could very well emerge as the third warmest year ever, after 2024 and 2023.

According to a WMO report released last year, there is a possibility of annual average temperatures reaching as high as 1.9 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels in one of the years before 2028. The report also said that there is a 50% chance of the five-year average of annual temperatures up to 2028 exceeding the 1.5 degree Celsius threshold.

twice as many fire weather days (when weather conditions are favourable for wildfires) than in the early 1970s, according to *Wildfire Weather: Analyzing the 50-year shift across America*, a report published by the nonprofit Climate Central in May 2023.

A 2021 study in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, reported that warmer and drier conditions have caused a 66% to 90% of the increase in California's fire weather days over the last few decades.

The fires have also become more intense. According to a 2023 study published in *PNAS*, 10 of the biggest California wildfires have occurred in the last 20 years — five of them in 2020 alone.

Another 2023 study published in *Nature*, which analysed wildfires between 2003 and 2020, noted that the frequency of extreme daily wildfire growth (> 10,000 acres) has increased by 25% in California compared to pre-industrial times.

All of this is primarily driven by climate change. The rise in global temperatures has led to warmer springs and summers, and earlier spring snow melts. Together, these conditions lead to longer and more intense dry seasons, putting more moisture stress on vegetation and making forests more vulnerable to fires.

Space crunch, threats, a natural tendency: Why tigers go on long walks

JAY MAZOOMDAAR
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 10

LAST MONTH, a tigress ventured east from Odisha, walking 300 km to West Bengal. Another tiger was recently found to have made its way from Uttarakhand to Himachal Pradesh, and possibly even Jammu, reaching just a few kilometres from the Line of Control.

As India's tiger population bounces back in certain well-protected pockets, big cats walking out of tiger reserves are making headlines. But dispersal is natural for the tiger — a solitary, territorial animal that must create its own space with exclusive hunting and reproductive rights.

Going far, under the radar

Anecdotal evidence suggests that tigers have been testing the limits of their subcontinental range for quite some time. Consider:

In 2016, conservationist and hotelier Balendu Singh hosted the Pakistani human rights activist Asma Jahangir and her indus-

trialist husband Tahir at Ranthambhore. As they exchanged stories, Tahir Jahangir mentioned occasional sightings of tigers near their holiday home in Murree, across the LoC.

"There is no recorded history of tigers in Jammu. I was naturally incredulous but didn't contest the guest's claim. I remembered him when I heard that a tiger was photographed by an Army patrol above Rajouri, less than 100 km from Murree," Singh said.

Despite their size and lazy gait, tigers are adept at negotiating non-forest landscapes, while remaining mostly out of sight — even small green patches can help them travel through landscapes dotted with villages.

Tiger dispersals are mostly exploratory — they do not follow linear paths, and find their way around barriers such as highways, railways, canals, mines, and human habitation.

In 2019, wildlife biologists documented a male tiger's journey within Maharashtra, from Tipeshwar to Dnyanganga sanctuary. To cover a linear distance of 315 km over 225 days, the tiger walked 3,000 km

through a mosaic of forest and agricultural landscapes. During the journey, it used 89 resting sites — 73 in forests and 16 outside — stopping for durations ranging from seven hours to a week. Some of these pit stops were made barely 300-500 metres from human settlements.

Males tend to disperse more

A study of 29 tiger cubs between 2005 and 2011 in Ranthambhore found that males showed a greater probability of dispersal (92.3%) than females (36.4%). Males also dispersed further (4.5-148 km) than females (4.6-25.8 km) from the area of birth.

Over the last two decades, long-distance dispersals of male tigers have been well documented:

2003: Broken Tail, the firstborn of Ranthambhore's iconic tigress Machli, travelled a linear distance of 150 km to Dara sanctuary near Kota, where it was run over by a train.

2008: A tiger walked a linear distance of 197 km from Bhadra tiger reserve to Dandeli sanctuary in Karnataka.

2018: A tiger from Ratapani sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh moved to Mahisagar in Gujarat — a linear distance of over 300 km.

2023: A tiger from Maharashtra's Brahmapuri travelled 2,000 km across four states to reach Rayagada in Orissa — a linear distance of 650 km.

That said, tigresses too have been recorded walking long distances. In 2015, a tigress travelled a linear distance of 99 km to reach Ranipur sanctuary in Uttarakhand Pradesh from Panna in Madhya Pradesh.

Looking for territory, mates

Typically, a male tiger's larger territory encompasses smaller territories of multiple female tigers. While related tigresses may concede space to one another in adjacent ranges, every male tiger must establish its own territory when it comes of age.

Within the finite limits of shrinking forests, this leads to frequent duels between young pretenders and the mature males already in control of prime plots. If lucky to survive the face-offs, the vanquished flee the victor's territory. For old tigers, such displacement would signal impending death. Young floaters, however, must keep exploring for vacant slots and accessible tigresses.

A tiger forest reaching its carrying capacity is not the only scenario when individual tigers wander outside.

In Madhya Pradesh, for instance, the first tiger that was shifted to Panna from Pench in 2009 started walking south, looking for its former home. It had to be recaptured. Last month, tigress Zeenat showed the same restlessness after being packed away from Tadoba (Maharashtra) to Simlipal (Odisha).

Tigresses may also disperse to protect cubs. In 2011, a tigress walked out of Ranthambhore with her two cubs after the male that sired them was airlifted to repopulate Sariska. Wary of new males looking to kill the cubs and mate with her, the ti-

gress took refuge in the ravines and mustard fields by the Chambal river. The cubs did not survive.

Not a zero-sum game

Surplus tigers from 'source' reserves must fan out looking to reach low-tiger-density areas. When they succeed, the fresh gene flow revitalises isolated populations. When they don't, they die.

Also, without adequate monitoring, tiger dispersals through non-forest areas and human habitations may fuel man-animal conflict, eroding the goodwill the national animal banks on. Dispersal routes popular with tigers indicate the potential for developing and protecting new habitats so that the big cat may reclaim lost ground.

According to the latest all-India tiger estimate, one-fifth of India's tiger area spanning 16 tiger reserves harbours only 25 — less than 1% — of India's 3,682 tigers. There are enough forests for dispersing tigers to fill up.

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GOLD	USD RATE	OIL	SILVER
₹80,550	₹86.00	\$76.79	₹93,000
Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) per barrel as of January 9			

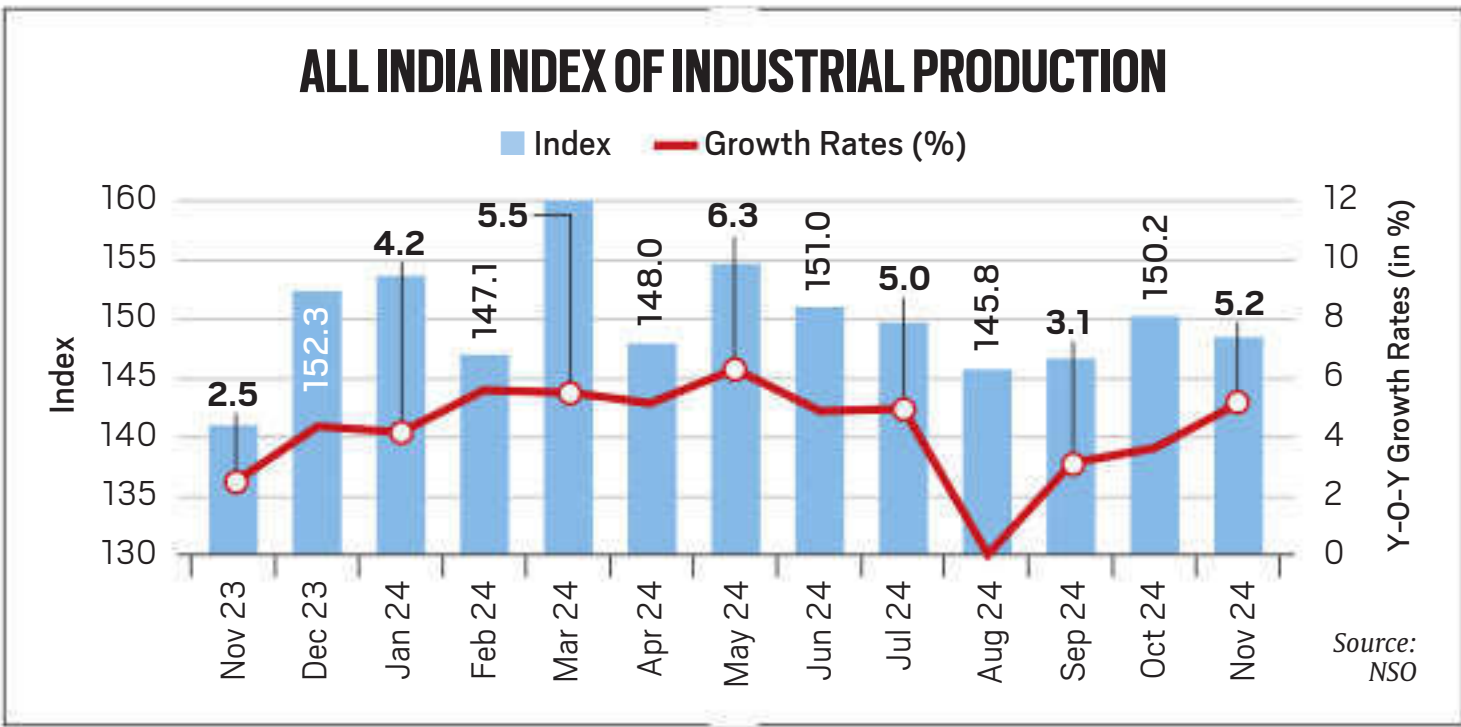
Factory output growth hits 6-month high of 5.2% in November: Govt data

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 10

INDIA'S FACTORY output, as measured by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), rose to a six-month high of 5.2 per cent in November from 3.7 per cent in October, mainly due to a favourable base effect along with a pickup in manufacturing, capital goods, and consumer durables.

It had grown by 2.5 per cent in November 2023. Cumulatively so far in the financial year 2024-25, industrial growth has been recorded at 4.1 per cent during April-November as against 6.5 per cent in the year-ago period.

Manufacturing, which accounts for 77.6 per cent of the weight of the IIP, surged to an eight-month high of 5.8 per cent in November from 4.4 per cent in October and 1.3 per cent in November 2023 primarily due to a pickup amid the festive season. "Quite clearly the needle appears to have turned during the festival season which is a good sign. The manufacturing sector in particular has fared



well with growth of 5.8 per cent over 1.3 per cent last year. Besides the low base effect, there has been a revival of both capital goods and consumer durable goods," Madan Sabnavis, Chief Economist, Bank of Baroda said.

Mining output picked pace to 1.9 per cent in November from 0.9 per cent in October even though it was lower than 7.0 per cent growth in the year-ago period. Electricity output grew by 4.4 per cent in November from 2.0 per cent in October. It had

grown by 5.8 per cent in the year-ago period. On the basis of use-base classification, the primary goods output grew by 2.7 per cent in November as against 2.5 per cent in October and 8.4 per cent in the year-ago period. Capital goods segment, a key indicator of the investment sentiment, grew 9.0 per cent in November as against 3.1 per cent growth in October and a contraction of 1.1 per cent in the year-ago period.

On the consumption goods side, consumer durables in-

creased to a year's high, while consumer and non-durables lagged behind. Consumer durables output — an indicator of consumption demand — grew 13.1 per cent in November as against 5.7 per cent growth in the previous month and 4.8 per cent in the year-ago period. Consumer non-durable goods output, which reflects fast-moving consumer goods, grew by just 0.6 per cent in November as against 2.6 per cent growth in October and a contraction of 3.4 per cent in

the year-ago period. Economists, however, pointed out that the improvement in consumer durables might not be a trend and may be due to the festive season.

"All three sectors (manufacturing, mining, electricity) and overall IIP have been on an increasing trend since September 2024. However, it will be too early to term it as industrial demand revival. Barring consumer non-durables, all the sub-sectors at the use-based level recorded an improvement in YoY growth in November 2024 from the previous month. The growth continued to be led by consumer durables, which grew 13.1 per cent YoY, at over a year's high led by base effect. However, the consumer non-durables output was up by just 0.6 per cent YoY in November 2024. This was despite a favourable base effect. The uptick in consumer durables may be due to the festive demand and some discretionary spending. This is not a trend and needs to be monitored closely," Paras Jasral, Senior Economic Analyst, India Ratings and Research said.

Private insurers show 239% jump in motor commission payouts to ₹16,578 crore

Private players lag behind PSU insurers in claims ratio

GEORGE MATHEW
MUMBAI, JANUARY 10

DESPITE CONCERNS raised by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI), private sector general insurers reported a 239 per cent jump in commission expenses in the motor insurance segment in fiscal ended March 2024. Interestingly, private insurers lagged behind public sector counterparts with a low claims ratio.

Private insurers shelled out a whopping ₹16,578 crore to motor insurance service providers (MISPs) as commission during the fiscal ended March 2024 as against ₹4,890 crore in FY2023 while securing fresh businesses. Interestingly, public sector insurers kept away from the 'commission game' and reported only 31.59 per cent rise in commission expenses at ₹3,099 crore in FY2024 as against ₹2,355 crore in FY2023, according to the Annual Report of the IRDAI.

When it comes to incurred claims ratio, public sector insurers led with 99.57 per cent while private players were far behind with a figure of 73.30 per cent, according to the IRDAI report.

Incurred claim ratio refers to the total claim amount paid by the insurance company in ratio to the total premium amount collected in a financial year. For instance, if the incurred claim ratio of an insurance provider is 75 per cent, then it means that the insurer pays ₹75 towards claim pay-

EXPLAINED

Who can become a MISIP

A MOTOR insurance service provider (MISP) is an automobile dealer that an insurer or insurance intermediary appoints to distribute and service motor insurance policies for vehicles sold through them. Any automobile dealer who does not attract any of the disqualifications as laid down in Section 42 of the Insurance Act, 1938 is eligible to become a MISIP

ment for every ₹100 of premium collected and the remaining ₹25 is considered as profit for the insurance company.

Meanwhile, earlier this year, IRDAI had repealed its guidelines capping the commission for long-term motor insurance policies, aligning these policies with the standard one-year motor insurance policies. Insurers can now offer commissions within the expense of management for long-term policies. Total commission expenses incurred by private players for all categories, including health, motor, marine and fire, were at ₹26,235 crore in FY24 as against ₹10,192 crore. PSU players' expenses were at ₹7,359 crore (₹6,340 crore). MISPs were reportedly charged

high commissions of over 50 per cent for new private car insurance policies. What is significant is that high commission to MISPs will inflate the insurance premium being paid by the car buyers. If an MISIP charge ₹45,000 insurance on a ₹12 lakh car, the same policy could cost just Rs 20,000 if taken from the market.

One MISIP was fined ₹3 crore for denying cashless claims to customers who didn't buy/renew their car insurance through them. IRDAI had recently expressed concern over high commission paid to MISPs during a meeting with officials of non-life insurance companies.

Car buyers have been complaining about MISPs pushing them to purchase specific policies at inflated prices.

The issue has raised regulatory concerns, as some dealers have been pushing vehicle sales along with the purchase of insurance from affiliated MISPs, thereby denying customers their right to choose their insurers. The Bima Sugam platform promises to change this landscape by facilitating a comprehensive digital marketplace where customers can compare offerings from various insurers. By promoting competition and transparency, Bima Sugam is expected to lower commission rates, ultimately leading to savings for policyholders. With its launch imminent, the platform is poised to revolutionise the insurance industry, empowering consumers and fostering a more competitive market.

BRIEFLY

Centre releases ₹1.73 L crore for tax devolution

New Delhi: The Centre on Friday released tax devolution of ₹1.73 lakh crore to the state governments to accelerate capital expenditure and finance welfare activities. "A higher amount is being devolved this month to enable states to accelerate capital spending and finance their development and welfare-related expenditures," the finance ministry said in a statement. The Union government has released tax devolution of ₹1,73,030 crore to state governments on Friday, as against the devolution of ₹89,086 crore in December 2024, the ministry added. **PTI**

Ariqt launches global innovation hub in Hyderabad

Hyderabad: Ariqt, a Netherlands-based developer-first company, today launched its Global Innovation Hub in Hyderabad, marking the beginning of its operations in India. The facility at Auro Galaxy was inaugurated by D Sridhar Babu, Minister for Information Technology, Electronics, Communications, Industries, and Commerce, Government of Telangana. The Global Innovation Hub, starting with a headcount of over 300 engineering professionals in the next two years, highlights Ariqt's trust in Hyderabad's ecosystem and skilled talent pool. This reflects Ariqt's commitment to growth and its confidence in the city's unparalleled potential to drive innovation, the company said in a statement. **PTI**

Adani Wilmar OFS: ₹4,850-cr stake offloaded

New Delhi: Adani Group on Friday raised ₹4,850 crore from the sale of 13.5 per cent of its stake in Fortune oil maker Adani Wilmar as part of a strategy to exit non-core activities to focus on main infrastructure business. The conglomerate, which last month announced its exit from Adani Wilmar by selling the bulk of its stake to a joint venture partner, had on Thursday announced sale of 17,54 crore shares (13.50 per cent equity) in the company on January 10 (to non-retail investors) and on January 13 (to retail investors) at a floor or minimum price of Rs 275 apiece. **PTI**

Rupee falls further, just shy of 86/dollar mark

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, JANUARY 10

THE RUPEE declined to 85.97 against the US dollar on Friday as American currency strengthened and foreign funds pulled out money from the equity market. Surging crude oil prices overseas and negative sentiment in domestic equity markets also weighed down the Indian currency.

The Indian currency opened at 85.88 and hit an intra-day low of 85.98 against the dollar. The Reserve Bank reportedly intervened in the market through banks by selling dollars to arrest the slide, forex market sources said. The rupee is set to cross the 86 level in the coming weeks, they said.

There were reports that the rupee crossed the 86 level in the non-deliverable forward (NDF) market. A major reason for the weakening of the rupee is selling by foreign investors in the equity market. They had sold stocks worth ₹21,357 crore in January so far. India's forex reserves dropped by \$5,693 billion to \$634.585 billion in the week ended January 3, the Reserve Bank of India said on Friday. The dollar strengthened on increased demand amid the anticipation of restrictive trade measures by the new US administration after Donald Trump takes over as president on January 20.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six



Dollar strengthened on increased demand

currencies, was trading 0.01 per cent higher at 109.01. The 10-year US bond yields also rose to its April 2024 level at 4.69 per cent.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, surged 1.96 per cent to USD 78.43 per barrel in futures trade. Forex dealers expect that the pressure on currency will continue in the near-term. "Weak tone in the domestic markets, a strong greenback and persistent FII outflows may continue to put downside pressure on the rupee. Additionally, the rising crude prices, as well as surge in the US treasury yields may further weigh on the domestic unit," they said.

However, any RBI intervention may support the rupee at lower levels. Traders may take cues from the non-farm payrolls report and consumer sentiment data from the US.

On the other hand, in the domestic equity market, the 30-share BSE Sensex declined 241.30 points, or 0.31 per cent, to settle at 77,378.91 points, while the Nifty dropped 95.00 points, or 0.40 per cent, to 23,431.50 points. The indices have been on the downward track for the past three sessions.

Mandatory for banks to offer customers fixed interest rate product: RBI's FAQs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, JANUARY 10

THE RBI on Friday said it is mandatory for banks to offer fixed interest rate product in all equated installment based personal loan categories.

The FAQs on 'Reset of Floating Interest Rate on EMI based Personal Loans' (August 2023) also said the circular covers all equated installment based personal loans, irrespective of whether the interest rate is linked to an external benchmark or an internal benchmark.

At the time of sanction of loans, annualised rate of interest/ annual percentage rate (APR), as applicable, should be disclosed in the Key Fact Statement (KFS) and the loan agreement, the FAQs said when and at what frequency should banks and other regulated entities (REs) communicate with the borrower.

During the tenure of the loan, any increase in the EMI/tenor on account of the external benchmark rate should be communicated. The quarterly statements should be provided disclosing at the minimum, the principal and interest recovered till date, EMI amount, number of EMIs left and

annualised rate of interest for the tenor of the loan.

Regulated entities (REs), the FAQs said have to mandatorily offer fixed interest rate product in all equated installment based personal loan categories.

REs have to provide the option to the borrowers to switch over to a fixed rate as per their board approved policy at the time of reset of interest rates.

In August 2023, the Reserve Bank of India directed banks to allow individual borrowers paying loans through EMIs to opt for a fixed interest rate system or extension of loan tenor, a move aimed at preventing loanees from falling into the trap of negative amortisation, in wake of rising interest rate.

The interest rates have moved northward since May 2022 after the central bank started raising the benchmark lending rate (repo) in a bid to check inflation following the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine war.

As a result of a 250 basis points increase in the repo rate, a large number of borrowers faced negative amortisation, wherein the EMI works out to be less than the interest obligation, resulting in a persistent increase of the principal amount.

Fund raising from capital markets may rise 21% to ₹14.7 lakh cr in FY2025: SEBI Chief

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, JANUARY 10

TOTAL CAPITAL market fund raising is likely to increase by 21 per cent to ₹14.7 lakh crore in the financial year 2025, from ₹11.8 lakh crore in the previous fiscal, Securities and Exchange Board of India Chairperson Madhavi Puri Buch said on Friday.

In the first nine months (April-December) of the current fiscal, total resources mobilised from the domestic capital market stood at ₹10.7 lakh crore, which included ₹7.3 lakh crore through the primary debt market and ₹3.3 lakh crore from equity.

"If we project for the next quarter (Q4), we will probably end somewhere over ₹14 lakh crore raised for the year (FY2025), in terms of capital, both equity and debt," Buch said at an event organized by SEBI and National Institute of Securities Markets (NISM).

She said in the January-March quarter, another ₹1 lakh crore is expected to be raised



SEBI chairperson Madhavi Puri Buch at a symposium on securities market on capital for growth in Mumbai on Friday. Amit Chakravarty

through equity, taking the overall fund raise via equity to ₹4.3 lakh crore by the end of March 2025.

To scale up fund raising through rights issue, Buch said the regulator has come up with a system in which the total end-to-end time for a rights issue has been reduced to 26 days from 317 days. Rights issue is an offering by the company to its existing shareholders to buy additional shares at a specific date

and at a reduced price.

Buch said fund raising through Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT), Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) and municipal bonds is currently low, but the potential to raise money through these instruments is high over the next few years. In the first nine months, resources mobilised through InvTs and REITs stood at ₹10,000 crore. While an InvT raises funds

by issuing units to investors and invests those funds primarily in assets in the infrastructure sector, a REIT raises funds by issuing units to investors and invests those funds primarily in assets in the real estate sector.

Underscoring the importance of the domestic bond market, Buch said that it has significantly contributed to the capital formation in the country.

"The bond market contributes almost ₹60 for every ₹100 that the banking system gives to corporate India. It plays a vital role in capital formation," she said. The primary market for bonds in the country is very strong. However, the traction in the secondary market is moderate because most of the investors in the segment are buy-and-hold investors, she said.

Highlighting the role of domestic institutional investors (DIIs), Buch said these investors have lent a countervailing force in times of volatility in foreign flows. This has given a tremendous resilience to the domestic market.

TOPOF THE WORLD



Impeached President Yoon Suk Yeol. Reuters

Yoon’s chief of security quits, warns against bloodshed

Seoul: The security chief of impeached South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol, under investigation for blocking Yoon’s arrest, resigned on Friday and said any further efforts to detain the ex-leader must avoid bloodshed. Yoon’s short-lived declaration of martial law on December 3 has plunged the country into a period of turbulence. Anti-graft officers Those officers were last week stopped from bringing Yoon in for questioning in a six-hour standoff with the Presidential Security Service, headed by Park Chong-jun. Park, a former senior police official, was questioned by police on Friday over his role in last week’s standoff. **REUTERS**

PAKISTAN

Gas explosion in coal mine leaves 12 trapped

Islamabad: At least 12 miners were trapped in Pakistan on Thursday after an explosion caused a coal mine collapse in the southwestern province of Balochistan. The mishap occurred in the Sanjdi area outside the capital city of Quetta. Chief Mines Officer Abdul Ghani Baloch said that a gas explosion caused a coal mine in the Sanjdi area to collapse from the inside, the Dawn newspaper reported. “Efforts are being made to pull all the miners out alive,” he said. **PTI**

LEBANON

Caretaker PM to meet Syrian leader al-Sharaa

Beirut: Lebanese caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati will meet Syria’s de facto leader Ahmed al-Sharaa in Damascus on Saturday, two Lebanese sources said, becoming the first head of government to visit Syria’s capital since the fall of Bashar al-Assad. The visit will also be the first by a Lebanese premier to neighbouring Syria in 15 years. Lebanon’s new president, Joseph Aoun, said on Thursday there was a historic opportunity for “a serious and equal dialogue” with Syria, which had big sway over its neighbour during much of the Assad family’s five decades in power. **REUTERS**

‘LOOKS LIKE AN ATOMIC BOMB DROPPED’: L.A. SHERIFF



TOTAL DESTRUCTION: The aftermath of the Palisades fire in the Pacific Palisades neighborhood of Los Angeles, on Thursday. **AP**

LA wildfires: Calmer winds help firefighters

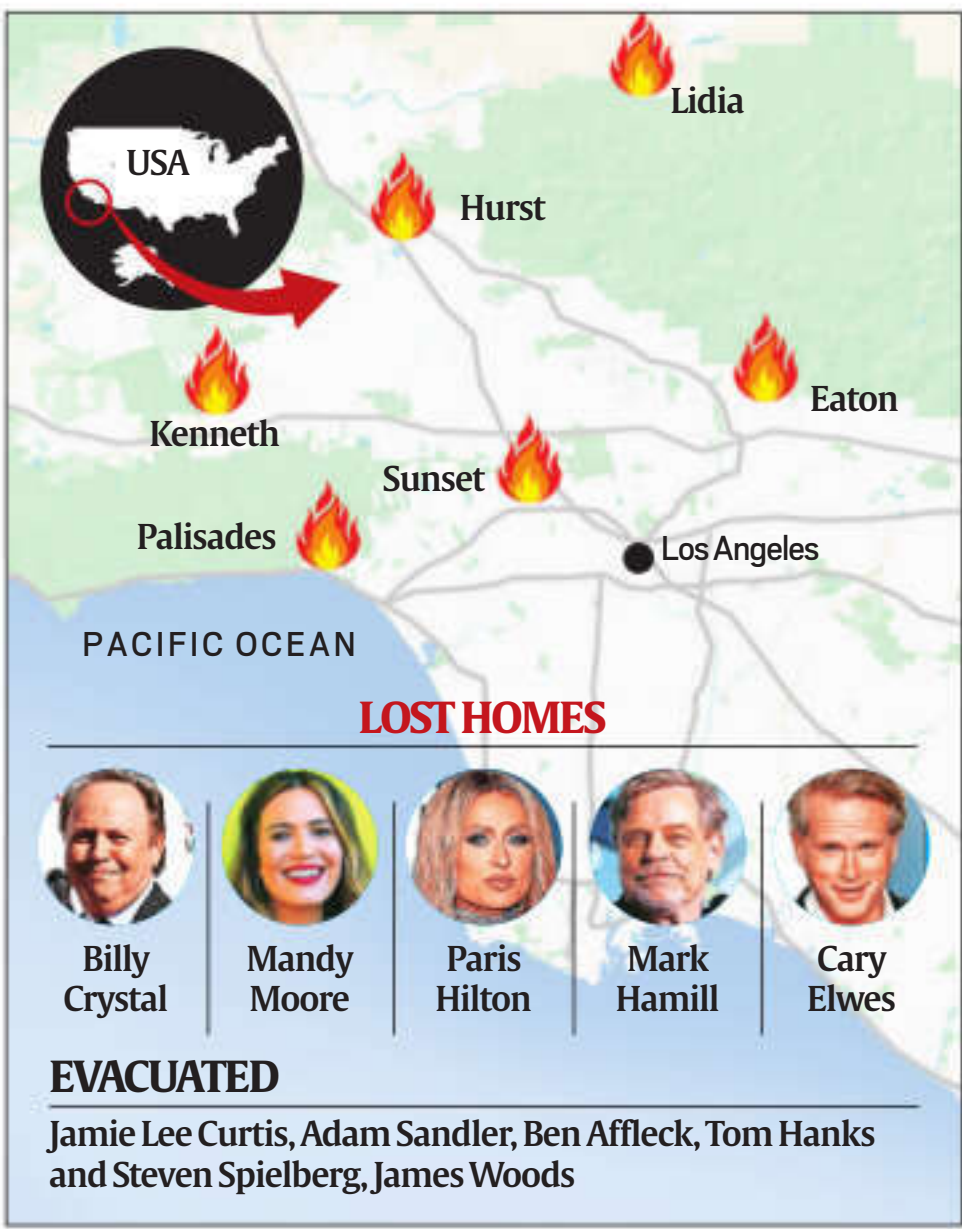
More than 10,000 buildings destroyed, 20 held for looting

JORGE GARCIA & ROLLO ROSS
LOS ANGELES, JANUARY 10

A PAUSE in the fierce winds that super-charged the ring of wildfires that devastated Los Angeles this week helped crews make progress in bringing the infernos under control on Friday but strong gusts could return over the weekend, forecasters said. The fires, which have devastated Los Angeles neighborhoods on the east and west sides of the city, have so far killed 10 people and destroyed nearly 10,000 structures. “It looks like an atomic bomb dropped in these areas. I don’t expect good news, and we’re not looking forward to those numbers,” Los Angeles County Sheriff Robert Luna said at a press conference late on Thursday, referring to Pacific Palisades in the west and Altadena in the east.

Wind conditions in the Los Angeles area will improve Friday through the weekend to about 20 mph with gusts between 35 mph to 50 mph, according to the National Weather Service, a far cry from days ago when wind gusts blasted at upwards of 80 mph. “It’s not as gusty so that should help firefighters, hopefully,” NWS meteorologist Allison Santorelli said, adding that conditions were still critical with low humidity and dry vegetation. Even as red flag wind conditions were expected until Friday afternoon, any periods of easing would allow crucial support from the air for firefighters on the ground for aircraft can dropping water and fire retardant on the flaming hills. As of early Friday, three major fires were still burning. The Palisades and Eaton fires already rank as the most destructive in Los Angeles history, consuming more than 34,000 acres — or 2 1/2 times

the land area of Manhattan — and turning entire neighborhoods to ash. The Palisades Fire is now 6% controlled, while the Eaton Fire still blazed out of control, as per California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. U.S. media outlets said the Los Angeles Police Department was investigating the Kenneth Fire as a possible case of arson and had taken a suspect into custody. The Hurst Fire was 37% contained, while the Lidia Fire was 75% contained. Firefighting crews managed to bring the Sunset Fire in the atop the Hollywood Hills fully under control on Thursday, after flames had engulfed a ridge overlooking Hollywood Boulevard’s Walk of Fame. Officials said they were establishing curfews for areas affected by mandatory evacuation orders to prevent looting. About 20 people had been arrested for looting so far, according to the LA County Sheriff’s Department. **REUTERS**



US hits Russian oil in toughest sanctions yet

REUTERS
WASHINGTON, JANUARY 10

US PRESIDENT Joe Biden’s administration imposed its broadest package of sanctions so far targeting Russia’s oil and gas revenues on Friday, in an effort to give Kyiv and Donald Trump’s incoming team leverage to reach a deal for peace in Ukraine. The move is meant to cut Russia’s revenues for continuing the war that has killed or wounded tens of thousands and reduced cities to rubble since Moscow invaded Ukraine in



US President Joe Biden

February, 2022. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a post on X that the measures announced on Friday will “deliver a significant blow” to Moscow.

“The less revenue Russia earns from oil ... the sooner peace will be restored,” Zelenskyy added. The U.S. Treasury said it had imposed sanctions on Gazprom Neft and Surgutneftgas, which explore for, produce and sell oil as well as 183 vessels that have shipped Russian oil, many of which are in the so-called shadow fleet of aging tankers operated by non-Western companies. Many of those tankers have been used to ship oil to India and China as a price cap imposed by the G7 countries in 2022 has shifted much of the trade in Russian oil from Europe to Asia.

EXPLAINED India, China may face impact
THERE IS not a step in the production and distribution chain that’s untouched in the latest package of sanctions, including intermediaries, traders and ports. However, the sanctions may cause severe disruption of Russian oil exports to its major buyers including India and China.

US House votes to sanction International Criminal Court

REUTERS
WASHINGTON, JANUARY 10

THE US House of Representatives voted on Thursday to sanction the International Criminal Court in protest at its arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his former defense chief over the war in Gaza. The vote was 243 to 140 in favor of the “Illegitimate Court Counteraction Act,” which would sanction any foreigner who investigates, arrests, detains or prosecutes US citizens or those of an allied country, including Israel. Forty-five Democrats joined 198 Republicans in backing the bill. “America is passing this law because a kangaroo court is seeking to arrest the prime minister of our great ally, Israel,” Rep. Brian Mast, Republican chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said in a House speech before the vote.

Canada Liberal Party to elect next PM on March 9

ASSOCIATED PRESS
TORONTO, JANUARY 10

CANADA’S GOVERNING Liberal Party will announce the country’s next prime minister on March 9 after a leadership vote that follows the resignation of Justin Trudeau this week, party



Chandra Arya, MP from Nepean

leaders said late Thursday. Trudeau remains prime minister until a new leader is chosen.

The front runners for the Liberal leadership are former central banker Mark Carney and ex-Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland, whose abrupt resignation last month forced Trudeau’s exit. The next Liberal leader could be the shortest-tenured prime minister in the country’s history. Meanwhile, Canada’s Indian-

origin MP Chandra Arya has announced that he is running to be the next PM, hours before his Liberal Party announced the date of election. Arya, the MP from Nepean, Ottawa, who was born in Karnataka, made the announcement on X Thursday ahead of the Liberal Party’s meeting later in the evening.

have risen to federal power. But in Germany, still haunted by its Nazi past, no other party will work with the AfD. Its candidates complain they receive far less airtime than other candidates on the nation’s political talk shows. At the same time, the AfD has made forays into language and actions German leaders deem extreme. The party has been forced to expel members for using racist and antisemitic language. One of its leaders has been repeatedly penalized by German courts for repeating banned Nazi slogans. The party is under observation by domestic intelligence. Three of its state chapters as well as its en-



Alice Weidel prepares for the interview with Musk at her office in Jakob Kaiser House in Berlin on Thursday. **AP**

the event, which was held on Musk’s X, it had raised alarms and threats of legal consequences among Germany’s political class. That was, in large part, because Musk is offering the AfD a level of publicity and legitimacy that it has long been denied in German public life. He made that push explicit in the interview, repeating his warning to Germans that only the AfD can bring about the change their country needs. Voting for the AfD “is simply the sensible move,” Musk said, about a half-hour into a conversation that had largely lingered on immigration policy. “And I think

Weidel is a very reasonable person, and hopefully people can tell just from this conversation. Nothing outrageous is being proposed, just common sense.” The AfD has risen to the second position in German national polls, backed by about a fifth of the electorate. It has gained support with an unwavering anti-establishment campaign, which rails against the millions of migrants and refugees who have entered the country over the last decade from the Middle East and Ukraine. Parties with similar immigration messages elsewhere in Europe, like the Brothers of Italy and Austria’s Freedom Party,



BEAMS BACK STUNNING PHOTOS
SPACECRAFT BUZZES MERCURY’S NORTH POLE

A spacecraft has beamed back some of the best close-up photos yet of Mercury’s north pole. The European and Japanese robotic explorer swooped as close as 183 miles (295 kilometers) above Mercury’s night side before passing directly over the planet’s north pole. The European Space Agency released the stunning snapshots Thursday, showing the permanently shadowed craters. **AP**



Donald Trump appears remotely for a sentencing hearing at New York Criminal Court in Manhattan on Friday. **Reuters**

No jail or fine for Trump in hush money sentencing

LUC COHEN & JACK QUEEN
NEW YORK, JANUARY 10

US PRESIDENT-ELECT Donald Trump will not go to jail or face any other punishment for his criminal conviction stemming from hush money paid to a porn star, a judge ruled on Friday but said Trump’s January 20 inauguration would not erase the jury verdict. Justice Juan Merchan’s sentencing of Trump, 78, to unconditional discharge places a judgment of guilt on his record and closes a case that had loomed over Trump’s bid to retake the White House. Trump will be the first president to take office with a felony criminal conviction. Merchan said he was imposing the sentence sparing Trump jail, a fine or probation because the US Constitution shields presidents from criminal prosecution. But he said the protections afforded to the office “do not reduce the seriousness of a crime or justify its commission in any way.” “The considerable, indeed extraordinary, legal protection afforded by the office of the chief executive is a factor that overrides all others,” Merchan said. “Despite the extraordinary breadth of those protections, one power they do not provide is the power to erase jury verdicts.” Trump pleaded not guilty and has vowed to appeal the

guilty verdict. Appearing with his lawyer on TV screens beamed to the courtroom with two American flags in the background, Trump called the case an unsuccessful attempt to thwart his re-election campaign. “This has been a very terrible experience,” Trump said before sentencing, wearing a red tie with white stripes. “I’m totally innocent. I did nothing wrong,” he said. Trump did not testify during the six-week trial last year but has repeatedly disparaged Merchan and Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg, who brought the case, in public statements. Joshua Steinglass, a prosecutor with Bragg’s office, said at the hearing Trump had engaged in a “coordinated campaign” to undermine the legitimacy of the case and “purposefully bred disdain for our judicial institutions.” He said prosecutors supported the unconditional discharge sentence. “The verdict in this case was unanimous and decisive, and it must be respected,” Steinglass said. Now that he has been sentenced, Trump is free to pursue the appeal, a process which could take years and play out while he is serving as president. The US Supreme Court on Thursday rejected a bid by Trump to halt it. Merchan closed the half-hour hearing by saying: “Sir, I wish you Godspeed as you assume your second term in office.” **REUTERS**

U.S. RAISES REWARD FOR HIS CAPTURE

Venezuela’s Maduro sworn in for 3rd term

REUTERS
JANUARY 10

VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT Nicolas Maduro was sworn in for a third term on Friday, despite a six-month-long election dispute, international calls for him to stand aside and an increase in the U.S. reward offered for his capture. “The outgoing government of the United States doesn’t know how to take revenge on us,” Maduro said during his inauguration speech, without directly mentioning sanctions. Maduro, president since 2013, was declared the winner of July’s election by both Venezuela’s electoral authority and top court, though detailed



Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro

tallies confirming his victory have never been published. Venezuela’s opposition says ballot box-level tallies show a landslide win for its former candidate Edmundo Gonzalez, who is recognized as president-elect by many countries including the US. The outgoing Biden administration increased its reward for information leading to the arrest or conviction of Maduro on drug trafficking charges to \$25 million, from a previous \$15 million.

MUSK HOSTED A LIVE INTERVIEW WITH AfD’S CHANCELLOR CANDIDATE, WHERE HE SAID VOTING FAR-RIGHT ‘IS SIMPLY THE SENSIBLE MOVE’

How Musk is trying to break Germany’s decade-long quarantine on Far-Right AfD

JIM TANKERSLEY
BERLIN, JANUARY 10

ELON MUSK is not just dabbling in German politics. He is attempting to break a political blockade that has kept the nation’s most prominent far-right party out of government even as it has gained strength with voters. On Thursday, Musk hosted a live, English-language interview with Alice Weidel. She is the chancellor candidate for that far-right party, the Alternative for Germany, known as the AfD, in the country’s snap election scheduled for February 23. Even before

the youth wing are classified as confirmed right-extremist, a designation that intelligence services make after extensive observation. More than 100 employees working for AfD members of Parliament are also confirmed right extremists, according to a probe by a public broadcaster. In a 2016 speech, with the AfD gaining steam before federal elections, former Chancellor Angela Merkel urged all German parties to unite against the AfD. The anti-AfD collective has not broken since. Not after the party climbed in the polls and won victories in major state elections last year, and not after it

tried to put a more moderate face forward as its chancellor candidate: Weidel, a former investment banker who lives with her Sri Lankan same-sex partner and their children in Switzerland. The European Commission has said it will examine Mr. Musk’s interference in European politics given his enormous power through his ownership of X and his close ties to the incoming American president. German leaders have alternately criticized Musk and tried to ignore him. In an interview this week, Chancellor Olaf Scholz dismissed the billionaire’s efforts to sway German voters. **NYT**

Classifieds

PERSONAL
I, Kavita Verma, W/o Amit Kumar Verma, R/o A-26, Chander Lok Shahdara, Delhi-110093, have changed my minor name from Kavita to Kavita Verma for all purposes. 0070944520-1
I, hitherto known as SANJAY son of Shri RAMESH CHANDER, residing at, House No.603, Ward No.29,Rohtak, Haryana-124001, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SANJAY KUMAR. 0040768104-11

I, hitherto known as MAJIYA KHATUN, W/O AFAJAL, R/O WAD-08, BHAGTA MADHUBANI, BIHAR-847408, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as NAZO. 0040768086-8

I, Vipin Kumar, S/o -Sh. Paltoo Ram, R/o-D-2/414, 3rd-floor, Pusta Sonia Vihar, Saba Pur Delhi, North East Delhi, Delhi-110094, hereby declare, that my son's name has been changed from Bhavesh to Bhavesh Sakarwal, vide-affidavit date-08-01-2024 0040768098-10

I, VINOD RANA, S/O PARAKRAM SINGH RANA, R/O 8-A, Neethi Apartments, Plot no.84, I.P.Extension, Patparganj, Delhi-110092, have changed my name to VINOD KUMAR RANA. 0040768104-7

I, VIKRAM PRATAP, S/O RAM PRATAP, R/O G-45, SHAKARPUR, EAST, DELHI, DELHI-110092, declare that name of my minor daughter has been wrongly-written as YASHIKA KASHYAP in my minor daughter YASHIKA PRATAP aged-12-years in her school records. The actual name of my minor daughter is YASHIKA PRATAP, which may be amended accordingly. 0040768086-10

I, Tarun Deep Singh, S/o Sarbinder Singh, R/O-131A, DG-2, Vikas Puri, New Delhi-110018, declare that the name of my Father has been wrongly written as Sarbinder Singh in my Birth Certificate instead-of Sarbinder Singh. The Actual/Correct name Spelling of my Father is Sarbinder Singh. 0040768093-2

I, Shashi Gupta, W/O-Ashok Kumar Goel, R/O A-19, Subhash Park, Gali No-1 Near-Parampuri Chowk, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059, Have Changed my Name to Shashi Goel. 0040768086-7

I, SUMIT KUMAR SALUJA, S/O-SUDARSHAN KUMAR SALUJA, R/O WZ-21, MANOHAR PARK PUNJABI BAGH DELHI-110026, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SUMIT SALUJA. 0040768104-6

I, SUMAN NEGI, D/O-SHIVCHARAN SINGH NEGI, residence of A-61, Street Number-4C, Goyla Vihar, New Delhi-110071, have changed my name to SUMAN NEGI, for all, future purpose. 0040768093-1

I, SEEMA, W/o SANJEEV GARG, R/o E-27, First floor, Ranjeet Singh-Road, Adarsh Nagar, Delhi-110033, have changed my name to SEEMA GOEL, for all, future purposes. 0040768086-1

I, SAFFADER HUSSAIN, S/O-MOHD LYFAS, H.NO-37/268, 4TH FLOOR, GAFFAR MANZIL JAMIA NAGAR OKHLA DELHI-110025, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MOHD SAFDAR. 0040768104-5

I, Sangeeta Gulati W/O Ajay Gulati R/O WZ-P 515 Rishi Nagar Rani Bagh Delhi-110034, have changed my name to Sweety Gulati. 0040768104-1

I, Ritu W/o-Rajeev Kumar, R/o-H.No.-101A, Gali No.4, near DJB Water Tank, Gautam Colony, Narela, Delhi-110040, have changed my name from Ritika Rani, to Ritika, for all purposes. 0040768098-4

I, Ram Swaroop Veshya, S/o Chote Lal, R/o-X/1845, Gali No.9, Rajgarh Colony, Delhi-110031, have changed my name to Ram Swaroop Gupta, for all purposes. 0040768098-2

I, Ram Kanwar, S/O-Ramnath, R/O H.No.167, A. Gali.No.7, Safyam-Puran-Colony Jharoda-Kalam Border Najaf Garh, South, west Delhi-110072, Have Change My Name From Ram Kanwar To Ram Kumar, For All, Future. 0040768086-2

I, Raj Bala alias Bala Devi W/o, Anil Kumar R/o 9-B, New Uttam Nagar, Bindapur Matiala Road, New Delhi-110059, have changed my name to Bala Devi. 0040768115-3

It is for general information that I, Manjeet Kapil, S/o Late Shri Dharam Raj, R/o-208, Village-Dhipur, Delhi-110009, declare that name of my minor daughter was wrongly-written during the admission as Pratyakshi Singh instead of her actual-name as Pratyakshi Singh. The actual name of my minor daughter is Pratyakshi Singh and her date-of-birth is-21.02.2011, which may be amended accordingly. 0040768115-9

I, Ibha Singhal W/o Sh. Kuldeep Kumar Gupta R/o A-78, 3rd Floor, Yojana Vihar, Delhi have changed my name to Ibha Gupta for all purposes. 0040768030-1

I, ALISHA C/O MOHD FAROOQ, R/O-L46, ABUL FAZAL ENCLAVE PART-1, OKHLA, Jamia Nagar, South Delhi, Delhi-110025 have changed my name to ALISHA NAAZ 0070944538-1

I, Pratibha Khatri, D/o-Tika Bahadur, R/o-141, DDA Flats, Vasant Apartment, Vasant Vihar, New-Delhi-110057, declare that my name has been wrongly written as PRATIBHA in my 10th-class certificate, the actual name of mine is PRATIBHA KHATRI. 0040768134-2

I, Pradeep Kumar, S/o-Virender Kumar, R/o, J-30, WZ-54/2, Street No-5, Beri Wala Bagh, Hari Nagar, Delhi-110064, have changed my name PRADEEP KUMAR GABA permanently. 0040768115-5

I, Onkar Singh R/o P-74, Anuj Vihar, Delhi, Cantt.-110010, have changed my Minor Daughter name from Reet Johal to Reet Kaur Johal, for all Purposes. 0040768104-8

I, Nitin Singh Solanki S/o Purshottam Singh R/o WZ-30, First Floor Keshopur Village, JG-2 Vikasपुरi, New Delhi-110018, have changed my name to Nitin Singh permanently. 0040768104-2

I, Nianglamsom D/o T Khailamthang R/o House.No-139, Room No-1, Second Floor, Munirika Village, Delhi-110067, have changed my name to Nianglamsom. 0040768134-1

I, NISHAT S/O MOHD SAFDAR H.NO-37/268, 4TH FLOOR GAFFAR MANZIL JAMIA NAGAR OKHLA DELHI-110025, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MOHD NISHAT. 0040768104-4

I, NAINA TANEJA, W/O-ANURAG MALHOTRA RESIDENT HOUSE NO-374, SECTOR-14, SONIPAT, HARYANA, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO NAINA MALHOTRA. 0040768086-4

I, Mohammad Zahid, S/o-Anisur Rehman, R/o-1028, Gali-Chabuk Sawar, Lal Kuan, Delhi-110006, have changed my name MOHD ZAHID, permanently. 0040768115-4

I, Madhu Kumari, W/o-Dharmendra Kumar Singh, R/o, Flat.no A2/1104, AWHO Twins Tower, Phase-4, Omega-1, Greater Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P.-201310 have changed my name to Madhu Singh, for all future purpose. 0040768086-9

I, MOHD ZUBAIR, S/O, AARFEEN, R/O, 5500-5501 4th-FLOOR, BASTI HARPHOOL SINGH, NEAR AGGARWAL SWEETS SADAR BAZAR, DELHI-110006, have changed my name to MOHD ZUBAIR QURESHI, S/O-AARFEEN, for all, future Purposes. 0040768086-6

I, MAMTA RANI, W/O PARVEEN KUMAR, R/O H.N.298/3, PATEL BASTI, GOHANA, Sonipat Haryana-131301, Have Changed My Name To MAMTA Permanently 0040768115-1

I, Kamal Kumar, S/O Sunder Lal, R/O, F-7/1, Vijay Vihar, Phase-2, Delhi-110085, have Changed, my minor son name from Garvit to Garvit Arya. 0040768134-3

I, Kartika W/O-manjeet singh, R/o-B-39, Rajan babu-Road adarsh nagar delhi-110033, have changed my name after-marriage kartika to kartika kaur, FOR FUTURE PURPOSE. 0040768134-4

I, KAMAL PARSAD SHARMA, S/O SHIV BACHAN SHARMA, R/O D-46, A SARASWATI GARDEN KIRTI-NAGAR DELHI-110015, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO KAMAL SHARMA. 0040768104-3

I, Gurvinder Singh Grewal S/o Baldev Singh, R/O B-6, U-G-3, Rampuri, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201010, have changed my name to Gurvinder Singh. 0040768115-2

I, Gaurav Singhal, son of Nanak Chand, resident of F-3, Harshesh Nagar, Okhla, Phase-2, Delhi-110020, have changed my name as Gaurav Singhal in place of my, previous name Gaurav, for all, future purposes. 0040767911-11

I, Divya Jindal w/o Anirudh Gupta r/o Flat No.203, Emerald green society, sec-52, 122003, Gurgaon (Haryana), have changed my name to Divya Gupta. 0040768134-5

I, CHARAN SINGH, S/O SH. RISHAL SINGH, R/O 26, SECTOR 51, HOSHIYARPUR, NOIDA, G.B.NAGAR, U.P.201301, HAVE CHANGE MY NAME, FROM CHARAN SINGH TO CHARAN SINGH YADAV, FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES. 0040768086-5

I, Brahm Prakash, S/O-Barister Mohan Sadr R/O B-37-C Gali.No.4, East Azad Nagar, Krishna Nagar, East Delhi-110051, have changed my name to Brahm Prakash. 0040768115-6

I, Akshay Kumar S/o Ashok Kumar Gupta, R/O-Q-2, Top Floor, Naveen Shahdara, Delhi-110032, have changed my name to Akshay Kumar Gupta for all purposes. 0040768098-3

I, Aknchan Lata Pandey, W/o Shiv Kumar Pandey, R/o-75-A/1, Near-Kali Mata Mandir, Jwala Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110032, have changed my name to Kanchan Lata Pandey, for all, purposes. 0040768098-1

I, FIZA C/O MOHD FAROOQ, R/O L-46 ABUL FAZAL ENCLAVE-1, OKHLA, Jamia Nagar, PO: New Friends Colony, DIST: South Delhi-110025 have changed my name to Fiza Naaz. 0070944541-1

I, Birmati W/o No.3168147M Rank Ex SEP Ram Niwas R/o Ghalib Pur, Delhi-110073 have changed my name Birmati to Birmati Devi vide affidavit 10.1.25 before Delhi. 0070944511-1

I, Vikash Kumar, residing at Plot No. 26A, Block B-1 Extension, Sewak Park, second floor, Near Gurudwara, Uttam Nagar, West Delhi-110059 have changed the name of my minor daughter Vandita aged 14 years and she shall hereafter be known as Vandita Vikash. 0040768047-1

I, Suman Kumari D/o Chander Kumar R/o H.No.1670, Gali No-48/1, 8-Block, Hanuman Kunj Sat Nagar, Burari, Delhi-110084 have changed my name to Suman Sharma for all purposes. 0070944504-1

I, S.P.C Chandra Jothi, W/o R. Parthipan, R/O 11650, Sat Nagar, Karol Bagh, New Delhi, have changed my name to P. Chandrika, for all purposes. 0040768081-2

I, R. Parthiban, S/o Ramachandran, R/o 11650, Sat Nagar, Karol Bagh, New Delhi, have changed my name to R. Parthipan for all purposes. 0040768081-1

I, R. Parthiban, S/o Ramachandran, R/o 11650, Sat Nagar, Karol Bagh, New Delhi, have changed my name to R. Parthipan for all purposes. 0040768081-1

I, Jagat Jain S/o Kesari Chand Jain R/o B-155/B Derawal Nagar Delhi-110009 have changed my name to Jagat Singh Banthia for all purposes. 0070944543-1

I, Bharat Raghav -Bharat Raghav Iyer Bharat S/o Sugan pal R/o Divyansh flora, Tower A-104, Gaur City-2, Plot no. 3H, Sector 16C, Gr.Noida West, Gautam Buddha Nagar, UP-201009, I have changed my name to Bharat for all Future purposes. 0040768033-1

I, BHARTI SHARMA, W/O-MANOJ KUMAR, RESIDENT 606/11, BEHIND1418, HBC, SECTOR-14, SONIPAT, HARYANA HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO BHARTI CHAWLA. 0040768086-3

I, Aaniya Gupta, D/o Rahul Kumar Gupta, R/o G-3/47, Gali No.4, 5th Pusta, Sonia Vihar, Delhi-110094, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Aaniya Aaniya in my SBI Bank A/c No.-37108265157. Actual name of mine is Aaniya Gupta, which may be amended accordingly. 0040768028-1

I, Renu Bala D/o Bishon Kumar Gupta and W/o Late Vinu Kumar Aggarwal R/o 8, Ground Floor, A-2/95, Hastals Road, Uttam Nagar, Delhi-110059, have changed my name to Pinki Aggarwal 0070944470-1

I, Dheeraj Kumar Pathak S/o Umekant Pathak R/O D-168, Second Floor, Ganesh Nagar, Pandav Nagar Complex, Shakarpur, Delhi-110092 have changed my name to Dhiraj Kumar Pathak. 0070944431-1

I, Deepika D/o Rajender Kaushik W/o Harsh Vardhan Sharma R/o H.No.372/29, Joor Bagh, Tri Nagar, Onkar Nagar, North West Delhi, Delhi-110035 have changed my name to Deepika Sharma for all purposes. 0040768030-2

I, Bhanu Pratap Singh R/o-618, Village-Chipliyana Buzurg, Dadri Distt.-Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P., INDIA have changed my minor daughter name from Aradhya Choudhary to Aradhya Chaudhary for all future purposes. 0070944515-1

I, Balwant Pratap Singh S/o Binay Singh R/o Village-Bhadwa Dih, PO-Bhadwa Bazar, PS-Rafiganj, Dist-Aurangabad, Bihar-824122, have changed my name to Deepak Kumar 0070944471-1

I, Amit Kumar Tiwari S/o Madan Kumar Tiwari R/o Flat No.007/008, Imperial Tower, Xaviers Artech, Sector-168, Noida, G.B.Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201301 have changed my name to Amit Tiwari for all the future purposes. 0070944540-1

I, Divya Jindal w/o Anirudh Gupta r/o Flat No.203, Emerald green society, sec-52, 122003, Gurgaon (Haryana), have changed my name to Divya Gupta. 0040768134-5

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PUBLIC NOTICE
Information is given to the general public at large by my client **Mr. Chandan Sawhney** who is the owner of Land area measuring 3 bighas and 17 annas, bearing Mutation No. 51, Killa No. 7/1 Min (1-3), 6/2 (2-18) and 14/1 Min (0-4), situated in the revenue estate of Village Dera Mandi, Tehsil Haat Khaz, District Jalandhar, Punjab, by virtue of Sale Deed dated 14.12.2023 executed by Mrs. Geetika Jain (through her SPA Mrs. Tanka Negi) (Doc. No. 15920), they do not have SMC of Jalandhar Jain died on 13.08.2022 & Probate Order of Will dated 19.01.2017 passed by the court of competent jurisdiction in the favour of Mrs. Geetika Jain & SMC of Anuraj Kumar Jain dated on 19.04.2020 and Probate Order of Will dated 19.01.2017 passed by the court of competent jurisdiction in the favour of Anshuman Jain, Any person (s), institutions having any claim and/or objection in respect of the said property shall communicate the same to the undersigned at our address within 07 days from the publication of this notice with documentary evidence in support thereof, failing which all the claims, of such person(s)/institutions/s shall not be binding upon the said property or purchaser.
Vishal Legal
Ram Prakash Pandey, (Advocate)
27/23, 3rd Floor, Jhandewalan Etn, New Delhi-110055, Mob: 9871089952

PUBLIC NOTICE
GENERAL PUBLIC IS INFORMED HEREBY THAT MY CLIENTS SMT. SHAKUNTALA DEVI W/O LATE SH. RAMESH KUMAR R/O H.NO. 451, MAIN LAMPUR ROAD, NEAR BUS STAND, BANGNER, DELHI-110040 SEVERED HER ALL RELATIONS WITH HER SON NAMELY PRAVEEN AND HIS WIFE NAMEY POOJA RANI AND DEBARDED THEM FROM HER ALL MOVABLE AND IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES AS THEY BOTH ARE OF OTHER CONTROL AND SAVINGS. MY CLIENT SHALL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR ACTS AND DEEDS OF ANY KIND WHATSOEVER.
Sd/-
S.K. KAUSHIK
Advocate
CEL-1306,
LAWYERS CHAMBER BLOCK, ROHINI COURTS, DELHI-110085

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform the Public at large that **Smt. Veenaa Rawat** w/o Sh. Manmohan Singh Telle Hazari in possession of DOA Built up MIG Flat No. C48/153 on Ground Floor, Pocket-13, Suburb, Gurgaon, Haryana, New Delhi-110058 hereinafter referred to as "that the Original of Allotment Letter dated 21.09.1973, Possession Letter and MOC, both dated 24.10.1973 have been lost/misplaced and Information Report dated 09.01.2025 is filed with Delhi Police bearing LR No. 2480202/2025. This notice is issued to Public at Large, i.e. any Person(s), Company(s), Authority (s), Society(s), Bank(s), etc., having any knowledge, custody or possession of the lost/misplaced documents as mentioned above or otherwise having any claim, or objection to the sale of the Schedule Flat, may come forward with supporting documents, to be delivered to the undersigned within 10 days from the date of this Publication.
Sd/-
Suresh Kumar, Advocate
Office: 26/48, DSOO Complex, PK-2, Mayapuri Vihar Delhi-110091
Email: advocate.suresh75@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
Be it known to all concerned that my client **SHRI RAJBEEB SHARMA S/O SHRI JAGANNATH SHARMA R/O-212, OLD-45 NEW ANSHOK NAGAR, DELHI-110096** and **SMT. HEM LATA SHARMA W/O SHRI RAJBEEB SHARMA R/O-84, NEW ANSHOK NAGAR, DELHI-110096** and their entire family members have severed all their relations with their son **SHRI SHUBHAM SHARMA** and debarred him from all their immovable and movable properties, due to his misconduct, bad character and treatment. From now on my client's and their family members is not responsible for his act and deed and conduct to the undersigned within 10 days from the date of this Publication.
Sd/-
Smt. Amit Garg
Advocate
FF-113-A, Ground Floor, Mangal Bazar Road, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092

PUBLIC NOTICE
The General Public is hereby informed that my client **Shristi Chaturvedi**, aged 33, Daughter of Mr. Rashidul Munir Chaturvedi and Mrs. Vinika Chaturvedi, R/o House No. 20, Sector-16B, Haryana has severed all her ties with her family, including but not limited to her parents, Mr. Rashidul Munir Chaturvedi and Mrs. Vinika Chaturvedi, my siblings, Tristana Chaturvedi, Kavya Pandey, Divyender Chaturvedi, Bhupinder Chaturvedi, Sarita Datta, Onkesh Chaturvedi, Aksh Chaturvedi, Arshi Chaturvedi, Aksh Chaturvedi, and any members of their extended family. My client disclaims all associations, obligations, or claims to or from the aforementioned individuals, effective immediately.
Sd/-
Raghu Mahajan (Advocate)
Address: S-370, LGF, Panchsheel Park, New Delhi-110017

COURT NOTICE
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY SRINAGAR
Dated: 27-12-2024.
Present, Ms. Nusrat Ali Hakak
In the Case of:
Shahir Ahmad Koul
S/o Nazir Ahmad Koul
R/o- Gunj-Khod, Nawa Bazar, Srinagar
Proprietor of: M/S. K. Sons, Applicant
V/s
Rakesh Pahujia
S/o Din Dayal Pahujia
R/o: WZ-9, 1st Floor, Hari Singh Park, Near Multan Nagar, New Delhi
Proprietor: M/S Pooja Tannofex Tanners & New Look Leatheries.

Whereas, applicant has filed application before this authority in terms of Section 12-A of Act and Commercial Courts.
Whereas, notice was issued against non-applicant but services could not be effective due to no insufficient/incomplete address.
Whereas, it has been shown to the satisfaction of the undersigned that service of non-applicant could not be effective in ordinary mode.
Therefore, the non-applicant through the medium of this notice is directed to appear in person or through their attorney by or before the next date of hearing i.e., 22-01-2025.

Sd/-
Secretary (Sub-Judge)
District Legal Service
Authority
Srinagar

LOST & FOUND
TO BE KNOWN TO ALL I, Geeta Ahuja R/O D-21, Single Storey, Vijay Nagar, Delhi-09 inform that an original Relinquishment Deed of Property No. D.-21(A&B), Vijay Nagar, Delhi (Reg. No.5534, Vol: 5351, Pg:28- 29, Dt.16/10/1990) Executed in favour of my Deceased Husband Sh. Ajai Kumar @ Ajay Kumar Ahuja have been lost. An NCR has already been Lodged vide NCR No.2477195/2025. If found please contact at above address or Contact: 9873448533 0070944502-1

I hitherto known as MONA KHAN W/O MOHD NASIR R/O H.No. F-560C, GALI NO-18 KHAJOURI KHAS KARAWAL NAGAR PO DAYALPUR DISTT NORTH EAST DELHI-110094 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MEHMOONA 0130048020-1

I, SHAHANIA PARVEEN, W/O-AFSAR HUSSAIN, R/o-H.No.C-10/121, YAMUNA VIHAR, DELHI-110053, three copies of the original-Conveyance Deed issued by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA), in respect of Property No. C-10/121, YAMUNA-VIHAR, DELHI-110053, have been lost somewhere, founder can contact at above said address. 0040768097-10

Office of the Additional Chief Engineer (Project) PHED, Churu
E-mail-ace.chu.phed@rajasthan.gov.in
No. 1312-1363 **Date: 01.01.2025**
Corrigendum NO. 02 For this office NIT No. 03/2024-25
Corrigendum No. 02 for this office NIT No. 03/2024-25 (UBN is: PHE2425WLOE06216 & Tender ID: 2024.PHCL.431617_1) may be visited on the procurement portal <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>. <http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in>.
SAVE WATER-SAVE LIFE
Sd/-
(Rammurti)
Add. Chief Engineer (P)
PHED, Project Region Churu
DIPR/C/164/2025

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (e-Procurement Systems)

N.I.T. No.	278933
Name of work and its location	Tender for "One time repair & service of Wheel turn tables - 3 Nos., Scissors lift & T at RC/NK/SNP."
Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 421850/- including GST (Rs. Four Lakh Twenty One Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty only)
Earnest Money	Rs. 8400/-
Completion period of work	30 days after issued of LOA
Cost of Tender document on cash/by post	NIL
Date and Time for submission of tender and opening of tender	Upto 15:00 hrs on 31.01.2025 Opening of tender at 15:00 hrs.
Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in
No.278933 Dated 10/01/2025	122/25

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Kolhapur Municipal Corporation
Workshop Department
Tender Notice No. 94. Sr. No. 1 to 30 For Second extension
Purchase of spare parts, accessories, repairs, etc. for the repair of various types of vehicles used by the Kolhapur Municipal Corporation. Procuring manufacturing company, authorized dealer of companies in local market, sub dealer, etc. Discount, all taxes, packing, forwarding, handling charges etc. in price list price of that company. Including all the information in detail Sr.No. 1 to Sr.No. 30 For the performance of published tender notice no. 94 has called for tenders and as no response has been received, **The second extension** is being granted by the end of dt. 24/01/2025. Detailed information about this can be found on the website www.mahatender.gov.in
Sd/-
City Engineer,
Kolhapur Municipal Corporation

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement systems
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. No.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Closing Date
1.	82252378	Nano Docetaxel Inj 80mg	584 Nos	10/02/2025
2.	82252397	Denosumab Inj 120mg	627 Nos	10/02/2025
3.	82252090	Ramucirumab Inj 500mg	48 Nos	07/02/2025
4.	82251034	Nivolumab Inj 40mg	180 Nos	06/02/2025
5.	82258959	Inj Benralizumab 30 mg/ml PFS	55 Nos	03/02/2025
6.	82251041	Bevacizumab Inj 400mg	1000 Nos	31/01/2025

Note : 1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for details. 2. No Manual offer will be entertained.
Tender Notice No. Inj. Medicines Dated:- 10.01.2025 112/2025
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

STORES E-PROCUREMENT
Tender Notice No. : S/66/018/24-25, Dtd: 07-01-2025. E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following works:
SJ.No.:1; Tender No. : NJ245127; Closing/Opening Date: 28-01-2025.
Brief Description: Supply and installation of modular kit for inverter make green tech as per green tech part no 8924567 for fuel pump motor assembly as per EMD part no 22109359.
Consignee:- SSE/D/New Jal

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE
CONTINUE FROM THE LAST PAGE

CONTINUE FROM THE LAST PAGE

OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

A) Auction/bidding shall be only through "Online Electronic Bidding" through the website <https://baanknet.com>. Bidders are advised to go through the website for detailed terms before taking part in the e-auction sale proceedings.

B) The property can be inspected, with Prior Appointment with **Authorised Officer, on for Sr. No. 01 to 18 (24.01.2025), Sr. No. 19 to 22 (01.02.2025), Sr. No. 23 (11.02.2025) Sr. No. 24 (13.02.2025).**

C) The property is being sold with all the existing and further encumbrances whether known or unknown to the bank. The Authorised officer/Secured Creditor shall not be responsible in any way for any third party claims/ rights/ dues. The purchaser should conduct due diligence on all aspects related to the property to his satisfaction. The bidder is advised to in their own interest to satisfy themselves with the title and correctness of other details pertaining to the secured assets including the size/area of the immovable secured asset in question and also ascertain any other dues/liabilities/encumbrances from the concerned authorities to their satisfaction before submitting the bid. The purchaser shall not be entitled to make any claim against the Authorised officer/ Secured Creditors in this regard at a later date.

D) In the event of any default in payment of any of the amounts, or if the sale is not completed by reasons of default on the part of the purchaser/ bidder within the aforesaid time limit, the bank shall be entitled to forfeit all monies paid by the purchaser/ bidder till then and put up the secured asset(s) for sale again, in its absolute discretion. Further, all costs, expenses incurred by the bank on account of such resale shall be borne and paid by the defaulting purchaser.

E) The property will be sold for the price which is more than the Reserve Price and the participating bidders may improve their offer further during auction process.

F) EMD amount of 10% of the Reserve Price is to be deposited in E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (Baanknet) portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through RTGS/NEFT in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or before **FOR SR. NO. 01 to 18 (24.01.2025), SR. NO. 19 to 22 (05.02.2025), SR. NO. 23 (13.02.2025), SR. NO. 24 (15.02.2025) by 05:00 PM.**

G) Intending bidders shall hold a valid digital signature certificate and e-mail address. For details with regard to digital signature please contact the service provider M/s PSB Alliance (Baanknet), Help Desk No. (8291220220), E-mail: support.baanknet@psballiance.com through the website <https://baanknet.com>.

H) After payment of the EMD amount, the intending bidders should submit a copy of the following documents/details on or before **FOR SR. NO. 01 to 18 (24.01.2025), SR. NO. 19 to 22 (05.02.2025), SR. NO. 23 (13.02.2025), SR. NO. 24 (15.02.2025) by 05:00 PM.** to Canara Bank, ARM Branch, Novelty Road, Karnal by hand or by email.

I) Demand Draft/ Pay order towards EMD amount. If paid through RTGS/NEFT, acknowledgement receipt thereof with UTR No.

II) Photocopies of PAN Card, ID Proof and Address proof. However, successful bidder would have to produce these documents in original to the Bank at the time of making payment of balance amount of 25% of bid amount.

iii) Bidders Name, Contact No, Address, E Mail Id.

iv) Bidder's A/c details for online refund of EMD.

I) The intending bidders should register their names at portal <https://baanknet.com/> and get their User ID and password free of cost. Prospective Bidders may avail online training on E-auction from the service provider **M/s PSB Alliance (Baanknet), Helpdesk No – 8291220220 (E-mail ; support.baanknet@psballiance.com) and Sh. Animesh Jain, Mobile Number 7046612345 (Email animesh@procure247.com) , through the website <https://baanknet.com/>.**

J) EMD deposited by the unsuccessful bidder shall be refunded to them. The EMD shall not carry any interest.

K) Auction would commence at Reserve Price, as mentioned above. Bidders shall improve their offers in multiples of Rs. 50,000/- The bidder who submits the highest bid (above the Reserve price) on closure of 'Online' auction shall be declared as successful bidder. Sale shall be confirmed in favour of the successful bidder, subject to confirmation of the same by the secured creditor.

L) The successful bidder shall deposit 25% of the sale price (inclusive of EMD already paid), immediately on declaring him/her as the successful bidder and the balance within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale by the secured creditor. This amount shall be deposited by way of Demand Draft in favour of Authorized Officer, Canara Bank, ARM Branch OR shall be deposited through RTGS/NEFT/Fund Transfer to credit of account of Canara Bank, ARM Branch, **A/c. No. 209272434, IFSC Code: CNRB0006290.** If the successful bidder fails to pay the sale price, the deposit made by him shall be forfeited by the Authorised Officer without any notice and property shall forthwith be put up for sale again.

M) For sale proceeds of Rs. 50.00 Lakhs (Rupees Fifty Lakhs) and above, the successful bidder will have to deduct TDS at the rate 1% on the Sale proceeds and submit the original receipt of TDS certificate to the Bank.

N) All charges for conveyance, stamp duty/ GST/ registration charges etc., as applicable shall be borne by the successful bidder only.

O) Authorised Officer reserves the right to postpone/ cancel or vary the terms and conditions of the e-auction without assigning any reason thereof.

P) In case there are bidders who do not have access to the internet but interested in participating in the e-auction, they can approach concerned Circle office or Canara Bank, ARMB, Novelty Road, Karnal branch who, as a facilitating centre, shall make necessary arrangements.

Q) For further details contact Mr. Ranjeet Kumar, Chief Manager Canara Bank Asset Recovery Management Branch (ARMB), Karnal, Ph. No. 0184-4041820, 85728-16290 during office hours on any working day. E-mail id: cb6290@canarabank.com OR the service provider BAANKNET (M/s PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd), (Contact No. 7046612345/6354910172/8291220220/9892219848/ 8160205051, Email:support.BAANKNET@psballiance.com).

SPECIAL INSTRUCTION/CAUTION

Bidding in the last minutes/seconds should be avoided by the bidders in their own interest. Neither Canara Bank nor the Service Provider will be responsible for any lapses/failure (Internet failure, Power failure, etc.) on the part of the bidder or vendor in such cases. In order to ward off such contingent situation, bidders are requested to make all the necessary arrangements/alternatives such as back-up, power supply and whatever else required so that they are able to circumvent such situation and are able to participate in the auction successfully.

STATUTORY 15/30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002

Date :- 10.01.2025	Place : Karnal	Authorised Officer, Canara Bank
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See Section 82 (2) (ii) CrPC

By Order
VAIBHAV GARG
Judicial Magistrate First Class-11,
Central District,
Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

See Section 82 Cr. PC

DP/262/DW/2025
(court matter)

क्रमांक 119/24x2/10/एस.बी.एम./IEC/27

नगर पालिक निगम ब्यालियर की ओर से स्वीकृत एस.डी.एम. / IEC के 01 प्रकरण में टेंडर क्र. 119/24x2/10, 2025- UAD 358192-2, जिसकी अनुमानित लागत राशि रु. 10000000/- हेतु प्रतियोगिता पर दिनांक 16.01.2025 से 22.01.2025 की सयांकाल 17:30 बजे तक का्यालय आयुक्त नगर पालिक निगम, ब्यालियर में म.प्र. लोक निर्माण विभाग (केन्द्रीयकृत पद्धति) में उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत एवं निर्धारित योग्यता वाले वेकेंडर / अधिकृत विक्रेता / फर्म से ई-टेंडर के माध्यम से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा के संबंध में विस्तृत जानकारी वेबसाईट <http://mptenders.gov.in> पर प्रदर्शित की गई है।

Whereas complaint has been made before me that the accused **Sanjeev @Sanju** S/o Uday Singh R/o Plot No. 7, D Block 1st Floor, Shiv Vihar, Chander Vihar, Nilotth Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **FIR No. 227/2023 U/s 356/379/411 IPC P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi** and it has been returned to warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused **Sanjeev @Sanju** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Sanjeev @Sanju** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of said warrant) Proclamation is hereby made that **Sanjeev @Sanju** in **FIR No. 227/2023 U/s 356/379/411 IPC P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 11.02.2025.

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Person namely **Prince@Pinu S/o:** Raj Kumar, **R/o:** C-193, Shiv Vihar, Karala, Delhi (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **E-FIR No. 5998/2022, U/s 379/41 IPC**, registered at P.S.: Mangolpuri, Delhi and the warrant has been returned writing upon that the said accused **Prince@Pinu** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Prince@Pinu** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Prince@Pinu** accused **E-FIR No. 5998/2022, U/s 379/411 IPC**, registered at P.S.: Mangolpuri, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **21.02.2025**.

By Order
Sh. Reetika Jain
Judicial Magistrate First Class-05
Room No. 105, 1st Floor
Rohini Courts, New Delhi

DP/442/OD/2025
(Court Matter)

Department of Tourism
Government of Rajasthan

Department of Tourism
Government of Rajasthan

**‘Paryatan Bhawan’, Opp. Vidhayakpuri Police Station, Sanjay
Marg, M.I. Road, Jaipur www.tourism.rajasthan.gov.in,
email- mktg-dot@rajasthan.gov.in 0141-2822807/838
No. F3()Advt./Creative TVCs/DT/2024/6461**

Date: 03.01.2025

Notice for Bid No. 243/03/01/2025

Bid for selection of Creative Agency working in the field of advertising film making/ production of TV commercials and advertisement creative through online open competitive bidding

The Department of Tourism, Government of Rajasthan, Jaipur invites **Bids** for selection of Creative Agency working in the field of advertising **filmmaking/ production** of TV commercials and advertisement **creative with proven experience and credential** of Creative. Agency, as per particulars given below: -

(Note: Estimated cost of work is tentative and actual work orders and the time schedule for the same will be given as per availability of budget and need of the department)

The E Bid form can be downloaded from www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in



www.sprr.jarasthan.gov.in (e-procurement portal of the State Government) and www.tourism.jarasthan.gov.in. Duly filled bids can be submitted online latest by 23/01/2025 by 3.00 PM. Bid processing fee of Rs. 2500/- (non-refundable) in favour of MD, RISL, Jaipur and Bid document fee of Rs. 1500/- (non-refundable) in favour of Commissioner, Department of Tourism, Rajasthan, Jaipur will have to be deposited through e-GRAS portal and bid Security i.e. Rs. 19.28 Lakh through e-GRASChallan/DD/BC/BG to the Department before last date and time of submission of bid.

Interested bidders eligible as per qualification criteria may submit their response to the Bid through e-procurement portal www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in.

For any other information, you may contact Joint Director, Department of Tourism, Government of Rajasthan, Jaipur (Tel. No. 0141-2822807/838, Email: acpddot-dot@rajasthan.gov.in). For technical issues related to tendering process, please contact ACP (Dy. Director), IT, Department of Tourism, Rajasthan, Jaipur on 0141-2822812 and email acpddot-dot@rajasthan.gov.in.

Sd/-
(Dulwan Singh Bathany)

ताज महोत्सव-2025


 दिनांक 18 फरवरी से 02 मार्च
 कार्यालय : सचिव, ताज महोत्सव समिति
 64-ताज रोड, आगरा।
 

ई-निविदा सूचना

राजमहल पूर्वी गेट रोड स्थित शिल्पग्राम परिसर, आगरा में आयोजित होने वाले आगामी ताज महोत्सव-2025 (18 फरवरी-02 मार्च) के आयोजन हेतु कार्यों जाने वाले विभिन्न कार्यों के लिए ई-टेंडरिंग पोर्टल <http://etender.up.nic.in> के माध्यम से दिनांक 17.01.2025 को अपराह्न 11:00 बजे तक निम्न कार्यों हेतु निविदाओं आमन्त्रित की जाती है:-

क्र०सं०	कार्य का नाम	निविदा मूल्य	धरोहर राशि
1	फन फैयर/ झूला (शिल्पग्राम परिसर) (उच्चतम उद्घरण के आधार पर)	रु० 5,900.00 (G.S.T सहित) (रु० पाँच हजार नौ सौ मात्र)	रु० 1.00 लाख (रु० एक लाख मात्र)
2	फन फैयर/ झूला (कोदी मीना बाजार) (उच्चतम उद्घरण के आधार पर)	रु० 5,900.00 (G.S.T सहित) (रु० पाँच हजार नौ सौ मात्र)	रु० 1.00 लाख (रु० एक लाख मात्र)

महोत्सव निविदादाता नि.नं 17.01.2025 के प्रतः 11:00 बजे से दिनांक 17.01.2025 को सायं 11:00 बजे तक ई-टेंडर पोर्टल <http://tenderup.nic.in> से निविदा प्राप्त नियम एवं शर्तों सहित डाउन लोड कर सकते हैं। ऑफ लाईन टेंडर किसी भी शर्त में स्वीकार नहीं किए जाएंगे। ई-टेंडर में जलिलखित शर्तों का अनुपालन करते हुए वांछित प्रपत्रों की स्कैन कापी ई-टेंडर/प्रस्ताव के साथ अगले दिनांक अनाविन्यास 17.01.2025 ई-टेंडर मुख्य एवं धरोहर राशि का बैंक ड्राफ्ट (सवि, ताज महोत्सव समिति, आगरा के पक्ष में देय) मूलरूप में दिनिर्दिष्ट बिड के अन्य वांछित प्रपत्रों की छायाप्रति के साथ दिनांक 17.01.2025 को अपरान्ह 1:00 बजे तक पर्यटन कार्यालय 64-ताज रोड, आगरा पर जमा कराना अनिवार्य होगा। ई-टेंडर पोर्टल <http://tenderup.nic.in> पर प्राप्त निविदाएं दिनांक 17.01.2025 को अपरान्ह 2:00 बजे निविदादाताओं की उपस्थिति में पर्यटन कार्यालय, 64-ताज रोड, आगरा पर खोली जायेंगी। ताज महोत्सव समिति को एक अथवा समस्त प्राप्त निविदाओं को खोलने का कारण बताए निरस्त करने का अधिकार होगा।

साचिव, ताज महत्सव समिति, 64, ताज रोड, आगरा
दूरभाष/फैक्स 0562-2226431 E-mail-agrauptourism@gmail.com

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice
 Dy CME/Repair for Chief Workshop Manager N.E. Railway, Mechanical Workshop, Gorakhpur for and on behalf of President of India invites tender through on line E-Open Tender for the following work **E-Tender Notice No & Name of the work:** Tender No. "32-GKP-MWS-2024-25-1" "POH of 4-Wheeler Tower Wagon CUMMINS Engine Model NT-855R (Qty-02 Nos.), Hindustan Transmission/Avtec Model CRT-5633 (Qty-02 Nos.), Complete POH of swiveling Platform with DG set (Qty-02 Nos.) & Complete POH of Both Cab control stand and coach rewiring (Qty-02 Nos.) at Mechanical Workshop Gorakhpur", **Estimated cost (in ₹):** ₹ 76,77,009.02, **Earnest Money (in ₹):** 1,53,600.00, **Last date of tender submission:** Upto 11.00, Date: 31.01.2025, **Cost of the Tender forms (in ₹):** Zero, **Period of Contract:** 12 Months, **Note:** The details of above tenders are also available on Indian Railway website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>,
 Dy. CME/Repair, Mechanical Workshop
 CPRO/Mech-105 Gorakhpur

20 SCREEN REVIEWS CINEMA & MUSIC

Notes from Behind the Bars

BLACK WARRANT ★★★★★

Director: Vikramaditya Motwane

Cast: Zahan Kapoor, Rahul Bhat, Paramvir Singh Cheema, Anurag Thakur, Sidhant Gupta, Joy Sengupta, Tota Roy Choudhury, Saamya Jainn, Pratap Phad, Vinay Sharma, Sukhwinder Chahal, Rajshri Deshpande **Streaming on:** Netflix

SHUBHRA GUPTA

BLACK WARRANT is a seven-part series based on a book of the same name about an insider's account of his time at what has been dubbed 'the biggest prison in Asia', Tihar Jail. The volume is co-authored by Sunil Kumar Gupta, who joined Tihar in the early '80s, and journalist Sunetra Chowdhary; the show, directed by Vikramaditya Motwane, cherry picks some of the most sensational cases that unspooled during Gupta's watch, as he grew from a wet-behind-the-ears rookie to an experienced jailer, without losing his humanity.

Gupta, credited with starting Tihar's first legal aid cell for poor, illiterate under-trials, is played by Zahan Kapoor. The actor, who debuted in Hansal Mehta's 2022 terrorist drama *Faraz*, is given enough time here to grow into his role. Within a few minutes of the opening, his slight frame and smiling, soft ways — unlike his colleagues, he doesn't cuss a mile a minute, nor does he use brute force on the inmates — are underlined more than a few times, and it's quickly apparent why. His character, who doesn't quite fit the job description — maintaining order in a rough-tough jail — is a familiar device used to impart chunks of information. And it is to Kapoor's credit that he becomes more than just that device which is pressed into service through the series; he inhabits his character with conviction.

It's hard to pull off a prison drama where you can feel the grit without being utterly revolted at the kind of things that go on behind those impenetrable walls; where the performances feel as close to real as possible. *Black Warrant* goes the full yard in attempting to unpack the intricate power structure, showcasing caste and religious hierarchies between gangs comprising hardened crimi-

nals and innocents dumped there by sloppy or malicious police work, a power-keg which needs to be controlled day and night by hard-pressed wardens, peppered by the social-political happenings in the outside world, and keeps it watchable.

For the most part, prisons are dark, dank, dismal places; those incarcerated 'doing time' finding their own ways of whiling it away, in ways which would seem inhuman to the outside world: how many of us know that a concoction of red chilli powder and 'gur' can cause unimaginable damage in the wrong place? Despite a few flourishes which feel exaggerated (I haven't read the book, so I don't know how faithful the adaptation is), and the fact that no one smokes in the series (this was the '80s, and everyone smoked), *Black Warrant* comes off as a well-made, engaging prison drama featuring real-life cases: the episode featuring Billa-Ranga, the two men who raped and killed two Delhi teenagers, is enough to give us nightmares.

Motwane, whose Netflix docu-drama *Indi(r)a's Emergency* hasn't yet been released, has had experience with the genre. While we do see elements from the movies — a few slo mo struts, some background music, and a song — clearly to prevent everything from becoming too dispirited and heavy, there's a concerted effort to maintain the tone and tenor of a multi-episode show, with the main characters appearing all through, and new characters being introduced in each episode.

One of the first colourful inmates we see keeps popping up in key moments: the notorious 'Bikini Killer' Charles Sobhraj (Sidhant Gupta, vamping it up happily) not only has the run of the prison, he also has the power to do the impossible — from getting Sunil in, to getting himself out.

Along with Sunil are two other new entrants, the abrasive Vipin Dahiya (Anurag Thakur), and the brawny Shivraj Singh



Mangat (Paramvir Singh Cheema), whose sheer physicality seems much more apt to their workplace than the almost-frail Sunil, as well as their willingness to wade into a gaggle of unruly *qaidis* and break up fights. Both are excellent.

Their senior, DSP Rajesh Tomar, is played by Rahul Bhat, who has finally got a worthy role after Anurag Kashyap's 2013 *Ugly*. Even though Tomar is shown marching up and down — in that specific way that desi series show purposiveness — a tad too often, he also gets a tangled domestic angle — an estranged wife — which shows us how difficult it is for men like him to have a 'normal' home life. Tota Roy Chowdhury and Joy Sengupta, as senior prison functionaries steeped in their ways, add heft.

Women do show up in the series. Dahiya's stated virility is used in a clandestine affair; and a wedding which results in a baby; Sunil has a girl he's sweet on, and a needy *auntyji* as

a neighbour who wants *jail-ka-khana* to put off bad karma; a reporter (Rajshri Deshpande) turns up to speak to a high-profile prisoner. But they are secondary in this all-male affair.

Along the way, we learn prison terminology: the three tenets (*teen stambh*) of a prison are 'Dekhbhal, Nigrani, Niyanttran'; Class B and C prisoners have different privileges and are treated very differently (there's no class A, unless you are Sobhraj, in which case you get anything you want, including young women); *chamgaddad banna* is the phrase used to hang inmates upside down before raining blows. Black warrants are those that are written for those who are going to the gallows — the nib of the pen broken like we have seen so many times in the movies — and we see multiple hangings (the real-life Sunil presided over several, that's why the title), one of which ends in a body refusing to stop breathing.

Macabre, yes. Bizarre, yes. Unbelievable, absolutely. Just another day in a high-security prison, where prisoners on death row are counted down to their last moment.

As a young reporter, I was part of a group which had visited Tihar back in the day when talk of reform was in the air: I remember nothing of that afternoon except the mingling, overpowering smell, of excrement and fried food. While some of the violence remains shadowy, Motwane and his team don't shy away from showing us, literally, shit: prisons aren't pretty, and the filth there doesn't just come from those who are locked away and the keys thrown away, it also comes from those whose souls grow hard and corrupt while presiding over the unfortunates made invisible to those of us who live and breathe free air. The jailor *saab* of this story, Sunil Kumar Gupta, is shown to be an exception, and that's why he's a true hero.

STREAMING WATCH LIST

BY ALAKA SAHANI



ASURA

NETFLIX

IN 1979 TOKYO, four distinct sisters uncover their ageing father's affair, causing their happy facades and bottled-up emotions to unravel slowly. *Asura* reimagines the beloved Japanese family drama *Like Asura* for a modern audience. The series has been written and directed by Hirokazu Kore-eda (*Shoplifters*, *Our Little Sister*).



GOOSEBUMPS: THE VANISHING

DISNEY+HOTSTAR

THIS EIGHT-EPIISODE series features David Schwimmer as Anthony Brewer, a former botany professor obsessed with solving a 30-year-old mystery even as a supernatural entity creates terror in New York City. Borrowing elements from RL Stine's *Goosebumps: The Vanishing* follows has been developed by Nicholas Stoller and Rob Letterman.



PEPE

MUBI

TAKING INSPIRATION from an infamous runaway hippo, this shapeshifting adventure begins in Southern Africa and moves to South America. Pepe narrates his eventful life — from being owned by Colombian drug baron Pablo Escobar to his final days roaming free. *Pepe*, a fablesque documentary, is directed by Nelson Carlo de los Santos Arias.



ONCALL

PRIME VIDEO

THIS POLICE drama follows a rookie and veteran officer duo on patrol in Long Beach. Shot with a mixture of hand-held cameras, bodycam and dash-cam footage, the series explores the morality of protecting a community. Brandon Larracunte stars as Alex Diaz, an ambitious rookie who grapples with holding onto his optimistic outlook while facing challenges in today's climate.

Rock Solid

SHALINI LANGER

SOMETIMES, 'LOW-TECH beats hi-tech', demonstrates one of the members of this heist team, during the course of this longer-than-needed film. *Den of Thieves 2* is like that — a small-time cast, if you choose to discount Gerard Butler, which pulls off a thriller that can give big-timers a run for their money.

Six years after Butler's cop Nick was outsmarted by O'Shea Jackson Jr's Donnie in the first *Den of Thieves*, the latter has returned on the former's radar. There has been an audacious theft of diamonds from a plane at Antwerp airport in Belgium and Nick, who is divorced, down and out, haggard around the face and heavy around the waist, sniffs a scent that he follows to Nice in France.

There, Nick threatens to rat on Donnie unless he cuts him into the latest heist he is a part of. This involves robbing the vault of the Diamond District, "the most heavily guarded place in Continental Europe". We have seen enough *Ocean 11*s to know it's only a matter of time when that reputation bites the dust.

It's the how that matters then, and writer-director Christian Gudegast keeps it simple, low-key and thrumming. This is not America so the cast of characters is welcomingly mixed-race, from all over the Balkans (at one point, they all curse NATO together).



DEN OF THIEVES 2: PANTERA

★★★★

Director: Christian Gudegast

Cast: Gerard Butler, O'Shea Jackson Jr, Evin Ahmad, Salvatore Esposito, Orii Shuka, Nazmiye Oral

The setting is France and there is an astonishing amount of French spoken for a mainstream thriller, by faces that are again White, Black and all shades in the middle. The fans watch football, not baseball, and it is hard to tell who is backing whom. Sardinia features as does shawarma; Italy

comes in as does a croissant.

And two women, Evin Ahmad's Jovanna and Nazmiye Oral's Chava, who are as far as they get from Hollywood types, play meaty roles in this diamond world — both on the side of those trying to break into the vault, and those keeping the same flushed with the rocks, few questions asked.

What is also welcome is that the film completely dispenses with unnecessary dialogue, especially when the actual action kicks in. It still conveys more than needed between characters in a movie of this kind — especially Nick and Donnie, who share an easy, unforced bond.

On the Warpath

FATEH ★★

Director: Sonu Sood

Cast: Sonu Sood, Jacqueline Fernandez, Naseeruddin Shah, Vijay Raaz, Shiv Jyoti Rajput, Dibyendu, Prakash Belawadi

SHUBHRA GUPTA

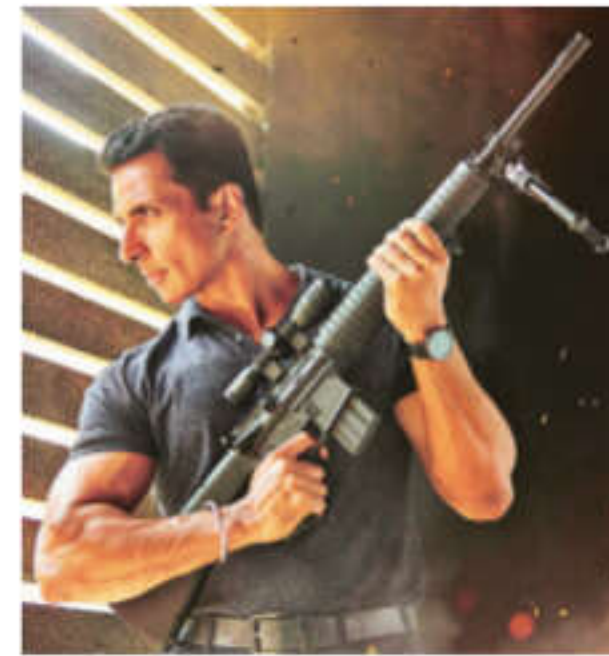
CYBERCRIME IS in the crosshairs of Sonu Sood's *Fateh*, in which he plays an in-and-as role: the name of the film is his, which means victory.

So how much of a win is the 127-minute film, the actor's debut directorial? Sood has mostly played strong supporting roles up until now; this one has him as a hero, front and centre. That's one thing checked off from any actor's wish list: solo hero in an action movie, the guy with the gun, leading from the front.

The film opens with a heavily choreographed action set piece, in which Fateh walks into a crowded room and goes on a killing spree, employing all manner of sleight-of-hand skills, leaving bodies sprawl, and blood everywhere.

This sequence becomes a rinse-and-repeat procedure in different locations throughout the film, which shifts from Moga, a village in Punjab, to the big city of Delhi: we know this because the Capital's markers — India Gate, Red Fort, the banks of the Jamuna — become places for the hero to hang about.

Sood himself is enough of an actor to make us believe, but the plot becomes in-



creasingly contrived and over-the-top, brimming with an assortment of villains — Naseeruddin Shah as a black-hoodie-clad master cyber criminal, always to be seen in a room full of screens and a shapely red-lipped assistant, Vijay Raaz as his murderous accomplice, and Dibyendu as a crooked cop — deep fakes targeting innocents, and a series of people being electrocuted in real-time (nope, not kidding).

The requirement of a leading lady is completed by Jacqueline Fernandez's Shruti, a computer whizz who works with a group of ethical hackers. There's also a girl (Shiv Jyoti Rajput) from Fateh's village, whose complicated situation becomes the reason for our hero to get going. These portions are hurriedly executed, because the film is in a hurry to go back to its mission to slash, kill and burn.

Your tipping point depends upon how much sickening, relentless violence you can handle: clearly, the action choreographers have had a lot of fun, and you go along up until a point. After that, it all becomes an empty, exhausting blur.

Shadow of the Past

NOSFERATU

★★★

Director: Robert Eggers **Cast:** Lily-Rose Depp, Nicholas Hoult, Aaron Taylor-Johnson, Emma Corrin, Willem Dafoe, Simon McBurney, Ralph Ineson

SHALINI LANGER

IF HE saw the things that I have seen, Isaac Newton would have crawled back into his mother's womb." In a film intently faithful to the 1922 *Nosferatu: A Horror Symphony*, and to its 1838 setting, that sentence could have been spoken by Willem Dafoe (as he does here) in any of his many roles this century.

Applying Newton's Second Law of Motion, enough force has been put behind that 1922 silent-era film with a mass of dedicated fandom behind it to set *Nosferatu* (or the evil one) in motion again. The cinematog-

raphy is brilliant, the production design is top quality, the clouded, moon-lit skylines expressive, and this film's colours smartly used to recreate the light-and-dark effect of the black-and-white original.

But, but, if the rats that overtake the German town of Winsburg at his coming give you more creeps than *Nosferatu* himself, then surely this vampire's fangs are far from sharp.

Played by Bill Skarsgård in unrecognisable prosthetics, giving him claws, a hawk nose, talons and scaly, scarred skin, *Nosferatu* or Count Orlok, is more a caricature and never a being — scary or otherwise. Even if he is not meant to draw sympathy, a few



more scenes with his beloved Ellen (Lily-Rose Depp) may have done the trick.

However, while the story of *Nosferatu* is

meant to be about the bond, involving emotional support but also sexual passion, that Ellen unknowingly strikes with Orlok, direc-

tor-co-writer Robert Eggers is too tentative to explore this. (Not to mention that our Censors are too generous in clipping it.)

Instead, Eggers shoots a long, and more impressive, sequence between Orlok and Ellen's husband Thomas (Nicholas Hoult). Thomas's treacherous journey to Orlok's dilapidated castle, in the snow, marked by warnings of mysterious gypsies, and his growing realisation of the horror he has walked into, even as Orlok sneaks or looms around him and he wakes up with bite marks on the chest, is *Nosferatu*'s most effective part.

Hoult also has the most effective performance in the film, his face almost as angelic as his bride Ellen's, conveying both his terrors and his tenderness.

The others (Aaron Taylor-Johnson, Emma Corrin, Ralph Ineson, even Dafoe) have precious little to do apart from stand wringing their hands around Ellen's bed, as she writhes and twists, and at least once has that raised-torso-in-bed shot. Corrin is especially wasted as Ellen's pregnant and mother-of-two friend Anna, who doesn't know better than to put

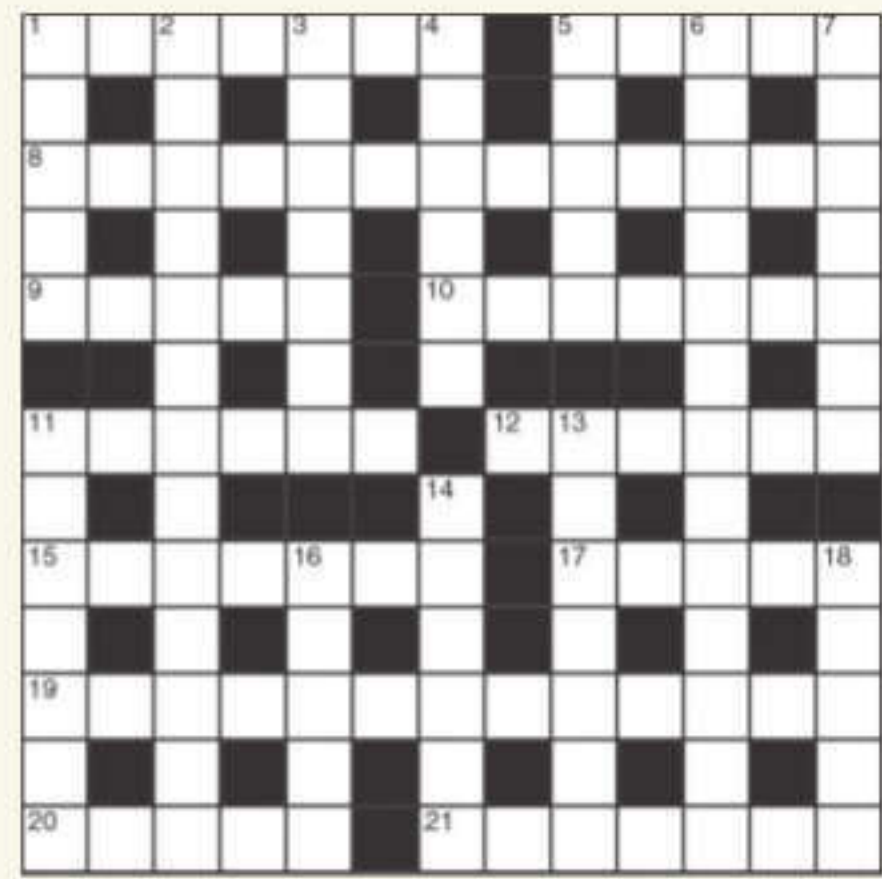
her children in clear danger.

If Dafoe's occult specialist Prof von Franz talks of Ellen as "the fair maiden", she is referred to as "beautiful... *non pareil*... sylph-like" by Thomas's boss Knock (Simon McBurney), who has — as we would say it these days — "sold his soul to the devil". Thomas clearly should have his antennas up, with or without the Orlok link. But, newly hired, he needs the money, and hence proceeds on to the job given to him of signing Orlok up for a house in the neighbourhood.

The bigger problem is that Depp, beauty and all, is so wan, dark-circle-eyed, and morose throughout *Nosferatu* that you have to wonder what the fuss is all about. If not the beauty and the beast's passion, the film could have given us a glimpse of Thomas and Ellen's love before Orlok re-enters her life.

The closest the film gets to describing what Ellen and Orlok may have is in Professor von Franz's words. Such demons, he tells a receptive audience, have a tendency to latch on to women in whom "lower animal functions dominate".

CROSSWORD 5571



- ACROSS
- DOWN
- Solutions Crossword 5570 Across: 1 Eerie, 8 Sideline, 9 Gnome, 10 Aircraft, 11 Study, 12 Pen, 16 Diesel, 17 Inform, 18 Yap, 23 Means, 24 Executed, 25 Basin, 26 Entwines, 27 Alert Down: 2 Einstein, 3 Immodest, 4 Divide, 5 Peach, 6 Olvan, 7 Lento, 12 Ply, 13 Nip, 14 After all, 15 Frontier, 19 Aneled, 20 Repel, 21 Deity, 22 Quail

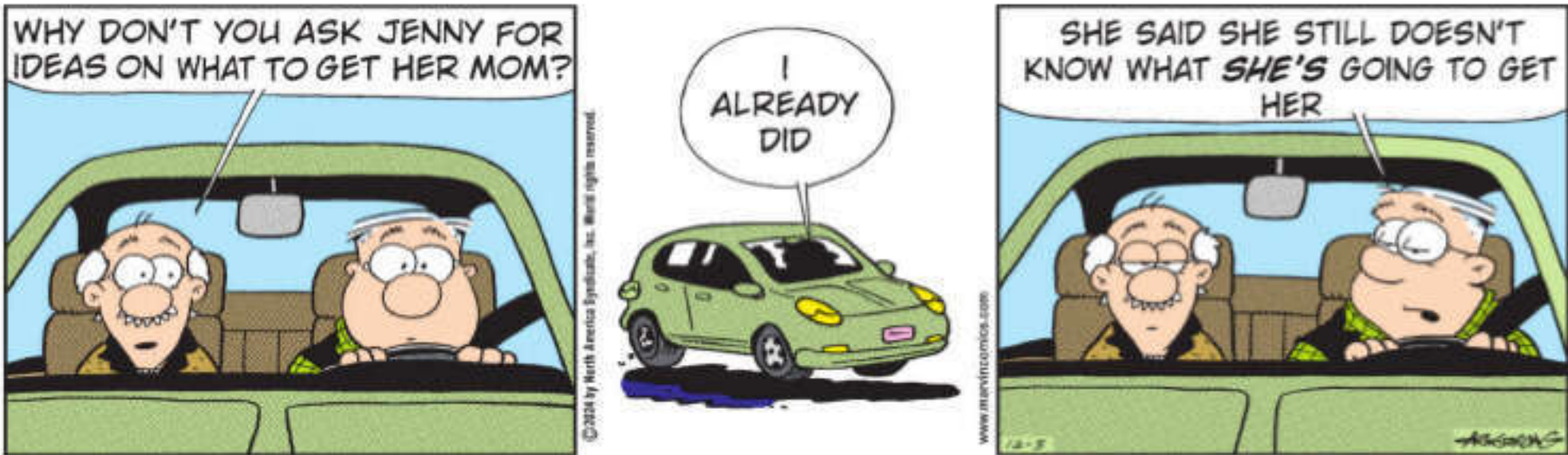
OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

NRAEE

FFUILL

ENARR

IOSFNU

SUDOKU 5832

SUDOKU 5831

SOLUTION SUDOKU 5831

DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

- ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
- LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)
- TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
- GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
- CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
- LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
- VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)
- SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)
- SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)
- CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)
- AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
- PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

INAUGURATION — NCC

India's VP Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurated the National Cadet Corps Republic Day Camp-2025 recently. This year, 2361 Cadets including 917 girl cadets from 17 NCC Directorates covering all the states & union territories of the country are participating in Republic Day Camp 2025, which will culminate with the PM's Rally on 27 January 2025.



ANNUAL DAY — BHEL

BHEL celebrated its annual BHEL Day HD Kumaraswamy, Union Minister of Heavy Industries & Steel graced the occasion as the Chief Guest & presented the awards. Kamran Rizvi, Secy. (Heavy Industries); Vijay Mittal, Joint Secretary (Heavy Industries); K. Sadashiv Murthy, CMD BHEL; Directors; Chief Vigilance Officer, & other officers & employees were present on the occasion.



MEET — DFCCIL

A stakeholder's meet was organized recently with different stakeholders of UPSIDA with DFCCIL Officials at Kanpur. Various companies have participated during this meet to grab this opportunity. The benefits of Gati Shakti Cargo Terminal were well versed presented by SP Verma, GGM, DFCCIL, in presence of Anshul Katariya, RM, UPSIDA.

AGREEMENT — MRPL

Mangalore Refinery & Petrochemicals Ltd. has entered a strategic partnership with Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Ltd. The agreement was formally signed recently at MRPL office in Mangaluru by B. Sudharshan, ED (Refinery), & Atul Gupta, Deputy CEO (ISPR), in the presence of MS Kamath, MD (MRPL), & LR Jain, CEO & MD (ISPR). This collaboration underscores a shared vision to drive mutual growth & contribute to national energy security.

FOUNDATION DAY — UCO BANK

83rd Foundation Day of UCO Bank, was organized recently at Zonal Office, New Delhi. Sumit Khandelwal, GM & Zonal Head garlanded the portrait of the founder of the bank Ghanshyam Das Birla & lit the lamp. Sumit Khandelwal inaugurated the blood donation camp & free health checkup camp was organised at Parliament retail Branch. The 83rd Foundation Day of the Bank was celebrated with joy & a number of events were organized.



CAMP — NCC

CNS Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi visited the NCC Republic Day Camp recently at Delhi Cantt. He lauded the NCC cadets for their high standards of display and immaculate turnout. He further encouraged them to carry the ethos of NCC to each & every corner of the country with high spirit & enthusiasm. The CNS also applauded the NCC's community development programmes, like Swachhta Pakhwada, tree plantation drives, blood donation camps and other initiatives.

CSR — BSES

BSES & AIIMS have joined hands for promoting eco friendly mobility. Within the AIIMS campus, BSES is providing 27 zero-pollution electric buses under its CSR program for the hospital's Free in-Campus Shuttle Service. The first set of 11 electric buses was flagged off recently by AIIMS Dir. M. Srinivas & the BSES leadership team. BSES Dir. & Group CEO, Amal Sinha, Dir. on the BSES Board, VS Verma & BYPL CEO, Amarjeet Singh lead the BSES team.



EVENT — SWACHHAGRAHI FOUNDATION

The program 'Sau Saal Pehle' (100 Years Ago), organized to commemorate Mohammed Rafi's birth centenary, refreshed the memories of the legendary singer in the hearts of Delhiites. His son, Shahid Rafi, mesmerized the audience with his melodious voice. Organized by the Swachhagrahi Foundation, the event held at the NCU Auditorium was inaugurated by the former Union Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi.



CORPORATE BRIEFS

FOUNDATION — NTPC

PM Modi laid the foundation stone for the state-of-the-art NTPC Green Energy Ltd. Green Hydrogen Hub Project at Pudimadaka near Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh. PM laid the foundation stone virtually from Visakhapatnam in the presence of S Abdul Nazeer, Governor of Andhra Pradesh, N Chandrababu Naidu, CM of Andhra Pradesh, K Rammohan Naidu, M/o Civil Aviation, K Pawan Kalyan, Deputy CM of Andhra Pradesh & other dignitaries



AGREEMENT — POWERGRID

POWERGRID, has taken a significant step towards collaborative technical research by signing a 'Master Agreement' with independent, non-profit energy research & development organization EPRI, USA. This transformative 10 yr framework agreement cements POWERGRID's commitment toward innovation, sustainability & collaboration at the global level. The agreement paves the way for participation in EPRI's cutting-edge Annual Research Portfolio & customized solutions, encompassing transmission system construction, operation & maintenance, to advance energy transition & sustainability. "Through this collaboration with EPRI, we are taking a significant step forward in addressing the evolving challenges of the power transmission sector" said, RK Tyagi, CMD of POWERGRID.



LAUNCH — SCOPE

SCOPE, along with GIZ, Germany, a public benefit federal enterprise, has launched first of its kind self-paced advance course on Climate Change & Climate Action to enable the workforce of the Public Sector fraternity to gain formal certification on the subject. The course is supported by International Climate Initiative of the German Government & certified by them along with SCOPE & GIZ, Germany. SCOPE also launched its dedicated webpage on Climate Action enabling PSEs to gain information and engage in peer learning through a single portal. The advanced course has been designed to develop an understanding about the various aspects of Climate Change and possible actions available to combat the same. The webpage aims to be a single point of information repository entailing Climate initiatives of PSEs, Int'l developments on sustainability & access to important publications & knowledge repositories on the important subject of Climate Action.



CONVENTION — IREDA

As part of the 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention, Pradip Kumar Das, CMD, IREDA played a pivotal role as the moderator for the panel discussion titled "Green Connections: The Indian Diaspora's Contributions to Sustainable Development". The session, chaired by Ashwini Vaishnav, M/o Railways, Information & Broadcasting & Electronics & Information Technology, highlighted the significant impact of the Indian diaspora in advancing global sustainability initiatives and fostering green growth.



LIC

The PM, Modi launched LIC's BIMA SAKHI Yojana at Panipat, recently. Bima Sakhi Yojana is a step towards Viksit Bharat through women empowerment which will provide social security to the families. On this occasion, Siddhartha Mohanty, CEO and MD, LIC has expressed the objective to cover each panchayat of the country by at least one Bima Sakhi within one year.

SAIL

SAIL, has supplied approximately 45,000 tonnes of steel for the upcoming Mahakumbh Mela 2025 which will be held in Prayagraj. The total quantity of steel supplied includes chequered plates, hot strip mill plates, mild steel plates, angles and joists. Major customers for this steel supply include the Public Works Department (PWD), Uttar Pradesh State Bridges Corporation, Electricity Board and their suppliers.

BHEL

BHEL has achieved yet another milestone in Bhutan with the successful commissioning of two units of the 6x170 MW Punatsangchu-II Hydroelectric Project (PHEP-II). Executed as part of a bilateral agreement between the GOI & the Royal Government of Bhutan, PHEP-II is a greenfield hydro project located in the Wangdue district of Western Bhutan.

ACADEMICS

SNEH International School

Junior hosted its Annual Day celebration-Florets of Innocence, recently. The evening began with the traditional lighting of the lamp by the Chairman, Dr. Subhash Chander Dhingra and other dignitaries, Chief Guest Ms. Nithya Radhakrishnan, IPS & Guest of Honour Dr. Aditi Govitrikar, Film Actress were welcomed. The event showcased captivating performances, starting with the Kindergarten students. Principal Ms. Komal presented the Annual Report for 23-24, highlighting the school's progress.



MEETING — DISTRICT SHAHDARA

A meeting chaired by the District Election Officer, Shahdara was convened to supply the final publication of the electoral roll. The meeting was attended by the BLA-1 of the recognized political parties of each Assembly, SDM (E), EROs, AEROs and the additional AEROs of district Shahdara.



IREDA has achieved 'Excellent' rating for the performance MoU signed with the MNRE for the FY 23-24, with a score of 98.24. This marks the fourth consecutive year that IREDA has received 'Excellent' rating. In the previous three years, IREDA consistently delivered exceptional results, achieving an 'Excellent' rating with scores of 93.50 in FY 22-23, 96.54 in FY 21-22 and 96.93 in FY 20-21. Speaking on the achievement, PK Das, CMD, IREDA, said, "Securing the 'Excellent' rating for the fourth consecutive year is a significant milestone for IREDA.

NBCC PM Modi inaugurated several high-impact infrastructure projects, executed by NBCC, reaffirming the company's pivotal role in shaping modern India. The inauguration ceremony witnessed the inauguration of the World Trade Center at Nauroji Nagar, the GPRA Type-II Quarters at Sarojini Nagar and the Central Board of Secondary Education Headquarters at Dwarka, all of which embody cutting-edge design, sustainability, & community-focused planning.

REC disbursed loans worth Rs.8377;54,692 cr. up 17.98% year-on-year (YoY) for the Quarter ended Dec. 31, 2024. The quantum of renewable energy loan disbursements grew 58.09% year-on-year to Rs.8377;6,314 cr. in the corresponding period. For 9 months (Q1-Q3) FY24-25, REC disbursed total loans amounting to Rs.8377;1,45,647 crore, which is higher by 19.30% compared to Rs.8377;1,22,089 cr., disbursed in the corresponding period of FY23-24. Of this, renewable energy loans aggregated to Rs.8377;17,612 cr, up 78.68% YoY.

DISTRICT ELECTION OFFICER In response to a video tweeted by ANI, wherein allegations were made against the District Election Officer, New Delhi, regarding non-disclosure of objectors' names & alleged deliberate deletions of electors' names from the electoral roll, a press note is being issued. These allegations are incorrect. As per the guidelines of the Election Commission of India, the summary of Form 7, which includes the names of both the objectors & objectees, is shared with all recognized political parties on a weekly basis through Form 10.

RESEARCH

Dr. Naval Kumar Verma MD (Hom), Hon PhD, and a renowned scientist of homeopathy, has achieved a groundbreaking milestone in the treatment of prostate problems using homeopathic remedies. His work, recently published in the Int'l Journal of Science and Research, demonstrates how homeopathy can effectively treat Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia (BPH) & prevent the progression to prostate cancer.



Newcomers’ day out: Tejal, Pratika shine in easy win



Pratika Rawal top-scored with 89 off 96 balls as India won by six wickets and 93 balls to spare. *Sportzpics/BCCI*

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE JANUARY 10

WITH THE ball, rookie legspinner Priya Mishra got the prized wicket of Orla Prendergast in Ireland’s side and followed that up with another one of Laura Delany next ball to peg the visitors back. With the bat, it was a 116-run partnership between Pratika Rawal and Tejal Hasabnis that carried India’s run-chase. Between the three of them, just 60 days separated their ODI caps, received late last year and the newcomers had a day to remember as India beat Ireland by 6 wickets in the first ODI on Friday in Rajkot.

On a flat batting deck, India did well to break into the middle order but Ireland captain Gaby Lewis played a classy knock of 92 and stitched together a 117-run stand with Leah Paul. But India, not at their best on the field once more worryingly, did well enough to restrict the opposition to 238/7. Rawal then anchored the chase smashing 10 fours and one six for a career-best 89 (96 balls). She was ably supported by Hasabnis, who remained unbeaten on 53 off 46 balls with the help of nine boundaries.

Their partnership of 116 came off just 84 balls with India winning the match with 93 balls to spare.

Carrying forward her dominant form from the West Indies series, stand-in skipper Smriti Mandhana gave the team a fantastic start with a blistering 29-ball 41, studied with six fours and a six. In the process, she became the second Indian and 15th overall to surpass 4,000 ODI runs. Mandhana and Rawal shared their third fifty-plus opening stand in four matches, keeping the scoreboard ticking with ease.

Harleen Deol (20) and Jemimah Rodrigues (9) failed to convert their starts as India gave Ireland a sniff when they lost three wickets for 46 runs. Sloppy bowling by Ireland after that, however, aided the two youngsters to close the chase out.

Earlier, fielding was once again under the scanner as India let Ireland off the hook. Opting to bat, Ireland were in deep trouble at 56 for four in the 14th over, but aided by at least three clear dropped catches and a few misfields, the duo of Lewis and Paul gave Ireland something to fight with.

“We need to get better at fielding. We should have restricted them to 180, will be aiming to do that going forward. We have to go out there and execute our plans, that’s going to be important,” Mandhana said during the post-match presentation. But she reserved praise for her bowlers. “To bowl on these sort of wickets, which have nothing in it, the bowlers did a really good job... The way they executed the slower balls and bouncers. Every game here on, we need to execute,” she added.

“I enjoy watching [Mandhana bat] from the other end. It eases me down. We were just trying to keep it simple,” Rawal said after being named player of the match. “Whenever the ball is in my slot, I look to play big shots; otherwise, I look to take singles.” It’s been an impressive start to life as an India cricketer for the psychology student from Delhi who has now made two half centuries in her first four matches.

BRIEF SCORES: Ireland 238/7 in 50 overs (Gaby Lewis 92, Leah Paul 59, Priya Mishra 2/56) lost to India 241/4 in 34.3 overs (Pratika Rawal 89, Tejal Hasabnis 53, Aimee Maguire 3/57) by 6 wickets

SPORTSBAR

Family of former Leicester owner files \$2.6 billion claim

Manchester: The family of former Leicester football club owner Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha has filed the largest fatal accident claim in English history after the Thai billionaire died in a helicopter crash in 2018, representatives said Friday. The High Court claim brought against helicopter manufacturer Leonardo S.p.A. was valued at 2.15 billion pounds (\$2.6 billion). Vichai and four others died in the crash just outside the Premier League team’s King Power Stadium in October 2018. “My family feels the loss of my father as much today as we ever have done,” said Vichai’s son, Aiyawatt Srivaddhanaprabha. “That my own children, and their cousins, will never know their grandfather compounds

MALAYSIA OPEN

From frying pan to last-four fire

Satwik-Chirag see off Malaysian duo of Yew Sin Ong-Ee Yi Teo, but a tougher test awaits in semifinal

SHIVANI NAIK JANUARY 10

AT 15-15 in the opening set, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy leapt in the air and slam dunked what could be called a yorker-smash, right on Ong Yew Sin’s toes to go up 16-15. Jasprit Bumrah or Zaheer Khan would’ve been proud. Chirag Shetty was ecstatic.

It felt like the best of old times. When unhindered, smashing aggression brought them a barrage of such offensive points scaring away opponents. Except, the top Malaysian doubles pairings, had wriggled out a lethal counter: they offered no lifts to the Indians and kept things flat, fast, furious and uncomfortable.

It had brought Aaron-Soh the Olympic medal at the Indian’s expense.

Six months on, Ong-Teo were revelling in the same tactic, without Aaron Chia’s poise or perfection, but being a pain in Indian necks anyway.

Through terrible nerves, a hugely hostile Malaysian crowd and highly pesky opponents, where the style of play was dictated by Ong-Teo, the Indians emerged with a confidence-coating 26-24, 21-15 win to reach the semifinals.

Make no mistake, Koreans Seo Syeung-jae and Kim Won-ho will pose tougher questions on Saturday, and will not get carried away by the drama and delirium of a highly charged contest. The Koreans only have 52 matches together, but Seo has more variations than CEOs at media houses, have suggestions. His head is a bag of tricks, which the limbs obediently execute. But the Malaysians, ranked 24, pushed the Indians enough to get them on their toes.

It was worse. They were pushed on their heels rather as both Satwik and Chirag, 184 and 186 cms, were forced to hunker down and defend and parry off the flat, fast drives. On the whole it was a terrible day to be a tall man. They repeatedly got called for high serves, and their rantings to chair umpire fired up the local crowd even more than usual.

But the Indians did not run away from the challenge of playing the fast, flat game that’s not to their liking. And eventually, their persistence on getting on with it, saw the Malaysians get frustrated, as in trying to keep the shuttle as low and near the net as possible with their slappy pushes, they ended up with net errors. The takeaway was that ‘playing to your strengths’ (read: attack) doesn’t quite work if opponents do their job of not allowing you to have it your way.

But the first set was a rollercoaster even without the minutiae of preferred styles. To start at that perfect point of 16-15, where Satwik-Chirag were keeping things compact, in control and vertically charged. But the Malaysians went slant edged and diagonal with flat crosses, keeping the Indians perturbed and panicky.



Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty won 26-24, 21-15 in the quarterfinals. *BWF / BadmintonPhoto*

From 19-16 up, Satwik picked a service fault and grimaced. The Malaysians were at their collar when Teo sent a flick serve looping over their heads. Chirag asked if there was side-by-side delay, and was met with boos from the crowd. They got to set point with an angry down smash from Chirag, but the next two points were gone to frisky net returns dumped in the meshing and a reflex that flew low. 20-21.

Chirag was a complete nervous chicken in the next point, but implausibly his flayed-limbed crab-defense, the most uncontrolled return he might’ve ever made, perfectly looped over the net. 21-all.

The crowds were loudest now, as the Axiata Arena heaved. Next, Satwuk botched a net push, but Teo erred too, in the flurry of exchanges. The Indians saved 4 set points, embroiled in that net cauldron, though they found a perfect 1-2 smash routine at 23-all.

Ironically, just as the commentators were discussing the Indian vulnerability against serve variations, notably the tumble, Chirag pulled out the most crucial drive-serve to

take the lead and second set point after 20-19, at 25-24. Satwik, stayed committed one shot longer to the flat exchange when he could’ve killed the bird, and then rose high to smash at second chance.

That 26-24 will perhaps get forgotten as the hustle bustle of 2025 takes over. But it was an important lead - forced to play an excruciating style, the Indians hung on. And won.

Typically the second set against this wildly volatile Malaysian pair, would head off in one direction. The home pair led 9-6, as the Indians accumulated all manners of net mistakes and serving violations. But from 8-10 to 11-11, the Indians got going in unleashing body-attacks even from hand-combat distance.

Drama unfolds

Plenty of drama unfolded. The Indians were infuriating the crowd questioning the service faults, coach Tan Kim Her, a Malaysian himself, almost leapt out his seat chattering instructions to Indians, and was scolded.

Then Ong deflected a body attack onto Teo sideways, and the shuttle crashed into his chest, as he made a face of a hanged man. The two kept bickering intermittently, but finally got so carried away by the crowd booming that they overdid the flat, net-kissing returns.

All the Indians had to do was swamp Ong-Teo with speed, and their net errors piled up as they fell apart. The Indians won 26-24, 21-15 and all this happened in 48 frenzied minutes where Satwik said they stayed really positive till the end, taking one point at a time.

Chirag offered a professional, poised take. “As athletes, these are the stadia you want to play at. You want to play at packed arenas in the closing crucial stages of the tournament. And we couldn’t have asked for a better crowd although they would obviously support the local pair. But as a professional athlete, its one of the best stadiums to play at,” he said.

Satwik kept it simple. “They will support us tomorrow,” he coolly declared, reading the boom.

Rupinder’s missed stroke costly as Dragons tame Tigers

VINAYAKK MOHANARANGAN NEW DELHI, JANUARY 10

ON PAPER, Shrachi Rath Bengal Tigers got the same number of points from their last matches: none. After starting the Hockey India League with three wins out of three, they have now suffered back-to-back defeats. But the nature of those losses couldn’t have been more contrasting. On Friday in Rourkela, the Tigers went down 1-2 in a closely fought contest against a gritty Tamil Nadu Dragons, now the new leaders of the tournament. They huffed, they puffed, but couldn’t break the Dragons’ defence down.

As captain Rupinder Pal Singh reflected on the loss, he made it a point to insist this was a performance much better than their 0-6 defeat against Kalinga Lancers, one where they just didn’t turn up at the start and lost to an early blitzkrieg. Rupinder also conceded that the turning point of the night came off his own stick: he uncharacteristically missed a penalty stroke – his second of

the match – that would have brought his side level late in the third quarter. For Dragons, Karthi Selvam (16*) and Uttam Singh (37*) were on the scoresheet while Rupinder’s other penalty stroke was Tigers’ only goal of the night

The full-time stats said a story: Tigers dominated circle entries (25 to 16), shots on goal (14 to 8), penalty corners won (10 to 2)... but the number that mattered was in favour of Dragons, led by captain Amit Rohidas’ set-piece rushing and veteran goalkeeper David Harte’s flurry of saves.

High intensity

The contest between the tournament’s top two sides lived up to the billing from the word go in terms of the intensity on display but it was a largely scrappy first quarter, that had a lot of needle and was quite physical.

Poacher’s finish
Early in Q2 though, Dragons made the breakthrough, thanks to TN’s own. A long aerial into the circle was controlled expertly by Uttam Singh down the left byline. He drib-



Karthi Selvam (L) celebrates Dragons’ first goal against Bengal. *HIL*

bled along the line but delayed his pass just enough to find Karthi in space in front of goal. And the Tamil Nadu striker fired his side into the lead with a poacher’s finish. After a slow start to the tournament, he has now found the back of the net twice in two matches.

It was a finish that was reminiscent of SV Sunil’s in Gonasika’s match the previous night. Commenting in the studio during half-time, hockey pundit Siddharth Pandey – who is the director of Hyderabad Toofans – observed how Sunil cleverly made space for himself by shifting his position by a yard and noted that it was a lesson for young forwards watching. Karthi seemed to have done just that.

Tigers upped the ante thereafter and created a flurry of chances before half time but Harte and his defence stood tall. At the break, coach Colin Batch said: “The way we finished the half is how I want us to play the next two quarters, the intensity was good, and we need to keep that up.”

Just so, Tigers hit back within five minutes of the second half. A foot on the goal-line from a Penalty Corner led to a stroke and Rupinder made no mistake. The pressure was now immense on Dragons.

But moments later, Dragons found another opening against the run of play. Moritz Ludwig in lots of space down the right, and

Tamworth given beer-for-life incentive to pull off an upset

REUTERS LONDON, JANUARY 10

MINOR LEAGUE Tamworth hardly need an incentive to write their name in FA Cup folklore against Premier League Tottenham Hotspur on Sunday but just in case they do, a local bar in the market town is offering beer for life for a match-winner.

The Staffordshire side, nicknamed the Lambs, host eight-times FA Cup winners Tottenham on their astroturf pitch in a classic David v Goliath contest.

While Tamworth boss Andy Peaks will be busy devising a tactical plan to stop the likes of Son Heung-min and Dejan Kulusevski, general manager of Pitches Bar Jason Pegg is hoping the promise of endless pints can help cause a massive shock.

“What better way to show our backing than with a little fun?” Pegg, who is offering the prize to any Tamworth player who scores a winning goal, told local media.

“A winning goal means more than just a place in the record books -- it’s the stuff of legends. We want to be part of that excitement, and what better way than offering free beer for life to the player who delivers the magic moment?”

“We know it’s a big ask, but anything is possible in football, and Tamworth FC has a history of surprises. We can’t wait to see who steps up to the plate.”

Tamworth are 16th in the National League, which is the fifth tier of English soccer but have already beaten League One Huddersfield Town en route to the third round.

In that game, Tommy Tonks scored directly from a throw-in and the midfielder will no doubt be flexing his muscles to launch more havoc-wreaking deliveries into the Tottenham area on Sunday.

“I’ve never actually measured how far I can throw the ball, I just launch it as far as I can,” Tonks said before the Huddersfield game. “I can see it in the faces of opposing defenders and goalies -- they absolutely hate it.”

Peaks, who quit his job as a support worker in a local college to coach Tamworth full-time, described the visit of Tottenham as massive for the town and said the North London club can expect a hostile atmosphere when they walk out for the tie that will be broadcast live. “The facilities won’t be what they are used to, there’s maybe one shower working and the toilet door hanging off its hinges,” he told BBC Radio 4 on Friday.

The Staffordshire side, nicknamed the Lambs, host eight-times FA Cup winners Tottenham on their astroturf pitch in a classic David v Goliath contest.

his driving run into the circle caused chaos in the Tigers’ defence and his cutback was swept into the net by Uttam.

The creator of the first goal, turned scorer this time as Dragons swiftly reestablished their lead.

Then came some drama. Dragons coach Rein van Eijk was not happy, wagging his fingers in the air after a penalty stroke was awarded by the officials to Tigers. But that soon turned into celebration as Rupinder fired it wide this time with Harte guessing correctly.

Harte then turned into prime Manuel Neuer as he charged out and put in a superb stick tackle when the ever-lively Sukhjeet Singh was shaping to take a shot at goal.

Dragons endured a nervy ending after Ludwig got a yellow card to spend 5 of the last 6 minutes on the sidelines. With 2 minutes to go, there was another yellow card for Dragons (Chandan Yadav) and for a few seconds, they were down to 9 men on the pitch. It was a proper park-the-bus performance at this point but they held on.

Punjab FC hold NorthEast United 1-1

Gurwahati: NorthEast United and Punjab FC played out a 1-1 draw in their Indian Super League match at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium. NorthEast took the lead in the 24th minute through Alaaeddine Ajaraie but Punjab struck the equaliser in the 82nd minute through Khaiminthang Lhungdim to snap their four-match losing streak. The breakthrough came in the 24th minute through Ajaraie, who showed tremendous finishing instincts in the final third. Melroy Melwin Assisi tried to clear a long ball hurled into the Punjab FC defence, but the ball went straight to Macarton Nickson rushed into a long-range effort that had to be saved by Punjab FC’s Muheet Shabir Khan in the bottom left corner. The ball, however, rebounded to Ajaraie, who carefully evaded being caught offside and tapped the ball into the bottom right corner to open the scoring. **PTI**

Bhambri-Olivetti team exit ASB Classic

Auckland: India’s Yuki Bhambri and his French partner Albano Olivetti frittered away a solid start to make a semifinal exit from the ASB Classic in Auckland on Friday. The unseeded Indo-French combine had the momentum but the top seeded pair of Nikola Mektic and Michael Venus bounced back strongly to win 3-6 6-1 5-10 in the last-four pairs match of the ATP 250 event. Bhambri and Olivetti took 90 points each and split USD 10150 for their effort in the hard court tournament. Before teaming up with Olivetti, India No. 2 Bhambri gained valuable experience on the Tour partnering with Venus. Meanwhile, Gael Monfils became the second oldest player since 1990 to reach a final on the men’s elite tennis tour after beating American Nishesh Basavareddy 7-6 (5), 6-4 in the semifinals at Auckland on Friday aged 38 years, 131 days. **PTI**

Boxing Nationals: Chahar, Govind advance

Bareilly: Defending champion Lakshya Chahar (80kg) gave a dominant performance to beat Railways’ Sahil by a unanimous decision as boxers from traditional powerhouse Services Sports Control Board (SSCB) continued to dominate the senior men’s National Championship here. With this win, Chahar, who has represented India at the Asian Games, and the World and Asian Championship, advanced to the second round of the event on Thursday. Railways’ Govind Sahani (60kg), who began his campaign with a commanding win over Mohammad Aarif of Jammu & Kashmir on Wednesday, continued his impressive run beating Gourav Mazumder of Assam 5-0. This was the second consecutive win for Sahani, a silver-medallist from the 2023 Strandja Memorial International Boxing Tournament. **PTI**



Shri H. Lakshmanan

(1933–2025)

We pay tribute to the extraordinary life of Shri **H. Lakshmanan** (1933–2025), a visionary leader whose unwavering commitment helped build our business, guided generations, and laid the groundwork for countless achievements.

For more than seven decades, his wisdom, integrity, and tireless efforts turned challenges into milestones, inspiring all who had the privilege of working with him. As a mentor and guide, he brought clarity to complexity and upheld values that touched lives across generations.

His strategic brilliance and steadfast principles created a legacy that continues to inspire and guide us towards excellence. His life of dedication and purpose will forever live in our hearts and guide our work.

With deep gratitude and respect, we at Sundaram Clayton Ltd. and TVS Motor Company Ltd. honour the remarkable life and enduring legacy of Shri H. Lakshmanan.

Sundaram Clayton Ltd.



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