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THE WORLD

MONTH AFTER ARREST OVER PROTEST

OVER 150 WORKERS OF IMRAN'S PARTY GET BAIL

An anti-terrorism court in Pakistan granted bail to at least 153 workers of jailed former PM Imran Khan's party, more than a month after they were arrested during a protest. Defence Minister Khawaja Asif rejected the reports that the government made any offer to transfer Khan to his Banigala residence.

TOPOFTHE WORLD



Mauro Morandi. NYT

Mauro Morandi, Italy's Robinson Crusoe, dies

Rome: Mauro Morandi, whose 32-year sojourn on uninhabited Mediterranean island led to his being known as Italy's Robinson Crusoe, died January 3 in Modena, Italy. He was 85. The cause was a brain hemorrhage, said Antonio Rinaldis, who wrote a 2023 book with Morandi about his life on the island. Unlike Daniel Defoe's hero, who was shipwrecked and fervently hoped to be rescued, Morandi chose his life of solitude. He said he had fallen in love at first sight with Budelli, a pristine, undeveloped island off the northern tip of Sardinia. He arrived in 1989 he said. He left — against his will — in 2021, writing on social media that he was tired of "fighting against those who want to send me

ITALY

away."

Vatican allows gay men to train to be priests

Rome: The Vatican has approved new guidelines for Italy that say that an applicant for the seminary cannot be rejected simply because he is gay, as long as he remains celibate. The guidelines say that seminary directors should consider sexual orientation as only one aspect of a candidate's personality. They do not change the Catholic Church's teaching that "homosexual tendencies" are "intrinsically disordered," and that men with "deep-seated" gay tendencies should not become priests. But they clarify that if a candidate remains chaste, his sexual orientation should not disqualify him from entering priesthood. **NYT**

THAILAND

Suspected killer of ex-Cambodia lawmaker held

Bangkok: A suspected hitman accused of killing a Cambodian former opposition lawmaker in a brazen attack in Bangkok was handed over to Thai authorities on Saturday from Cambodia, where he had been arrested after crossing the border. Thai national Ekkalak Paenoi, 41, faces charges including premeditated murder in the Tuesday shooting death of Lim Kimya, 74, in the Thai cap-**REUTERS**

WATERWAY WILL REMAIN IN PANAMANIAN HANDS: ADMINISTRATOR

Will remain open to all: Panama canal admin rejects Trump claims on Chinese meddling

Says canal can't give special treatment to US ships because of a neutrality treaty

ASSOCIATED PRESS PANAMA CITY, JANUARY 11

THE ADMINISTRATOR of the Panama Canal said Friday that the vital waterway will remain in Panamanian hands and open to commerce from all countries, rejecting claims by President-elect Donald Trump that the United States should take it over.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Ricaurte Vásquez denied Trump's claims that China was controlling the canal's operations, and said making exceptions to current rules concerning its operation would lead to "chaos."

Black boxes in crashed South Korea plane failed to record final 4 minutes

ASSOCIATED PRESS SEOUL, JANUARY 11

THE BLACK boxes of a Boeing jetliner that crashed in South Korea last month stopped recording about four minutes before the accident, South Korean officials said on Saturday, possibly complicating investigations into the cause of the disaster that killed 179 people.

After analysing the devices, the US National Transportation Safety Board concluded that both the flight data and cockpit voice recorders stopped working about four minutes before the crash, the South Korean Transportation Ministry said.

The Boeing 737-800 operated by Jeju Air skidded off a runway in the South Korean town of Muan on December 29 after its landing gear failed to deploy, slamming into a concrete structure and bursting into flames, killing all but two of the 181 people on board.

After initially analysing the black boxes, South Korean officials sent the devices to the NTSB for closer examination after discovering that some of the data was missing. The transportation ministry said it wasn't immediately clear why the devices failed to record data in the last four minutes.

Jerusalem: US President-elect

Donald Trump's Middle East en-

voy Steve Witkoff will meet Israeli

Prime Minister Benjamin

Netanyahu on Saturday following

his visit to Doha, an Israeli official

said, amid efforts to secure a

hostage deal and ceasefire in Gaza.

some progress had been made in

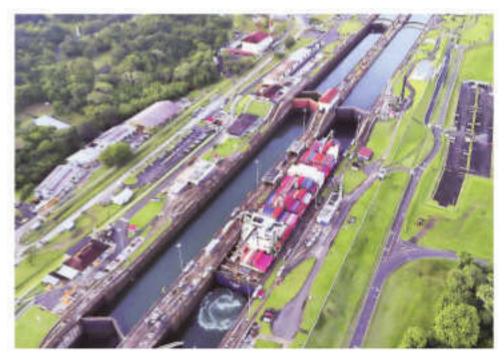
the talks between Israel and

Palestinian militant group Hamas,

mediated by Egypt, Qatar and the

US, to reach a deal in Gaza.

A second Israeli official said



He said Chinese companies operating in the ports on either end of the canal were part of a Hong Kong consortium that won a bidding process in 1997. He added that US and Taiwanese companies are operating other ports along the canal as well.

Trump has gone so far as to suggest the US should take back control of the canal and he would

not rule out using military might to do so. The Panama Canal is vital to our country," he had said. Trump has characterised the fees for transiting the canal that connects the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans as "ridiculous."

Panama President José Raúl Mulino has said unequivocally that the canal will remain in Panamanian hands.

A helicopter makes a drop as smoke billows in the Brentwood area of Los Angeles, California, on Saturday. Reuters

Los Angeles wildfire switches direction,

posing new threat despite winds easing

Toll at 11; over 10,000 structures burnt; health emergency declared over smoke



Administrator of Panama Canal Ricaurte Vásquez says making exceptions to current rules concerning its operation would lead to chaos

Responding to the suggestion that the US could try to retake control of the canal, Vásquez said there was "no foundation for that sort of hope. That is the only thing I can say."

Vasquez stressed that the Panama Canal was open to the commerce of all countries.

The canal can't give special treatment to US-flagged ships because of a neutrality treaty, Vasquez added. "The most sensible and efficient way to do this is to maintain the established rules." Requests for exceptions are routinely rejected, because the process is clear and there mustn't be arbitrary variations, he said. The only exception in the neutrality treaty is for American warships, which receive expedited passage. Some 70% of the sea traffic that crosses the Panama Canal leaves or goes to US ports.

The US built the canal in the early 1900s as it looked for ways to facilitate the transit of commercial and military vessels between its coasts. Washington relinguished control of the waterway to Panama on Dec 31, 1999, under a treaty signed in 1977 by President Jimmy Carter.

Regarding the fees for using the canal, Vasquez said a planned series of increases had concluded with one this month.

"There's no discrimination in the fees," he said.

says Zelenskyy **REUTERS** KYIV, JANUARY 11 UKRAINE HAS captured two North Korean soldiers in Russia's Kursk region, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said

forces working alongside paratroopers. A video posted by the SBU appeared to show the two timated their numbers at 10,000 or more. In a post on X, Zelenskyy captured men. One had his jaw said that the soldiers had been brought to Kyiv and were communicating with the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU), the country's domestic intelligence agency. "As with all prisoners of war, these two North Korean soldiers are receiving the necessary

troops are fighting in the Kursk re-Kyiv for questioning, and that begion, where Ukraine launched an cause they could not speak Ukrainian, Russian or English, their questioning was being done in Korean with the help of South

since 2021 and 2016 respectively.

Saturday, the first time Ukraine has announced the capture of A North Korean soldier North Korean soldiers since their captured by Kyiv, a picture entry into the war last autumn. shared by Zelenskyy on X North Korean regular troops entered the war on Russia's side in October, according to Kyiv and its western allies, who initially es-

Ukraine captured

two North Korean

soldiers in Kursk,

bandaged due to an apparent wound, while the other was drinking through a straw. A doctor interviewed for the SBU's video, who was not named and had his face blurred, said one of the soldiers had a facial wound and would be treated by a dentist while the other had an open said. He said journalists would be wound and a lower leg fracture. The SBU said the North Koreans had been transferred to Kyiv says that North Korean

> Korea's NIS intelligence agency. The SBU said one of the soldiers had been captured with a Russian military document with the name of another person registered in Russia, while the other did not have any papers. The agency said the soldiers had been born in 2005 and 1999, and had been serving in the North Korean forces

shortly afterwards.

medical assistance," Zelenskyy

Russia has neither confirmed

nor denied the presence of North

Korean troops in Kursk, and there

was no immediate reaction from

Moscow or Pyongyang to the lat-

est report. Ukraine had previously

said it captured North Korean sol-

diers in combat, but that they had

been badly wounded and died

address that the troops had been

captured by Ukraine's special

Zelenskyy said in a later video

given access to speak to them.

incursion in August.

VENEZUELA

As Maduro sworn in, Opp grapples with hope, and despair; US raises reward for his capture

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CARACAS, JANUARY 11

INAUGURATION of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro left his opponents to grapple with with conflicting feelings of hope and disappointment on Saturday, pondering why the self-described socialist leader could not be stopped despite credible evidence that he had lost the election last year.

Many expressed cautious optimism, finding a measure of comfort in the social media videos released by two opposition leaders — popular former lawmaker María Corina Machado and Edmundo Gonzalez, the opposition's candidate in the vote — who had promised to topple Maduro.

Maduro compared himself to a biblical David fighting Goliath and accused his opponents and their supporters in the US of try-

confident that the country's

"freedom is near". A day earlier, Machado had

to join a protest in Caracas. Underscoring Maduro's

Election fraud charges OPPOSITION FACTION

accuse Maduro of ballot fraud. Their proof: tally sheets collected from 85% of voting machines that show González won. Nevertheless, electoral authorities declared Maduro the winner hours after polls closed on July 28 but, unlike in previous contests, they did not provide detailed vote counts.

growing isolation, the US, Canada, Britain and the European Union announced new sanctions Friday on more than 20 Venezuelan officials.

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.

Meanwhile, Gonzalez, who had left the country, in his video message, told supporters that Maduro's government will end "soon, very soon". "I am ready for safe entry at the right time," he

way back from a tour, official media reported. CHINESE FOREIGN Minister This was the first major visit Wang Yi made a surprise visit to by a Chinese official to Maldives

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA BEIJING/MALE. JAN 11

that have ripped across Los

Angeles County neighborhoods

since Tuesday have killed at least

11 people and damaged or de-

stroyed 10,000 structures. The

fierce Santa Ana winds that

fanned the infernos eased on

But the Palisades Fire on the city's

western edge was heading in a

new direction, prompting an-

other evacuation order as it

Friday night.

the Maldives, during which he held talks with President Mohamed Muizzu and discussed the state of bilateral relations, amid Male's recent warming up to India. Wang, who is also a member of the powerful Political Bureau of the Communist Party. met Muizzu during his stopover in Male on Friday while on his

Chinese FM makes surprise visit to

edged towards the Brentwood

neighborhood and the San

Fernando Valley foothills, the Los

firefighters had reported

progress in subduing the

Fire was 8% contained and the

Eaton Fire 3%, state agency Cal

On Friday night, the Palisades

Before the latest flare-up,

Angeles Times reported.

Palisades Fire.

Fire said.

after Muizzu visited China in January last year, months after his election.

In his meeting with Wang, Muizzu stressed the importance of fast-tracking key infrastructure projects outlined in the agreements and MOUs between the

Maldives, holds talks with President two countries, Maldives media reported.

The two big fires combined

Some 153,000 people re-

had consumed 35,000 acres, or

54 square miles - 2-1/2 times the

mained under evacuation orders

and another 166,800 faced evac-

uation warnings with a curfew in

place for all evacuation zones.

Officials have declared a public

health emergency due to the

land area of Manhattan.

thick, toxic smoke.

On Wednesday, Maldivian Defence Minister Mohammed Ghassan Maumoon visited New Delhi and held talks with his Indian counterpart Rajnath Singh.

They discussed boosting the defence preparedness of the Indian Ocean archipelago. During Ghassan's visit, India donated USD 4 million worth of military equipment to the Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF).

ing to turn his inauguration into a "world war." Machado, in a message on social media Friday, said she was

emerged from months of hiding

'THE STRENGTH OF SAM & DAVE WAS THAT WE WOULD DO ANYTHING TO PLEASE THE AUDIENCE'

REUTERS

Sam Moore, who sang 'Soul Man', 'I Thank You' in Sam & Dave duo, dies at 89

BILL MORRIS FLORIDA. JANUARY 11

SAM MOORE, the tenor half of the scorching soul duo Sam & Dave, known for indelible hits such as "Soul Man," "Hold On, I'm Comin" and "I Thank You," died

Friday. He was 89. His death, after surgery at a hospital in Coral Gables, Florida, was confirmed by his wife and longtime manager, Joyce. The exact cause was unclear, she said.

At their peak in the 1960s, Sam & Dave churned out R&B hits with a regularity rivaled by few other performers. When "Soul Man"

topped the R&B charts and crossed over to No. 2 on the pop charts in 1967 (it also won a Grammy), its success helped open doors for other Black acts to connect with white audiences.

"The strength of Sam & Dave," Moore said, "was that we would do anything to please the audience." Moore and Dave Prater, a baritone, met at an amateur night at the King of Hearts, a nightclub in Miami, in the early 1960s.

Both men had started out singing in church. One night in 1964, Ahmet Ertegun, Jerry Wexler and Tom Dowd of Atlantic Records came to see them perform. Impressed, they offered the duo a contract.

in two strikes.

REUTERS

Amid peace talks, Trump

envoy to meet Netanyahu

LOS ANGELES, JANUARY 11

THE LARGEST of the raging wild-

fires that have devastated parts

of Los Angeles this week was re-

ported to have shifted direction

on Saturday, triggering more evacuation orders and posing a

new challenge to exhausted fire-

fighters. Six simultaneous blazes

Witkoff arrived in Doha on

On Saturday, the Palestinian

Friday and met the Qatari Prime

Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin

civil emergency service said eight

people were killed, including two

women and two children, in an

Israeli airstrike on a former school

sheltering displaced families in

Jabalia. The Gaza Civil Emergency

Service said five people were

killed and several were wounded

Abdulrahman Al Thani.

Working with producers and songwriters Isaac Hayes and David Porter, the house band Booker T. & the M.G.'s and the crisp horns of the Mar-Keys, Sam & Dave were soon enjoying the benefits of stardom.

Samuel David Moore's life can be divided into three almost implausibly tidy acts. Act 1 began with his birth in Miami on Oct. 12, 1935. His mother, Louise Robinson, was a teacher, and he described his father, John Richard Hicks, as "a street hustler," a tireless womaniser whose son was soon following in his footsteps. (When his mother married a man



Singer Sam Moore performs at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington on Jan 19, 2017. AP

epaper.indianexpress.com

named Charlie Moore, the boy took his stepfather's surname.)

While still in high school, Sam was shot in the leg by the jealous husband of a married woman he was seeing.

He later served 18 months in prison for procuring prostitutes. But music lifted him. He sang in a Miami Baptist church, then with an a cappella group called the Majestics and a gospel group called the Mellonaires, before teaming up with Prater.

Act 2 began with Sam & Dave's first breakup in 1970, as their popularity waned. When their solo careers failed to take flight, they reunited and broke up several

times. The two were never personally close.

Sam & Dave toured in the United States, Europe and Turkey, but their drug abuse had begun to take its toll. Their downward spiral was briefly slowed when John Belushi and Dan Aykroyd, as the Blues Brothers, recorded a hit version of "Soul Man" in late 1970s, bringing new attention to the original.

Moore and Prater performed together for the last time on New Year's Eve 1981 in San Francisco. After walking offstage, they never spoke to each other again. Prater recruited a new partner, Sam Daniels, and they worked to-

gether, billed as Sam & Dave or the New Sam & Dave Revue — over Moore's objections — until Prater died in a car accident in 1988.

Act 3 opened the year after that final show, when Moore married Joyce McRae, a self-described "upper-middle-class Jewish girl from Chicago" who had first seen him perform in 1967. She helped him get sober, took over managing his career and guided him through a productive professional twilight.

Sam & Dave were inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 1992 and received a lifetime achievement Grammy Award in 2019.

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The five brothers and their wife

As the restored version of

The Mahabharata releases,

Mallika Sarabhai looks back

at essaying Draupadi **FOUR-PAGE PULLOUT**

GOVT & POLITICS



7-FOLD INCREASE IN DRUG SEIZURE... **DRONES, DARK WEB** A CHALLENGE: SHAH

IN PHASE 2. GENOME INDIA PROJECT TO FOCUS ON DISEASES PAGE 6

14 ARRESTED

Kerala teen athlete claims sexual abuse by 62 people over years

SHAJU PHILIP THIRUVANANTHAPURAM.

KERALA POLICE has registered five cases and arrested 14 people after an 18-year-old from Pathanamthitta district alleged that as many as 62 people sexually abused her over the last several years.

Police said the girl, who is from the Dalit community, has alleged that she had been sexually abused from the age of 16. The alleged incident came to light when volunteers of the Kerala Mahila Samakhya Society met the girl, a district-level athlete, during a field visit.

When she told them she wanted to share her ordeal, the volunteers informed the district Child Welfare Committee (CWC).

Pathanamthitta Superintendent of Police V G Vinod Kumar said the probe has been intensified.

"More cases will be registered based on the girl's detailed statement, which is being recorded by women police in the presence of her mother. Action will continue based on her statements," he said.

Apart from relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO), the suspects were booked under various sections of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. Five cases were registered in the last two days.

Advocate N Rajeev, who CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Women Agniveers Prepare For Army Day

Women Agniveers from the Corps of Military Police march during rehearsals for the Army Day parade in Pune on Saturday. This is the first time an all-women Agniveer contingent will take part in the Army Day parade, to be held at Bombay Engineer Group Centre, Khadki, on January 15. Pavan Khengre

Citing CAG report, Nadda says '₹2,026 cr loss' from liquor policy, targets AAP

Report manufactured at BJP office, has no credibility: AAP hits back

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, JANUARY 11

A WAR OF words erupted between the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) over the findings of a CAG report purportedly saying that the state exchequer incurred a loss of Rs 2,026 crore due to the Delhi government's now-retracted excise policy.

Following news reports by TV channels CNN News 18 and *India Today*, BJP national president Jagat Prakash Nadda went on the offensive and said "intentional lapses" in the policy caused losses of Rs 2,026 crore to the exchequer. AAP dismissed the report and said it was "manufactured at the BIP office".

"Intoxicated by power, high on mis-governance. 'AAP'DA model of loot in full display and that too on something like liquor.



AAP model

full display:

of loot in

Nadda

Just a matter of a few weeks be-

fore they are voted out and pun-

ished for their misdeeds. CAG

Report on 'Liquorgate' exposes @ArvindKejriwal and @AamAad-

miParty Gov. Intentional 'Lapses'

in Policy Implementation Rs 2026

Cr Loss to Exchequer money

(Sic.)" Nadda said in a post on X.

AAP chief national spokesperson

Priyanka Kakkar accused the BJP

of "manufacturing" the "fake" re-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

port to attack the AAP.

DELHI POLLS: BJP

2ND LIST OUT PAGE 4

Retaliating to the allegations,

NEW DELHI. JANUARY 11 THE INDIAN Space Research

ANONNA DUTT

Organisation (ISRO) is hoping to get third-time lucky as it is likely to make another attempt at docking the two satellites of the SpaDeX mission in space on Sunday.

The two satellites, called Chaser and Target, were brought together, just 230 metres apart, on Saturday evening and locked

DEVENDRA PANDEY

IN A setback for India, strike

bowler Jasprit Bumrah is likely

to miss the group stage of next

month's Champions Trophy due

that Bumrah, who has swelling on

his back, has been asked to report

to the National Cricket Academy

(NCA) in Bengaluru where his re-

covery will be monitored.

The Indian Express has learnt

MUMBAI, JANUARY 11

to health reasons.



ISRO may attempt docking today

DOCKING TWO moving

satellites in space is a com-

plicated operation, so it is

no surprise ISRO is being

cautious. Since this is just a

technology demonstration

mission, getting it right is

more important that get-

ting it done on schedule.

Bumrah likely to miss Champions

The strike

bowler has

swelling on

Karachi,

his back

The Champions Trophy,

which will have the world's top

eight ODI teams, begins on

February 19, with the matches

Rawalpindi, Lahore and Dubai

at

scheduled

for India's games.

Trophy group stage matches

caution

in that configuration for further Exercising

Officials told The Indian Express that the final docking manoeuvre may be carried out

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on Sunday. ISRO had to postpone the docking plans on two occasions earlier, on January 7 and January 9, because the satellites had not been able to achieve the required alignment.

"After the last manoeuvre, the satellites had drifted away, CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

The national selectors, who

met in Mumbai on Saturday to

pick the team for the T20 series

at home against England later

this month, are learnt to have

been updated about Bumrah's

fitness status. Though the dead-

line for announcing squads for

the Champions Trophy is

Sunday, the BCCI has sought an

they should name Bumrah in the

squad of 15 or add him to the list

Selectors are considering if

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

extension.

INCLUDES HIGH-STAKES BMC

Cracks in MVA: Uddhav Sena says will go solo in local elections

Will wait for Uddhav to announce, says Cong; NCP-SP to leave it to 'district units'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, JANUARY 11

UNDER INCREASING pressure from its cadre, who questioned the utility of being in the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alliance after its humiliating defeat in the Maharashtra Assembly elections, the Shiv Sena (UBT) Saturday announced its intent of contesting all the urban local body and Zilla Parishad elections including the one for the coveted Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation on its own.

"From Mumbai till Nagpur, we will fight corporation elections on our own. Let it happen once and for all, we want to test ourselves. We have been given a go-ahead for this by party chief Uddhav Thackeray," Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut said in Nagpur Saturday.

The move comes after the Shiv Sena (UBT) faced intense criticism from its own elected MLAs and cadre following the results of the Maharashtra Assembly elections. The alliance's combined tally of 46 seats—including 20 from Shiv Sena (UBT), 16 from Congress, and 10 from NCP-SP—was lower

We want to test ourselves: Sanjay Raut

than that of the Shinde Sena alone (57).

Additionally, Shiv Sena (UBT) garnered just 9.96% of the vote share, a significant drop from the 16.72% it got in the Lok Sabha elections barely six months earlier.

After the election setback party leaders urged Uddhav Thackeray to consider severing ties with the MVA and contesting elections independently. On November 25, two days after the Assembly results, the majority of 20 MLAs from Shiv Sena (UBT) in their first meeting with Thackeray, had asked for breaking away from the MVA.

They had argued that doing so would be essential for reconnecting with their base and preventing further support from drifting to the Shinde Sena.

With critical corporation elections on the horizon, including the BMC, which the Shiv **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

Members of Public **Service Commissions** must not be wedded to any ideology: V-P

Criticises practice of granting extension in service, post-retirement appointment

SANATH PRASAD BENGALURU, JANUARY 11

or individual".

SPEAKING OUT against appointments "driven by patronage and favouritism" in Public Service Commissions, Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Saturday said PSC members should not be

Dhankhar also criticised the practice of granting extensions in service, calling it a "setback to those who are in line" and a move that "defies the logical principle of extension". In this context, he also spoke out against post-retirement assignments, saying such "largesse... is antithetical to what was visualised

by framers of the Constitution". Dhankhar was delivering the inaugural address at the 25th National Conference of Chairpersons of All State Public Service Commissions in Bengaluru.



V-P Jagdeep Dhankhar with Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah in Bengaluru, Saturday. ANI

Calling for the strengthening of institutions, he expressed concern over the divisive and polarised nature of India's polity, and underlined the need for "political fire extinguishers". "It is with utmost restraint

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Anti-Naxal, J&K veteran cop will be Delhi Police

Special Commissioner

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, JANUARY 11

of Police, Law and Order in J&K, Vijay Kumar, who has led J&K Police in Kashmir Valley for the last five years, will take over as Special Commissioner of Police in Delhi.

This comes at a time when crime and gang-related violence in the Capital became a political



Vijay Kumar is an IPS 1997 batch

flashpoint between the AAP state government and the Centre Delhi Police comes under the Union Home Ministry.

A 1997 batch IPS officer of CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

At Maha Kumbh, a 30-member musicians' band strikes a united note — for 4 decades

ANAND MOHAN J PRAYAGRAJ, JANUARY 11

ON THE banks of the Sangam, where the Ganga and the Yamuna converge, Azad Band's 12-hour performance reaches a crescendo, enthralling its audience — a sea of saffron-clad sadhus at the Maha Kumbh in Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj.

A week after controversial statements by religious leaders of either side over the entry of Muslim traders in the mela, the



Azad Band performs in Prayagraj on Saturday. Vishal Srivastav

30-member band led by musicians from the community has become a symbol of tradition and resilience. For the band, which has been playing at the Kumbh for 40 years now, its music is more than just entertainment — it is a bridge, a prayer

"Sangeet ek sagar hai. Iska koi ant nahi hai. Yeh Hindu-Muslim chalta rahega. Ganga-Jamuni tehzeeb rahegi (Music is endless, like the ocean. Communal tensions will keep going on but the CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Ahmedabad over the years. Since

last year, I started offering terrace

tourism packages because the at-

mosphere in pols during

Uttarayan is unique. By renting

out their terraces, house owners

earn some money, while people

who want to enjoy Uttarayan

here, do so with such packages."

three of his terraces, Modi says,

"Each of my terraces can accom-

modate a maximum of 12 per-

sons. They can be rented for Rs

3,000 per person on Uttarayan

(January 14) and for Rs 2,000 per

Stating that he rents out all

and a celebration of unity.

As kite festival draws near, 'terrace tourism' takes flight in Old Ahmedabad

PAGE 1 **ANCHOR**

PARIMAL DABHI

AHMEDABAD, JANUARY 11

A WELCOME drink, a lunch spread with delicacies like undhiyu and til-chikki, hand massagers to work out the kinks from the shoulders, and music, masks, hats and vuvuzelas (plastic horns) to celebrate a win.

As the two-day Uttarayan, celebrated in north India as Makar Sankranti, inches closer,

Old Ahmedabad gets as competitive about "terrace tourism", as it does about flying kites during the festival on January 14-15. With most residents of Old

Ahmedabad, which was given the UNESCO World Heritage City tag in 2017, moving to the other end of the city, across the Sabarmati — where terraces are rare, have been taken over by solar panels or are at a distance from each other — contests in the skies continue to be more exciting in the walled city.

During the two days of the festival, intense kite fights take place on these rented terraces,

where victors' shouts of "kai po che (I've cut the kite)" are accompanied by bewigged and masked spectators blowing vuvuzelas.

Though the concept of terrace rentals has existed in Old Ahmedabad for a few years, travel firms have now started offering a range of packages for those interested, including people from across the city, different states, other countries and even corpo-

Ajay Modi, who runs a travel firm and owns three houses in Old Ahmedabad's Khadia locality, says, "Many people from *pols*



The concept of renting out terraces to kite-fliers started in **Old Ahmedabad a few years ago.** File

person on Vasi-Uttarayan (localities in the walled city) migrated to other parts of

(January 15)." Prakash Bhavsar is a resident of Khadia who facilitates terrace rentals. "People who want to rent terraces contact me and I put them in touch with the house owners concerned. I have already facilitated four deals this year. Though women from some houses in the walled city are involved in gruh udyog (home enterprises), they rarely use their terraces. Terrace rentals are a

great way for them to supplement their income," says Bhavsar. Ketan Vyas, a resident of Dariapur in Old Ahmedabad,

says he rents out his massive terrace, which can accommodate between 30 and 50 persons. His package, which includes a host of features, costs Rs 3,800 per adult and Rs 2,400 per child. Like Modi's, Vyas's terrace package comes with a host of facilities. However, he says, it offers something that few can — parking facilities.

does not include parking facilities, says, "Since parking space is very limited in the walled city, I tell my guests to either take a taxi or an auto rickshaw."

Modi, whose terrace package

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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EXPRESS AUDIO **Former RBI Governor**

Raghuram Rajan Breaks **Down Economic Challenges**

In this episode of Express Conversations, we talk about pressing challenges for India's economy to become a developed nation. We also discuss India's growth rate, unemployment, banking system, demographics and government spending

• Public Service Commission members

must not be wedded to any ideology: V-P

At Kumbh, band strikes united note

communities will remain united)," says bandmaster Mohammad Shabbir.

Virat Kohli reclaims top position

in ICC Test Batting Rankings

Controversial statements from religious leaders had created a flutter over the past week. While Maulana Shahabuddin Razvi Bareilvi, president, All India Muslim Jamaat, had alleged that the Kumbh was "being held on 55 bighas of Waqf land", Swami Narendranath Saraswati of Varanasi's Sumeru math had said, "If Sanatani Hindus are not allowed to enter Mecca, why should those people be allowed entry into the fair?"

However, many of these leaders changed tack after UP CM Yogi Adityanath stepped in to say that "here (at the Kumbh), there is no distinction of sect or caste".

Following Adityanath's remarks on "people who perceive" Sanatan Dharma with a narrow mindset", Akhil Bhartiya Akhada Parishad chief Mahant Ravindra Puri, who had earlier spoken out against traders from different communities, issued a plea for communal harmony. "If you see the labourers who work here, set up our ashrams, (they) are mostly non-Hindus...Many people who work in our akharas are Muslims. Take our bands for example, many of them are Muslims. We want those people to enter (Kumbh) who follow

Sanatan Dharma," he said. Iqbal Mohammad of Azad Band says "music has no religion". He says, "The Muslim community in Prayagraj mainly works as painters, scrap dealers, in the furniture market and plays in bands. My father also played at the Kumbh Mela. Our band is

a hit among the sadhus."

The band is a kaleidoscope of talents: Mehraj Ali is the lead trumpeter; Chand, the brass maestro; Guddu, a bhajan singer in his 60s who has attended quite a few Kumbh melas; and Ameen, the drummer. Together, they create an infectious rhythm that makes them a favourite among the sadhus.

"We have been performing since December 2. This is our seventh peshwai (grand procession taken out by sadhus from their akhadas)," says Munna, a drummer whose father also played for the sadhus, adding that a peshwai is incomplete without music by bands like theirs.

"Babaji ko cassette nahi achha lagta. Unko band chahiye (Sadhus don't like taped music. They want live bands)," explains Chand, referring to the increasing dominance of DIs in weddings and fes-

For Azad Band, the Kumbh is both a spiritual and professional high point. During the processions, they play bhajans including 'Ram Teri Ganga Maili' and 'Jai Ganesh', songs that have become the soundtrack of devotion. If the sadhus are pleased, they reward the musicians with Rs 500-1,000; if not, the band must move on.

But making music is a gruelling task. The musicians walk 12 km daily, escorting the sadhus from one point to another, often playing for 12 to 16 hours at a stretch. They take quick breaks to wolf down roti-sabzi, snatch a few hours of sleep and return to the mela at dawn Despite the physical demands and precarious earnings, the band's camaraderie shines through as they bicker over warm up tunes and patch up over a cup of tea.

"We don't think in terms of Hindu-Muslim," says Lalli, a singer. "I am Hindu, but I don't think of my Muslim brothers as different. Most Hindu musicians have left this field. It's our Muslim brothers who are keeping this art alive.'

Sadhu Bhavani Giri, who accompanied the band from Hanuman Mandir, says "Hinduism takes everyone in its fold. The Sangam is for everyone. They (the band) are doing God's work. Music is God."

Though many in Azad Band think of music not just as a passion, but also a lifeline, the rise of DIs and recorded music threatens their livelihood. Marriage season brings sporadic work, but life is a struggle during the rest of the year

"Our fathers played for sadhus. We are doing the same now. But how much longer can this last?' Munna says.

Yet, the band persists, driven by its love for the craft and the bonds that have been forged over the years. "Azad Band is not just a name; it's our family," says Shabbir. "We've married into each other's families. Our children are growing up together. This is more than a business — it's our way of

'Terrace tourism'

Hemant Bhatt, a doctor based in Khadia and the secretary of the Khadia Itihaas Samiti (KIS), which promotes the heritage of the walled city, says only a few homes and havelis in the area used to be rented by corporates during Uttarayan. "Terrace tourism took off in a big way over the past two years. Thanks to this trend, old houses in pols may now be conserved. People are now motivated to preserve their homes in *pols* instead of selling them or turning them into a place of business," he

The demand for terrace rentals has spiked this year, says Modi. "There are around 400-500 good terraces in the walled city. I have already rented out all three of my terraces. I have received enquiries for 100 more terrace rentals. So far. I have helped 25 house owners rent out their spaces free of cost. I am functioning as a terrace bureau these days," he says, visibly

pleased with the moniker he has coined for himself.

Listing reasons why people rent terraces in the walled city, Modi adds, "At times, terraces in western Ahmedabad have hurdles in the form of a mobile tower nearby or solar panels. Or there is a tree nearby, making it difficult to fly kites. So they prefer to come to the old city with their family. Then, there are NRIs or people from outside Gujarat who just wish to savour Uttarayan in the old city. Even corporates rent terraces to celebrate Uttarayan with their clients."

Bhupen Shah, 60, a Mumbai resident who had rented Vyas's terrace in Dariapur during Uttarayan last year, says, "I had heard a lot about Ahmedabad's pols and the celebration of Uttarayan there. So I decided to rent a terrace for Uttarayan last year. It was a fantastic experience.'

FROM PAGE ONE FULL REPORTS ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Cracks in MVA: Uddhav Sena says will go solo in local elections

Sena has controlled since the 1970s, the party believes that breaking away from Congress and NCP (SP) will provide a stronger platform to challenge both the BJP and the Shinde-led Shiv Sena, particularly in the high-stakes BMC

Elections to municipal corporations in Maharashtra's major cities have been delayed for the past two years with state-appointed administrators overseeing their operations in the interim.

Raut, however, clarified that the party was not breaking away from the MVA. "In both Lok Sabha and Assembly elections, our cadre was denied the opportunity to contest, which hindered the party's growth. We have now decided to independently contest Corporation, Zilla Parishad, and Council elections to strengthen our party base," Raut said.

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," an ISRO

Chaser satellite is supposed to be

progressively brought closer to the

Target satellite, holding positions

at a distance of 5 km, 1.5 km, 500

metres, 225 metres, 15 metres and

As per the docking plan, the

official had said at that time.

Shiv Sena (UBT) leaders largely supported the move with many pointing out that the demand to go solo had been raised by their grassroots supporters for quite some time now.

"Until we contest alone, we

won't fully understand our strength. While there was a need for an alliance in the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections, our cadre suffered as they were unable to contest. Urban body elections offer us the chance to provide them with that opportunity. We must stand on our own feet. After the Assembly elections, several of our leaders expressed that if we had fought independently, we would have secured more than 20 seats, far beyond what we managed as part of the alliance," said Shiv Sena MP Arvind Sawant from South Mumbai.

The state unit of the Congress

3 metres, before joining together.

demonstrator mission in which

ISRO is attempting a docking ma-

noeuvre for the first time. In-space

docking is a critical capability for

the more ambitious missions that

ISRO has planned in the future, in-

cluding the sample return mis-

sion, manned moon mission, and

the building and operation of the

Only three other countries —

Bharat Antariksh Station.

SpaDeX is a technology

knowledging that while its party cadre shared similar sentiments, the announcement came as a surprise. "First of all, Sanjay Raut is not the party president. We would have responded if Uddhav Thackeray had made this announcement. We also believe that such statements should not be made publicly and should instead be discussed first among the senior leadership," said Mumbai Congress chief and Lok Sabha MP Varsha Gaikwad.

was guarded in its response, ac-

Gaikwad also noted that Congress workers felt going solo in local body elections might benefit the party. "Our workers feel the same, but that doesn't mean we have made a decision to contest independently. The party leadership will take the final call," she added.

Meanwhile, another ally, NCP-SP, stated that its state leadership

US, Russia and China — currently

quiring the docking capability is

likely to be Chandrayaan-4,

which is supposed to bring back

lunar samples to Earth. The re-

entry module of this mission,

which will be designed to with-

stand the heat of re-entry to the

Earth's atmosphere, is planned

to be launched separately. The

transfer module carrying sam-

The first actual mission re-

have this capability.

garding civic body elections, leaving it to its district committees. "We gather feedback from the ground and allow local leaders to make the decisions," said NCP-SP spokesperson Mahesh Tapase. He also pointed out that during both UPA-1 and UPA-2, Congress and NCP had contested local body elections separately in various parts of Maharashtra. The MVA alliance was formed

does not interfere in decisions re-

after the 2019 elections when the Shiv Sena, then united, broke away from its partnership with the BJP over the chief ministership issue. The Sena, subsequently, aligned with the NCP and Congress to form the MVA government. However, the alliance collapsed in 2022 after Eknath Shinde led a rebellion within the Sena, followed by a split in the NCP a year later, led by Ajit

SpaDeX satellites 230 metres apart, ISRO may attempt docking today

Earth's atmosphere. The first module of Bharatiya Antariksh Station is expected to be launched in 2028. It is supposed to have five modules, which are expected to be launched separately and brought together in

ples from the Moon will dock

with the re-entry module in the

The human mission to the Moon is not expected to happen

before 2040.

nual Amarnath Yatra.

Anti-Naxal, J&K veteran cop will be Delhi Police Special Commissioner

AGMUT (erstwhile I&K) cadre, Kumar was posted as Inspector General of Police, Kashmir in December, 2019, four months after the Centre abrogated J&K's special status and downgraded it into two Union Territories.

At the time, Kumar led operations against Naxals in Chhattisgarh and had already helped conduct an "incidentfree" general election (2019) in Naxal-hit South Bastar.

Kumar was repatriated from Chhattisgarh to handle the post-Article 370 abrogation law-andorder situation in Kashmir val-

As Kashmir police chief, he was key to the implementation

"This CAG report that the CM.

the LG, the Speaker (of the Delhi

Legislative Assembly) have not

seen, nor is available on the web-

site of the CAG...what such report

have they received? This is the

same sheet of paper that the BJP

manufactures at its office...that

has no credibility...the BJP manu-

factures fake papers and runs

away after making accusations on

CAG report, the actual implemen-

tation of the policy was consid-

ered sub-optimal compared to its

stated objectives. It is learnt to

state that vends in non-conform-

ing wards could not be opened

and equitable distribution of re-

tail vends could not be achieved –

which was a major aim of the new

According to the purported

their basis," Kakkar alleged.

of the Centre's Kashmir policy on the ground.

During his tenure, Kumar led counter-terror operations in which several militants were killed and policemen received gallantry medals. In their wake, the number of local militants was down to 25 — the lowest

Kumar also initiated Valleywide police operations to bring down local recruitment by militant groups.

It was also under Kumar's leadership that the I&K Police crackdown came under criticism for "harsh high-handedness", as several overground workers, political workers, civil society ac-

• Nadda says '₹2,026 cr loss' from liquor policy, targets AAP

It is also said to have flagged

the issue and management of

zonal licenses having major short-

comings including exclusivity

arrangements between zonal li-

censees and wholesalers as well

as brand pushing. In regards to is-

sues related to the formulation of

the policy, the purported report is

said to flag lack of necessary per-

missions from the Council of

Ministers in some decisions

which had revenue implications.

port, while liquor sale in Delhi

from December 2021 to August

2022 under the new policy was an

estimated 64 crore bottles, much

more than around 58 crore bot-

tles between December 2018 and

August 2019, it did not result in

higher revenues for the state gov-

According to the purported re-

tivists, were booked under UAPA and Public Safety Act.

In April 2020, Kumar was also behind the new practice by I&K Police to not allow families of militants killed in encounters with security forces to conduct their last rites.

This was done ostensibly to prevent public assembly and protests.

Kumar is also said to be instrumental in the Centre's "har ghar tiranga rallies" organised in Kashmir; conduct of "incidentfree" first ever election for **District Development Councils** in 2020; G20 events in 2023; Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo yatra and ensuring peaceful an-

This, according to the pur-

ported report, was because the

new policy did away with levying

and collecting revenue on a per

bottle basis in advance on pre-

sumptive sales based on the 2019-

20 financial year. This gave retail-

ers an incentive to ramp up sales

volume through measures such

as deep discounting without ad-

ditional revenue to the Delhi

ported to have flagged design is-

sues including the imposed exclu-

sivity arrangement between

manufacturers and wholesalers,

which eventually increased the

risk of monopolisation and carteli-

sation. Besides, it is learnt to have

flagged the cases of related busi-

ness entities holding licenses,

waiver of licence fees to zonal li-

The CAG report is also pur-

Government.

During his tenure, J&K Police

lifted the ban on Muharram procession in Srinagar city after 34 In January 2020, Kumar or-

dered the arrest of Deputy Superintendent of Police Devender Singh when the police found out that Singh was ferrying militant commander Naveed Babu to Jammu in his personal

During Assembly polls in nine states in 2018, Kumar was the chief coordinator for Central security forces. He was awarded a national award for this work. Kumar has received six gallantry medals.

censees, operationalisation of

liquor vends in non-conforming

areas, and failure to ensure the set-

ting up of liquor testing laborato-

ries and batch testing for rigorous

quality assurance of the liquor be-

cused AAP Convenor Arvind

Kejriwal of being the "kingpin of

opened bars at many places un-

der the pretext of building schools.

According to CAG's investigation

report on 10 key issues, the Delhi

liquor scam by Aam Aadmi Party

has caused a revenue loss of?

2,026 crore. The findings of the

CAG report have once again

proved that Arvind Kejriwal is the

kingpin of the liquor scam," he al-

BJP MP Anurag Thakur ac-

"In Delhi, Aam Aadmi Party

ing sold.

the liquor scam".

I do not wish to reflect on them, said.

Public Service Commissions, the appointment cannot be driven by patronage, by favoritism. There are trends that are visible. but some of them are very painful. We must account ourselves to our conscience. We cannot have a Public Service Commission chairman or a member wedded to a particular ideology or an individual. That will be undoing the essence and spirit of the framework of the Constitution," he said.

I am reflecting on an aspect. (In)

"Extensions in service, extensions in any form for a particular post are a setback to those who are in line. It defies the logical principle of expectation. We have a doctrine of expectation. People devote decades to be in a particular groove. Extension indicates that some individual is indispensable. Indispensability is a myth. Talent abounds in this country. No one is indispensable. And therefore, it lies in the domain of PSCs at the state and the central level that when they have a role in such kinds of situations, they must be firm," he said. "Post-retirement recruit-

ment is a problem. In some states, it has been structured. Employees never retire, particularly those in premium services. They get a number of adhoc nomenclatures. This is not good. Everyone in the country must have due and that due is defined by law... Any largesse of this kind is antithetical to what was visualised by framers of the Constitution," he said.

Dhankhar urged political leaders to prioritise consensusbuilding and address national challenges without delay. "Our polity at the moment is too divisive, too polarised. Interaction is not taking place at the premium level in political organisations. When it comes to the nation, when the world is in a transformative phase, it is India's century. That century can be fully fructified for people's gain only when we have a calm gerous than climate change," he In this context, he also spoke about the role of intellectuals in society. "Intellectuals are sup-

political atmosphere... We need

political fire extinguishers. A po-

litical divisiveness, a vitiated po-

litical climate is far more dan-

posed to guide us. Intellectuals are supposed to be fire extinguishers when there is social disharmony, when there is a problem. I find intellectuals are formed into groups. They sign representations they may not have read. They think signing representation is a password for getting a position, if a particular dispensation comes to power. Now look at intellectuals, former bureaucrats, former diplomats. You earned a level of public service, which others must emulate. You must be objective in making representations. You cannot create a group to subserve your interest with change of political alignments," he said.

"Any institution, if it is weakened, the damage is to the entire nation. Weakening of an institution is like a prick on the body. The entire body will be in pain... We must have strengthening of institutions. The Union and States must work in tandem. They must be in synergetic mode. They must be in sync with one another when it comes to national interest," he

Expressing concern over paper leaks, he said: "This is a menace you have to curb. Your fairness of selection will have no meaning if paper leakages are there. And paper leakage has become an industry, a commerce.. young boys and girls used to have fear of examinations, how difficult the question will be how will we address it? Now, they are having two fears: fear of examination and fear of leak-

Karnataka Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah were among those present on the oc-

age," he said.

Kerala teen athlete claims sexual abuse by 62 people over years

heads the Pathanamthitta Child Welfare Committee, said the matter came up before the committee in the second week of December. He claimed she has

sexual abuse she has been facing since the age of 13," he said.

unaware of the alleged sexual abuse. "She hadn't shared anything with her mother. Since the girl is an athlete, she has attended various sports camps over the years," he said.

"Psychologists with the Nirbhaya scheme spoke to her to ascertain the credibility of her allegations. They also examined her father's mobile phone, which she had access to, to find out the names of the alleged abusers. Once the probe progresses, the chances of involvement of more people cannot be ruled out," he said, adding, "The girl has been shifted to a shelter under the

been facing sexual abuse from the age of 13. "I told the girl to report before the committee along with her mother. She was given counselling, and she opened up before a psychologist, narrating the

He said the girl's family was

CWC, considering her protec-

Narrating the alleged chain

of events, police said one of the arrested, aged 21, had sent obscene photos and text messages to the girl when she was aged 13 and also secured some nude photos. When the girl was 16, the man took her to a deserted rubber plantation and allegedly raped her, recording it on his mo-

bile phone.

friends gangraped her on another occasion, and the accused took her father's phone number. Significantly, some of the suspects are already facing vari-

It is alleged that he and his

ous criminal charges - from POCSO cases to culpable homicide.

The mobile phones of the arrested men have been seized. said police.

"A few of the arrested are from the victim's village. I spoke to the girl's father, who said he never knew about the incidents,' said someone who knows the family.

against New Zealand in Mumbai

• Bumrah set to miss Champions Trophy group matches

of reserve players for the tournament. It is learnt that the BCCI will tournament.

only by the first week of March. fracture but has swelling on his back. So the NCA will monitor his recovery and he will be there for three weeks. But even after that, he will have to play a match or two, even if they are practice

match fitness," said the source. While India's last group

match, against New Zealand, is on March 2, it is unclear if Bumrah will be ready to play. Prior to this, India will play Bangladesh on February 20 and Pakistan on February 23. India will play all their matches in Dubai, as the team refused to travel to Pakistan citing security concerns and the

ICC agreed to a hybrid model. The semi-finals are on March 4 and 5, and the final on March 9.

In the recent five-match Test series in Australia, Bumrah took 32 wickets and won the player of the series award. He sat out on the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

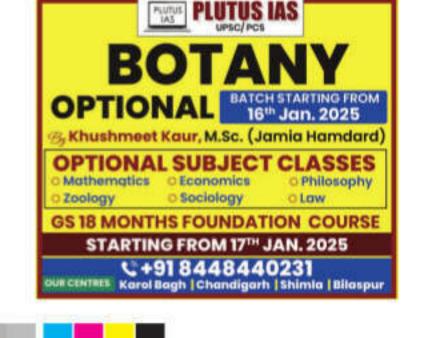
Bumrah has had issues with his back earlier too. He missed

nearly 11 months of cricket from September 2022 to August 2023 — after undergoing a surgery. He made a comeback at a T20 match against Ireland.

The Indian team management has been mindful of his workload to prevent the strike bowler from straining himself. Bumrah was rested for the fourth Test against England in Ranchi at the start of last year. More recently, he was rested for the third and final Test

so he could stay fresh for the Test series in Australia. In Australia, Bumrah bowled

151.2 overs in five Test matches with an average of 13.06 and a strike rate of 28.3. He was also the stand-in captain for the first Test in Perth as Rohit Sharma skipped the match. Bumrah also captained the side for the final Test in Sydney when Rohit decided to sit out.



"He (Bumrah) will be going to NCA for his rehabilitation. The initial report says he doesn't have a

ernment.

initially submit a provisional squad to the International Cricket Council. As changes to teams can be made till February 12, it gives selectors time to monitor Bumrah's progress closer to the

According to a BCCI source, Bumrah is expected to be fully fit games organised to check his

final day of the series in Sydney because of his injury. Australia won the series and took the

RESIDENTS OF GHAZIABAD

Minutes after man dies by suicide, wife hangs herself from pole on road in Delhi

NEETIKAJHA & UPASIKA SINGHAL GHAZIABAD, NEW DELHI, JANUARY 11

A 30-YEAR-OLD man allegedly died by suicide at his residence in Ghaziabad after his wife left home following a heated exchange on

The wife, too, reportedly died by hanging herself from a pole near Loni roundabout after she came to know of the man's death. said police.

The Jyoti Nagar police station in Delhi was alerted about the

woman's death after a crowd spotted her body on the road. A mobile phone was discovered in her pocket. As the police said were trying to identifying the woman, the cellphone rang and a family member identified the deceased as Shivani

The relative also told the police that her husband Vijay Pratap Chauhan (30) has also died by suicide at their Ghaziabad home. According to the police, the cou-

ple was married for two years and had a one-year-old daughter.

On Friday, the couple had a raucous fight, which escalated into an exchange of blows, the officer added. "The husband apparently called his sister-in-law and told her he couldn't bear it any longer. He asked her to take his wife away," the officer further said.

Following this, Shivani stormed out of the house and called her brother once she reached Saboli Fatak. The brother asked her to wait for him to get her, the police said. Meanwhile, Vijay called Shivani, threatening to die by suicide, they added.

After a few minutes, around 4 pm, the police received a call from Vijay's neighbours stating that he has been found hanging from the ceiling fan at his rented accommo-

dation at Jawahar Nagar in Ghaziabad's Loni border, Assisstant Commissioner of Police (Ankur Vihar), Bhaskar Verma said.

"After reaching the spot, the police team found that the neighbours had already taken Chauhan's body off the noose and laid him on the ground in an attempt to revive him," he added.

After Vijay's death, Chauhan's aunt Meera Sharma began to look for Shivani and then called her to say that Vijay was unwell, said police. "Since Vijay had threatened to die by suicide, Shivani grew suspicious. Perhaps acting on impulse, she hanged herself too," said Verma.

The family, meanwhile, kept calling her and one of the calls were picked up by the Jyoti Nagar police officers when they were trying to identify Shivani's body.

While Vijay's body was taken to the district hospital where the doctors declared him brought dead, Shivani's body was shifted to Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital for a postmortem examination.

The couple's one-year-old daughter was handed over to Vijay's family, said Delhi Police. A native of Virad Gadiya village in Uttar Pradesh's Kasganj district, Vijay worked in a finance company, Verma said.

Rahul Gandhi to launch Cong campaign tomorrow

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICES NEW DELHI, JANUARY 11

IN HIS first rally this poll season just weeks ahead of the Delhi Assembly elections, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi will launch

the party's campaign at the "Jai Bheem-Jai Samvidhan" public meeting in Seelampur on Monday. Exuding confidence, All India Congress

Committee (AICC) in-charge in Delhi, Qazi

Nizamuddin, said, "Congress workers from across the Capital and the general public will attend the rally. Congress is on a strong footing in Delhi after Rahul Gandhi's constant interaction with all sections of people in the Capital." Even as top Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and BIP leaders continue to raise poll pitch ahead of the Assembly polls, due on February 5, Congress has been running a relatively subdued campaign. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has already addressed two events in the Capital where he attacked AAP convenor Arvind Kejriwal and the party's

government. Qazi Nizamuddin, however, said that there is a significant impact due to Delhi Congress chief Devender Yadav's monthlong 'Delhi Nyay Yatra', which he claimed, had garnered participation from lakhs of residents. The Congress held a month-long 'Delhi Nyay Yatra' in November to connect with voters — along the lines of Gandhi's

Bharat Jodo Yatra' and 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra' — which concluded on December 7.

"To bring back Congress to power and to save the city from the devastation caused by 11 years of misrule by the (Arvind) Kejriwal government, which was aided and abetted by the BJP, the people are ready to now give their support to the Congress," he insisted during a press briefing.

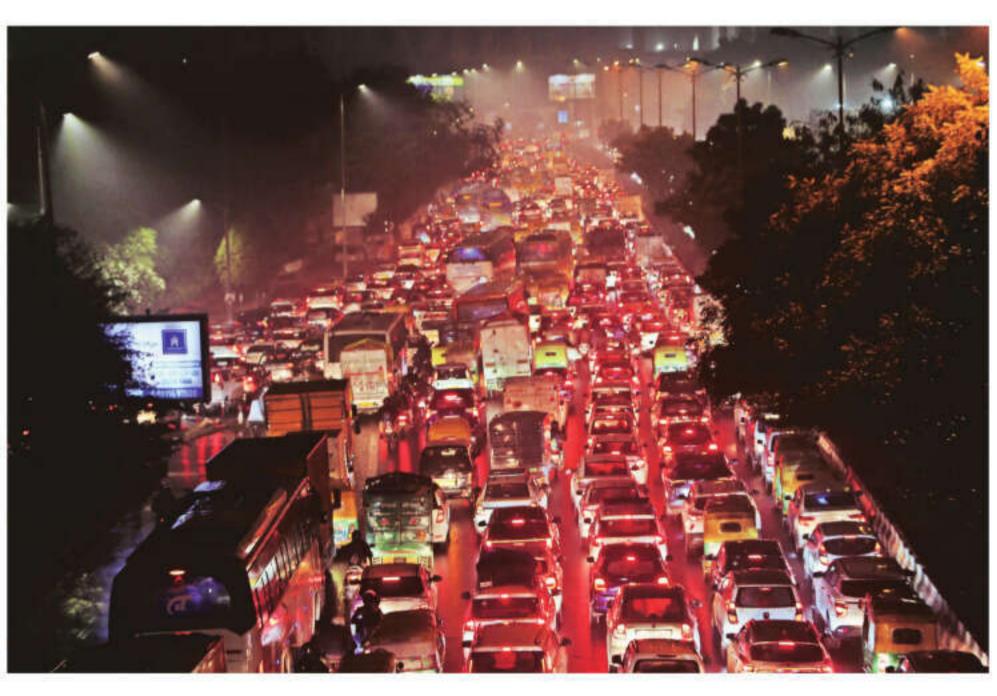
"Whether they are truck drivers, pottery makers, bakers, tailors, cobblers, barbers, mechanics, vegetable sellers, or farmers -Rahul Gandhi has interacted with all sections of people, which has given him a deep insight into the struggles, trials, and tribulations of the common people in their everyday life, and since then, he has continued to closely interact with them," he said.

The rally in Seelampur is expected to set the tone for an aggressive campaign by the Delhi Congress, as per party insiders. "The Congress would be fighting to throw out the corrupt and incompetent AAP from power, save the city from devastation, and put the Capital back on the development track,' Nizamuddin added.

The votes for the February 5 Assembly polls will be counted on February 8.

In the 2015 and 2020 Delhi Assembly polls, the AAP won 67 and 62 seats respectively. The BJP won three seats in 2015 and eight in 2020 while the Congress drew a blank.

(WITH INPUTS FROM PTI)



Double Whammy

Delhi on Saturday witnessed light rain after fog engulfed the city in the morning. At least 45 trains and hundreds of flights were affected due to the fog. The city recorded a low of 7.7 degrees Celsius. *Gajendra Yadav*

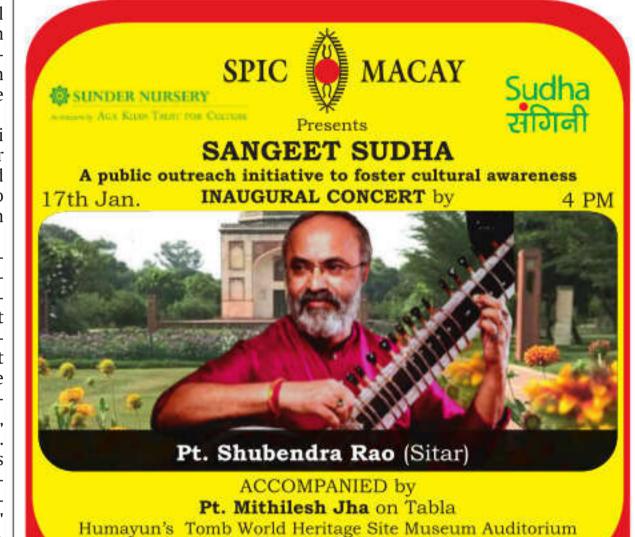
Amid crackdown on illegal immigrants, AAP MLA gets notice

New Delhi: A notice has been sent by the Delhi Police to Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) Rithala MLA Mohinder Singh and his staff after his signatures were allegedly found on documents recovered from "illegal Bangladeshi immigrants," a senior official said on Saturday. The AAP has lashed out at the BJP in its response to the notice, saying: "The BJP only engages in negative politics —filing false cases and misusing state machinery to suppress opposition leaders."

Giving details about the notice, a senior Delhi Police official said, "We have sent him (Mohinder Singh) and his staff a notice today and have asked him to join the investigation. He was supposed to come for questioning today (Saturday) by 5:30 pm but didn't. We will again send a notice."

The documents were seized, as per officials, during a "major crackdown on alleged illegal immigrants" on December 24, 2024, which led to the arrest of 12 people who were allegedly part of a racket facilitating illegal immigration of Bangladeshi nationals in the Capital. Earlier, DCP (South) Ankit Chauhan had said that among those arrested, five are Bangladeshi citizens and the rest were allegedly involved in making forged documents like voter IDs, and Aadhaar cards to facilitate "illegal immigration".

The AAP, in a statement, said, "It has become BJP's standard operating procedure: weaponise government agencies to pressure opposition leaders as elections approach, undermining democratic norms." Delhi Police comes under the jurisdiction of the Centre. **ENS**



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ANOTHER YEAR ON, CAPITAL SEES SURGE IN DRUGS CASES

Trend in line with Delhi Police data over the last 10 years since 2015

IN NUMBERS

35% increase in cases registered under NDPS ACT in 2024 as compared to 2023



raids, as per officials ■ Cases filed under

different Acts saw a jump



of 13.45 % in 2024 from 2023

■ Cases filed under IPC saw a decline of 15.05% in the same period.

SURGE reported amid L-G VK Saxena's "special focus on drives against psychotropics", say officials

DECLINE IN OTHER CATEGORIES OF CRIMES IN 2024

Marginal dip in heinous crimes like rape, murder

decrease in rape cases in 2024 as

ROBBERY CASES 2023

2024

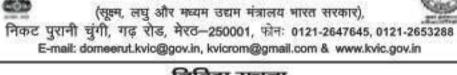
compared to 2022

504 murder cases registered in 2024, compared to 506 the year before

SNATCHING CASES 1654 2023 1510 2024 6,493 **A DROP OF 9.5%** Source:Delhi Police

shall not be entertained.

or in the conduct of the programme.



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निविदा सूचना

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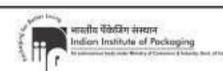
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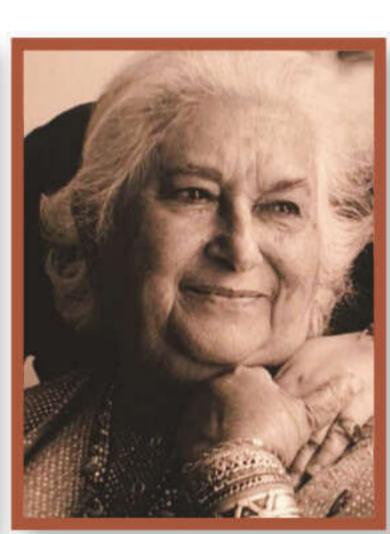
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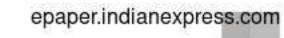
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AT JHUGGI BASTI PRADHAN SAMMELAN

You can liberate Delhi on February 5, Shah tells slum dwellers; promises them houses

SAMAN HUSAIN

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 11

UNION HOME Minister Amit Shah on Saturday called upon slum dwellers to "liberate" Delhi from AAP rule in the February 5 Assembly polls.

Addressing the 'Ihuggi Basti Pradhan Sammelan' at JLN stadium, Shah promised that no welfare schemes for the poor will be stopped and every slum dweller will be provided a house if the BJP comes to power.

"I have come today to tell you that you can become the liberator of Delhi. You can liberate Dilli from this *aapda* (disaster)... on February 5, you have to get freedom from the insensitive government... lying government. Throwing out AAP is the only way to ensure welfare of slum dwellers of Delhi," Shah said.

Citing shortage of drinking water and sewers, and heaps of garbage in the slum clusters of the city, he added, "If you open the tap, there is dirty water. If you open the window, there is foul smell. If you go out, there are broken roads."

Repeatedly referring to the AAP government as 'aapda', he accused the party of turning Delhi into "hell".

Shah greeted the gathering on the first anniversary of the consecration ceremony of Ram Lalla's idol at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya with a loud chant of 'Jai Shri Ram'.

"We promised to build a temple for Ram Lalla, and we fulfilled it. We built toilets, and (Prime Minister Narendra) Modiji has provided housing to the poor of the country. (AAP national convenor Arvind) Kejriwalji did not. And now this is Modiji's guarantee – BJP will give houses to every slum dweller in the country," he said.

Maintaining that no welfare scheme for the poor will be discontinued if BJP comes to power, Shah said, "The BJP does not stop any scheme for the welfare of the poor, it only increases them (in number)."

"I want to reiterate what Prime Minister Narendra Modi said earlier that no welfare schemes for the poor will be stopped," he said, accusing Kejriwal of spreading "lies" that the BIP will demolish the city's slums if it came to power.

Pointing to Union government health insurance schemes like Ayushman Bharat, Shah said that Kejriwal's resistance towards the implementation of such schemes has made Delhi residents suffer.

Shah alleged that the AAP, which had come to power after the anti-corruption movement



The crowd at JNL stadium on Saturday. Praveen Khanna

led by Anna Hazare, has instead become synonymous with corruption. "Those who agitated against corruption, who came to power by putting forward a saint like Anna (Hazare), indulged in so much corruption that they broke records of all governments of the country," he said.

Taking a jibe at Kejriwal, Shah said that the former chief minister prioritises power over public welfare.

"If there is only one chief minister who does not resign even after going to jail, it is Kejriwal. He will not leave power. We will have to make him leave power," he told the gathering.

by again reiterating BJP's commitment to welfare schemes. "I want to say it again, not even a single poor welfare scheme is going to be stopped, you should not fall prey to their deception... The BJP does what it says, and it says only what it can do."

Under its 'Revdi pe charcha' campaign, AAP volunteers had visited areas across the Capital, informing residents that the BJP intends to discontinue their welfare schemes, if the party come to power. Responding to Shah's ad-

dress, Kejriwal said, "Today, Amit Shahji abused me and the people of Delhi a lot. The people of Delhi will answer this in the elections. Amitji told a lot of lies to the slum dwellers. Tomorrow morning, I will hold a press conference from a slum, which they (BJP) have planned to demolish after the elections. I will expose the dirty intentions of BJP with full evidence."

The event was marked by grand preparations. The roads leading to the stadium were lined with life-size cut-outs of Shah. Modi, and BIP national president IP Nadda.

At the main entrance, men dressed in black kurtas played nagadas and bugles, while others beat dhols. Attendees entered the stadium after clicking photographs in front of a poster of the PM at a specially-arranged selfie booth.

Inside, women in sarees welcomed the attendees — slum pradhans and members of BIP's Pooja Samiti — with chandan tilaks and party badges.



Shah concluded his address Union Home Minister Amit Shah at the event held at JNL stadium on Saturday. Praveen Khanna

After Atishi, Kejriwal says 'Bidhuri BJP's CM candidate', party dismisses his claim

EXPRESS NEW SERVICE NEW DELHI, JANUARY 11

THE AAP and BIP on Saturday locked horns yet again over the issue of their respective chief ministerial faces.

AAP national convenor Arvind Kejriwal led the charge citing "sources" who had confirmed to his party that BJP's Kalkaji candidate, Ramesh Bidhuri – whose statements against Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Delhi Chief Minister Atishi last week triggered a furore – would be the BJP's CM face and challenged the former South Delhi MP to a debate.

The BJP, meanwhile, accused Kejriwal of seeking to create "confusion" since he was sure that he was losing the February 5 elections.

"The Delhi elections are approaching. During elections, everyone wants to know who the chief ministerial candidate from each party is. From the AAP's side, this has been clear from the beginning. The entire party had decided unanimously that I, Arvind Kejriwal, would be the chief ministerial candidate," Kejriwal said, adding that this was not the case with the BJP.



ing. According to sources, it has been learnt that the BIP may have decided in that meeting to nominate Ramesh Bidhuri as its chief ministerial candidate. It is being said, as per sources, that an official announcement about Ramesh Bidhuri's name will be made within a day or two," he added.

After congratulating Bidhuri, the former Delhi CM urged him to explain what work he has done for Delhi in the last 10 years as a Member of Parliament.

The BJP had not fielded Bidhuri in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, replacing him by former Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly, Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, from the South Delhi seat.

"What is his vision for Delhi? What plans does he have for the city and its people if he becomes the Chief Minister? He should clarify these to the people of Delhi," Kejriwal said.

Arvind

media.

Gajendra

Kejriwal

addresses

आम

"Once his candidacy is officially announced, I propose that to strengthen democracy, there should be a public debate between the AAP candidate and the BJP candidate, Ramesh Bidhuri, in front of the people of Delhi, the nation, and the media. In this debate, people can assess who to vote for, based on what each has accomplished, their visions, and their plans for Delhi," he added.

Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva termed Kejriwal's claim about Bidhuri a "cooked up story". "Kejriwal should know that BJP's CM face will be decided by party MLAs and its national leadership. Arvind Kejriwal knows that he is losing the Delhi election to the BIP and so is trying to create confusion," Sachdeva said.

Bidhuri might be our CM face but I challenge Arvind Kejriwal, who is promoting himself as CM candidate, to take legal opinion from a advocate and understand that he can't ever be sworn in as CM in view of Supreme Court bindings," he added. Sachdeva further said that "all

"Keiriwal has sought to cite

unknown sources to cite that

BJP candidates" for the Assembly elections "are chief ministerial candidates." "Ours is a thoroughly democratic party where elected MLAs elect their party leader who lays claim to be the CM of Delhi," he said.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, while addressing slum dwellers in Delhi on Saturday, also lashed out at Kejriwal over his claim that the BJP had finalised its Bidhuri as the CM face. "Can Kejriwal decide the BJP's chief ministerial face," he asked, adding that the AAP chief's "manipulations" were understood by the people of Delhi.

Bidhuri will take on Atishi, who is seeking reelection from Kalkaji seat. He had recently said that Atishi "changed her father" by changing her surname from Marlena to Singh. His remark that he would make roads in Kalkaji smooth like "Priyanka Gandhi's cheeks" had also drawn flak.

Khurana's son Harish in BJP's second list of 29, MLA makes way for Kapil Mishra

Party has declared 58 nominees so far

JATIN ANAND

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 11

THE BIP on Saturday released its second list of candidates for the Delhi Assembly elections, which includes a former Delhi chief minister's son, five women candidates and almost all the leaders the party "imported" from the Congress ahead of the Lok Sabha elections last year.

With 29 names in this list, the BJP has thus declared 58 candidates out of Delhi's 70 Assembly seats. Seven of the nominees so far are women – equalling the total number of women candidates the party had fielded in the 2020 polls. According to BJP insiders,

more women leaders are likely to figure in the party's third and final list of candidates, which may, however, include less than 12 names so that the nominees from its NDA allies, such as the Janata Dal (United), Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) and Eknath Sinde-led Shiv Sena, could be accommodated.

"With the announcement of Harish Khurana, former Delhi CM Madan Lal Khurana's son, as the BJP candidate from Moti Nagar, the party has now given tickets to two ex-CM's sons including Sahib Singh Verma's son Parvesh Verma against Arvind Kejriwal from New Delhi," a senior party leader said.

"In addition to five women candidates on this list – which brings the total number of female leaders fielded so far to seven – more are likely to be accommodated in the final list. Councillors with a good public connect, such as Umang Bajaj who has been fielded from Rajinder Nagar and Manoj Kumar Jindal fielded from Sadar Bazar, have also made the cut among many other sitting or former BJP councillors," a party source said.



Kapil Mishra, Harish Khurana

The BIP also dropped its sitting Karawal Nagar MLA Mohan Singh Bisht, who has represented the seat five times, for Kapil Mishra, marking the return of the latter to his former home turf from where he had been elected on an AAP ticket in 2015. Another AAP turncoat in this list is Priyanka Gautam, a former councillor who joined the BJP in December, who will contest from the Scheduled Caste-reserved Kondli seat.

Another senior BJP leader pointed out that all but one of the senior Congress leaders who had joined the BJP in the run-up to the Lok Sabha elections have been given tickets.

While the names of leaders such as former Delhi Congress president Arvinder Singh Lovely fielded from Gandhi Nagar, and Rajkumar Chauhan, pitched from Mangolpuri, figured in the BJP's first list of 29 candidates last week, Neeraj Basoya, a former Congress MLA, has been given the BJP ticket from Kasturba Nagar now. Naseeb Singh, who had also joined the BJP last year, has not been fielded so far.

"The seriousness with which the BJP views the upcoming elections can be understood by the point that even sitting councillors have been fielded, reducing our numbers in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi House," a source said.

The BJP's Laxmi Nagar MLA Abhay Verma is among the party's sitting legislators who has been named in the second

Corruption and open loot, say BJP and Cong on CAG report on liquor policy

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, JANUARY 11

WITH A Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report purportedly saying that the state exchequer incurred a loss of Rs 2,026 crore due to the Delhi government's now-retracted excise policy, the BIP and the Congress on Saturday took on the AAP, accusing it indulging in corruption and open loot.

The report, which is yet to be tabled before the Delhi Assembly, allegedly highlights lapses and violations under the leadership of former chief minister Arvind Keiriwal and his deputy, Manish Sisodia.

"The new liquor policy implemented by Kejriwal government was not ratified by the Delhi Assembly and lacked transparency on several counts... Had BJP's protest not forced Arvind Kejriwal to withdraw his new liquor policy, then by now the loss would have crossed at least Rs 10,000 crore," Delhi BJP chief Virender Sachdeva said.

Joining the attack, Delhi

Congress chief Devender Yadav said, "It was the Delhi Congress that first complained to the Lt Governor about corruption in the implementation of the old liquor policy, as there was a huge scam in granting licenses, in direct violation of Delhi Excise Rule 2010... open loot was carried out to help benefit contractors in many ways."

Responding to the attacks, AAP Spokesperson Priyanka Kakkar questioned the authenticity of the purported CAG report. "The BJP is presenting its office-manufactured documents as CAG reports instead of naming its CM face... BJP should discuss real CAG reports on irregularities in projects like Dwarka Expressway and Ayushman Bharat in Delhi," she said.

According to the purported report, while liquor sale in Delhi from December 2021 to August 2022 under the new policy was an estimated 64 crore bottles. much more than around 58 crore bottles between December 2018 and August 2019, it did not result in higher revenues for the state government.

NEW DELHI ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY

BJP Union ministers and MPs fabricating fake votes, Kejriwal writes to CEC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, JANUARY 11

AAP NATIONAL convenor Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday accused the BJP of "largescale voter list manipulations" in the New Delhi Assembly constituency.

In a letter to the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), he alleged that BJP Union ministers and MPs were "fabricating fake votes". He cited 33 fraudulent entries allegedly registered at BJP candidate and his rival on the seat

Pravesh Verma's address, demanding immediate action, including the lodging of an FIR and Verma's disqualification if he was found complicit.

Alleging that applications for creating "40 new voter IDs have been filed from the homes of several BIP ministers and MPs during December and January", Kejriwal asked, "How is it that so many people suddenly started living in BJP MPs' houses? There are cases where a single-room slum has (sent) applications for 30 new voter IDs, or a small shop

has (sent) applications for 40 new voter IDs. Who are these people?" "Gradually, the public is real-

ising that BJP does not fight elections fairly. It relies solely on dishonesty during elections. Our workers have been vigilant and caught each of its misdeeds," he

Kejriwal also alleged that BIP MPs staying in the New Delhi Assembly constituency were "transferring votes from across India to their residences on a large scale".

"This is nothing less serious or

shocking than an attempt at largescale booth capturing that India has seen in the past... the BIP is engaging in backdoor tactics to hoodwink the people of Delhi and manipulate electoral rolls secretly," he claimed.

"BJP... is transferring votes from across the country to the New Delhi Assembly constituency using the addresses of its own MPs and ministers who live in the... constituency. Shockingly, 33 new votes have been submitted for being transferred to BIP's candidate Parvesh

Verma's official residence. Are we expected to believe that overnight, 33 people from across India have shifted their residence to that of Mr Verma," he asked.

Kejriwal annexed documents such as addresses of BJP leaders and premises to which "hundreds of votes were being transferred", addresses of small homes, shops, and offices as well as "addresses that are nowhere to be found".

"It appears that several BJP Union ministers and members of the Union Cabinet are involved in

this malpractice... It is inconceivable how such a high number of voters could have suddenly applied to be transferred to these properties without planning by the highest levels of BJP leadership," he alleged.

Kejriwal demanded that these "suspicious vote transfers" be halted immediately and investigation be carried out into alleged involvement of "BJP MPs and ministers whose residences are being misused for this malpractice and register a criminal FIR against those responsible".

SONG RELEASE

BJP rolls out campaign song, attacks Kejriwal with song & poster on 'Sheesh Mahal'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, JANUARY 11

THE DELHI BJP on Saturday rolled out its election campaign song Bahane Nahi Badlav Chahien, Delhi Mein BJP Sarkar Chahiye (need change not excuses, Delhi requires BJP government), rendered by BJP's three-time Northeast Delhi MP and popular

singer-actor Manoj Tiwari. While the song was officially launched during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Parivartan Rally' last week in Rohini, it was on Saturday rolled out extensively for the February 5 poll campaign. Tiwari claimed that the song

has been viewed over 1.1 crore times on social media. "I have been composing campaign songs for many years now, and it's immensely fulfilling to see how much Delhi's people connect with them. This time, the song Bahane Nahi, Badlav Chahiye is resonating deeply with everyone."

"The theme song summarises the manifesto," said Tiwari humming a few lines at the press conference. The BJP is yet to announce its manifesto for the elections.

"The song was recorded late at night, around 2 am, at a Safdarjung studio, and such was the excitement that it was completed in a single take," he added.

The song reflects the mood of the city to oust the government that "cheated" people with false promises and set record of corruption, Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva told mediapersons.

"For the past 10 years, Delhi's people have suffered under the 'aapda (disaster)' government. which has misused public funds for personal luxury. The time has come for Delhiites to seek accountability and usher in



BJP leaders at the launch of the campaign song in New Delhi on Saturday. Praveen Khanna

change," he added.

BIP media head Praveen Shankar Kapoor said, "Songs by MP Manoj Tiwari always energise party workers. When this song was played at the Prime Minister's rally, the public's overwhelming enthusiasm showed that it would be a catalyst for

change in Delhi." The BJP, meanwhile, on Saturday also launched a song and poster on 'Sheesh Mahal', sharpening its attack on AAP national convenor Arvind Kejriwal on the issue of corruption.

The song *Sheesh* mahal aapda failane walon ka adda and a

poster titled 'Aapda-e-Azam' were released during a press conference by Sachdeva. According to the party, the song is meant to narrate the "story of corruption" and "loot" behind the 6, Flag Staff Road bungalow at Civil Lines - the official residence of the Delhi chief minister - which was being used by

Kejriwal when he was the CM and allegedly revamped with taxpayers' money.

In its statement to the press, the Delhi BJP said, "The song highlights Arvind Kejriwal's corruption and how he misused Delhi taxpayers' money to build

Addressing mediapersons. Sachdeva said, "Delhi is in turmoil. A person who came to manage and transform Delhi ended up changing his character,

behavior, and conduct instead."

"During the Mughal rule,

the lavish Sheesh Mahal."

people used to come to see the grandeur of their palaces. Today Delhi's so-called leader has built a Sheesh Mahal using the hardearned money of its residents... a blot on Delhi's pride," he added. The 'Aapda-e-Azam' poster showed Kejriwal's photoshopped image in an imperial

Mughal attire.

Lawrence gang member killed as key accomplices thought he was running parallel outfit, say police

PRAGYNESH NEW DELHI, JANUARY 11

WHEN SUNIL Yadav, an alleged drug smuggler from Punjab who ran the Lawrence Bishnoi gang's illegal narcotics business in the US, was killed at Stockton city in California on December 23, Lawrence's accomplices Rohit Godara and Goldy Brar had taken responsibility for his murder.

On why he got his own gang member killed, Brar had claimed on Facebook that it was to avenge Ankit Bhadu – a shooter of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang – because Sunil Yadav "had colluded with Punjab Police to orchestrate (his) encounter". Bhadu, who was involved in multiple cases of murder, extortion and attempt to murder, was killed by a team of Punjab Police's Organised Crime Control Unit in Zirakpur in February 2019.

Delhi Police officers, however, claimed that Yadav was killed as Brar and Godara thought he was "creating a parallel organisation in Bhadu's name" even after his death and that too within the gang.

"Bhadu and Sunil (Yadav) were both active in Sri Ganganagar as members of Lawrence Bishnoi gang and were very close to each other. Godara became the main aide of Lawrence Bishnoi after Bhadu was killed. However, Sunil and few other gang members saw Bhadu as their leader even after his death," a Delhi Police Special Cell officer said.

Around 2021, the officer added, relaworsened. "Sunil had been operating



Sunil Yadav

the gang's illegal drug business and extortion in the name of Bhadu even after his death and not Brar and Godara who had taken over

after Bhadu's murder," the officer said.

"Godara believed Sunil was creating a parallel organisation in Bhadu's name and that too within the gang itself. That's why they killed Sunil," the officer added.

The officer further said, "...Godara also wanted to gain the support of Bhadu's supporters by showing them that Sunil was responsible for the killing of their idol (Bhadu) and now Godara has honored his memory by avenging him." Yadav, who belonged to the Fazilka district in Punjab, had fled to the US two years ago, using a fake passport, the officer said.

Godara and Brar, both allegedly in the US, are key men of the gang, executing the orders of Lawrence Bishnoi, who is lodged at Sabarmati jail in Ahmedabad.

The gang was involved in a number of shootings and extortion call in the Capital in 2024, including the killing of alleged police informer and gym owner Nadir Shah in Greater Kailash.

The police said that after Bhadu's death in 2019, Godara and Brar had betions between Brar, Godara and Yadav came even more central to the gang's operations in North India.

Man seen spitting on chapatti at hotel in viral video arrested: Cops

Ghaziabad: After a viral video showed a man spitting on a chapatti at a hotel while putting it in a tandoor, a 20-year-old who worked as a cook at the hotel in the Khoda area — was arrested on Friday, said Ghaziabad Police.

"We registered a case against Irfaan, the accused, under sections 272 (malignant act likely to spread infection of disease dangerous to life), 274 (adulteration of food or drink intended for sale), and 275 (sale of noxious food or drink) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita," said Assistant Commissioner of Police, Indirapuram, Swatantra Singh.

Singh said that Irfan is a resident of Bijnor in Uttar Pradesh. The video, he added, was apparently shot recently. **ENS**

Law student from Amity falls to death from high-rise, family suspects foul play, say police

Abetment to suicide case registered after father files complaint

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NOIDA, JANUARY 11

A LAW student from Amity University died on Saturday after falling from the seventh floor of a high-rise in Noida. Police said that the incident took place at the Supreme Tower Society in Noida's Sector 99, adding that his family has alleged foul play.

"The deceased was pursuing LLB," said Manish Kumar Mishra, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police, Noida. Officials said the student had come to the residential society to visit his friends.

"Around 4.30 pm, he fell from the seventh floor of an eighteen-storey building under suspicious circumstances. He

F.DEO/C/11/Advertisement/2020/

Name of the Expenditure Name & No. of the

Sh. Anoop Kumar Sharma, AC-20 (Chandni

DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0365/24-25

Legislative Assembly

AC-02(Burari)

AC-03 (Timarpur)

AC-23 (Karol Bagh)

AC-21 (Matia Maha

AC-22(Ballimaran)

Chowk)

undermentioned schedule:-

observer & contact No.

Sh. Mukesh Rathore, IRS

Sh. Neeraj Kumar, IRS

9560588138

9220859793

9560575220

Officials said the student had come to a residential society in Noida to visit his friends

was rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment where doctors declared him dead," an officer said.

Around 10 pm, a case was registered under section 108 (abetting suicide) with the Noida Police after the student's father filed a complaint.

"The family suspects the involvement of his friends. All the angles are being thoroughly probed. We are questioning the people present at the gathering. Further investigation is under-

GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI

OFFICE OF THE DISTT. ELECTION OFFICER:

DISTRICT CENTRAL

14, DARYA GANJ, NEW DELHI-110002

Building, Delhi

Entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurship

Delhi-110009

Delhi-110009

Building,

Delhi-110009

Building,

Observer Office Address

Building ITI Dheerpur Campus

AC-19 (Sadar Bazar) Room No. 108, 1st Floor New Between 12.00 Noon

Building, ITI Dheerpur Campus

Delhi

Building ITI Dheerpur Campus

Delhi

Room No. 108, 1st Floor New Between 12.00 Noon

University

University

Room No. 108, 1st Floor New Between 12.00 Noon

University

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District Election Officer (Central)

Skill

Skilt

E-mail Address: esdmcentral.delhi@delhi.gov.in Phone No. 011-23258455

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is the information of General Public, Political Parties and electors of Central Delhi Constituency

that the Election Commission of India has deputed Expenditure Observers for Delhi Assembly

Election-2025. They will be available to address the queries of General public on working days as per

way," DCP Rambadan Singh said. Sources mentioned that the family has also alleged in the complaint that the student was being harassed by a fellow female student.

The body was found in a secluded area, where construction had been going on for several months. Security officials at the society said that upon hearing a thud, they ran outside.

"There was no blood around. We thought he was only injured so we were taking him to the hospital but as we touched his head, we felt he had stopped breathing and we informed the police," said a security official.

His body was taken for postmortem at around 6 pm after the father of the deceased arrived.

Dated: 11.01.2025

Date & Time

to 01.00 PM w.e.f.

11/01/2025 to

08/02/2025

to 01.00 PM w.e.f.

11/01/2025 to

08/02/2025

to 01.00 PM w.e.f.

11/01/2025 to

08/02/2025

Sd/-

(G. Sudhakar), IAS

Two men forget to turn off gas stove at night, die

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NOIDA, JANUARY 11

TWO PERSONS died after allegedly inhaling carbon monoxide gas while they were

asleep at their rented room in Noida's Sector 70 on Friday. The deceased, Kapendra (22) and Shivam (23), had left the gas stove on at

night and appear to have died from suffocation, the Noida district hospital said. The police received information

about the deaths from the Noida district hospital. An official from the hospital said on

Saturday that Kapendra and Shivam, both natives of Uttar Pradesh's Sambhal dis-

DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0364/24-25

trict, lived in a 10 feet by 10 feet room and ran a food cart selling chhole-kulche.

"It is believed that on the night of their death, the men were boiling peas on the gas stove and fell asleep without turning it off. The peas began to burn and the room filled with smoke and carbon monoxide," the official added.

"People in the rooms nearby noticed the smoke and broke open the door where the men had appeared to have

died due to suffocation.' The Station House Officer of Noida Phase 3 police station, Dhruv Bhusan Dubey, said: "We have not found any

other injury marks on their bodies." The bodies have been sent for postmortem, he added.



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ELECTION OFFICER, **DISTRICT: SOUTH-EAST, DELHI**

जिला निर्वाचन अधिकारी कार्यालय, जिला: दक्षिणपूर्व, दिल्ली **OLD GARGI COLLEGE BUILDING LAJPAT NAGAR-IV:** NEW DELHI-110024 PH.: 011-26476401, 26476402

पुराना गार्गी कॉलेज भवन लाजपत नगर - IV: नई दिल्ली 110024 फोन: 011-26476401, 26476402

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding appointment of Expenditure Observer, Delhi Legislative **Assembly Election 2025 South East Delhi District:**

This is for information of Political Parties and General Public/ Voters of Delhi Legislative Assembly Election 2025 of South East Delhi District, that the Election Commission of India has appointed the following officer as Expenditure Observers for Delhi Legislative Assembly Election 2025 for South East Delhi District:

Name of	Mobile	Observer Office
Observer	no.	Address
Shri Vijay	+91-9560712364	Room no. 12, Ground
Sharma, IRAS		Floor, O/o District
		Magistrate South East,
		Lajpat Nagar IV, New
		Delhi.
Shri	+91-9560783240	Room no. 12, Ground
Lakshmikantha D,		Floor, O/o District
IRS (C&CE)		Magistrate South East,
		Lajpat Nagar IV, New
		Delhi.
	+91-9560738764	Room no. 12, Ground
IRS (C&CE)		Floor, O/o District
		Magistrate South East,
		Lajpat Nagar IV, New
		Delhi.
	Shri Vijay Sharma, IRAS Shri Lakshmikantha D, IRS (C&CE)	Observer no. Shri Vijay +91-9560712364 Sharma, IRAS +91-9560783240 Lakshmikantha D, IRS (C&CE) +91-9560738764 Sh. Braj Lal Meena, +91-9560738764

The Expenditure Observers will be available to General Public on all working days from 17.01.2024 till completion of Election at the venue mentioned in aforesaid table. Any complaint with respect to malpractices in Election and violation of Model Code of Conduct may be reported at the contact number given above.

> (ANIL BANKA) DISTRICT ELECTION OFFICER **DISTRICT: SOUTH EAST**

Sd/-





RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

www.rbi.org.in

Redressal of complaints against entities regulated by RBI

Reserve Bank – Integrated Ombudsman Scheme (RB-IOS)

- The Reserve Bank has mandated all its regulated entities to have a mechanism at their end to resolve the complaints received by them from their customers, which is considered as the Internal Grievance Redress Mechanism of regulated entities. The Reserve Bank has also put in place an expeditious and cost-free Alternate Grievance Redress Mechanism for resolution of customer complaints relating to deficiencies in services rendered by its regulated entities through the Reserve Bank - Integrated
- Ombudsman Scheme, 2021 (RB-IOS).
- Banks, Non-Banking Financial Companies, Payment System Participants and Credit Information Companies are considered as regulated entities under the Grievance Redress Mechanism. The RB-IOS adopts a "One Nation One Ombudsman" approach for all complaints against any regulated entities. It is therefore no longer necessary for a complainant to identify under which Ombudsman scheme/office, he/she should file a complaint with the
- Ombudsman.
- The complaints against regulated entities not covered under the RB-IOS are handled at Consumer Education and Protection Cells (CEPCs) for resolution. The list of regulated entities covered under the ambit of RB-IOS and CEPC can be accessed by visiting https://cms.rbi.org.in

What to do if you have a complaint?

You can lodge complaint against the regulated entity at its branch or through online in the grievance redressal portal or any other mode as mentioned in its website. Get acknowledgement or save the reference number of the complaint.

When to approach the RBI Ombudsman?

You can approach the RBI Ombudsman, in case:

- No reply is received from the regulated entity within 30 days Anytime within one year and 30 days from the date of your complaint to regulated entity.
- Reply received from the regulated entity is unsatisfactory Anytime within one year of receipt of reply from the concerned regulated entity. Note:
- The complaint should contain all requisite details / information as per the complaint form prescribed in the RB-IOS.
 - The complaint should not have been dealt with / pending with any other forum (like Courts) or dealt earlier by the RBI Ombudsman.

Filing complaint directly with RBI Ombudsman, without approaching the RE, may lead to its rejection.

How to lodge a complaint with RBI?

Complaint against the regulated entity can be filed through any of the following modes: Online through the Complaint Management System (CMS) portal of RBI at https://cms.rbi.org.in

Physical complaint (letter/post) in the form as specified in Annexure in the RB-IOS to "Centralized Receipt and Processing Centre, 4th floor, Reserve Bank of India, Sector-17, Central Vista, Chandigarh – 160017"

How to know more about lodging a complaint with RBI?

For more information, you can approach RBI Contact Centre facility with Toll-free Number: 14448. The contact center with Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) is available 24x7, while the facility to connect to Contact Centre personnel is available from Monday to Friday except National Holidays, between 8:00 AM to 10:00 PM for English, Hindi and ten regional languages (Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Odia, Punjabi, Telugu and Tamil).

For more information

Please Visit:

FAQs on RBI-IOS, 2021 - https://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/FS FAQs.aspx?fn=2745

Or CMS Portal - https://cms.rbi.org.in/

(For complaints against DICGC, members of public can lodge the complaint at following address/e-mail Id)

Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation The General Manager

DICGC, Complaint Redressal Cell,

Reserve Bank of India, 2nd Floor, Opp. Mumbai Central Railway Station,

Byculla, Mumbai - 400008 E-mail: dicgc.complaints@rbi.org.in

Contact No. 022-23028000, Ext No- 8000,









GOVT & POLITICS

Rijiju embarks on five-day visit to Saudi, to sign agreement for Hajj pilgrimage

New Delhi: Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju Saturday embarked on a five-day visit to Saudi Arabia to sign a bilateral agreement for the Hajj pilgrimage of 2025, where India is seeking an additional quota for 10,000 pilgrims.

Rijiju is scheduled to meet Saudi Arabian Minister Tawfiq bin Fawzan Al Rabiah Monday when the two leaders are expected to sign the bilateral agreement.

"I look forward to visiting the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to sign the bilateral agreement on Hajj 2025 and strengthen the peopleto-people ties between our two great nations," Rijiju said on X.

Rijiju will also meet Saleh Al Jasser, the Saudi Minister of Transport and Logistic Services and discuss Hajj flight operations and the pilgrimage-related bus and train services with him.

Rijiju will also visit the Jeddah Hai Terminal, used by Indian pilgrims, where the government has dedicated an office space for facilitation. India's Hajj quota for 2025 is fixed by Saudi Arabia at 1,75,025 pilgrims and the government is seeking an additional 10,000 quota for this year.

Rijiju will also visit Madina, where he will visit the mosques at Quba and Qublatain.

He will also meet Prince Khalid Al Faisal bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Advisor to King Salman, the governor of Makkah Region and the chairman of Central Hajj Committee and Prince Salman bin Sultan bin Abdulaziz al Saud, the Governor of Madina.

As BJP holds organisational elections, why not to expect changes in power structure

The meetings of BIP

Parliamentary Board that

decision, including to pick

CMs, have become rare.

used to meet for every crucial

Chouhan in Madhya Pradesh,

Vasundhara Raje in Rajasthan,

Raman Singh in Chhattisgarh and

take their cue from the Centre,

say party leaders. "They simply

follow directives from Delhi," a

leader said, adding that the few

BJP CMs now with an independ-

ent standing of their own are

Yogi Adityanath (Uttar Pradesh),

Himanta Biswa Sarma (Assam)

and Devendra Fadnavis

polls, which are currently on, the

emphasis is on "consensus". As

per the BJP constitution, the

party president is elected by an

electoral college consisting of BJP

National Council members and

members of state councils, with

elections prescribed for every-

thing from local committees to

Punia, the in-charge of elections

in Haryana for the BJP, told *The*

Indian Express that consensus was

But, senior BJP leader Satish

mandal and district panels.

In the BIP organisational

(Maharashtra).

Of the new crop of CMs, most

B S Yediyurappa in Karnataka.

LIZ MATHEW

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 11

THE WORLD'S "largest political party", as it calls itself, the BJP is aiming higher in seeking to take its membership to 10 crore by the end of an ongoing drive. However, as it becomes the dominant dispensation across large swathes of the country, the BIP's other definition of itself, as "the party with a difference", has seen moderation.

It earned that distinction for both its cadre-based structure and internal discipline, as well as strong leaders at all levels and the absence of a centralised command.

While the BJP retains a lot of that character, especially in its strong grassroots network, say leaders, there is little doubt that all power in the party now flows from the top in Delhi.

More than six months after the 18th Lok Sabha was formed, the BJP Parliamentary Party has not met once. With many articulate stalwarts in the ranks, this forum once saw vibrant interactions. The only such meeting of BIP MPs was in June, when they met under the umbrella of the NDA – short of a minority in the Lok Sabha now, the BJP is dependent on NDA partners at the

Even meetings of the BJP Parliamentary Board, the apex decision-making body that used to meet for every crucial decision, including to pick chief ministers, have become rare. The CMs are now chosen by the top leadership, and the decision communicated to the legislative party. This was

on display after the BIP's Assembly wins in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh last year, when the party picked absolute surprises to hold the top posts.

Lately, even the BJP's Central Election Committee (CEC), the top body that selects candidates for polls, has not been meeting often. The first list of 29 names for Delhi was announced without the CEC meeting even once. Sources said that in "a departure from procedure", a file of names was rotated among CEC members instead, with the list rushed out in time for Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually launching the BJP campaign in Delhi.

For Iharkhand and Maharashtra Assembly polls, the CEC met only once, unlike the usual practice of a meeting before the release of every list. Party insiders say that instead of CEC meetings, there were multiple "internal meetings" before the list went to Modi for "final clearance".

Party leaders say the final call is Modi's, while crucial appointees to organisational posts also carry Union Home Minister Amit Shah's stamp.

With Modi's popularity still the BJP's trump card across elections, party cadres don't have a reason to complain. However, certain quarters feel that, in the long run, the "concentration" of power is hurting the party – apart from depriving the BJP of its core strength of influential leaders at every rung.

Modi himself is one example, having risen to the top after long years as Gujarat CM. His contemporaries at that time included names such as Shivraj Singh

"preferred" when it came to mandal, booth and zilla committees. That didn't mean there was no choice, he said. "We have an internal democratic pattern, where the choice is by common consensus." The process is not without

> hiccups, though. In Goa, a section of the BJP leaders recently protested that most of the chosen mandal presidents were either protégés of ministers or MLAs, or backed by them. In Madhya Pradesh, the

process of selection of zilla presidents, which was expected to be completed by December, has been delayed reportedly due to the lack of consensus among leaders. Senior party leaders had a meeting with probable candidates for district presidents recently to break the stalemate.

In Kerala, mandal committee presidents were chosen on "group basis" Pathanamthitta and Kollam districts witnessed tension as a section of the leaders accused the official faction of deciding unilaterally. "The fight in these districts became public and the local media reported them. It was embarrassing for the party," a state leader said, adding that this showed the failure to "exercise a proper democratic process".

To many BJP leaders, the worry is that the party's course has started mirroring the Congress's. "The Congress started disintegrating when its high command in New Delhi became extremely powerful, leaving the state leadership handicapped... In the 1970s and 1980s, the Congress relied solely on its central leadership, Indira

or Rajiv Gandhi, to win," a party leader said, pointing out that the Congress fortunes have been sliding since their passing.

Another leader said: "Earlier we used to identify such issues as Congress issues. But now we realise it's related to power, not with any individual or parties."

At the same time, the BJP's talent-spotting process remains robust in a way that the Congress has struggled to nurture, particularly when it comes to the grassroots and ordinary workers who don't have any political legacy.

"No other party has the kind of cadre movement that happens in the BJP. The Left too could claim grassroot democracy, but its presence is minuscule now," said a party leader.

Even if the booth committees and presidents are picked without elections and by consensus, the leader added, "the presence of multiple booths and committees is a testimony to the democratic process, because it involves many... The constitution of the committees itself enhances democracy and inclusivity, as it has social, gender, and economic diversities. Is Modi dictating who is going to head a booth?"

The leader pointed out that in the BIP, there is another restraining factor against a unipolar power centre – the RSS. With the Sangh kept in the loop on major decisions and appointments, the interests that need to be accommodated are much more.

The leader added: "Of course. centralisation happens, but at the top level. At the bottom, despite all the problems, it is still vibrant."

project to focus on diseases

In 2nd phase,

Genome India

ANONNA DUTT NEW DELHI, JANUARY 11

AFTER COMPLETING India's baseline map by sequencing 10,000 genomes, the Genome India project is set to move into its second phase during which samples of individuals with specific diseases would also be sequenced.

"Now that we have released the data of healthy individuals, the second phase of the project would involve sequencing the genomes of diseased persons. There are ongoing discussions with experts to finalise what diseases should be included and how many samples for them need to be sequenced to give meaningful insights," Dr Suchita Ninawe, senior scientist at the Department of Biotechnology, told The Indian Express.

Genome India is a government-backed project to collect and catalogue the genetic variations specific to Indian populations. India-specific genetic information is not very well reflected in global human genome databases. Such information is valuable for a number of reasons, including diagnosis and treatment of several gene-related diseases.

Launched in 2020, 10,000 sequences from healthy individuals were collected in the first phase of the project. The second phase seeks to expand the database to one million sequences, including genetic information of people with specific diseases.

A comparison of the healthy and diseased genome can help researchers identify targets for developing treatments and diagnostic tests. It is the first step towards personalised treatment and medicine, which is supposed to be the future of healthcare.

The diseases that would most likely be included in the list would be different types of cancers, chronic conditions such as diabetes, and various neurological or neurodegenerative diseases. Rare diseases that are found in Indian populations are also likely to be included in the list of diseases to be studied for the next phase of Genome India project.

"This data will also help us understand why certain diseases happen, especially when it comes to rare diseases that are

Multiple benefits **BESIDES UNDERSTAND-**

ING the susceptibility of people to specific diseases, which can lead to personalised and precision medicine, genome mapping has several other benefits — tracing ancestry and evolutionary history of people, advancing scientific research, and preparing for Covid-like pandemics in future.

not yet extensively studied," said Dr Ninawe.

The second phase would also cover many more linguistic and ethnic groups. In the first phase, individuals from 99 population groups were included. But as many as 4,635 different population groups have been identified in India.

The next phase would have representation of all the states and UTs, most linguistic and ethnic groups, and rural populations, said Prof Y Narahari from the Indian Institute of Science one of the lead scientists on this project. More than 20 major research institutions are partici-

pating in this project. "This is just the beginning," Rajesh Gokhale, Secretary of Department of Biotechnology, said. "The data from the first phase has set the standards, and it makes us feel very confident to expand the dataset to one million genomes of various kinds."

One million genomes would put India among a small group of countries that have managed to sequence a large number of genomes to understand genetic

variation within their populations. The first Human Genome Project, which was an international consortium funded by the US National Institutes of Health among others, published the world's first complete human genome in 2003. Since then, the '1,000 Genomes' project, again an international collaboration, published 1,092 sequences in 2012. A UK government project seque-

nced 100,000 genomes by 2018.



Union Home Minister Amit Shah and NCB chief Anurag Garg in New Delhi on Saturday. ANI

Shah: 7-fold increase in drug seizure... drones, dark web still challenge

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, JANUARY 11

UNION HOME Minister Amit Shah Saturday asked all states/ UTs and agencies to take legal action against illegal, clandestine labs with ruthless approach. "Narcotics worth ₹16,914 crore

were seized in 2024, the highest recorded since Independence... Dark web, cryptocurrency, online marketplace and drones continue to be a challenge for the country and these have to be checked by strict measures," said Shah while chairing a regional conference on 'Drug Trafficking and National Security'. "All states should destroy illegal clandestine laboratories with rigour and take legal action against them with a ruthless approach," he said.

"In the last 10 years, there has been a seven-fold increase in the

seizure of drugs... The government has not only been successful in eliminating many networks of drugs but also destroyed the terrorism linked with them. Many cases of narco-terrorism were busted in J&K, Punjab, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh and these were ma-

Shah also launched the drug disposal fortnight — January 11 to 25 — and said that during this period, 1 lakh kg of narcotics worth ₹8,600 crore will be destroyed.

jor achievements," he said.

The Home Ministry is implementing a three-pronged strategy to achieve a drug-free India by 2047, said Shah. He said during 2004-14, a total of 3.63 lakh kg of drugs were seized, while during 2014-24, around 24 lakh kg of drugs were seized — a seven-fold rise. He said drugs worth ₹8,150 crore were destroyed in 2004-14 and worth ₹54,851 crore in 2014-24.

'Defamatory statements': BPSC notice to Kishor, Guru Rehman

SANTOSH SINGH PATNA, JANUARY 11

THE BPSC has served legal notice to Jan Suraaj Party founder Prashant Kishor and Patna educator Guru Rahman for "defamatory statements" during the protests.

The notice to Kishor on 10 January, read: "...you have levelled false, nasty, baseless and defamatory allegations in respect of my client (BPSC) with regards to its conduct and integrity without any basis, in particular about the irregularities, corruption, malpractice and selling of seats through various modes in respected of integrated 70th Combined (Preliminary) Competitive Examination conducted by my client..."

In the notice to Guru Rehman on January 8, the BPSC said: "That you, Shri Guru Rehman, without ascertaining/confirming from my client, have spread false information/rumors about implementation of Normalization in 70th Combined (Preliminary) Competitive Examination..."

Rahman has been asked to tender an unconditional public apology or face legal proceedings.

When contacted, Guru Rahman told *The Indian Express*: "There is no question of apologising to BPSC even if it means going to jail. I stood for students' cause and would continue to do so". Despite repeated attempts, Kishor could not be reached for a comment.

Candidates who had appeared for BPSC prelims on December 13 have been protesting demanding cancellation of the exam.

INAUGURATES AUDITORIUM AT FTII, PUNE



Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw invites students on stage to inaugurate a modern cinema threatre-cum-auditorium at FTII, Pune, on Saturday. Express

Vaishnaw: Our legacy provides firm foundation for further excellence

ALISTER AUGUSTINE PUNE, JANUARY 11

UNION I&B Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw inaugurated a modern cinema theatre-cum-auditorium at the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) Pune, in his maiden visit to the institution. FTII celebrated the inauguration with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and lamp-lighting event in the presence of students and faculty.

Addressing the students and faculty at an open forum, Vaishnaw shared his vision for elevating FTII's standing in the global stage. "Our legacy and heritage provide a firm founda-

tion to embark on the journey of further excellence," he said. The Minister fielded questions on various topics, including the proposed deemed university status for FTII, and assured the gathering of the government's commitment to advancing cinema

education in the country. Vaishnaw invited students to inaugurate the auditorium by cutting the ribbon to the venue and lighting the lamps on stage at the event.

The newly inaugurated 586seat auditorium boasts state-ofthe-art facilities, including a cinema projector, a public address system for stage performances, and a Dolby Atmos surround sound system. A standout feature is the innovative horizontally movable screen, measuring 50 ft in width and 20 ft in height, which can be adjusted seamlessly via remote control. This unique design allows the auditorium to transform effortlessly into a cinema theatre, making it a first-of-its-kind innovation. FTII has filed a patent for this pioneering feature.

Commenting on the significance of the auditorium, the minister said, "The new auditorium will not only be an invaluable strength for FTII's pedagogy but will also become a key presence in Pune's rich cultural landscape."

Awadhesh by a decent margin of

about 13,000 votes. Milkipur was

the only one of the five Assembly

segments falling under the

Faizabad Lok Sabha constituency

that the BJP did not win in 2022.

the BSP is expected to keep away

– the party has again decided to

shun bypolls – Congress leaders

said Tuesday that they would

back the SP candidate. In the

November bypolls, the Congress

had opted out after ally SP re-

fused to part with more than a

Milkipur had been expected

couple of the nine seats for it.

As for the other parties, while

'How long will they deceive us': Vijay uses MGR movie lyrics to target DMK over NEET

ARUN JANARDHANAN CHENNAI, JANUARY 11

ACTOR-POLITICIAN Vijay has launched a scathing attack on the DMK government, accusing it of betraying public trust by failing to deliver on its promise to abolish the NEET. His statement came a day after CM M K Stalin, also the party president, admitted that only the Centre holds the authority to scrap the contentious exam—a political flashpoint in the state.

In a sharply-worded social media post, Vijay invoked a famous lyric from an MGR film to criticise the DMK, writing, "How long will they deceive us in this land, in our own land, in our country? These song lyrics are highly relevant to the current rulers of Tamil Nadu. Their strategy seems to be to make false promises during elections, gain the people's trust to win, and then deceive them again after

coming to power". Vijay pointed to the 2021 Assembly election campaign, during which the DMK had assured voters that it would cancel NEET if elected. The actor alleged that the party made such promises to gain votes, claiming it knew "the secret to abolishing" the exam. "They convinced the people of Tamil Nadu with this



clared that the authority to cancel NEET lies with the central government and cannot be revoked by the state government. Isn't this an act of betrayal towards the people who voted for them?" The state has been arguing

for long that the national-level test disadvantages students from rural and economically weaker backgrounds who lack access to the same coaching facilities as their urban counterparts.

Vijay did not stop at criticising the ruling party's handling of the NEET issue. "The dream of the Tamil Nadu rulers to deceive the people with any lie they choose will no longer come true in the days to come," he said, signalling a sharper political tone as he continues to position himself as a critic of DMK.

Nadu as long as our leader Kalai gnar (late CM M Karunanidhi) and late CM J Jayalalithaa were in power. The exam was introduced only during your regime, Stalin said, while replying to Opposition leader Edappadi K Palaniswami charge that the ruling dispensation had done nothing to abolish NEET.

"NEET did not enter Tamil

In Ayodhya-adjunct Milkipur, BJP, SP prepare for Duel 2.0 polls, Gorakhnath lost to Milkipur. The Assembly bypoll fight for the two parties, and could Ayodhya temple, to mark one

MAULSHREE SETH LUCKNOW, JANUARY 11

THE MUCH-AWAITED bypoll to the Milkipur Assembly seat, under the Faizabad Lok Sabha constituency, will finally be held on February 5, the Election Commission announced on January 7. Having lost the Faizabad seat in a shock defeat to the Samajwadi Party, the BJP is out for payback in kind, with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath taking charge of the Milkipur

campaign himself. Apart from the sting of the Faizabad defeat in the Lok Sabha polls, months after the consecration of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya — which also falls under the parliamentary constituency — there is another reason the BJP is sparing no effort in

was necessitated because sitting SP MLA Awadhesh Prasad vacated the seat to contest the Faizabad Lok Sabha constituency, where he defeated sitting BJP MP Lallu Singh.

Awadhesh's son Ajeet is now set to get SP ticket from Milkipur, and defeating him would be as good as it gets for the BIP.

While the SP's Faizabad victory was part of its surprisingly strong showing in UP in the Lok Sabha polls, the BIP has bounced back since then, winning six of the nine Assembly seats for which bypolls were held in November; ally RLD won another. The SP ended up with only two constituencies, losing its bastion Kundarki and another sitting seat to the BIP.

This reversal has made Milkipur even more of a prestige



LAST 2 POLLS

2022: Awadhesh Prasad (SP) defeated BIP's Baba Gorakhnath by 13,338 votes

2017: Baba Gorakhnath (BJP) defeated SP's **Awadhesh Prasad** by 28,276 votes

well set the tone for the 2027 Assembly polls. The SP, which made much of its Faizabad win, including giving Awadhesh the pride of place in Parliament, knows that a loss in Milkipur would dim the party's Ayodhya sparkle. The BJP realises this, as well as the fact that an opposite result would put a new spring in the SP's steps.

Winning Milkipur would also break the BJP's dry run in the seat, having won it only once in the past three decades. That was in 2017, when the party was at the height of its Modi wave in UP.

Adityanath has not just taken direct control of the Milkipur campaign, but also camped both his Deputy CMs and six of his ministers in the seat. Less than a month before the bypoll, on January 11, the CM will perform "abhishek" of Lord Ram at the

vear of its consecration. Three days ago, during a visit to Ayodhya, Adityanath interacted with booth-wise workers from Milkipur, setting the agenda for

the campaign and asking them to present a united front. He is reported to have told the workers that if the BJP could win Kundarki, it could wrest Milkipur too. The SP has alleged poll malpractices behind the BJP win, and on Tuesday, SP chief Akhilesh

Yadav said that he hoped the Milkipur election would be "fair". All eyes are now on whom the BJP fields from Milkipur. In Ajeet, the SP has a Dalit face, and the BJP will be conscious of this at a time when both sides are

contesting for the SC vote. In 2017, the BJP's winning candidate was Baba Gorakhnath. However, in the 2022 Assembly

to see bypolls along with the nine Assembly seats in November, but election here was postponed on the grounds of a technical issue. as a petition regarding the 2022 Assembly election in the seat was pending in court.

assurance," Vijay said. "However, now they have de-

EXPRESS NETWORK

Rise and fall of Suresh Chandrakar, key accused in Chhattisgarh journalist Mukesh Chandrakar's murder

JAYPRAKASHSNAIDU RAIPUR. JANUARY 11

WHEN CONTRACTOR Suresh Chandrakar, the prime suspect in the murder of his relative and Chhattisgarh journalist Mukesh Chandrakar, got married in 2021, it became the talk of the town in the Maoist-hit Bijapur. It was a wedding the scale of which the town had never seen, with a private helicopter hired to transport Suresh's bride from Jagdalpur and foreign

The lavish wedding highlighted the meteoric rise of Suresh from his modest beginnings of being a cook and a Special Police Officer in the now outlawed militia Salwa Judum to a private contractor hired for the state government's multi-crore road projects - all in a matter of 10 years.

dancers performing at the event.

The son of a serving constable in the Maoist-affected Basaguda, Suresh, 42, was arrested earlier last week for allegedly having Mukesh killed over a news report on a road project that he had undertaken.

According to officials, Suresh was undertaking three major road projects with an estimated cost of over ₹170 crore. The biggest was work on a section of the Nelsnar-



From a private chopper to foreign dancers, Suresh Chandrakar's wedding (right) in 2021 was a lavish affair. Instagram @chandrakar1854

Kodoli-Mirtur-Gangalur road the project that allegedly cost Mukesh his life. All three contracts now stand cancelled.

The murder allegedly took place on January 1 at a property that Suresh had allegedly built illegally on half an acre of land. Located in Bijapur's Chhattanpara, this property, police sources say, has 17 rooms and a badminton court, and was being used by Suresh's employees.

Apart from Suresh, police have arrested his brothers Ritesh and Dinesh, and an employee, Mahendra Ramteke, for the murder. As per the sources, Suresh was hired as an SPO in the Salwa Judum, a government-



sponsored militia established to counter Maoists in Chhattisgarh, with the help of his father, a serving constable in Bijapur. Around the same time, Suresh, who was adept at cooking, also worked at the official residence of a senior

police officer. "He has always been close to some local policemen," a close friend said.

When the Salwa Judum was disbanded following a Supreme Court ruling in 2011, Suresh, a school dropout, began taking up small-scale building contracts. But it wasn't until November 2015 that he got his major break. This came in the form of a government contract for a 32.4 km section of the Nelesnar-Gangalur road. For Suresh, the project was a massive breakthrough given its cost —₹54

"The road was first sanctioned in 2010 but no Class A contractor those with no limit on contract value — was coming here due to the Maoist threat. This enabled Suresh and four others, who were Class B (contractors who could take up projects only up to ₹10 crore), to apply," said a source.

According to sources from the state's Public Works Department, the project was meant to be completed by July 2016 but its deadline kept getting extended, causing costs to inflate. By July 2021, its revised

cost had shot up to ₹141 crore.

"He has completed 24.9 km of the 32.4 km given to him," a PWD official said. "Apart from this road, Suresh also had two more road contracts in Bijapur for which he has already been paid over ₹2 crore."

Having joined the Congress in the early 2010s, he was also made an "election observer" in Maharashtra Assembly polls last year. On its part, the Congress has admitted he was a worker, but also claimed that he had "ioined the BJP in December". The Congress has not provided any proof to back this claim.

By late last year, Suresh, now a Class A contractor, had secured two more government contracts in Bijapur — the construction of an 11.20 km road between Jaigur and Tumnar at an estimated cost of ₹13 crore, and the widening of the 12.60 km Kutru-Farsegad road at an estimated cost of ₹19.50 crore.

The deadline for the first one, secured in December 2022, was January 2024, with a fourth finished so far, the second one, whose deadline was September 2025, was nearly complete — with advance payment partially made for both projects.

According to police sources, it

was Mukesh's news report on the delay in the Nelsnar-Kodoli-Mirtur-Gangalur road that allegedly upset Suresh. The report, aired on NDTV on December 25, alleged corruption in the road project and prompted a government inquiry.

On January 3, days after the report, Mukesh's body was found in a septic tank on Suresh's Chhattanpara property. According to the police, it was Ritesh and Mahendra who allegedly killed him, while Suresh and his brother Dinesh allegedly helped dispose of the body and evidence.

Six of Suresh's bank accounts have now been frozen, while the police have seized four of his vehicles — including a cement mixer allegedly used in the crime to concretise the open tank.

On January 4, Bijapur district authorities took a bulldozer to Suresh's construction plant, claiming it had been illegally built on forest land.

Meanwhile, the PWD department has cancelled all three of his road projects and suspended his contractor licence after his arrest, officials said. The murder investigation has also prompted Goods and Services Tax raids at Suresh's residence.

SC: Wife can get maintenance even if she defies cohabit decree

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, JANUARY 11

IN A significant judgment, the Supreme Court has ruled that a woman can be given the right to maintenance even after she has not complied with the decree to cohabit if she has valid and sufficient reason to refuse to live with her spouse.

A bench of Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar settled the legal dispute over the question whether a husband, who secures a decree for restitution of conjugal rights, stands absolved of paying maintenance to his wife by virtue of law if she refuses to abide by the said decree and return to the matrimonial home.

It said the question as to whether noncompliance with a decree for restitution of conjugal rights by a wife would be sufficient in itself to deny her maintenance, owing to Section 125(4) of CrPC has been addressed by several high courts but no consistent view is forthcoming, due to varied and conflicting opinions. The bench said, "Thus, the preponderance of judicial thought weighs in favour of upholding the wife's right to maintenance under Section 125 CrPC and the mere passing of a decree for restitution of conjugal rights at the husband's behest and non-compliance therewith by the wife would not, by itself, be sufficient to attract the disqualification under Section 125(4) CrPC."

It said it would depend on individual cases and would have to be decided on the evidence available, whether the wife still had valid reason to refuse to live with her spouse, despite such a decree.

"There can be no hard and fast rule in this regard and it must invariably depend on the distinctive facts and circumstances obtaining in each particular case... In any event, a decree for restitution of conjugal rights secured by a husband coupled with non-compliance therewith by the wife would not be determinative straightaway either of her right to maintenance or the applicability of the disqualification under Section 125(4) CrPC," it said.

The bench gave the order, in

the case of an estranged couple from Jharkhand, who entered into the wedlock on May 1, 2014 but parted ways in August, 2015.

The husband moved the family court in Ranchi for restitution of conjugal rights claiming that she left her matrimonial home on August 21, 2015 and did not return despite repeated efforts to bring her back. His wife, in her written submission before the court, alleged that she was subjected to torture and mental agony by her husband, who demanded ₹5 lakh for purchasing a four wheeler. She also claimed he had extramarital relations and she suffered a miscarriage in January 1, 2015 but her husband did not come to see her.

The wife claimed that she was willing to return on the condition that she should be allowed to use the washroom in the house and should also be allowed to use an LPG stove to prepare food.

The family court on March 23, 2022, gave a decree for restitution of conjugal rights while noting that the husband wanted to live with her. The wife did not abide and instead filed a plea for maintenance with the family court.

The family court ordered maintenance of ₹10,000 per month to be paid to the wife. The husband the challenged the or der before the Jharkhand HC which noted that his wife had not returned to the matrimonial home despite the decree for resti tution of conjugal rights. The HC ruled that the wife was not entitled to maintenance. Aggrieved by the order, the wife challenged the order before the apex court,

which ruled in its favour. The top court said the high court ought not to have given such undue weightage to the said judgment and the findings therein.

It said the fact that she was not allowed to use the toilet in the house or avail proper facilities to cook food in the matrimonial home, facts which were accepted in the restitution proceedings, are further indications of her ill-treatment.

It said the order of family court order dated February 15 2022 is upheld and restored and directed the husband to pay ₹10,000 to his estranged wife.

Kolkata set to host vintage car exhibition today

Kolkata: The fourth edition of the EIMG Concours d'Elegance 2025 will be held in Kolkata's Lake Club Sunday, showcasing 90 restored vintage automobiles. The vehicles will include rare and iconic vehicles, including severa Rolls-Royces, a 1925 AC Royal and 1948 Plymouth Special

The 90 vehicles competing for 39 trophies will be judged by a panel, led by collector and restorer Shrivardhan Kanoria."...event

Deluxe, a statement said.

Mass reforms: Bishop Bosco Puthur quits as administrator of Ernakulam archdiocese

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE THIRUVANANTHAPURAM.JAN 11

THE DEADLOCK over liturgical reforms in the Kerala-based Syro-Malabar Church, one of the 23 eastern churches under Rome, Saturday took a new turn after Bishop Bosco Puthur quit as the administrator of the Ernakulam archdiocese. The Synod of the Church, in

an official release, said Puthur had submitted resignation in September, but the decision came Saturday, hours after a section of priests launched an agitation against Puthur at the bishop's house in Ernakulam. The governance of the arch-

diocese went back to the Church head, Major Archbishop Rapheal Thattil. He will be assisted by Archbishop Joseph Pamplany as Vicar in day-to-day matters. Tension has been prevailing at

the bishop's house from the wee hours of Saturday after police entered the premises to remove 21 priests who were on a protest against Puthur, who had assumed office in December, 2023. Both of Saturday develop-

ments pertain to the prevailing crisis in the archdiocese over introducing a unified form of offering the Mass. Most of the priests in the archdiocese, along a section of the faithful, have been on warpath for the last few years against the new reform in the

The warring priests had even defied the ultimatum served by Pope Francis, who wanted the entire Syro-Malabar Church to follow a uniform way of offering the Mass, which 34 other dioceses under the Church implemented in recent years.

From Thursday, a section of priests has been on an indefinite as the Church has its synod meeton Saturday, when the police prevailed in the bishop's house clashed with the police. A sec-

The Syro-Malabar Church Synod, a body of 50-odd bishops, the decision.

Instead of Puthur, Thalassery archbishop Joseph Pamplany was appointed as the Vicar of the Archdiocese of Ernakulam. An official release from the

to rebellion.



protest at the bishop's house even ing. The situation came to a head forcibly removed protesting priests. Subsequently, tension and its premises after the faithful tion of the faithful also accused the police of having tortured the

meanwhile, suspended six priests and served show-cause notice to 15 others on Saturday, with regard to the agitation. This further agitated the priests and the faithful. In the evening, when Bishop Puthur's resignation was announced, the rebel priests and faithful raised slogans rejoicing

Church said Pamplany will also continue as the archbishop of Thalassery in Kannur district.

Over the years, the Catholic Church has been struggling to rein in the rebel priests of Ernakulam. Cardinal George Alenchery was forced to guit as the head of the archdiocese in the past after he lost the battle with the priests. Later CBCI president Archbishop Andrews Thazhathu, who was made the administrator of the Ernakulam archdiocese, stepped down due



First Anniversary

Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya on the first anniversary of the consecration ceremony of Ram Lalla's idol, on Saturday. Express

Most of attacks on minorities 'political': Bangladesh police

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA DHAKA, JANUARY 11

A MAJORITY of incidents against the minority communities since August 4 last year were 'political in nature' and not 'communal,' Bangladesh government said Saturday quoting a police report.

Police have set up a WhatsApp number to directly receive complaints of communal violence and maintain contact with the minority community.

Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus' press wing said that the police investigation came after the Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council recently claimed there were 2,010 inci-

dents of communal violence since a day before deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina fled the country on August 5 following a massive student-led protest that toppled her 16-year regime.

Of these, a total of 1,769 incidents were reported as attacks and vandalism; police have so far registered 62 cases on claims, and arrested at least 35 culprits based on the investigation, the CA office's press wing statement said.

Claiming that it was found that "in the majority of the cases, the attacks were not communally motivated — rather, those were political in nature," the statement said: "Police investigations found that 1,234 incidents were 'political in nature', 20 incidents were communal and at least 161 claims were found to be false or untrue." "According to the claims of the Council, 1,452 incidents — or 82.8 per cent of the total claims — took place on August 5, 2024, when Hasina was ousted from power.

"At least 65 incidents took place on August 4 and 70 incidents on August 6," it said.

Apart from the Council claims, police also received 134 allegations of communal violence from August 5 through January 8, 2025, it said, adding, police responded to all those complaints and at least 53 cases were filed against those complaints and 65 offenders were held.

"In all, since August 4, a total of 115 cases have been registered

VARANASI CIVIC BODY TELLS MEAT SHOPS

IN 2-KM RADIUS OF TEMPLE TO SHUT DOWN

Lucknow: The Varanasi Municipal Corporation issued notices

to the owners of 26 meat shops operating within a two-kilo-

metre radius of the Vishwanath temple of the district, direct-

ing them to shut down as they are "violating rules". Officials

said the directive to close the shops was issued on the basis

of the resolution regarding the same, which was passed by

the civic body last year. Dr Santosh Pal, veterinary officer of the

Municipal Corporation, said this is the second notice issued

to them for not following the resolution passed by the civic

body. Earlier, notices were issued to them in March. "In this

drive, we have...issued notices to them for not complying with

the order...," said Pal. Meanwhile, shop owners alleged that

they are being instructed to close their shops without any

over complaints of communal attacks and at least 100 people have been arrested over the cases," the statement said.

Before preparing the report, Bangladesh police collected the list of allegations prepared by the Council (and) communicated with the persons claimed to have been the targets of the violence, it said. The police also visited each and every place, establishment and met those mentioned in the Council's report.

The press wing said the interim government maintained a zero-tolerance policy towards any communal attacks and ordered police to arrest the culprits. It also said it would compensate the victims.

There has been a spate of attacks on minorities, including Hindus, in Bangladesh as well as attacks on temples or cases of vandalism of properties belonging to the minority communities over the last few months triggering strong concerns in New Delhi.

The arrest of a Hindu monk on sedition charges further added to India's concerns, which Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri conveyed when he travelled to Dhaka in December.

Ahead of Misri's visit, the interim government head Yunus on December 5 sought the cooperation of the religious leaders in collecting accurate information about attacks on minorities amid reports of attacks on the Hindus.

which encompasses great vintage and classic cars along with competition wherein all cars will fight for 39 trophies."

Mythology-themed gates, murals & sculptures to greet visitors at Kumbh

₹14.5 crore spent on four gates themed after revered Ganga, Yamuna & Saraswati rivers and Lord Shiva; 85 sub-stations installed to illuminate 4,000 hectares

MAULSHREE SETH & MANISH SAHU

LUCKNOW, JANUARY 11

FOUR SPECIALLY designed large gates themed on the revered rivers Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati and Lord Shiva, and other structures and sculptures themed on mythological symbols will greet the visitors at the Maha Kumbh starting

January 13. The Uttar Pradesh government has spent funds worth crores, including ₹14.5 crore on the four gates, and ₹1.5 crore each on sculptures themed after Nataraj, damroo (small twoheaded drum of Lord Shiva) and Garuda (eagle-like bird who helped Lord Rama and his brother Lakshmana during their exile), to make the mela venue an immersive experience in 'sanatan culture".

The 45-day event will culminate on February 26.

The four gates built with glass-fiber reinforced concrete (GFRC) have been designed by film director and artist Omung Kumar and might last beyond the next Maha Kumbh, officials said. While the gates developed on the theme of the Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati rivers have been completed and inaugurated by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath during his visit to the Maha Kumbh venue, the fourth gate built on the theme of Lord Shiva is under construction, it is

learnt. "These gates are not merely physical entry points to the city but they represent an intersection of spirituality, geography and cultural identity," said an official.

Those arriving from Lucknow and Ayodhya will enter the city



Tents at the Sangam area for Mahakumbh 2025, in Prayagraj, on Saturday. PTI

from the 'Ganga Dwar' with a mural of Goddess Ganga over it. The gate, officials said, will be the "spiritual gateway" to the city as the river symbolises "purity and redemption". Those arriving from the Varanasi side will enter the city through the "Yamuna Duar, The Entrance of Devotion and Sustenance".

Chitrakoot and Rewa will enter

Also, those arriving from

epaper.indianexpress.com

Prayagraj through Saraswati Dwar, referred to as the "Entrance of Wisdom and Knowledge".

The fourth gate, "Neelkanth Dwar", being built on the theme

arrangements being made for them. **ENS**

of Lord Shiva, is coming up on Mirzapur road.

These gates are about 15-20 km from the focal Sangam point. The murals have been developed as per the mythology. For inseen riding a crocodile, Yamuna a tortoise. The goddess Saraswati is seen seated on a lotus flower while Lord Shiva is sitting next to Nandi (bull). Also, a bronze sculpture of

stance, the goddess Ganga is

Maratha gueen Ahilya Bai Holkar has been made.

Each of these bronze sculptures is worth ₹1.3 to 1.5 crore, said officials. Meanwhile, eightyfive sub-stations have been installed to illuminate the Maha Kumbh area spread over more than 4,000 hectares, officials said.

The officials concerned have estimated the electricity consumption during the 45-day event at ₹30 crore. Nearly 2 lakh units of electricity will be consumed daily, they added.

As many as 52,000 electric poles, 70,000 LED lights and 2,016 solar hybrid lights have been installed in the area. The somain roads, are programmed to automatically turn on in the evening and off in morning. Besides illuminating the common area, the department

will also provide lighting to

lar hybrid lights, placed along the

makeshift residential set-ups and shops at the mela site. Around 1.6 lakh tents and 50,000 shops will come up for

the event, said an official. "According to our estimate, electricity worth around Rs 30

crore will be consumed during

the mega event," said Maha Kumbh Superintendent Engineer Manoj Gupta. To ensure an uninterrupted power supply, more than 5000 personnel, including executive engineers, sub-divisional officers, and junior engineers, from the electricity department and additional ad hoc staff have been

deployed.

AAP MLA died of gunshot from own pistol: Punjab Police

DIVYA GOYAL GOPAL LUDHIANA. JANUARY 11

AAP LEADER and Ludhiana West MLA Gurpreet Bassi Gogi, 57, died of a gunshot wound he sustained when his licensed pistol allegedly went off while he was cleaning it, police said Saturday. He is survived by his wife, a son and a daughter.

Commissioner of Police Kuldeep Singh Chahal said Gogi suffered a gunshot injury to his head. "The bullet pierced Gogi's temple. He was taken to the Dayanand Medical College and Hospital,

7th day of January of the year 2025.

Name of the

Borrower & Branch

Vishnu Truck Body

Builder, Prop: Sanjay

for the amounts and interest thereon

Ashiyana M/s Satyam

Name of the

Account

Sundram Saree

74098700000347

A/c No.:

Kumar

Date: 07.01.2025

Place : Biharsharif

Name

of the

Branch

Nagar

Place : Patna

Date: 08.01.2025

BO: Biharsharif

Mortgagor's

name

Mortgagor:

Bakeshwar

Sharma S/o

Jamuna Misti

Dakshin Bihar Gramin Bank

Regional Office-Patna

Name of the

Borrower

(Owner of

the property

Tibrewal S/o

Sanjay Kuma

Mr. Sumit

Tibrewal

Kumar

where doctors declared him dead on arrival," Chahal said.

According to AAP's Punjab unit chief Aman Arora, the incident took place when Gogi was cleaning his pistol late Friday night at his residence in Ghumar Mandi area. Arora, who met Gogi's grieving family in Ludhiana, said the MLA would clean the pistol everyday. "While he was doing so Friday night, it got fired accidentally and claimed his life," Arora said.

DCP (investigation) Shubham Aggarwal too said that "prima facie, it was an accidental fire from his 25 bore pistol".

DCP Jaskaran Singh Teja said

पंजाब नैशनल बैंक

the incident took place around 11.45 pm and Gogi died by the time he was taken to DMCH. "According to his family, he had attended several meetings during the day. Family said that he was in his room when they heard

Hours before his death, Gogi had held a meeting with Vidhan Sabha Speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan and party's Rajya Sabha member Balbir Singh Seechewal over the issue of cleaning of Buddha Nullah. Gogi hit the headlines last year in August when he demolished the foundation stone of Buddha Nullah reju-

(A Govt. of India Undertaking)

Circle Sastra: Ramchandrapur, Biharsharif, Nalanda

POSSESSION NOTICE

Possession of Notice for Immovable Property in case of one borrower

(For Immovable property)

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Punjab National Bank under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest

Act, 2002 and in exercise of Powers conferred under Section 13 read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice dated 25.10.2024 on calling

upon the Borrower Vishnu Truck Body Builder, Prop: Sanjay Kumar to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 18,40,652.74 (Rupees Eighteen Lakh Forty Thousand Six

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property

described here in below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on this the

The borrower/s in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealing with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of Punjab

Description of Immovable Property

the South by-Mahesh Mahto, On the East by-Ganga Saw, On the West by-Dinesh Sharma.

Equitable Mortgage of registered leased bearing 04.10.2024 08.01.2025

Address of the property

All that part and parcel of the immovable property (Land & Building) covered under sale deed no. 12673

dated 30.12.2015 in the name of Bakeshwar Sharma S/o Jamuna Mistri, situated at mauja-Ranabigha

Thana-Deepnagar, Subdivision Sub registry Biharsharif, District-Nalanda, Tauji-Bihar Sarkar Block 1,

Thana no 95, Halka No. 5, Area-1.0725 decimal. Bounded (As per deed)-On the North by-Jai Kewat, On

POSSESSION NOTICE

(For Immovable property) [Rule 8(1)]

Demand

Notice

Date of

ossession

Notice

affixed

Hundred Fifty-Two and Seventy-Four Paise only) with future interest at the contractual rate on the aforesaid amount together with incidental expenses, cost, charges, etc.

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

National Bank for an amounts of Rs. 18,40,652.74/- with future interest at the contractual rate on the aforesaid amount together with incidental expenses, cost, charges, etc.

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Dakshin Bihar Gramin Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 read with the Security

Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued demand notice/s on the dates mentioned against each account calling upon the respective borrower/s to repay the amount as mentioned against each account within 60 days from the date of notice(s)/ date of receipt of the said notice(s).

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

read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on the dates mentioned against each account. The borrower/s in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealing with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of Dakshin Bihar Gramin Bank

Description of the property mortgaged

Deed No.-3922 Dated 29.05.1990, Tauzi-PMC ward

no. 02, Circle no. 6, Khesra no.- Shop no. 99, Block

B1/B, Mauza-Mourya Lok Complex, Ps-Kotwali

Patna. Area-281.68 sqft. in the name of Sanjay

kumar tibrewal S/o chhedilal tibrewal, At-Dwarika niwas, 34/7 A, kidwaipuri, Oppo. SBI Colony, Patna Bihar 800001. Boundary:-North-7'4" wide covered Corridor, South-Shop no. 98, East-7'4" wide covered

corridor, West-Common toilet.

a gunshot.," added DCP Teja.

venation project that he himself had laid as he was upset over the delay in carrying out the work by the departments concerned.

Gogi's last rites were held at the cremation ground near KVM School in Civil Lines with his son Shavraj Singh Bassi lighting the funeral pyre.

CM Bhagwant Mann, Speaker Sandhwan, AAP MPs Raj Kumar Chabbewal, Seechewal and Sanieev Arora, and Cabinet ministers Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal, Hardeep Singh Mundian, Lal Chand Kataruchak and Tarunpreet Singh Saund were among those who attended the cremation. Former

...the name you can BANK upon !

punjab national bank

Congress MP Mohammad Sadique, former Akali minister Sharaniit Singh Dhillon, and BJP leaders Anil Sareen and Parveen Bansal were also present.

Mann said Gogi has left a void in AAP and in hearts of the people. "He never approached my for any personal task. Whenever he met, he always discussed development plans of his constituency," said Mann. In a post on X, AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal said Gogi was "a leader who served his people with unwavering dedication and compassion". Governor Gulab Chand Kataria too expressed grief.

Jharkhand: Probe on after principal asks 80 girls to remove shirts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA DHANBAD, JANUARY 11

THE PRINCIPAL of a private school in Jharkhand's Dhanbad district was accused of ordering 80 girls of Class 10 to remove their shirts for writing messages on them, prompting the administration to initiate an inquiry, an official said on Saturday.

The incident took place on Friday, said Dhanbad Deputy Commissioner (DC) Madhvi Mishra. The parents complained to the DC that Class 10 students, after completing their exam, were celebrating 'pen day' by writing messages on each others' shirts.

an, objected to the celebration and asked the students to remove their shirts, even though they sought an apology. All students were sent back home in their blazers without the shirts, the parents told the DC.

The principal, who is a wom-

"Several guardians lodged complaints against the principal. We also talked to some of the victim girls. A committee has been set up to investigate," Mishra said. Despite repeated attempts,

the principal could not be reached for comment. Jharia MLA Ragini Singh also accompanied the parents to the DC's office Saturday. Singh described the incident as "shameful and unfortunate".

activist in Udupi for comments on Mahatma Gandhi

FIR against

Bengaluru: The Udupi Town police in Karnataka have booked one Meenakshi Sehrawat, who describes herself as cultural orator on her Instagram profile, for allegedly causing public mischief through false statements in connection with a speech at an event in Udupi on January 4 where she had questioned the Mahatma Gandhi's contribution to India.

Sehrawat was booked under sections 353(2) and (3) of the BNS The administrator of the Udupi Adanaru Mutt, Govinda Nagaraju who had organised the event, was also booked. As per the FIR on January 5 based on a complaint by Sub-Inspector Punith Kumar of Udupi town police station, Shaharawat during her speech on "Lessons from Bangla" questioned the title of 'Father of the Nation' ac corded to Gandhi. She said that Gandhi advocated the principle of non-violence to weaken Hindus police sources said

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE No. EL/50/13/2024-25 Dt. 09.01.2025 President of India invites E-Tender for the following work up to 15.00Hrs. on the mention date, 1. Tender No. 382000.00 5. Date & Time of Closing of

Dy.CEE(W), NWR, Ajmer on behalf of The EL/50/13/2024-25 2. Name of Work Repair, Servicing and overhauling of Greaves Cotton make Diesel Alternator Set 500kVA, 750V in Power Cars during POH at carriage workshop Aimer. 3. Approximate Cost : Rs. 46398383.68 4. Earnest Money : Rs. E-Tender: 18.01.2025 at 11.00 Hrs. Date & Time of Opening of E-Tender 18.01.2025 at 11.30 Hrs. 6. The details of above E-Tender is available on website: www.ireps.gov.in ollow us on 🔢 🖸 🖸 /NWRailways 🕿 NWRailways_

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

CISF proudly remembers the supreme sacrifice of this brave-heart. On this day, he laid down his life at the altar of duty at Rajhara Magazine, Durg, Chhattisgarh. His courage and bravery would remain an abiding source of inspiration for the force. The force will remain eternally indebted to him for this noblest deed.

A tribute to Brave Heart

12th January 1983

HC/GD CHHEDI LAL

BSP BHILAI

CENTRAL SLIVER PLANT KHADI AND VILLAGE INDUSTRIES COMMISSION Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (Govt. of India) Ichhawar Road Sehore (MP) - 466001 DATE-10.01.2025

CSP/MP/TENDER/2024-25

E-TENDER NOTICE Central Sliver Plant, KVIC Ichhawar Road, Sehore (M.P.)

portal (https://www.gem.gov.in) & KVIC website (https://www.kvic.org.in). Dy Director

invites e-tenders for Manpower Supply. Interested bidders may be

participated in tender (Tender ID-GEM/2025/B/5805922) from GeM

Outstanding

Rs. 18,40,652.74/-

with future interest at the

contractual rate on the aforesaid

amount together with incidental

expenses, cost, charges, etc.

Authorized Officer

Punjab National Bank

Office of the Superintending Engineer

3rd Circle P.W.D. Pithoragarh. , E-mail: sepwdpth@rediffmail.com

Dated: 08/01/2025

Letter No. 23 / 962C(Yata-C)-03/2025

National Competetive E- Tender Notice

The Superintending Engineer, 3rd Circle, Public Works Department, Pithoragarh invites tender through E-Tendering (Two Bid System) on behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Uttarakhand for following works. All other information will be available online from date 15-01-2025 at 5.00 PM onward on website http://www.uktenders.gov.in.

S. No.	Name of Work		Tender (in Lac)	of Tender (day)	Completion (months)	Contractor's category of registration
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
T.D.	PWD Berinag	JI		· · · · · · · · //		
1	Improvement and asphalting work of Lakhtoli-Nayal motor road under Gangolihat constituency of Pithoragarh district under state plan.	4.30	5000.00 + 18% GST	120	12	Category 'B' and Above for Road works in State Govt./Govt. of India/ Govt. undertaking.
2	Construction work of Khuriyagaon- Jikhedi-Pasdev-Oliyagaon motor road from km 4 of Ganai Bankot motor road in Gangolihat constituency of Pithoragarh district under state plan. (Second phase stage-2).	4.26	5000.00 + 18% GST	120	12	Category 'B' and Above for Road works in State Govt./Govt. of India/ Govt. undertaking.
3	Extension work of motor road from Reeth Raitoli to Muwaani under Berinag development block of Gangolihat constituency of Pithoragarh district under state plan (Second phase-stage-2).		5000.00 + 18% GST	120	12	Category 'B' and Above for Road works in State Govt./Govt. of India/ Govt. undertaking.

ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग

बिहार 🌋 सरकार

सहायक अभियंता (असैनिक) के पदों पर संविदा के आधार पर नियोजन

सामान्य प्रशासन विभाग के संकल्प जापांक-1003 दिनांक-22.01.2021 में निहित शर्तों एवं प्रक्रियाओं के अधीन ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग के अन्तर्गत सहायक अभियंता (असैनिक) के रिक्त पदों के विरूद्ध सहायक अभियंता (असैनिक) को संविदा के आधार पर अस्थायी नियोजन हेत् वैसे सुयोग्य उम्मीदवार, जो भारत के नागरिक है. से विहित प्रपत्र में Online आवेदन आमंत्रित किया जाता है।

कुल पद:— 231 (दो सौ इकत्तीस)

कोटिवार कुल आरक्षण रिक्तियाँ / महिलाओं को 35% क्षैतिज आरक्षण आर्थिक गैर पिछडा अनुसूचित अनुसूचित रूप से अत्यन्त पिछडा वर्ग | पिछडा वर्ग आरक्षित वर्ग की कमजोर जनजाति महिला वर्ग वर्ग 23 92

सामान्य प्रशासन विभाग के संकल्प सं0-963. दिनांक-20.01.2018 एवं पत्रांक 2342 दिनांक 15.02.2016 के आलोक में महिलाओं को 35% क्षैतिज आरक्षण के तहत निम्न पद अनुमान्य है:--

(i) अनुसूचित जाति (म0)- 13

(ii) अनुसूचित जनजाति (म0)- 00 (iii) अत्यन्त पिछडा वर्ग (म0)- 15

(iv) पिछडा वर्ग (मo)- 10

(v) आर्थिक रूप से कमजोर वर्ग (म0)- 08 (vi) गैर आरक्षित वर्ग (म0)- 32

लिए सर्वाधिकार धारित करता है।

PR. No. 016945 (RWD) 2024-25

सामान्य प्रशासन विभाग के परिपत्र संख्या-2528, दिनांक-18.02.2016 के आलोक में बिहार राज्य के वैसे रवतंत्रता सेनानियों जिन्हें केन्द्र सरकार द्वारा पेंशन खीकत है. के पोता / पोती / नाती / नतीनी को 02% बैतिज आरक्षण तथा संकल्प सं0-962 दिनांक 22.01.2021 द्वारा दिव्यागंजन अधिकार अधिनियमन, 2016 के आलोक में दिव्यांगता से ग्रस्त जम्मीदवार को क्षैतिज आरक्षण नियमानुसार देय होगा।

आरक्षण:- राज्य सरकार के आरक्षण नीति का पालन किया जायेगा। इसमें आदर्श रोस्टर का अनुपालन किया

मानदेय:-- रू० ८०.००० / -- प्रतिमाह देय होगा । उसमें समय-समय पर संशोधन किया जा सकेगा । शैक्षणिक योग्यता:-

किसी भारतीय विश्वविद्यालय से सिविल अभियंत्रण में डिग्रींघारी हो अथवा किसी भारतीय अभियंत्रण महाविद्यालय से सिविल अभियंत्रण में सिविल अभियंत्रण के लिए डिप्लोमाधारी हो।

अभियंत्रण संस्थान भारत का सह-सदस्य हो अथवा अभियंताओं के संस्थान (मारत) से प्रशाखा "अ" और "आ" में उत्तीर्ण हुआ हो अथवा अभियंताओं के संस्थान (भारत) द्वारा प्रस्वीकृत संस्थान से प्रशाखा "अ" और "आ" के समतुल्य परीक्षा में उत्तीर्ण होकर अन्य उपाधि प्राप्त की हो। (iii) युनाईटेड किंगडम के किसी अभियंत्रण महाविद्यालय से विश्वविद्यालय डिग्रीधारी या डिप्लोमाधारी हो

अथवा यथा स्थिति सिविल अभियंताओं के संस्थान का सह—सदस्य हो। उम्र सीमा:- दिनांक 01.01.2025 को न्यूनतम 21 वर्ष होनी चाहिए। अधिकतम आयु राज्य सरकार (सामान्य

प्रशासन विभाग) के द्वारा समय-समय पर आरक्षण कोटिवार विनिश्चित उम्र सीमा के अन्तर्गत होनी चाहिए। नियोजन अवधि:- संविदा के आधार पर नियोजन की अवधि, नियोजन की तिथि से एक वर्ष के लिए अथवा बिहार लोक सेवा आयोग की अनुशंसोपरान्त नियमित नियुक्ति होने तक (जो पहले हो) होगी।

चयन की प्रक्रिया:- दिनांक 01.01.2025 को वैध GATE (Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering)

Score के आधार पर चयन किया जायेगा। Online आयेदन दिनांक 14,01,2025 से 03,02,2025 के अपराहन 03:00 बजे तक स्वीकार होगें। Online

आवेदन के उपरान्त अभ्यर्थी आवेदन का फाईनल प्रिंट निकाल कर रख लेंगे और भविष्य में किसी भी प्रकार के पत्राचार हेत् आवेदन पत्र में अंकित निबंधन संख्या का उल्लेख करेंगे। विज्ञापन एवं शतौँ से संबंधित सभी अधिकार विभाग के अधीन है। विभाग विज्ञापन को संशोधित / रद्द करने के

12. विस्तृत जानकारी हेत् विभागकीय वेबसाईट https://rwdbihar.gov.in/(https://

biharbhumi.bihar.gov.in/RWDAEGate/) का अवलोकन किया जाय। इस वेबसाईट पर Online आवेदन करने का Link उपलब्ध है।

(कुमार अनिल सिन्हा) सरकार के संयुक्त सचिव

उक्त सूचना www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar पर भी देखी जा सकती है।

रक्त की आवश्यकता पड़ने पर लाईसेन्स प्राप्त रक्त केन्द्रों से ही रक्त प्राप्त करें

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

Authorized Officer Dakshin Bihar Gramin Bank

Region Office Patna

standing as

per demand

notice.

Rs. 5633424/-

The last date for submission and opening of tender specification no 04/EE(E&M)/Maneri Dam/2024-25 Name of work: SITC of Electro-hydraulic Thruster brakes assembly and their spares for various gates of Maneri Dam invited by Executive

पत्रांक सं. 16 TENDER TIME EXTENSION NOTICE दिनांक 10.01.2025

Engineer (E&M), Maneri Dam, Maneri, Uttarkashi is hereby extended as Last date of submission of documents in original - 22:01,2025 at 16:00 hrs.

Last date for opening of tender -27.01.2025 at 11:30 hrs. All other terms & conditions will remain unchanged. For fuller & further details, kindly visit nigam website. The tender

documents can be downloded from the Nigam's website "www.ujvnl.com" Executive Engineer (E&M)

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"



OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

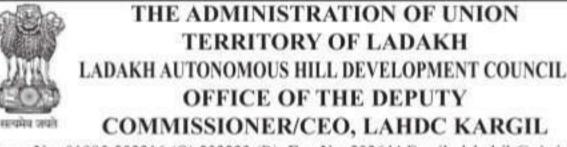
CENTRAL GOODS & SERVICES TAX. GOVERNMENT OF INDIA BLOCK 'C' & 'D', NEW C.G.O. COMPLEX, GST BHAWAN, NH-IV, NIT, FARIDABAD (HR) "PENSION ADALAT"

Central GST Commissionerate Faridabad, Government of India will hold

"Pension Adalat" on 22.01.2025 (Wednesday) at 12:00 Noon for redressal of grievances of Pensioners of erstwhile Central Excise & Service Tax Commissionerate, Faridabad - I, II & CGST Commissionerate, Faridabad, Venue: Conference Hall, O/o Commissioner CGST Commissionerate

Faridabad, Block - 'D' New CGO Complex, NH-IV, NIT, Faridabad, -SD/

> COMMISSIONER (Central Goods & Services Tax, Faridabad)



Phone No: 01985-232216 (O) 232222 (R), Fax No. 232644 Email: dckgl-jk@nic.in

Request for Empanelment

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor, UT of Ladakh, Request for empanelment is invited from approved and eligible contractors /Firms for Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of sewage Treatment plant in various Hotels and Guest Houses of District Kargil. The tender documents may be seen and downloaded from https://tenders.ladakh.gov.in. The tender documents should be submitted online

Bid submission start date 10-01-2025 9.00am 20-01-2025 at 2:00 PM Bid submission End date

The place of opening of e-bids: Tel. 01985-232216 Deputy Commissioner / CEO

Sd/

Zakir Hussain Accounts Officer to Deputy Commissioner/CEO LAHDC, Kargil

PROVISION OF 7835 KWP GRID CONNECTED ROOFTOP SOLAR POWER PLANT

Tender Notice No.: RNY-EL-T-09 2024-25-RT, Dated: 09-01-2025; E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work; Name of Work: At Rangiya Division - Provision of 7835 KWp Grid connected rooftop Solar Power plant including 5 years AMC/CAMC at residential buildings in Rangiya division. Advertised Value: ₹35,51,46,603.70/-Earnest Money: ₹19,25,700/-; Date & time of closing of tender at 13:00 hrs. on 07-02-2025 and opening on 07-02-2025 after closing. For details please visit in the website www.ireps.gov.in

Sr. DEE, Rangiya NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY Serving Customers With A Smile

📦 EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY 🍘 E-TENDER NOTICE e-tender Notice No. 40 of 2024-25 (Open)-

Engg/DDU. On line (through e-tendering) for the following work is invited by DRM/Engg/DDU for and on behalf of the President of India from experienced and financially as well as technically sound contractors including those enlisted with the Railway, CPWD, BSNL, MES, PWD and other public sector undertakings :-Tender No. 15-DDU-SR DEN-I-24-25.

Name of work with its location : TRR/P-3.21 km & TFR-48.19km under ADEN/2/ DDU. 2. Advertised Value : ₹1,79,78,853.78, 3. Earnest Money : ₹2,39,900.00, 4. Closing Date & time for submission of e-tender 31.01.2025, Up-to 12:00 hrs. 5 Website particulars of e-tendering www.ireps.gov.in

Divisional Railway Manageri ECR/Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya PR/01899/DDU/Engg./T/24-25/32

RO-NO-242505270/3



Earnest Cost of Validity Period of

MUMBAI RAILWAY VIKAS CORPORATION LTD.

INVITATION FOR TENDER- MRVC/W/301-R1/OHE/KYN-BUD (Two Envelope e-Procurement Tender Process)

Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation Ltd. (MRVC) having its corporate office at Second Floor, Churchgate Station Building, Mumbai-400020, invites e-Tenders for the "Design, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of OHE work for removal of infringement in Kalyan-Badlapur Section (Chainage 54800-69400) and construction of Chikhloli station in connection with proposed 3rd and 4th line between Kalyan-Badlapur station of Mumbai Division Central Railway under MUTP-Phase 3A in Two Lots". Details of Tender and Tender document are available on e-procurement website https://www.eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app The last date for completed e-Tender submission at website https://www.eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app is 29.01.2025 up to 12:30

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 CrPC

hours. Corrigendum, if any, will be posted on the website only.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person Fateh Ali S/o Akram Ali R/o H. No. C-103, Street No. 10, Multani Danda, Paharganj, New Delhi also at Ward No 18, Sanjay Nagar, Madrasa Mohalla, Raisen, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in FIR No. 162/2019, U/S 420/419/34 IPC, P.S. Prasad Nagar, New Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Fateh Ali cannot be found, and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Fateh Ali has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant);

Proclamation is hereby made that Fateh Ali the said accused of FIR No. 162/2019, U/S 420/419/34 IPC, P.S. Prasad Nagar, New Delhi, is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 11.02.2025.

DP/517/CD/2025 (Court Matter)

Sh. Karanbir Singh Judicial Magistrate First Class-02, Room No. 26, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

जिला दक्षिण बस्तर दन्तेवाड़ा (छ०ग०)

By Order



Phone & Fax No. 9406470178, क्रमांक/२९३८/डी.एम.एफ./निविदा/२०२४-२५ दन्तेवाड़ा,

E-Mail address-ddvsdant.cg@nic.in

// Short Term TENDER NOTICE//

दिनांक :- 01/01/2025

क्षीर सागर दुग्ध संग्रहण केन्द्र हेत् निविदा निमार्ता फर्मों अथवा उनके अधिकृत संस्था से मोहरबंद निविदा आमांत्रित की जाती है। निविदा प्रपत्र की प्राप्ति के लिए आवेदन पत्र प्रस्तुत करे निविदा के लिए 750.00 (अक्षरी सात सौ पच्चास रू मात्र) नगद या बैंक ड्राफ्ट के माध्यम से भुगतान कर 03 जनवरी 2025 से कार्यालयीन दिवस एवं कार्यालयीन समय में प्राप्त किया जा सकता है। डाक से निविदा प्रपत्र प्राप्त करने हेंतु डाक व्यय रुपए 200.00 (अक्षरी दो सौ मात्र) की अतिरिक्त भुगतान करना होगा। निविदा प्रपत्र क्रय की देय राशि वापसी योग्य नहीं होगी।

निविदा का विवरण:- 1- Instant Chilling System(IBT), 2- Milk Pasteuriser Servicing, 3- Milk Homogeniser Servicing, 4- Cold Room Servicing, 5- Packing Machine Servicing, 6- Boiler Servicing, 7- Holding in Tube for Curd 6 min., 8- Water Chiller, 9- Skid Mounted Paneer Plant Cap 300 LPH, 10- Inter Connecting S.S. Pipe Line, 11- Inter Connecting MS Pipe Line निविदा प्रपत्र प्राप्त करने की अंतिम निविदा प्रपत्र जमा करने की अंतिम निविदा का प्रकार

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निविदा से संबंधित समस्त जानकारी हेतु जिले के वेबसाईट dantewada.nic.in का अवलोकन कर सकते है एवं निविदा प्रपत्र डाउनलोड की जा सकती है। हस्ता./-उपसंचालक पशु चिकित्सा सेवायें

epaper.indianexpress.com

Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Kargil

Hyderabad: Five youth, including two brothers, drowned in Konda Pochamma Sagar reservoir in Siddipet district of Telangana on Saturday, police said. Seven people, including three minors, from Hyderabad, were visiting the reservoir on Saturday. All of them ventured into the reservoir, but only two returned to the bank. One of the five skidded off and the others tried to save him but all of them drowned, the police said.

RAJASTHAN

3 held in Barmer for thrashing Dalit man

Jaipur: Three people were arrested after a Dalit man was allegedly tied upside down from a tree and beaten up in Barmer district, police said on Saturday. A video of the incident surfaced online on Saturday following which a case was registered against five to six people under the SC/ST Act, 1989, a police officer said. Preliminary investigations suggest that the accused blamed the victim, Shrawan Meghwal for being involved in theft. Meghwal has filed a complaint in the matter, said SHO Gudamalani Mukta Pareek. **ENS**

MANIPUR

Hmar militant held, explosives recovered

Imphal: A team of Manipur police and 38 Assam Rifles arrested an active cadre of Hmar People's Convention (Democratic) along with explosives in the Jiribam district. Police said the cadre was arrested Thursday from Barak river bank under the jurisdiction of the Borobekra police station. The arrested cadre, Lalchuoilo (48), is a resident of Lungthulien village, Pherzawl district. The forces recovered 20 explosive sticks, 11 detonators and 44 soap cases containing brown powder suspected to be a narcotic substance weighing 457 gm, police said.

MADHYA PRADESH 12-year-old girl gangraped in Damoh

Damoh: A 12-year-old girl was allegedly raped by three men while she was heading for a birthday party in Madhya Pradesh's Damoh district, police said on Saturday. The police are on the lookout for the accused involved in the assault that took place on Thursday evening, an official said. PTI

FIVE STILL TRAPPED IN RATHOLE MINE IN DIMA HASAO DISTRICT

Assam mine deaths: As three more bodies retrieved, a political war of words ensues

SUKRITA BARUAH GUWAHATI, JANUARY 11

THE BODIES of three more men were recovered from the flooded rathole mine in Assam's Dima Hasao district on Saturday, five days after they got trapped. A total of four bodies have been recovered in rescue operations since Tuesday, and at least five more miners continue to be trapped though chances of survival are slim.

The Dima Hasao police have arrested one more person in connection with the incident. On Tuesday, an individual named Punish Nunisa was arrested and on Thursday Abdul Ganan Laskar was taken into custody. Superintendent of Police, Dima Hasao, Mayank Kumar said the

High-level panel

to probe matter,

Eastern Railway

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

A PORTION OF an under-con-

struction building at the Kannauj

railway station in Uttar Pradesh

collapsed on Saturday afternoon,

trapping around two dozen

workers under the rubble, a sen-

ior official said. A rescue opera-

tion was launched swiftly to

evacuate those trapped under

the debris after a ceiling slab col-

lapsed while work was under-

way on a two-storeyed building,

24 of the trapped workers were

so far, including four who suf-

fered injuries. The rescue opera-

tion is still ongoing," said District

Magistrate (DM) Shubhrant

the workers who are trapped. We

are using all resources at our dis-

posal for the rescue," Shukla, who

"Our first priority is to rescue

rescued and taken to hospital.

By Saturday evening, at least

"We have rescued 24 people

the official said.

Kumar Shukla.

LUCKNOW, JANUARY 11

says North

arrested men were operators of this particular mine.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma had first said that the mine "prima facie appears to be an illegal one". On Friday night, he said that the mine had been run by the state govern-Assam Mineral ment's Development Corporation (AMDC) and had been abandoned 12 years ago.

"It was not an illegal mine but an abandoned one," he said, adding that the mining operation during which the incident took place was being conducted illegally. Dima Hasao has widespread coal, limestone and granite quarrying activities, and the coal reserves of Umrangso have been leased by the AMDC.

Opposition parties questioned how illegal mining activities could

4 injured, 24 workers rescued after part of

building collapses at Kannauj rly station

be conducted there without the knowledge of local authorities. Assam Congress leader and Lok Sabha MP Gaurav Gogoi Saturday wrote to the Prime Minister demanding the constitution of an SIT to probe the incident and the persistence of rathole mining despite being banned by the National Green Tribunal in 2014.

"The SIT should not only look into the illegal operation of the mine and identify those responsible for this tragedy, but it must also address the broader issues at play. This includes the failure to enforce the NGT's ban on rathole mining, and the complicity of local authorities – including the district administration and district police – who have enabled these illegal activities to persist... The investigation should expand its scope to identify and map out other illegal mining sites across Karbi Anglong, Dima Hasao and Upper Assam, where these activities continue unabated," Gogoi

The Congress has also alleged

the involvement of Debolal Gorlosa, the Chief Executive Member of the Dima Hasao Autonomous Council from the BJP, and his wife in illegal mining activities in the region. Dima Hasao district is a tribal majority district administered through provisions under the 6th Schedule of the Indian Constitution, with an autonomous council with limited powers. Gorlosa heads this autonomous council. Two members of the district Congress unit filed the police complaint.

SP Mayank Kumar said, "A case has already been registered

in connection with this particular incident in which two people have been arrested. An FIR has not been registered against this particular complaint, and it is currently in the enquiry stage."

Gorlosa called the allegations a "political attack." "The allegations are by Congress people, they are trying to target me and the BIP. The court had banned rathole mining so many years ago, if someone has gone and entered the mine illegally, what is the government's fault in this? The enquiry is happening, we are not stopping it," he told *The Indian*

When Sarma was asked on Friday night about allegations of Gorlosa's involvement, he said, "It has not come up in the investigation. This is a human tragedy, we should not politicise it."

2 killed, 6 injured in mishap at construction site in Chhattisgarh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA RAIPUR, JANUARY11

TWO WORKERS were killed and six injured when a centring frame collapsed during the laying of a slab at an under-construction building in Raipur on Saturday, police said.

The incident occurred in the Vishal Nagar area around 3.30 pm. A slab was being laid on the eighth floor of the building when the centring frame crashed and fell on the ground, said Raipur Additional SP Lakhan Patle. Of the six injured, the condition of one is stated to be serious.

The project belongs to a real estate firm, which has announced a compensation of ₹10 lakh to kin of each deceased, officials said.

Silo crash toll rises to 4

The bodies of three workers — Jayant Sahu (35), Prakash Yadav (20) and Awdhesh Kashyap (32) were recovered on Saturday from the debris of a collapsed iron silo at a smelting plant in Chhattisgarh's Mungeli district after a 42-hour operation, officials said. On Thursday, a labourer — Manoj Kumar Dhritlahre (35) was killed after the fly ash storage weighing over 350 tonnes crashed.

The stretch was situated at an al-

inally started by the Border Roads Organisation in 2012. While the BRO awarded the construction contract to the Tunnelway Ltd, the project was later taken over by NHIDCL. In 2019, the NHIDCL re-

tendered the project and the contract was bagged by the APCO Infratech, which executed the project under APCO-Shri Amarnathji Tunnel Private Limited. While the project was expected to be completed by August 2023, it was delayed.

was carried out in February last year but the UT's Assembly elections delayed the project's official

"Visited Sonmarg today to re-

Abdullah said in his post on X. In his response, the PM said he

Security personnel near the Z-Morh tunnel on Saturday, ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's scheduled visit to Jammu and Kashmir's Ganderbal district on January 13. PTI

PM to open Z-Morh tunnel, which provides all-weather access to Sonamarg, tomorrow

BASHAARAT MASOOD SRINAGAR, JANUARY 11

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi is all set to inaugurate the Z-Morh tunnel Monday. The tunnel is a critical infrastructure project that will not only provide all-weather connectivity to the famous tourist resort of Sonamarg but will also help connect Kashmir and Ladakh throughout the year. A6.4-km bi-directional tunnel

with an approach road of 5.6 km, Z-Morh joins Gagangir in Ganderbal with Sonamarg health resort, which will help to boost winter tourism. Security has been beefed up

throughout Kashmir, especially around the tunnel project and the Ganderbal district, for the PM's visit — his first since an elected government came to power in the Union Territory last October. The same month, militants struck the project site, killing seven workers. Developed by National

Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL), the Z-Morh is a 6.412 km-long tunnel that connects Sonamarg with Kangan town in the central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. Constructed near Gagangir village near Sonamarg, a famous tourist destination on the Srinagar-Leh highway, the tunnel will provide allweather connectivity to it as well as Ladakh, which is important for strategic and military reasons.

Z-Morh has acquired its name for the Z-shaped road stretch that was previously at the place where the tunnel is being constructed.

titude of over 8,500 feet and was prone to snow avalanches in the winter, thus closing the Sonamarg road for most part of the winter. Meanwhile, the construction

of the Zoji-la Tunnel, which connects Sonamarg in Kashmir to Drass in Ladakh, is still underway and is expected to be completed by December 2026. The Z-Morh project was orig-

The soft-opening of the tunnel

inauguration.

view preparations for PM Narendra Modi ji's visit on Monday. The inauguration of the Z-morh tunnel will open Sonmarg to tourism all year round Sonmarg will now be developed as a great ski resort. The local population will not have to leave in winter & the travel time to Kargil/Leh from Srinagar will also reduce," Chief Minister Omar

was "eagerly awaiting" his visit.

DEFAMATORY REMARKS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Kerala actor says will take legal action against activist

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA KOCHI, JANUARY 11

A MALAYALAM film actress, who accused businessman Boby Chemmanur of sexual harassment, Saturday said she will take legal action against activist Rahul Easwar for his allegedly defamatory and intimidatory remarks against her on social media.

The actor said that she and her family were under immense mental pressure and one of the persons responsible for it was Easwar. She accused him of creating an "organised crime operation" in the cyber domain to

water down the seriousness of her complaint to the police against Chemmanur and to turn public opinion against her.

reached the spot along with other

senior officials to oversee the res-

undergoing treatment at the

hospital, and doctors said that

their condition is stable. The oth-

ers were discharged after med-

jured are receiving "proper med-

ical treatment". In a statement,

the North Eastern Railway said

that the ex gratia compensation

for the injured workers has been

increased to ₹50,000 for those

A Railway official said the in-

The four injured persons are

cue operation, added.

ical aid.

The actor, in a Facebook post, claimed that Easwar's repeated acts against her were responsible for the instances of cyber-bullying as well as defamatory and intimidatory remarks she was facing. She alleged that his actions

were not only causing her emotional distress, they were an attempt to push her towards suicide and amounted to encroaching upon her fundamental rights. Easwar had recently made

some remarks about the manner in which she dressed in public.

Court relaxes Allu Arjun's bail norms, grants permission to travel abroad

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA HYDERABAD, JANUARY 11

Rescue operation underway at the construction site at Kannauj railway station, Saturday. PTI

with minor injuries and ₹2.5 lakh

A three-member high-level

for those with serious injuries.

committee to investigate the in-

cident, said Pankaj Kumar Singh,

Chief Public Relation Officer

prise Chief Engineer (Planning &

Design), the Additional

Divisional Railway Manager

(Izzatnagar) and the Chief

Security Commissioner (Railway

Protection Force). "It will be part

of the investigation to check un-

der which plan the construction

The inquiry team will com-

(North Eastern Railway).

IN A major relief to actor Allu Arjun, a court here has relaxed the conditions of his bail in the *Pushpa* 2 stampede case, exempting him from appearing before the investigating officer every Sunday.

The court also permitted him to travel abroad to specified countries, with the condition that he must undertake to appear before the SHO of the Chikkadpally police station as and when required. He has been directed to inform

the SHO of his travel schedule for each trip and provide details of his place of stay in the country until the chargesheet is filed.



at the railway station was going

Soon after being informed of

on and also how the incident oc-

the incident, local MLA and state

minister Asim Arun reached the

spot and supervised the rescue

occurred when the lintel of the

under-construction two-storey

building suddenly collapsed. He

added that since the area was

open, it is believed that several

labourers managed to escape

when the structure gave way.

DM Shukla said the incident

curred," said Singh.

operation.

Pushpa 2 actor also exempted from appearing before IO every Sunday

The other bail conditions remain unchanged, the court noted in its order dated January 10.

The court's decision followed a petition filed by the actor seeking relaxation of the bail conditions. Previously, while granting

regular bail to Allu Arjun on January 3, the court had instructed him to appear before the investigating officer every Sunday between 10 am and 1 pm for two months or until the filing of the chargesheet, whichever is earlier.

He was also barred from leaving the country without prior court permission. Additionally, the court had directed the actor to cooperate with the inquiry and refrain from interfering with the ongoing investigation.

Allu Arjun was arrested on December 13 in connection with the stampede case and released on bail on December 14. A 35year-old woman died, and her eight-year-old son was injured in the stampede on December 4.

Nitesh Rane's EVM remark which our country can progress...' **EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** Rane, while speaking at an

'Shocking': Tharoor slams

PUNE, JANUARY 11

A DAY after Maharashtra Minister Nitesh Rane stoked controversy by saying that the full form of EVM is "every vote against mullah", Congress MP Shashi Tharoor condemned it saying Rane's statement was "quite shocking".

Speaking to news agency ANI, Tharoor said, "This kind of thing is quite shocking... I must say that people picking on any one community, whether it's against Muslims, Hindus, Christians, or any caste, that is all wrong. We are all equal individual citizens of India, and that is the only basis on

event in Sangli on Friday, had said, "The Opposition is blaming the EVMs (for the defeat in Maharashtra Assembly elections). But we have won on EVMs. Our EVM means every vote against mullah... Our responsibility is to protect those who brought the saffron government to power in Maharashtra. The state has Hindutva government in place.

Pakistan... I have become an MLA on Hindu votes," Rane said. Not new to controversies Rane had called Kerala "mini Pakistan" at a rally in Pune last December.

"This is the land of Hindus... Words

like 'Bhaichara' should be used in

Pass resolution against draft UGC regulations, Cong tells Kerala CM

SHAJU PHILIP THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JANUARY 11

KERALA'S CONGRESS-LED Opposition Saturday urged the Pinarayi Vijayan government to pass a resolution against the draft University Grants Commission regulations, 2025, which envisages — among other things – supreme power for governors in the selection of university vice-chancellors.

In a letter to the chief minister, Leader of Opposition VD Satheesan said the draft regulations of the UGC were revised with the purpose of misusing the universities for political agenda. "The draft shows that V-Cs cannot be selected independently and impartially," he said. This comes days after

Vijayan's own criticism of the draft regulations. "Kerala should explore alternative measures to select VCs as



Leader of Opposition V D Satheesan

part of the fight against any move that will adversely affect the higher education sector. It would be fitting if the state assembly passed a resolution against the draft regulations of the UGC. I request you to take the initiative," the letter said.

"There is no doubt that giving excessive powers to the chancellor in the formation of the search committee will pave the way for appointment of nominees of the BIP-ruled Centre as V-Cs in Kerala. This will

aggravate the prevailing crisis in the state's higher education sector," the Congress leader said. The UGC, the letter said, had

revised the draft regulations with the agenda of misusing the universities, which should be independent, for political interest. On January 9, Vijayan said the

regulations were part of an "agenda to totally abolish the rights of states in the field of higher education". This row comes two years af-

ter the Kerala Assembly passed a Bill that envisaged removing the governor as the chancellor of universities in Kerala in the wake of recurring clashes with the then governor Arif Mohammed Khan. The Bill, which is yet to get the assent of the President, wanted eminent academicians to be made chancellors. The Congress had backed the Bill but wanted retired judges of the Supreme Court or the high court to be made the chancellor. Government did not

heed to the demand.

'UGC draft rules are dictatorial…destroys federalism' AMID THE row over the **University Grants Commission** (UGC)'s draft regulations 2025, the Tamil Nadu Assembly has unanimously passed a resolu-

tion, urging the BJP-led Central government to withdraw it. The resolution, moved by Chief Minister M K Stalin, charged that the UGC's draft rules, which propose to give the Governor broader powers to appoint Vice-Chancellors in universities in states, are against federalism and the interest of the state's higher

Tamil Nadu Higher Education Minister **GOVI CHEZIAN**, in an interview with **NIKHILA HENRY**, says that if the Centre does not roll back the UGC regulations, the DMK dispensation would take "legal recourse" and hold "people's protests". Excerpts:

education sector.

Why is Tamil Nadu opposed to the UGC's draft regulations for appointment of leaders in higher education?

Tamil Nadu ranks first in India in higher education. Its steps such as reservation for rural students, government spending for educa-

epaper.indianexpress.com

tion of first generation graduates, banning of entrance examinations — all these contributed to Tamil Nadu's good performance in higher education. The new UGC guidelines is an affront to the strides that Tamil Nadu has made in the education field. The UGC...it is true that we have to abide by their rules, it is the duty of the state to abide by its rules and laws... but to impose it is wrong.

What are the points in the draft regulations that you find contentious?

The UGC says it will give an additional member to the already existing three-member committee to select a Vice-Chancellor and that this member will be nominated by the Chancellor or the Governor. The Tamil Nadu government knows it is a stumbling block. The UGC wants to vest more powers with the Governor.

Nadu syllabus under the leader-On the other hand, the UGC has proposed entrance exams to even study BA, BSc, BCom, or MA, MSc, MCom courses. These steps are equal to breaking the infrastructure of a state that has a proper set-up in place. The Tamil





Govi Chezian TAMIL NADU HIGHER **EDUCATION MINISTER**

ship of our Chief Minister will improve higher education, but UGC's rules or policies will be against our students who study as per state syllabus. This is a dictatorial imposition, against democracy, which destroys federalism. So Tamil

Nadu condemns and opposes it.

the state is opposing the UGC move because it is ruled by an Opposition party (DMK). We are not against it (UGC reg-

But there are those who say

ulations) for the sake of opposing it. We go by the comments and feedback of experts in this field and have passed a resolution in the state Assembly against the imposition of new rules by the UGC.

How different is Tamil Nadu's education system from the rest of the country?

As far as higher education is concerned, the state's present syllabus is strong and takes students in the right direction. For that reason, universities like Anna University are doing well. By higher education we don't mean only arts and science or engineering. Even in medicine, Tamil Nadu has high standards. That is because the basic educational infrastructure is right.

Is Tamil Nadu against any other policy of the UGC?

If the UGC gives us something

will definitely follow it. But the UGC is imposing rules that are meant to take us back in terms of progress — and issues threats saying it wouldn't give us UG courses if we don't abide by it This is dictatorial. Even in Assembly, all parties except the BIP supported the resolution. BIP walked out. This gives room to doubts that UGC is under the BJP.

better than what we have, we

role in higher education? In Tamil Nadu, the government does everything for ap-

Why is TN against Governor's

pointment of V-Cs including appointing a committee for it. But the Governor doesn't approve them. Today, there's a situation where several universities do not have V-Cs. That is why we are in consultation with experts including legal experts to see what can be done. We are planning to take action. The resolution passed by the TN Assembly exhorts the Centre to withdraw it (UGC regulations) when it's still a draft proposal. If not, this will turn into a people's protest. We will even pursue a legal route against it.

Across THEAISLE



PCHIDAMBARAM Website: pchidambaram.in

Twitter@Pchidambaram_IN

Times have changed — for the worse. Under the present dispensation, governors are political appointees rewarded for loyalty to the RSS/BJP's ideology or trusted retired civil servants. In Oppositionruled states, the governor is instructed to act as the Viceroy of the central government and to shackle the state government. In effect, there is a Dyarchy in the states: the elected government and the

unelected governor

Vice chancellors will become viceroys

PRACTICALLY ALL governments crave more power and make laws to give themselves more control and more authority. It is because the rulers believe they alone know what is good for the country and the people. Some individuals have the same complex. It is called the 'saviour' (or messiah) complex. It is a psychological construct that leads one to believe that he or she must 'fix' all the problems and 'save' the people. In its extreme manifestation it may lead to the delusion that he or she was not born biologically but "God has sent me".

Tucked away in the inside pages of newspapers on January 7, 2025 was the news story headlined *UGC revises guide*lines for appointments of V-Cs. The subject matter was the selection process of vice chancellors of universities. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has issued draft Regulations and has invited comments.

BROAD-BASED & Collegial

Presently, in most Acts authorising the establishment of one or more Universities, the governor of the state is made the chancellor. In some Acts that established central universities, the President is the visitor. The governor, invariably, was a long-retired political leader of eminence or a distinguished citizen. The governor was expected to, and would, function constitutionally. The

current Regulations provide for a searchcum-selection committee that will include a nominee each of the governor, state government, senate of the university and syndicate of the university. The search-cum-selection committee was broad-based and democratic. Though the final selection was by the chancellor/governor, in the past, the governor ordinarily acted on the 'aid and advice' of the state government. That practice, unfortunately, was buried in the last decade and governors have appointed vice chancellors in their sole discretion.

Times have changed — for the worse. Under the present dispensation, governors are political appointees rewarded for loyalty to the RSS/BJP's ideology or trusted retired civil servants. In Opposition-ruled states, the governor is instructed to act as the Viceroy of the central government and to shackle the state government. In effect, there is a Dyarchy in the states: the elected government and the unelected governor. The 'aid and advice' clause in the Constitution of India has been thrown to the wind.

CREEPING DYARCHY

Witness governors refusing to read the whole or parts of the Address to the Legislative Assembly prepared, by convention, by the state government. Witness the governor publicly criticising the state government, especially the chief minister. Witness the governor

summoning the chief secretary or the police chief and issuing instructions to them by-passing the chief minister. Witness the governor embarking upon a tour of the state to 'review' the district administrations and hold 'discussions' with the district officials. Dyarchy is entrenching itself, especially in Oppositionruled states, in contravention of the provisions of the Constitution. [in the case of BIP-ruled states, the state government is totally subordinate to the central government and there is usually a minister or a senior officer who is the 'eyes and ears' of the prime minister and conveys the decisions of the prime minister to the chief minister.]

Section 22 of the UGC Act stipulates that a 'degree' means any such degree as specified by the UGC and can be granted only by a university established by an Act. The new draft regulations prescribe the mode of search-cum-selection and appointment of a vice chancellor: it will be through a 3-member committee comprising a nominee each of the chancellor, UGC and the apex body (Syndicate/ Senate/Board of Management) of the university. The committee shall prepare a panel of 3-5 names and the chancellor shall appoint one of them. If a university violated the regulations, it will be debarred from offering degree programmes or participating in UGC schemes, removed from the list of universities under the UGC Act, and subject to other punitive action. In effect, the educational institution will cease to be a 'university'. Note that the state government has no role at all in the selection and appointment of the vice chancellor. The vice chancellor will become the Viceroy of the UGC whose chairperson and members are appointed, and may be removed, by the central government.

NATIONALISATION OF Universities

Two Viceroys, vetted for ideological purity, will be in place to administer a university — the governor/chancellor and the vice chancellor. The draft regulations, if notified, will usurp the rights of the state government that had established the university for the benefit of the residents of the state and funds the university out of the state's own resources. The draft regulations virtually *nationalise* the universities and the messiah will take control of all higher education institutions (HEIs) of the country. It is another example of galloping centralisation in line with the BJP's policy of 'One Nation, One Government'. It is a blatant attack on federalism and states' rights.

The states must repudiate the draft regulations and fight, politically and legally, to defeat the nationalisation of Indian universities. Teachers and students must protest. Beware, once Dyarchy is entrenched in all aspects of public administration, it will be only a matter of time before Dyarchy will give way to Monarchy or an absolute ruler.

Fifth COLUMN **TAVLEEN SINGH** Twitter@tavleen_singh

Delhi gives everyone the blues

THE ELECTION campaign for Delhi is verging on the absurd. Few capital cities in the world are as filthy, polluted and badly planned as our beloved capital and yet, when the Bharatiya Janata Party began its fierce and virulent campaign to return to power after twenty-six years, it concentrated on trivia. First it pilloried Arvind Kejriwal for turning his official residence into a 'sheesh mahal'. A glass palace. When fantastical details like gold-plated toilet fittings and a swimming pool turned out to be untrue, they shifted focus to accusing Kejriwal of 'hating' people from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. A ludicrous charge based on a lie. What he said was there had been a sudden, inexplicable jump in registered voters who may have been brought in from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. You need real imagination to interpret this as hatred for people from 'Purvanchal' but this is how the BJP's campaigners chose to interpret it.

The Aam Aadmi Party, desperately battling anti-incumbency, has so far done no more than respond to the BJP charges. These began to be thrown at the AAP before the date of the election was announced last week. Of these, the most damning has been the one about the 'sheesh mahal'. Kejriwal has built his political career on portraying himself as 'just a common man.' So, when videos of the interiors of the Chief Minister's residence revealed a splendiferous abode fitted with a private gym, sauna, jacuzzi and other luxuries, it showed him up as just another duplicitous politician. Here I need to clarify that I have seen many politicians' homes that are more luxurious, but they are less hypocritical about their yearnings for the good things of life.

Let me say that Kejriwal never fooled me with his antics and posturing. It is also my view that he made the biggest mistake that politicians can make which is to make grandiose, impossible promises. If the Aam Aadmi Party won nearly every seat in the Delhi assembly in the last election, it was because us hapless citizens of this sprawling metropolis really hoped that something would be done to clean our polluted air, our filthy streets and a serious effort would be made to clean the Yamuna. What he did instead was to give us gimmicks like that weird 'odd-even scheme'. And it did not take long for him to show that he was dangerously narcissistic and loved the sound of his own voice. It was hard to turn on the radio and not hear him sermonising about something or other or pass a bus that did not have his mug plastered on it. Not good traits for some-

one pretending to be a 'common man'. This is not to say that Kejriwal did nothing at all for Delhi. He did more to improve schools and healthcare than any chief minister I can remember. I have seen government schools in the city that look like fancy private schools and have been very impressed with the 'mohalla clinics' that have come up in the past decade of AAP rule. But these things along with freebies may not be enough for him to win an-

other term as chief minister.

It is the BJP that now controls the narrative. If it does manage to form the government in Delhi, we must hope that the usually empty 'double-engine government' slogan works in this case. Delhi's problems are too serious to be ignored any longer. No country that hopes to become 'viksit' in the not-too-distant future can afford to have a capital that looks as bad as Delhi does. Every time I drive past those mountains of rotting garbage that rise out of landfills near the Red Fort, I wonder why India seems to be the only country in the world that has not learned to manage waste. Every time I drive on a bridge over the Yamuna and see that it is no longer a river but a drain, I wonder why India cannot find the expertise

needed to clean our rivers.

The sad truth is that it is not just in the past decade of AAP rule that Delhi has deteriorated. It is a process that began a long time ago under chief ministers who came from different parties. As someone who has spent more than half my life in this city. I remember that the Delhi of my childhood was quite a lovely city. It was smaller then but much cleaner and better governed. I have tried to pinpoint when things started to go wrong but cannot. Much has been done in recent times to make Delhi look more beautiful, but the changes have been cosmetic and so superficial that they look like no more than an attempt to hide a darker reality. As I wrote that last sentence the Prime

Minister popped up on my TV screen giving an interview in which he said that in his third term his dreams had become bigger and his confidence in making them come true stronger. He was certain, he said, that by 2047, India would become a fully developed country without the problems that Indians face today. There would be full supplies of electricity and clean water, I heard him say and nearly fainted. I wondered if the Delhi in which the rest of us live is the same city he inhabits. If it is then he is dreaming an impossible dream.

inside **COOMIKAPOOR**

Too Reddy to boss

TELANGANA CHIEF Minister Revanth Reddy's popularity has plummeted ever since he adopted an unnecessarily harsh approach towards superstar Allu Arjun. Despite Arjun's protests that he was not personally involved in the stampede at the mega-hit Pushpa 2 screening, in which a woman lost her life, Reddy threw the rule book at the popular actor, including putting him in jail overnight. When a delegation from the film industry called on the CM, Reddy kept them waiting and later announced that he was withdrawing permission for benefit shows. Speculation is rife about the reason behind the CM's politically damaging approach. Some view it as an ego tussle. Reddy was infuriated that Arjun snubbed him, skipping a proposed meeting with the CM at the airport. The actor also fumbled in recalling Reddy's full name at a televised function. Others ascribe the undeclared war to traditional caste rivalries between Kapus and Reddys. Another theory is that Reddy suspects Arjun of harbouring political ambitions, since he campaigned last year for a friend who was a BRS candidate. The CM's official position is that no one is above the law. Reddy's own party members whisper that his aim is to teach the film industry a lesson. He makes it a point to demonstrate that he considers himself the unchallenged boss of the state. For instance, during the recent Parliament session, he summoned all Congress MPs from Telangana to his Delhi residence, but did not show up and never apologised. His administration demolished actor Nagarjuna's huge convention hall in Hyderabad.

No CM candidates

All three major parties in the forthcoming Delhi elections are at a disadvantage in not being able to project a chief ministerial face. The BIP and Congress have failed to build a dynamic local leadership in the Capital and are depending largely on their high commands and political heavyweights from outside to woo voters. Ironically, although Arvind Kejriwal is generally perceived as AAP's CM face, since an apex court order specifically bars him from signing official files or entering the CM's office, he cannot declare himself as a candidate. The AAP has, perforce, projected a double-engine sarkar of Kejriwal and CM Atishi. The unspoken message is that the faithful aide will carry out her boss's bidding.

A FINAL JOURNEY

While the Congress and the BJP competed with each other, trying to win the perception battle in paying kudos to former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, it was noticeable that Singh's family kept a dignified distance from the debate on whether Nigambodh Ghat was a suitable venue for the funeral and which space should be allocated for Singh's memorial.

There was no love lost between Singh and the BJP in his lifetime. Similarly, the former PM was deeply hurt when Rahul Gandhi publicly humiliated him by terming as "complete nonsense" his government's Ordinance to save convicted legislators from immediate disqualification. Rahul's televised rebuke came hours before Singh was to meet then US President Barack Obama in Washington DC in 2013. Some family members wanted Singh to resign immediately. Singh refrained, because he reasoned that doing so would reflect poorly on the country as he was abroad. The real reason for the Congress's ire during the Nigambodh Ghat ceremony was that the media, except the government-controlled Doordarshan, was kept out of the ghat. Consequently, Prime Minister Modi and his entourage hogged the limelight and not Rahul. Ironically, the Congress missed a golden opportunity to claim proprietorship of Singh's legacy by banning the media during the hours his body was kept in state at the Congress office. Incidentally, after the ashes were collected from the funeral pyre, the Singh family had a small, private religious ceremony at Gurdwara Rakab Ganj, but Rahul could not attend as he had already flown off to Vietnam.

CASH COW CORP

The Congress in Maharashtra is at odds with both its MVA allies praising Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis. A big blow for the Congress is that Uddhav Thackeray's Sena plans to fight the Mumbai civic elections on its own steam. While Thackeray is not averse to eventually joining the Mahayuti, no patch-up may be possible before the BMC polls. For Thackeray, the BMC elections could be crucial to remain relevant. If he has to rejoin forces with the BJP, it should be from a position of strength since BMC is considered the UBT Sena's stronghold, not Shinde Sena's. Amit Shah is equally keen to seize control of Asia's richest municipality, a cash cow that has always eluded the BJP in the past. Elections to the BMC were due in March 2022, but have been repeatedly postponed because of a case before the court.

History **HEADLINE**



Lessons learnt after free India's first Maha Kumbh

OVER 70 years ago, Allahabad hosted Independent India's first mela, from January 14 to March 3, 1954. Instead of being known for its record turnout of nearly 40 lakh devotees — all of whom took a dip at the Triveni Sangam, the confluence of the Ganga, the Yamuna and the mythical Saraswati — the mela is remembered for a stampede on February 3, 1954, that claimed the lives of nearly 800 pilgrims. However, government estimates put the figure at half that number.

Twelve years earlier, in 1942, a Maha Kumbh was held in Allahabad under the shadow of World War II. Organised by the British, the number of pilgrims at the 1942 mela were restricted due to "security concerns". An Ardh Kumbh (half Kumbh) was held in the city in 1948, but Mahatma Gandhi's assassination in New Delhi on January 30, 1948, cast a pall over the event. Six years later, in 1954, the Maha Kumbh was held in Allahabad.

Just as it is being done for the 2025 Kumbh, in 1954 too, Kumbh Nagar was named as a temporary district.

Spread over 1,300 acres, the mela was divided into seven sectors managed by area magistrates. Over 2,800 police personnel, including 13 gazetted officers, and 1,000 Armymen, including 27 officers, were deployed to manage law and order.

The 1954 Maha Kumbh was special on many counts. As per the Hindu calendar for that year, the Kumbh would coincide with many auspicious days: January 14 (Makar Sankranti), February 3 (amavasya or the new moon day), March 3 (Shivratri), seven snan(bath)days, Paush Purnima (full moon day) on the intervening nights of January 18-19 and a constellation that would appear after over a century.

These factors, besides Independence, fuelled devotees' determination to take a dip at the Sangam during the mela.

Even advisories from the state health department related to a cholera epidemic, effective between January 7 and February 8, 1954, directing persons not inoculated against cholera to not come within 10 miles (around 16 km) of Allahabad, failed to dampen devotee enthusiasm.

Nearly 500 police personnel were deployed at various cholera inoculation centres on the outskirts of Allahabad to check inoculation certificates and to prevent unvaccinated masses from moving towards the city. Since this meant a smaller-thananticipated turnout at the mela on January 14 that year, reports suggest that many em-



ployees deployed for essential services were reassigned by mela authorities.

However, the crowd size would not stay small for long. Protests from all quarters saw the government shut down the cholera inoculation centres abruptly on January 26 and withdraw the advisory without consulting mela officials. On the intervening new moon nights of February 2-3, the Shravana nakshatra (constellation), last sighted in 1846, made an appearance after 108 years.

Besides the sea of devotees, the mela included caparisoned elephants, horses and camels, sadhus brandishing weapons, and bands playing big drums and trumpets. The teeming masses were eager to see these sadhus, touch their feet and take their blessings. While the British government was much firmer with the sadhus during the previous melas, reports suggest the administration found it difficult to enforce similar restrictions in 1954.

On February 3, 1954, the day of the stampede, President Rajendra Prasad, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, Uttar Pradesh Governor K M Munshi, Chief Minister Govind Ballabh Pant, Punjab Governor CP N Singh, West Bengal Chief Minister Bidhan Chandra Roy and Madhya Bharat (now Madhya Pradesh) Chief Minister Ravi Shankar Shukla were in Allahabad. Save for the Punjab Governor, who visited the site that afternoon, and West Bengal CM, most VIPs went to the Sangam in the morning.

Around 9 am, a stampede would end up killing hundreds. UP Advocate General Kanhaiya Lal Mishra too got caught up in the stampede. Despite rumours of his death,

he managed to get to safety. News of the tragedy was broadcast by All India Radio (AIR) four hours after the incident.

While unofficial accounts state that nearly 800 people, mostly women, the elderly and children, died, official estimates put the number of fatalities between 350 and 400.

Sessions in Parliament and the UP Assembly in the second week of February witnessed several adjournments motions over the stampede. Speaking on the tragedy's "enormous multitude", PM Nehru is quoted as telling the Lok Sabha on February 15, "It came as a deep sorrow that, during this tremendous event when so many people had gathered together, there should have been this tragedy in which many suffered death."

The Centre and the state invited the Opposition's wrath over the tragedy

The report of the enquiry committee set up to look into the stampede suggests that preparations for the event of this scale moved at a rather sluggish pace as of the first week of September 1953. The report of the committee, headed by Justice Kamalkant Verma, notes, "This is late even for an ordinary Kumbh Mela, to say nothing of a Kumbh of the type of the 1954 Kumbh." However, preparations were made rapidly after that.

The first Kumbh of independent India, which should have gone down in history for its success and magnitude, was overshadowed by a tragedy. However, lessons learnt from the stampede were implemented by subsequent UP authorities during future melas.

On the **LOOSE**

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RECENTLY, A friend invited me for dinner. After I thanked and accepted her invitation, she asked me if I had any "dietary preferences". Foxed, I responded that I'll have what everyone's having. Apparently, in this era of gluten and lactose intolerance, Atkins and Keto diets, some kindhearted hosts feel compelled to cater to their guests' idiosyncrasies or whatever nutrition fad they're currently following. Or maybe, it's January. Everyone understands that everyone else is trying to put their best (health) foot forward.

"It's no problem, ok?" said my pal and proceeded to list out her dinner guests' depressingly narrow specifications, which

A dinner invite for picky-tarians

to me at least served as a stark reminder that we're all getting old and rigid. There was a vegan, a pescatarian, an intermittent faster and someone on OMAD —One Meal a Day— who most considerately said he'd come for the company but wouldn't eat. Considering the stunning range of picky-tarians around, organising a convivial evening seems fraught with challenges these days.

Personally, I am of the opinion that unless there's a possibility that you may keel over and die, or break out into hives because of an allergic reaction to something, it's only polite to eat what's served, one's own culinary requirements be damned. Needless to say, without complaining. We were brought up in the 1980s, a time of frugality and zero fripperies. It left in the hearts of the best of Indians only the frailest illusions about our

grand country's future prospects. In every aspect of life you made do with what was available, that's all. Not exactly a bad philosophy for living because a frugalist thinks strategically, which is why it was, perhaps, inevitable that an Indian company invented the cheapest car on Earth. I remember waffling over a ghastly glass of milk as a child, protesting feebly over a fly in it, which my grandmother deftly fished out with a finger and handed right back to me. No-frills India was minimalist way before Minimalism became a movement.

However, it turns out etiquette has changed over the years and my point of view is somewhat outdated. According to a Reader's Digest article, in 1923, guests were expected to gush and praise the party giver's effort, however badly the food went down. But in 2025, plenty of people follow

complicated diets and hosts are happy to accommodate them, as they want their guests to enjoy the evening. It's a good sign so many can afford to cast lavish attention on their dinner parties and painstakingly create a variety of fine dining distinctions. And indeed, being slightly obsessed and finicky in our food choices is neither frivolous or sinful. As Thoreau noted, "He who distinguishes the true savor of his food can never be a glutton; and he who does not cannot be otherwise."

Even a decade ago, it would have been considered irredeemably rude to call a hostess and instruct her on what to cook. For most of history, strict social norms have dictated behaviour and dinner party conversation. Put on any period film, perfectly coiffed characters are stiffly seated around a table, talk focussed on pleas-

epaper.indianexpress.com

antries, steering clear of anything controversial. We're much more casual now. Blame the Facebook prompt 'What's on your Mind?' that gave people the courage to moodily display their inner emotional realities – comparatively, revealing a taste preference is far easier. By now, in 2025, the concept that we should carefully control what personal information we share, or hesitate to ask for what we want, or need, is almost dystopian. So if you're carb-free, you may loudly assert you're carb-free, without a trace of embarrassment. The worst that can be said is it's all a bit silly, like much ado about nothing. Put it down to the default human setting, the restless search for optimisation or self improvement, and the fervent hope of

landing somewhere better than before. The writer is director, Hutkay Films

ECONOMY

CRUDE WATCH

nearly double to over

₹28,000 crore in a year

of incremental delinquency in September quarter

SPECULATORS RAISE BULLISH BETS ON BRENT

Microfinance delinquencies

Houston: Money managers raised their net-long Brent crude futures and options positions in the week to January 7 to the highest level since early May last year, the US Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) said as investors eye-balled new sanctions and got optimistic on China's economy.

AMID MOSCOW'S HIGH DOMESTIC DEMAND

Iraq, UAE gain as India's Russian oil imports slip to 12-month low in Dec

SUKALPSHARMA

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 11

INDIA'S CRUDE oil imports from West Asia—specifically Iraq and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)-surged in December with Indian refiners looking to replace the shortfall in supplies from their largest source market Russia, which cut exports to meet heightened oil demand from its domestic refineries, shows an analysis of oil tanker data. Saudi Arabia, however, was unable to capitalise on the opportunity due to its barrels being priced higher than Iraqi and Emirati oil.

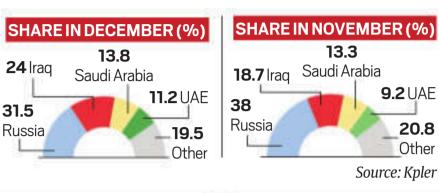
According to industry watchers, domestic oil demand in Russia jumps towards the end of the year as the country's refineries come out of the autumn refinery maintenance season and start clocking high capacity utilisation levels. The seasonally high demand for crude in Russia is expected to continue in January and a couple of subsequent months, which is likely to cap Russian oil exports and push India towards other key suppliers to bridge the supply gap.

In December, India's imports of Russian crude dropped nearly 17 per cent sequentially to 1.48 million barrels per day (bpd), the lowest monthly level in 2024, per vessel tracking data from commodity market analytics form Kpler. Russia's market share in India's import basket in December contracted to 31.5 per

INDIA'S DECEMBER OIL IMPORT VOLUMES: TOP 4 SOURCE MARKETS

Source market	December import volumes (mn bpd)	Change vs November (%)
Russia	1.48	-16.9
Iraq	1.13	28.7
Saudi Arabia	0.65	4.4
UAE	0.53	22.1

TOP SUPPLIERS' SHARE IN INDIA'S OIL IMPORTS



cent from 38 per cent in November. India's total oil imports in December were at 4.71 million bpd, up 0.5 per cent month-on-month.

"The lack of Russian medium sour (crude) grades has been a boon for Iraq as India needed to find grades that would be similar in quality to Urals (Russia's flagship crude grade) and could be tapped into relatively quickly. As a consequence, Iraqi imports hit their highest since March," said Viktor Katona, head of crude analysis at Kpler.

India's Iraqi oil imports jumped nearly 29 per cent sequentially in December to 1.13 million bpd, accounting for 24

per cent of India's overall oil imports during the month. In November, Iraq's market share

was 18.7 per cent, the data

The other big winner was the UAE with oil imports from the country at almost 530,000 bpd, the highest in as many as 32 months. UAE oil flows to India grew throughout 2024, with imports in December up 22.1 per cent from November levels. Abu Dhabi's share in New Delhi's oil imports in December grew to 11.2 per cent from November's 9.2 per cent.

"Interestingly, the fact that Russia preferred to keep its crude at home for refining didn't help Saudi Arabia, which posted another lukewarm monthly number, fairly in line with October-November. The relatively higher price of Saudi crudes versus Iraqi crudes has kept (India's) incremental demand at bay (for Saudi Arabia)," Katona said.

Indian refiners cumulatively imported nearly 649,000 bpd of Saudi Arabian crude in December, up 4.4 per cent sequentially. Riyadh's market share in New Delhi's oil imports for the month expanded slightly to 13.8 per cent from November's 13.3 per cent.

Trade sources indicated that the average landed price of Saudi Arabia's key Arab Light grade of crude at India's west coast was around \$2.5 per barrel higher than the regional benchmark Dubai crude, while Russia's Urals was priced \$3 per barrel lower than Dubai. This suggests that Urals was cheaper by \$5.5 per barrel than Arab Light. On the other hand, the price gap between Urals and Iraq's comparable grade Basrah Medium was significantly lower as the latter's landed price at India's west coast was just around \$0.80 higher

than Dubai crude. Industry insiders and experts expect India's Russian oil imports to continue to be relatively weak in January and even beyond as Moscow's domestic demand is expected to constrain its oil exports in the immediate-to-

Consequently, Indian refiners are likely to persist with

higher purchases from suppliers in the Middle East, and even some other geographies.

GEORGE MATHEW

MUMBAL JANUARY 11

INDIA'S MICROFINANCE sector is

experiencing a notable rise in

delinquencies, particularly in the

top ten states, despite the banking

sector's celebration of a 12-year

low in non-performing assets

(NPAs). Microfinance loans to low-

income groups saw a significant

surge in portfolio at risk (PAR) —

loans with an overdue of 31-180

days — doubling to ₹28,154 crore

by September 2024 from ₹14,617

180 days overdue category work

out to 6.8 per cent of the total port-

folio of ₹4.14 lakh crore exposure

of microfinance firms, including

banks and NBFCs, as of September

2024 as against 3.8 per cent of

₹3.84 crore portfolio in September

31-180 days PAR category of mi-

crofinance institutions stood at

₹8,117 crore for the quarter ended

September, taking the overall in-

cremental rise in PAR to ₹13,468

crore for the 12 months ended

September, according to a CRIF

cent of advances in June 2024.

CRIF report said.

JANUARY 11

The incremental rise in the

The delinquencies in the 31-

crore a year ago.

2023, says a report.

"Compared to October when Russian seaborne exports were 3.6 million bpd, in December they only shipped 3.15 million bpd. So, there is no upside from the Russian side and Indian refiners would need to buy more Middle Eastern barrels in the interim. Come March-April when the Russians hit spring refinery maintenance season, the previous 2 million bpd pace of buying (by India) could resume. But until then, Russian refiners would concentrate on their domestic refining more than on crude exports," Katona said.

Prior to the war in Ukraine, Iraq and Saudi Arabia were the top two suppliers of crude oil to India. But as the West started weaning itself off Russian energy supplies following Moscow's February 2022 invasion of Ukraine, Russia started offering discounts on its crude and Indian refiners started snapping up the discounted barrels.

As the world's third-largest consumer of crude oil with a high import dependency level of over 85 per cent, India is extremely sensitive to oil prices. Although trade sources have indicated that discounts on Russian crude have shrunk over time. Indian refiners have evidently remained keen on buying Russian oil as given the high import volumes, even lower discount levels lead to significant

Bihar, UP, Tamil Nadu, and Odisha accounted for 62 per cent of the incremental delinquency, with Bihar reporting a ₹1,715 crore rise in delinquency for the three Before Trump inauguration,

created to further investigate the benefits and challenges of Big

India will contribute to shap-

Indian economy likely to be 'a little weaker' in 2025: IMF MD

efficiency,"

uity, and inclusion (DEI) programs, including those for hiring, training and picking suppliers, it said in an internal memo to employees on Friday - the latest in a series of actions cheered by conservatives. In less than two weeks, Meta has scrapped its U.S. fact-checking program, elevated prominent Republican Joel Kaplan to be its chief global affairs officer and elected Dana White, CEO of Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) and close friend of Trump,

Some of America's biggest

businesses have been scaling back

their diversity initiatives, years af-

ter pushing for more inclusive

policies in the wake of protests

against the police killings of

George Floyd and other Black

Meta is ending its diversity, eq-

Americans in 2020.

The Mark Zuckerberg-led somedium-sized economies, (and) Asia as a region," she said. PTI cial media giant has been at-

to its board.

months ended September 2024. Bihar was followed by UP with a rise of ₹1441 crore in PAR, Tamil Nadu₹1,009 crore and Orissa ₹995 crore, the report said.

Several factors contributed to

Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Odisha account for 62%

this decline in portfolio quality. MFIs were lending to over-leveraged borrowers and they taking on too much debt, leading to repayment difficulties. Further debt-waiver campaigns by states and politicians to waive off debts have disrupted the repayment cycle. There was high field-staff attrition with frequent changes in field staff, affecting the quality of loan disbursal and collection. Elections and extreme weather conditions hindered loan recovery efforts. This rise in delinquencies may push up the credit cost for NBFC-MFIs, potentially impacting the microfinance sector's growth.

The slowdown in the economy has also contributed to the indebtedness and stress in the microfinance sector. The Reserve Bank of India has set a common household limit of ₹300,000 for loans to qualify as microfinance. This limit applies to all entities in the microfinance sector.

High Mark report. PAR was 4.6 per On the other hand, gross nonperforming assets (GNPA) ratio of scheduled commercial banks MFIs also cut down their exposure from ₹4.32 lakh crore to (SCBs) declined to a 12-year low ₹4.14 lakh crore during the three of 2.6 per cent of advances in months ended September 2024, September 2024, says the Reserve Bank of India.

India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) recently revised the outlook on the microfinance (MFI) sector to deteriorating from neutral, while maintaining a 'Stable'

Meta platforms, Amazon scale

rating Outlook for FY26.

The agency says that there are multiple headwinds for the sector such as borrower overleveraging for both MFI loans and non-MFI loans, reduced centre attendance, high attrition at branch levels and instances of frauds, all leading to a higher operating and credit cost for the sector in the medium term.

"Ind-Ra has revised the sector outlook on MFIs to deteriorating from neutral, while maintaining a Stable rating outlook for FY26. Near-term challenges are likely to continue to play out with a recovery expected in 2HFY26. The Stable rating Outlook factors in adequate capitalisation and liquidity buffers and sufficient PPoP (pre-provision operating profit) margins which will help absorb the current asset quality downturn," said Karan Gupta, Head and Director Financial Institutions,

The asset quality challenges faced by the sector and covenant breaches by players could lead to tighter funding from lenders. This could also lead to lenders assessing their incremental disbursements, thereby requiring monitoring of the rollover of the existing debt. This could impact the growth outlook for the sector in the medium term, it said.

Furthermore, the recent regulatory actions on some entities, including an embargo on disbursements amid concerns regarding loan pricing and increase in risk weighted assets (for banks), have added to the concerns of lenders to the sector.

Tech blue chips in legal battle: What is the Infosys-Cognizant dispute all about?

Tech giants have filed lawsuits against each other. What are the accusations?

GEORGE MATHEW MUMBAI, JANUARY 11

THE LEGAL battle between tech blue chips Infosys and Cognizant has intensified.

Infosys has now filed a counter-lawsuit in a US court accusing the NASDAQ-listed Cognizant and its CEO, Ravi Kumar, of engaging in alleged anti-competitive practices, and misusing sensitive information to undermine Infosys Helix, its flagship healthcare platform.

The lawsuit, filed by Infosys in the Northern District of Texas of the US, comes months after Cognizant's subsidiary, Cognizant TriZetto, accused Infosys of stealing trade secrets related to its healthcare insurance software. Infosys had denied those allegations. In fact, the counterclaim not

only refutes Cognizant's accusations but also levels serious charges of monopolistic practices against its rival.

Here is all you need to know

Infosys has sought a jury trial

about the dispute.

Infosys lawsuit

and requested that the court invalidate and rule unenforceable Cognizant's non-disclosure and access agreements (NDAAs). Additionally, Infosys is pursuing treble damages for alleged financial losses, reimbursement for attorneys' fees and related costs. Infosys has accused Cognizant of anti-competitive practices, including imposing restrictive contractual obligations, blocking Infosys from training programmes, hindering development of competing software products. Infosys claimed these

the trade policy of the US. In her

annual media roundtable with a

group of reporters on Friday, she

said global growth is expected to

be steady in 2025, but with re-

gional divergence. Georgieva said

she expects the Indian economy

to be a little weaker in 2025.

However, she did not explain it

any further. The World Economy

Outlook update week will have

more details about it. In China, the

tactics have limited US healthcare customers' access to competitive pricing and innovative solutions.

Charges levelled by **Cognizant earlier**

Cognizant sued Infosys in a US federal court in August 2024, alleging theft of trade secrets and proprietary information related to healthcare insurance software. The Texas court filing claimed Infosys illegally accessed data from TriZetto's Facets and QNXT software, using this information to develop a competing product. These software solutions automate tasks for healthcare insurance companies. Cognizant's lawasserted Infosys misappropriated TriZetto's software, creating "Test Cases for Facets" by rebranding the data. Additionally, Infosys allegedly developed software to extract con-

IMF MD

world's second-largest economy,

the International Monetary Fund

(IMF) was seeing deflationary

pressure and ongoing challenges

with domestic demand, she said.

"Low-income countries, de-

Kristalina

Georgieva

fidential TriZetto information from QNXT.

Did hiring of Infy officials add to tension?

Raising tension between the two companies, Cognizant had appointed former Infosys executive Rajesh Varrier as its global head of operations and India chairman and managing director. This followed the resignation of Rajesh Nambiar, who left Cognizant to become the president of Nasscom. Cognizant's CEO, Ravi Kumar, also previously held prominent roles at Infosys, including president and deputy COO.

Infosys had earlier raised concerns about Cognizant's recruitment of its key personnel, highlighting the competitive intensity between the companies.

spite all the efforts they are mak-

ing, are in a position when any

new shock can affect them quite

have quite a lot of uncertainty, es-

pecially in terms of economic poli-

cies. Not surprisingly, given the

size and role of the US economy,

there is keen interest globally in

the policy directions of the incom-

ing administration, in particular

"What we expect in 2025 is to

negatively," Georgieva said.

India joins UN committee on big data for official statistics

New Delhi: India has joined the **UN Committee of Experts on Big** Data and Data Science for Official Statistics (UN-CEBD), which underscores the country's growing stature in the global statistical community and highlights its commitment to leveraging data and technology for informed decision-making. The UN-CEBD was Data, including the potential for monitoring and reporting on sustainable development goals.

ing global standards and practices in harnessing Big Data and data science for official statistical purposes, the statement by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI) said. India's engagement will highlight its pioneering initiatives, including the establishment of the Data Innovation Lab.

on tariffs, taxes, deregulation and

"This uncertainty is particu-

larly high around the path for

trade policy going forward, adding

to the headwinds facing the global

economy, especially for countries

and regions that are more inte-

grated in global supply chains,

government

Georgieva said.

back diversity programmes KATIE PAUL & JUBY BABU FACEBOOK OWNER Meta Platforms and Amazon.com are winding down diversity programs ahead of Republican Donald Trump's return to the U.S. presidency as conservative opposition to such initiatives grows louder.

Some of America's biggest businesses have been **scaling back.** *Reuters*

tempting to mend relations with a leader who has railed against its political content policies and threatened its CEO with imprisonment. In a departure from its past practice, Meta in December announced a \$1 million contribution to Trump's inaugural fund, joining big companies from Wall Street to Silicon Valley that have pledged donations.

Amazon.com is "winding down outdated programs and materials" related to representation and inclusion, aiming to complete the process by the end of 2024, it said in a December memo to employees seen by Reuters on Friday. Conservative groups have denounced DEI programs and

Supreme Court ruling in 2023 that struck down affirmative action in university admissions decisions Just this week, Elon Musk and other Trump allies blamed DEI programs for hindering the response to raging wildfires in Los Angeles, without evidence. "The legal and policy land-

threatened to sue companies over

them, emboldened by a U.S.

scape surrounding diversity, equity and inclusion efforts in the United States is changing," Janelle Gale, Vice President of Human Resources at Meta, said in the memo, which was seen by Reuters and originally reported by Axios. Gale cited recent Supreme Court decisions "signaling a shift" in how U.S. courts will approach DEI programs going forward.

A U.S. appeals court in December ruled that Nasdag could not impose rules designed to increase diversity in corporate America by requiring companies listed on the exchange to have women and minority directors on their boards or explain why they

"The term 'DEI' has also become charged, in part because it is understood by some as a practice that suggests preferential treatment of some groups over others," Gale wrote. **REUTERS**

Spike in drug seizures at airports in metro cities during Christmas, New Year festivities

RAVI DUTTA MISHRA NEW DELHI. JANUARY 11

LALIT K JHA

WASHINGTON, JANUARY 11

THE INDIAN economy is ex-

pected to be "a little weaker" in

2025 despite steady global

growth, IMF Managing Director

pects quite a lot of uncertainty in

the world this year mainly around

Georgieva also said she ex-

Kristalina Georgieva has said.

THE DETECTION and seizure of weed and cocaine by customs officials across Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, and other zones surged during the run up to the Christmas and New Year celebrations, with cases even involving foreign nationals concealing crores worth of narcotics within their bodies.

Delhi customs reported nearly half a dozen cases in December alone involving foreign nationals arriving at Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI) from Kenya, Brazil, the Philippines, and other countries hiding cocaine capsules worth over ₹50 crore inside their bodies.

Just a week before Christmas, Mumbai customs reported multiple large seizures of hydroponic

weed (marijuana) worth crores at Mumbai International Airport. The contraband was hidden in breakfast cereal boxes, passenger baggage, food packets, undergarments, and toys. Earlier last month, Mumbai customs destroyed narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances (NDPS), such as heroin, cocaine, marijuana, and charas worth ₹410 crore, weighing nearly 55 kg, at the Common Hazardous Waste Treatment, Storage & Disposal

Meanwhile in Chennai, customs reported that the Air Intelligence Unit seized cocaine worth ₹14.2 crore, weighing 1,424 grams, from a Kenyan woman traveling from Addis Ababa on December 7.

Facility in Navi Mumbai.

Modus operandi In what could suggest the in-

volvement of organised crime networks, traffickers could be using identical methods to smuggle cocaine into the country since a number of cases emerged where capsules were inserted into human bodies and required medical extraction at Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital. In one such case, Delhi customs intercepted two passengers, a man and a woman, traveling from Sao Paulo, Brazil, via Paris on December 24. Both passengers exhibited "unusual behaviour" after crossing the green channel and "voluntarily" admitted to

carrying illicit goods.

Under medical supervision at Safdarjung Hospital, a total of 105 capsules containing 937 grams of cocaine were recovered from the male passenger, while 58 capsules containing 462 grams of cocaine were recovered



crores of rupees. Delhi Customs

epaper.indianexpress.com

from the female passenger. The estimated value of the seizure was ₹20.98 crore, officials said in a statement.

Another case involved a

Filipino national traveling from Bangkok via Addis Ababa on December 13. The individual had ingested 90 cocaine capsules, weighing 676 grams and valued tracted through medical proce-

at Rs 10.14 crore, which were ex-

Intelligence input While vigilance and "cutting-

edge profiling techniques" are being used to prevent the entry of illicit products into the country, customs officials are also relying on intelligence inputs to identify perpetrators.

For instance, on December 19, Mumbai customs intercepted a passenger arriving from Bangkok and seized hydroponic marijuana worth ₹11.32 crore. The contraband, weighing 11.322 kilograms, was hidden in vacuum-sealed plastic pouches inside the passenger's trolley bag.

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), in its 2023–24 report, said that India has witnessed a marked increase in the

ditional drugs, such as cocaine, heroin, cannabis, and opium, and synthetic substances like methamphetamine, MDMA, and other new psychoactive substances (NPS). The report said that there is

availability and use of both tra-

also an increase in the illicit export of "Indian-manufactured pharmaceutical products" that can substitute for narcotic substances. The rise in cocaine smuggling is particularly notable, with trafficking routes extending from South America via Africa and the Middle East.

Global cocaine production on rise

Global cocaine production reached a record high in 2022, with over 2,700 tonnes produced and 355,000 hectares under coca bush cultivation—a 20

per cent increase from the previous year, according to the United Nations World Drug Report 2024, Cocaine trafficking has ex-

panded eastwards over the past decade, with several Asian countries reporting large seizures and increasing demand in emerging markets. In Oceania, trafficking continued to rise in 2022.

The illicit supply and use of

ketamine are also growing in East and South-East Asia, as well as in new markets across Europe Oceania, and North America. Illicitly produced ketamine is marketed in visually appealing mixtures such as "pink cocaine' and "happy water." Global seizures of ketamine reached a record high in 2022, with a 70 per cent increase in East and South-East Asia and notable rises in other regions, the report said.

THE SUNDAY EXPRESS. JANUARY 12, 2025

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

The time is rapidly approaching when you will simply have to agree to an important settlement because it is right for all concerned, not necessarily because it's just in your own interests. You should press ahead with travel plans, partly because it's time

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21) The financial sectors of your horoscope

to broaden your horizons.

also have deep psychological implications, so ask yourself whether or not you are buying things to secure happiness, or as a substitute for it. This is a subtle distinction but it's an important one for all that.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21) Professionally, the sky is the limit just as long as you matters now is personal

realise that what relationships with colleagues. Do your best to get on with people and see to it that they like you. At home you should get practical repairs done.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23) You may now have no alternative but to come to terms with

enforced changes in relationships. Indeed, the more you accept that current conditions are there to stay, the sooner you can get on and make the most of marvellous emotional possibilities. A professional plan could be postponed, but not for long.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

Professional matters are important and, even if you're not at work, you should give top priority to fulfilling your worldly

ambitions. In your private life, get in touch with old friends or ex-lovers. A trip to the past could prove entertaining.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

All the indications are that passionate relationships are now subject to uncertain influences. Your instincts and hunches should

all the information at your

fingertips, make your move.

be urging you to delay important decisions for a little while longer. Wait until you know what is happening. When you have

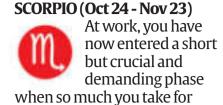
LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

You should be sure that you are

what has become stale. The danger is that you will throw away the good with the bad, the useful with the useless! You should think long and hard before speaking on

offloading only

vital matters.



granted is up for grabs. It's important that you are able to distinguish your own changes of attitude from your responses to events beyond vour control.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 23) Powerful planets are now definitely on your side, so you can afford to hope for the best. At long last you are able to assert your primacy in

to you as a figure always to be relied upon.

You will almost certainly resent anyone who tries to peer into your secret world or private life. You can probably get away with giving other people the impression that they are being

> cut quite a dash over the past few weeks but, with Mars

about to adjust its position, you must realise that you can no

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20) Not all your stars

are on your wavelength. If you are slightly irritable, it's because other

If it's your Birthday

Sunday January 12

Finish consulting close partners and making final plans, and then switch your focus to family and home affairs. Your strongest asset will be your ability to empathise with other people.

Monday January 13

Your solar chart is beginning to look relaxed. If you have any lingering problems, they will be caused by last month's difficulties.

Tuesday January 14

Home and family come first. Even if you are pursuing professional hopes, the love of people close to you is necessary to sustain you in your dreams.

Wednesday January 15 Your stars are at a minor crossroads. You can either give in and go under, or you can meet challenges head-on and set yourself up for eventual triumph.

Thursday January 16 It's time to take centre stage. You have earned your position in the Sun, no matter whether it's at home, at work, or in the midst of your social network.

Friday January 17 You might conjure up the perfect way to solve your current questions and achieve the perfect relationship and

Saturday January 18 remember the importance of taking one

9 5

6

9

5 8

2 8

4 3

5 6

4

1 7 9

improve your life.

4 6

8

3

2 9

5

9

2 8

Move forward with hope and practical step at a time. Take care of all those minor details and the big picture will take care of itself.

Solutions to 2511

22. Sounds like two fruit (4)

(2,4)

16. Cut fine fabric with speed (8)

17. Article in paper is a hoax (6)

18. Exclamation from an old god!

21. Evilly disposed and active (6)

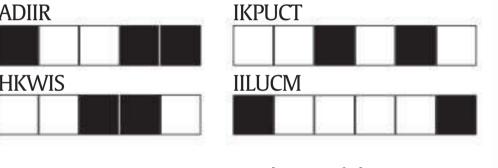
25. Never ending trouble for a bird

QUICK CLUES Across: 1 Gender, 4 Baltic, 9 Snag, 10 Clap eyes on, 11 Shiver, 12 Unctuous, 13 Small-time, 15 Hone, 16 Site, 17 Bloodshed, 21 Mona lisa, 22 Yanked, 24 Slightness, 25 Digs, 26 Decade, 27 Hybrid Down: 1 Gingham, 2 Negev, 3 Excerpt, 5 Agency, 6 Tremulous, 7 Closure, 8 Vacuum cleaner, 14 Lethargic, 16 Spoiled, 18 Odyssey, 19 Emerged, 20 Lifted, 23 Nadir CRYPTIC CLUES Across: 1 Bourse, 4 Abacus, 9 Ugli, 10 Abominable, 11 Catnap, 12 King lear, 13 Very light, 15 Bras, 16 Cock, 17 Potboiler, 21 Mantissa, 22 Gibbet, 24 Willy nilly, 25 Iris, 26 Lobbed, 27 Eddies Down: 1 Baggage, 2 Union, 3 Shar Pei, 5 Bairns, 6 Charleroi, 7 Sultans, 8 Work the oracle, 14 Yachtclub, 16 Cranial, 18 Bug-eyed, 19

Elegies, 20 Usance, 23 Blini

JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip. is prejudice made plausible - H L Mencken (9)



SOFILLION: RADII, WHISK, UPTICK, CILIUM

Difficulty Level 5s Instructions To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9

SUNDAY CROSSWORD 2512

being a goddess (7)

to date (3-4)

DOWN

course (6)

minded ?(2,4,3)

in far-off place (4,4)

27. A fifties item adapted to be up

1. Ran and grasped the last few

2. Bird that is pleasing on the

3. How you may live if single-

5. Try out when the England

team goes to Australia, may be

6. Mollusc top and bottom may

8. Three eggheads leave tree,

14. Team's opening bowlers stum-

be unpleasantly damp (6)

12. After pass, don seems

ped when in? End of story!

remarkably gracious

7. A male inlet (4)

birch(6)

(8,2)

(5,4)

4. Get connected with card game

QUICK CLUES

6. Because of (7)

9. Kingdom (5)

10. Manacles (9)

19. Isolated (3,3)

20. Blotto (3-4)

DOWN

13. Sheep's wool (6)

23. Tenor Luciano (9)

24. Funereal chant (5)

1. Extent of space (4)

2. Call or send for (6)

3. Very small dog (9)

6. Prosper (6)

8. Scatter (6)

18. Snakes (6)

4. Item of jewellery (8)

7. Keen on; indulgent (4)

12. Put out of action (10)

17. Ranges or extents (6)

16. Put off or prevented (8)

6. Legend of trick encasing prone

senior are the most unfriendly (7)

10. One responsible for directions

13. The rings sound like a girl's (6)

20. Russian writer sadly lost fiddle

23. They're seamen or they're

26. Be discouraging about me

24. Taxmen leave after V-sign (5)

SUDOKU

crooks and all suckers (9)

15. Complete part of swing (6-7)

19. How's the last of the Stuarts

see why it's Haute Savoie's

9. Put two and two together (5)

11. They beat up rum and eggs,

7. Chilly start, and the most

to a raving crackpot (9)

14. Unbelieving (9)

21. Make beloved (6)

22. Lift inventor (4)

25. Over-hasty (4)

CRYPTIC CLUES

ACROSS

individual(7)

perhaps (7)

capital?(6)

5. Once every six months? (4,6)

27. Collects or piles up (7)

26. Easy targets (7)

11. Chief Hindu philosophy (7)

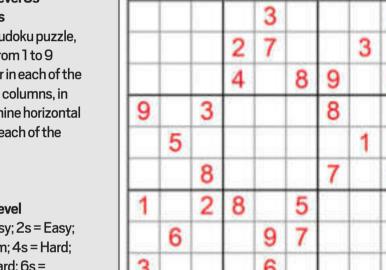
15. An appeal for sympathy (4,4,5)

ACROSS

7. Bold (7)

must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizonta rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level 1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy;3s = Medium: 4s = Hard: 5s = Very Hard: 6s = Genius





SOLUTION SUDOKU 5832

3 5 8 6 5 7 2 4 3 9

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr. P. C.

Whereas a complaint has been made before me that accused person namely Aman Chauhan S/o Gyanender Singh Chauhan R/O A-1, Amar jyoti colony, Sec-17, Rohini, Shahbad Dairy, Outer North, Delhi have committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence under FIR. No. 537/2021, U/s 33/58 Delhi Excise Act, has been registered at P.S. KNK Marg, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said, Aman Chauhan cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said, Aman Chauhan Has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant)

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused, Aman Chauhan of under FIR. No. 537/2021, U/s 33/58 Delhi Excise Act, registered at PS. KNK Marg, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 21.03.2025.

ND Room No.213, Rohini Court, Delh

By Order Ms. Himanshu Sehloth, JMFC-03

DP/358/RD/2025

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE

APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused

1. Jyoti, W/o Sunny, R/o H. No. C-153, Sector 20, Rohini

Delhi, 2. Bhawna, D/o Prem Kumar Gaur, R/o Flat No. 1643.

Pocket-2, Jyoti Kunj, Sector 16B, Dwarka, Delhi has

committed (or are suspected to have committed) the offence in

case FIR No. 299/21, U/s 269/394/34 IPC, P.S. Rajouri

Garden, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest

thereupon issued that the said 1. Jyoti, 2. Bhawna cannot be

found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the

said 1. Jyoti, 2. Bhawna has absconded (or are concealing

Proclamation is hereby made that the said 1. Jyoti, 2. Bhawna

accused of FIR No. 299/21, U/s 269/394/34 IPC, P.S. Rajouri

Garden, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE

APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused

person Jai Parkash @ Jai, S/o Om Prakash, R/o H.No. 378,

Gali No. 5, Mukundpur, Delhi has committed the offences (or

is suspected to have committed) in case FIR No. 48/2018,

U/s 394/411/468/420 IPC, P.S. KN Katju Marg, Delhi and it

has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued

that the said Jai Parkash @ Jai cannot be found and

whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Jai**

Parkash @ Jai has absconded (or is concealing himself to

Proclamation is hereby made that the said Jai Parkash @ Jai

accused of FIR No. 48/2018, U/s 394/411/468/420 IPC, P.S.

KN Katju Marg, Delhi is required to appear before this Court

to answer the said complaint on or before 17.02.2025.

avoid the service of the said warrant).

themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant).

the said complaint on or before 12.02.2025.

DP/439/WD/2025

DP/365/RD/2025

WANTED PERSON



male person are wanted (Depicted in the Photo) in Connection with a Robbery of a women's Jewelery in front of Gate no. 2, Dr. RML Hospital, Delhi on Dt. 04.11.2024. in this regard FIR No 67/24, Dt. 05.11.2024,

P.S.: North Avenue, Delhi. Physical description of the suspected Person is as under.

(1)Sex: Male, Age: About 25 years, Height: 5'6" Complexion: Wheatish, Built: Thin Face: Round, Wearing: (1) Blue Colour Check Shirt & Blue Colour Jeans (2)Sex: Male, Age: About 25 years, Height: 5'7" Complexion: Shallow, Built: Thin Face: Long, Wearing: Badami Colour Check Shirt & Light Badami Colour Pant. If anyone has any information about these wanted person's please inform P.S: North Avenue, Delhi S.H.O

Ph No. 011-23093040, 011-23093294. 9910479765, 7827166909

पीएम श्री केन्द्रीय विद्यालय सेक्टर 08 रोहिणी, दिल्ली

नीलामी सूचना

बजे होना सनिश्चित हुआ है. कंप्यूटर एवं इलेक्ट्रॉनिक वस्तुओं के क्रेतायों के पास भारत सरकार या

https:// rohinisec8.kvs.ac.in में संपर्क करें

S. Radha Krishnan Shiksha Sankul, 5th Block, llnd & Illrd Floor, JLN Marg, Jaipur - 17 Ph.: 0141-2700366, 2715590, 2715550 No. P. 6 () /RCScE/Jai./STARS/ATL/2024-25/12954325 Date: 11.01.2025

Rajasthan Council of School Education

Regarding extension of e-BID (NIB: 18/2024-25)

Tender No. 18/2024-25 (UBN No. RSE2425GLOB01923) issued for supply, installation and commissioning of ATL and Robotic Lab in 614 government schools of Rajasthan is extended till 11:30 AM of 17 January, 2025. Other details can be seen in the bid document on State Public Procurement Portal website www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in or "www.rajsmsa.nic.in" or

"www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in". Raj.Samwad/C/24/10208 **State Project Director**

SOUTH EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED "A MINI RATNA COMPANY" NOTICE All the tenders issued by SECL for procurement of Goods,

Works and Services are available on website of SECL http://www.secl-cil.in,CIL e-procurement portal http:// coalindiatenders.nic.in and Central Public Procurement Portal http://eprocure.gov.in In addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal http://gem.gov.in. SECL's mining services tenders are also now available on GeM portal http://gem.gov.in

TAMIL NADU MEDICINAL PLANT FARMS & HERBAL MEDICINE CORPORATION LTD., (A Government of Tamil Nadu Undertaking)

Phone: 044-26216696 E-mail: tampcolho@gmail.com

E-Tenders with two covers system are invited from the eligible idders for the supply of Siddha, Ayurveda, Homoeopathy & Unan SeM portal for supply of materials to Yoga & Naturopa online portal only. DIPR/159/TENDER/2025

Regd. Office: Anna Hospital Campus, Arumbakkam, Chennai-600 106

03/Tam/NA/Med/2025 04/Tam/NA/Med/2025 & 1742/Tam/NA/2024-25

nedicines to ISM wings under the control of Commissioner of Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy and e-tender document can be viewed and downloaded at free of cost from "https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app". Bids are invited through institutions under the control of Commissioner of Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy and bid document can be viewed and downloaded at free of cost from "www.gem.gov.in". Eligibility of the tenderer and other conditions are stipulated in the Bid document. EMD to be paid & the bids to be submitted through General Manager

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL **EDUCATION & RESEARCH CHANDIGARH**

Global Tender Enquiry Notice No. PI(EP)/24-25/G/MoHFW/02

Tender applications are invited for purchase of various items against tender No. 1-6 from the Manufacturers or their sole authorized distributors/agents The bidders can place their bids as per terms & conditions contained on https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.

S.	Equipment/	Otry	EMD	Bid submission	Bid Opening	Deptt Name
No	Item Name	Qty.	(Rs.)	Date	Date	Deptt Name
Non-	-Pre Bid case					
1.	Advanced ICU Ventilator with Intellivent Technology	02Nos.	1,80,000/-	03-02-2025	04-02-2025	Pulmonary Medicine
2.	Vacuum Conentrator	01No.	40,000/-	-do-	-do-	Biochemistry
3.	Air Abrasion Units	02Nos.	20,000/-	-do-	-do-	OHSC
4.	Dual Action Lithotripsy (Ultrasonic and mechanical)	01No.	80,000/-	05-02-2025	06-02-2025	Urology
Pre I	Bid case	31.		V		
5.	Inhaled Nitric Oxide System	01No.	2,20,000/-	-do-	-do-	Pediatrics
6.	ICU Ventilator	02Nos.	2,00,000/-	-do-	-do-	Pediatrics

Tender document can also be downloaded from website www.pgimer.edu.in and can be applied on website www.eprocure.gov.in. Bid Security (EMD) hould be for the amount as per tender documents either in the form of Account Payee Demand Draft, or Fixed Deposit Receipts (FDR), Banker's Cheque or Bank Guarantee Form issued by Scheduled Commercial Bank having its validity at least for one year & duly pledged 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 ntending tenderers. Tenders not submitted on the prescribed form, not accompanied with Bid Security shall 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"

PGIMER, CHANDIGARH. The intending bidders are free to join Pre bid Conference through video conference. For more details contact: 0172-2756469 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

1. 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.pgimer.edu.in. Therefore the bidders are requested to go through the Instructions Carefully before submitting bids.

The above items are relaxed to invite Global Tender Enquiry under rule 161 (IV) of G.F.R rules 2017, therefore Para 5 of Annexure 'A' of NIT will not

Professor In-Charge (EP)

BRIDGE WORK

E-Tender Notice No. DCBL /18/2024/MLG Dated: 09-01-2025. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: Tender No. DCBL352024MLG. Name of work: Installation and Commissioning of Structural Health Monitoring System (SHMS) of Iconic Bridge at Bridge No. "0" (Saraighat) between Kamakhya-Agthori stations under Lumding Division. Approximate Tender Value: ₹93,35,000/-, Bid Security: ₹1,86,700/-. Date & Time of closing of Tender: 15.00 hrs. on 03-02-2025 & opening at 15.05 hrs. of 03-02-2025 at Deputy Chief Engineer/Bridge-Line/Maligaon, Guwahati-781011 (Assam). The complete information of the tender document of above e-tender will be available in the website www.ireps.gov.in

Dy.CE/Bridge-Line/Maligaon **NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY**

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE **OF ACCUSED PERSON**

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Akhilesh S/o Gulab R/o 1078 C-Block, Sangam Vihar Delhi. 2. Rekha W/o Sunil@Idal R/o H. No.171 Gali No. 6 A Block, Sangam Vihar Delhi, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in Case FIR No. 114/18 U/s 33/58 D ex Act P.S.: Farsh Bazar Delhi, it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused 1. Akhilesh 2. Rekha, cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused 1. Akhilesh 2. Rekha, has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said 1. Akhilesh 2. Rekha, accused of FIR No. 114/18 U/s 33/58 D ex Act P.S.: Farsh Bazar Delhi, is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 24.02.2025.

> By Order Sh. Akhil Malik JMFC-02, Room No. 38 Ground Floor Shahdara Distt.

Karkardooma Courts, Delhi PROCLAMATION REQUIRING

THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED (See Section 82 Cr. PC)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused

person namely Rajneesh (User), R/o 221, Ground Floor, Village Kapashera (Water Supplier), New Delhi-110061 has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case Ct. Case No. 1392/2019 U/s 135 Indian Electricity Act, at P.S. Kapashera, New Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Rajneesh (User) cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Rajneesh (User) have absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Rajneesh (User) of case Ct. Case No. 1392/2019 U/s 135 Indian Electricity Act, of P.S. Kapashera, New Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 14.02.2025 By order

Vinod Kumar Meena ASJ, Special Court, Electricity Court No. 609. Dwarka Court, New Delhi

DP/539/SW/2025

DP/383/SHD/2025

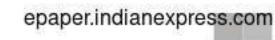
(Court Matter)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

(See Section 82 Cr. PC)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely Prem Kumar S/o Shyam Lal R/o D-552, S.B.Dairy, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 958/22 U/s 25/54/59 Arms Act at PS: Shahbad Dairy, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Prem Kumar can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Prem Kumar has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Prem Kumar of FIR No. 958/22 U/s 25/54/59 Arms Act of PS: Shahbad Dairy, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 13.02.2025. By order Sarthak Panwar

Judicial Magistrate First Class-05 North, Court Room No.114, First Floor DP/267/ON/2025 Rohini Courts, Delhi



Rohini Courts, Delhi

Sh. Himanshu Sehloth

By Order

LD. JMFC - 03

North Distt, Room No. 213,

Dealer: West Vulnerable: East/West NORTH SOUTH ♠ A54 **♦** 7632 **₩**K63 **₩** A87 **♦** K8742 ◆ AQ ♣ AK53

While an ordinary player is more worried about picture cards or ho-

nours, an expert watches the spots as well. The spot cards often

lead to correct line of play. This was the case in the problem posed

BRIDGE

to you last week.

EAST SOUTH WEST NORTH pass pass pass 3NT pass pass pass pass

West leads the spade king. Plan the play. Declarer, with eight sure tricks, should begin by ducking the first two leads of spades (in the hope that spades divide three-three, or that West has only two spades and will not be able to knock out dummy's ace-of-spades entry by leading spades a third time). This duck is good technique, but does not affect the result once we see East and West's hands.

The West hand: S-KQJ10 H-Q92 D-109 C-Q1076 The East hand: S-98 H-J1054 D-J653 C-J82

After taking the ace of spades, South should start diamonds by cashing the ace and leading the queen. When West plays the nine and ten on the first two leads, declarer can make sure of the contract by overtaking the diamond queen with dummy's king and leading the seven or eight from dummy. Good defence can defeat all other lines of play.

pass

pass



West leads the gueen of clubs, which holds, then the jack of clubs, which also holds, and the ten of clubs: king, ace, small. East

switches to the queen of diamonds. Plan the play.

pass

4♠

ADIIR **HKWIS**

Answer: Criticism is prejudice made plausible - H L Mencken

General public is hereby informed that Two

U/s: 318 (4) B.N.S. has been lodged at

PS: North Avenue, Delhi DP/336/NDD/2025

पीएम श्री केंद्रीय विद्यालय सेक्टर 08 रोहिणी दिल्ली में पुराने एवं अनुपयोगी सामानों जैसे कंप्यूटर, यूपीएस, प्रोजेक्टर, प्रिंटर, एसी, डलेक्टॉनिक सामग्री, फर्नीचर, खेलकूद सामग्री, प्रयोगशाला सामग्री, संगीत सामग्री, विद्यालय मरम्मत सामग्री की "जैसे हैं जहाँ हैं" की स्थिति में सार्वजानिक नीलामी दिनांक 18.01.2025 को दोपहर 2:00

राज्य सरकार से मान्यता प्राप्त E-Waste Management प्रमाणपत्र होना आवश्यक है

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए विद्यालय की website

By Order

West

Sh. Shashank Nandan Bhatt

Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

Judicial Megistrate First Class-02

WITH INTENDING BIDDERS FOR ITEM Sr. No. 05 to 06 shall be held on 17.01.2025 from 03:00 P.M. ONWARDS IN THE PI(EP), OFFICE

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.

all emotional relationships, whether at home, in love or

work. Project yourself in the right way and people will look CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

kept up to date, while actually



longer go on as before. It's important to consolidate all personal gains rather than taking on fresh activities, otherwise you may overcommit yourself.

people appear to be standing in your way. You sense an imminent change in your energy level, emotional mood and personal affairs, while for some reason you also feel as if you are being held back.

Kumari

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Venktesh S/o Rajendra Sharma R/o Apartment no.0402,4th floor, Tower no. B12, M3M Woodshire, Sector-107, Dharampur, Gurgaon, Haryana-122006, have changed my minor daughter's name aged about 12 years from Shree Radha to Sakshi

0130048069-1

I Aashish Ahlawat S/o Ramesh Kumar R/o M-258 U/G-Floor Guru Harkishan Nagar, Paschim Vihar, West-Delhi, Delhi- 110087, have changed my-name to Aashish.

0040768337-2

I Ravindra Poddar S/o Sita Ram Poddar R/o B-15, 1st Floor, B-Block, JJ Colony, Near Ambey Mandir, Inderpuri, Central Delhi-110012, have changed my name to Ravi Kumar

0070944800-1

0070944721-1

l Suman Gupta W/o Manoj Gupta R/o House No-1749/7, Gali No-9, A V R School, Rajeev Nagar, Gurgaon, PO-Gurgaon, Dist-Gurgaon, Haryana-120001, have changed my name to Santosh Gupta.

I, BRAHM SINGH SHARMA S/O

SH. SHREE PAL SHARMAR/O

18/142, GALI NO. 2, EAST MOTI

BAGH, KISHAN GANJ, DELHI -07, I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME **BRAHM SINGHTO BRAHM** SINGH SHARMA FOR ALL **FUTURE PURPOSES.** 0040768294-1 I, Chandra Bhushan Kumar

Singh S/o Bhup Naryan Singh R/o Plot no-6, Flat no-FF-2, Nayay Khand-1 Ami Care Indirapuram Ghaziabad U.P-201014 have changed my name to Chandere Bhushan for all future purposes

0070944787-1

My-Minor Daughter's and wife Actual/Correct names is Lavanya Upadhyay and Kumkum Upadhyay respectively Instead-of Lavanya and Kumkum are wrongly-written in Daughter's School-Record.Surjeet Upadhyay Father and husband of Lavanaya Upadhyay and **Kumkum Upadhyay** respectively, R/o, Flat. No. 210-A5B,Shanti Kunj,Paschim-Vihar, New-Delhi-110063. 0040768312-10

I,Kartika,W/O Manpreet

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.

0040768337-7

I,MEHUL DHAR,S/O SH.VIJAY KUMAR DHAR, R/O FLAT. NO. K-1203, PRATEEK LAUREL, **SECTOR-**

120, NOIDA, G.B. NAGAR, U.P.-201301, have changed my, son's name, form REYANSH DHAR TO REYAANSH DHAR, for all, future purposes.

0040768312-8

I,Mahesh kumar@ Mahesh Chaudhary, S/o, Sh. Jodh Singh,R/o,H.no-409,gali.no-9,jagatpur,burari northdelhi,Delhi-110084, declare, that Mahesh

kumar and Mahesh Chaudhary are, same person, and both, names are, mine.

0040768321-1

I,NEHA DHAWAN,W/O JANIT DHAWAN,R/O-FLAT NO-1203,TOWER-21,LOTUS **BOULEVARD SEC-**100,NOIDA,GAUTAM BUDH NAGAR,U.P.-201304,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO NEHA SHARMA.

0040768314-2

I,PRATIBHA GAUTAM,W/O-GOPAL SINGH,R/O 94-A,LIG-FLATS.PKT-D.DEEP **ENCLAVE.ASHOK-VIHAR** PHASE-3,DELHI-110052.HAVE **CHANGED MY NAME TO** PRATIBHA THAKUR.

0040768308-7

I,PREETI W/O-SHUBHAM R/O,A-1/201,THE PRINTER-APARTMENT, SECTOR-13.ROHINI.DELHI-110085.HAVE **CHANGED MY NAME TO PREETI** SINGLA, FOR ALL PURPOSES.

0040768308-3 I,PREM KUMAR,S/O HANS

RAJ, RESIDENT 1570, SECTOR-15, HOUSING BOARD COLONY, SONIPAT, HARYANA HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO PREM KUMAR SHARMA.

0040768314-6

Chetan Dass,R/o-C-699, BC Lane.New-Friends Colony, Delhi-25, have changed my name to Purshotam Kumar Keshwani.

I,Purshotam Keshwani,S/o

0040768312-6

I,RAJA RATHNAM, mother of, V SIVA VARA PRASAD KANCHI, Presently, residing at Peravali

palem.Guntur(Dist).Andhra Pradesh-522261, have changed my name, from RAJA **RATHNAM to KANCHI RAJARATNAM.Vide** affidavit,date-10.01.2025.

0040768314-9

I,Shahanwaj Khan,S/o Samiullah Khan R/o Tower-7,108,Pyramid Urban Homes, Sector-70A, Gurgaon(Haryana)-122001, have changed my name to Shahnawaj Khan for

all Purposes. 0040768308-1 I. Baliit Singh S/o Satpal Singh Bhatia, R/o C-16, Second Floor, New Moti Nagar, New Delhi-110015, have changed my name to Baljeet Singh Bhatia.

0040768302-1

I,Cheshta Marwah D/o Sanjay Kumar R/o F-107, DDA-Flats, New Ranjit-Nagar, New Delhi-110008, have changed myname to Srishta Marwah.

0040768337-1

I, Timple Jana alias Timple Jana Bhatnagar, D/o, Tara Pada Jana, W/o, Sumeet Bhatnagar R/o,H.No.D-185,FF,Ramprastha-Colony, Chander-Nagar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201011, have changed myname to Timple Jana

Bhatnagar.

0040768337-4

I,TEJASVI KAUR RANA D/O IKBAL SINGH RANA, R/o-P-R-184 1ST.FLOOR GREATER KAILASH PART-1 DELHI-110048, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO TEJASVI KAUR

0040768314-1

I,Swati Raghav,W/o Sudhir Kumar, R/o A151/A, Shri Ram Enclave, Sohna-Road Maruti-Kunj, Bhondsi(168), Gurgaon (Harya na)-122102, have changed my

name to Swati Chauhan. 0040768308-2

I,Sakshi goel w/o Naman Jain, R/o D-38, bhagat Singh road Adarsh nagar Delhi-33, have changed my name to Sakshi Jain

0040768312-2

I.Jagdish Lal.S/o. Krishan Lal R/O.CB-100-C,Second Floor, Janta Flat, G-8 Area Rajouri Garden Delhi-110064 have changed my name to Jagdish Kapoor.

0040768312-1

I,Ishu Sahni,S/o,Late Girish Sahni,R/o-B1/403,Ground-Floor, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058, that my-father's name is wrongly-written as Girish Chandra Sahni in my-Passport. The actual-name of my-father is Girish Sahni.

0040768337-3

I,INDRA RANI SEHGAL/INDRA SEHGAL,W/O JUGAL KISHORE SEHGAL R/O 206-C,LIG-FLATS, DDA-COMPLEX MOTIA-KHAN PAHAR-GANJ, DELHI-110055.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO INDURANI.

0040768308-4 I, Hridansh Anand, S/o Manpreet

Singh Anand R/o-Flat.No.45, Akash Ganga near.Huda Market.Sector-56, Gurgaon Haryana-122011, have changed my name to Hridansh Singh Anand.

0040768312-9

I,Hitherto known as Sofiyan,S/o Abdul Hasan, R/o-Haidravad Kheri, UP-262802, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Shamsul Hasan.

0040768312-5 I,Gurpreet Singh Gill S/o H.No.4 Block-JP Pitampura Delhi-

110034, have changed my name to Gurpreet Singh.

0040768314-3

I.GOPAL SINGH R/O 94-A.LIG-FLATS, PKT-D, DEEP **ENCLAVE, ASHOK VIHAR** PHASE-3,DELHI-110052.HAVE CHANGED MY CHILD NAME **SARTHAK THAKUR TO** SAARTHAK THAKUR.

0040768308-6

I, DEVENDER KUMAR TANEJA,S/O-ANANT RAM TANEJA,R/O 151,2nd-FLOOR,PKT-B,DWARKADHISH N.G.L.ENCLAVE, SECTOR-26B,ROHINI,DELHI-110042.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO DEVENDER TANEJA.

0040768308-5

I.Bimla W/O Rishi Pal R/O 8236,B-11,Vasant Kunj Delhi-110070 Have Changed my Name to Bimla Devi.

0040768314-4 I, Anil Pratap Singh Chauhan, s/o shiv Charan Chauhan, R/o C-217, gali no-8,Majlis park,Delhi-33,have changed my name to Anil

Chauhan.

0040768312-3 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. 0040768312-4

I,ANUPAMA,W/o MED SINGH,R/o H.No.150-B/2, Chirag Delhi, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi-110017, have changed my name, from ANU KALKALWAL to ANUPAMA for all future purpose.

0040768312-7

I, Yogesh S/o Late M.B.Johari R/o G-470, Street No.13, Gamma-2, Greater Noida, U.P. have changed my name to Yogesh Johari for all future purposes.

0070944802-1

I, Shivya D/o Saurabh Choudhary R/o 602, Imperial Block, Supertech Estate. Sector-9, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, UP-201010 have changed my name to SHIVYA CHOUDHARY for all future purposes.

0070944791-1

I, Rajender Singh S/o Dungar Singh Negi R/o Flat No.A-91, Dayal Bagh, Surajkund, Faridabad-121009 have changed my name to Rajender Singh Negi

0070944794-1

PUBLIC NOTICE

WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

THE SUNDAY EXPRESS, JANUARY 12, 2025

client Rajesh Kasi, R/o A-1/14, Block-A Shastri Nagar, North West Delhi, Delhi ha seized his relations with son Abhishek Kash due to his misconduct and misbehavin activities towards my client therefore, m client has disowned and debarred him from all his movable and immovable property(s Any one dealing with him may do so with their own risk and in this regard my clien

USHA RANI Advocate CHAMBER NO. 1005

PUBLIC NOTICE

0040768321-2

0040768321-3

I, RADHA RANI D/O VIJAY **KUMAR W/O VIVEK** MAHESHWARI R/O 4480-A/10, JAI MATA MARKET, TRI NAGAR, **DELHI-110035 HAVE CHANGED** MY NAME TO RADHIKA MAHESHWARI FOR ALL **FUTURE PURPOSES.**

I, Rajinder Singh, S/O, Hari

Singh, R/o RZ 26C/39, Gali no-

New Delhi-110045, declare

38, Indira park, Palam-Colony,

that, my son name written in

his schoolrecord is Devansh

Negi Now I intend to, change

my son's name, as "Devansh

DL09974882475965W dated-

Singh,R/oRZ 26C/39, Gali.no-

my son name written in, his

Now I, intend to, change, my

son's name as Adarsh Singh

DL09976882676858W dated

vide, Certificate.No IN-

28.Dec 2024.

school record, is Adarsh Negi

38, Indira-park Palam-Colony,

New-Delhi-110045, declare that

I, Rajinder Singh S/O, Hari

28.Dec 2024.

Singh" vide, Certificate.No IN-

0070944796-1

I, Prafful Chandr Sriwastav S/o Nand Kishor Prasad R/o D-278 Sector-Omicron-2, Greater Noida U.P. have change my Name to Prafful Chandr Shrivastwa For All future **Purposes**

0070944544-1

I, Nidhi Mittal W/o Vineet Shokeen R/o H.No. 401, Mangol pur Kalan, PO.Rohini Sector-7, Delhi-110085 have declare that Both names NIDHI MITTAL & NIDHI ONE AND THE SAME PERSON.

0070944703-1

I, MAYANK GUPTA S/o Kapil Gupta R/o E-15, District Combined Hospital Campus, Sector-23, Sanjay Nagar, Ghaziabad(U.P) confirm that in my educational documents my father name has been wrongly written as Kapil Kumar instead of Kapil Gupta. The name Kapil Gupta is registered in my Aadhar, PAN card and other documents, so the correct name of my father is Kapil Gupta.

0070944786-1

I, Gautam Singh S/o Uttam Singh R/o A-58, Vasant Vihar, Vasant Vihar-1, Delhi-110057 have changed my name to Goutam Singh

0070944792-1

I. Charu Sharma W/o Vimlesh Mishra R/o B-382 1st floor Avantika Sector-1 Rohini Delhi-110085 have changed my name to Charu for all future purposes

0070944789-1

I,Sandhya W/o Virendra Kumar Tripathi, R/o C-14-15, First Floor, Front Side, Vashishth Park, Delhi-110046, have changed my name to Sandhya Tripathi, for all Purposes.

0040768314-5

LOST & FOUND

Lost My Original Certificates Of Class-10th, Roll No-14111376. Year-2020 and 12th, Roll No-17696692, Year-2022 from CBSE Delhi. Finder May Contact Khyati:9205150403

0070944799-1

MATRIMONIAL



CASTE NO BAR

MATRIMONIAL Hindu, U.S. based professiona Keralite parents invite alliance or their U.S. born and raised M. Arc., pretty daughter, skilled dancer, singer, 31,5' professional, presently working professionals settled/ raised or

Interested parties. please respond with specifics and a latest photo to mail on bejeweledsnow@hotmail.com

did higher studies in the

U.S. Caste no bar.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the public at large that my client ICICI Bank is advancing a loan to Mr Vivek Ranjha for purchasing the Residential House No. A-70, area 233.33 sq. yds. situated at Shyam Park Extension, Sahibabad Teshil & Distt. – Ghaziabad (U.P.) ("said property") from Mr. Rajesh Kumar Saraswat.Mr Vivek Ranjha is purchasing the property from Mr. Rajesh Kumar Saraswat, who has claimed/represented to be the owner of the property and acquired a complete interest in the property pursuant to the demise of Mr Bansi Dhar Saraswat, who in his WILL dated 16.07.2004 had bequeathed the said property, in case of his death, to his wife Mrs Radha Rani, and upon her demise, to his son namely Mr Rajesh Kumar Saraswat. It is pertinent to mention here that Mr Bansi Dhar Saraswat and Mrs Radha Rani demised on 29.08.2004 and 20.02.2011 respectively, and Mr Rajesh Kumar Saraswa has become the owner of the said proper ty by the virtue of the same WILL If anybody has any claim or objection upon the said property by way of inheritance, share, sale, agreement, lease license, gift, possession legal heirs partners, encumbrance however or other wise is required to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice with support ing documents.
After the expiration of notice period, the

I claim, if any of such person shall be

treated as null and void and be treated as

Ch. No. G-220, Karkardooma Courts, Delhi-110032. (M - 8800096522)

TAPAN RAGHAV (Advocate)

waived.

client SMT. DALJIT KAUR W/O LATE S SURINDER SINGH R/O C-2/32 SECOND FLOOR, JANAK PURI, NEW DELHI-110058 hereby served/disowned all their relations from their son, (1). S KANWALDEEP SINGH S/O LATE S SURINDER SINGH HIS WIFE (2). SMT GURPREET KAUR (MY DAUGHTER-IN-GURPREET KAUR (MY DAUGHTER-IN-LAW) W/O S. KANWALDEEP SINGH AND MY GRAND DAUGHTER (3) MS. HARSIMRAN KAUR D/O S. KANWALDEEP SINGH ALL ARE R/O AUSTRALIA due to their misbehavior and ereby disowned and debarred from all my lovable and immovable properties and assets (present and in future) forever. An erson dealing with them shall be doing so their own risk and responsibility ure my client will not be responsible fo

Sd/- B.B.N. DEO. Advocate S.R.IInd,B Coumpus, Janak Puri,ND-58

में अलोक शर्मा पुत्र गंगा प्रसाद वर्तमान निवास ए-3 फस्ट प्लोर आत्माराम अपार्टमेन्ट अशोक नगर जिला-गाजियाबाद, (उ प्र) 201001 है। खसरा संख्या न0- 908 रकवा न0-0.21608 है0 नाम-अलोक कुमार पुत्र गंगा प्रसाद ग्राम - खिन्दीडा तहसील - मोदीनगर, जिला-गाजियाबाद, (उ प्र) के मूल बैनामा के दस्तावेज खो गये है। जो काफी प्रयास के बाद भी नहीं मिल रहे हैं।

PUBLIC NOTICE

जिसकी FIR दर्ज कर दी है।

My client Mr. Satish Kumar S/o Mr Ramesh Chand and Smt. Sarita W/c Satish Kumar both R/o House No. 254, Tarla Mohalla, Near Bada Kuan, Ghitorn Village, New Delhi-110030 have disowned their son namely Mr. Dinesh S/o Mr. Satish Kumar from all their moveable and immovable properties and assets and also severed all their elations with him due to his misbehavior. misconduct towards my clients. He is not under the control of my clients. Hence my clients shall not be responsible for any acts, deeds or things done by him. Rakesh Malviya (Advocate)

PUBLIC NOTICE

A-10, LGF Capt. Gaur Marg,

East Of Kallash, New Delhi-65

Notice is hereby given to the genera public that the document bearing Original Allotment Letter & Origina ssession Letter of Flat No. B-4/11 Azad Apartments, Sri Aurobindo Marg, New Delhi-110016 has been misplaced/ lost and not traceable by our client Mr Sabir Zaman S/o Late Mr Badruzzaman R/o Flat No. B-4/11, Azad Apartments, Sri Aurobinde Marg, New Delhi-110016, Contact No 7015109462. If the aforesaid document are found, kindly inform our client at the aforesaid address

Mayank Gupta Advocate Enroll No. D/7063/21 IX/1644, Gandhi Nagar, Delhi-110031

PUBLIC NOTICE

Ms. Sonia Gosain D/o Late Sh. Radha Krishan Gosain R/o 835, Arun Vihar Sector-37, Noida Distt Gautam Buddh Nagar (U.P.) have applied for "Marriage ability Certificate" for her objections, if any to the issuance may be filed on any day upto 20-01-2025 in the office of the undersigned.

City Magistrate/ Marriage Officer Noida Gautam Budh Nagar (U.P.) INDIA

PUBLIC NOTICE Information is given to general public at large that my client Mrs. Ratri Chaudhary who is the owner of Plot No. 746, area measuring 500 sq. yards, Sector-14, Urban Estate, Faridabad, Haryana by virtue of Sale Deed dated 10.01.2001 executed by Mrs. Venus Luthra in the favour of Mr. Satpal Singh and Mrs. Ratni Chaudhary vide Doc. No. 10058. All Original documents in loc. No. 10058. All Unglast documents in respect of the property including the Conveyance Deed executed by HUDA and Sale Deed dated 10.01.2001 Doc. No. 10058 in the favour of my client has been lost and the Complaint has been lodged in Sector-17, Fandabad Police Station. Vide Application No. 132250942400169. If any one finds the said document, please send bank to the above mentioned address. Misuse of the same may attract legal action. Now, my client intends to sell the said property to intended purchaser, Any personisi, institution(s) having any im and/or objection in respect of the said property shall communicate the same to the undersigned at our address within 10 days from the publication of this notice with documentary evidence in support thereof, faling which all the claim, of such person(s)(institution(s) shall not be binding upon the said property or purchaser.

Mohd K. Hussain (Advocate

2/34, Ground Floor, Jangpura Extension Near Kashmiri Park, New Delhi-110014 PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given to the General Public that our client has agreed to purchase the Entire reehold plot of land bearing no. C 2/44, Safdarjung Development Area, New Delhi-110016, admeasuring 300 square yards, and the residential building constructed thereupon, from the stated lawful joint owners, (Dr.) Mr. Sanjeev Arora and Mr. Sandeer Arora, both sons of (Late) Dr. Ram Rakha Arora. Any person(s), including an individual, Hindu Undivided Family, Company, Bank(s), Financial institution(s), Non-banking Financial Institution(s), firm, lenders and/or creditors having any objections claim, right, title, share and/or interest in respect of the abovesaid Property or any part thereof, by way of sale, nortgage, gift, trust, will, inheritance succession, possession, lease, tenancy, easement, agreement, or any liability/commitment or otherwise whatspever, should make the same known in writing, by registered post, along with supporting documentary evidence in respect thereof, to the undersigned, within a period of 10 days from the date of publication of this Notice, failing which it shall be deemed that there is no claim for all intents and purposes and that the abovesaid Property is free from all encumbrances.

(Shivom Asthana) Perfect Legal Group Advocates & Solicitors R-278, LGF, Greater Kailash-I New Delhi-110048

'IMPORTANT'' Whilst care is taken prior to acceptance of advertising

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UCO BANK

Sr. Name & Address of Borrower(s)/ Demand Notice Date | Description of Immovable Property(ies) with known

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES [See proviso to Rule - 8(6)] E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with

proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property(ies) mortgaged/charged to UCO Bank Firozabad Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of UCO Bank Firozabad Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is Where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis on 30.01.2025 for recovery of Bank's Dues from Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) to UCO Bank Firozabad Secured Creditor. The details are described as below:

No.	Name & Address of Dofrower(s)	Denialità Notice Date	Description of immovable Property(les) with known	Bank's Dues	Earnest Mon
NO.	Guarantor(s)	Possession Notice Date	encumbrances, if any	Dank's Ducs	Deposit
Brar	CONTRACTOR OF THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN TWO IS NOT THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN TRANSPORT OF THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN TWO IS NOT THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN TRANSPORT NAMED IN COLUMN TWO IS NOT THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN TRANSPORT NAMED IN COLUMN TWO IS NOT THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN TRANSPORT NAMED IN COLUMN TWO IS NOT THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN TRANSPORT NAMED IN COLUMN TWO IS NOT THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN TRANSPORT NAMED IN COLUMN TWO IS NOT THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN TRANSPORT NAMED IN COLUMN	THE RESIDENCE AND PARTY OF THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN 2 IN COLUMN	91-9870950490, +91-8789356663; Email Id:- firoza@uc	obank.co.in, zokanpur.reci	@ucobank.co.
1.	Borrower(s): Late Mr. Raj Kun S/o Mr. Valister Singh (sin Deceased) Through His Legal Hei 1. Mrs. Sunita Devi W/o Late Mr. Kumar (Co-Borrower and Le Heir) 2. Mr. Shiv Kumar S/o Late Kumar 3. Mrs. Shivangi W/o Mr. Shiv Kum 4. Akshay Kumar S/o Late Mr.	11101111333361393913013	All that part and parcel of the property	Transport to the second	Rs. 11,58,000
	Deceased) Through His Legal Heirs 1. Mrs. Sunita Devi W/o Late Mr. Raj Kumar (Co-Borrower and Legal Heir) 2. Mr. Shiv Kumar S/o Late Raj	(Symbolic Possession)	to 66, Sr. No. 12399 Registered on 28- 12-2011 At Sub Registrar -1 Firozabad, Situated at Mauza - deedamai, Mausuma Mohalla Ambey Nagar City & District Firozabad standing in the	Thirty Six Thousand Three Hundred Ninety & paisa Seventeen Only) as on 09.11.2023 (inclusive of Interest Upto 31.03.2023) plus further interest thereon at the contractual rate, costs, charges and Expenses etc. till date of Payment.	

2. Shi Rai Ad Ma	Borrower(s): iri Sateesh Chand S/o Shri imswaroop Rathore Idress: House No. 346/4,	24.01.2019 06.04.2019	870950490, +91-8789356663; Email Id:- firoza@ucoba All that part and parcel of the property consists of Land with building measuring 1022.03 sq ft. (94.95	Rs. 41,23,430.50	Rs. 48,15,000/-
Ra Ad Ma	mswaroop Rathore idress: House No. 346/4,	06.04.2019	Land with building measuring 1022.03 sq ft. (94.95)	ID	CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF THE PARTY.
Shi Sat Ad Na	habeer Nagar Gali No. 7 Tehsil Distt. Firozabad 283203 (U.P.) and ari Vikaram Rathore S/o Shri tish Rathore Idress: House No.75, Bheem agar Gali No. 5, Firozabad 3203 (U.P.)	(Symbolic Possession)	Sq. Mtr.) as per Bahi No. I, Zild No. 4566, Page No. 105 to 128, Sl No. 10364 registered on 16.09.2004 at Sub-Registar-I, Firozabad, situated at House No. 346/4, Mahabeer Nagar, Gali No.7, Tehsil & Distt. Firozabad, 283203 standing in the Name of Shri Sateesh Chand S/o Shri Ramswaroop Rathore and residing at House No. 346/4, Mahabeer Nagar, Gali No.7, Tehsil & Distt. Firozabad, 283203 Details of Boundaries (As per Deed) East: House No. 346/3 of Siyaram and Jaidayal and Murari Lal, West: Rasta Gali 12 Ft., North: Gallery of Siyaram and Jaidayal and Murari Lal after House Ramveer Lekhpal, South: Road Mahabeer Nagar Known Encumbrances, if any-Nil	Twenty Three Thousand Four Hundred Thirty Paisa Fifty Only) as on 24.01.2019 (inclusive of interest upto 30.09.2018) plus further interest thereon at the contractual rate, costs, charges and expenses etc. till date of payment.	Rs. 4,81,500/-

North - Property of Smt. Usha Devi; South - Property till date of payment. charges and expenses etc. Vishnu, Tower Wali Gali, Line Paar, Near Samam ITI, Firozabad U.P.283203 of Mr. Jain Known Encumbrances, if any - Nil Last Date for submission of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) for Bid : 29.01,2025 upto 4:00 PM as per (IST) Date & Time of E-auction :- 30.01.2025 from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM as per (IST) with unlimited extension of 10 minutes each with Bid Incremental Amount of Rs. 10,000/-

Firozabad U.P.283203

building measuring 124.62 Sq. Mtr. as per Bahi No. 1, Zild Fifteen Lakh Twenty Eight

on 27.07.2015. Situated at House No. 288, Nagla Eleven and Paisa Fifty

Vishnu, Tower Wali Gali, Line Paar, Near Sarnam ITI, Only) as on 09.09.2021

Firozabad standing in the name of Smt. Meena Devi (inclusive of interest upto

W/o. Shri Hari Singh, resident of House No. 288, Nagla 31.12.2016) plus further

Vishnu, Tower Wali Gali, Line Paar, Near Sarnam ITI, interest thereon at the

Bounded by:- East - Plot of Gupta; West - Rasta 15 Ft.;

No. 10740, Page No. 153 to 170 St. No. 6963 Registered Thousand Eight Hundred Rs. 2,33,500/-

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit the websites https://baanknet.com The Borrower's and/or Guarantor's attention is invited to provisions of subsection 8 of section 13 of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets. Note:- Hindi & English versions of this Notice are being published in Hindi & English Newspapers respectively. It is clarified that in case of any contradiction in Hindi and

Place :- Firozabad Date:- 11.01.2025 Zonal Office: 75/4, Siddhi Sadan, Halsey Road **UCO BANK**

11-06-2018

Prop. Shri Hari Singh S/o Shri Siyaram

Address -: House No. 288, Nagla

Guarantor(s) Mrs. Meena W/o. Mr. Hari

Address-:- House No. 288, Nagla

Samam ITI, Firozabad U.P.283203

Vishnu, Tower Wali Gali, Line Paar, Near (Symbolic Possession)

English version of the Notice, the English version of the Notice will prevail.

Near Badshahi Naka Police Station, Kanpur - 208001 E-mail: zokanpur.rec@ucobank.co.in SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES [See proviso to Rule - 8(6)]

further interest thereon

at the contractual rate,

costs, charges and

Expenses etc. till date

12.07.2023), plus further

interest thereon at the

contractual rate, costs,

Authorized Officer (UCO Bank)

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of I with proviso to Rule 8(6) read with Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property(ies) mortgaged/charged to UCO Bank Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of UCO Bank Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is Where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis on 29.01.2025, for recovery of Bank's Dues from Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) to UCO Bank Secured Creditor. The details are

062	cribed as below.	XV.		2	2
Sr. No.	Name & Address of Borrower(s)/	Demand Notice Date	escription of introducable Propertyties) with known I	Bank's Dues	Rs. 19,80,000/- Rs. 1,98,000/-
NO.	Guarantor(s)	Possession Notice Date	encumbrances, if any		
Brar	ch:- Kasganj, District -Agra; Contac	t Number(s):- +91-89090	09496, +91-8789356663; Email ld:- kasgan@ucob	ank.co.in, zokanpur.rec@	ucobank.co.ir
and the last of	Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantors:		All that part and parcel of Double story House,	THE RESIDENCE OF THE PARTY OF T	the second second second
	Mr. Sohil Ansari S/o Aslam, R/o Mohalla Nawab Peer Challa, Kasganj-207123, Mr. Aslam S/o Mr. Abdul Salam R/o Gali No. 2, Mohalla Nawab Baddu Nagar, Kasganj-207123,	(Symbolic Possession)	measuring area 83.82 Sq. Mtr as per Book No.1, Volume No.1660, Page No. 293-342, Sr. No. 7700 registered on 31.07.2018 at Sub-Registrar Office Kasganj Tehsil & District Kasganj situated at Mohalla Baddu Nagar (Dr Farukh wali Gali-2), Ward-10 Pargana Bilram Tehsil and District-Kasganj standing in the name of Mr. Sohil Ansari S/o Aslam resident of Mohalla	Lakh Twenty Two Thousand Three Hundred Seventy Five & Paisa Fifty Two Only) as on 05.04.2023 (inclusive of Interest	Ks. 1,98,000/-

Ansari S/o Aslam resident of Mohalla

East: House of Nannu Manihar, West

House of Bhatu Qureshi, North: House of

Nawab Peer Challa Kasganj-207123.

Details of Boundries (As per deed):

of Payment. Bhure Qureshi, South: Rasta 8 ft. Known Encumbrances, if any - Nil Branch:- Rawatpara, District -Agra; Contact Number(s):- +91-9719753411, +91-8789356663; Email Id:- rawatp@ucobank.co.in, zokanpur.rec@ucobank.co.in Borrower(s): Mrs Urmila W/o Mr All that part and parcel of the property consists of Rs. 33,45,611.22 16-07-2021 Rs. 62.80.000 Rajendra Singh and Mr Krishan Veer (Rupees Thirty Three Land & Building measuring 167.22 Sq. Mtr.as per 16-11-2021 Bahi No. 1, Zild No. 3848, Page No. 325 to 340, Si. No. Lakh forty five thousand Rs. 6,28,000/-Singh S/o Mr Rajendra Singh R/o Plot No 5D/18, Village Albatiya, (Symbolic Possession) 4688 registered on 29.08.2003 at Sub-Registrar II six hundred eleven and Shahganj, Agra -282010 Agra situated at Plot no 5D/18, Khasara no 104 paisa twenty two Only) Guarantor(s): Mr Rajendra Singh S/o as on 15.07.2021 Village Albatiya, Tehsil & District Agra standing in Mr. Ramabharosi, Mr. Krishan Veer (inclusive of interest upto the name of Mrs Urmila W/O Mr Rajendra Singh Singh S/o Mr Rajendra, Mrs. Urmila 30.11.2020) plus further resident of Albatiya , Tehsil & District Agra W/o Mr Rajendra Singh, interest thereon at the Details of Boundaries (As per Deed) R/o Plot No 5D/18, Village Albatiya, contractual rate, costs,

East: Property of Seller, West: Property of Seller. Shahganj, Agra-282010 charges and expenses North: Property of Rajendra Singh, South: Road & Mr. Hemant Singh S/o Mr Rajendra etc. till date of payment. Exit 30 ft. Wide Singh, R/o Plot No 5D/4, Village Known Encumbrances, if any - Nil Albatiya, Shahgani, Agra -282010 Branch:- Firozabad, District -Firozabad; Contact Number(s):- +91-9870950490, +91-8789356663; Email Id:- firoza@ucobank.co.in, zokanpur.rec@ucobank.co.in Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantors: 24.04.2023 All that part and parcel of Double story building Rs. 16,10,991.95 Rs. 33,00,000/ Mr. Gajadhar Singh S/o Ram House No. 22, Kishan Nagar Mauja-Sailai, (Rupees Sixteen Lakh 28.06.2023 Rs. 3,30,000/-Bamba Bypass Road Firozabad, measuring Ten Thousand Nine Swaroop R/o 22, Kishan Nagar, Bamba (Symbolic Possession) area 1250 Sq. ft. as per Book No.1, Volume No. Hundred Ninety One & Bypass Road Sukhmalpur 1433, Sr. No. 4958, Page No. 77 to 78, registered Paisa Ninety Five on 28.02.1989 at Sub-Registrar Office Only) as on 24.04.2023 Nizamabad, Firozabad- U.P. (inclusive of Interest Firozabad District Firozabad standing in the

Guarantors: Upto 30.11.2022) plus name of Mr. Gajadhar Singh S/o Mr. Ram Mr. Satyendra Kumar Sharma S/o further interest thereon Swaroop, resident of 22, Kishan Nagar, Bamba Mr. Gajadhar Singh at the contractual rate, Bypass Road Sukhmalpur Nizamabad, costs, charges and R/o 22, Kishan Nagar, Bamba Firozabad-U.P.-283203 Bypass Road Sukhmalpur Expenses etc. till date of Details of Boundries (As per deed): Nizamabad, Firozabad- U.P. Payment. East: Plot of Shri Bhagwan, West: Plot of 283203 Kriparam, North: Plot of Shyam Lal, South: Bamba & Patri

Branch:- Bada Bazar (0310), District -Jhansi; Contact Number(s):- +91-8630229224, +91-9334414353; Email Id:- jhansi@ucobank.co.in, zokanpur.rec@ucobank.co.in

Known Encumbrances, if any - Nil

All that part and parcel of the property Rs. 21,17,653,89/- (Rupees Rs. 22,50,000/ Borrower(s): M/s. Maa Adishakti 31.10.2023 Saree (Prop. Shri Sonal Nagariya) Twenty-One Lakhs consists of Land & Building measuring (712) 24.01.2024 Seventeen Thousand Six Rs. 2,25,000/-R/o 26, Jawahar Chowk, Jhansi, Uttar sq. ft.) 86.14 sq Mtr as per Bahi No. 1, Zild Hundred Fifty Three and Pradesh 284002, (Symbolic Possession) Paise Eighty Nine Only) Prop. Shri Sonal Nagariya S/o Sh No. 232, Page No. 377-384/419-420, Sl. inclusive of interest up to Santosh Nagariya No. 2547 registered on 19.07.1999 at Sub-12.07.2023) as on R/o L-42, Lahar Gird Road, Lahar Gird, Registrar Jhansi situated at Mauza Lahar 30.10.2023 which includes Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh - 284003 Cash Credit Limit (A/c No: Guarantor(s): Late Shri Santosh Gird, Nagar Nigam Allotment No. 42, 03100510000953) having Nagariya S/o Sh. Motilal Nagariya Jhansi standing in the name of Late Shri Outstanding Balance of Rs. through legal heir(s) Santosh Nagariya S/o Shri Motilal 21,17,653.89/- (Rupees Smt. Awadhesh Nagariya W/o Late Twenty One Lakhs Nagariya resident of 868, Hewat Ganj, Shri Santosh Kumar Seventeen Thousand Six Gwal Toli, Hansari, Jhansi Hundred Fifty-Three and Shri Sonal Nagariya S/o Late Shri Details of Boundaries (As per Deed) Paise Eighty-Nine Only) Santosh Kumar Nagariya Inclusive of interest up to East: Plot of Har Prasad, West: Kachcha

3. Ms. Surbhi Nagariya D/o Late Shri

Address: L-42, Lahar Gird Road,

Santosh Kumar Nagariya

Lahar Gird, Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh charges and expenses etc. Known Encumbrances, if any - Nil till date of payment. Last Date for submission of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) for Bid : 28.01.2025 upto 4:00 PM as per (IST) Date & Time of E-auction: - 29.01.2025 from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM as per (IST) with unlimited extension of 10 minutes each with Bid Incremental Amount of Rs. 10,000/-

Plot of Smt. Prem Lata

Rasta 15 ft., North: Plot of Seller, South:

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit the websites https://baanknet.com The Borrower's and/or Guarantor's attention is invited to provisions of subsection 8 of section 13 of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets. Note:- Hindi & English versions of this Notice are being published in Hindi & English Newspapers respectively. It is clarified that in case of any contradiction in Hindi and

English version of the Notice, the English version of the Notice will prevail. Place :- Kasganj/Agra/Jhansi Authorized Officer (UCO Bank) Date :- 11.01.2025 epaper.indianexpress.com

Shami returns for T20I series against England; no space for Pant

DEVENDRA PANDEY JANUARY 11

FAST BOWLER Mohammed Shami made a comeback to the Indian team, named for the five-match T20I series against England that begins on January 22 in Kolkata. Shami last played for India in the 2023 World Cup final against Australia in Ahmedabad, after which he was sidelined because of an ankle injury that needed surgery.

The 34-year-old made a return to cricket for the Ranji Trophy and also played in the T20 Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy and is playing the ongoing 50-over Vijay Hazare Trophy for Bengal. However, he didn't make it for India's disastrous tour of Australia because of swelling of the knee on his return to domestic cricket. The national selectors met in Mumbai on Saturday and after receiving a fit-

-SLAM SNIPPETS

Aus Open: Tsitsipas

hopes Melbourne will

bring out best in him

Former Australian Open runner-up

Stefanos Tsitsipas hopes a return to

his "home" Slam at Melbourne Park

can spark an upturn in his fortunes af-

ter an inconsistent 2024 saw the Greek

tle in Monte Carlo in April but other

than that found success hard to come

ulation of Greek speakers outside

Greece and Cyprus and 2023

Australian Open finalist Tsitsipas is

confident he will have huge support

in his latest bid for a first Grand Slam

title. "I'm really glad to be back to

Melbourne," he told reporters on

Saturday. "I can't wait to start the

Australian Open, which I've said is

my home Slam. It's a great opportu-

nity to be playing on these courts, to

be receiving the crowd support I

have been receiving over the last few

Collins glad to be back

DANIELLE COLLINS had no intention

of being at this year's Australian Open

but the former finalist is glad to be back

at Melbourne Park and taking comfort

in the routines of tennis after personal

setbacks. The American former world

number seven had planned to retire at

the end of 2024 to start a family but

said in October she had changed her

mind and would play on in 2025.

Collins, who suffers from endometrio-

sis, said starting a family was proving

more complicated than she hoped due

to her health issues, paving the way for

a return to the court. "I was looking for-

ward to trying to start a family right

away and to start a new chapter," the

31-year-old told reporters at

Melbourne Park on Saturday. "But

sometimes these things get thrown at

you, different curve balls. Now it's just

kind of like, well, I can enjoy some

more time on tour, which is a bonus.

"It's been nice being back on tour and

having, you know, the time to be

around my friends on tour and having

that support system."REUTERS

at Australian Open

years. **REUTERS**

by, finishing the year ranked 11th.

Tsitsipas won his third Masters ti-

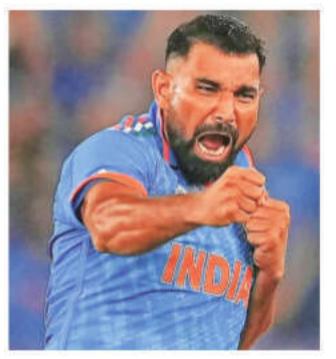
Melbourne has the largest pop-

drop out of the top 10.

ness update on Shami picked the fast bowler for the shortest format, The Indian Express understands.

In Shami's absence, the team didn't have a second fast bowler other than pace spearhead and stand-in skipper Jasprit Bumrah to consistently put pressure on the Australian batsmen. Bumrah was named player of the series after picking 32 wickets but missed the third and final day of the fifth Test in Sydney because of an injury. Without Bumrah, Australian batsmen found it easier as they chased down a 162-run target with six wickets to spare. The pace spearhead is also absent from the T20I squad as he deals with a

Though the selectors didn't pick Shami initially for the tour of Australia, there was talk of him travelling to Australia at some point in time. Captain Rohit Sharma fielded questions about Shami's potential availability



Mohammed Shami was deemed unfit for India's Test tour to Australia. File

after Australia beat India by 10-wickets in the second Test match in Adelaide.

"We are just monitoring him because while playing Syed Mushtaq Ali, he got some swelling in his knee, which hampers his preparation to come and play a Test match. We want to be very careful, we don't want to bring him here, he pulls up sore or something happens. We want to be more than 100% sure with him because it has been a long time. We don't want to put pressure on him to come here and do the job for the team. There are some professionals monitoring, we will take a call based on what those guys feel." Rohit had said.

However, the swelling in his knee took time to heal and Shami played no part in the Test series.

ABCCI release on December 23, head of the Boxing Day Test match, had stated: "Based on the current medical assessment, the BCCI medical team has determined that his knee requires more time for controlled exposure to bowling loads. Consequently, he has not been deemed fit for consideration for the remaining two Tests of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy."

For the T20 series at home against England, Shami will join a squad that has Arshdeep Singh, Harshit Rana, Nitish Reddy and Hardik Pandya as the other seamers.

No place for Pant

The selectors have also opted for Dhruv Jurel as the second wicketkeeper in the squad with the in-form Sanju Samson being the first choice as Rishabh Pant misses out on a spot. Jurel comes in place for Jitesh Sharma. The find of the Test tour to Australia, allrounder, Nitish too is part of the T20 squad.

Samson's batting has flourished since he moved to the opening slot in T20 Internationals. He has scored three centuries in his last five matches, one against Bangladesh at home — his maiden ton — and two against South Africa in Durban and Johannesburg.

Reddy has played three times for India in the shortest format with a top score of 74 off just 34 balls versus Bangladesh in Delhi. Post the Test tour of Australia, he has gained the reputation as an all-format player by scoring two 40s and also a 104 in Melbourne in addition to being a handy medium pacer. Middleorder batsman Rivan Parag is not part of the squad that will play England because of an injury.

INDIA T20 SQUAD: Suryakumar Yadav (captain), Sanju Samson, Abhishek Sharma Tilak Varma, Nitish Reddy, Mohd Shami Arshdeep Singh, Harisht Rana, Dhruv Jurel Rinku Singh, Hardik Pandya, Axar Patel, Ravi Bishnoi, Varun Chakrabarthy and Washington Sundar.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Swiatek seeks normalcy

World No 2 comes to Melbourne with a subdued personality, patchy form while Sabalenka, Gauff chase Oz crown

NAMITKUMAR JANUARY 11

A DAY after he had won the Cincinnati Masters title, news dropped of Jannik Sinner's failed dope tests and suspicions swirled regarding his immediate exoneration. Despite the enormous media interest and raised eyebrows from peers in the locker room, a few weeks later he won the US Open and ended the year as World No. 1 after one of the most successful ATP sea-

A similar task lies ahead for Iga Swiatek, the women's World No. 2 and five-time Major winner, who arrives at the Australian Open, starting Sunday, for her first major event since being banned for one month for testing positive for the banned substance trimetazidine, which she, like Sinner, successfully appealed was a case of accidental contamination with her sleeping medication.

With a different personality and coming into the year in patchy form, Swiatek, who has not always been immune to tempestuousness, must find the resolve that Sinner found to block out the noise and succeed on the big stage in what will be the most daunting challenge of the Polish 23-year-old's career so far.

Already facing accusations of a lack of transparency and favouritism regarding anti-doping controls, Swiatek's case heightened the scrutiny for tennis's governing bodies even more. In November, it was announced that Swiatek had accepted the month-long ban -essentially a plea bargain -- retroactively between September and October, meaning her absences from tournaments in that time for 'fatigue' and 'personal matters' were really due to a doping violation that had been concealed from the public.

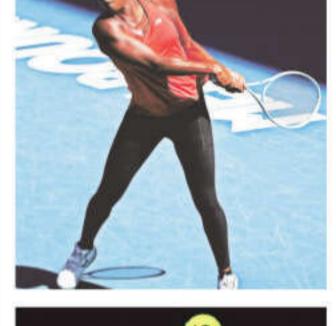
Sceptics of the system, having already raised concerns during the Sinner case, spoke out against what seemed like another case of preferential treatment, when lower-ranked players have had year-long bans despite testing positive due to accidental contamination.

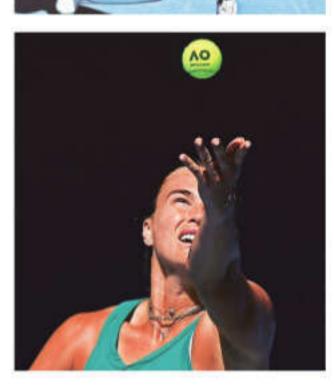
Swiatek believes herself to be fortunate to avoiding becoming one of the symbols of her fellow colleagues' mistrust of the system.

"For sure, it wasn't easy; it was probably, like, the worst time in my life," she was quoted as saying at the pre-tournament press conference by Reuters.

"I always worked hard to be a good example, to show my integrity, show good behaviour. Having no control over this case really freaked me out a bit," the Pole said. "But in the locker room, the girls are great... They're wor-







Iga Swiatek goes into the Australian Open with patchy form while Aryna Sabalenka and Coco Gauff start as favourites. Reuters & AP

ried this can happen to them, as well. There are many top players that are supportive. I appreciate that, because it made me feel better when I came back and didn't know how it was going

But the scale of negative attention, for a player that travels with a psychologist in acknowledgement of the need for mental steadiness during the testing grind of Grand Slam

tennis, will prove to be a huge mental hurdle. Swiatek's dominance on the tour between 2022-23 faded last year; her performances away from her favoured surface slumped, the competition caught up, and she lost her grip on the top spot of the rankings after having already spent 125 weeks as World No. 1 (seventh-most in WTA history).

Even before the doping setback, she had acknowledged the need for technical changes -- in particular in the way in which power-hitters test her game on hard courts by rushing her groundstrokes, testing her extreme western grip. A new coach, Wim Fissette, who previously worked with Naomi Osaka, has been hired too. After a couple of brutal assignments in recent tournaments, the draw has been kind to the second seed in Melbourne. No sleeping giants lay lurking in her path to the second week. But as has been the case before, and now more than ever, the challenge for Swiatek may be within as opposed to who is on the other side of the net.

Key Round 1 battles

MEN'S SINGLES:

[1] Jannik Sinner vs Nicolas Jarry Gael Monfils vs [30] Giovanni Mpetshi Perricard [7] Novak Djokovic vs [WC] Nishesh Basavareddy Matteo Berrettini vs Cameron **Norrie WOMEN'S SINGLES:** [1] Aryna Sabalenka vs Sloane

Stephens [3] Coco Gauff vs Sofia Kenin Naomi Osaka vs Caroline Garcia [16] Jelena Ostapenko vs Belinda

Coaches merry-go-round

Bencic

World No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka and third seed Coco Gauff, the best hard court players of the past two years and the form players on tour, start as favourites, with a potential semifinal encounter. After struggling through most of 2024, Gauff turned things around after she left coach Brad Gilbert at the end of the season and began working on more technical issues. Titles at the WTA Finals and United Cup have worked as perfect preparation.

If the Novak Djokovic-Andy Murray part-

nership is the one making headlines, the coaches merry-go-round in the women's section is likely to create plenty of intrigue.

Swiatek has roped in Fissette, while Osaka has replaced him with Serena Williams's former coach Patrick Mouratoglou.

Now ranked 50th, Osaka has shown signs of a spark since her post-pregnancy return to the game, but a big comeback awaits. A sleeping giant in the draw after a run to the final in Auckland this week, but she will have to do it the hard way with plenty of top names and form players in her section.

Meanwhile, Djokovic's former coach Goran Ivanisevic has been hired by sixth seed Elena Rybakina. The Kazakh, a former Wimbledon champion and finalist at Melbourne in 2023, has flown under the radar after illnesses and injuries have taken their toll, but the big-serving steady baseliner makes for a good match with Ivanisevic, and, in Swiatek's half, the sixth seed could do some damage.

If she can keep the distractions away, that is. Rybakina has announced the return of her former coach, Stefano Vukov, only for the WTA to reveal that he is unavailable due to an ongoing investigation into a breach of code of conduct. A storm of questions surround her now, but the churn is consuming all -- other than heavy favourite and and two-time defending champion Sabalenka -- as the tone is set for 2025 down under.

Rudras arrest slide

New Delhi: UP Rudras arrested their

slide with an important 3-1 win

against Delhi SG Pipers in the men's

Hockey India League on Saturday.

Goals by Floris Wortelboer (30'), Kane

Russell (43') and Tanguy Cosyns (54')

helped them move back to No 2 on the

table. Jake Whetton (29') scored for

Delhi SG Pipers. In the earlier match,

Hyderabad Toofans bagged shootout

bonus against Soorma Hockey Club af-

ter a 1-1 draw. Nicolas Della Torre (8')

gave Soorma the lead in the first quar-

ter but Amandeep Lakra (40') levelled

it up. Soorma's captain Harmanpreet

Singh limped off late in the match and

didn't take part in the shootout. **ENS**

Rybakina says she didn't complain about ex-coach before suspension

REUTERS

MELBOURNE, JANUARY 11

FORMER WIMBLEDON champion Elena Rybakina said on Saturday she had not complained about her former coach Stefano Vukov before his provisional suspension by the governing body of women's tennis for a potential code of conduct breach.

Rybakina split with Vukov in August just days ahead of the U.S. Open, before appointing Goran Ivanisevic in November but added her long-time coach back into her team this month. Vukov, who is currently being investi-

gated by the WTA and cannot obtain a credential to its tournaments, denies wrongdoing and told The Athletic he "never abused anyone" after the outlet first reported the provisional ban.

"I don't agree with a lot of things the WTA do in the sense of my relationship with Stefano," Rybakina told reporters ahead of the Australian Open, which be-

gins on Sunday. "I have never made any complaints or any of these things. I always said that he never mistreated me. I don't really want to speak about this any more. I want to focus

on my matches here." Rybakina, who won the 2022 Wimbledon title under Vukov, did not specify his role in her team and said that it was unfair of the tennis community to be

commenting on the situation. "I'm not happy with the whole situation, especially when still some coaches are making some comments and the people who aren't so close to the tennis world, they see the comments and they're picking it up, making even more of a show out

But as I said, my goal is here to focus on the matches. This is what I'm going to do." The 2023 Melbourne Park runner-up begins her campaign against 16-year-old

Australian Emerson Jones.

of this," she added. "I don't think it's fair.



Elena Rybakina had split with coach Stefano Vukov but brought him back into her team this month. Reuters

Coach Menezes returns to happy hunting ground as women's HIL starts

VINAYAKK MOHANARANGAN

JANUARY 11

LAST TIME he was in Ranchi, Jude Menezes enjoyed a momentous high in his coaching career. The former India goalkeeper, who played more than 100 international matches and represented the country at the Sydney Olympics, masterminded Japan's third-place finish at the Olympic qualifiers as a coach. And at the cost of India, his team booked its tickets to Paris 2024.

He is now back in the city, this time as the coach of Soorma Hockey Club as the inaugural edition of Hockey India League for women begins on Sunday. "It brings back pleasant memories here for me," Menezes told *The Indian* Express. "It's a happy hunting ground. But oh, it was a nerve-wracking tournament. You go through some dark places. When you're winning, everything is great. But when you're not, there's apprehension about what might happen. It really tests your composure and puts a lot of pressure on you. I was fortunate to be on

the right side of the equation." The Mumbai-born Menezes began his

coaching journey in New Zealand, where he has lived with his family since 2002. The stint in Japan saw him ascend to the role of head coach. Now finally he gets to coach Indian internationals in the four-team league. He is the only former India international in a head coach capacity across the eight teams in the men's HIL and four in the women's.

"I'm privileged and grateful for the opportunity. I watched the last few editions in the previous version (men's) and wanted to be a part of it," he said.

Menezes is convinced HIL won't just be a boost for Indian women's hockey but for the global game. When it comes to Indian sport, franchise leagues for women are still not widely prevalent -- the Women's Premier League for cricket started only three years back but has already shown encouraging signs in terms of investment and popularity.

"It's a huge step for the future of women's hockey. Like the IPL, which became a mega event, this could be the start of something massive. It will boost Indian and world hockey. It will make the sport more exciting, hopefully draw more crowds, and attract more sponsor-





Captains ahead of Women's HIL in Ranchi. (L) Former India goalie Jude Menezes. HIL

ship. I hope it skyrockets from here," he said.

Working with Indian youngsters will have a special meaning. "Absolutely gold. These opportunities are rare, I'm fortunate to have this chance and I've worked hard for it. It's not just about coaching hockey; it's about life," he said.

"We've got three or four young under-21s with exceptional talent. It's a great learning opportunity for them, working with someone like Maria Verschoor, a double Olympic gold

medalist. She already gels well with the young athletes. The overseas girls have been fantastic with the whole group and the young Indians will benefit the most."

And as a goalkeeper himself, he will be working with India's best, Savita Punia. "She is a fantastic leader, works harder than most people I know. Just a lot of respect between us. She's had a fantastic career, a real rock in the Indian defense. I have had a few losses against

India, and Savita has always been key in guarding that goal. It's great that she's on my side

now," he said.

ing with the Japanese squad was, of course, communication. Shihori Oikawa, a player who speaks fluent English, had helped Menezes get his message across. Interestingly, he insisted that the players repeat what his message was to ensure it wasn't lost. "The most powerful lesson I learned was to be more observant. When someone speaks your language and understands what you are saying, communication can be taken for granted. But when someone doesn't, you have to become skilled at delivering your message. I learned it's not about what you say, but what they take away." Having lived outside India for a long time

now, Menezes needs to pick up his Hindispeaking skills now. He joked, "I spent four or five days in Bombay and brushed up on my Bambaiya Hindi. It's not too bad (smiles). I was happy to be back there for Christmas and finally got a chance to spend Christmas with my family after eight years. I think I'm slotting into Hindi well. I mix it up in team talks. I ask the girls if they understand my Hindi. They say it's very good, but I don't know about that. But when I sit in the rickshaws in Bombay, I feel like I'm at home."

For Menezes, one of the challenges work-

To tackle doping menace, AFI to target coaches, identify 'hideouts'

NIHAL KOSHIE

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 11

IDENTIFYING COACHES involved in doping rackets, drawing up a list of training centres across the country that are 'hideouts' for dope cheats and sharing this intelligence with watchdogs like the Monaco-based Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) and the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA). These are the key functions of an Anti-Doping Cell to be created by the Athletics Federation of India (AFI), which is alarmed by the rise in doping cases in track and field and wants to tackle the menace head on.

All coaches have been asked to mandatorily register on the AFI portal and athletes will have to mention the name of the coach when they file entry for competitions, a move that is proposed as a deterrent to doping. The AFI is also discussing venturing into unchartered territory of collecting samples for dope testing and storing and transporting them to an

accredited laboratory to reduce the workload of NADA and catch more dope cheats.

The AFI's major push to weed out athletes comes on the heels of the recommendations of a six-member committee, constituted because of the surge in positive cases. The committee was headed by Special CP (Delhi Police) Sagar Preet Hooda and included chief national coach Radhakrishnan Nair. The proposals of the committee were tabled at AFI's AGM in Chandigarh last week.

"The rise in doping cases in athletics was the reason for the formation of the committee and the AFI had sought its recommendations," Parth Goswami, a special invitee of the committee and a member of the Disciplinary and Appeals Panel for World Athletics, said.

Among countries which tested over 2,000 samples, India recorded the highest percentage of failed dope tests - 3.2% or 125 positive cases out of 3,865 - according to the 2022 Testing Figures Report, the latest figures released by the World Anti-Doping Agency in



Illustration: Suvajit Dey

April last year. AIU's latest list of ineligible athletes has 108 Indians in a total of 481.

The AFI's crackdown on coaches is aimed at stopping them from cajoling young athletes to use banned substances for quick gains. This malpractice is prevalent among teenage athletes and if unchecked, it can result in wheels coming off a seemingly promising career when the athlete progresses to the senior level.

"The committee was of the unanimous view that only in rare cases does a coach not know that an athlete is doping. Coaches know, therefore it is important that coaches are the main focus. It is happening at the grassroots and with minor athletes. There is a recommendation to register all coaches with the AFI. And athletes when registering for an event will write their coach's name also. We have in the past seen certain cases where athletes have refused to name their coaches even after getting caught. They had been prepared in such a manner that they did not reveal who their coach was," Goswami, a senior sports lawyer, said.

Coaches involved in doping will not be part of junior or senior teams and will be blacklisted. The Anti-Doping Cell will also prepare a list of coaches involved in doping to be shared with top AFI officials who in turn will handover the names to NADA and AIU.

It has also come to the notice of the AFI that certain training centres in the country have become safe havens for dope cheats. A top AFI official has warned those in-charge of these centres that the malpractice must end else there could be major consequences, including unofficially banning their athletes when squads are named for major events.

"A list of hideouts is being prepared. There are reports that there are certain centres where athletes go and train and they are out of the visibility of anti-doping watchdogs," Goswami said. AFI's outgoing president Adille Sumariwalla had spoken about the menace of doping on the sidelines of the recent AGM.

"Doping is a very, very serious problem, we are fighting it tooth and nail. There is zero tolerance, even some of the biggest names have undergone (extensive testing). The AFI can do two things, educate and police. We are doing both. Now, it has to be done at the state and district level where the problem is," Sumariwala had said.

Radical move

An out-of-the-box move the AFI is discussing is a plan to collect samples of athletes for dope testing at a World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) accredited laboratory. WADA coordinates implementation of antidoping rules and athletes' samples are currently collected by the NADA and AIU.

"AFI is also looking at an option where, at times, when NADA's capacity to collect samples is limited, it can step in. The AFI is contemplating whether with the approval of World Athletics, it can conduct out-of-competition tests for certain athletes. The AFI's sixmember committee discussed a system where samples are collected and sent to an accredited lab so there are checks in place besides NADA. We are exploring certain provisions in the World Athletics constitution which gives powers to national federations,' Goswami said.

The AFI is prepared to pay for Doping-Control Officers, testing kits and a storage facility.

Javelin event in India in May: 'Longstanding' dream for Neeraj

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE JANUARY 11

A CONTINENTAL Tour javelin-only competition in India, headlined by Neeraj Chopra, well be held in May, it was confirmed on Saturday. The venue and list of athletes are yet to be finalised, but among the best male and female javelin throwers from around the world are set to compete on Indian soil in a first-of-its-kind event.

"It has been a longstanding dream of mine to organise and bring a world-class javelin competition to India," Neeraj Chopra said. "With the help of ISW Sports and the Athletics Federation of India, we are making this happen. I am sure that my fellow athletes and the fans in India will both create an experience that will be spoken about for a long time. I am excited to see how big we can make this."

According to the statement, Neeraj and JSW Sports are keen to make the event an annual fixture in the world athletics calendar, with an eye on adding more track and field disciplines to the meeting.

The Indian Express had reported this week that AFI's outgoing president Adille Sumariwalla said on the sidelines of the Annual General Body Meeting of the AFI, it makes sense to conduct the invitational competition comprising the world's best athletes because of the popularity of javelin in the country post Neeraj's Tokyo Olympics gold.

Sumariwalla said: "We could not have a better role model than Neeraj Chopra to inspire the next generation of Indian athletes. 2025 will be an exciting year for Indian athletics with two Continental Tour meetings being held in our country."

A bronze-level Continental Tour event in Bhubaneshwar on August 10 is on the AFI's calendar and it has also submitted a letter of intent to host the Under-20 World Championships in 2028.

Lord Sebastian Coe, World Athletics President: "World Athletics is delighted to support this new event that will allow fans in India to see their heroes on home soil and that will also showcase to the world India's ability to stage gold standard events."

"When Neeraj brought the idea to us of staging a world-class athletics meeting in India, we jumped at the opportunity to help make it happen," Parth Jindal, Founder of JSW Sports said.

Neeraj, who largely competes internationally, had thrown in Odisha last year.

"I have a strong desire to compete in India. I really want India to host a big international event and the federation is also trying. Everyone is keen on seeing India host a big-ticket event. I hope it happens in the future and I am really looking forward to competing in India against international athletes in front of fans," Neeraj had said during an *Indian Express* Idea Exchange.

Reboot still a work in progress

Satwik and Chirag, in a state of post-Paris flux, stumble onto Seo Seung-jae in 21-10, 21-15 flattening

SHIVANI NAIK

JANUARY 11

SATWIKSAIRAJ RANKIREDDY and Chirag Shetty find themselves in a flux that's occurred but never quite made headlines: missing making finals at All England, World Championship and the ultimate coup de grace, the Olympics.

The lessons for 2025 are straightforward: soak up losses, not panic, but not be deluded that everything will fall into place immediately. It's literally starting from scratch, with coach Tan Kim Her.

The semis loss at Malaysia Super 1000 was still early days, against Korean Seo Seung-jae and Kim Won-ho. A final and semis appearance in the two tournaments on their return from a five-month break, when they are clearly very off-the-boil, points to their calibre.

But the 21-10, 21-15 flattening, in 40 minutes, might be their shortest loss, their briefest fight in other words. And Satwik knew he could cop a part of the blame.

"We were prepared but they played really well. I should've followed a bit of the game plan, but I played random strokes," he would tell BWF.

It would be naive to believe that the Indians got uncharacteristically thrashed solely because they were off their normal levels. For Seo Seung-jae, easily the finest Men's Doubles player of the generation, was prancing right in front of them, and looking strangely happy too. Even in his sulky modes, he's quite a handful for opponents with his southpaw surgical game.

But having a gala time with new partner Kim Won-ho, the newly-rustled-up pairing left the Indians utterly bewildered with their game. Satwik would read it perfectly: "They both are playing like mixed doubles now. It's getting tougher. They don't give easy points, that's their best quality. And we have to work hard for every point. We were working very hard and they were taking very easy points. So there was no pressure on them."

The 'mixed doubles game' is a straight up ungrudging compliment. Seung-jae is the 2023 World Champion in men's doubles, but also in mixed.

Won-ho is the Olympic silver medallist in mixed from Paris.

It would suffice to say that Korea is the land of Lee Yong-dae, one of the most creative mixed doubles players to ever walk the court. But Seung-jae, despite missing an Olympic medal, takes the skill-set higher, with his left-handed angles and tremendous foot speed.

Unlike traditional men's doubles - slam bang and mono-chromed at any rate mixed doubles takes into account that women won't settle for humdrum monotony of either fast flat exchanges or smashfests. They open up the game much more, and both Koreans carry the creative fervour and flexibility into their men's doubles gig. To add to that, Kuala Lumpur courts at Axiata have been deadly slow, completely



Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty in action at the Malaysia Open. BWF: Badminton Photo

neutralizing the Indian attacking game.

As such the Indians did well to reach semis. But they will need to counter Korean sorcery on slow shuttle days.

Satwik-Chirag picked the first few points, but as early as 4-4, the Koreans were running rings around them. Famous commentator Gillian Clarke had just about settled into declaring that Kim Won-ho was manning the front court as designated net player, when Seung-jae made her guffaw that she was having a rethink.

Truth was Koreans, with the expanse that great defensive qualities and their right-left combination gives them in covering the court, and their speed, simply follow no pattern. Thinking on their feet, like mixed doubles is accustomed to, they go searching for gaps on court and have the skills to place the shuttle there, without designated roles.

Indians looking to be versatile

It's the sort of versatility Indians are trying to imbibe too, which saw Satwik cut across to the front court early in the rally - something

that Chirag does, though he stayed back to allow his partner time to find his footing. The understanding was there, but the repetition drills that perfect this choreography of movements and strokes to go with it, wasn't. Hence,

Satwik's mea culpa on "random strokes." The Koreans pretty much broke away at 5-5 and had the opener wrapped up with Seungjae being everything everywhere all at once, to riff off Malaysia's greatest action heroine, the Academy Award winner Michelle Yeoh. Seung-jae's speed in deception as he buzzes around the court is a wondrous wheel within a wheel of strokeplay. Not only did the Koreans guard every inch of court defensively, but they made the other half of the court appear bigger and unguardable for the tall Indians.

In the second, the Indians started calmly and had a semblance of a gameplan going. But the only difference was the Koreans 'at will' broke away at 12-12, and cruised to the win. Unable to dictate either pace or patterns, and with slow courts taking the sting out of their game, the Indians got a few points in with

It's what prompted Satwik to say, "My game didn't work. We thought if we stayed calm it would work. But maybe we should've shown some attitude on court. Played with a little more fire."

Chirag also pointed out that the Koreans won the serve-battle. "We started being a little bit calmer from the second. Right from the first point. But credit to them. We gave a few easy points from 11-8. But they were serving quite well," he told BWF. Former coach Mathias Boe set a lot of store on the first three strokes and wrestling control, but the Korean serve is a mystery-box and the Indians were too frazzled by Seung-jae's overall brilliance to be in any position to counter snappily.

Satwik-Chirag next play in Delhi, where they start against fellow losing semi-finalists Man Wei Chong and Kai Wun Tee, of Malaysia in Round 1. Man-Tee lost a decider 24-26 against Chinese Liu-Chen at Axiata on Saturday, so life's not about to get easy or comforting at home for Satwik-Chirag. Knowing they're some way off from ideal, is half the battle covered.

VIJAY HAZARE



Teenager Arshin Kulkarni scored a ton for Maharashtra.

Maharashtra and Karnataka in semis

Vadodara: Four-time champions Karnataka held their nerves to edge out hosts Baroda by five runs, while Maharashtra outplayed Punjab by 70 runs to enter the Vijay Hazare Trophy semifinals here on Saturday. Teenager Arshin Kulkarni struck a composed maiden List A century, while wicketkeeper-batter Nitin Naik hit an explosive unbeaten fifty to power Maharashtra to a handsome win over Punjab at Kotambi Stadium. Kulkarni made a 137-ball 107 in a century-plus partnership with Ankit Bawne (60; 85 balls) before Naik's belligerent knock of 52 not out (29b) at No. 7 lifted them to 275/6. Punjab never posed any threat to the total, losing wickets at regular intervals. Arshdeep Singh was the topscorer with his 39-ball 49 batting at No. 9 but it was just a matter of time before the innings folded for 205 in 44.4 overs. **Brief scores**: Maharashtra 275/6; 50 overs (A Kulkarni 107, A Bawne 60, N Naik 52 not out; A Singh 3/56, N Dhir 2/29) bt **Punjab** 205; 44.4 overs (A 49, A Singh 48; M Choudhary 3/44, P Dadhe 2/31) by 70 runs.

Padikkal back in style

Opener Devdutt Padikkal marked his return to domestic cricket with a scintillating century before Prasidh Krishna's game-changing spell in the death overs propelled Karnataka to a thrilling win over Baroda.

Opting to bowl, Baroda, led by Krunal Pandya, faced an in-form Padikkal, who anchored the Karnataka innings with a superb 102 off 99 balls. Supported by KV Aneesh's solid 52 off 64 balls, Karnataka posted a challenging total of 281/8 in their 50 overs.

Baroda, in reply, seemed well on course to chase the target as opener Shashwat Rawat led the charge with a composed century.

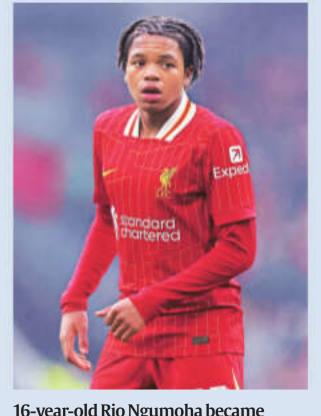
Brief scores: Karnataka 281/8; 50 overs (D Padikkal 102, KV Aneesh 52; A Sheth 3/41, R Limbani 3/47) bt **Baroda** 276; 49.5 overs (S Rawat 104, A Sheth 56; Vasuki Koushik 2/39, Prasidh Krishna 2/60, Abhilash Shetty 2/70, Shreyas Gopal 2/38) by five runs.

SPORTSBAR

FA Cup: Liverpool on course for quadruple with 4-0 victory

Liverpool: Liverpool's bid to win an unprecedented quadruple is still on after a 4-0 victory over Accrington Stanley in the FA Cup on Saturday. The Premier League and Champions League leader is also into the semifinals of the English League Cup. And fourth-division Accrington was never expected to prevent Arne Slot's team from advancing to the fourth round of soccer's oldest knockout competition. Diogo Jota, Trent Alexander-Arnold, Jayden Danns and Federico Chiesa scored for Liverpool at Anfield, with 16-year-old Rio Ngumoha becoming the Merseyside club's secondyoungest debutant. The third round of the FA Cup is traditionally one of the most antici-

pated weekends in English soccer as Premier League clubs enter the competition. Top-flight Leicester routed Queens Park Rangers 6-2 for only its second win under manager Ruud van Nistelrooy. The relegation-fighting team hadn't won since Van Nistelrooy's first game in charge against West Ham at the start of December. James Justin scored two goals and Jamie Vardy cona second-half penalty. Wolverhampton also advanced with a 1-0 win at second-division Bristol City.Later Saturday four-time defending league champion Manchester City was hosting fourthdivision Salford City and Chelsea was facing Morecambe — also from the fourth division. Meanwhile, Atalanta were held 0-0 at Udinese in Serie A as they missed the chance to move level on points with leaders Napoli but they were fortunate to escape with a draw thanks to the woodwork and alert goalkeeping of Marco Carnesecchi. REUTERS



16-year-old Rio Ngumoha became club's second-voungest debutant. Reuters

Mohun Bagan SG pip East Bengal FC

Kolkata: Riding on Jamie Maclaren's record second-minute goal, Mohun Bagan Super Giant extended their dominance in the Kolkata derby with a 1-0 win over traditional rivals East Bengal FC in their Indian Super League match here on Saturday. The match was moved to the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium after the Bidhannagar Police, under whose jurisdiction the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata falls, cited concerns over inadequate security because of the ongoing Gangasagar Mela. Jamie Maclaren scored the fastest goal of the Kolkata derby in ISL and it was enough for the reigning champions to see out their arch-rivals, while going eight points clear (35) at the top of the table, compared to the second-placed Bengaluru FC(27). The Mariners have now won nine times and drawn once in their 10 derby clashes against East Bengal FC in the ISL.

Kasimov late strike seals win for Mohammedan

Bengaluru: Mirjalol Kasimov's stunning 88th-minute free-kick secured Mohammedan SC's 1-0 victory over former champions Bengaluru FC, marking their second win of the Indian Super League, here on Saturday. Bengaluru FC dominated possession with 65.8 per cent and created several early chances, but Mohammedan SC's defense, led by goalkeeper Padam Chhetri, held firm, making key saves to hand the Blues their second successive defeat. This was Bengaluru FC's fourth defeat from 15 matches, leaving them with 27 points in second place, while Mohammedan SC remain in 12th spot with 10 points. BFC's initial attacking move saw Alberto Noguera pulling off a right footed shot from the centre of the box through a delivery that he received through a headed pass from Rahul Bheke in the third minute. PTI

Boxing Nationals: Shiva, Siwach in last 8

Bareilly: Himachal Pradesh's Abhinash Jamwal pulled off a major upset, knocking out former Youth World champion Vanshaj Kumar, while Shiva Thapa and Sachin Siwach continued their dominant run to sail into the quarterfinals of the 8th Elite Men's National Boxing Championship here on Saturday. Jamwa defeated the 2022 youth champion Vanshaj of the Services with a decisive 5-0 victory in the 63.5kg category Representing Assam, the former World Championship bronze medalist, Thapa showcased his skills as he eliminated Himanshu Sangwan with a clean 5-0 win in the 60-65kg category. Former World Youth Champion Sachin Siwach delivered another stellar performance, defeating Kingson Pukhrambam of Manipur by the same margin.

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frosting needs, it has the creamiest texture that

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Amul

Cheese

Sauce

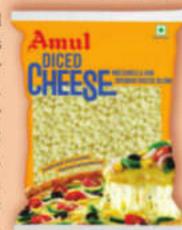
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THE SUNDAY EXPRESS MAGAZINE



POINT OF VIEW, PAGE 2 Toast of the Town

India's only two-Michelin-starred woman chef Garima Arora on launching Banng and why ten lifetimes aren't enough to know Indian food



SCREEN, PAGE 3 Stories from a Prison

Director Vikramaditya Motwane and former jailer Sunil Gupta on the making of *Black* Warrant, a new Netflix series set in Tihar Jail



THE FIVE BROTHERS AND THEIR WIFE

English theatre-film director Peter Brook broke the rules of the game when he staged The Mahabharata more than three decades ago. As the restored version of the film releases, MALLIKA SARABHAI looks back at essaying Draupadi in the epic that travelled the world

UT OF the blue, an email arrived from Peter Brook's son Simon on September 1, 2024. "I believe you are in Udine, Italy? What a stroke of luck. Please come to the Venice Film Festival on the 5th of September for the re-release of an improved restored film. I shall make all arrangements." Destiny? Chance? Serendipity? I was in Italy because the director with whom I was working couldn't come to India, and the work had to start. And I was an hour from Venice. A reunion after 35 years?

Simon had mentioned that he was gathering all those who could come. So many had passed away. Who would be there? How would we react to each other? A few days later, with friends of Simon and Peter, we arrived in Venice by a water taxi. We descended at the Red Carpet gate. Who has not seen the descent of the stars there? There were no stars in sight. We walked into the Hotel Exelcior on Lido Isle.

As I stood slightly lost, recognising no one, a gruff voice said, "Salut, Mallika". I spun around. Towering over me, but with a face that I instantly recognised, was Antona, one of the little boys who alternated as Janmejay, the child that anchors the play in its telling by Vyasa, last seen as a 10-year-old. And then one by one there were others, Ken, another of the little boys; Chloe Obelansky, the remarkable costume designer; Corinne Jaber, Amba and Sikhandi, whom I hardly knew, and my dear friend Georges Corraface, the Duryodhana of the film. There was Simon, of course, looking like a splitting image of Peter, even with the pink shirt he wore, someone I knew not at all. But it was a thin crowd. I learnt of more people having passed.

So many memories. The Mahabharata (1990), an international production of the epic by Peter, toured for four years globally and was turned into a film and a TV series in 1990. Its restored version will be released worldwide after January 2025.

Seeing the restored film was interesting and thrilling. Simon spoke of how he had spent the last few years retrieving the reels of film from the many places where they had been stuck as payments were due, how he had gone to the best lab to restore it to 8K, and how it was the first European film to be thus restored. He also mentioned that it was exactly 35 years earlier that the film had been released at this very festival. A moving evening filled with nostalgia.

In March 1984, I was pregnant with my first child and in bed with a bad case of jaundice. In the local English newspapers, such as The Indian Express and The Times of India, I followed the path Peter and his entourage, being led by Pupul Jayakar, then considered the czarina of culture, took in his search for Krishna or Draupadi for his international production of the epic. He did the usual circuit of metro cities. The newspaper listed the film stars and theatre bigwigs who auditioned. Then the news went cold. At the end of March, my doctors gave me permission to travel. I was headed for New York, still yellow from the jaundice. One morning, four days before my trip, I received a telegram from my friend, the cultural attaché at the French embassy. Are you in Ahmedabad, it asked. Peter wants to fly there tomorrow to meet you. Meet me? What on earth for? I wasn't a professional theatre actor. Maybe some small part. Amma made me say yes.

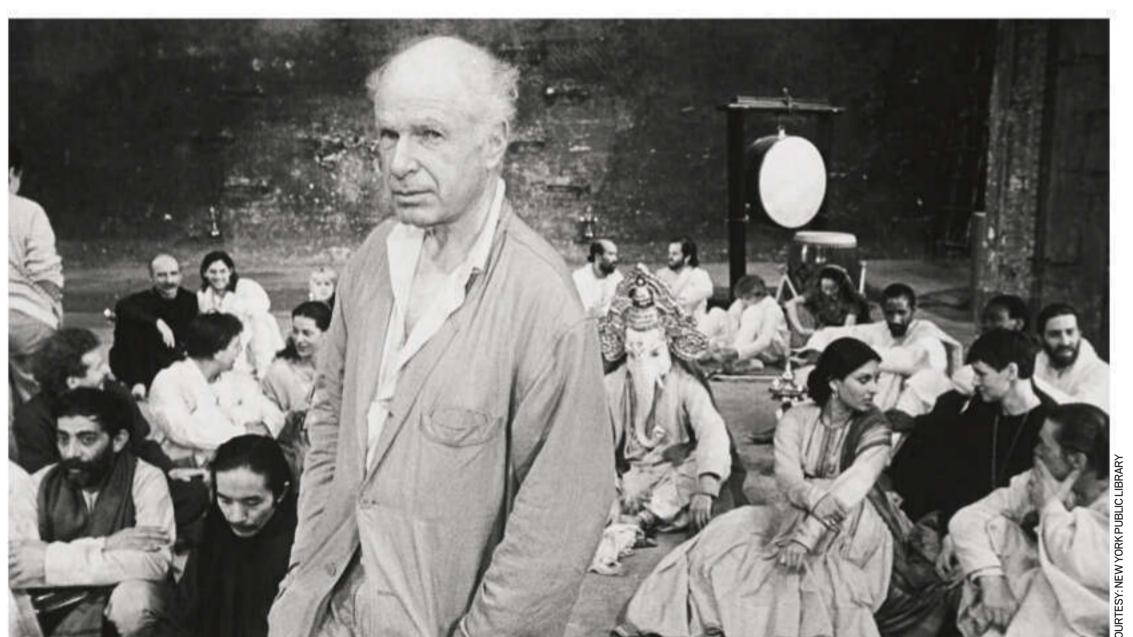
They arrived early next morning, five of them — Peter and his assistant Marie-Hélène Estienne, writer Jean-Claude Carriere, designer Chole and her assistant Pippa. Amma sat them down in my living room. Five months pregnant, thin as a rake, yellow, in a green Kutchhi embroidery dress, hair down to my thighs, I walked in, awkward and intimidated. Five minutes of polite conversation.

Did I speak French? No. Had I done theatre? Yes, a lot in school and college. When was I due? The beginning of September. Pause. Looks exchanged. Then Peter: "We would like you to audition for Draupadi". Draupadi? What? How? And I was about to leave for NYC. "That is fine. My assistant is looking after my Carmen production at the Lincoln Center and he can audition you."

A flurry of activities. Doubts. Temptation

to accept. Anxiousness. More doubts. What





about the baby? What about the publishing house I had just launched with my then-husband? What about my blossoming dance career? To cut a long story short, I accepted. A two-year contract to play Draupadi in French. Which I did not speak.

Revanta was born September 2, the day the rehearsals started in Paris. I joined five weeks later, having organised and completed the biggest-ever international folk festival in India, in Ahmedabad, Mahotsav 84.

I had never lived without my family. Even living in the hostel at the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, meant being four km from home. And here I was, going off to live in a country whose language I didn't speak, with a baby, to manage a home alone, and deal with five husbands, all of whom were great actors from their own country. I was petrified.

For a few months before I left, I had been working on Jean Claude's script with Achille Forler, dear friend and founder, Alliance Francaise d'Ahmedabad. I had managed to memorise bits of my role. Feeling rather

A PAUSE IN TIME

(Top) Mallika Sarabhai in a still from the 1990 film, The Mahabharata; Director Peter Brook surrounded by his cast on the set of the Brooklyn Academy of Music production of the play

The Mahabharata

pleased with myself, I arrived at the first rehearsal, walking up eight floors in a cold and unfinished building in Paris. To be told that the script I had had been changed. The next few months were a nightmare. I hated working with Peter and the actors. I was treated as some exotica, resented for being Indian, envied, looked down upon for not being a professional actor, not wanting to be a Peter groupie. I was breast-feeding Revanta and would disappear every couple of hours to an ante-room, also freezing, where he and his nanny stayed during the 14-hour rehearsals.

Soon, I began to find other actors also crooning over the baby, a break from being frowned upon. As a result, Revu's first nursery rhyme was in Polish, (Duryodhana and Dhritarashtra had issues with Peter or Marie-Hélène and often went to the baby) and the second in a nomadic African language. After five years of touring the world with the company, being with every skin tone, every shade of hair and every sound in the spectrum, Revanta could not understand why all the

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people at home had black hair. Peter and I got off to a bad start. Perhaps, I believed that he would be some kind of a shield, that knowing I was in foreign territory, literally and figuratively, he would provide some warmth. But I found him an exceedingly cold man. We argued vociferously on interpretations of Draupadi and other women characters. Once, he asked me not to sound like a shrew. My cold response, "We don't have shrews in India, only Shaktis." He didn't like one disagreeing with him in public. If I wanted something said, it had to be in private. Then if he was convinced, he would inform the group. He once said to me, "Working with you is like working with Princess Margaret." To which my response was, "I didn't know you had worked with her." He was not amused. He did, however, think that I had the potential to speak perfect French and sent me off to the laboratory of this extraordinary linguistic trainer, Tomatis. And accent-less French, I certainly speak. Every time he thought he had gone too far, or that I was about to up and quit,

Simon (Brook's son) spoke of how he had spent the last few years retrieving the reels of film from the many places where they had been stuck as payments were due, how he had gone to the best lab to restore it to 8K

he would arrive with a gift for Revanta! Once the play was on, and he and I both realised that I did, in fact, bring something special that held the play together, our relationship changed. It became cordial, warm and teasing. And it remained so till his death.

Amma was my thesaurus, my Google, my AI. Every time I wanted to underline with written proof something I was arguing about, I booked a call to Amma. Three days later, I would get through. She would procure the paper or book and send it by post. Two weeks later, it would arrive. And I would wave it in front of Peter and Claude, who was my saviour. Every time I wanted to quit — and that was at least twice a week in the first few months — I would run to him. Rant, weep, all but bang my head. He would calm me, explain Peter's ways, tell me how important having me there was for the play, and envelop me in a hug. Every few months, he would send a smoke signal to Amma to pay a visit. And I survived. Five years of living with Draupadi, with the husbands, with the cast, with myself. All umbilical cords ripped. All cultural landscapes bare.

No common scape to share with anyone. That was when I discovered our affinity as Indians to the two groups of people we all but ignore. The Africans and the Asians. As time passed, I realised that our sense of self and family, our sense of the sacred, of respect, of being connected to nature and to spirituality and a larger belief, was reflected in my fellow actors from these areas. Most Whites looked with disdain and incomprehension when I explained why we must not sit with our feet stuck out towards the Dagar Brothers. Or why paper represented Saraswati and one didn't stamp on it. (I speak of 40 years ago. Today, most young Indians would probably also look at me with incomprehension).

I became myself during those years of anguish, self exploration, loneliness, being at the edge, facing the world's audience, defenceless except for what I offered in my interpretation of my favourite woman. I truly became the woman and the person I am. I watched as women who had little in common with each other reacted to my Draupadi. Fat mamas in Harlem, sexy 20-somethings from the Sorbonne, aboriginal women in Perth. Draupadi touched them. They understood they wanted to be like her. What was I doing right? I came out of *The Mahabharata* five years older, light years more experienced and resilient, with the knowledge that I had to create my own material to touch lives, that our myths were a treasure to be reinterpreted. That if I wanted to give people courage to live their own truths, to find their own truths through my work, I now had the courage and tools to do it. Peter had taught me how to peel a character like an onion, till you find the shunya at the centre. And much of my work in the last 40 years has solidified that belief.

Twenty years after we played at the Brooklyn Academy of Music in New York, I walked out of a department store in the city, now with closely cropped hair. Behind me I heard a shout, Madame Draupadi. A woman dropped the packages in her hand and gave me a long hug. "I have never been the same since I saw you. And I would have recognised you anywhere". The hearts and minds that were touched, remain touched. And The Mahabharata lives on.

Mallika is an activist, Indian classical dancer and

»MORE ON PAGE 3

actor from Ahmedabad



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

IN FLIGHT The cheetah, with a 110 kmph top speed, has quicker acceleration than a Ferrari

All That Legwork

Our wheels may speed us over our smooth roads but over a rugged terrain, animals beat us hands down

E INVENTED the wheel but Mother Nature evolved legs. No living creature evolved wheels because for all of them (excepting us) legs were perfect for the purpose for which they were designed and better than any 4WD we might have designed. Elephants may weigh up to five or six tons yet can charge at you at 40 kmph, faster than you can run! Their legs are solid, column-like and are said to have a four-leg-drive in that both their fore and hind legs provide thrust and brakes.

Most other animals have only 'rear leg-drive' the rear legs providing thrust and the front ones braking. Elephants can move in near silence (no 4WD can) because their feet have in-built shock absorbers. Most of their weight is borne and cushioned by the tips of their toes and the fibrous fatty pads under their heels. For additional grip, the sides of their feet are pitted and ridged enabling them to be very good climbers over rough terrain – and each elephant is thought to have its own custom design of ridges — much like our fingerprints.

A rhino has much thinner legs than an elephant, yet can move with all the delicacy of a ballerina

That other heavyweight, the rhino (weighing over 3.5 tons), has by contrast much thinner legs than the elephant yet can move with all the delicacy of a very big ballerina and they can swivel on a dime. Their feet are more like those of horses and amazingly, their weight is distributed in such a way that their three-ridged toes only feel a peak pressure of 75 pounds per square inch (psi), not much different from ours. The pads on their feet splay out as they land. We're still trying to figure out how rhinos manage to move with the grace and speed

they do, in spite of their clumsy bulk. Depending on your point of view (researchers seem divided over this) kangaroos may have either three or five legs — but never four! There are, of course, the two massively powerful hind legs with which they hop — at more than 48 kmph. Then there's the tail, which some count as the third leg because it is used for propulsion when the kangaroo grazes, as well as the two small front legs (which some consider to be 'hands') on which it rests while feeding, while pushing itself forward. The massive hind legs, which serve as launch pads, are also used in kick-box-

ing and a swipe from that muscle-

packed tail can cause serious damage. Ibex, bharal, big-horn sheep and their ilk who spend their lives on near vertical, rugged mountain slopes are the envy of any climber — and no 4WD vehicle can come anywhere close to them. They are 'cloven-hoofed' which enables them to get their tenacious grip on near vertical slopes. Antelope, buffalo, impala and gazelle have four toes on each foot, but stand tiptoe on the two central toes their hooves — which give them speed and the ability to stand taller, the easier to spot predators. A hoof is really just a hard protective covering (like a nail) for the animal's toes.

Springbok antelopes often do consecutive pogo-stick take-offs of up to two metres, an exercise called 'prinking', with their backs arched and heads lowered. We haven't figured out exactly why but can only imagine the kind of energy (and maybe joie-de-vivre!) it takes to pull this off!

Horses are mainly 'rear-leg' drive, with the hind legs providing power and thrust and the front legs braking and bearing the weight of the animal. They

> have what is called a 'suspensory apparatus' which bears the weight, prevents over-extension of the joints and absorbs shock, as well as a 'stay' apparatus which locks the major joints in the limbs enabling horses to stand for hours on end

The cheetah — with a 110 kmph top speed and quicker acceleration than a Ferrari — is the fastest land mammal and is built for speed. Small, streamlined, lightweight, its long legs, feet and spine are flexible, the legs containing springlike ligaments. Like a horse, the cheetah can race with all four feet off the ground — either stretched ahead and behind it or crossed under it, as it races after prey, and in full flight is for the most part airborne. It has a quick response 'twitch', muscle fibres to provide it with the instant burst of power it needs (20 per cent more than those of greyhounds or racehorses) but these exhaust quickly and the burst is all but over in 300 metres. The cheetah has semi-retractable claws, which provide grip like those of spiked shoes and the ridges on its pads act like

and even sleep standing.

the grooves in a tyre. Our wheels may speed us over specialised smooth surfaces (we call them roads!) but over natural, especially rugged terrain, most animals will beat our vehicles hands down. There are many other species, with specialised legs and feet, some of which we shall meet in the following column. So far, it's Legs 1, Wheels 0!



India's only two-Michelin-starred woman chef Garima Arora on Banng, why discipline triumphs passion and how ten lifetimes aren't enough to know Indian food

Heena Khandelwal

HEF GARIMA Arora initially studied to be a journalist. She describes her childhood in Vashi, Navi Mumbai, as "tasty," enriched by a Marwari neighbour and Mallu and Gujju best friends.

Halfway through journalism, she realised that cooking was her true calling. She moved to Paris to begin her culinary journey, training at Le Cordon Bleu and later working with culinary masters such as chefs Gordon

Ramsay, René Redzepi and Gaggan Anand. A short trip to Bangkok in 2016 hooked her to the unique blend of modernity and tradition she found in the local cuisine. A year later, Arora opened her debut restaurant, Gaa. "For me, Gaa has been about finding my way back home — finding my roots, culinary traditions, redefining them, and thinking about them."

Within a year of its launch, Arora became the first Indian female chef to earn a Michelin star. Many awards and accolades later, by 2023, she debuted as the first female judge on MasterChef India. That year also marked a personal milestone as she embraced motherhood and celebrated Gaa earning its second Michelin star, which it retained last year for the 2025 Michelin Guide.

Naturally, the country awaited her return to open a restaurant in India. That wish was granted two weeks ago when, in partnership with seasoned restaurateur Riyaaz Amlani, she launched Banng in Gurugram and hopes to launch it later this year in Mumbai.

In a virtual chat, a visibly pregnant Arora spoke about why consistency matters, flipping the narrative in Banng and how the world sees Indian cuisine. Edited excerpts:

How is Banng different from Gaa?

With Gaa, it was about bringing a little bit of India to Bangkok. Now, I'm doing the reverse — bringing a piece of Bangkok back to India. Banng is about sharing the Bangkok I've come to love. The idea is to bring some

really good Thai food to India.

Are we now going to see local produce blending with techniques from Thailand?

We will definitely be using a lot of local ingredients. But all our curry pastes will come directly from Bangkok. We will make them in the kitchen at Gaa and fly them twice a week to ensure the flavours are as real and authentic as they get.

The menu at Banng will still be fun. For appetisers, you'll see more experimentation, with a mishmash of cuisines. For instance, we're doing a tom kha soup — a coconutbased soup — but reimagining it as tom kha pani puri. We did trials in Bangkok and people loved it there. Let's see how Indians take

What's one essential skill for running a restaurant and leading its kitchen which is not spoken about as much as it should?

I believe the biggest investment you need to make in a restaurant isn't money — it's time. Your presence is crucial, especially when opening a new restaurant. If money alone could guarantee a successful restaurant, everyone would be doing it.

The last decade has been career-defining for you. What did you do right that worked in your favour?

The success is not mine alone, really. Along the way, I also found good, hard working people with a moral compass. My entire core team has been with me since day one. Manay Khanna, who joined Gaa as an intern nearly nine years ago, is now heading Banng

in India. One of the key things we did right was not chase accolades or success. Of course, I always wanted to be successful, but I never had a fixed idea of what that success should look like. I've always stayed true to the craft and focused on doing what I love. I'm definitely grateful for all the accolades but that's not why we started this journey. The truth is,

and sleepless nights, in the toughened calluses

steady as the rhythm of a beating heart, that



year. What does it demand from you personally? When it comes to any kind of success –

sive they become.

whether it's a Michelin star, running a busy restaurant, or opening multiple businesses — it's passion that drives it all. But passion and motivation can fade, and that's where discipline steps in. It's about knowing the right way to do things, being consistent and showing up. I'm at the restaurant every sin-

You are the only Indian woman to have

two Michelin stars, and not only have

retained them for the second time this

you earned them, but you've also

You've always spoken about consistency and discipline. Did you always have these ingrained in you, or did you cultivate them over the years?

It's not something I had from day one, I'll be very honest. I wasn't that kind of person back then. When I first walked into the kitchen as an intern, I had this attitude that I was the best thing that ever happened to food or this industry. But I'm so glad my chef systematically brought me back down to earth and taught me the importance of hard work, humility, and the need to keep my head down and work. That first year I spent as an intern (working at Gordon Ramsay's restaurant), and later as a commis, taught me grit. It instilled perseverance in me. So no, I wasn't always like that. Over the years, through my experiences working in different kitchens, I learned the value of consistency and discipline.



Chefs, both in India and abroad, are paying attention to micro-cuisines and indigenous ingredients. We're at a moment where Indian food is poised to take the next big leap on the global stage.

The cuisines of most countries have already been extensively explored. Indian cuisine, on the other hand, is like a deep well – even we, as Indians, don't fully know its boundaries. It's open to rediscovery, interpretation, modernisation, and cataloguing. The sheer scope of work we can do in this



TOAST OF THE TOWN

(From top) Chef Garima Arora in Gurgaon; Banng menu surprises—Tom Kha Pani Puri, Turmeric Fried Rice, Grilled Chicken

pulled me back. "Learn to trust again," she

area is immense – perhaps, enough to fill ten lifetimes.

The Art of Forgetting

Scars are markers of survival, they remind us not of the pain endured, but of the strength regained

IN THE stillness of the morning, my mother once told me something that danced on the edge of wisdom and simplicity. "I never let the bad stay in my memory," she said, a twinkle in her eyes that hinted at a life lived light, yet full. "I only keep the good. The rest? It's erased. That's how I enjoy life."

The weight of her words stayed with me. Could it be that the secret to joy was as simple as choosing what to hold on to and what to let go of? Could our memories be curated like a gallery — only the beautiful, the meaningful, the luminous framed and displayed, while the shadows are swept away?

I looked back on my own life, the winding corridors of memory where laughter echoed alongside grief, triumph beside defeat. I realised something startling. For all my sharp recollection and my elephantine memory, the bulk of what I carried was, like my mother's. humble and functional. Ordinary moments, often overlooked, were what shaped me: the smell of the first monsoon rain on dry earth, the hum of a ceiling fan in summer, the quiet joy of completing a task with care, the scoop of Dinshaw's ice cream that my parents treated us to as a reward for good behaviour **SLICE OF LIFE**



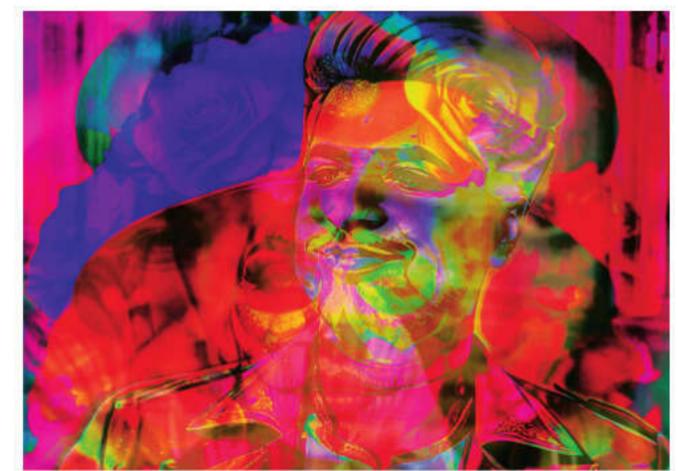
Suvir Saran is a chef, author, educator and world traveller

and to mark special occasions.

That doesn't mean I've been spared life's hardships. Far from it. I have known betraval and heartbreak, suffered sleepless nights and gnawing self-doubt, But I have worked — consciously, deliberately — to let the sharp edges of those moments blur.

The lessons remain. The anguish does not. When I was held back in Grade VI at Modern School, Delhi, the shame was like second skin. Teasing and taunts became my new reality, and I bore them silently, ashamed for myself, perhaps even more for my family. But life, relentless and generous, offered me resilience. I grew stronger, my resolve hardening like steel tempered by fire. By the time I reached Grade X, I had built a cocoon of independence. The music room, the art room, the garden — these became my sanctuaries. My friendships deepened despite the wounds of earlier years, though I carried the scar of aloofness, my unspoken fear of being hurt again.

Scars, however, are not blemishes to be hidden. They are stories in the language of skin, markers of survival and growth. They remind us not of the pain endured but of the strength gained. Mine are etched in laugh lines



STAYING IN THE PRESENT

Life is an echo chamber — what we send out, hope or despair, returns to us amplified

urged. "If you let this break you, then he wins. of a heart once too tender. The betraval of a lover — the first man I And you, my child, cannot lose." dared to trust, to share a home with — might Life, after all, is an echo chamber. What we have hardened me irreparably. When he send out — kindness or cruelty, hope or derobbed me not just of material things but of spair — returns to us amplified. If we cling to trust itself, I felt as if the ground beneath me the bad, we invite it to haunt us, to multiply. had crumbled. Yet it was my mother's voice, But if we file it away, we make space for the

good to take root.

is not a passive act, but a deliberate choice – a pruning of the soul. Forgetting the sting of an insult, the ache of a failure, does not mean denying it happened. It means stripping it of its power to hurt us anew. It means remembering the lesson, not the pain. This is not to say we should forget our re-

Forgetting, I've come to believe, is an art. It

sponsibilities, our commitments to others, the humanity of those who cross our paths. Forgetting someone's time, slighting their efforts, ignoring their dignity — these are lapses we cannot afford. But when forgetting car heal and free us to live fully in the present, it becomes an act of grace.

I have learned, too, that we must forgive ourselves as much as we forgive others. I think back to my younger self, who mirrored the teasing he so despised, who built walls to protect himself but ended up shutting others out. I see him now with tenderness, not judgment He was learning, as we all are, how to navigate a world that is often unkind.

Life has shown me that its treasures — the quiet joys, the unexpected kindnesses, the steady rhythm of love — can only be fully appreciated when we release what no longer serves us. To live mindfully, to stay present in the shimmer and hum of each moment, is to let the past be the past.

So here's to the art of forgetting — not the forgetfulness that neglects, but the forgetfulness that heals. May we all learn to carry our scars with pride, to let our memories be a gallery of the good and to live each day as it comes, unburdened and alive.





Alaka Sahani

IRECTOR VIKRAMADITYA Motwane, who has made dabbling with different cinematic genres look like an adventure sport, has created a one-of-akind prison drama titled *Black Warrant*. The seven-episode series, which released Friday on Netflix, explores the fascinating, complex and dark world of Tihar Jail, one of India's high-profile prisons that's often hidden from public view.

Based on the book *Black Warrant: Confessions of a Tihar Jailer* (Roli; 2019), written by Sunil Gupta and Sunetra Choudhury, the series reveals the realities of Tihar Jail through the eyes of Gupta, when he joined there as a rookie jailer. Even as he struggles to find his foothold in prison, he is embroiled in the game of upmanship among the jail staff, clash between gangsters imprisoned there, and the disturbing realities of the jail. His character is essayed convincingly by Zahan Kapoor, who is supported by a stellar ensemble cast featuring Rahul Bhat, Paramvir Singh Cheema, Anurag Thakur and Sidhant Gupta.

Motwane was drawn to Gupta's behindthe-wall accounts of Tihar Jail since there was "something fascinating and voyeuristic" about it. "All the incidents and characters mentioned in the book are real. That provided the potential for it to be adapted as a drama series. Since we have not done this kind of prison drama in India before, working on this series was exciting," says Motwane, who shares the creator and showrunner credit with Satyanshu Singh.

STORIES FROM APRISON

Director Vikramaditya Motwane and former jailer Sunil Gupta talk about the making of *Black Warrant*, a new Netflix series set in Tihar Jail

After delivering a successful period drama *Jubilee* (2023, Prime Video) and an exploration of modern relationships through a screenlife thriller *CTRL* (2024, Netflix), Motwane helms *Black Warrant* that takes an incisive look at India in the '70s and and the '80s through certain keys incidents that took place in Tihar Jail. The book and the series borrow their title from the term 'black warrant', that refers to a court's order authorising a jail officer to carry out the execution of a convicted prisoner.

Known to have an abiding interest in history, Motwane says, Gupta's book seemed quite relevant to him given the fact that it captures a crucial aspect of India. "I was born in the '70s. While growing up in the '80s, I had heard about Charles Sobhraj (a French serial killer and conman active in South Asia the '70s and '80s), the execution of Ranga-

TOUGH GUYS

Actors Rahul Bhat (left) and Zahan Kapoor in a still from Black Warrant Billa and several other incidents that the series touches upon," he says. The second episode of the series follows the tension within the jail over the the hanging of Ranga (Kuljeet Singh) and Billa (Jasbir Singh) convicted in the kidnapping and subsequent murder of siblings Geeta and Sanjay Chopra.

The book is episodic and highlights certain incidents that took place inside the jail, including how nearly 200 students of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) staged a major jail-break. "Though the book covers nearly 35 years of Sunil's life at Tihar, it is much shorter in volume. For the series, we had to expand it and add details. We also added new characters. All the incidents, however, are real," says Motwane. Working on the script also involved extensive fact-checking and several rounds of conversations with Gupta. "Our team called him every second day to verify details. We also

visited the jail," he adds.

When the audience meets young Gupta in the show, he comes across as an unheroic hero. While building his role, says Motwane, they had to keep multiple factors in mind. "The protagonist's character is based on what's written in the book, how Sunil is in real life, the impact of Zahan's personality and how he conducts himself. That apart, we had to consider what we needed from a dramatic perspective. To tell a series, you can't have a hero in the very first episode. The character grows to become a hero," says Motwane. He believes that the series remains true to how Gupta must have felt when he started working at the jail. "We wanted his character to feel like a fish out of water," says the director, who was also involved in the making of Sacred Games (2018) and Sacred Games 2 (2019).

During his tenure at Tihar Jail, Gupta has held different positions. "I was inducted as assistant superintendent of police and then promoted to the superintendent of police rank. Subsequently, I changed my job profile and was promoted to the post of legal advisor, which was an IG (inspector-general of police) rank post," says Gupta. He even handled applications from law students and scholars who wanted to study the psychology and condition of the inmates there. When the Central government stopped entertaining such applications, Gupta thought he should write about the prisoners in a book. He also wanted to document how the prison used to be run and its affairs were dealt with. "There are still many things that could not be incorporated into one book. I'm planning to write another soon," the former jailer says.



Different Strokes

Vivek Oberoi, who splits his time between acting and business, on not receiving offers after the success of *Shootout At Lokhandwala*, and his upcoming sex comedy *Masti 4*

Nawaz Kochra

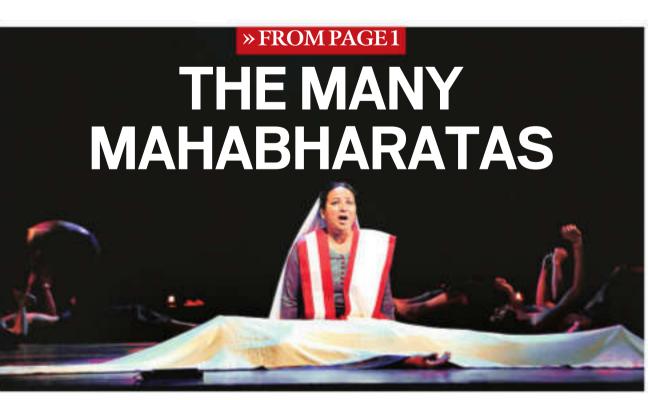
CTOR VIVEK Oberoi has been in the film industry for close to 26 years but shifted gears to business some time ago, today boasting a net worth of thousands of crores. Once a heartthrob, Oberoi tells what prompted him to put Bollywood on the back burner, the point in his career when lobbies started influencing the industry, and why he didn't want to "sell (my) soul" for fame.

"I have done about 67 projects in 22 years, but the industry is a very insecure place," he says. "You could be performing well, winning awards and doing your job as an actor but at the same time, you can get no work for other reasons. After 2007, when I did *Shootout At Lokhandwala*, the *Ganpat* song went viral. I won awards so I expected a lot of offers but I didn't get any. I sat at home for 14 to 15 months after the success of the film. It was only around 2009 when I decided I didn't want to be completely dependent on this and built my economic independence. I didn't want to be in a situation where a lobby could decide your future. Somebody could bully you into doing something because they controlled things."

That's when he thought of a plan B, business, into action: "I decided cinema would be my passion, but my livelihood should be my business. That helped me earn my independence and get out of that whole trap of lobbies, or having to sell your soul or suck up to somebody, that is no great way to live at least for me. Some people make a living out of it but for me, that's not the case."

Recalling his early days in Bollywood, Oberoi shared how director Ram Gopal Varma rejected him for his debut film *Company* (2002). Oberoi has always believed in bagging roles on merit instead of through industry connections, which is why he once rejected a rare opportunity. He says, "When my father wanted to launch me, I had a crisis of conscience. I didn't want him to invest the money to launch me... He was worried, but he respected me as a man that day. My father was making a film for me with (director) Abbas Mastan and I walked away from that opportunity. I struggled for 18 months after that and faced a lot of rejection, but I am proud of that choice."

Today, Oberoi juggles various businesses and lives in Dubai, having most recently launched a lab-grown diamond startup Solitario. On the film front, after starring as Joint Police Commissioner Vikram Bakshi in the Amazon Prime Video series *Indian Police Force*, he has started shooting for *Masti 4*, the latest in Indra Kumar's sex comedy series. He has two more unannounced films in the pipeline.



WAR AND PEACE

Joy Maisnam's Mahabharata

"HUMAN BEINGS are born for peace; they like to grow up in peace...Then, why are we always preparing for war?" asks theatre director and performer Anurupa Roy. She had turned to the story of the Pandavas and the Kauravas in 2017 and created an award-winning play, *Mahabharata*, which "explores the inner dilemma and backstories of 15 characters, each an archetype whose unquestioning loy-

Dipanita Nath

alty to a belief leads to the inevitable conflict". Theatre directors have, over generations, revisited the Ramayana and the Mahabharata. The former gives us dutiful and divine protagonists; the latter flawed heroes caught in an internecine struggle.

Dharamvir Bharti captured the crisis in a drama in blank verse from 1953, *Andha Yug*. It is a story about the end and set on the last day of the battle when the palace learns of the crushing defeat suffered by the Kauravas. Satyadev Dubey first staged the play in 1960 and Ebrahim Alkazi presented it in the ruins of Ferozeshah Kotla in Delhi in 1963, following the India-China war. In 2017, Joy Maisnam from conflict-ridden Manipur, turned to *Andha Yug* to show grief in a new light.

Bhasa, the earliest known Sanskrit playwright, retold episodes from the Mahabharata in Panch Ratra, Madhyamavyayoga, Dutavakya Dutaghatotkaca, Karnabhara and Urubhangam. These inspired theatre directors across the country, with the late KN Panikkar from Kerala and Manipur's Ratan Thiyam presenting iconic productions of *Urubhangam*, a tragedy that ends with a dying Duryodhana saying, "Death has sent an aerial car, the wain of heroes, drawn by a thousand horses, to fetch me."

In *Draupadi* (1978), Mahasweta Devi tells the story of a rebel tribal woman in police custody. To theatre-goers, the story is owned by Heisnam Sabitri Devi, the Manipuri performer, who gave the play a shocking last scene. Few plays in India have depicted gender oppression so powerfully. Rabindranath Tagore wrote about another woman's struggle to accept her identity in *Chitrangada*, a dance drama from 1892 about a warrior princess who falls in love with Arjuna.

Girish Karnad gave us the myth in his first play, *Yayati* (1960), about a king cursed with old age and his youngest son, Puru, who gives him his own youth. Karnad wrote *Yayati* as a 22-year-old student of Oxford University. Another play, *Agni Mattu Malé*, or *The Fire and the Rain*, is based on the Yavakrita myth of the Mahabharata. The late KS Rajendran, who had directed the play, called it "a complex story with several threads of the plot working at various levels of consciousness and bringing about transformation in the minds of audiences".

Pooja Pillai

A CROWD of devotees presses in. The beat of the drums outside the temple gets louder and the dance of the *velichappadu* (medium), as he repeatedly hits his head with a sword, is frenzied. Heartbroken, with both his family and faith destroyed by the hypocrisies of "pious" society, the *velichappadu* races into the sanctum sanctorum. Then, a shocking gesture: He spits blood on the idol he has served all his life, before collapsing and dying.

Less than a week after the death of the man who wrote and directed this scene, Kerala erupted into a controversy over Sanatana Dharma. One couldn't help but wonder: If made today, would such a film — scathing in its indictment of the priggish and morally vacuous — survive the censors' scissors, let alone be feted? For MT Vasudevan Nair, who died on December 25 at the age of 91, Nirmalyam (1973) led to a slew of honours, both national and state, and a permanent place in the canon of Malayalam cinema.

Malayalis take politics very seriously. But they take literature and cinema even more seriously. MT had a hold on the ordinary Malayali's imagination that has few parallels, having moulded it for over half a century in his role as a popular storyteller — not just as a novelist and short story writer, but also a director and writer of films. Indeed, for someone who primarily saw himself as a literary figure, MT's influence on Malayalam cinema — and the sensibilities of the Malayali moviegoer – cannot be overstated. He brought layered narratives into mainstream cinema, adding complexity to the visual language of the medium with elements of mood and psychology and transforming the very craft of screenplay writing in Kerala.

Over the course of his 50-odd years in cinema, MT won numerous accolades, including seven National Film Awards and 21 Kerala State Film Awards. By any measure, popular or critical, it was an uncommonly successful career. His natural talent for the visual medium apart, some of his success can be attributed to the range of stories he told. Much like another recently deceased

How He Spun a Tale

With his deep understanding of the visual medium, MT Vasudevan Nair was one of Kerala's most beloved storytellers in cinema







MOVING IMAGES

(Clockwise from top) A still from Nirmalyam; Oru Vadakkan Veeragatha; director MT Vasudevan Nair

stalwart of Indian cinema, Shyam Benegal, MT never restricted himself at the level of the story. From the post-feudal decay of the once-distinguished *tharavadus* and the natural beauty of the north-central region of

lore and legends of the Malabar and frank exploration of envy, ego, frustration and lust, his oeuvre ranged over them all.

once-distinguished *tharavadus* and the natural beauty of the north-central region of Kerala known as Vallavunada, to the folk-

(1965). A melodrama that, nonetheless, managed to sharply critique the overly-romanticised view of family, *Murappennu* won both commercial and critical acclaim. It was early evidence of his ability to write stories and characters with depth for the screen. In those initial years, gripped by the problems of a traditional, agrarian society thrust into modernism, MT's films retained the "social drama" flavour that was *de rigueur* at the time, even as his eye for detail and ear for dialogue marked him out as a unique talent.

A shift became evident as the 1980s dawned, with films like *Oppol, Amrutham Gamaya* and *Manju*, that dwelt on the inner landscapes of regret and desire, as well as well as more "commercial" films like *Adiozhukkukal* and *Uyarangalil* that showed a preoccupation with themes of conflict and alienation. By this time, MT was an established figure in film, working with directors like IV Sasi and Hariharan, and writing roles in which Mammooty and Mohanlal would deliver some of the best performances of their own long and storied careers.

Indeed, MT's was the kind of name that would often be given top-billing, even above the stars — in other words, a creatively dangerous time when he could have easily stuck to a formula. That he avoided being categorised as a writer of a particular kind of film is perhaps a mark of his brilliance, as is the fact that even as some of the stories he wrote for the screen became grander, like Oru Vadakkan Veeragatha (1989), Vaishali (1988) or Kerala Varma Pazhassi Raja (2009), he found new ways to question established conventions. Take Oru Vadakkan Veeragatha, which told the wellknown Malabar legend of Chathiyan Chandu (Chandu the betrayer), from the perspective of the supposed "villain" – what works as a straightforward costume drama is also an instruction on the perils of not questioning received wisdom.

The climax of *Nirmalyam* hits as hard today as it did the day it was released. It is striking that MT, the consummate storyteller with a deep understanding of his medium, used not words but images alone to make his point in this scene. But that was his style: Just find the best way to spin a tale and watch the truth dawn on the audience.

Y O U R H E A L T H

Why Winter Flu Returns with a Vengeance

Last week's panic over HMPV virus was unwarranted but vulnerable people should stay cautious about winter infections

Anonna Dutt

ILE MOST of us obsessed over whether a virus had swamped China and would cross its shores, fact is every country goes through a wave of common respiratory infections in winter months. In fact, the flu has become a hydraheaded monster that mutates and evolves faster than we can fight it. Sometimes, it triggers secondary infection. This reality sunk in for 38-year-old Yash Mathur,* who walked into the out-patient clinic of a Delhi hospital with symptoms of fever and cough, not expecting them to be indicative of pneumonia, a condition when the air sacs in the lungs fill up with fluid, making breathing difficult.

Since he did not have chronic illnesses like diabetes or hypertension and is a nonsmoker, doctors assumed he had the seasonal flu. They thought he would get better with proper nutrition, hydration and rest. Except he didn't. His fever did not abate despite paracetamol and with worsening symptoms, he had to be admitted to hospital. Yash was diagnosed with pneumonia caused by the bacteria Streptococcus pneumoniae and was put on antibiotics.

While usually viruses like influenza trigger most of the respiratory tract infections among the young and elderly during winter, every once in a while, doctors pick up bacterial infections too. Sometimes they are secondary infections following a viral one that can cause severe symptoms and distress across age groups.

Globally, there were 12.8 billion upper respiratory tract infections and 19,600 deaths in 2021, the highest among infectious diseases, according to a Global Burden of Disease analysis. Researchers at Duke University, US, found that influenza viruses have a genome that is not DNA (which is a storehouse of information of the organism) but is made up of RNA (which distributes this information as needed). They are able to

evolve very quickly — up to one million times faster than humans and other mammals. That's why global surveillance to track the evolution of these viruses is as important as testing, something we tend to ignore.

WHEN SHOULD YOU GET TESTED?

"Most viral respiratory infections only cause mild symptoms such as cough, cold, sore throat and fever that gets better on its own. This is the reason not many people get tested — so we do not know whether it's influenza or the human metapneumovirus (HMPV) that have caused the symptoms. However, people at a higher risk of severe disease should get tested," says Dr Suranjit Chatterjee, internal medicine specialist at Indraprastha Apollo Hospital, New Delhi. Those below the age of five years or above the age of 65 years should get tested whenever they have a respiratory tract infection. Those living with chronic conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, kidney disease, liver disease, or have undergone a transplant, should also be tested as they tend to have a weaker immune system and may get severe disease. People should be tested if their symptoms keep worsening after a couple of days. If patients do not respond to treatment, a secondary infection should be suspected and a sputum culture test should be carried out, suggests Dr Chatterjee.

When it comes to thoroughly testing for infections, Dr Ekta Gupta from the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences, Delhi, is no stranger. As a virologist at the institute that provides specialised care for patients with liver diseases, she routinely screens her patients for 22 respiratory infections before their treatment. "A patient cannot undergo a transplant surgery if they have an active infection. After the surgery, they are put on immunosuppressants that can lead to these infections spreading further. So, we follow something called the syndromic approach to testing, which essentially means that if they have respiratory symptoms, they get a respiratory panel test to identify a host of pathogens. If they have gastrointestinal

When should you go to a doctor You have difficulty breathing or shortness of breath Pain in chest that worsens with breathing High fever for more than three days If you are over the age of 65 years, immunocompromised, or

Life Positive

have chronic

gets sick

conditions such as

diabetes. If a child

under the age of 5

symptoms, they can get a GI panel test," explains Dr Gupta.

The respiratory panel used by the insti-

The respiratory panel used by the institute tests for 22 respiratory viruses, including influenza A and B lineages, para influenza viruses, HMPV, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), rhinovirus, adenovirus and coronaviruses among others. An RT-PCR test is done using a single kit that can detect any of these infections. "These tests are expensive, costing at least Rs 8,000 per sample. This is the reason it is neither used, nor needed in

most hospitals," she said.

While the recent reports of a surge in respiratory infections brought HMPV to the fore, Dr Gupta explains that there is nothing new to it. "HMPV infection does pop up every once in a while. We have detected at least 33 HMPV infections between 2016 and 2022," she said.

WHY VIRAL INFECTIONS GO UP IN WINTER?

There are a number of reasons. First, the



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mechanism to fight the infections is impaired during colder months. "The mucus secretion goes up during the winter months, so does the humidity in the environment, both conducive to the growth and survival of pathogens that cause respiratory infections. This leads to an increase in respiratory infections during winter months across temperate countries," said Dr Gupta.

Second, several studies over the years — including ones during the pandemic — have established that exposure to pollution can lead to an increase in susceptibility to as well as severity of respiratory infections. Much of northern India experiences severe air pollution levels during the winter months.

Third, winter is also conducive to the survival and transmission of viruses. "The viruses are very sensitive to temperatures and cannot survive well in the hot summer months. Also, winter is a time when most people spend time indoors, where the closed environment makes transmission of these virus from one person to another easier," says Dr Gupta. India usually sees two peaks in seasonal flu — one during the winter months between January and March and the second after the monsoon. "These seasonal trends are yet to emerge for Sars-CoV-2 that led to the Covid-19 pandemic," she said.

HOW TO PREVENT WINTER FLU

Dr Chatterjee suggests following Covid-19-like measures — maintaining social distance, masking up whenever possible and washing hands frequently. There was, in fact, a decline in most respiratory infections during the pandemic owing to these protective measures. With most infections during this time of the year being caused by viruses, people should not take antibiotics that do not have any effect on viral infections. "Antibiotics may be needed only in some cases such as in people with a weakened immune system in order to prevent or treat a secondary bacterial infection. Other than that, antibiotics are of not much use. So, people should consult with their doctors before taking these medicines," said Dr Chatterjee.

Another way that people can protect themselves is to take vaccines. Dr Chatterjee says that there is no need for additional Covid-19 vaccines but suggests that the elderly and those with chronic conditions take the pneumococcal and influenza vaccine as per their doctor's recommendation.

(Name changed to protect privacy)



Neil Patil
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A few months ago, I shared stories about some of the most incredible train journeys in India experiences that showcase our country's diversity, history, and breathtaking landscapes. Trains like 'Palace on Wheels' and 'Deccan Odyssey' transport us not just across places but through time, offering a deep connection to the true spirit of India.

Today, let's broaden our horizons and step aboard some of the world's most iconic trains. These trains are experiences in themselves, filled with stories of innovation, adventure, and unparalleled beauty. So, let's embark on a virtual ride across continents, exploring the most extraordinary train journeys the world has to offer.

Longest Railway: Trans-Siberian Railway (Russia): Spanning an impressive 9,289 kilometres from Moscow to Vladivostok, the Trans-Siberian Railway holds the title of the longest railway line in the world. This epic journey across Russia is filled with vast landscapes and cultural depth, crossing 87 cities, 16 rivers, and 8 time zones.

The journey begins in the historical heart of Russia, Moscow, and stretches across the entire expanse of the country to reach Vladivostok on the Pacific coast. Travellers on the Trans-Siberian Railway witness a dramatic change in scenery as they move eastward. The train traces the edges of the majestic Ural Mountains, the natural boundary between Europe and Asia. Beyond this, the vast expanses of the Siberian Taiga unfold-a dense forest landscape that is both awe-inspiring and a reminder of the untamed wilderness that covers much of Russia.

The journey is punctuated with opportunities to explore deeper into Russia's heartland. Perhaps the most breathtaking of these detours is a visit to Lake Baikal. Known as the deepest

Exploring the World's Most Unique Train Journeys

lake in the world, Lake Baikal is a natural wonder that captivates with its crystal-clear waters and picturesque surroundings.

During the railway's construction in the late 1800s, engineers faced immense challenges, including building across Siberia's frozen swamps. They used vodka as a reward for workers, a tradition that still lives on for travellers who toast their journey with local spirits onboard.

Steepest Railway: Pilatus Railway (Switzerland): Nestled in the heart of Switzerland, the Pilatus Railway is a true marvel of engineering. Operating since 1889, this cogwheel railway climbs an astonishing gradient of 48%, earning it the title of the steepest cogwheel railway in the world in figures. It offers a journey that is as exhilarating as it is scenic, ascending to the summit of Mount Pilatus at 2,128 meters (6,982 feet) above sea level.

The journey begins in Alphachstad, a charming Swiss village on the shores of Lake Lucerne, and winds its way up to the majestic peak of Mount Pilatus. As the train makes its ascent, passengers are treated to panoramic views of the surrounding alpine landscape, including verdant meadows, sparkling lakes, and rugged mountain peaks.

At the top, visitors are rewarded with breathtaking views that stretch across the Swiss Alps and beyond. Mount Pilatus itself is steeped in local legends, often referred to as the 'Dragon Mountain' due to medieval tales of dragons that were said to live in its caves. The summit features a variety of attractions, including hiking trails, observation decks, and cosy alpine restaurants serving Swiss delicacies.

Fastest Railway: Shanghai Maglev (China): In the bustling metropolis of Shanghai, the Shanghai Maglev is the fastest commercial train in the world. Reaching speeds of up to 431 km/h (268 mph), this magnetic levitation (maglev) train, covers a distance of 30 kilometres in an astonishing 7 minutes and 20 seconds.

The journey connects Shanghai Pudong International Airport to Longyang Road Station in the city, providing passengers with an incredi-



bly smooth and efficient ride. Unlike traditional trains, the Shanghai Maglev operates without wheels. Instead, it uses powerful magnetic fields to levitate the train above the track, eliminating friction and allowing for extraordinary speeds. The result is a seamless glide that feels more like flying than riding a train.

The experience begins as the sleek, futuristic train departs from the station. Within seconds, passengers feel the acceleration as the Maglev reaches top speed. The countryside blurs into streaks of green and gray, and a digital speedometer inside the train showcases the breath-taking velocity.

The train's ride is so smooth that passengers are often treated to a fascinating demonstration: a coin balanced upright on a table remains perfectly still, even as the train hurtles along at over 400 km/h. This stunt, frequently performed by staff or seasoned travellers, never fails to astonish first-time passengers. It's a simple yet profound reminder of the precision and stability that magnetic levitation technology offers.

Most Unique Train Accommodation: Shalati Train on the Bridge (South Africa): Perched high above the Sabie River in South Africa's iconic Kruger National Park, the Shalati Train on the Bridge redefines luxury travel by combining history, innovation, and the beauty of the African wilderness. This one-of-a-kind experience offers guests the chance to stay in a refurbished train permanently stationed on the historic Selati Bridge, where the train carriages have been transformed into opulent suites.

Stepping aboard feels like entering a bygone era, as the train is a tribute to the adventurers who first visited Kruger by rail in the 1920s. The elevated position of the train provides breathtaking vistas of the Sabie River, where guests often wake up to the sight of elephants, hippos, and crocodiles in their natural habitat. At night, the distant roars of lions or the gentle calls of frogs create a symphony of the wild, adding an unforgettable dimension to the experience. The entire experience blends the intimacy of a safari with the nostalgia of luxury train travel, creating a truly unparalleled stay.

Most Scenic Railway: Glacier Express (Switzerland): Nicknamed the 'Slowest Express Train', the Glacier Express is a breathtaking journey through the heart of the Swiss Alps, offering passengers some of the most spectacular views on Earth. Spanning 291

kilometres, this iconic train connects Zermatt to St. Moritz, two of Switzerland's most famous mountain resorts, in a leisurely 8-hour journey that feels more like a curated alpine showcase than a commute.

Panoramic windows provide uninterrupted views of snow-dusted peaks, lush green valleys, and quaint Swiss villages tucked away in the mountains. Along the way, the train passes through 91 tunnels and over 291 bridges, including engineering marvels like the Landwasser Viaduct, which arches gracefully above a deep gorge, and the Oberalp Pass, the highest point on the route at 2,033 meters above sea level.

The Indian Pacific: Australia's Coast-to-Coast Rail Experience: Stretching across the vast expanse of Australia, the Indian Pacific offers one of the world's most remarkable rail journeys. Named after the two oceans it connects the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean, this transcontinental adventure spans over 4,350 kilometres from Sydney to Perth. It's a four-day voyage that captures the essence of Australia's dramatic landscapes, cultural heritage, and pioneering spirit.

The journey begins in Sydney, with views of the city's iconic harbour and coastline. As the train heads west, it

ADVERTORIAL

passes through the dramatic Blue Mountains, known for their cliffs, waterfalls, and eucalyptus forests, and the fertile vineyards of South Australia, showcasing the country's agricultural heritage.

The highlight of the trip is the Nullarbor Plain, a vast, treeless expanse featuring the world's longest straight stretch of railway track, a 478-kilometre line cutting through the heart of the desert. Here, passengers can step off to experience some of the best stargazing in the world, with the Milky Way stretching brilliantly across the unpolluted night sky. The journey culminates in Perth, where the Indian Ocean awaits, marking the end of an unforgettable coast-to-coast adventure.

Most Luxurious Railway: Venice Simplon-Orient-Express (Europe): Stepping aboard the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express is like travelling back to the glamour of the 1920s, with its meticulously restored Art Deco carriages redefining luxury. The train's most iconic route connects London to Venice, gliding through the English countryside, the French landscape, and the Swiss Alps, before arriving in the romantic canals of Venice. Other routes, including Paris, Prague, and Istanbul, showcase Europe's cultural richness in unparalleled style.

Each carriage, restored to its 1920's grandeur, offers opulence and breath-taking views. It's the train winds through the Alps or hugs the Adriatic coastline, passengers are immersed in scenery as captivating as the train itself. Long associated with royalty and intrigue, the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express has hosted European kings, queens, and spies, becoming a legendary symbol of elegance and mystery.

Each train journey we have explored is more than just a passage between destinations-it's a journey into the heart and soul of each place, offering unforgettable experiences and stories to cherish. So, where will your next train adventure take you? I would love to hear about it; write to me at neil@veenaworld.com. Until next time, keep celebrating life!

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