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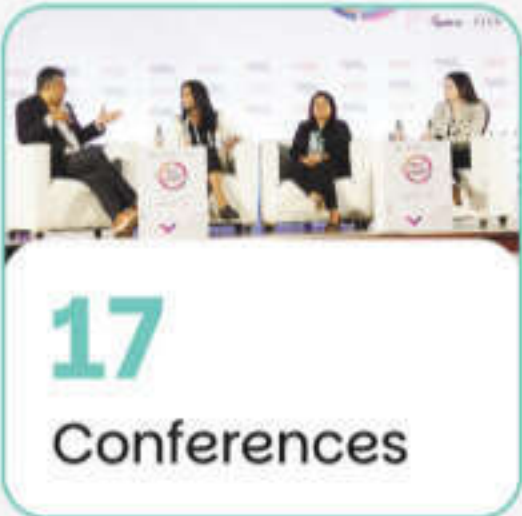
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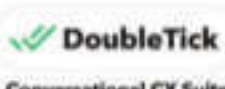
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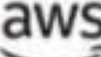
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The World

TOPOF THE WORLD



Impact of the quake at Miyazaki airport on Monday.*AP*

6.9 quake hits Japan, tsunami alert issued

Tokyo: Japan issued a tsunami advisory on Monday after a magnitude 6.7 earthquake struck the southwest of the country. The public warnings to stay away from coastal areas were later lifted. The agency initially gave the magnitude estimate at 6.9, but later revised it down. There were no immediate reports of damage. Residents in some coastal areas were told to evacuate as a precautionary measure. One man was slightly injured in Kyushu after falling down some stairs, NHK TV reported. Trains stopped running in Miyazaki Station, stranding passengers. NHK said a tsunami, estimated to be as high as 1 metre, reached land within 30 minutes of the quake. **AP**

THAILAND Cabinet clears draft Bill to legalise casinos

Bangkok: Thailand's Cabinet approved on Monday a draft bill legalising casinos with the aim of boosting tourism and a sluggish economy. Some forms of gambling, such as betting on boxing and horse racing, are allowed but casinos remain illegal in the Southeast Asian country. Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra told reporters following the cabinet meeting the bill would also help attract more investments and solve issues of illegal gambling "It will benefit society as a whole in the future," Paetongtarn said. The current government, which took office in September, has pledged to make the country's economic woes their top agenda. **PTI**

VENEZUELA AG requests Interpol notice for opp figure

Caracas: Venezuela attorney general Tarek Saab said on Monday his office has requested an arrest warrant and Interpol red notice against opposition figure Leopoldo Lopez, who spent years in detention in Venezuela and has lived in Spain since 2020. Lopez said on X on Saturday that a proposal from Colombia's ex-President Alvaro Uribe that military intervention was needed in Venezuela should be "seriously considered." **REUTERS**

NEXT 24 HOURS CRUCIAL, SAYS OFFICIAL; TRUMP ENVOY ATTENDS TALKS

Qatar officials present final draft of Gaza truce deal after breakthrough

ANDREW MILLS & NIDAL AL-MUGHRABI
DOHA/CAIRO, JANUARY 13

MEDIATORS GAVE Israel and Hamas a final draft of a deal on Monday to end the war in Gaza, an official briefed on the negotiations said, after a midnight "breakthrough" in talks attended by envoys of both Joe Biden and Donald Trump.

The official said the text for a ceasefire and release of hostages was presented by Qatar to both sides at talks in Doha, which included the chiefs of Israel's Mossad and Shin Bet spy agencies and Qatar's prime minister.

The official said Steve Witkoff, who will become US envoy when Trump returns to the US presidency next week, attended the talks. A US source said the outgoing Biden administration's envoy Brett McGurk was also there. "The next 24 hours will be pivotal to reaching the deal," the official said, characterising the draft as the outcome of a breakthrough reached in the early hours of Monday.

Israel's *Kan* radio, citing an Israeli official, reported on Monday that the Israeli delegation had briefed Israel's leaders. Israel, Hamas and the foreign ministry of Qatar did not respond to requests for confirmation or comment. Officials on both sides, while stopping short of confirming that a final draft had been reached, described progress.

A senior Israeli official said a deal could be sealed within a few days if Hamas replies to a proposal. A Palestinian official close to the talks said information from Doha was "very promising", adding: "Gaps were being narrowed and there is a big push to-



Damaged buildings in the northern Gaza Strip, as seen from Israel, on Monday. *Reuters*

Angry hostage families harangue hardliner Israeli Finance Minister

REUTERS
JERUSALEM, JANUARY 13

ANGRY MEMBERS of some of the families of Israeli hostages still held in Gaza harangued Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich on Monday over his opposition to a deal being negotiated in Qatar to halt the fighting and bring their relatives home.

Smotrich described the deal taking shape as "a catastrophe" for Israel's security and said Israel



Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich

should keep up its campaign in Gaza until the complete surrender of Hamas. Dozens of members of the hostage families squeezed into a committee room in the Knesset where a meeting of the finance committee was held to examine the 2025 budget.

Two fires rage for 6th straight day, LA races to contain them before severe winds return

REUTERS
LOS ANGELES, JANUARY 13

FIREFIGHTERS RACED to contain the frontiers of two Los Angeles wildfires that burned for the sixth straight day on Sunday, taking advantage of a brief respite in hazardous conditions before high winds were expected to fan the flames anew.

At least 24 people have died in what California Governor Gavin Newsom said could be the most devastating natural disaster in U.S. history, one that has destroyed thousands of homes and forced 100,000 people to evacuate.

Flames have reduced whole neighborhoods to smoldering ruins, leveling the homes of the rich and famous and ordinary folk



A car drives past homes and vehicles destroyed by the Palisades Fire in the Pacific Palisades on Sunday. *AP*

alike, and leaving an apocalyptic landscape. Officials said 12,300 structures have been destroyed.

"LA County had another night of unimaginable terror and heartbreak," Los Angeles County

Pak condemns 'racist remarks' against UK's British-Pakistanis

Islamabad: Pakistan on Monday condemned what it called the "increasingly racist and Islamophobic" comments against the British-Pakistanis while stressing the deep ties with the UK and the contributions of the community members. The Foreign Office issued a statement in response to media queries regarding the spate of remarks directed towards UK's Pak community af-

ter Tesla CEO Elon Musk entered a debate surrounding the term "Asian grooming gangs". "...we note with deep concern the...racist and Islamophobic political and media commentary in the UK that is aimed at conflating the reprehensible actions of a few individuals with the entire 1.7 million British Pakistani diaspora," Foreign Office spokesman Shafqat Ali Khan said. **PTI**

ICJ top judge set to be new Lebanon PM

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BEIRUT, JANUARY 13

THE PROMINENT Lebanese diplomat and judge Nawaf Salam has won majority support from legislators, paving the way for him to become Lebanon's new prime minister.

Salam is currently serving as the head of the International Court of Justice and his nomination was made by Western-



ICJ chief Nawaf Salam. File

Trump to call Putin soon, can't expect Russia to pull out of Ukraine: Official

REUTERS
MOSCOW, JANUARY 13

US PRESIDENT-ELECT Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin are expected to have a call in the coming days or weeks, and it is unrealistic to aim to expel Russian soldiers from every inch of Ukrainian territory, a top Trump adviser said.

Trump, who will return as U.S. president on Jan. 20, styles himself as a master dealmaker and has vowed to swiftly end the war in Ukraine but not set out how he might achieve that.

U.S. Congressman Mike Waltz, the incoming national security adviser, told ABC on Sunday that the war had become a World War One-style "meat grinder of people and resources" with "World War Three consequences", according to ABC.

"Everybody knows that this has to end somehow diplomatically," Waltz, a Trump loyalist who also served in the National Guard as a colonel, told ABC.

"I just don't think it's realistic to say we're going to expel every Russian from every inch of Ukrainian soil, even Crimea. President Trump has acknowledged that reality, and I think it's been a huge step forward that the entire world is acknowledg-



Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump at a meeting at 2019 G20 summit in Osaka. File

ing that reality." Meanwhile, Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Sunday Kyiv is ready to hand over captured North Korean soldiers to their leader Kim Jong Un if he can facilitate their exchange for Ukrainians held captive in Russia.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian will hold talks in Russia on Jan. 17 after which they will sign a long-awaited comprehensive strategic partnership pact, the Kremlin said on Monday.

The two leaders will discuss options for further expanding ties between Moscow and Tehran, including in the trade and investment, transport and logistics, and humanitarian spheres, the Kremlin said.

US tightens grip on AI chip flow in bid to maintain dominance

KAREN FREIFELD
NEW YORK, JANUARY 13

THE US government said on Monday it would further restrict artificial intelligence chip and technology exports, divvying up the world to keep advanced computing power in the United States and among its allies while finding more ways to block China's access.

The new regulations will cap the number of AI chips that can be exported to most countries and allow unlimited access to U.S. AI technology for America's closest allies, while also maintaining a block on exports to China, Russia, Iran and North Korea.

Unveiled in the final days of President Joe Biden's administration, the lengthy new rules go beyond China and are aimed at helping the United States maintain its dominant status in AI by controlling it around the world.

New limits will be placed on advanced graphics processing units (GPUs), which are used to power data centers needed to

EXPLAINED Future of rules uncertain

WHILE IT is unclear how President-elect Donald Trump will enforce the new rules, the two administrations share similar views on the competitive threat from China. The rules are set to take effect 120 days from publication, giving his administration time to weigh in.

train AI models. Major cloud service providers would no longer need export licenses for AI chips, allowing them to build data centers in countries that cannot import enough chips.

The regulation divides the world into three tiers. About 18 countries, including Japan, Britain and South Korea, will essentially be exempt from the rules. 120 countries, including Singapore, Israel, Saudi Arabia and the UAE, will face country caps.

the 128-member legislature, meaning he will be summoned by the president to form a Cabinet.

Lebanon is forging ahead after a shaky truce ended the Israel-Hezbollah war, and Salam must also work to get the small nation out of its five-year economic meltdown. Salam's nomination and army commander Aoun's selection as president last week are likely to lead to flow of funds to help Lebanon in the reconstruction process.

THE 'NO TROUSERS TUBE RIDE' IS AN ANNUAL EVENT TO INJECT A LITTLE LEVITY INTO THE BLEAK MIDWINTER

London subway riders bare their legs on winter day — no bigger motive, just being silly

DANICA KIRKA
LONDON, JANUARY 13

MIND THE PANTS.

Hundreds of Londoners headed down to the Underground on Sunday afternoon, stripped down to their underwear and travelled around a bit, trying to look as though nothing unusual was going on. As if.

This was the Official No Trousers Tube Ride, an annual event with no point other than injecting a little levity into the bleak midwinter. No deep

meaning, no bigger motive. The only goal was to be silly, if but for one afternoon.

"There's so much bad, so much not fun going on," said ringleader Dave Selkirk, a 40-year-old personal trainer. "It's nice to do something just for the sake of it." After gathering at the entrance to Chinatown, dozens of clothing anarchists trooped through the icy streets to the Piccadilly Circus Underground station in central London where they boarded their first train. The only hiccup was that the cars were so crowded some people couldn't shed their trousers.

Selfies were taken. Grins were exchanged. Tourists looked puzzled.

The first stunt in this vein was held in New York in 2002, the brainchild of local comedian Charlie Todd. His idea was this: Wouldn't it be funny if someone walked onto a subway train in the middle of winter wearing hat, gloves, scarf — everything but pants? Or trousers as they're known in London, pants being synonymous with underpants in Britain.

"It would be unusual in New York, although you can see anything on our subway system, but



The first stunt in this vein was held in New York in 2002, the brainchild of local comedian Charlie Todd. *AP*

what would really be funny is if at the next stop, a couple of minutes later, when the doors open and additional persons got on, not wearing trousers as well," Todd told the BBC. "And they act like they don't know each other, and they act like ... it's no big deal and they just forgot their trousers."

The idea took off, and no pants days have been held all over: in Berlin, Prague, Jerusalem, Warsaw and Washington, D.C., among other cities.

London hosted its first big reveal in 2009.

"You know, it's meant to be a bit of harmless fun," Todd said.

"Certainly we are living in a climate where, you know, people like to have culture war fights. My rule in New York was always the goal of this event is to amuse other people, to give people a laugh. It's not to be provocative, it's not to irritate someone. So hopefully the spirit of that continues."

Basil Long, a lawyer, showed up at the meeting point in a down coat and hat on a freezing winter afternoon.

But after his journey underground in the warm tunnels of the Tube, he had been transformed, wearing only a white shirt with bold rainbow stripes,

pink underwear and Underground-themed socks.

"I just saw it online and I just thought, why not? It's always a question, isn't it?" he said. "When someone is asked why they climbed Everest, they were just like, why not?"

But Miriam Correa had a purpose. The 43-year-old chef wanted to come because she had seen pictures of previous no trouser rides that featured lots of thin, scantily clad women.

"I am a real woman," she said, adding that there was no reason to be ashamed of her shape. "All bodies are perfect." **AP**



ALL-WEATHER SONAMARG TUNNEL

J&K is crown of country, needs to be prosperous: PM opens new gateway

Right thing at the right time, he says on Omar reference to statehood for J&K

BASHAARAT MASOOD
SONAMARG (GANDERBAL), JANUARY 13

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi Monday inaugurated the strategic Sonamarg tunnel in Kashmir which is crucial to the government's all-weather connectivity plan for the Valley and Ladakh, including for security reasons.

Earlier called the Z-Morh tunnel due to its shape, the 6.4-km passage, now to be known as Sonamarg tunnel, is the first step towards the connectivity plan, with the next being the completion of the Zojila tunnel connecting Sonamarg in Kashmir with Drass in Ladakh.

The public rally following the inauguration of the tunnel saw striking bonhomie between PM Modi and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Monday. At the same time, to Abdullah's prodding on the awaited return of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, Modi refrained from giving a timeframe,



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the inauguration of the Z-Morh tunnel in J&K on Monday. PMO via PTI

saying "the right thing will happen at the right time". "This is Modi. If he makes some promises, he fulfills them...

Everything has a time, the right things will happen at the right time," Modi said, apparently in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Army chief on LAC: Degree of standoff, looking at talks to restore trust



Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi, Monday. PTI

DEEPTIMANTIWARY
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 13

STATING THAT Indian and Chinese troops are still locked in a "degree of standoff" along the Line of Actual Control, Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi said Monday that the Indian Army is looking at diplomatic negotiations to resolve the situation and "restore trust" between the two sides.

Addressing a press conference in New Delhi ahead of Army Day on January 15, General Dwivedi also spoke on terror emanating from Pakistan. He said only four youth from J&K had joined militant ranks last year, and that 60% of all terrorists killed, and 80% of those active, were from Pakistan. This, he said, showed that violence in J&K was entirely orchestrated by Pakistan.

In the backdrop of tensions over fencing at the border between India and Bangladesh, he

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPLAINED
Dialling down the tension

SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVES Ajit Doval and Wang Yi held talks in Beijing last month following a meeting between Prime Minister Modi and President Xi. Both sides now want to dial down the tension and work to restore trust along the boundary.

RELATED REPORT
PAGE 6



THE MAHA KUMBH BEGINS

Devotees at the Triveni Sangam on the first day of the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj Monday. Over 2 crore people are likely to take part in the Amrit Snan Tuesday. Vishal Srivastav REPORT, PAGE 8

DAM TO CUT RANTHAMBHORE INTO TWO SECTIONS

Rajasthan river-link lifeline could submerge 37 sq km in tiger reserve

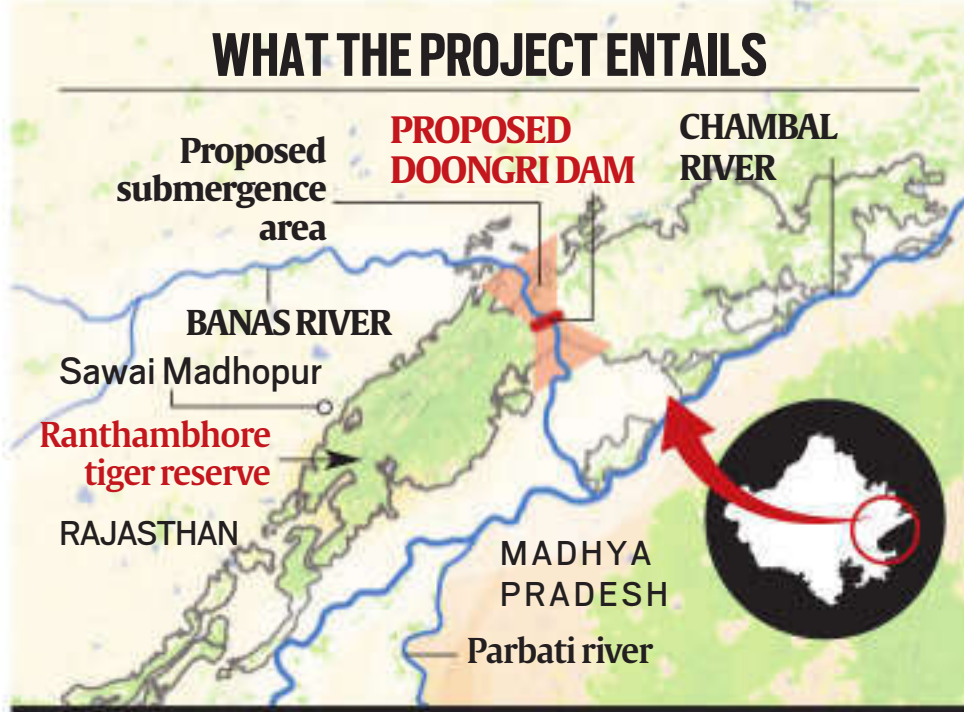
All care will be taken to minimise impact... if unavoidable, double, triple forest land will be integrated: Top official

JAY MAZOOMDAAR
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 13

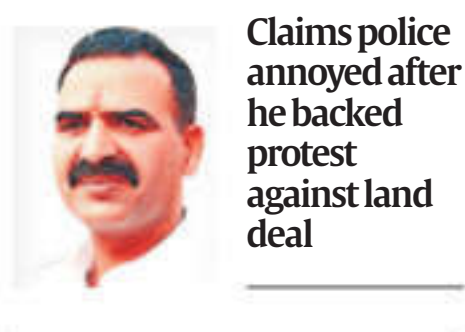
THE FLAGSHIP river-link irrigation project, which will provide a lifeline to 23 districts in Rajasthan, envisages the submergence of 37 sq km in the Ranthambhore tiger reserve effectively cutting it into two sections, according to project documents reviewed by *The Indian Express*.

The submergence will be caused by the largest dam proposed under the Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal-Eastern

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Balyan writes to UP CM: My security cover withdrawn, threat to life



Claims police annoyed after he backed protest against land deal

SHYAMLAL YADAV
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 13

BJP LEADER Sanjeev Balyan, former Union Minister of State who represented Muzaffarnagar twice in the Lok Sabha before his defeat in the 2024 elections, claimed Monday that his "Y-category" security detail was suddenly withdrawn by UP Police Sunday, posing a threat to his life.

In a letter to UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Balyan wrote: "You are aware that during the recent Lok Sabha polls I was attacked. If there is any such attack in future, it would be the responsibility of the state government. If the police are behaving in this manner with a former Union Minister, what will be the condition of ordinary workers of BJP?"

He told *The Indian Express*: "I was on a party programme in Delhi on Sunday and around 4.30 pm, my security personnel got a call from Muzaffarnagar Police to return. They left me immediately. Now I have no UP

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

ECONOMY

RUPEE BREACHES 86 MARK AGAINST DOLLAR FOR FIRST TIME PAGE 13

On table after Australia Test series loss: Performance-based variable pay

DEVENDRA PANDEY
MUMBAI, JANUARY 13

ONE OF the suggestions mooted at a meeting to review the recent debacle of India's Test team in Australia was the introduction of a performance-based variable pay structure for the players, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

Present at the meeting to review the 1-3 series defeat were

captain Rohit Sharma, head coach Gautam Gambhir and chairman of senior selection committee Ajit Agarkar.

The Indian Express understands that the thinking behind the move is to ensure that players are more "accountable" and, if warranted, face a pay-cut based on their performance. The system is said to be formulated on the lines of how corporate houses appraise their employees annually.

According to the suggested system, if the performance is not up to the mark, it would impact a player's earnings. "It was one of the suggestions given that players should be held accountable and if their performance is deemed not fit as per expectations, they should face variable pay-cuts," a source said.

It was only last year when the BCCI introduced an incentive

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



Indian killed fighting for Russia, had made pleas to return home



Binil T B (right) and Jain T K, both from Kerala, travelled to Russia in April last year

SHAJU PHILIP

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JANUARY 13

A MAN from Kerala was killed while fighting for the Russian Army in the country's war with Ukraine, and his relative was seriously injured, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

The family of 32-year-old Binil T B, a resident of Wadakkancherry in Kerala's Thrissur district, received a message a few days ago that he and his relative Jain T K (27) had been injured in a drone attack. The family, however, could

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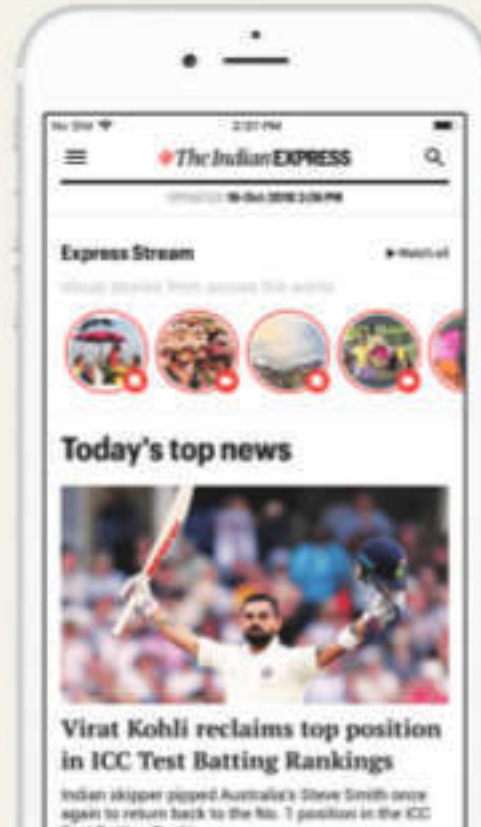
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DAAKU MAHARAAJ MOVIE REVIEW: THIS NANDAMURI BALAKRISHNA STAR VEHICLE IS SLIGHTLY OLD WINE IN A DAZZLING NEW BOTTLE

This is the quintessential Balakrishna film, but it is burdened by the hangover of a number of films including Rajinikanth's Jailer, Kamal Haasan's Vikram, and his own filmography

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EXPRESS AUDIO

GDP advance estimates, 1.5C warming limit, terrace tourism

In this episode of *3 Things*, we talk why India's GDP for the current financial year are concerning. We also discuss what breaching the 1.5-degree Celsius warming limit means and the rise in terrace tourism in Ahmedabad in anticipation of Uttarayan

Indian killed fighting for Russia, had made pleas to return home

not establish contact with them. Saneesh, a relative of the two men, said, "Binil's wife Joicy, who has been in touch with the Indian embassy in Moscow, got the information. When she called officials, they verbally confirmed that Binil had died. The officials said they had information in this regard from the Russian Army."

Ajith Kolassery, chief executive officer of NORKA ROOTS, the state government agency for non-resident Keralites' affairs, said, "We have heard about the incident. We are awaiting a final confirmation from the External Affairs Ministry. For the last couple of months, we have been trying to bring them back. We don't know exactly how many from Kerala are still trapped in the Russian Army. We come to know about such incidents only when such people make distress calls."

For the last few months, Binil and Jain had been desperately trying to get home. Early last month, in a series of voice messages to *The Indian Express*, Binil had said they had been unsuccessfully knocking on the doors of the Indian embassy in Moscow since September in an attempt to get back home. In the last message, Binil said they were forced to move to the front-

line of the war and expressed apprehension about the dangers that this would pose.

"Mentally and physically, we are exhausted," Binil, who worked as an electrician back home, had said in the message. "We are now in difficult terrain in Russia-occupied territory in Ukraine. Our commander says that our contract was for a year. We have been pleading with local commanders for our release. The Indian embassy is of the view that unless the Russian Army relieves us, they cannot help. The embassy says we should be taken back to Russian territory," he had said at the time.

Binil and Jain were among the several Indians who had travelled to Russia in April last year in the hopes of being employed in the country's military support service as electricians, cooks, plumbers and drivers. Instead, they were made to give up their Indian passports, take permanent residence, get conscripted into the Russian Army and work on the frontlines of the war.

This is the second death of a Keralite while fighting for the Russian Army. In August last year, Thrissur-native Sandeep was killed, also in a drone attack.

FROM PAGE ONE FULL REPORTS ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

J&K crown of country, needs to be prosperous: PM opens new gateway

response to Abdullah's reference to statehood in his welcome address.

In his speech, the CM said: "The people are asking me when will Jammu and Kashmir get the status of a state... You (Modi) fulfilled your promise of elections in just four months. My heart is saying that very soon the Prime Minister will fulfill his promise made to the people of Jammu and Kashmir as well and Jammu and Kashmir will be a state again."

This was Modi's first visit to the Valley after the formation of the Abdullah-led National Conference government in October last year, in the first Assembly elections held following the abrogation of Article 370.

Abdullah also praised Modi for keeping his promise to "reduce the distance between *dil* (heart) and *Dilli* (Delhi)".

The PM, who inspected the

Sonamarg tunnel and interacted with the workers, accompanied by Abdullah, Lt Governor Manoj Sinha and Union Road and Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari, also stressed on this. It was time for "all of us to realise our dreams, and make resolutions and accomplishments together", he said, adding: "I want to say that the distance (between Delhi and the Valley) has been erased... Modi will walk in step with you and remove every hurdle that comes in the path of your dreams... This tunnel will give new wings to tourism in this area, including Sonamarg... This has fulfilled the long-pending demand of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh."

Abdullah was the first to address the well-attended gathering, and the PM could be seen enthusiastically clapping to his speech. The two also shook hands before the CM returned to

his seat close to Modi.

Apart from commending the PM for holding the elections and for the infrastructural efforts, Abdullah said the Centre had helped bring peace to J&K borders and said far-flung areas like Machil, Gurez, Karnah and Keran along the Line of Control have gained from development and tourism.

Modi also repeatedly referred to the CM in his nearly half-an-hour-long speech and said he had been keenly anticipating his visit to Sonamarg after Abdullah shared a video and pictures of the Z-Morh tunnel on his social media account on the eve of its inauguration.

He mentioned Abdullah's participation in the first-ever international marathon held in October last year and said the video of it had gone viral. "I congratulated him when he met me in Delhi. He was full of enthusi-

asm."

Claiming a link to the region, the PM said: "I remember spending time as an ordinary worker of the BJP in Sonamarg, Gulmarg, Ganderbal and Baramulla... I walked for hours together in the snow but was always warmly welcomed by the people, who never allowed me to feel cold."

Thanking the people of J&K for supporting him in his endeavour, he added: "The dream of Viksit Bharat can be fulfilled only when its crown is decorated with jewels. J&K is the crown of India and I want this crown to be made more beautiful and prosperous."

In October, militants had struck at the camping site of the tunnel workers and opened indiscriminate fire, killing seven of them. Modi, Abdullah and Sinha paid tributes to the slain workers Monday. Starting his speech

by naming the seven workers, the CM said: "If I started without them, it would be an injustice... These seven workers sacrificed their lives for this project, for the development of Jammu and Kashmir."

Calling infrastructure development imperative to achieve Viksit Bharat, Gadkari said: "The Prime Minister has given us a mission of developed and prosperous India. If we have to achieve (it), we have to improve the country's infrastructure... Until water, power, transport, and communication do not develop, industry, business, and tourism will not get a boost."

In his speech, Lt Governor Sinha said the tunnel marks the beginning of a new chapter in the history of J&K. "I can say that the Prime Minister has lifted Jammu and Kashmir out of the darkness of despair and set it on the path to a bright future. From

the swamp of hopelessness, he has led the region toward a new journey of shining development," Sinha said.

Built by the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL), the Sonamarg tunnel connects Sonamarg, a famous tourist destination, with Kangan town in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district.

The tunnel is situated at an altitude of more than 8,500 feet. The area is prone to snow avalanches in the winter, which cut off the Sonamarg road for most of the season.

The project was originally started by the Border Roads Organisation in 2012, with the first deadline being August 2023. After delays, the soft-opening of the tunnel was carried out in February last year, but Assembly elections delayed the project's official inauguration.

Dhankhar lauds poll panel

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 13

VICE PRESIDENT Jagdeep Dhankhar on Monday lauded the Election Commission for holding polls in a manner that has earned global accolades, saying there will always be an urge to criticise to get the best of it.

He also said the independence of the poll panel is never a casualty as the "bureaucracy is so trained" and the election machine-

ery is "so greased and fuelled".

His remarks came against the backdrop of the Opposition parties' attacks on the EC and their allegations of discrepancies in electoral rolls, fudging of voter turnout data and tampering of EVMs.

Addressing a book launch event here, Dhankhar said, "We have an EC that has worked. And it has worked in a fashion that global recognition is coming to it. Many countries in the world want their elections to be overseen by our Election Commission."

Former MoS Balyan writes to Adityanath: My security cover withdrawn, threat to life

Police security personnel with me. I had 'Y' security, but now I have only a Delhi Police PSO."

He said the security personnel posted at his residence, his police escort and four security personnel with him have all gone back. "They told me, '*police line se humay wapas bulaya jaa raha hai, hum log jaa rahe hain*' (we have been asked to return to the police lines, we are leaving), and they left immediately."

Reached for comment, Muzaffarnagar SSP Abhishek Singh said Balyan "is being provided security as per rules. He is getting the security level he is

entitled to."

In his letter to the Chief Minister, Balyan said a distillery unit had bought land of a dharmshala in Khanpur village in Muzaffarnagar. He said he joined villagers sitting on a protest against the land deal, and alleged that police were trying to help the unit get possession of the land.

"Muzaffarnagar police officers are annoyed because I sat on a dharna in support of the villagers against the land deal. That is the main reason behind withdrawal of my security," Balyan said.

On table after Australia Test series loss: Performance-based variable pay

system for its Test players. According to it, players who have featured in the playing XI of more than 50 per cent of Tests in a season since 2022-23 would receive a financial incentive of Rs 30 lakh per game.

The payout increases to Rs 45 lakh per game for every player who features in at least 75 per cent of matches in a season. It was part of the Rs 40-crore corpus announced by the board for the longest format of the game and was introduced to attract players to red-ball cricket at a time when the T20 format and the Indian Premier League have become very attractive propositions.

The other issues discussed in Saturday's review meeting was some players giving less importance to Test cricket and "lacking

intent" for it, preferring white-ball formats.

The team management feels that the board needs to address this issue to ensure the next generation appreciates Test cricket and the value of an India Test cap.

The Indian team has had a bad few months in Test cricket. Before the reversal in Australia, they were whitewashed 0-3 by New Zealand at home to end a 18-series winning streak over 12 years.

"There was discussion whether the current players were a bit indifferent when India loses a Test match. The team management understands the value of Test cricket but many players don't give too much importance to it," the source said.

Rajasthan river-link lifeline could submerge 37 sq km in tiger reserve

Rajasthan Canal Project (PKC-ERCP), which is part of the ambitious Interlinking of Rivers (ILR) program. The canal project is expected to channel surplus water of the Chambal river basin for irrigation, drinking and industrial use to 23 districts of Rajasthan, benefitting 3.45 crore people.

Of the PKC-ERCP's total submergence area of 408.86 sq km in Rajasthan, 227 sq km will go under the reservoir of a proposed 39-m-high and 1.6-km-long dam across Banas river, a tributary of Chambal, near village Doongri, about 30 km from Sawai Madhopur town.

Of this, project details show, 37.03 sq km belong to Ranthambhore national park (392 sq km) and Keladevi wildlife sanctuary (674 sq km), both part of the Ranthambhore tiger reserve (1,113 sq km), currently home to 57 tigers.

The submergence on both sides of the proposed dam will constrict the north-south animal dispersal route between the two halves of the reserve.

The move has renewed calls for "high-value forests" to be avoided while designing dams, with conservationists saying this section of the project will "adversely impact" the iconic reserve's habitat connectivity and carrying capacity.

When contacted, Baleshwar Thakur, director general of the National Water Development Agency (NWDA), which is in charge of the ILR initiative, said multiple Central agencies would evaluate the Detailed Project Report (DPR) being prepared by Rajasthan.

"We will examine the plan before sending it to the Central Water Commission's Technical

Advisory Committee. All care will be taken to minimise impact on the tiger reserve. If submergence is unavoidable, double or triple the amount of forest land will be integrated like it has been done (for the Panna tiger reserve) in the Ken-Betwa project," he said.

On December 17, at a function to mark the first anniversary of the incumbent BJP government in Rajasthan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of PKC-ERCP, which will also supply water to Malwa and Chambal regions of Madhya Pradesh.

Incidentally, Ranthambhore is the third tiger reserve facing loss of land to upcoming reservoirs.

The North Koel Reservoir Project will submerge 10.07 sq km of Palamu tiger reserve in Jharkhand; the Ken-Betwa river link project is expected to drown 41.41 sq km of Panna tiger reserve in Madhya Pradesh.

In 2017, Rajasthan under the then chief minister Vasundhara Raje conceived the Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP). However, the project was not acceptable to Madhya Pradesh, which also shares the Chambal river basin, due to the high volume of water extraction planned by Rajasthan.

Soon after the BJP returned to power in Rajasthan in December 2023, the Centre combined the Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal (PKC) Link project, which was pending implementation in Madhya Pradesh, with Rajasthan's ERCP as PKC-ERCP.

The two states signed an MoU with the Centre for the modified project last January.

While the ERCP segment has already been planned by Rajasthan, the project is now un-

dergoing capacity enhancement due to the linking of Parbati, Kalisindh and Chambal (PKC) rivers, necessitating a modified DPR.

The revised DPR of the Rajasthan segment of the PKC-ERCP will be submitted to the Central Water Commission by mid-January, said Rakesh Gupta, MD, Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project Corporation Ltd, which is under the Rajasthan government.

While capacity enhancement will be part of the modified DPR, Gupta said parameters already planned for the Doongri dam in 2018 remained unchanged. "Some forest areas will be required. We will follow the due procedure to seek permission for submergence," he said.

Asked about the impending loss of parts of the Ranthambhore tiger reserve, Rajasthan's chief wildlife warden Arijit Banerjee said: "We will examine the implications on the ground when the project details come to us (the forest department) in the due process. It will be premature to comment before that."

However, after Rajasthan submitted the ERCP for Environmental Clearance in September 2018, the ministry's Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) for hydel projects noted that the project's "command area is falling in Ranthambhore" and set up an expert sub-committee to ascertain "any likely adverse impact on wildlife".

The panel visited the dam site in January 2019, and recommended that "a suitable area may be identified adjacent to the wildlife sanctuaries so that the core area of the wildlife sanctuary is kept intact".

A senior official of the Rajasthan government said that the "the dead storage in the proposed reservoir should benefit the tiger reserve prone to water shortage" during summer.

But there's cause for concern. "This will adversely impact the habitat and its biological carrying capacity. If submergence is unavoidable, the loss must be compensated by notifying double the area, either abutting the tiger reserve or in its vicinity. It's best to avoid at least our tiger reserves and national parks as no-go zones," said Dr Rajesh Gopal, former chief of Project Tiger.

Said Dharmendra Khandal of TigerWatch, an NGO based in Sawai Madhopur: "Such losses are usually justified by allotment of some compensatory land. But we must ask if we even try to avoid high-value forests while designing dams. Ranthambhore is not just any land. We should think of compensation only when the loss is unavoidable."

A former royal hunting ground, Ranthambhore was declared a tiger reserve in 1974. Over the decades, it has emerged as one of the few strongholds of India's national animal and the world's favourite tiger destination.

Phase One of the PKC-ERCP involves the construction of the Doongri dam and five barrages — Ramgarh, Mahalpur, Navnera, Mej, and Rathod on the river Kul, Parbati, Kalisindh, Mel and Banas, respectively — a water conductor system from Ramgarh barrage to Doongri dam and the renovation of Isarda dam. In Madhya Pradesh, the Kumbhraj dam on Parvati and the SMRS dam on Kuno are proposed. The deadline for this phase is 2028.

Army chief on LAC: Degree of standoff, looking at talks to restore trust

said military ties between the two countries were "perfect".

Speaking on the situation along the LAC — more than a month after the government informed Parliament that the "conclusion of disengagement" in eastern Ladakh had set Delhi-Beijing ties "in the direction of some improvement" — the Army chief said, "As far as the status of standoff (with China) is concerned... we have to see what all has changed since April 2020. Has the terrain been doctored over a period of time? Yes, both sides have doctored the terrain. Have both sides carried out constructions? Yes. Both sides have carried out some stocking, deployment? Yes. Therefore, what it means is that there is a degree of standoff."

In light of the changed situa-

tion since Chinese incursions were detected in May 2020, "the trust between the two countries has to have a new definition. Therefore, there is a requirement for us to sit together and thereafter come to a broader understanding... how we want to calm down the situation and restore trust."

"We are now looking forward to the Special Representatives' meeting which should take place, and also the WMCC (Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs), and based on the guidance from there, we will be moving forward," he said.

On the deployment in Ladakh, General Dwivedi said troop deployment and infrastructure development in the re-

gion depended on the capability of the adversary and the trust factor.

"As of today, the capability entails that we should continue for us to sit together and thereafter come to a broader understanding... how we want to calm down the situation and restore trust."

"We are now looking forward to the Special Representatives' meeting which should take place, and also the WMCC (Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs), and based on the guidance from there, we will be moving forward," he said.

On the deployment in Ladakh, General Dwivedi said troop deployment and infrastructure development in the re-

have now been delegated the powers to resolve trivial issues and minor frictions so that they do not become big issues later. So, what can be resolved at the lower level is being resolved. As far as a timeline is concerned, I can only say India has adequate strategic patience," he said.

He chose to describe the situation in the eastern Ladakh region as "stable but sensitive" and indicated that things were moving forward gradually through talks. On the current situation in the Depsang Plains and Demchok, he said both patrolling and grazing had resumed.

On the situation in J&K, the Army chief said, "The violence level (in J&K) is being orchestrated by the epicentre of terrorism that is Pakistan... As of now,

we have inducted 15,000 additional troops in the year 2024. That is why the violence level has gone down... We have been able to neutralise 73 terrorists, out of which 60% are Pakistani. And as of today, whatever is remnant in the Valley and Jammu area, we feel that 80% or more are of Pakistan origin."

Maintaining that the people of J&K were on the side of peace, General Dwivedi said, "The Parliamentary and Assembly elections both had near about 60% voting. It means that the local population is going with peace. The recruitment (of local terrorists) was only four for 2024. That is negligible. All the indicators are saying the people of J&K are shunning violence. The violence is completely being orchestrated by our western

adversary."

In response to questions on ties with Bangladesh, he said the two countries have openly said they were strategically important to each other.

"As of today, which is the other country which shares a border with Bangladesh? Apart from a small portion on the southeastern side, it is all India. We are neighbours, we have to live together, understand each other and any kind of animosity is not in each other's interest. There is no vulnerability from any side. I am in touch with the chief of Bangladesh (Army)," he said, adding that all military engagements between the two countries, barring the joint exercise, were on course. "The relationship with the military is perfect," he said.



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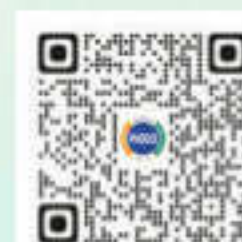


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AFTER KEJRIWAL'S COMPLAINT TO EC

Job fair by BJP's Verma: Poll officers asked to take 'preventive action'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 13

DAYS BEFORE a job fair was set to be held by New Delhi BJP candidate Parvesh Verma, local election officials have been asked to take "preventive actions" in the constituency in response to a complaint filed by AAP convenor Arvind Kejriwal.

Verma, who is contesting against Kejriwal in the New Delhi seat in the February 5 Assembly polls, had, last week, announced the 'Har Ghar Naukri' campaign ostensibly aimed at providing jobs in "50 prominent companies from across the country" to youth residing in the constituency. The fair was scheduled to be held on Wednesday (January 15).

A day after the announcement of the fair, Kejriwal called on the Election Commission and sought action against Verma for allegedly distributing Rs 1,100 to women in public and the "blatant violation of Model Code of Conduct" by "soliciting votes by promising jobs".

In an action-taken report on Kejriwal's allegations to the Delhi Chief Electoral Officer, the New Delhi District Election Officer, in a letter dated January 10, stated that the police stations concerned had been asked to



BJP's Parvesh Verma is contesting against AAP convenor Arvind Kejriwal in the New Delhi Assembly seat. Amit Mehra



furnish an action taken report "on an urgent basis".

In addition, the DEO stated, that the Returning Officer (RO) concerned "has been requested to ensure no registrations would be held at the places listed in the complaint" and specifically instructed "to take all preventive actions to prevent conduct of camp on 15.01.2025..." in addition to prohibiting the conduct of interviews "at the given time and place, if such events are organised..."

In response to the former Chief Minister's allegation regarding the distribution of cash to women voters from the constituency as well as organising medical camps, the DEO also stated, his complaint had been forwarded to both the RO as well as the police "for investigating the facts and take necessary actions as per the norms of

the Representation of People Act, as applicable..."

Alleging that the local election officials "have surrendered to the BJP's influence and are shielding these activities", Kejriwal had urged the Election Commission to ensure that these "malpractices are stopped and strict action is taken."

The DEO, in the response to the Delhi CEO, added that "prompt action" was being taken on all complaints alleging electoral malpractices and MCC violations by all authorities concerned. "It is ensured that preventive actions are being taken to avoid any MCC violations... teams...are working continuously 24 hours. In view of this, it is not up to the mark to make baseless allegations on the DEO, New Delhi District," the reply further stated.

AT CONGRESS RALLY IN SEELAMPUR

Rahul attacks Kejriwal: 'Follows same tactic of false promises like PM Modi'

SAMAN HUSAIN
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 13

AT THE Congress's debut political rally ahead of the Delhi Assembly polls, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi Monday launched a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal, saying both used similar propaganda tactics of making false promises without meaning to fulfill them. His statements came amid growing speculation about fissures within the Opposition's INDIA bloc, of which both the AAP and Congress are members.

Responding to Rahul's speech on social media platform 'X', Kejriwal said, "Today Rahul Gandhi ji came to Delhi. He abused me a lot. But I will not comment on his statements. His fight is to save Congress, my fight is to save the country."

Addressing a packed crowd at the "Jai Bhim-Jai Samvidhan" public meeting in Northeast Delhi's Seelampur, Rahul, who shared the stage with the candidates declared so far by the party for the Delhi polls, questioned the AAP's and BJP's commitment to the Constitution and the rights of marginalised communities.

"When Kejriwal came to power, he said he'd clean Delhi, turn it into Paris, and remove corruption. Now, you tell me — has corruption decreased?... What



Rahul Gandhi at the 'Jai Bhim-Jai Samvidhan' rally in Northeast Delhi's Seelampur, Monday. Praveen Khanna



did Modi and Kejriwal say? That they will ensure inflation reduces. Has inflation reduced? Has Modi said anything about these rich people controlling the country? Has Kejriwal ever spoken against them?" he asked.

To this, the crowd responded with a "No."

Later in a post on X, Rahul wrote: "Just like Modi ji makes false promises and propaganda

one after the other, Kejriwal ji also has the same strategy — there is no difference!"

At the rally, he said there is an ongoing ideological battle in the country and his party is the sole defender of India's constitutional values. "The Constitution clearly states Hindustan belongs to every Hindustani, no matter what caste or religion they belong to. If a person is a Hindustani, they deserve

AAP, BJP accuse each other of betraying slum dwellers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 13

IN FRESH sparring amid the upcoming polls, the AAP and BJP accused each other of betraying Delhi's slum dwellers as the issue of permanent housing for economically weaker sections emerged as the latest flashpoint.

BJP's New Delhi candidate Parvesh Verma alleged that more than 8,000 homes were fully constructed in Delhi and awaiting allocation to those in need. "Yet, instead of handing over these homes to the poor, the Arvind Kejriwal government prioritised its own luxury... breaking and re-building bungalows for the Chief Minister, creating extravagant palaces for himself," he alleged.

Verma claimed in the past year alone, "hundreds of slums" were demolished, leaving entire families homeless. "The people of Delhi's slums demand accountability, justice, and their rightful homes," he said.

In retaliation, the AAP accused the BJP of indulging in "jhuggi tourism" in Delhi during the elections while "rendering 3 lakh 'jhuggi' residents shelterless..." In contrast, Kejriwal has tirelessly worked to ensure dignity for 'jhuggi' dwellers — laying sewer lines, providing water, and ensuring electricity in 1,800 unauthorised colonies," the AAP stated.

Fake documents case: Police quiz AAP MLA; he denies involvement

PRAGYNESH
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 13

THE DELHI Police Monday questioned AAP MLA Mohinder Goyal and his associate Rohit Kalra for over four hours in relation to the legislator's alleged signatures and stamps on fake documents found in possession of alleged Bangladeshi immigrants, officers said.

"He was questioned from 3.45 pm to 4 pm today. We asked him to submit the official record maintained by his office of all such documents (the kind seized from alleged immigrants)," a senior police officer said.

"We issued a notice for him to come again for questioning tomorrow (Tuesday). But he requested to appear on January 18, after filing his nomination," a senior police officer said.

Goyal, the MLA from Rithala, called the questioning an attempt to kill his time during elections. "I joined the investigation today and cooperated with them. Whatever documents we provide, there is a registered entry of it. I have shown the papers sent from my office. What they have are fake documents," he said in a statement.

A source close to Goyal added that no document has been issued from the MLA's office and all the papers the police have shown have been forged from outside.

According to police officers,

AAP MLA Mohinder Goyal



the documents were seized during a "major crackdown on alleged illegal immigrants" on December 24 last year 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 were Bangladeshi citizens and the rest were allegedly involved in making forged documents like voter IDs and Aadhaar cards to facilitate the "illegal immigration process".

"One of the key accused, who arranged the fake documents, was found in possession of Aadhaar documents with multiple signatures of MLA Mohinder Singh. As of now, it is suspected that the MLA's staff was involved in processing these documents as all these signatures were slightly different from the original," the DCP had previously said.

The accused were found in possession of Bangladeshi IDs and birth certificates. As many as 21 Aadhaar cards, four voter IDs, and eight PAN cards were also recovered from the house of the accused, said police.

Home voting registration in Delhi

The facility was first started during the 2024 Lok Sabha polls to help senior citizens and Persons with Disabilities (with a disability benchmark of 40%) cast their votes via postal ballot. It is available for the Assembly polls as well

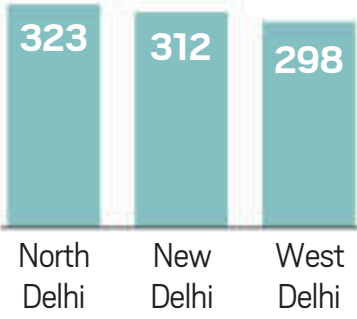


The last date to opt for home voting is January 15. Archive

SENIOR CITIZENS (85-plus)
1,10,770 Total voters

Forms distributed: 97,729
Forms received: 2,443

Highest forms received from:



PwDs
79,438 Total voters

Forms distributed: 71,632
Forms received: 528

Deadline: January 15

Delhi CEO Alice Vaz urged all eligible voters aged 85 and above or those with a 40% benchmark disability to take full advantage of this facility. "Form distribution and collection are underway. Eligible voters are encouraged to register promptly to ensure their participation in the democratic process," she said.

How To Apply

■ Voter has to fill out Form 12 D and apply to the returning officer within 5 days of the notification. PwD voters will also have to submit a copy of the benchmark disability certificates

■ After this, BLOs will collect the form from the electors' home

■ Next, a team of polling officials will visit the electors' homes to collect their votes. They will be informed in advance of the visit

■ During the voting process, videographers will accompany polling officials. There will also be police security cover.

■ Candidates will also be informed about the dates on which home voting facility will remain open through SMS

Data: Delhi CEO office

IMAGE OF THE DAY



CM and Kalkaji candidate Atishi holds a roadshow with AAP colleague Manish Sisodia, Monday. She was to file her nomination for the Assembly polls during the day but was delayed. She will file her papers on Tuesday. Abhinav Saha

Need to pick a proposer, Tahir Hussain tells HC

New Delhi: Seeking interim bail before the High Court to contest the Assembly polls, AIMIM candidate Tahir Hussain Monday said he needs to be out of the jail to pick a proposer and file a "true account" of his properties and assets.

Justice Neena Bansal Krishna had orally asked Hussain's counsel that if he just needed to file his nomination, "you can do that even while sitting in jail".

In response, pointing out that Hussain has been in jail since March 2020 (in a Northeast Delhi riots case), his counsel submitted,

"It can be done, but the whole election process has been notified... I want to file a true account of all my properties and assets and I'll have to choose a proposer."

Additional Solicitor General Chetan Sharma pointed out that the latest precedent for interim bail in cases of incarcerated individuals on grounds of contesting polls is that of Punjab MP Amritpal Singh. Opposing grant of interim relief to Hussain, Sharma said, "He (Singh) was permitted to file nomination, allowed to meet his proposer from jail." **ENS**

AAP, BJP, Cong picks to file nominations this week

GAYATHRI MANI
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 13

THE PROCESS to file nominations officially began on January 10 but candidates from the top three parties — AAP, BJP, and Congress — are yet to submit documents.

Several candidates said they are awaiting 'auspicious days' as per the Hindu calendar, which start on Tuesday. The last date to file nominations is January 17.

Vijender Gupta, BJP's MLA candidate from Rohini, said: "In Hindu culture, timings and dates are taken very seriously before starting any new initiative... Filing a nomination is also a big thing. It is like an exam for us, which we have been preparing for months." He added that he will file his nomination Wednesday.

The BJP has so far declared names of 59 candidates of which five will file their nominations on Tuesday, 36 on January 15, and the remaining on January 16. The party will likely declare names for the remaining 11 seats on Tuesday.

Delhi CM and Kalkaji candidate Atishi will file her nomination on Tuesday. "She was supposed to file it today but had a meeting with the Election Commission. She will be filing her nomination tomorrow," said a party leader.

A senior AAP leader said, "It is up to the individual when they want to file their nominations but 99% of leaders even in our party consult pandits before doing so."

AAP and Congress are expected to announce their candidate schedule for the nomination process on January 14.

Besides Atishi, Somnath Bharti from Malviya Nagar and Jitender Singh Shunty from Shahdara will file nominations Tuesday, said AAP sources.

"Kalkaji candidate Alka Lamba may file tomorrow and DPCC chief Devender Yadav on January 15," said a Congress leader.

So far, 26 candidates, mostly independents, have filed nominations. Scrutiny of nominations will take place on January 18 and the last date for withdrawal of candidature is January 20.

KEY PLAYER

Dropped, then given a ticket in a day, why BJP could not ignore most senior Delhi MLA Mohan Singh Bisht

JATIN ANAND
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 13

ON SATURDAY, sitting MLA from Karawal Nagar Mohan Singh Bisht found himself replaced from a seat he had won four consecutive times from 1998 to 2013. By Sunday, however, the 67-year-old was back in the running — albeit from a different seat.

Behind the decision, according to party insiders, is the fact that Bisht is the BJP's most senior legislator in the national capital and "possibly the only Pahadi (Uttarakhandi) leader in the city worthy of the title".

A five-time MLA from Karawal Nagar, before his record was broken in 2015 by then-AAP candidate Kapil Mishra — his replacement for the forthcoming Assembly elections on the seat — Bisht was once again elected to the Delhi Assembly from the

same constituency in 2020. As per insiders, he has also been associated with both the RSS and the BJP "since his childhood".

When the BJP had announced Mishra's candidature from Bisht's home turf in its second list of 29 picks released on January 11, it cited internal surveys and the modified demographic profile of the area being more "in favour" of Mishra, a firebrand Hindutva-cum-Purvanchali face, compared to Bisht.

Bisht had termed the announcement a "big mistake", with possible implications for the BJP's electoral prospects not only in Karawal Nagar but also in pockets where the Uttarakhandi diaspora resides across the Capital. A day later, the BJP announced his candidature from Mustafabad — a significant chunk of which "used to be his home turf" not long ago.

A senior Delhi BJP leader said,



Bisht is a five-time MLA from Karawal Nagar

"This was a very significant decision by the party... He (Bisht) is not just dead honest and accessible to his constituents but has demonstrated experience in both raising his voice for local issues, ensuring delivery of developmental projects on the ground, and resolving problems brought to him by citizens."

"If he was not given an op-

portunity, not just the Uttarakhandi diaspora based in Delhi, but also the Rajput community to which he belongs would have got upset at the seeming slight exhibited by the BJP towards their tallest, if not the only such, leader in the capital," added the BJP leader.

According to party insiders, soon after Bisht went public with his grouse against the BJP on being replaced by Mishra, he was "convinced by a cross-section of the BJP's national and state leadership" that his being accommodated in subsequent lists was "a matter of time".

"He remained completely composed throughout the day (Sunday), during which he was asked to preside over organisational meetings to chalk the way forward for his campaign in Mustafabad, before his name was finally announced as the candidate from the seat where

he is very popular among the Pahadi community, which occupies significant chunks of this constituency as well," a party insider said.

"More than around 60% of the current area under the Mustafabad seat — carved out of the Karawal Nagar Assembly constituency after delimitation in 2008 — used to be Mohan ji's stronghold and he is still immensely popular in such areas," the insider added.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Bisht, following the conclusion of his second preparatory meeting of the day in Mustafabad on Sunday, acknowledged the BJP's "support" for his candidature given his experience.

"I was the MLA of Karawal Nagar from 1998 to 2008 when the Mustafabad constituency was formed. The people here have come out on the streets in support of me (after the announce-

ment)... There is also a lot of support from the party... I am sure Mustafabad will be the first seat that the BJP will win," he said.

While its leadership's stitch in time may have saved the BJP's fortunes from tanking in both Karawal Nagar and Mustafabad — areas that witnessed the 2020 Delhi riots to varying degrees — skeptics said a significant community had been overlooked when it came to the candidature of Mishra and Bisht.

"While the Purvanchali, Pahadi and Muslim communities dominate in both seats, the Gujar population seems to have been overlooked by the BJP with regard to ticket selection," a senior leader said.

"The BJP has limited expectations when it comes to voters from the Muslim community; but overlooking the Gujars, especially in Karawal Nagar, seems to be an error."

Delhi govt dragged its feet on tabling CAG reports, raises doubts, says HC

SOHINI GHOSH
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 13

IN REMARKS addressed to the Delhi government, the Delhi High Court Monday said “the way you dragged your feet” on tabling reports of the CAG in the Assembly “raises doubts about your bona fides”. Justice Sachin Datta said, “You should have promptly forwarded the reports to the Speaker and had a discussion in the House. The timeline is stark... The way you have been dragging your feet is something that is unfortunate.”

The bench was dealing with a petition by Vijender Gupta, Leader of Opposition in the Assembly, and six BJP MLAs — Mohan Singh Bisht, Om Prakash Sharma, Ajay Kumar Mahawar, Abhay Verma, Anil Bajpai and Jitender Mahajan

— seeking tabling of 14 CAG reports in the House. Later, when the matter was taken up in the second sitting of the court session, Senior Advocate Mahesh Jethmalani, appearing for the petitioners, said, “If the government has nothing to hide, it should only be too keen to present it in the House as per the constitutional mandate... This is a high principle of accountability. You are spending taxpayers’ money... All these 14 (CAG) reports deal with resources of the people.”

Citing provisions of the GNCTD Act and the CAG Act, Jethmalani said, “When you (Delhi Finance Minister) get 8 reports in 2023 and have not placed it till date (in the Assembly), it is a gross violation of the Constitution.”

Highlighting that when an Assembly session is convened by the Lieutenant Governor,

Jethmalani said “once the session starts, the session is in the control of the Speaker, so the Speaker will decide the sittings”. He said the fifth session is ongoing at present although no sitting has been scheduled to table the reports. “This time the session was not prorogued, it can be prorogued but has not been done yet. So it is in session,” he said.

The last sitting of the Assembly on December 4, 2024, he said, was adjourned sine die “but that doesn’t cause the death of the session”.

Seeking a clarification on a point of law, Justice Datta inquired, “Once the session has started, sittings are in the hands of the Speaker... So isn’t that a matter of legislature privilege? How can the court interfere?”

Jethmalani said, “When a Speaker is flagrantly violating constitutional duties, the court

will step in, it is its duty... This court is almost obliged... There is absolutely no bar on mandamus (issuing directions).”

The Delhi government, on the other hand, brought to the court’s attention a press conference by BJP Rajya Sabha MP Sudhanshu Trivedi attacking the AAP government on non-tabling of the CAG reports.

Trivedi took to quoting media reports to reiterate the court’s oral remarks that the “Delhi government is dragging its feet in placing the CAG report”.

Taking objection to such remarks on a sub-judice matter, Senior Advocate Rahul Mehra, appearing for the Delhi government, said, “They (BJP) are using this court as an instrument to make political gains. Will My Lords allow that to happen? Are we going to have a level-playing field or is this the way elections are now go-

ing to take place, by coming to court, by completely political outfits... that too when the matter is sub judice. They are repeating phrases used by My Lords. Will My Lords allow this? At least ask them to (show) some restraint. Don’t make it so obvious.”

Justice Datta remarked that “the court is not concerned with politics”.

At this, Mehra said, “In this case, it should.” “These are political people with a political petition, wanting an affirmation from the court in a matter which is pertaining to the politics of the state. Will My Lords become a tool in the hands of this political petition? I mean how brazen this is, on the face of it. Some dignity should be maintained,” he said.

Justice Datta said the “court can’t react to this”, and posted the matter for further hearing on January 16.

Got prosecution sanction against AAP’s Jain in corruption case, CBI tells court

New Delhi: The CBI on Monday informed a Delhi court that it had obtained requisite sanctions to prosecute Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and former Delhi minister Satyendar Jain in a disproportionate assets case.

It was alleged by the CBI that the minister, while functioning

as a public servant, amassed assets disproportionate to his known sources of income to the extent of approximately Rs 1.62 crore between February 14, 2015, and May 31, 2017.

Special Judge Jitendra Singh

of Rouse Avenue Court posted the next hearing on January 22. Jain was granted bail in the money laundering case filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in October last year.

ENS

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AB-PMJAY unsuitable for city’s requirements: Delhi govt to HC

SOHINI GHOSH
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 13

THE AYUSHMAN Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) is unsuitable for meeting the requirements of the people of Capital, the AAP government said on Monday as it opposed a public interest litigation in the High Court by all seven Delhi BJP MPs seeking the implementation of the central government’s flagship health scheme in the city.

Calling the PIL filed by MPs Bansuri Swaraj, Praveen Khandelwal, Ramvir Bidhuri, Kamaljeet Sehrawat, Harsh Malhotra, Manoj Kumar Tiwari, and Yogender Chandoliya “politically motivated”, the AAP government said it has been “filed in view of the ensuing elections to the Legislative Assembly of Delhi.”

The petitioners are political leaders who belong to “the princi-



Centre’s scheme will benefit only 12-15% of population, said Delhi government. File

pal Opposition party in Delhi” and “have been trying to impose their wishes on Delhi, even though they were able to win only 10% of the seats in the last election to the Legislative Assembly,” the Delhi government stated. “It is a settled principle of law that a politically motivated petition, wearing the cloak of an alleged public interest, is a misuse of provisions of law

and the court should come down with a heavy hand on such petitions,” the response further read.

Drawing a comparison with its Delhi Arogya Kosh (DAK), which it said is a “much more robust scheme,” the Delhi government pointed out, “... the Government of NCT of Delhi does not want to implement the AB-PMJAY scheme as it will amount to downgrading the schemes already in place in Delhi.”

It further emphasised that the state is “exclusively vested with the power, jurisdiction, and responsibility to frame laws and policies relating to public health, sanitation, hospitals, and dispensaries” in the GNCTD jurisdiction where central government policies can’t have an overriding effect, and such policymaking is not within the court’s domain of adjudication. It added that the AB-PMJAY will only benefit 12-15% of the city’s population.

BJP on HC’s CAG remark: AAP govt has lost moral authority to stay in power

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 13

THE AAP-led Delhi government has lost “all moral authority” to remain in power after the High Court’s comments on “dragging its feet” over the tabling of Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) reports in the Delhi Legislative Assembly, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) said Monday. The AAP has hit back at the remarks, accusing the BJP of “concocting baseless stories” linked to the CAG reports.

Since 2023, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva alleged, the Arvind Kejriwal-Atishi government had been sitting on more than 12 CAG reports, including the one on the construction of the “Sheesh Mahal” — the BJP’s label for the AAP convenor’s former res-



Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva

idence on 6 Flagstaff Road. “Repeated requests were made by BJP MLAs in the Delhi Assembly to present these reports... but out of fear of their corrupt practices being exposed, the Kejriwal-Atishi government refused to budge,” Sachdeva said.

In its response, the AAP said the CAG reports had been sent to the Delhi Legislative Assembly Speaker for tabling in the next session of the Assembly. “Beyond this, we have no role. The BJP is fabricating fake CAG reports in its headquarters, concocting baseless stories to mislead the public. “

Amity student death: Police nab classmate for abetment to suicide

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NOIDA, JANUARY 13

TWO DAYS after a 23-year-old law student from Amity University died after falling from the 7th floor of a high-rise in Noida, police Monday said his classmate was arrested for abetment of suicide. The woman was found culpable during the investigation, said officers, adding that she was produced before court on Monday.

Police said the incident took place at Supreme Tower Society in Noida’s Sector 99 at 4.30 pm on Saturday.

The student, who was in his second year, had come to visit his friends living in the building. “Around 4.30 pm, he fell from the 7th floor of an 18-storey building under suspicious circumstances. He was rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment where doctors declared him dead,” an officer had said.

The body was found in a secluded area, which has been under construction for several months. Police said the victim’s family had alleged foul play. “The

father of the boy had filed a case against his classmate for abetment of suicide. We investigated all possible angles following which she (the classmate) was arrested on Saturday and produced in court on Monday,” said Deputy Commissioner of Police, Noida, Ram Badan Singh. A case was registered under section 108 (abetment of suicide) of the BNS based on the father’s complaint.

Singh also told *The Indian Express* that the post-mortem report of the deceased states that the death was due to ante-mortem injury.

Jitendra Kumar Singh, Station House Officer of Noida’s Sector 39 police station, said the woman and the deceased had been in a relationship for over two years. Recently, the woman called it off and the student was upset about it, he said.

“On Saturday, they met at his friend’s flat (in Noida) and the conversation of their relationship cropped up... we suspect this upset him, following which he jumped off the building,” said the SHO.

The DCP said both of them studied in the same class.



खादी के संग मनाएं त्योहारों की खुशियां

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Extortion calls probe: Key Gogi gang member arrested

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI JANUARY 13

OVER THE last two months, crores of rupees were allegedly demanded as extortion calls were made to high-profile businessmen in Delhi and nearby cities. Delhi Police’s probe into the extortion cases pointed towards a key member of the Jitender Gogi-Dinesh Karalia gang who had been allegedly making these calls from Malaysia and Dubai. Following a tip-off, Sitender Kumar, the Gogi gang henchman, was arrested on Sunday night three days after he landed in Delhi from Dubai to meet his associates, police said on Monday.

One of the most active members of the gang in NCR, Sitender Kumar aka Matru had been on

an extortion-demanding spree for the last two months, said police. Among the reported incidents related to him was an extortion call allegedly made to a businessman in Palam Village on November 2; and another similar incident in Katju Marg on December 25.

A relative of NRI businessmen was allegedly targeted in Ghaziabad followed by firing at his home.

On Friday, a tip-off was received that Sitender had landed in Delhi from Dubai to meet some associates at the Bhagwati Garden extension. A team led by inspector Ajay Sharma — under the supervision of Additional CP (Crime) Sanjay Bhatia and DCP Satish Kumar — followed him. He was arrested as soon as he arrived at Bhagwati Garden Extension, police said.

6 GOVT & POLITICS



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



GRAND PLAN

THE CONGRESS leadership in Bihar is going all out to ensure a “big turnout” for Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi’s meeting in Patna on January 18. The theme of the event is “safeguarding the Constitution”. Apart from social and non-government organisations working for Dalits, EBCs, minorities and labourers, the party is also trying to call family members of those involved in the freedom struggle, it is learnt. The Congress leadership in Bihar is still waiting for a confirmation from Gandhi’s office on whether he will visit the party office in Patna, which most of the state’s leaders are in favour of considering that elections in the state are due later this year.

KABIR TAKEAWAYS

ADDRESSING A public event on Monday, outgoing US Ambassador Eric Garcetti recited a few couplets of 14th-century poet Sant Kabir to make his point. Talking about the important aspects of India-US bilateral ties which have to be looked into with a sense of immediacy, he said, “*Kal kare so aaj kar, aaj kare so ab...*” (Complete tomorrow’s task today, and today’s task now...). Highlighting the efforts made by the two countries towards building the relationship, which will eventually bear fruit, he quoted Sant Kabir’s “*Maali seenche sau ghada, ritu aaye phal hoye...*” (The gardener may water the plants everyday, but they would bear fruit in the right season only). Garcetti indicated that his term in India was coming to an end and he would return to the US soon.

DRY RUN

THE MADHYA Pradesh government is thinking of declaring the cities of religious importance in the state as “dry cities” following the “concerns” raised by sadhus over such places having liquor shops. There are complaints that the atmosphere of such places is getting adversely affected due to alcohol sale. While there is no clarity on which places are being deemed as religious, Ujjain, with Mahakaleshwar temple, is sure to be on the list. Places like Chitrakoot, associated with the epic Ramayana, are also likely to be included in such cities.

Anvar’s decision to quit as Kerala MLA may fuel a Cong feud

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
JANUARY 13

DAYS AFTER joining the Trinamool Congress (TMC), Kerala MLA P V Anvar, the Independent legislator from Nilambur in Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency, resigned from the Assembly Monday and extended support to the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF). His move may spell trouble for the Congress as it is all likely to pit Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) general secretary VS Joy and Shoukath, the son of former MLA Ariyadan Muhammed, against each other.

Anvar has backed Joy, the Congress’s Malappuram general secretary and sole Christian face in the Muslim-dominated district, saying it will give Christians in North Kerala representation in the Assembly. This has risen murmurs within the Congress that Anvar, the TMC state coordinator who has been reaching out



PV Anvar
recently
joined TMC

to churches in the region over the issue of man-animal conflict, is calling the shots in the party.

Anvar’s support for Joy is set to cause unease within party as it is unlikely to sit well with Shoukath, whose father represented Nilambur for almost four decades. Shoukath who twice served as the president of the Nilambur panchayat lost to Anvar in the 2016 Assembly polls. “The party will decide the candidate (for the bypoll). The people know who I am,” Shoukath said.

Adding a twist while reacting to Anvar joining the TMC, former state Congress chief and ex-Union Minister Mullappally Ramachandran asked “real Congress workers” to be alert. “The rise of a new party in Kerala with the Congress’ name will only weaken us,” he said.

UGC draft rules row: After Kharge terms it attack on federalism, Pradhan points to Chancellors’ role in V-C appointments in 2010

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 13

UNION EDUCATION Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge have been sparring over the new University Grants Commission (UGC) draft regulations on, among other things, giving Governors of states a greater hand in the appointment of Vice Chancellors.

Responding to Kharge’s comment that the UGC draft regulations are an attack on federalism, Pradhan pointed to the earlier UGC regulations of 2010 and 2018, and said that in these, like in the 2025 regulations, the Chancellor/Visitor appoints the Vice Chancellor.

“As far as the discharge of re-

sponsibilities of the Chancellor by the (state) Governors is concerned, this is a practice that has been followed even before the country’s Independence,” Pradhan said, referring to his response to Kharge as a set of “important facts for those who repeatedly sell lies”.

Pradhan said the structure of the selection committee in the 2025 regulations is a form of what was in the regulations of 2010. “In this, a selection committee has been mentioned for the appointment of teachers and other academic staff and to maintain high standards. Its members include a nominee of the Chancellor/Visitor, a nominee of the UGC Chairman, and a nominee of the university’s syndicate/executive council/board of management,” Pradhan wrote

ERIC GARCETTI’S TERM AS AMBASSADOR TO INDIA IS ENDING SOON

Amid H-1B debate, outgoing US envoy: Diaspora secret weapon of India-US ties

DIVYAA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 13

AMID APPREHENSIONS of stricter immigration policies, especially on H-1B visas, under the new Trump regime, outgoing US Ambassador Eric Garcetti Monday said India and America can grow stronger by strengthening their educational and economic ties.

Though he made no reference to Trump 2.0 or the recent backlash against the Indian community in the US over the H-1B programme, Garcetti spoke about proving “haters wrong” and called the four-million-strong Indian diaspora in the US the “greatest secret weapon” in the relationship.

“We never know what the future holds, but I’ll say this to my fellow Americans — the more ties that we have to more Indians and the more ways we can find to grow our economic and educational exchanges, the stronger America and India will

both be,” he said in an address at the Fulbright House.

Themed “The United States and India: Building Bridges for Our People”, the address was the last of Garcetti’s four public lectures as the US envoy to India.

Garcetti said that as US Ambassador he was “at the frontline to witness and to help drive how compelling, consequential” the India-US relationship was, but that his last speech was “about you... about us.”

“In a world that too often cedes space to the forces that seek to divide us both internally and internationally, let us be a voice, as we have been, to care for each other across the things that too often separate us, to care across geography and religion, language and income, identity and so much more,” he said.

The H-1B visa programme, which brings skilled foreign workers to the US, has become a flashpoint in the US ever since Trump won the Presidential election again last November. With India the biggest benefi-



US Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti at an event in New Delhi on Monday. PTI

ary of this programme — in FY23, of the 2.65 lakh H-1B visas issued by the US, 72 per cent went to Indian nationals — the Indian community has been facing the ire of the MAGA Republican base.

However, Trump, who has criticised the H-1B visas in the past, calling them “unfair” for US workers, recently backed the programme, acknowledging fre-

quently using it for his properties.

Garcetti also enumerated how during his tenure India became the top sender of international students to the US for the first time since the 2008-09 academic year. He also said, “For a second year in a row, we issued more than one million non-immigrant visas... In fact, more than five million Indians currently hold a US visa.”

Noting that wait times for all visa types, except first-time visitor visas, had been eliminated, he highlighted the steps taken by the US to improve visa services for Indians — including hiring a record number of consular officers and using AI.

Garcetti also spoke about the US commitment to India’s cultural preservation. “Our commitment to cultural exchange also includes cultural preservation. You can’t write the future if you don’t know the past. Since 2016, the US has facilitated the return of 578 priceless cultural artefacts here to India,” he said.

Bhagwat: True independence was on Ram temple consecration day

Indore: RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat Monday said the date of consecration of Ram Temple in Ayodhya should be celebrated as “Pratishtha Dwadashi” as the “true independence” of Bharat, which faced “parachakra” (enemy attack) for several centuries, was established on this day.

An idol of Ram Lalla was consecrated at the grand Ayodhya temple on January 22, 2024, in a landmark event led by PM Narendra Modi. However, as per the Hindu lunar calendar, the ceremony completed one year on January 11, 2025.

The RSS chief insisted this movement was started to awaken the “self” (swa) of Bharat so that the country could stand on its own feet and show the path to the world. **PTI**

JAISHANKAR IN SPAIN

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar pays tribute to Mahatma Gandhi in Madrid, Monday. Jaishankar discussed regional and global issues with Spanish counterpart Jose Manuel Albares and said India is striving for a closer partnership with the European Union and will be more visible in the Mediterranean region in future. ANI

COMPLAINTS OF FORCIBLE EVICTION FROM TIGER RESERVES

Centre asks states to create mechanism for compliance with Forest Rights Act

NIKHIL GHANEKAR
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 13

UNDERLINING THAT forest-dwelling communities were protected from unlawful eviction under the Forest Protection Act, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has directed the states to create an institutional mechanism to ensure compliance with the law and set up a mechanism to address grievances, it is learnt.

The Ministry’s letter dated January 10 follows complaints it received over the last few months from dozens of villages situated inside tiger reserves in at least three states — MP, Maharashtra and West Bengal — alleging residents were being pressured to vacate their traditional lands without due recognition of their rights under the

FRA and Wildlife Protection Act.

As reported by *The Indian Express* earlier, the Ministry received representations from 52 gram sabhas in MP’s Durgavati Tiger Reserve in December, following which it wrote to the state tribal development department to resolve the issue. In October, it directed Maharashtra to look into complaints of evictions from Rantalodhi village in Tadoba Tiger Reserve.

The Ministry has asked the state tribal development and forest departments for a report detailing the name and number of villages situated in tiger reserves; the tribes and forest-dwelling communities in such villages; and all the forest rights claims received, vested, and rejected. It has also sought to know the process of seeking consent and the likely compensation.

EXPLAINED
Row over relocation

IN JUNE, the NTCA wrote to the states seeking a timeline for the relocation of 591 villages situated inside tiger reserves. Rights groups criticised the move, saying relocation was voluntary.

“The provisions under FRA explicitly empower forest-dwelling communities by legally recognising their rights, protecting them from unlawful eviction, and ensuring that any resettlement is carried out with their informed consent and participation,” the Ministry is learnt to have said.

The Ministry said that Section 4(2) of the FRA provides

safeguards that make it imperative to obtain free, informed consent of gram sabhas in writing for relocation. The law also provides for settlement rights in the areas where the settlement is proposed, it is learnt to have said.

The issue came under spotlight last June when the National Tiger Conservation Authority asked state forest departments for a timeline for the relocation of 591 villages in tiger reserves.

When contacted, Gobind Sagar Bharadwaj, Additional Director of Forests (Project Tiger) and Member Secretary, NTCA, said, “Whenever NTCA receives any communication on allegations of evictions, it is referred to concerned states for action... NTCA’s stand on voluntary relocation of villages is that states have been directed to act in consonance with the existing laws.”

BORDER FENCING ROW

India summons Bangla envoy: All agreements being followed

Day after Dhaka summoned Indian envoy and expressed ‘deep concern’

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 13

A DAY after the Bangladesh government summoned the Indian envoy in Dhaka, New Delhi on Monday summoned the Bangladesh Acting High Commissioner to India Nural Islam over “security measures at the border, including on fencing”. An official statement from the Ministry of External Affairs said that it was conveyed that with regard to “security measures at the border, including on fencing, India observed all protocols and agreements between the two governments and between the Border Security Force and Border Guard Bangladesh”.

The statement said that India reiterated its “commitment to ensuring a crime-free border by effectively addressing the challenges of cross-border criminal activities, smuggling, movement of criminals and trafficking”.

In this context, it said that “barbed wire fencing, border lighting, installation of technical devices and cattle fences are measures for securing the border.”

It said that India conveyed its “expectation that all earlier understandings will be implemented by Bangladesh and that there will be a cooperative approach to combating cross-border crimes”.

On Sunday, Bangladesh Home Affairs Adviser Lt Gen (retd.) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury said India halted construction of barbed wire fencing along the border due to the strong opposition from the Border Guard Bangladesh and locals. He said India has already fenced 3,271 km of the 4,156-km long border with Bangladesh, leaving approximately 885 km unfenced.

According to the Bangladesh Foreign Ministry, “Foreign Secretary Ambassador Md. Jashim Uddin expressed deep concern of the Government of

Forces dealing with tribal affiliations in Manipur: Army chief

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 13

THERE IS no lack of coordination among security forces in Manipur but the forces are dealing with strong tribal affiliations in the region, Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi said Monday.

“The overall perspective on Manipur as of today is that the tribal affiliations have taken a strong line. But we have to work with the whole-of-nation approach to ensure that the reconciliation takes place. And I am very hopeful that with the new Governor (former Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla), the step towards this will be taken,” General Dwivedi said during the Army’s annual press conference.

General Dwivedi said there is no lack of coordination among forces and it was because of the central forces there was some coordination on the ground. However, the Army chief said violent incidents continue in Manipur and the armed forces are trying to bring peace to the region.

“When this problem (ethnic conflict) occurred in May 2023, the police were from various communities... it was difficult for them to go to different community areas. So thereafter, the DGP issued orders that you go to the nearest police station...,” he said.

“When you take on those duties you find that the Indian Army, Assam Rifles and other CAPFs... these three agencies are the ones which are able to provide the coordination,” he said.

On terror emanating from Pakistan, he said only four from J&K joined militant ranks in 2024 and that 60% of terrorists killed, and 80% of those active, are Pakistani. This shows that the violence in J&K was orchestrated



Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi

‘NDA SYLLABUS TO UNDERGO CHANGE’

Pune: Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi said Monday the syllabus of the National Defence Academy (NDA) is undergoing a major change under Army’s vision to upskill ‘tactical commanders to become techno-commanders’ and the updated syllabus may be rolled out in 2026. “We want tactical commanders to become techno-commanders because they are the decision makers... Similarly, the NDA syllabus is undergoing a major change and probably by year 2026, we will be able to see that on the ground,” he said. **ENS**

by Pakistan.

On the situation along the Indo-Myanmar border, the Army chief said enhanced surveillance is in place to deal with any possibility of spillover of the situation in Myanmar.

Stating that women officers are doing well and their numbers will increase, he said, “... We have 115 officers who are commanding and 18 are ready to join...”

“Approximately 1,700 women are presently training in Sainik schools, military schools and RIMC. They will be coming into the Indian Army and tri-services. It is something that has to happen... in a mature and welcoming way,” he said.

Move trial court for seized phone: HC to AltNews’ Zubair

SOHINI GHOSH
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 13

THE DELHI High Court Monday granted AltNews co-founder Mohammed Zubair liberty to move trial court for seeking possession of his mobile phone seized by the Delhi Police in connection with a 2022 FIR. The HC disposed of a 2022 plea by Zubair seeking quashing of a June 28, 2022 order by a magistrate court at Patiala House where he was remanded to four days’ custody of the special cell police station. He was subsequently granted bail by sessions court in July 2022 in the case. The Delhi Police Special Cell had filed an FIR against him in June 2022 in connection with his tweet in 2018 under IPC sections 153A (promoting enmity or hatred between different groups based on religion, community)

Girl accidentally touches IED on forest trail in Sukma, injured

JAYPRAKASH S NAIDU
RAIPUR, JANUARY 13

A 10-YEAR-OLD girl suffered splinter injuries to her face and hand in an IED explosion at a remote village in Chhattisgarh’s Sukma district Sunday morning. The incident took place around 7 am at Timapuram village, located 90 km from Sukma headquarters towards Bijapur. “The girl was picking up dirt on an a forest trail, for a bonfire, when she touched an IED, triggering it. She suffered serious splinter injuries to her face and right hand,” a police officer said. The girl, who is currently out of danger, is the fifth child to be injured in a Maoist-related violence in Chhattisgarh since December. Last year, four children died in the state in similar incidents.

Social media influencers gave misleading info, tourist footfall rose in 2024, says Goa minister

PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA
PANAJI, JANUARY 13

A TOTAL of 1.04 crore tourists visited Goa in 2024, higher than in 2023 when 86.28 lakh tourists visited the coastal state, according to data compiled by the state tourism department. The department said a record 99.41 lakh domestic tourists visited Goa in 2024 compared to 81.75 lakh tourists in 2023, while the number of foreign tourists rose from 4.52 lakh in 2023 to 4.67 lakh in 2024.

While Goa tourism minister Rohan Khaunte said social media influencers “took Goa for a ride in the last quarter,” tourism director Suneel Anchipaka said some influencers shared misleading information to malign the state.

Anchipaka, who was addressing a press conference after a conclave with tourism industry stakeholders, said: “We wanted to dispel these apprehensions and give a correct picture. In terms of percentage, domestic tourist footfall has risen by 22 per cent while international tourist footfall rose by 3 per cent in 2024. The Dabolim airport reported a remarkable 27 per cent growth in passenger arrivals in December (2024) relative to figures for that month the previous year. Data shows there is a robust growth in tourism and Goa remains the most preferred tourist destination in India.”

The department said the data was compiled from several sources, including airport arrivals, Konkarn Railways, Kadamba Transport Corporation Limited, transport operators, online travel platforms and aggregators. It said the figures were provisional and “conservative estimates”.

Slamming social media influencers for running a campaign to “defame” the state, Khaunte said, “Why suddenly unverified data

and 295A (deliberate and malicious act that insults religion or religious beliefs).

Zubair had also sought the HC’s direction that any device or document seized from him, which is beyond the allegation of the FIR, be “forthwith restored” to his family. While the relief challenging the four days’ remand has become infructuous now, Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma while dealing with the plea Monday, recorded that “it is not specified as to which devices or documents the petitioner is referring to which have been seized by the respondent that are beyond the allegations in FIR.”

“...it was observed that the counsel for petitioner is referring to the mobile phone of the petitioner...he may move an appropriate application before the concerned area magistrate...,” Justice Sharma recorded.



KITE GAZERS

At a kite shop in Vadodara on Monday ahead of the Uttarayan festival. Gujarat will host the two-day International Kite Festival from Tuesday. *Express*

UTTARAKHAND PLANS TO ROLL OUT UCC ON JAN 26

Live-in registration, witness clip for succession must for applicants

AISWARYA RAJ
DEHRADUN, JANUARY 13

MARRIAGE-LIKE REGISTRATION of all live-in relationships, compulsory video recordings of witnesses in cases of testamentary succession and photos and Aadhaar details in all registrations – these are among Uttarakhand’s mandatory requirements under the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), which the state plans to roll out on January 26.

On Monday, Uttarakhand government began training its officials to help familiarise them with the UCC portal. *The Indian Express* sat in on one such session in Dehradun’s Doiwala Block Office.

The training, which was carried out in the presence of three

sub-divisional magistrates and was attended by 14 officials, is scheduled to end on January 20.

The UCC portal has options for three stakeholders to log in – the citizens, service centre staff, and officials. Aadhaar details are required for signing up.

The list of services the portal offers includes registration of marriage, divorce, and live-in registrations, termination of live-in relationships, intestate succession and declaration of legal heirs, testamentary successions, appeal in cases where application is rejected, access to information, and complaint registration.

A third person objecting to a marriage or a live-in relationship can do so through a complaint. To help fight disinformation, a sub-registrar is tasked with verification of complaints.

“The citizen raising a complaint should get registered in the portal, so it will help weed out false information,” the trainer, Mukesh, said.

For live-in couples, both existing and new, applicants must enter partners’ names, proof of age, nationality, religion, previous relationship status, and phone number into the portal. Significantly, this is the same checklist as that of marriage registration.

There are two types of registration for live-in relationships – one for partners living in Uttarakhand and another for the state’s natives outside the territory but within India. The portal also requires partners to upload their photos and a declaration. Children born in such relationships must be registered within

seven days of their birth certificates being issued.

For testamentary succession, the declarant must give details and Aadhaar information – both his and that of heirs and witnesses. Additionally, rules require two witnesses to upload a recording of them reading out the succession declaration.

The government has also set up three state-level assistance centres.

While the Information Technology Development Agency will provide technical support, the Common Service Centre will help with training and the Prosecution Department will offer legal aid.

“Trainees’ feedback will be conveyed to the government so the draft rules can be modified,” Mukesh said.

Kerala teenager rape: 42 held so far, hunt on for remaining 20

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JANUARY 13

THE NUMBER of arrests in cases filed over alleged sexual abuse of a minor Dalit athlete in Kerala’s Pathanamthitta went up to 42 on Monday, police said. Over the last three days, various police stations in the district have registered 29 cases.

The girl, now aged 18, had alleged that she had been repeatedly abused by 62 people since the age of 13. Police said they are trying to identify all the accused. According to an official, one of the accused is abroad.

The girl had told police that she had been subjected to gang rapes on at least five occasions, including incidents inside a car, and at Pathanamthitta government general hospital.

A MONTH AFTER CM ORDERED JUDICIAL PROBE

No judge named yet to probe Parbhani custodial death, Beed sarpanch murder

MOHAMED THAYER
MUMBAI, JANUARY 13

NEARLY A month after Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis announced judicial probes into the murder of a sarpanch in Beed and a custodial death in Parbhani, no official orders have been issued to appoint retired judges for the investigations.

Following pressure from the Opposition during the winter session of the Maharashtra Assembly, demanding action in both cases, Fadnavis had announced the formation of an SIT to probe the Beed sarpanch murder and ordered judicial inquiries by retired high court judges

into both cases.

Advocate Pawan Jondhale, who represents the family of Somnath Suryavanshi – who died in police custody in Parbhani – said that when they inquired about the judicial probe, they were told that a magisterial inquiry had already been held. The authorities indicated that decisions on further action would be made based on the findings of the magisterial report. “A magisterial inquiry is the standard procedure in custodial death cases, and the report remains confidential. Police have stated that after reviewing the magisterial report, a decision will be made regarding the judicial probe,” Jondhale told *The Indian Express*.

CM Fadnavis told *The Indian Express* that an inquiry he announced in the Parbhani case specifically referred to a probe by a retired HC judge, distinct from the magisterial inquiry that accompanies all custodial deaths. Suryavanshi, a law student, was one of 50 people arrested following a protest against the vandalism of a replica of the Constitution outside Parbhani railway station. He died in custody on December 15, 2024.

In the Beed case, sarpanch Santosh Deshmukh was allegedly murdered on December 9, while attempting to thwart an extortion attempt by local goons linked to a wind energy firm.

An official said the government will act soon on the appointment.

उत्तर प्रदेश पावर ट्रान्स्मिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड अत्यकालीन ई-निविदा आमंत्रण

इस कार्यालय द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्य को अत्यकालीन ई-निविदा के माध्यम से सम्पादित कराये जाने हेतु ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। जिसका विस्तृत विवरण ई-टेंडर की वेबसाइट www.etender.up.nic.in एवं www.upptcl.org उपलब्ध है।

1. टी-07 / मुआमिना (पाठदपपो) / आगरा / 24-25 :- पारेषण दक्षिण-पश्चिम परिक्षेत्र आगरा एवं पारेषण दक्षिण-मध्य परिक्षेत्र झाँसी के अन्तर्गत विभिन्न 765 केवी, 400 केवी एवं 220 केवी उपकेंद्रों का बाह्य एजेंसी के माध्यम से थर्ड पार्टी प्रोटेक्शन ऑडिट के कार्य कराये जाने हेतु। मुख्य अभियन्ता (पाठदपपो) पारेषण भवन, निकट अमर उजाला प्रेस, ककरैठा रोड, आगरा 'राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचाओ' उपमोक्ता सेवा हेतु सम्पर्क करें- www.uppcl.org पत्रांक: 95 / मुआमिना (पाठदपपो) आ/0 / ई-निविदा संख्या टी-07 / 24-25 / 13.01.2025

IRCON INTERNATIONAL LIMITED
(A NAVRATNA COMPANY)
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
Website: www.ircon.org, CIN: L48302DL1975GO0008171

e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
e-Tender No.: IRCON/2046/NFR-SRRP/ISS etc. & Water Supply/261 Date: 14.01.2025
e-Tender in two packet System is invited from bidders meeting qualifying requirements for the work "Construction of one Integrated Sub Station 132KVA, Office building, Water supply arrangements includes Intake well, pump house, Water rising main, Water treatment plant, Clear water reservoir, Overhead reservoirs at Rangpo, 2 nos. Electrical Substations (110/440KV) at T-14 portals P1 & P2 and Pump Stations at Tunnel Portals T-9, T-11, T-13, T-14 and other ancillary works in connection with Sivok Rangpo Rail Line Project".

Estimated Cost of Work ₹ 54,58,49,374/-
Last Date & Time of e-Bid Submission 04.02.2025 up to 17:00 Hrs. (IST)
For further details, visit website <https://etenders.gov.in/e-procure/app>. Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted only on the website.
Project Director/SRRP, IRCON International Limited

NATIONAL FERTILIZERS LIMITED
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
Nangal Unit, Naya Nangal - 140 126 (Punjab)
Tel.No. 01887-220568 Email I'd : ypbhagat@nfl.co.in

Tender No. NFL/NGL/RTN-28/2024-25 Date: 14.01.2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Tenders are Invited in Two Part Bid System through GeM for the following:-

- Description:** Transportation of Ammonium Nitrate (Melt) from NFL Nangal to various destinations
- EMD:** Rs. 100 Lakhs
- Estimated cost:** Rs. 36.15 Cr+ GST
- Date due for submission and opening of technical bids** As per GeM Schedule

For further details, visit our website: www.nationalfertilizers.com and <https://gem.gov.in> Any further amendment/Corrigendum to this Tender will be displayed only on aforesaid websites. **DGM (Materials)**

भारतीय कंटेनर निगम लिमिटेड
CONTAINER CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD.
(भारत सरकार का उपक्रम) (A Govt. of India Undertaking)
(A Navratna Company)

ICD, Tughlakabad, New Delhi – 110 020
PUBLIC AUCTION/TENDER NOTICE
DISPOSAL OF UNCLEARED/UNCLAIMED IMPORTED CARGO THROUGH E-AUCTION

Container Corporation of India Ltd. shall be auctioning scrap items, empty damage containers and unclaimed/uncleared imported cargo landed at the terminals of Area 1 those containers arrived on or before **31.01.2024** through e-auction on **30.01.2025** on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS". All details along with Terms & Conditions of auction sale & cargo details will be available on www.concorindia.co.in & www.mstccommerce.com w.e.f. 15.01.2025. All importers including Government Undertakings/Departments whose containers/goods are lying unclaimed/uncleared and falling in the said list uploaded in website at respective terminals, because of any dispute, stay by Court/Tribunal/others or any such reason may accordingly inform the concerned Executive Director at Area 1 CONCOR as well as Commissioner of Customs of the concerned Commissioners, and file their objections/claims regarding disposal of such goods within **7 (Seven) Days** of this notice failing which the goods will be auctioned on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" without any further notice. For full details please log on to www.concorindia.co.in & www.mstccommerce.com
Executive Director, Area 1

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, DIVISION OFFICE, UP JAL NIGAM (RURAL) MUZAFFARNAGAR

Letter No.: 220/200/01 Date: 13.01.2025

VERY SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of Chairman, U.P. Jal Nigam (Rural), E-tender are invited on two bid system for maintenance work for functionality of partially Defunct water supply scheme including Supply of all materials, labour T&P etc Complete in all respect required for successful completion, commissioning and trial & run with defect liability period of works in various villages of Distt - Muzaffarnagar under on percentage rate basis. Tender document shall be available at e-procurement website <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Interested Bidder/Vendors may view & download tender document and upload their tender, duly filled, online as per schedule given below :-

- Availability of bid document : 15.01.2025 at 5:00 PM
- Pre-bid meeting : 20.01.2025 at 2:00 PM
- Online Submission of e-bids : 23.01.2025 at 3:00 PM
- Opening of application for qualification : 23.01.2025 at 3:30 PM

Executive Engineer

Zuckerberg’s poll loss comment factually incorrect: Vaishnaw

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 13

UNION MINISTER Ashwini Vaishnaw on Monday termed as “factually incorrect” Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg’s statement that incumbent governments, including the one in India, lost elections after the Covid pandemic.

“People of India reaffirmed their trust in the NDA led by PM Narendra Modi ji’s leadership... Mr Zuckerberg’s claim that most incumbent governments, including India in 2024 elections, lost post-COVID is factually incorrect,” Vaishnaw said.

According to reports, Zuckerberg had said that in elections around the world in 2024, most incumbent governments, including the one in India, had been voted out of power.

“From free food for 800 million, 2.2 billion free vaccines, and aid to nations worldwide during

COVID, to leading India as the fastest-growing major economy, PM Modi’s decisive 3rd-term victory is a testament to good governance and public trust,” Vaishnaw said.

Vaishnaw opted for Meta’s Facebook platform to call out Zuckerberg for spreading “misinformation”.

Appearing on the Joe Rogan podcast, Zuckerberg said 2024 was the big election year around the world and in a lot of countries like India, the incumbents lost the polls.

“There is some sort of global phenomena, whether it was inflation because of the economic policies to deal with Covid or just how the governments dealt with Covid, seems to have this effect that is global, not just the US, but like a very broad decrease in trust, at least in the set incumbents and maybe, in sort of these democratic institutions overall,” the Facebook founder said.

WITHPTIINPUTS

Delhi HC: Support to terror outfits can be through virtual meets

SOHINI GHOSH
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 13

REFUSING TO grant bail to an alleged Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) operative arrested in 2021, the Delhi High Court on January 10 recorded that meetings through electronic or digital platforms can be construed as support to a terrorist organisation.

Refusing bail to one Zaffar Abbas alias Zafar Ali alias Zaffar alias Jaffar, the high court bench of Justices Prathiba Singh and Amit Sharma said: “In today’s world of global communication, a meeting need not be merely a physical meeting. It could even be meetings, arrangement or management of meetings through electronic/digital platforms, through electronic communication, etc. Moreover, when a terrorist organization like LeT is involved, which has already taken responsibility for various terror attacks in India, the tacit or active support to such an organization cannot be condoned in any manner.”

The court, mentioning that sections 38 and 39 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act deal with membership of a terrorist organisation and support to a terrorist organisation respectively, said: “Such support could include monetary support, assistance in arranging meetings,

managing meetings to support or furthering the activity of the terrorist organization, receiving money which could be used for terrorism, etc. Broadly, therefore, support to a terrorist organization either monetarily or otherwise in the form of networking, meetings, etc. is clearly prohibited.”

Abbas, 28, was booked in a 2021 case by the National Investigating Agency (NIA) and was arrested in December that year. Accused of allegedly working for a Pakistani handler, with multiple phones and SIM cards seized from his possession, it was NIA’s case that he was involved with the LeT. According to the agency, he was also allegedly using multiple pseudonym bank accounts for layering and channeling money to other over-ground workers of LeT in India.

Noting that there are several terrorist organizations “which are waging a war against India and are involved continuously in planning and execution of terrorist activities within India,” the court said that these organisations includes recruitment of youngsters, funding of terror by opening fraudulent bank accounts, use of digital devices for enabling communication and networking of the terrorist organisation, coordination with handlers located abroad including in countries such as Pakistan”.

B N Yugandhar Centre for Rural Studies
Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration
Mussoorie – 248 179

The following vacancy of the Centre is to be filled for a period of one year (extendable based on the satisfaction of Centre Director and subject to fund availability) on contract basis:

- Land Records Expert (01 post)- Remuneration INR 1,00,000/- per month.

Last date of Application: 29th January, 2025.

Detailed advertisement related to eligibility, nature of work, etc. can be seen at https://www.lbsnaa.gov.in/lbsnaa_sub/upload/6784c2fb33ae7Add-Land%20Records%20Expert.pdf

Centre Director

डा० ए०पी०जे० अब्दुल कलाम प्राविधिक विश्वविद्यालय, उत्तर प्रदेश, लखनऊ
जानकीपुरम विस्तार, सेक्टर-11, सीतापुर रोड, लखनऊ-226031

विज्ञापन संख्या-एफकेडीएलए/कुलकर्म/मनका/2025/1215 दिनांक: 13.01.2025

निदेशक पद पर सौधी मर्ती

ज्ञानानादेश संख्या/14/2024/515878/2024/16-1099/43/2023, दिनांक 11मार्च, 2024 के संदर्भ में डा० ए०पी०जे० अब्दुल कलाम प्राविधिक विश्वविद्यालय (एफकेडीएलए) उत्तर प्रदेश, लखनऊ (जिसके इसके बाद विश्वविद्यालय कहा जायेगा) अपने सहस्रान्त दो कालेजी राजकीय इंजीनियरिंग कालेज, निर्माण एवं राजकीय इंजीनियरिंग कालेज, प्रत्यागद के रिक्त निदेशक पद (विश्वविद्यालय वेबसाइट पर विज्ञापन के साथ प्रदर्शित तालिका में सूचीबद्ध) पर सौधी मर्ती हेतु भारतीय नागरिकों से ऑनलाइन आवेदन पत्र आमंत्रित करता है। निदेशक पद हेतु निर्धारित अर्हता एवं अनुभव का विवरण विश्वविद्यालय की वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध है। मर्ती हेतु आवेदन से संबंधित समस्त सूचनाएं विश्वविद्यालय की वेबसाइट <https://aktu.ac.in> पर दिनांक 15.01.2025 से उपलब्ध होगी तथा ऑनलाइन आवेदन पत्र जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि 06.02.2025 एवं हार्ड कॉपी जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि 11.02.2025 होगी। रिक्त पदों की संख्या बिना किसी पूर्व सूचना के परिवर्तित की जा सकती है और इस संबंध में कोई दवाव स्वीकार नहीं किया जाएगा। किसी पद को न भरने का अधिकार विश्वविद्यालय के पास सुरक्षित है। उक्त विज्ञापन के संबंध में यदि कोई शुद्धिपत्र जारी होता है तो वह विश्वविद्यालय की वेबसाइट पर ही जारी होगा। **कुलसचिव**

TATA POWER
THE TATA POWER COMPANY LIMITED
Registered Office: Bombay House, 24, Homi Modi Street, Mumbai 400 001.
Tel: 91 22 6665 8282; CIN: L28920MH1919PLC000567
Email: tatapower@tatapower.com; Website: www.tatapower.com

NOTICE OF RECORD DATE

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013 that following Record Date(s) have been fixed for the purpose of payment of interest/ redemption to the holders of Unsecured, Non-Cumulative, Redeemable, Taxable, Listed, Rated, Non-Convertible Debentures:

ISINs	Rate of Interest	Record date	Date of Payment
INE245A08141	9%	February 5, 2025	February 21, 2025
INE245A08216	7.05%	February 8, 2025	February 24, 2025
INE245A08232	7.77%	March 8, 2025	March 24, 2025
INE245A08224			
INE245A08240			
INE245A08273	7.72%	March 12, 2025	March 28, 2025

For The Tata Power Company Limited
Place: Mumbai
Dated: January 13, 2025
Sd/-
Vispi S. Patel
Company Secretary

Devotees on the banks of Triveni Sangam during Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj on Monday. Vishal Srivastav



On Day 1 of Maha Kumbh, 1.65 crore take dip: ‘The water is more than sacred, it’s salvation’

Over 2 crore people expected to take part in Amrit Snan at Sangam today

ANAND MOHAN J & MAULSHREE SETH
PRAYAGRAJ, LUCKNOW, JAN 13

BEFORE THE first ray of sunlight touched the horizon on Monday, the sands of the Sangam in Prayagraj began to stir as thousands of pilgrims shuffled toward the sacred confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna, and the mythical Saraswati.

With Day One of the Maha Kumbh Mela witnessing over 1.65 crore people taking holy dip in the Sangam on the occasion of Paush Purnima, the Mela authorities have started preparations for the bigger task ahead – the first Amrit Snan, also called Shahi Snan (royal bath), scheduled for Tuesday on the occasion of Makar Sankranti.

Over 2 crore people are ex-

pected to take a bath at the Sangam on Tuesday.

The day will begin with sadhus of different akharas from across the country taking holy dip at the Sangam. While entry for the general public would be restricted during this time, each akharas has been given a different time slot for the snan (bath), starting with Panchayati Akhara Mahanirvani and Shambhu Panchayati Atal Akhara at 6:15 am.

The Amrit Snan by the akharas is scheduled to wrap up by 4:20 pm.

Among those who took bath on Monday included Union Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and veteran BJP leader Uma Bharti. “I have been attending Maha Kumbh at Prayagraj since 1977, but I have never witnessed such excellent arrangements, security, facilities,



At the Triveni Sangam in Prayagraj on Monday.

Vishal Srivastav

and the remarkably polite demeanor of the administration and police towards pilgrims,” said Uma Bharti as she congratulated UP CM Yogi Adityanath. Later, Adityanath also congrat-

ulated the pilgrims and thanked the authorities for the success of the first day of the Mela.

On Monday, as tens of thousands of men, women, and children waded into the river, submerging themselves three times while murmuring prayers, a young woman held her father’s hand tightly while entering the frigid water; an elderly man paused on the bank, cupping his hands to collect a small portion of Ganga water to take home.

“This water is more than sacred, it’s my salvation,” said 65-year-old Shyamal Mishra, kneeling in the shallow ghat before submerging himself three times. “I have been coming here for decades. This time the scale is much larger...” the dry fruits trader from Varanasi said.

Ramchander, a farmer from Madhya Pradesh’s Amarkantak region, had never been to the Sangam before. “My mother always wanted to come to the Kumbh Mela, but never could. She

died two years ago. I wished I could bring her with me,” he said.

Siddharth Bhardwaj (29) arrived at the Kumbh straight from Delhi. A resident of Ghaziabad, Bhardwaj, who works at a private company, doesn’t adhere to strict rituals. As he waited for his turn in the frigid waters, he confessed that he had come at his grandparents’ request.

“They think it will bless me. At least it will make my grandmother happy,” Bhardwaj said.

For Uttar Pradesh Police — 50,000 personnel were deployed in the Mela area Monday — they had their hands full managing the crowds. While the temporary barricades separated the crowd into manageable streams, mounted police on horseback patrolled the crowd, maintaining order amidst the surge of humanity. Pradeep Upadhyay, who was seen applying tilak to the devotees, said he did this work during the Kumbh in 2019 as well but people are more enthusiastic this time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS IN 12 REGIONAL LANGUAGES AT STATIONS: RLYS

Lucknow: One of the key initiatives introduced by North Central Railway (NCR) for devotees during Maha Kumbh is the implementation of announcements in 12 languages across stations, showcasing India’s linguistic diversity and cultural richness. The aim is to provide essential travel information in the pilgrims’ native languages, making their journey more convenient and comfortable, said Amit Malviya, PRO, North Eastern Railway, adding that it has been started from Monday.

ENS

PROTESTS AT PUNJAB-HARYANA BORDERS

Farm unions’ unity meet inconclusive; next round on Jan 18

Several issues discussed in positive environment: KMM coordinator

RAAKHI JAGGA
LUDHIANA, JANUARY 13

A MEETING of Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) leaders with the two farmer bodies leading protest at the borders of Punjab and Haryana for a joint agitation to press the Centre to accepting their demands remained inconclusive with the three outfits deciding to meet again on January 18.

Kisan Mazdoor Morcha (KMM) coordinator Sarwan Singh Pandher said several issues were discussed in a “positive environment” during the meeting following which the senior leaders sought time to discuss the key points and finer details with their respective unions before chalking out the modalities for a joint fight for their demands, including a legal guarantee for minimum support price on crops.

The KMM and Samyukta Kisan Morcha (non-political), headed by Jagjit Singh Dallewal who is on fast unto death for 49 days, are jointly leading the protests at the Khanauri and Shambhu border points since February 13 last year after a farmers’ march to Delhi was stopped by security forces. The meeting between the three forums was advanced from January 15 to 13 in the wake of the “deteriorating health” of Dallewal.

On behalf of SKM, six leaders including Joginder Singh Ugrahan, Balbir Singh Rajewal, Darshan Pal, Raminder Patiala and Yuddhvir Singh, participated in the two-hour-long meeting held at Patran in Patiala. From the SKM (non-political) and KMM, Pandher, Kaka Singh Kotra, Abhimanyu Kohar, Surjit Singh Phul, Sukhjot Singh Hardojsand and Gurinder Singh Bhangu were present.

Addressing reporters after the meeting, Ugrahan, who heads BKU Ugrahan, said, “We may have ideological differences but we understand that our enemy and issues are common and we have to fight a joint battle. The



PTI

Members of Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee protest in Amritsar, Monday

SKM had earlier endorsed the call of SKM (non-political) and KMM regarding effigies burning of PM Narendra Modi on January 10 and burning the copies of Draft National Policy Framework on Agricultural Marketing (NPFAM) today. On Republic Day, all unions will take out tractor march at district level across the country. So, in a way, the joint struggle has already started.”

Pointing out that the 2020 farmers’ agitation was won with public support, he said, “In the coming days, we need to discuss on how to turn this joint fight into a mass movement”.

Ugrahan said it has been decided in the meeting that none of the farmer leaders of the three forums will make any statement against each other.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kottiswar Singh would hear on January 15 a plea filed on behalf of Dallewal for a direction to the Centre for implementing a proposal, including a legal guarantee of MSP on crops, made to the protesting farmers in 2021 after the farm laws were repealed. The SC will also hear a plea seeking contempt action against the Punjab government authorities for not complying with its directions issued over moving Dallewal to a hospital on December 20 last year.

WITHPTIINPUTS

‘Mystery illness’ claims lives of 3 more children in Rajouri, toll now 12

ARUN SHARMA
JAMMU, JANUARY 13

THREE MORE children from Rajouri district’s Baddal village died of a “mystery illness” at the Jammu’s Government Medical College Hospital, taking the total toll to 12.

The deaths came over three weeks after nine people from the village — most of them children — died of a cause that authorities are still struggling to identify.

GMC Jammu principal Dr Ashutosh Gupta confirmed the deaths of three more children. “Three others are under treatment and their condition too is not very stable,” he said.

According to sources, three children had been admitted to a local hospital Saturday after they began vomiting and sweating following a dinner at a relative’s house. By Sunday evening, three more children from the village were taken ill.

Significantly, all the victims are either relatives or neighbours of those who died in the village last month. All six were eventually

referred to GMC Jammu. While one died Sunday evening, two others died Monday.

The deaths of nine people in Baddal village led a team of experts from the PGIMER, Chandigarh, the National Institute of Virology and the National Centre for Disease Control, to visit the village to collect food and water samples. Following the deaths, J&K’s Minister for Health and Medical Education Sakina Itoo and J&K Shakti Minister Javed Rana visited the village.

However, nothing conclusive has been established yet.

Meanwhile, the deaths have caused a fresh round of panic in the village. According to sources, senior officers including DIG of Police Rajouri-Poonch range Tejinder Singh, Rajouri Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma and SSP Gaurav Sikarwar visited Baddal and met the grieving families.

“They promised all help to the villagers — including deployment of ambulances, health staff and ASHA workers — in case of emergency,” a source said.

90 pairs of camera traps, teams with darts: Bengal starts hunt for tiger which strayed from Jharkhand

RAVIK BHATTACHARYA
KOLKATA, JANUARY 13

WITH 90 pairs of camera traps inside the forest area of the Jharkhand and Purulia district border, six smart cameras with live feeds, an expert team from Sunderbans with two tranquilizer guns, and teams of forest officials and guards — the West Bengal forest department has begun a hunt for the tiger which moved in from Jharkhand.

“A composite task force has been set up... It is true that this one, unlike the previous one (Zeenat), has no radio collar. This makes our job tougher,” Debal Roy, Head of Forest Force, West Bengal, told *The Indian Express*.

“We have two strategies. If the tiger returns on its own to its area of origin, we will allow it. But if the tiger decides to stay, we will sedate and capture it,” said Roy.

Another worrying factor for

forest officials is that tribal groups in Jhargram organise festivities on the occasion of Makar Sankranti. State forest minister Birbaha Hansda told *The Indian Express*, “The area where the tiger is has been cordoned off with nets from three sides... Tomorrow there is the Makar festival. Everything is normal but people have been told not to go inside the forest.”

S Kulandaivel, chief conservator of forests, said, “Special awareness drives have been conducted in tribal-dominated villages that will celebrate the festival tomorrow near the forest areas where the tiger is located. We are taking all precautions.”

On December 29, three-year-old Zeenat, a tigress, after 21 days of travelling nearly 300 km from Similipal Tiger Reserve in Odisha and crossing Jharkhand, was captured in Bankura. A war of words erupted between Bengal and Odisha after the tiger was returned to Odisha.

ANJALI MARAR
BENGALURU, JANUARY 13

FROM ONE of the world’s oldest observatories established in 1793 in Madras (now Chennai) to setting up newer ones in Leh in recent years, meteorology in India has both evolved and matured over last two centuries. Yet, for the India Meteorological Department (IMD), just like the difference in altitude between Chennai and Leh — 3,494 m, or 10 Eiffel Towers, above mean sea level — the challenges in forecasting the tropical weather are not small.

The region has an inherently complex weather. And adding to is climate change, with extreme events such as floods, heatwaves and exceptionally high rainfall becoming more pronounced in recent years.

According to Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, DG, IMD, due to climate change, there has been an increase in the frequency and uncertainty in extreme weather

Mahendra and two female elephants were brought to the STR from Karnataka’s Rajiv Gandhi National Park in 2001 to engage him in patrolling and protecting STR’s green cover amid reports of poaching and timber smuggling.

Soon, Mahendra, then 42 and eight feet in height, was deployed in vulnerable areas of the 2,750 sq km tiger reserve, including its core area of 1,100 sq km, eventually becoming the STR’s “brand ambassador”, officials said.

Since most elephants can trek 10 km at a stretch, Mahendra also

events, while it is also seen that “drier regions are getting increased rainfall and wet regions are receiving lesser rainfall”.

“Weather forecasting has become very challenging in evolving climatic conditions. Extreme rainfall events are also occurring in a localised manner in a short period. To monitor and forecast these events at smaller temporal and spatial resolutions is very challenging,” he said.

In 2024, when IMD stepped into its 150th year, it announced Mission Mausam, a programme to enhance its weather observational network on land, ocean, and poles, besides upgrading its weather model precision. According to the department, in the mission’s first phase, planned till 2026, with an economic outlay of ₹2,000 crore, there are major plans to ramp up the observational network.

Marking the IMD’s 150th foundation day, PM Narendra Modi will launch Mission Mausam on Tuesday. He will also release the

IMD Vision-2047 document for weather resilience and climate change adaptation. It includes plans for weather forecasting, weather management and climate change mitigation, the PMO said.

With meteorological centres in, apart from Leh (2021), Shillong (2018), Amravati (2019), and Port Blair, Imphal, Kohima, and Aizawl (2023) already operational, the IMD’s forecast accuracy has already been improving: Compared with 2014, according to the Met, accuracy of all types of severe weather events is now up by 50 per cent.

For instance, said the Met, if in 2017, the forecast accuracy was a day in advance, it is five days today, giving ample time for administrators and disaster managers to plan rescue and rehabilitation. In case of forecasting the development of cyclones, the IMD does it a week in advance — in 2014, it could do so only 1-3 days ahead.

Among other improvements in the accuracy (up to 24 hours) are the forecast of heavy rainfall

(about 80%), thunderstorms (about 86%), heat waves and cold waves (about 88%).

With weather data the core for improving forecasting, the Met department strives to fill the gaps, especially in areas where access has been inherently difficult. Said Mohapatra: “There are some weather data-limited regions, mostly owing to the difficult accessible regions. For these regions, Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) and remotely sensed observations in terms of radar coverage are used. Crowdsourcing is also initiated in IMD to collect the feedback.”

In its sesquicentennial year, the IMD introduced Panchayat Mausam Sewa and Mausamgram under its ‘Har Har Mausam, Har Ghar Mausam’ initiative. It’s an indigenous decision support system that brings hydrometeorological as well as socio-economic data together for better impact-based forecasting services and expanded coverage of radar for better monitoring and nowcasting.

Similipal’s Gudugudia camp, where Mahendra was kept. He sustained several bullet and arrow injuries in the attack, and, after his recovery, was briefly moved to Jashipur camp.

In January 2019, the Odisha government decided to move Mahendra and another young elephant named Rajkumar to Satkosia Tiger Reserve in state’s Angul district. The aim, according to officials, was to guard a young tigress, Sundari, translocated there from Bandhavgarh in the neighbouring Madhya Pradesh to revive the reserve’s big cat population.



Mahendra at a camp in Similipal Tiger Reserve. Express

proved effective in monitoring the movement of the reserve’s big cat population. But there was more to Mahendra’s duties than



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What is the Genome India project? Why does it matter?

ANONNA DUTT
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 13

THE DEPARTMENT of Biotechnology recently announced a new platform and framework for sharing its human genome dataset, sequenced under the Genome India project.

Comprising 10,000 genome sequences of healthy individuals from 99 ethnic populations in the country, this dataset has helped create a baseline map of India's genetic diversity. The second phase of the project will see researchers sequence genomes of people with specific diseases.

What is a genome? How are genomes sequenced?

Every individual inherits from their parents an instruction manual that decides how their body develops and functions — from their height and the colour of their hair, to the diseases they may inherit or are predisposed

to. This manual, known as the genome, is made of twisted paired strands of deoxyribonucleic acid, commonly known as DNA.

Each strand of DNA comprises four chemical units, or bases, denoted by the letters A, C, G, and T. Just like the order of letters determines the meaning of a word, the order of these bases determines the meaning of the information encoded in the DNA. Various combinations of these bases — there are around three billion pairs in the complete human genome — thus determine the unique genetic makeup of each individual.

Sequencing simply refers to determining the exact order of the bases in a strand of DNA. To do this, researchers first extract genetic information from blood — virtually every single cell in the body contains a complete copy of one's genome. But handling the entire genome is difficult.

Researchers thus cut the genome up into smaller pieces, tag these pieces, and decode these smaller chunks of genetic material.

This information is then re-assembled using the tags to create a whole genome.

What is the Genome India project? Why is it important?

With some 4,600 distinct populations spread across the country, India is genetically very diverse. The Genome India project, approved in 2020, aims to capture this diversity. Researchers from 20 scientific institutions have come together to sequence 10,000 genomes under the project — the Department of Biotechnology aims to eventually sequence up to a million genomes.

This can be helpful in a number of ways.

■ It can help identify genetic basis or risk factors for various diseases, which can in turn be used to develop targeted therapies and diagnostic tests. Newer therapies for several diseases work by modifying, deleting, or adding certain genes, which makes it impor-

tant to first identify the genes that lead to certain diseases.

■ Of the 135 million genetic variations identified in the 10,000 genomes sequences so far, some seven million were not found in other global databases. A uniquely Indian dataset may thus help identify specific genetic variations found in Indian populations.

■ This may further help scientists identify the frequency at which certain genetic variations, which are known to cause disease, appear in the population, and thus recognise how common a disease might be. For example, the MYBPC3 mutation known to lead to cardiac arrest at a young age is found in 4.5% of the Indian population but is rare globally.

■ An Indian database can also help identify resistance-indicating variations — the genes (or lack thereof) that might make certain medicines or anaesthetics ineffective in certain populations. For instance, people belonging

to the Arya Vysya community of South India lack a certain gene that precludes them from properly processing common anaesthetics, which can even have fatal effects on them.

What will the second phase of the project entail? How will the data be shared?

The second phase will involve sequencing genomes of people with specific diseases. This will enable researchers to compare diseased genomes with healthy ones, and help them identify genes that cause or predispose a person to certain diseases. Researchers may also be able to study the genetic changes that occur when someone is afflicted with a certain disease.

The team is currently in discussion with experts to identify the diseases for which genomes should be sequenced, and the number of genomes that need to be sequenced for each disease to produce meaningful results. Among diseases most likely to be included

would be different types of cancers, chronic conditions such as diabetes, various neurological or neurodegenerative diseases, and certain rare diseases found in Indian populations.

The data produced by the project, however, will not be universally available for the time being. "We have to be very careful how we share this highly sensitive data. The data will only be available to research institutes that partner with us for the study," Dr Suchita Ninawe, senior scientist from the Department of Biotechnology, said.

To maintain the anonymity of the data, it will also be double blinded. Samples sequenced by a partner institute will be encoded before being uploaded to the central database, and then encoded once again when shared with researchers, Ninawe said.

Scientists wishing to utilise the data will have to respond to a call for proposals, and collaborate with the Department of Biotechnology. Their research will be funded by the government.

EXPLAINED GLOBAL

HOW THE UNITED STATES' NEW AI-CHIP RULE WILL WORK

THE US government on Monday said it will issue a new regulation to regulate the flow of the most sophisticated US-designed Artificial Intelligence chips and technology to other countries.

Which chips will be restricted?

The rule will restrict the export of chips known as graphics processing units (GPUs). These are specialised processors originally created to accelerate graphics rendering. But beyond their gaming applications, the ability of GPUs — such as those built by US-based industry leader Nvidia — to process different pieces of data simultaneously, has made them valuable for training and running AI models.

For example, OpenAI's ChatGPT is trained and improved on tens of thousands of GPUs. The number of GPUs needed for an AI model depends on how advanced the GPU is, how much data is being used to train the model, the size of the model itself, and the time the developer wants to spend training it.

What is the new regulation?

To control global access to AI, the US is expanding restrictions on advanced GPUs used to train advanced AI models.

The limits on GPUs for most countries in the new rule are set by compute power, to account for differences in individual chips. Total processing performance (TPP) is a metric used to measure the computational power of a chip. Under the regulation, countries with caps on compute power are restricted to a total of 790 million TPP through 2027.

The cap translates into the equivalent of nearly 50,000 H100 Nvidia GPUs, according to Divyansh Kaushik, an AI expert at Beacon Global Strategies, a Washington-based advisory firm.

"Fifty thousand H100s is an enormous amount of power — enough to fuel cutting-edge research, run entire AI companies or support the most demanding AI applications on the planet," he said.

But the caps do not reflect the true

limit on the number of H100 chips in a country. Companies like Amazon Web Services or Microsoft's Azure cloud unit that meet the requirements for special authorisations — also known as "Universal Verified End User" status — are exempt from the caps.

National authorisations also are available to companies headquartered in any destination that is not a "country of concern". Those with national Verified End User status have caps of roughly 320,000 advanced GPUs over the next two years.

"The country caps are specifically designed to encourage companies to secure Verified End User status," Kaushik said, providing greater visibility to US authorities about who is using them, and helping to prevent GPUs from being smuggled into China.

Which places can get unlimited AI chips?

Eighteen destinations are exempt from country caps on advanced GPUs, according to a senior administration official.

Those are Australia, Belgium, Britain, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, South Korea, Spain, Sweden and Taiwan plus the United States.

What is being done with 'model weights'?

Another item being controlled by the US is known as "model weights". AI models are trained to produce meaningful material by being fed large quantities of data. At the same time, algorithms evaluate the outputs to improve the model's performance.

The algorithms adjust numerical parameters that weigh the results of certain operations more than others to better complete tasks. Those parameters are model weights. The rule sets security standards to protect the weights of advanced "closed-weight", or non-public, models.

REUTERS



HARISH DAMODARAN

AMID SHORTAGES of di-ammonium phosphate (DAP) and a general lack of investments in manufacturing, the urea industry has seen significant installation of new production capacities and progress towards achieving the government's goal of *atma nirbharta* (self-reliance).

Between 2011-12 and 2023-24 (April-March), India's domestic urea production has risen from 22 million tonnes (mt) to 31.4 mt, as imports have fallen from 7.8 mt to 7 mt after peaking at more than 9.8 mt in 2020-21. The current fiscal has so far seen a further 31.7% drop in imports (*Table 1*), which could end up below 5 mt — the lowest since the 4.7 mt of 2006-07.

Greenfield projects

The increase in output is mainly due to six new plants — three of Hindustan Urvarak & Rasayan Ltd (HURL), and one each of Chambal Fertilisers & Chemicals, Matix Fertilisers & Chemicals and Ramagundam Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd (RFCL).

These plants, which run on natural gas, together produced 7.55 mt of urea in 2023-24 (*Table 2*). Three of them — Matix, Chambal, and HURL-Gorakhpur — produced beyond their rated capacities in 2023-24. The new plants are located in the "new Green Revolution" areas of eastern Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand and Telangana.

"We have a 20% market share in Eastern India. Besides being the sole urea producer in West Bengal, we also supply to Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Assam, and Tripura," Nishant Kanodia, chairman of Matix Fertilisers, said. The company's plant at Panagarh, near Durgapur, was the country's biggest single-unit and most energy-efficient urea manufacturer in 2023-24.

A seventh 1.27-mt urea plant, coming up in Talcher in Odisha's Angul district at an estimated cost of Rs 17,080.69 crore, is about two-thirds complete. Unlike the six gas-based units producing ammonia with technology licensed from KBR (US) or Haldor

TABLE 1				
UREA: PRODUCTION VS IMPORTS			(in lakh tonnes)	
	Production	Imports		
2011-12	219.92	78.34	2019-20	244.55
2012-13	225.87	80.44	2020-21	246.03
2013-14	227.19	70.88	2021-22	250.76
2014-15	225.93	87.49	2022-23	284.95
2015-16	244.61	84.74	2023-24	314.09
2016-17	242.01	54.81	Apr-Nov '23	208.84
2017-18	240.26	59.75	Apr-Nov '24	205.07
2018-19	238.99	74.81		32.55
Source: The Fertiliser Association of India				
TABLE 2				
RECENTLY COMMISSIONED UREA PLANTS				
(in thousand tonnes)				
Company	Plant/Location	Start Date	Capacity	Production
Chambal Fertilisers	Gadepan-III	Jan 2019	1,270.5	1,384.2
RFCL	Ramagundam	Mar 2021	1,270.5	1,114.5
Matix Fertilisers	Panagarh	Sept 2021	1,270.5	1,498.7
HURL	Gorakhpur	Apr 2022	1,270.5	1,350.1
HURL	Barauni	Oct 2022	1,270.5	1,057.2
HURL	Sindri	Nov 2022	1,270.5	1,143.8
Note: Capacity and production are in thousand tonnes. Production is for 2023-24. Gadepan is in Rajasthan's Kota district; Ramagundam is in Peddapalli, Telangana; Panagarh is in Paschim Bardhaman, West Bengal; Gorakhpur is in UP; Begusarai is in Bihar; Sindri is in Dhanbad, Jharkhand.				

Topsoe (Denmark), and urea from Saipem (Italy) or Toyo Engineering (Japan), the Talcher project will use coal as feedstock.

"The coal is from the Talcher mines. Given its high ash content, there is provision for blending it up to 25% with petroleum coke sourced from Indian Oil Corporation's Paradip refinery. The government is pushing this project, as the feedstock is substantially indigenous (pet-coke is a byproduct of domestic refineries, though they process imported crude oil) and based on a first-of-its-kind technology in India (coal gasification)," an industry source told *The Indian Express*.

The lump sum turnkey contract for the Talcher plant's coal gasification and ammonia-urea packages has been awarded to Wuhuan Engineering Company Ltd of China.

Make versus Buy

A basic question with regard to the new plants is whether the investment — Rs 61,575 crore including Talcher — is worth it.

The landed price of imported urea in India, based on the last tender of National Fertilizers Ltd (NFL), the largest government-owned urea manufacturer, is \$370-403 per tonne. Natural gas is being delivered to domestic urea plants at an average uniform "pooled" price of \$14.35 per mmBtu (million metric British thermal units) in terms of gross calorific value, which is \$15.9 (1.08 times) on a net calorific value basis.

Taking an energy consumption of 5 gigacalorie (GCal) tonne and 0.25 GCal per mmBtu, the feedstock cost alone in the urea manufactured by the new plants comes to \$318 per tonne at \$15.9/mmBtu.

Adding a \$175 fixed cost — which greenfield projects are entitled to for a period of eight years (supposedly to cover all other charges, including interest, depreciation, overheads and profits) — takes the total to \$493 per tonne.

It is, thus, cheaper today to "buy" (import) than "make" (produce) urea at home.

However, the \$15.9/ mmBtu delivered cost of gas is only around \$12.62 after excluding customs duty and other taxes. Netting out these levies would bring down the feedstock cost in domestic urea to \$252, and the total to \$427 per tonne.

Also, the imported bulk urea arriving in vessels has to be discharged at the port, before bagging and reloading for dispatch to the consumption centres.

Moving this urea to the northern and eastern hinterlands — which are farther away from the ports than from where the new plants are located — would involve an additional cost of \$30-35/ tonne towards stevedoring, bagging, differential transport and interest expenses. That further narrows the gap between "buy" and "make".

In addition, there are the benefits of creating employment and boosting overall economic activity from Make-in-India, as compared to "Import-into-India".

How much to make

With seven terminals for handling imported liquefied natural gas (LNG) and pipelines crisscrossing much of the country, the economics of make-versus-buy urea has undergone a change in the last decade.

The LNG terminals at Mundra, Dahej and Hazira (Gujarat), Dabhol (Maharashtra), Kochi (Kerala), Ennore (Tamil Nadu), and Dhamra (Odisha), and the pipelines network have made it easier to import and transport gas, instead of urea, to the hinterland. Import of urea now makes more sense for feeding the western and southern markets closer to the ports.

This allows for a different *atma nirbhar* urea strategy of "making" more in Northern and Eastern India, while exploring greater "buy" options for Peninsular India. This could be combined with shutting down some of the older energy-inefficient plants, and curbing urea consumption.

Between 2011-12 and 2023-24, India's consumption of urea has gone up from 29.6 mt to 35.8 mt, while the increase for DAP (10.2 mt to 10.8 mt) and complex fertilisers (10.4 mt to 11.1 mt) has not been much.

The unbalanced consumption growth has been driven by farmgate prices of urea being frozen at Rs 5,360 per tonne (without neem-coating) since November 2012.

A more rational pricing would promote judicious application of urea by farmers and, in turn, reduce the unsustainable pressure on both "making" and "buying" the nitrogenous fertiliser.

Assam said. In some cases, microchips meant to identify domestic elephants are removed and planted in wild-caught elephants to dress them up as domestic.

The increasing instances of man-elephant conflict are also used to justify sending the animals to temples. "When the Wildlife Amendment Bill came up in Parliament for discussion a couple of years ago, several members suggested that problem elephants should be captured and sent to temples to make both villagers and temple trusts happy," an MP from Kerala said.

The amendment passed in 2022 left it to the Centre to frame rules for the transfer of elephants for "religious and other" purposes.

However, the Centre has sought to guard against misuse of microchips by deciding that DNA tests will be the only way to detect captive bloodlines in elephants. The project to map the genotypes of all captive elephants in the country profiled 270 animals in the first six months after its launch in August 2022.

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EXPLAINED WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Animal welfare, people's safety: issues in use of elephants in ceremonies

JAY MAZOOMDAAR
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 13

A DISTURBED male elephant in his late 40s ran amok and injured 24 people at an annual feast celebrated at a mosque in Malappuram district in Kerala last week.

Less than three weeks previously, the Supreme Court had put on hold restrictions imposed by the Kerala High Court on the use of elephants in temple festivals (or other traditional ceremonies). In November 2024, the HC had said the use of elephants amounted to the "commercial exploitation" of the animals in the name of religion and tradition.

Twenty-four captive elephants died in Kerala in 2024; a total 154 elephants have died in captivity in the state since 2019. On the other hand, these domestic elephants killed 196 people, mostly at festivals, in Kerala between 2011 and 2023.

What the courts said

The HC, which initiated suo motu pro-

ceedings on inaction by the Kerala government in the protection of animal rights, ordered that a captive elephant in a temple or festival should be kept at a distance of at least 3 metres from another elephant, 5 m from flaming torches, 8 m from the public and percussion displays, and 100 m from fireworks (*Re: Captive Elephants*).

These restrictions were challenged by the Thiruvambady and Paramakkavu devaswoms, which organise the iconic annual Thrissur Pooram, the largest religious ceremony in Kerala, saying they were "impracticable".

The top court agreed with the petitioners that "courts should not get into law making", and stayed all directions of the HC that were contrary to the Kerala Captive Elephants (Management and Maintenance) Rules, 2012 (*Thiruvambady Devaswom and another v. Union of India*).

The SC also invoked the principle of *volenti non fit injuria* (to a willing person, injury is not done) to rationalise that devotees willingly took the risk by attending festivals

at which captive elephants were paraded.

Alok Hisarwala Gupta, founder of the Centre for Research on Animal Rights, and Trustee of Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPO), which represents more than 200 Indian animal protection bodies, said the 2012 Rules were "routinely violated".

"On January 5 (2025), for example, five elephants were paraded inside the closed compound walls of Thrissur's Thiruvambady temple," Gupta said.

What elephants suffer

Pakkath Sreekkuttan, the elephant involved in last week's tragedy in Malappuram, is a highly stressed animal that injured its keeper and others during a temple festival at Koyilandy in Kozhikode in January 2024. He was given a short break, but soon reemployed.

A 2019 study by researchers from the Hyderabad-based Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) found that participating in long religious ceremonies put

elephants under extreme stress, which could lead to hyperglycemia, suppression of immune responses, delayed wound-healing, and neuronal cell death.

The study analysed the concentration of stress hormones — glucocorticoid metabolites — in 870 dung samples from 37 captive elephants and concluded that the concentration was higher in elephants that were chained and made to work longer hours than animals in zoos or forest camps.

Captive elephants typically bob and sway their heads — behaviour that indicates extreme levels of stress due to noise and light exposure, overexertion, the strain of repeatedly kneeling or lifting their trunks, and the lack of exercise due to long hours of standing at one spot.

Supply from the wild

In September 2021, hearing a petition on the ill-treatment of elephants at the Srirangam temple in Tamil Nadu's Tiruchirappalli district, the Madras High Court ordered that no elephant should be



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Nothing cyclical about it



PRATAP BHANU MEHTA

India has a real opportunity. But growth slowdown is a signal of declining confidence in government

RBI's FEWER OPTIONS

Inflation falls, rupee weakens further and growth concerns rise, narrowing choices before the central bank

AFTER BREACHING THE upper threshold of the RBI's inflation targeting framework in October, inflation has trended lower in subsequent months. From 6.21 per cent in October, retail inflation fell to 5.48 per cent in November and, as per latest data from the National Statistics Office, has fallen further to 5.22 per cent in December. The decline has, in part, been driven by a moderation in food prices. The consumer food price index fell to 8.39 per cent in December, down from 9.04 per cent in November. Vegetable inflation continued to ease, falling to 26.6 per cent in December. The sharp sequential fall in vegetable prices in January, as some analysts have pointed out, is likely to bring down headline inflation further. Core inflation remains subdued. Considering that inflation is trending lower, in line with expectations — this is the last inflation data before the February meeting of the monetary policy committee — it could open up space for the central bank to ease policy rates. However, there are other considerations as well.

The rupee continues to fall. On Monday, it crossed the 86 mark against the dollar. The greenback continues to strengthen. The dollar index, which measures its value relative to a basket of major currencies, is hovering around 110. Recent data points to the strength of the US labour market — non-farm payrolls rose by 2,56,000 in December, significantly exceeding expectations. This may mean that the US Federal Reserve will opt for even fewer rate cuts this year. The prospect of monetary policy remaining tight has led to the 10-year US bond yield rising further to 4.78 per cent. The pressure on the currency is likely to continue. Over the past few months, India's foreign exchange reserves have fallen sharply — from \$701 billion on October 4, 2024 to \$634 billion as on January 3, 2025. While part of the decline could perhaps be due to revaluation losses, this fall provides some indication of the central bank's intervention in the currency market to stem the rupee's fall. Stock markets continue to correct. On Monday, the BSE Sensex fell by 1.36 per cent. Foreign investors continue to be sellers. Net investments by foreign portfolio investors are at -\$2.7 billion up to January 13. On Monday, Brent crude oil was up 1.7 per cent, touching \$81 per barrel, amid fresh US sanctions on Russian oil producers. This could have implications for inflation.

Alongside, concerns over growth are mounting. After the second quarter slump — GDP growth had slowed down to 5.4 per cent — the RBI lowered its estimate for the full year to 6.6 per cent. But the first advance estimates released by the NSO have pegged growth even lower at 6.4 per cent. Nominal GDP is expected to be below 10 per cent for the second straight year. Clarity on US tariffs and the stance of the Fed will emerge after Donald Trump's swearing-in on January 20, and the Fed meeting later in the month. Thereafter, the Union budget will provide details on the Centre's fiscal position. In an increasingly uncertain environment, the choices before the central bank are narrowing.

THE DOWNWARD REVISION of India's growth prospects to 6.4 per cent in FY 25, down from 8.2 per cent, the lowest growth forecast since the pandemic, should be dominating the news cycle. The official response to this was predictable. India is still one of the faster growing economies. This downturn is "cyclical." Growth is often indeed cyclical. But in Indian official economic discourse, the term cyclical is not an analytical word. It is a word of evasion. If the slowdown were cyclical in a genuine economic sense, it would have been anticipated. But we had to drastically revise down our own projections. This suggests that we have a very weak underlying analytical and data framework for the conditions under which we think the cycle will be up or down.

Second, this downturn comes on the heels of a very short upturn. Are our very high growth episodes now really going to be that short? The world is uncertain. Predictions can go awry. But most official statements, whether from the finance ministry or the RBI, suggest that we have very little idea of what growth/inflation mix to plan for, and what might drive that mix. Perhaps this itself contributes to denting confidence in the Indian economy.

But the faith in "cyclical" is a fatalistic evasion. We still have a "monsoon" economy mindset. Like the seasons, the economy will correct itself. Perhaps this is appropriate for an economy where good rain and modest agriculture growth in this cycle have saved us from what might have otherwise been a bigger slump. Capital formation in the private sector has been expanding at a snail's pace for close to a decade now. High net worth individuals continue to flee India; private consumption is virtually stagnant, wages are stagnant, there is a slump in manufacturing, household savings are declining, the middle class is squeezed, small retail loan defaults are rising, albeit from a small base; India's cash-rich large companies seem to struggle for investible projects. Three and a half decades after liberalisation, India is still massively reliant on public spending and the monsoon to shore up growth. This is an astonishing thought.

But here is what should be worrying the government more. Investors may not say it openly out of fear or politeness. But privately, even amongst those industrialists who will vote BJP, there is a crisis of confidence in the

It is no secret that growth has been driven by increases in government capital expenditure. But there are worries about the nature of this capital expenditure. It is dominated by Roads and Railways. In principle, these are two important items. But there is increasingly a worry that India is doing its capital expenditure more mindlessly. Unlike the capital expenditure on the Golden Quadrilateral, PMGSY or other road projects, the efficiency and productivity gains from the type of projects we are now funding seem to be far less. Smaller investments that can produce greater efficiency gains are being neglected at the cost of capex mania. Capex is driven more by a penchant for spectacular infrastructure nationalism than economic sense.

government. This, ironically, often stems from things the government thinks it is doing well, not just from things it is not doing. Here are three new issues that investors are talking about.

It is no secret that growth has been driven by increases in government capital expenditure. But there are two worries about the nature of this capital expenditure. It is dominated by Roads and Railways. In principle, these are two important items. But there is increasingly a worry that India is doing its capital expenditure more mindlessly.

Unlike the capital expenditure on the Golden Quadrilateral, PMGSY or other road projects, the efficiency and productivity gains from the type of projects we are now funding seem to be far less. Smaller investments that can produce greater efficiency gains are being neglected at the cost of capex mania. Capex is driven more by a penchant for spectacular infrastructure nationalism than economic sense. Second, transition into construction labour may hold current employment levels steady, but construction labour in India is seldom a pathway to enhancing the quality of lives and of human capital. So, the government's success is actually being treated as a potential liability. Given how dependent India is on government capex, there has not been, since the Planning Commission was abolished, any analytically worthy assessment of India's capex priorities and the costs it entails.

Second, there is amongst investors talk of a "governance delusion" in India. While the government announces new schemes galore, its spectacular schemes are now seen as failures. As is often the case in India, the government was good at distributing one-off goods: Opening bank accounts, gas and electricity connections and so forth. But these schemes simply cannot paper over systemic weaknesses. Its grandiose schemes are now littered like torn-up advertisements, which is what many of them turned out to be or were meant to be. There was no scheme for which excitement was greater than Swachh Bharat. It was an economic, moral and social necessity. But after the initial success in building toilets, even the health gains of reducing open defecation were reduced because of an inability to prevent waste discharge into groundwater. Travelling around India it is hard to avoid the impres-

sion that it is at least as filthy if not filthier.

Since the Kumbh Mela is on, it might be pertinent to ask where Namami Gange virtually disappeared. How slow our progress has been in sewage treatment plants. But failure of these schemes is part of the credibility crisis of the government. This is the governance delusion. When not executed well, they signify misallocation of energy and capital. And they have lowered confidence that India can address long-standing routine problems that make it an unattractive country.

From a regulatory point of view, the government's four cardinal sins are, first, renegeing on minimum government maximum governance. Admittedly, this is a complex issue. But there is an almost offensive insensitivity in the finance ministry to concerns about needless regulatory confusion and complexity, whether in taxation or GST. And defenders of the prime minister will often blame it on the bureaucrats. This is a bad move, it makes the government look weak and evasive. Second, the sheen is now off the government on corruption. There was always going to be centralised and wholesale corruption: The demands of political finance make that inevitable. But the reputation for retail corruption at the level of transactions is back with a vengeance. Third, there is diminishing confidence that India's political economy will push for real reform. The government is quite comfortable with a political economy of growth for the top 10 per cent, combined with gestures of a "welfare architecture" for the bottom; Indian capital has made its Faustian bargain with the state. Finally, and this must be repeated ad nauseam, India's capital concentration and championing of three or four large players is sucking out the competition and energy of India's private sector. The fear of any moderately successful enterprise that it can be "expropriated" to benefit existing big players is real. This a conscious choice the government has made,

India has a real opportunity. But the growth slowdown is a signal of declining confidence in the government. Nothing cyclical about it. Or as the nursery rhyme goes, "Michael ki cycle kharab ho gayi."

The writer is contributing editor, The Indian Express

Too HOT TO HANDLE

Record-breaking temperatures last year should put environmental agencies on alert. Business as usual won't work

FOR MOST OF last year, global temperature data sets had indicated that it was going to be the hottest on record. Last week, the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service confirmed that the average temperature in 2024 was 1.6 degrees Celsius more than that of the pre-Industrial Revolution era — .1 per cent more than the record set in 2023. The blistering heat does not yet mean that the world has defaulted on the Paris Pact's threshold — the grim milestone is measured in decadal averages, and not on the basis of yearly temperature increases. But the forest fires raging in the US are the latest in a series of destructive events over 12 months that frame the seriousness of the climate crisis. According to a UN Environment Programme (UNEP) stock-taking in October last year, if countries do not change course drastically, the world will see warming of more than 3 degrees Celsius by the end of the century.

The UNEP study estimates that global emissions need to drop to about 42 per cent of the 2019 levels in the next 10 years to keep temperature rise below the Paris Pact threshold. Data on global warming mitigation targets put the seriousness of this challenge in perspective. If all countries were to meet their current Paris Pact pledges by 2030, emissions would drop by only 10 per cent. The UN report was released about a month before the UNFCCC's COP 29 in Baku in Azerbaijan. Yet, the annual climate meet saw very little by way of creative interventions on ways to reduce emissions. Countries are expected to announce new climate mitigation plans, Nationally Determined Contributions or NDCs, by the end of February. However, the recent history of climate negotiations offers very little hope that these pledges would be ambitious enough to maintain the sanctity of the 1.5 degrees Celsius threshold. At Baku, progress on the issue was stalled after a negotiation bloc of developing countries objected to any agreement that would give the UNFCCC oversight over how the NDCs are framed or implemented.

Most global Met agencies do not forecast that 2025 will be as hot as 2024. But policymakers would be wrong to read that as a respite. Several national weather bodies, including India's, reckon their countries will continue to experience high temperatures. More importantly, globally, the temperature rise is likely to be only marginally lower than in the past two years. The UK's Met Office, in fact, believes that 2025 could be the third hottest year on record. Environmental agencies all over the world have their work cut out.



ALAKA SAHANI

WHEN WRITER-DIRECTOR PAYAL Kapadia spoke to me ahead of the theatrical release of *All We Imagine As Light* in India, she described her Grand Prix-winning film as "chhotu (small)". Notwithstanding the fact that this "chhotu" film did not take home any trophies from the Golden Globes ceremony last week, its journey so far should serve as an example of what a story told with conviction and craft can achieve.

The Golden Globes, like other coveted awards, and film festivals, is meant to celebrate such conviction and journeys. *The Brutalist* walked away with the Best Actor (Adrien Brody), Best Director (Brady Corbet) and Best Drama trophies. The epic about a Jewish architect who survived the Holocaust and emigrated to America may have now emerged as a front-runner this award season, but according to Corbet, it did not start out like that.

In his acceptance speech, Corbet said, "nobody was asking for a three-and-a-half hour film about a mid-century designer" as it was not seen as a box-office draw. "I was told that this film was un-distributable, that no one would come out and see it, that the film wouldn't work... But I want to use this as an opportunity to lift up filmmakers... Films don't exist without the filmmakers," he said.

Anxiety about box-office results often de-

ONCE UPON A STORY

Bollywood must let go of the fear that art comes in the way of commerce

In recent times, however, Hindi cinema has been struggling. Remaking South Indian films — 2024's last Hindi release 'Baby John' was a remake of the Tamil-language 'Theri' (2016) — or using tropes from Tamil or Telugu movies proved to be disastrous, compromising the identity as well as freshness of Hindi cinema. Contrast this with how Malayalam cinema has retained its originality by prioritising local stories and the art of storytelling.

termines the nature of a film. In a Reddit chat, Kapadia said she made *All We Imagine As Light* in the way she did so she could be "free of the baggage of the market". She added: "Co-producers, distributors and sales agents do not influence my decision making. The film that I make is authentic and genuine to me." This may not sound pragmatic to a trade analyst, especially after the astounding worldwide business done by movies like *Street 2* (Rs 850 crore) and *Pushpa 2* (Rs 1,800 crore).

Fortunately, in cinema, the lure of money doesn't always overpower the desire for excellence in artistry, craft and storytelling. Recognition will continue to be a huge draw for filmmakers and artists. That is why, in spite of enjoying global success for her films in the 1990s, Demi Moore was gutted when a producer told her that she was "a popcorn actress". She assumed that she could do movies that were "successful and made a lot of money", but that she couldn't be acknowledged as a fine performer. "That corroded me over time," said the actor at the Globes, after she collected her first ever acting award for *The Substance*.

The "popcorn" reference pertains to entertaining crowd-pullers — the kind of movies that dominate the Indian market. They are made with commerce in mind and serve the star system. Notwithstanding the

acclaim that movies like Kiran Rao's *Laapataa Ladies* (2023) and Shuchi Talati's *Girls Will Be Girls* have received — despite not giving in to market demands and casting new actors — box-office numbers will always be a priority.

In recent times, however, Hindi cinema has been struggling. Remaking South Indian films — 2024's last Hindi release *Baby John* was a remake of the Tamil-language *Theri* (2016) — or using tropes from Tamil or Telugu movies proved to be disastrous, compromising the identity as well as freshness of Hindi cinema. Contrast this with how Malayalam cinema has retained its originality by prioritising local stories and the art of storytelling.

Hindi filmmakers need to learn from them and let go of the fear that art and experimentation come in the way of commerce. Or, for reassurance, replay director Jon M Chu's speech after receiving the first Golden Globe Award for Cinematic and Box Office Achievement. Chu's *Wicked* registered a record opening of \$114 million and followed it up by creating several new box office records. "In a time where pessimism and cynicism rule the planet, we can still make art that is a radical act of optimism, that is empowerment, that is joy," said Chu.

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DJOKOVIC ONCE MORE

Sinner and Alcaraz are tennis's future. But at Australian Open, it may well be Djokovic who fans are magnetically drawn to

A NEW GRAND Slam season brings with it new storylines. Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal have sailed into the sunset, leaving Novak Djokovic to fly the flag of arguably the greatest generation of players that men's tennis has seen. With 24 Grand Slam titles and the Olympic gold — the only achievement that eluded the greatest resume in men's tennis history — in the bag, Djokovic has arrived at his favourite Major after enduring one of his most disappointing seasons; the Olympics aside, he failed to win a title. The rivals against whom he built his legacy have stepped aside. He is at the Australian Open: A venue where the GOAT won 10 titles but the anti-vaxxer in him faced the trauma of detention and eviction. He is up against rivals — Sinner 23, and Alcaraz, 21 — who are closer in age to his children than him, who have established themselves. But the Serb's determination to make more history can never be discounted.

With his success across three decades, on all surfaces, Djokovic has established himself as the best of the previous generation. But a few months away from his 38th birthday, he is now attempting to match Jannik Sinner and Carlos Alcaraz, the most dominant forces in the game now. Towards that end, Djokovic is seeking new ideas to unlock the drive that has powered him to success in the past and, in a first-of-its-kind partnership, even hired former rival Andy Murray as coach.

Sinner and Alcaraz are not only tennis's future but also its present. The two swept the Majors in 2024, winning two each. But it may well be Djokovic who the fans will be magnetically drawn to. His tennis may need improvement, his tactics may need changing, but it is the feeling and temperament of his game through the fortnight that will determine whether the legend rediscovers his best self. A new challenge — like the one the youngsters present — may provide him exactly that.



JANUARY 14 1985, FORTY YEARS AGO

RAJIV AND CONGRESS

CONGRESS-I PRESIDENT RAJIV Gandhi is in two minds: whether to retain his mother's highly personalised style of organisational management or permit a limited democratic functioning at different levels with greater accountability. During informal discussions with senior leaders, Gandhi was understood to have expressed his desire to hear about a minimum organisational burden, especially of a routine nature.

SRI LANKA'S DEMAND

SRI LANKA's GOVERNMENT asked the

Government of India to "immediately" return its patrol boat and crew, which were captured within the Indian territorial waters by the Indian Coast Guards. The Sri Lankan demand was based on its claim that the vessel was immune from the jurisdiction of the Indian authorities as it belonged to the Sri Lankan navy.

PAK POLLS QUESTIONED

TWO TOP MRD leaders, Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi and Air Marshal (ret'd) Asghar Khan, described General Zia-ul-Haq's announcement of the national polls as a "bigger fraud" than the December 19 referendum.

Jatoi said that there was no question of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) taking part in the partyless polls which, he felt, would hasten the end of the military regime. Khan said the coming polls would further reduce Zia's credibility.

DEADLY TRAIN FIRE

AT LEAST 27 PEOPLE were killed and 58 injured when a passenger train caught fire near Bheramara railway station in the Kushtia district about 300 kilometres from Dhaka. Unofficial reports said about 150 people were feared killed and over 300 injured following the fire.

THE IDEAS PAGE

How, not why MSP

In a democracy, governments will intervene in agri markets with price distorting mechanisms that favour consumers. This needs to be balanced by assured price supporting mechanism for farmers



DESHKAAL
BY KAVITA KURUGANTI,
KIRAN VISSA AND
YOGENDRA YADAV

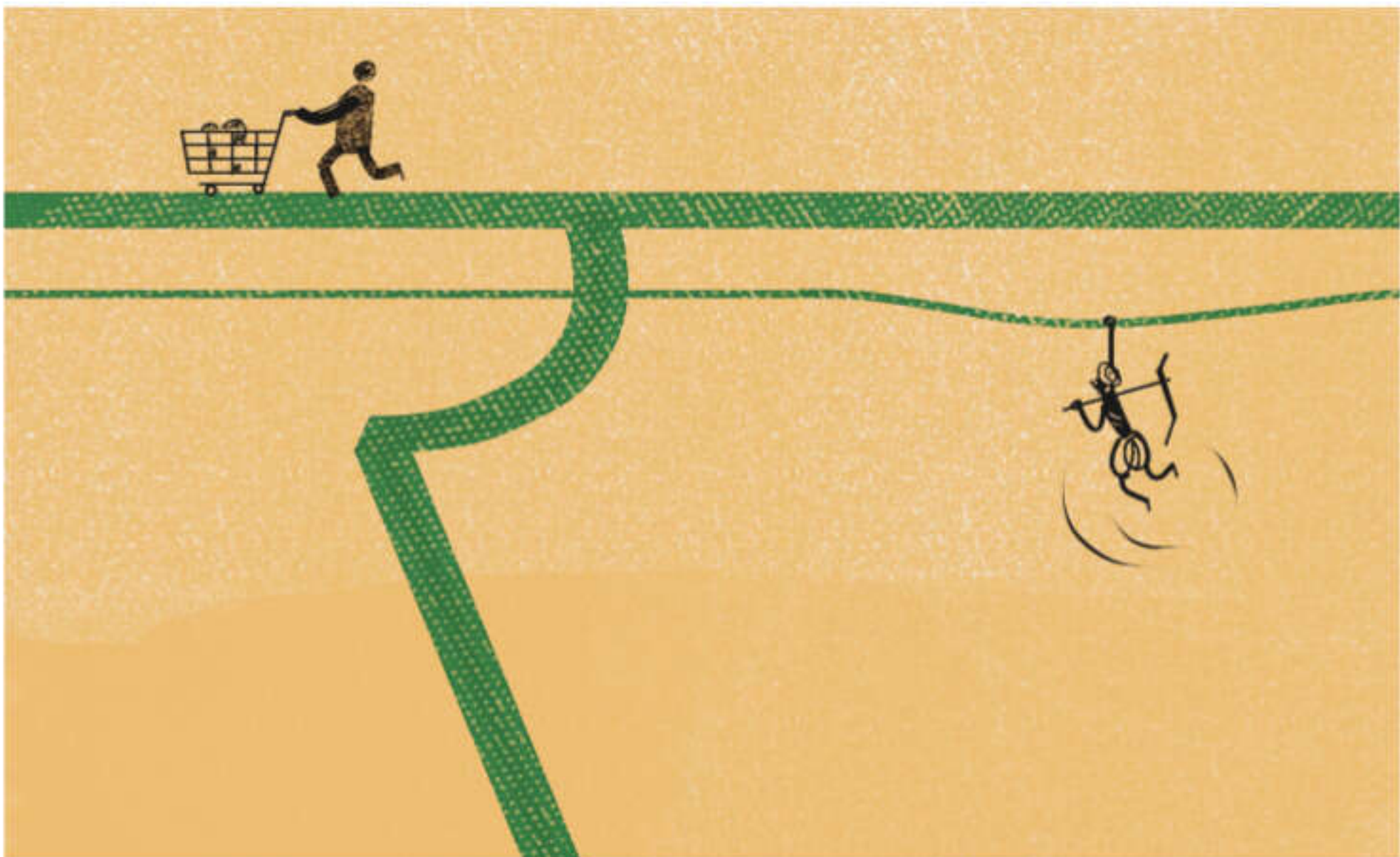
IT IS DISAPPOINTING to see a distinguished agricultural economist damn the flagship demand of the country's farmers as no less than a "folly". And that too at a time when a farmer leader is on a fast unto death in support of this demand. No doubt, farmers and activists can commit follies. But so can economists, especially when driven by an ideology.

In arguing against the demand for legal guarantee for MSP, Ashok Gulati ('It would be a folly', *IE*, January 10) acknowledges that farmers deserve better prices and that they don't get the MSP announced by the government, but vehemently opposes legal guarantee as the solution for it would distort agricultural markets and would not be "in line with the liberalisation of the economy". Over the last few years, many commentators and economists have revised their scepticism about the demand for MSP entitlement, shifting the debate from why to how. The farmers' movement too has nuanced its demand to meet initial objections. It is, therefore, particularly disappointing that Gulati has refused to move with the times.

There is a national hypocrisy on this issue: Everyone loves MSP as long as it is not implemented. No one argues that the government should not declare a fair "minimum price" or that it must not "support" farmers in realising this price. The trouble begins when farmers start expecting — worse, demanding — that this promise be made real, when a concrete proposal for assured realisation of this promissory note is put forward.

Gulati reflects the same moral ambivalence. He does not question the idea of an MSP — though he hints MSP may have become an outdated concept — and talks about ways to make it more "effective". At the same time, he offers no concrete solution other than creating a price stabilisation fund for pulses and oilseeds. Freer markets — free of price distorting interventions in favour of the farmers or the consumers — seem to be his solution. He wants an end to the "inherent consumer bias in the agri-price policy" that results in price suppressing policies that penalise the farmers. But the eminent professor doesn't seem to know what an ordinary farmer activist knows: In a poor country with electoral democracy, no government can afford to allow food prices to go up. While the government will be happy to use his expertise to avoid robust intervention to implement MSP, they would continue to interfere in markets and international trade against farmers, as they have done for 33 years post-liberalisation. So, this price-suppressing bias of the government will have to be counter-balanced with an assured price support mechanism for farmers. That is legally guaranteed MSP. Thus, the demand is not a plea for "compassion" as Gulati thinks; it is anchored in an unwritten social contract between the Indian state and farmers. Having breached its part of the contract, now the state wants to abrogate it, leaving the farmers to face climate change and unfair global competition.

Gulati conflates the demand for assured



C R Sasikumar

MSP with a demand for universal state procurement or for a legally punitive ban on trade below the MSP. Both these strawmen are easy to demolish: The former is impossible, the latter is counter-productive. He does not bother to notice that these two early formulations of the demand have given way to more sophisticated mechanisms for the assured realisation of MSP. In our article last week ('MSP guarantee is feasible', *IE*, January 7), we had proposed a bouquet of four inter-related policies to ensure that every farmer can realise at least the MSP. First, the government should widen the food basket in the Public Distribution System and expand its current levels of procurement at MSP. Second, there should be a well-funded and carefully-targeted market intervention scheme to prevent prices from falling below the MSP. Third, the import-export policy should be tweaked to ensure that it is not price suppressing for domestic markets. Finally, if all these measures fail to yield MSP (as would be the case in many crops, given the needs of poor consumers), the government should be legally mandated to compensate farmers by way of the Price Deficit Payment for the difference.

Gulati does not engage with this proposal, or a better formulation that he knows, in its entirety. His only response is to the price deficiency payment, which he rejects as a legally-mandated MSP would impede price discovery and promote collusion. Here again, he uses a convenient, weaker opponent in the failed "Bhavantar" experiment in Madhya Pradesh. Unfortunately, Harish Damodaran's otherwise persuasive advocacy of MSP ('Add a new layer to MSP: PDP' *IE*, January 10) also relies on the MP model where the farmer gets compensated based on the receipt from the trader. This can lead to collusion between farmers and traders. We had suggested a different modality, drawing upon Haryana's Bhavantar scheme for bajra, that does not ask farmers for a receipt of sale (Yadav wrote an article on Haryana's Price Deficiency Payment Scheme in *The Print*, November 3, 2021). Farmers can be compensated on a pro-rata basis, depending upon official data on area sown, average productivity in the locality and the average price deficit. Gulati chooses not to engage

Strangely, Gulati chooses the example of rapid recent growth in fishery, meat, poultry, milk and horticulture to prove that 'market-based systems have performed much better than the government-controlled MSP regime'. This fast growth is a result of changing consumer preferences or opening up of export markets, that has nothing to do with having or not having MSP. Between 2011-12 and 2022-23, the cumulative growth of MSP crops mustard (82 per cent) and green gram (113 per cent) outdoes horticulture crops (51 per cent) and milk (78 per cent). Besides, the example of milk illustrates that such a growth need not trickle down to growth in income for farmers in all kinds of markets — that it needs state intervention.

with this more robust counter-proposal.

Strangely, Gulati chooses the example of rapid recent growth in fishery, meat, poultry, milk and horticulture to prove that "market-based systems have performed much better than the government-controlled MSP regime". This fast growth is a result of changing consumer preferences or opening up of export markets, that has nothing to do with having or not having MSP. Between 2011-12 and 2022-23, the cumulative growth of MSP crops mustard (82 per cent) and green gram (113 per cent) outdoes horticulture crops (51 per cent) and milk (78 per cent). Besides, the example of milk illustrates that such a growth need not trickle down to growth in income for farmers in all kinds of markets — that it needs state intervention.

Gulati also alludes to "several cost estimates" being floated by "some activists", but dismisses it *a priori*. We have revised the estimate we offered last week (to include all 20 crops covered by MSP, except sugarcane, jute and copra for which independent mechanisms exist, and to correct for one computational error for mustard) based on state-wise, crop-wise calculation of price deficit for 2022-23. As per this calculation, the upper limit of government expenditure for guaranteed MSP price deficit payment that year would have been Rs 26,565 crore (0.6 per cent of budget and 0.1 per cent of GDP) going by present MSP or Rs 1,68,227 crore (4.26 per cent of budget and 0.62 per cent of GDP) if we go by the revised MSP (C2+50 per cent) demanded by the farmers. If the public sector banks could afford to write off Rs 2.08 lakh crore of debts and the government could waive Rs 1.09 lakh crore of corporate taxes in the same year (2022-23), why this unease about supporting farmers who feed the country?

Since Gulati seems to agree that MSP should be made "effective", would he like to suggest an assured mechanism for that? Or is his opposition due to the unease of a die-hard free market ideologue?

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

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"While the majority of Americans still support capital punishment, for the first time most young Americans oppose it — with support falling slightly among young Republicans too. That should give heart to abolitionists in the US and globally."
— THE GUARDIAN

Growing together

Claims about rising inequality over-estimate income share of the richest, don't account for drastic reduction in poverty



RAM SINGH

INCLUSIVE GROWTH IS critical for us to become a developed nation by 2047. A leading indicator is improvements in the living standards of those at the bottom of the economic pyramid. Another is the direction of changes in income inequality. Apart from being a moral issue, distribution of national income determines the composition of aggregate demand and hence, the allocation of resources to different production processes, which, in turn, will affect the pace towards Viksit Bharat.

The only direct source of information about income distribution in India is survey-based PRICE ICE360 data. It shows that income inequality has decreased in recent years, and the middle class has expanded.

However, headlines claim that income inequality is rising. Most such claims focus on the income shares of the richest 1 per cent, as estimated by the World Inequality Lab (WIL). Little attention is paid to its nature and limitations.

The WIL estimates for low- and middle-income households are based on a source that takes income to be less than expenditure for as many as 80 per cent of Indian households. As an inevitable consequence of using this implausible scenario — in which all households but the top 20 per cent spend more than they earn — the income of the bottom 80 per cent is underestimated. The outcome is an overestimation of the national income shares of top incomes and an underestimation of the low- and middle-income groups' shares.

Still, WIL estimates show that the national income share of the bottom 50 per cent rose from 13.9 per cent in 2017 to 15 per cent in 2022, whereas the share of the top 10 per cent fell from 58.8 to 57.7. The national income shares of the top 1 per cent are estimated to have been rising since 1991. Since 2014, however, the rate of increase has added up to a little over one percentage point.

Additionally, top income estimates by WIL and PRICE ignore two factors — reduction in marginal tax rates over time and improvements in tax administration. Part of the increase in the reported top income levels is attributable to the peak rates plummeting from 93.5 per cent in the 1970s to 39 per cent now, a phenomenon described as the Laffer Curve. Moreover, better tax administration accounts for at least a 25-basis-point rise in the top incomes since 2014.

Further, the extent of inequality is exaggerated, as WIL and PRICE estimates ignore welfare transfers to low-income groups and tax paid by high-income groups. For instance, in the assessment year 2024, the top 1 per cent of individual taxpayers accounted for 17.5 per cent of reported income, but their contribution to total tax paid was 42 per cent. If we consider all taxpayers, the top 1 per cent accounted for 49 per cent of reported income but 72.77 per cent of the total tax paid.

Simply put, the actual post-tax disposable income of top-income taxpayers is 65-

75 per cent of the incomes used in headline-grabbing estimates. For low-income groups, in contrast, estimates are based on incomes smaller than their actual income, which is augmented by welfare transfers. Correcting for these omissions will substantially reduce the inequality estimates.

A major determinant of inequality is the rate of return on capital vis-à-vis the GDP growth rate. When the former is higher, the national income share of capital owners rises over time. It worsens inequality, as capital tends to be owned by a relatively small group. Conversely, when the economy's growth rate is higher than the post-tax returns on capital, an increasing share of national income goes to labour. This reduces inequality, *ceteris paribus*.

Taking the average CPI inflation during the last decades as 5.5 per cent, the average real rate of return on capital is less than 2 per cent. During the last five years, the weighted average real lending rates, an indicator of the return on productive capital, have been less than 4.0 per cent. In contrast, the average GDP growth rate has been above 6 per cent.

The cost of equity is another good proxy for return expectation from capital. According to a 2024 report of NSE and EY, India Inc.'s average cost of equity is 14.2 per cent. Adjusting this for risk, inflation, and taxes, the expected returns are less than the growth rate. So, the macro dynamics of the production process are conducive to inclusive growth.

Of course, some companies, especially in the small- and mid-cap segments and start-ups, have delivered returns well above GDP growth rates. This has benefited more than 14 per cent of Indian families through mutual fund investments.

Yet another testimony of economic dynamism is the finding that inherited wealth is not the primary determinant of individual incomes. Sixty per cent of the top-income reporters are not from the wealthiest families. India has produced the largest number of first-generation billionaires who owe their rise to the booming start-up ecosystem.

V Anantha Nageswaran, Chief Economic Advisor, is spot-on in emphasising poverty reduction as the litmus test of inclusive growth. The NSSO's Household Consumption and Expenditure Surveys 2023 and 2024 show that consumption growth during 2011-12 and 2023-24 has almost eradicated extreme poverty. Since 2011-12, consumption inequality has also come down. The food basket has become healthier as shares of milk products, fish and meat, and fresh fruits have increased. These improvements are even more striking for the bottom 20 per cent of households, even if we ignore the food items received free of cost. The proportion of rural households consuming fresh fruits rose from 63.8 per cent in 2011-12 to over 90 per cent in 2023. The proportion of the poorest 20 per cent households with vehicle ownership rose from 6 per cent in 2011-12 to 40 per cent in 2023.

These gains by the traditionally disadvantaged groups are matched by equally impressive gains on the educational front — the increases in the gross enrolment ratio are the highest for SC and ST students. While there is little room for complacency, Indian growth is inclusive on most counts.

The writer is director, Delhi School of Economics. Views are personal



SUMANA ROY

As if words were arrows

There is a new genre called Hurt Sentiment Literature

"PROFESSOR, YOU SHOULD perhaps put a trigger warning at the head of the Draupadi story for the next class," a student whispers into my ears. I thank her, though I don't know what to do with this piece of information. Both the student and I had first read Mahasweta Devi's story in Bangla; her classmates were reading it in Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak's English translation, where much of the violence, the coarseness and corrosive character of Dopei Meihen's life, had been gentrified. It's the same register in which newspaper reports detailing such crimes on women in India come to us — not a single report comes with a "TW" (Trigger Warning), of course.

Trigger warnings are an unexpected way of experiencing literature, a newly institutionalised reader-response criticism. It is not hard to understand the culture of protectionism that has given birth to such necessities, but there's also something else that is undeniable — it is primarily an upper-class phenomenon. I'm not the first person to say this — students in my class, while discussing Devi's story, point it out themselves: A woman like Draupadi wouldn't have access to a world with beep alerts that warn her of the violence of men in a world that is a relentless test of one's unpreparedness and resilience. This phenomenon is

also a manifestation of what I understand as "about" culture. To put a "TW" before a literary text is to prepare the reader for what they are to expect, and, though only related tangentially to the idea of genre, it is actually a perpetration of this new culture where everything must come to us in paraphrase: "I will not read something because it is about this."

More than the bewilderment with this idea of an antiseptic life, this room with curtains that allows us to draw them the moment we are forewarned, is my inability to understand this new culture of coding literary texts, a kind of classification with its biases and consequent anticipatory generic responses to settings and situations. There's a more common name for trigger warnings outside a controlled culture such as academia or publishing — it is "hurt sentiments". While the unit of "trigger warning" is the individual, that for "hurt sentiments" is usually a group. Like examiners, they pick on words and phrases, and, usually resort to the most childish manner of interpretation — the safety laziness of the literal — they read to be "hurt", as if words were arrows and they dartboards.

A complaint was recently filed at Canacona police station against the Goan writer Datta Damodar Naik for "hurting religious senti-

ments". Naik had apparently called the temple priests of Shree Samthan Gokam Partagali Jeevottam Math "dacoits and looters". As I read this report, I found myself thinking of the many songs that call little Krishna our "*makhan chor* Nandkishore". Why haven't cases been registered against the singers — or the anonymous writers — of these songs that call Krishna a thief? Why aren't "TA" alerts given to prepare readers for the violence in the Mahabharata?

"Literature" derives from "littera", meaning both, characters in the alphabet and written communication. The latter would quite obviously have been written with the intent of getting a response — a letter from the receiver. The same impulse, of something in the DNA of the literary text that prompts one to act, whether to sit up and write a letter or rush on to the street, compelled by a vision of radical and equal love, is the reason why all literature is activism — it makes us act, the root word for "activism", the way Krishna's words move Arjuna to action. That is the primary effect of literature — it makes us move, the reason for the emergence of an expression such as "I was moved by ..." This is the same question that the *rasa* theorists wanted to investigate — what is the difference between emotion and art-emotion, *rasa*?

But the Hurt Sentiments Reader's response

is not activism. "To him, his society assumes a parental status, his reaction to it is almost filial, veering between affection and gratitude on the one hand and resentment and rebellion on the other." Though the artist K G Subramanyan writes this to explain the relationship between "tradition" and the "creative individual" in *The Living Tradition*, I think it is also useful to explain the category of the "Hurt Sentiments" Reader: "Most traditional forms have more than pragmatic constituents, such as the emotional proclivities of a people, or their attitudinal archetypes or certain generic characteristics that unite them into a culture group and thereby invest them with a special sense of group identity. The disappearance of that group identity makes them feel culturally impoverished or disoriented."

It seems now that there are only two possibilities that remain: That publishers use a HSP (Hurt Sentiment-Proof) mark on books, like certificates issued by film censor boards; or we have a new genre called Hurt Sentiment Literature, where we go to a bookshelf to get hurt, like we go to the thriller, to sweat in our armpits.

Roy, a poet and writer, is associate professor at Ashoka University. Views are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ARBITRARY UGC

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Sarkar & Campus' (*IE*, January 13). The draft UGC Regulations 2025 which allows senior industry experts and public administrators to apply for a VC's post is a subterfuge attempt to erode the autonomy of universities. With no fixed qualification for the calibre and eminence of an industry expert, this is an arbitrary step that could have grave consequences. VCs appointed by the Centre would not inspire confidence. The excellence of this sector should be free from political wrangles.
Ravi Mathur, Noida

SEXISM AT WORK

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'No, Mr Subrahmanyan' (*IE*, January 13). L&T chairman's statement about working 90 hours a week is a stark reminder of the need for a paradigm shift in corporate attitudes. Just look at the implicit sexism in Mr Subrahmanyan's objectionable comment about staring at one's wife! Women often bear the disproportionate burden of household responsibilities even when they contribute equally to the workforce. Corporate leaders should recognise and respect the time and energy invested by women in family roles.
Sankar Paul, Nadia

MANUFACTURED ROW

THIS REFERS TO the report, "Anthem row intensifies in TN as Ravi slams CM 'arrogance'" (*IE*, January 13). Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi leaving without addressing the Assembly on account of the national anthem not being played at the beginning of the session smacks of politicking. There is no nation-wide practice. In Nagaland, the anthem was sung for the first time in the Assembly in 2021, two years into Ravi's governorship. So why is Ravi manufacturing this controversy?
LR Murmu, New Delhi

A GREAT DISSERVICE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'An ill-judged speech' (*IE*, January 13). Justice Shekhar Yadav's speech deserves condemnation from all sections of society. The office of a judge is one of reticence, which has to be practiced both inside and outside the court. Judges have to be cautious of the platforms they appear on. Their speeches have to be carefully crafted. Polarising remarks must be avoided because their office is bound by public trust. Spreading hatred between communities will do a great disservice to the judiciary and to the nation at large.
Nupur Sharma, Ghaziabad

UPSIDA

U.P. State Industrial Development Authority

UPSIDA Complex, A-1/4, Lakhnapur, Kanpur-208024

Notice for Public Objection / Suggestion on Part Layout Plan of Industrial Area Site-2 Loni Road Ghaziabad by which Industrial Plat No. 19 has been Sub division and created new Plots No-19 (Measuring -1337.04 Sq.m.), 19/1 (Measuring-1281.29 Sq.m.), 19/2 (Measuring-493.00 Sq.m.), 19/3 (Measuring-490.12 Sq.m.), 19/4 (Measuring-490.12 Sq.m.), 19/5 (Measuring-490.12 Sq.m.), 19/6 (Measuring-490.12 Sq.m.), 19/7 (Measuring-490.12 Sq.m.), 19/8 (Measuring-490.12 Sq.m.), 19/9 (Measuring-490.12 Sq.m.), 19/10 (Measuring-490.12 Sq.m.), 19/11 (Measuring-490.12 Sq.m.), 19/12 (Measuring-490.12 Sq.m.), 19/13 (Measuring-490.12 Sq.m.), 19/14 (Measuring-496.55 Sq.m.), 19/15 (Measuring-496.55 Sq.m.), 19/16 (Measuring-498.01 Sq.m.), 19/17 (Measuring-498.01 Sq.m.), 19/18 (Measuring-498.01 Sq.m.), 19/19 (Measuring-498.01 Sq.m.), 19/20 (Measuring-498.01 Sq.m.), 19/21 (Measuring-498.01 Sq.m.), 19/22 (Measuring-498.01 Sq.m.), 19/23 (Measuring-498.01 Sq.m.), 19/24 (Measuring-498.01 Sq.m.), 19/25 (Measuring-498.01 Sq.m.), 19/26 (Measuring-498.01 Sq.m.), 19/27 (Measuring-498.01 Sq.m.) & 19/28 (Measuring-1155.55 Sq.m.)

1 (a). The Part Layout Plan of Industrial Area Site-2 Loni Road Ghaziabad Plot No.-19 of Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Authority (UPSIDA) situated in District Ghaziabad has been prepared.

(b) A copy thereof will be available for inspection at the Regional Manager of the Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Authority, C-2, 4th Floor Mahalaxmi mall RDC, Raj Nagar Ghaziabad between 10:00 am to 5:00 pm on all working days till the date mentioned in Para 3 hereafter as well as Website: www.onlineupsida.com

2. Objections and Suggestions are hereby invited with respect of the Draft Layout/Sub Division Plan.

3. Objections and Suggestions shall be sent in writing to the office of Regional Manager, UPSIDA at C-2, 4th Floor Mahalaxmi mall RDC, Raj Nagar Ghaziabad within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice mentioning subject as **"Regarding Public Objection/Suggestion on Draft Layout/Sub Division Plan for Industrial Area Site- 2 Loni Road Ghaziabad.** Any person making the Objections or Suggestions should also give his/her full name & address, Email id and contact number.

(Regional Manager)
U.P. State Industrial Development Authority

बिहार सरकार

कार्यालय-कार्यपालक अभियन्ता, लघु सिंचाई प्रमण्डल, भागलपुर।

शुद्धि पत्र

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता, लघु सिंचाई प्रमण्डल, भागलपुर द्वारा आमंत्रित निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या 03/2024-25 सह पठित पत्रांक 1632 दिनांक 29.11.2024 जिसका PR No-013951 (MWRD) 2024-25 हे में काड़िका 03 से 07 तक को निम्न प्रकार से संशोधित किया जाता है:-

कड़िका	विवरण	पुर्व अंकित दिनांक	संशोधित दिनांक
3	परिमाण विपत्र प्राप्त करने की तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक-30/12/2024 से दिनांक-09/01/2025 के अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक सिर्फ वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर।	दिनांक-10/01/2025 से दिनांक-18/01/2025 के अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक सिर्फ वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर।
4	प्री-बीड मीटिंग का स्थान, तिथि एवं समय	मुख्य अभियन्ता, लघु जल संसाधन विभाग, भागलपुर के कार्यालय में दिनांक-31/12/2024 को पूर्वाह्न 11.00 बजे से अपराह्न 3.00 बजे तक।	मुख्य अभियन्ता, लघु जल संसाधन विभाग, भागलपुर के कार्यालय में दिनांक-11/01/2025 को पूर्वाह्न 11.00 बजे से अपराह्न 3.00 बजे तक।
5	निविदा अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक-09/01/2025 को अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक सिर्फ वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर।	दिनांक-18/01/2025 को अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक सिर्फ वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर।
6	तकनीकी निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक-10/01/2025 को पूर्वाह्न 10.00 बजे से प्रमंडलीय कार्यालय में।	दिनांक-20/01/2025 को पूर्वाह्न 10.00 बजे से प्रमंडलीय कार्यालय में।
7	तकनीकी निविदाओं का मूल्यांकन	दिनांक-10/01/2025 से लगातार।	दिनांक-20/01/2025 से लगातार।

इस निविदा को इस हद तक संशोधित समझा जाय एवं निविदा की शेष सभी नियम एवं शर्तें पूर्ववत् रहेगी।

PR-16929 (M W R D) 2024-25

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता, लघु सिंचाई प्रमण्डल, भागलपुर

उत्तर प्रदेश

UTTAR PRADESH TOURISM

ताज महोत्सव-2025

दिनांक 18 फरवरी से 02 मार्च

कार्यालय : सचिव, ताज महोत्सव समिति 64-ताज रोड, आगरा।

सार्वजनिक अल्पकालीन निविदा आमन्त्रण सूचना

शिल्पग्राम, निकट ताजमहल पूर्वी गेट, आगरा में आगामी ताज महोत्सव-2025 (18 फरवरी से 02 मार्च) के आयोजन हेतु प्रतिष्ठित फर्मों से निम्नलिखित खाद्य पदार्थों की बिक्री के एकाधिकार हेतु निविदाएं/प्रस्ताव दिनांक 22.01.2024 को अपराह्न 1:00 बजे तक आमन्त्रित की जाती हैं:-

क्रमांक	कार्य का नाम	निविदा मूल्य	धरोहर राशि
1.	परिवहन व्यवस्था (यूनिफ़ॉर्म उद्धार के आधार पर)	₹0 2,360.00 GST सहित (₹0 दो हजार तीन सौ साठ मात्र)	₹0 25,000.00 (₹0 पचास हजार मात्र)
2.	शीतल पेय (बन्ट बोतल) एवं मिनिस्टर वाटर की बिक्री का एकाधिकार (उच्चतम उद्धार के आधार पर)	₹0 590.00 GST सहित (₹0 पांच सौ नब्ब मात्र)	₹0 50,000.00 (₹0 पचास हजार मात्र)
3.	आइसक्रीम की बिक्री का एकाधिकार (उच्चतम उद्धार के आधार पर)	₹0 590.00 GST सहित (₹0 पांच सौ नब्ब मात्र)	₹0 50,000.00 (₹0 पचास हजार मात्र)
4.	शिल्लो कैन्टीन का संचालन (उच्चतम उद्धार के आधार पर)	₹0 590.00 GST सहित (₹0 पांच सौ नब्ब मात्र)	₹0 50,000.00 (₹0 पचास हजार मात्र)
5.	मेलपुरी, पोपकॉर्न एवं अमरीकन मूटो का बिक्री का एकाधिकार (उच्चतम उद्धार के आधार पर)	₹0 590.00 GST सहित (₹0 पांच सौ नब्ब मात्र)	₹0 50,000.00 (₹0 पचास हजार मात्र)

1- उपरोक्त समस्त कार्यों के टेण्डर प्रपत्र दिनांक 14.01.2025 से दिनांक 21.1.2025 की सायं 5:00 बजे तक निविदा मूल्य का भुगतान कर सचिव, ताज महोत्सव समिति, उपग्रो पर्यटन कार्यालय, 64-ताज रोड, आगरा से प्राप्त किए जा सकते हैं।
2- निविदाएं/प्रस्ताव सीलबन्ध लिफाफे में दिनांक 22.1.2025 को अपराह्न 1:00 बजे तक उपरोक्त कार्यालय के सीलड टेण्डर बॉक्स में जमा कराए जा सकते हैं।
3- उपरोक्त प्राप्त निविदाओं को निविदा समिति द्वारा दिनांक 22.1.2025 को सायं 03.30 बजे उपरोक्त कार्यालय में निविदादाताओं के समक्ष खोला जाएगा।
4- धरोहर की धनराशि बैंक ड्राफ्ट के माध्यम से "सचिव ताज महोत्सव समिति, आगरा" के पक्ष में स्वीकार की जाएगी। चेक आदि स्वीकार नहीं किए जायेंगे। धरोहर की धनराशि का बैंक ड्राफ्ट मूलरूप में टेण्डर प्रपत्रों के साथ संलग्न किया जाना अनिवार्य है।
5- एकाधिकार हेतु प्रस्तावक को अपने प्रस्ताव के साथ आयकर विभाग द्वारा प्रदत्त पैन कार्ड, GST रजिस्ट्रेशन, खाद्य विभाग द्वारा प्रदत्त लाइसेंस की छायाप्रति भी संलग्न करनी होगी तथा निविदा खुलने वाले दिन मूल प्रति दिखानी होगी अन्यथा प्रस्ताव निरस्त कर दिया जाएगा।
6- महोत्सव समिति को एक अथवा समस्त निविदाओं/प्रस्तावों को बिना कारण बताए निरस्त करने का अधिकार होगा।
7- यदि निविदादाता द्वारा अपाठनीय रूप से निविदा समिति को प्रभावित करने अथवा दबाव डालने का प्रयास किया जाता है तो उसकी निविदा अस्वीकार करते हुए उसे ब्लैकलिस्ट करने की कार्यवाही की जाएगी।
8- टेण्डर प्रपत्र ताज महोत्सव समिति की वेबसाइट www.tajmahotsav.org से भी डाउनलोड किये जा सकते हैं।
9- वेबसाइट से डाउनलोड किए गए प्रपत्र के साथ निविदा शुल्क का डिमाण्ड ड्राफ्ट "सचिव ताज महोत्सव समिति आगरा" के पक्ष में मूलरूप में संलग्न किया जाना आवश्यक है। निविदा शुल्क के बिना जमा की गई निविदाएं निरस्त कर दी जाएंगी एवं निविदा प्रपत्र हेतु जमा धनराशि वापस नहीं की जाएगी।

सचिव, ताज महोत्सव समिति, 64, ताज रोड, आगरा
दूरभाष/फैक्स 0562-2226431 E-mail-agrauptourism@gmail.com

बिहार सरकार

बिहार राज्य भवन निर्माण निगम लि0 पटना (बिहार सरकार का उपक्रम)

अति-अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना सं0-51/2024-25

निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु Engineering Procurement and Construction Basis (EPC) आधार पर इस बीड (तकनीकी एवं वित्तीय बीड) सिरटम में ऑन लाइन ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

क्र0	कार्य का नाम	निविदा कागजात/परिमाण विपत्र की राशि	अग्रधन की राशि (₹ में)	निविदा कागजात/परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य (₹ में)	Bid Processing Fee सेवा कर सहित	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि (माह में)	उप महाप्रबंधक का नाम
1	3	4	5	6	7	8	
1	Tensile Membrane Truss Work of Patliputra Stadium in Patliputra Sports Complex in Distt. Patna.	₹3,94,00,000.00	₹7,88,000.00	₹10,000.00	As per website	02 (दो)	पटना

1. विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता : मुख्य महाप्रबंधक, बिहार राज्य भवन निर्माण निगम लि0, अस्पताल रोड, शास्त्रीनगर, पटना-800023

2. निविदा आमंत्रण की तिथि : दिनांक: 10.01.2025

3. निविदा कागजात/परिमाण विपत्र को सिस्टम पर अपलोड करने की तिथि : दिनांक: 17.01.2025

4. निविदा कागजात प्राप्त करने (डाउनलोड) करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक: 29.01.2025 को 03.00 बजे तक।

5. निविदा जमा करने (अपलोड करने) की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक-30.01.2025 को 03.00 बजे तक।

6. निविदा खोलने (तकनीकी बीड) की तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक: 31.01.2025 को 03.00 बजे तक।

7. वित्तीय बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय : तकनीकी बीड मूल्यांकन के पश्चात्।

8. निविदा कागजात/परिमाण विपत्र बिक्री, प्राप्ति एवं खोलने का स्थान : उप महाप्रबंधक, पी0आई0यू0, पटना का कार्यालय

9. प्री-बीड मीटिंग की तिथि, समय एवं स्थान : दिनांक-22.01.2025 को 16.00 बजे संबंधित उप महाप्रबंधक के कार्यालय कक्ष में।

10. प्री-बीड मीटिंग की तिथि, समय एवं स्थान : दिनांक: 23.01.2025 को 16.00 बजे, मुख्य महाप्रबंधक, बिहार राज्य भवन निर्माण निगम लि0, अस्पताल रोड, शास्त्रीनगर, पटना-23

11. निविदा वेबसाइट की तिथि : 120 दिन

12. निविदा केंवल ई-निविदा पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाइट (www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) पर निष्पादित किया जाएगा। ई-निविदा प्रक्रिया से संबंधित जानकारी Toll Free No.-18005726571 से प्राप्त किया जा सकता है।

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

PR. No.16878 (B & C) 2024-25

नशे की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।

मुख्य महाप्रबंधक, बिहार राज्य भवन निर्माण निगम लि0, पटना

epaper.indianexpress.com

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उ० प्र० पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लि०, ई-निविदा सूचना, निम्नलिखित कार्य/आपूर्ति हेतु ई-निविदायें दो भागों में जी०एस०टी० में पंजीकृत, प्रतिष्ठित एवं अनुभवी ठेकेदारों / फर्मों से ऑनलाइन ई-निविदा पोर्टल वेबसाइट ['http://tender.up.nic.in'](http://tender.up.nic.in) पर आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा मूल्य जी०एस०टी० सहित तथा धरोहर राशि आर०टी०जी०एस०/एन०एफ०आई०टी०/ बैंक गारण्टी के माध्यम से अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, अमरोहा के भारतीय स्टेड बैंक, शाखा-जोया (जिला-अमरोहा) में संचालित चालू खाता सं० (Current Account)-30723557626, IFSC Code- SBIN 0007413, MICRNo. 244002026 में टेण्डर खुलने की दिनांक तक जमा करें। अन्य नियम व शर्तों का विस्तृत विवरण ई-निविदा पोर्टल वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध रहेगा। निविदा में किसी भी संशोधन या तिथि विस्तार ई-निविदा पोर्टल पर अवश्य देखा लिया जाए। अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा खुलने की दिनांक-05.02.2025, 1. ई-निविदा संख्या- 01/ई०टी० सी०डि०/एम०/2025: विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड धामपुर के अन्तर्गत 220 के०वी० नहटौर-मटौर लाइन के टावर सं० 82-83 के मध्य कन्डक्टर की ऊंचाई बढ़ायी जाने से सम्बन्धित प्री-ईजीनियरिंग का कार्य। धरोहर राशि: ₹0 600/-निविदा प्रपत्र का जी०एस०टी० सहित मूल्य: ₹0 590/-, 2. ई-निविदा संख्या- 02/ई०टी०सी०डि०/एम०/2025: विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड अमरोहा के अन्तर्गत 220 के०वी० अमरोहा-मुरादाबाद लाइन के टावर सं० 174-184 के मध्य कन्डक्टर की ऊंचाई बढ़ायी जाने से सम्बन्धित प्री-ईजीनियरिंग का कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹0 800/-निविदा प्रपत्र का जी०एस०टी० सहित मूल्य: ₹0 590/-; ई-निविदा खुलने की दिनांक-18.02.2025; 3. ई-निविदा संख्या- 03/ई० टी०सी०डि०/एम०/2025: विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड धामपुर के अन्तर्गत 132 के०वी० उपकेंद्र शेरकोट पर 132/33 के०वी० 2x20 MVA से 2x40 MVA परिवर्तक क्षमतावृद्धि तथा 33 के०वी० बस बार के सुदृढीकरण का कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹0 15000/- निविदा प्रपत्र का जी०एस०टी० सहित मूल्य: ₹0 590/- "राष्ट्र हित में विजली बचाये" हस्ता./-अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारेषण मंडल द्वितीय उ०प्र० पावर ट्रांस० कार्या० लि० मुरादाबाद, पत्रांक: 16/वि०पा०मं०डि०मु०/ई-निविदा/2025, दिनांक 13.01.2025

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE

14 January 1999

On 14 January 1999, troops of 21 Battalion of CRPF were conducting an area domination exercise in Sopore, Jammu and Kashmir, when militants opened indiscriminate fire near the bus stand. The troops swiftly took positions and retaliated. In the fierce encounter, SI R. Laxman Bhai and HC K. S. Munda sustained severe injuries. Despite this, they led their men with exceptional courage before making the ultimate sacrifice for the nation. Their valiant actions remain a testament to the highest traditions of bravery and selfless service upheld by CRPF.

14 January 2001

Shaheed Inspector S.B. Chand

14-04-1947 To 14-01-2001

72 Bn

72 Battalion of CRPF was deployed in Meghalaya to counter insurgents. On 10 January 2001, while en route to Tura, Insp. S.B. Chand and his team encountered an IED blast near Chisobibira village. Though the vehicle remained unaffected, militants opened heavy fire. The troops retaliated decisively, forcing the extremists to flee. Insp. S.B. Chand sustained severe injuries during the encounter and succumbed to them on 14 January, attaining martyrdom. His bravery and sacrifice remain a proud chapter in CRPF's history.

14 January 2019

Shaheed Constable Mahesh Kumar Meena

16-03-1980 To 14-01-2019

180 Bn

On 05 January 2019, based on intelligence inputs, troops of 180 Battalion of CRPF launched a cordon and search operation in Aripal village, Pulwama. As the troops neared the target, terrorists opened indiscriminate fire. Undeterred, the troops retaliated with precision, forcing the terrorists to retreat. Despite sustaining grievous injuries, Constable Mahesh Kumar Meena displayed exceptional courage, holding his position and continuing the fight until the terrorists fled. He was evacuated to hospital but succumbed to his injuries on 14 January, attaining martyrdom. For his extraordinary bravery and devotion to duty, he was posthumously awarded the Police Medal for Gallantry.

VICTORIA HOSPITAL

Bangalore Medical College & Research Institute

Office of the Medical Superintendent, Victoria Hospital, Bengaluru - 560002, Telephone: 080-26701150, Fax: 080-26703267

E-mail: msvh1900@gmail.com

No: VH/Tender/02/2024-25

Dated: 09-01-2025

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

E-Tender has been invited as per Kamataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 - 2000 for the Providing Disposable of Excess Blood Bank Plasma at Victoria Hospital, BMCRI. The tender documents may be downloaded from E-Procurement Portal Website: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> from 13-01-2025 and Last Date for Submission of Tenders through E-Procurement Portal is 27-01-2025 upto 4.00 PM. Those tenders which are not submitted with EMD will be rejected. For further details contact Medical Superintendent, Victoria Hospital, Bengaluru. Sd/- Medical Superintendent Victoria Hospital, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CPH4311Advtor/2024-25

"IMPORTANT"

Whilst care is taken prior to acceptance of advertising copy, it is not possible to verify its contents. The Indian Express (P) Limited cannot be held responsible for such contents, nor for any loss or damage incurred as a result of transactions with companies, associations or individuals advertising in its newspapers or Publications. We therefore recommend that readers make necessary inquiries before sending any monies or entering into any agreements with advertisers or otherwise acting on an advertisement in any manner whatsoever.

WESTERN RAILWAY

MATERIAL MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

VARIOUS MATERIALS SUPPLY

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE No. S/03/2025 Date 10.01.2025

Sr. No.	Short Description of Item	Quantity	T.O.D.
21	Surface Traverser 80 Ton (2 Track) on replacement account including Civil/Engg. and Electrical work.	2 Nos	03-Feb-25
22	Set of Suspension springs.	30 Set	08-Feb-25
23	Horizontal Boring & Milling Machine	2 Nos	10-Feb-25
24	Set of protective relays	80 Set	10-Feb-25
25	Coupler body with shank wears plate.	250 Nos	21-Feb-25

Regarding detailed notice EMD, Purchase restrictions and detailed tender conditions, please visit website www.irps.gov.in and www.wr.indianrailways.gov.in 0957

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कार्यालय मुख्य अभियन्ता, जल संसाधन सम्भाग, कोटा (राज०) क्रमांक: F.126/CEWRZ/JWR/e-NIB/2024-25/97-103 दि: 02.01.2025 संशोधन e-NIB No. 16 of 2024-25

इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक F.126/CEWRZ/JWR/e-NIB-16/2024-25/12259 दि. 13.12.2024 से आमंत्रित ई-निविदा सूचना सं. 16/2024-25 निर्माण कार्य Rehabilitation, Improvement and basic Facility of Chhapi Dam District Jhalawar under DRIP Phase-II) की निविदा को डाउनलोड/अपलोड करने की दिनांक निम्नानुसार परिवर्तित / संशोधित की जाती है।

Bidding schedule	Earlier Dates	Revised Dates
Date for Downloading & Uploading of Tender Document	From 17.12.2024 (11.00 Hr) to 07.01.2025 (12.00 Hr.)	From 17.12.2024 (11.00 Hr) to 13.01.2025 (12.00 Hr.)
Last date & time B.G. & other relevant document & Place	07.01.2025 up to 14:00 Hr in the Office of The C.E.WRZ, Kota	13.01.2025 up to 14:00 Hr in the Office of The C.E.WRZ, Kota
Date of Opening of Technical Bid	On date 07.01.2025 at 16:00 Hr onwards	On date 13.01.2025 at 16:00 Hr onwards

अन्य शर्तें यथावत एवं समय समय पर जारी संशोधन अनुसार रहेगी एवं मान्य होगी। हस्ता./-UBN No. 1:- WRD2425WLOB01343 मुख्य अभियन्ता जल संसाधन सभाग, कोटा DIPR/C/238/2025

WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2025

महर्षि दयानन्द सरस्वती विश्वविद्यालय, अजमेर

निविदा संख्या-43,44 व 45

Scaled Tenders are invited for the following works in the University:
1.Furniture for Auditorium Hall (UBN No. MDU2425WSOB00014)
2. Chain Link & Fencing work (UBN No. MDU2425WSOB00016)
3. Repair & Maintenance work (UBN No. MDU2425WSOB00015)
The Notice Inviting Tender and all other informations are available on eproc.rajasthan.gov.in sppp.rajasthan.gov.in and www.mdsuajmer.ac.in
Date: 13-01-2025

REGISTRAR

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB

TENDER NOTICE No. PBT/124-25/1541

Dated 13.01.2025

Punjab Biotechnology Incubator, Mohali the Department of Science, Technology & Environment invites online bids for the following:

Sr. No.	Name of Equipment	Qty
1.	Flue Gas Analyser (CO, O2, CO2, SO2, NO, NO2, HC, H2S, NOx and combustion efficiency)	01
2.	Flue Gas Analyser (CO, O2, CO2)	02

Closing Date & Time: Visit Website <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from date 14.01.2025 onwards
For Details log onto: <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>
Note: Any Corrigendum(s) to the Tender Notice shall be published on the above website only.

Sd/-
Store Purchase Officer
Punjab Biotechnology Incubator
(DSTE, Govt of Punjab) Knowledge City, Sector-81 S.A.S Nagar (Mohali)-140306 Punjab

40729/PB

EDELWEISS ASSET RECONSTRUCTION CO. LTD.

CIN - U67100MH2007PLC174759

Registered Office : Edelweiss House, Off CST Road, Kalina, Mumbai 400098 +91 22 4183 0600

APPENDIX IV [See rule 8(1)] POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, The Authorized officer of Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company Limited under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued demand notice dated December 15, 2023 calling upon the borrower **Reliable Safety Glasses Private Limited** to pay the amount mentioned in the said notice being a sum of **Rs.19,01,43,501.86/- (Rupees Nineteen Crores One Lakh Forty Three Thousand Five Hundred and One and Paise Eighty Six Only)** as on December 07, 2023 along with further interests, costs and expensed thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower, Mortgagor, Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the secured asset more specifically described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this 10th day of January 2025. The borrower, guarantors and mortgagors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (Acting in its capacity as Trustee of EARC Trust SC-172) for an amount of **Rs.19,01,43,501.86/- (Rupees Nineteen Crores One Lakh Forty Three Thousand Five Hundred and One and Paise Eighty Six Only)** as on December 07, 2023 along with further interests, costs and expensed thereon. Further, attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSET

Residential Property admeasuring 1059.72 Sq. Yds. at KF-114, Kavi Nagar, Ghaziabad –in the name of K. G. Gangal.

Date: January 10, 2025

Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company Limited

Place: Ghaziabad

Authorised Officer

(Acting in its capacity as trustee of EARC Trust SC-172)

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA

TENDER NOTICE

Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./ AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIMES)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	THE HARYANA STATE FEDERATION OF CONSUMER CO-OPERATIVE WHOLE STORES LIMITED (CONFD).	1. DOORSTEP DELIVERY OF GOODS AND COMMODITIES UNDER PDS AND OTHER WELFARE SCHEME TO FAIR PRICE SHOPS IN SUB DIVISIONS FALLING INSIDE THE DISTRICTS AMBALA, BHIWANI, FARIDABAD, PATAHABAD, GURUGRAM, HISAR, JHAJJAR, JIND, KATHAL, KARNAL, KURUKSHETRA, MEWAT, NARNAU, KULWAJ, PANIPAT, PANCHKULA, REWARI, ROHTAK, SHESHA, SONPAT AND YAMUNA NAGAR FROM FCI/AGENCY/CONFERED GODDOWNS/FLOUR MILLS (EMPAULLED BY HATED), TRANSPORTATION OF SUGAR FROM SUGAR MILLS WHERE SUGAR MILLS EXISTS/SITUATED/LOCATED IN THE DISTRICT IS DIRECTLY SUPPLIED TO THE DOORSTEP OF FAIR PRICE SHOP IN CONCERNED DISTRICT AND DELIVERIES OF WHEAT FROM REGIONAL GODDOWN TO FLOUR MILL (EMPAULLED BY HATED). - 2 OTHER WORKS	14.01.2025 29.01.2025	5.50 LACS	https://tenders.hry.nic.in	0172-2590011 confdghbns@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in NO.318BHRY

U.P. RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD.

Anpara Thermal power project

E- TENDER NOTICE

1. E-Tender Notice No.: 07/EMD-I/ATPS/2024-25-, Online e-bids are invited for the work of "Testing and calibration of M/S secure meters Ltd. Non ABT type energy meters installed at ATP Anpara as per scope of work." E-Tender has been uploaded on 08.01.2025 on <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Estimated cost: Rs. 2,05,000.00 only, Period: 12 months, EMD Cost: Rs. 4,000.00, Last date of Tender: 08.02.2025 at 16:00 Hrs.

2. E-Tender Notice No.: 98/PD-II/DTPS/CF-291/2024-25-, Online e-bids are invited for "Supply of spares of AC and AC compressor for DTPS, Anpara." E-Tender will be uploaded on or after 09.01.2025 on <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Estimated cost: Rs. 5,85,900.00 only, EMD Cost: Rs. 6,000.00, Last date of Tender: 01.02.2025 at 16:00 Hrs.

3. E-Tender Notice No.: 99/PD-II/DTPS/CF-367/2024-25-, Online e-bids are invited for "Supply of PVC V-bar for cooling tower for DTPS, Anpara." E-Tender will be uploaded on or after 09.01.2025 on <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Estimated cost: Rs. 98,83,260.00 only, Period: 08 Months, EMD Cost: Rs. 1,97,665.00, Last date of Tender: 12.02.2025 at 16:00 Hrs.

4. E-Tender Notice No.: 01/CHD-I/ATPS/2024-25-, Online e-bids are invited for "the work of Complete general & round the clock wise cleaning of CHP 3X10MW, ATPS." E-Tender has been uploaded on 13.01.2025 on <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Estimated cost: Rs. 98,83,260.00 only, Period: 08 Months, EMD Cost: Rs. 1,97,665.00, Last date of Tender: 12.02.2025 at 16:00 Hrs.

Total quality of work/supply, Tender specification and other term & condition is as per tender document available on the E-tender portal.

Concerned Officer reserves the right to cancel the e-bids without assigning any reason. Corrigendum, Addendum, Extension if any shall be uploaded only on the above website. Bidders are advised to visit the website regularly for updated information from time to time.

पत्रांक : 2611/मु०अभि०(संर-1)/अंराता०प०/कला अनु० दिनांक: 13/01/2025

"Save Electricity for Nation"

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA

TENDER NOTICE

Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIMES)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1.	HYPPL	CREATION OF 01 NO. 33KV BAY FOR FEEDING 33KV 5/STN. OTTU AT 220KV 5/STN. MEHAHAHARA BY HYPPL (SRISA)	09.01.2025 20.01.2025	2.15 LACS	www.hypn.org.in	0172-2583789 PROB@HYPN.ORG.IN
2.	HYPPL	E-TENDER FOR REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF ODCI AT 66 KV SUBSTATION HYPPL YAMUNANGAR	09.01.2025 17.01.2025	26501/- FOR GENERAL 13250/- FOR REGISTERED SYSTEM	www.hypn.org.in	0172-2583789 PROB@HYPN.ORG.IN
3.	HYPPL	PROCUREMENT OF 220 KV MEASURING AND PROTECTION PTS	09.01.2025 08.02.2025	EMD 86000/-	www.hypn.org.in	0172-2583789 PROB@HYPN.ORG.IN
4.	HYPPL	SPECIAL REPAIR OF BITUMEN ROAD AND TRENCH COVERS AT 132 KV SUBSTATION BEER(HISAR)	09.01.2025 22.01.2025	6.74 LACS		

RETAIL INFLATION IN DECEMBER

Inflation eases to 4-mth low of 5.22%; RBI may remain cautious, say experts

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 13

RETAIL INFLATION continued with its softening trend for the second month in a row in December, easing to a four-month low of 5.22 per cent from 5.48 per cent in the previous month, as prices of food items, including pulses and vegetables, continued to moderate, data released by National Statistics Office (NSO) on Monday showed. Food inflation, based on the Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI), eased to a four-month low of 8.39 per cent in December from 9.04 per cent in the previous month, the data showed.

The headline retail inflation rate in December, based on Consumer Price Index (Combined), has slipped below the upper limit of the +/- 2 per cent band of Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) medium-term inflation target for the second consecutive month after topping 6 per cent in October, but remained

above the baseline level of 4 per cent for the fourth consecutive month.

With this moderation in inflation, experts said the new RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra may maintain a pause in the upcoming February monetary policy meeting.

"The RBI could remain cautious in preemptively cutting interest rates and the possibility of a pause in the February 2025 policy is high. Our base has been for the rate cut cycle to begin by the April policy and our view remains unchanged. While inflation is expected to start showing signs of further moderation due to seasonal factors, the RBI could prefer a more cautious approach given global uncertainties and emphasising the importance of the "timing" of the rate cut. With rising expectation of a pause by the US Fed in the January policy and increasing depreciation pressures on the rupee, the RBI could be nudged towards delaying the start of its rate cut cycle," HDFC Bank's principal economist Sakshi Gupta and sen-

EXPLAINED

Food inflation

eases in Dec

FOOD AND beverages segment, which accounts for 45.86 per cent of the total weight of CPI (Combined), registered an inflation rate of 7.69 per cent in December, down from 8.20 per cent in November. Inflation rate for perishables such as vegetables moderated to 26.56 per cent in December from 29.33 per cent in November.

ior economist Mayank Kumar Jha said in a note.

Food and beverages segment, which accounts for 45.86 per cent of the total weight of CPI (Combined), registered an inflation rate of 7.69 per cent in December, down from 8.20 per cent in November. Inflation rate for perishables such as vegetables

moderated to 26.56 per cent in December from 29.33 per cent in November.

Inflation rates also inched lower for cereals to 6.51 per cent in December from 6.88 per cent in November, while for pulses, it eased to 3.83 per cent from 5.41 per cent. Inflation rate for milk and products inched slightly lower to 2.80 per cent in December from 2.85 per cent in the previous month, the data showed.

However, the inflation rate for oils and fats increased to a 33-month high of 14.6 per cent in December, while that for fruits increased 8.49 per cent from 7.68 per cent.

Economists said despite the softening, food inflation remains elevated. "So far this fiscal, food inflation has averaged 8.4 per cent, higher than 7.5 per cent for the whole of fiscal 2024. Elevated food inflation has been the major hurdle for rate cuts as it keeps the headline inflation high and household inflation expectations elevated," Dipti Deshpande, principal economist, Crisil said.

Inflation rate for housing inched down to 2.71 per cent in December from 2.87 per cent in November, while that for clothing and footwear eased marginally to 2.74 per cent from 2.75 per cent a month ago.

Services inflation, as captured by the miscellaneous category also eased a bit to 4.19 per cent in December from 4.26 per cent. Core inflation — non-food, non-fuel segment — eased to a three-month low of 3.6 per cent in December, indicating subdued demand conditions.

Going ahead, better rabi sowing prospects will help to lower the inflation rate, experts said.

"The ongoing rabi sowing has been progressing well which should help the food inflation cool off further...while the current data is positive from the monetary policy perspective, Ind-Ra believes that the monetary authority would want to wait for one more policy before undertaking any change on the rates front," Paras Jasrai, senior economic analyst, India Ratings & Research said.

Rupee falls below 86 against dollar; Sensex tanks over 1,000 points

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
MUMBAI, JANUARY 13

THE RUPEE plunged below the 86 mark against the US dollar for the first time and domestic stock markets slid over 1.3 per cent on Monday on strong dollar, continued outflows from foreign investors and surge in crude oil price. The rupee fell 61 paise to close at a new record low of 86.58 against the US currency, after opening at 86.18. It was the biggest single-day fall in almost two years. The currency fell to a low of 86.60 during the intraday trades.

The BSE's 30 Sensex tanked 1,048.9 points, or 1.36 per cent, to close at 76,330.01. The NSE's Nifty tanked 345.55 points, or 1.47 per cent, to close at 23,085.95.

"Indian rupee breached the 86 mark for the first time in history on risk aversion in global markets and a strong US dollar," said Anuj Choudhary, research analyst, Mirae Asset Sharekhan.

The jobs report showed that the US added 2,56,000 jobs in December 2024 versus estimates of 1,64,000 jobs. Unemployment rate fell to 4.1 per cent in December versus a



File

forecast of 4.2 per cent.

The robust economic data in the US has led to an expectation of fewer rate cuts by the Federal Reserve in this year, forex market analysts said.

"According to a University of Michigan survey, US consumers expect 1-year inflation to jump to 3.3 per cent in January 2025 vs 2.8 per cent in the previous month. This raised expectations that the US Federal Reserve may not hike interest rates in its FOMC (Federal Open Market Committee) meeting in January," said Choudhary.

Markets also lowered 2025 rate cut expectations to just one rate cut this year, down from two rate cuts previously expected. "Compounding the rupee's woes

is the sharp rise in crude oil prices, which has placed further strain on India's current account. As a net importer of oil, India faces heightened fiscal stress whenever crude prices surge, weakening the rupee's resilience," said Amit Pabari, managing director, CR Forex Advisors. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.29 per cent higher at 109.97. The 10-year US bond yields also rose to 4.8 per cent.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, surged to \$80.64 per barrel in futures trade. Analysts expect the rupee to remain weak in the near term amid rising geopolitical tensions after the US imposed sanctions on Russian oil.

"However, RBI will keep on intervening in the forex markets which could prevent the pace of depreciation in the rupee. In the near term, we expect the rupee to trade in the range of 85.80-87.20 in the near term," said Choudhary.

Domestic stock market also witnessed heavy selling pressure on Monday.

"The global markets witnessed a significant sell-off, prompting a similar response in domestic markets due to strong

US payroll data suggesting fewer rate cuts in 2025. This has strengthened the dollar, driven up bond yields, and made emerging markets less attractive," Vinod Nair, head of research, Geojit Financial Services. All major indices saw a sharp sell-off. The BSE Smallcap declined 4.14 per cent and BSE Midcap fell 4.17 per cent. Nifty Bank fell 1.42 per cent.

"Wide-spread selling across the sectors fuelled along with massive exits in mid and small-cap stocks further worsened the sentiment," said Prashanth Tapse, senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities. Rising crude oil prices would raise concerns of a spike in domestic inflation, which could further delay any rate cut hopes from the RBI in the near to medium term, he said.

On Monday, foreign portfolio investors net sold Rs 4,892.84 crore of equities, while domestic institutional investors net purchased Rs 8,066.07 crore of shares, according to the BSE's provisional data. In this month (till January 13), overseas investors have pulled out Rs 23,615 crore from the domestic equity markets, the National Securities Depository Ltd (NSDL) data showed.

‘Focus on open, rules-based mega FTAs; cut import tariffs on key manufacturing inputs’

AT THIS juncture of India's growth and development trajectory, it is important that Budget 2025 be oriented towards enhancing manufacturing competitiveness, India's share in global exports and creation of productive employment opportunities. It may be useful, in this context to highlight the fact that despite shock events, increasing uncertainty and geopolitical shifts over the last few years, global trade has been resilient and on track to achieve an all-time high of \$33 trillion in 2024. Furthermore, it may be noted that three-fourths of global trade is trade in goods and of that, trade in manufactured goods dominates with 70 per cent share.

India's share in these dominant categories of global trade has been small at around 2 per cent over the last decade. So, there is potential and if India adopts the right policies we can grow our share of trade in manufactured goods, which is important for both employment, exports and demand creation. The best way to do this is by integrating with the Global Value Chains (GVCs) and attracting export-oriented foreign direct investment (FDI). Higher participation in GVCs has helped enhance manufacturing competitiveness and consequently export competitiveness and shares for major ASEAN economies, Mexico and even some central and east European economies. Also, countries that have been the biggest beneficiaries of MNCs shifting out of China, have been those that are already well integrated with GVCs. India's GVC participation and benefits from China+1 GVC diversification strategy have been small in comparison with its comparator set of developing economies.

My wish list for the Budget 2025 therefore includes the following.

■ First, the initiative of the last Budget to reduce import tariffs especially on key imported inputs in the manufacturing sector should be continued. This should include, among others, sectors that are labour intensive and where India given its demographic profile has an inherent comparative advantage such as in textiles and apparel; sectors where exports are expanding globally such as apparel, office and communications equipment; new age sectors like green energy and AI-related goods and services.



AMITA BATRA

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SPECIAL TO THE EXPRESS



RUN UP TO
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2025-26

tors where emerging trade trends are indicative of market and supplier diversification such as solar panels.

■ Second, the promised review of import tariffs should be aimed at achieving an alignment of India's average, applied import tariffs with competing emerging market economies (EMEs), especially in Asia which continues to be the most trade and economically dynamic region.

■ Third, it would be a positive signal if the Budget indicated a time schedule to achieve the alignment of import tariffs with competing EMEs. This would reveal India's commitment towards a more open trade regime and simultaneously lend an element of predictability to trade policy. Both aspects will help India attract re-locating investments in the China+1 GVC diversification strategy of MNCs. In addition, given the economic and trade dynamism of Southeast Asian economies, an announcement towards an early conclusion of the review of the free trade agreement (FTA) with ASEAN in the Budget speech would be further beneficial in this context.

■ Fourth, signaling India's commitment to greater trade openness and upgradation of domestic regulatory framework in accordance with global standards would be further reinforced if the Budget also announces India's intention to seek membership of the 12 country, mega FTA, the comprehensive and progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership that is, CPTPP which includes major economies like Japan and UK. High proportion of global trade in manufactures is happening within large FTAs.

Also, trade in these large, multi-country FTAs is observed to be more stable during times of uncertainty and crisis. This is pertinent given the expected accentuation of global trade uncertainty with US President-elect Donald Trump set to assume office on January 20th. Furthermore, with both the EU and North American regional trade blocs getting reoriented inwards and along discriminatory lines, India will benefit by participation in an open, ambitious and rules-based mega FTA like the CPTPP.

■ Fifth, in the context of FDI, while the reduction in the number of years for exhaustion of domestic remedies in the FTA with the UAE is a forward looking step, it is imperative that a review and upgradation of the model BIT, 2016 is announced in the Budget and undertaken at the earliest. This will help enhance India's ability to negotiate better the investment chapter in FTAs or the investment agreements as also to include provisions beyond just investment promotion and facilitation. In particular, the investor protection clauses need to be reworked and designed to include appropriate flexibilities and pro-state provisions based on a careful consideration of alternative mechanisms being proposed and discussed by several other countries.

Propitious global and regional geopolitical context coupled with a good growth performance presents India with an opportunity to attract investment by MNCs relocating away from China. But there is competition from other EMEs. Necessary reforms towards creating a more open trade regime therefore need to be undertaken with a sense of urgency.

Author of India's Trade Policy in the 21st Century (Views are personal)

‘India halts trade with US-sanctioned Russian companies and tankers’

REUTERS
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 13

INDIAN REFINERS have stopped dealing with US-sanctioned oil tankers and entities but the country does not expect disruption to Russian crude supplies during a two-month wind-down period, a government source said on Monday.

The US Treasury on Friday imposed sanctions on Russian oil producers Gazprom Neft and Surgutneftegaz and insurers Ingosstrakh and Alfastrakhovanie Group, targeting revenue Moscow has used to fund its war with Ukraine.

Washington also sanctioned 183 vessels used for transporting Russian oil while allowing a winding down of some energy related transactions by March 12.

India will allow Russian oil cargoes booked before January 10 to discharge at ports in line with sanctions parameters, the official told reporters on condition of anonymity.

"In the next two months we do not anticipate major problems because the ships that are in transit will come through. Going forward, it's early days yet to anticipate the impact, how discounts shape up, if somebody is willing to sell below the \$60

US TREASURY IMPOSED SANCTIONS ON FRIDAY

THE US Treasury on Friday imposed sanctions on Russian oil producers Gazprom Neft and Surgutneftegaz and insurers Ingosstrakh and Alfastrakhovanie Group, targeting revenue Moscow has used to fund its war with Ukraine

WASHINGTON ALSO sanctioned 183 vessels used for transporting Russian oil. India will allow Russian oil cargoes booked before January 10 to discharge at ports in line with sanctions parameters, an official said on condition of anonymity

price cap," he said.

The official said Russia could offer deeper discounts to India to meet the \$60 a barrel price cap imposed by Group of Seven countries in 2022 to be able to use western tankers and insurance.

"If we get Russian crude from a non-sanctioned entity which is below the price cap, I am sure we will be happy to look at it," the government official said, adding that Indian banks will seek certificates of origin for Russian crude to ensure transactions do not involve sanctioned entities.

"We are the third-largest consumer. Russia will find ways to reach us," the official added.

The Kremlin said on Monday that the latest US sanctions on Russia's energy sector risked destabilising global markets and

Moscow would do everything possible to minimise their impact.

Global Brent crude futures extended gains on Monday, climbing above \$81 to touch their highest since August.

Most Indian refiners are negotiating annual contracts with major producers for 2025/26 and may seek higher volumes from major Middle Eastern producers.

Producers in the United States, Canada, Brazil, Guyana and members of the OPEC group of oil producers will boost output to meet demand to offset Russian supply shortages, the Indian official said.

He added that India was also examining the impact of the new US sanctions on Russia's Vostok oil project, in which Indian companies have a stake.

Indian bonds follow US T-Bills, yields rise to 6.85%

Mumbai: The 10-year benchmark bond yields rose by 8 basis points, logging its biggest single-session rise in over seven months amid the rise in US Treasury yields, weakening rupee and the sell-off in the equity markets. The 10-year yield ended at 6.85 per cent, its highest since November, compared with its previous close of 6.77 per cent. The bond yield posted its biggest single-session rise

since June 4, 2024.

"The rise in crude oil prices, US bond yields and the declining Indian rupee have added to the weak sentiment in the money market," said a dealer. US bond yields rose to 4.8 per cent, the highest since November 2023. US yields are likely to cross the 5 per cent mark in the coming days as strong economic data is expected to fuel Fed rate concerns.

ENS



Guwahati Metropolitan Development Authority

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NO. GMDA/DEV/58/2024/20 Dated: 13-01-2025


**Re-TENDER NOTICE INVITING
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)**

Online bids in prescribed standard format (EOI) are hereby invited from registered Companies/Firms for Consultancy Services for the Project – ‘Construction of Working Women Hostels at Jagiroad, Assam’. Interested participants can apply online through the Govt. of Assam, e-tender portal – www.assamtenders.gov.in from 14-01-2025 to 28-01-2025. A non-refundable Tender Fee amounting to ₹2000/- (Rupees Two Thousand Only) needs to be submitted online through the e-tender portal.

Note :

- The Hardcopies of the online submitted Bids are to be submitted to this office by 5:00 PM of 28-01-2025 in the address provided in the EOI.
- The GMDA reserves all rights to accept and reject any bid without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/- Chief Executive Officer
Guwahati Metropolitan Dev. Authority
Bhangagarh, Guwahati - 5



JODHPUR VIDYUT VITARAN NIGAM LIMITED

Corporate Identity Number (CIN) – U40109RJ2000SGC016483
Regd. Office: New Power House, Jodhpur: 342003, Phone No: 0291- 2742264
E-mail : sevijljdvn@gmail.com, Website : <http://energy.rajjasthan.gov.in/jdvnl>

NIT NO. 10/2024-25

"A" and "AA" category in Central/State Government departments and JV/NL Online tenders are invited through e-procurement process for various civil construction works under Jodhpur (9413359193)/ Barmer (9413359455)/ Bikaner (9413359744) from registered tenderers. Details of work, estimated cost, tender fee, process fee, security deposit, date of tender opening and general contract conditions etc. are available on websites <http://energy.rajjasthan.gov.in/jdvnl> and available on <http://sppp.raj.gov.in> and <http://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in>. Intimation of future amendments/period extension, if any <http://energy.rajjasthan.gov.in/jdvnl> and <http://sppp.raj.gov.in> will be published on <http://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in>.

UBN No. : JVV2425WSOB00930, JVV2425WSOB00931, JVV2425WSOB00932, JVV2425WSOB00933, JVV2425WSOB00934, JVV2425WSOB00935, JVV2425WSOB00936, JVV2425WSOB00937, JVV2425WSOB00938, JVV2425WSOB00939, JVV2425WSOB00940, JVV2425WSOB00941, JVV2425WSOB00942, JVV2425WSOB00943, JVV2425WSOB00944, JVV2425WSOB00945, JVV2425WSOB00946, JVV2425WSOB00947, JVV2425WSOB00948, JVV2425WSOB00949, JVV2425WSOB00950, JVV2425WSOB00951, JVV2425WSOB00952, JVV2425WSOB00953, JVV2425WSOB00954, JVV2425WSOB00955, JVV2425WSOB00956, JVV2425WSOB00957, JVV2425WSOB00958, JVV2425WSOB00959, JVV2425WSOB00960, JVV2425WSOB00961, JVV2425WSOB00962, JVV2425WSOB00963, JVV2425WSOB00964, JVV2425WSOB00965, JVV2425WSOB00966, JVV2425WSOB00967, JVV2425WSOB00968, JVV2425WSOB00969, JVV2425WSOB00970, JVV2425WSOB00971, JVV2425WSOB00972, JVV2425WSOB00973, JVV2425WSOB00974, JVV2425WSOB00975, JVV2425WSOB00976, JVV2425WSOB00977, JVV2425WSOB00978, JVV2425WSOB00979, JVV2425WSOB00980, JVV2425WSOB00981, JVV2425WSOB00982, JVV2425WSOB00983, JVV2425WSOB00984, 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Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Ridhi Srool Shrof W/o Jatinder Shroff R/o C-41, South Extension-II, Delhi-110049 have changed my name to Ridhi Shroff for all futurepurpose 0040768412-1

I, Riajuddin S/o Alimuddin R/o-67B, Hauz Rani Village, Malviya Nagar, Delhi-110017 have changed my name to Riyazuddin 0070944893-1

I, Praveen Kumar Kukreti S/o Girish Chandra Kukreti, R/O A99, F/F, Flat No-A-4, Street No-4 Sombazar Road Madhuvihar Uttamangar, west Delhi-110059 have changed my name to Praveen Kukreti for all purposes. 0070944867-1

I, P K Jiji D/o P L Kochappan, R/O A-16, Sector-33, Noida,Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201301 have changed my name to Pavana Paul 0070944919-1

I, Nirmal Dhameja, S/O Jiwat Kaumoral Dhameja, R/O D-703, The Hyde Park, Sector 78, Noida, Uttar Pradesh 201304, declare that name of my father & my mother has been wrongly written as Jeevatram Kaumoral Dhameja & Veena Jeevatram Dhameja in all my educational documents, The actual name of my father & mother are Jiwat Kaumoral Dhameja & Dhameja Veena Jiwat 0070944891-1

I, NARESH KUMAR PAL, S/O RAJENDRAPRASAD, R/O H.NO. D-230, OM NAGAR, MEETHAPUR EXTN, BADARPUR, SOUTH DELHI, DELHI-110044, have changed my name to NARESH PAL For all future purposes. 0070944869-1

I, Mukesh S/O Shiv Narayan, R/O 1900, Phase-3, JJ Colony Madanpur Khadar, Sarita Vihar, South Delhi, Delhi-110076, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Mukesh Gupta. 0070944870-1

I, Manisha D/O Dayanand W/O Chatersal, R/o 110, Ujwa, South West Delhi, Delhi-110073. Declare that Name of Mine and My Father has been wrongly written as Manisha Khatri and Daya Nand in my Education Document. The actual name of Mine and My Father are Manisha and Dayanand, which may be amended accordingly. 0070944885-1

I, Manish Chaudhary S/O Dheeraj Singh, R/o 247, Rumal Wali Gali, Near Old Chopal, Ram Pura, Tri Nagar, North West Delhi-110035, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Manesh Chaudarey. 0070944872-1

I, Lakshami Khatri D/o Gopi Chand R/o-6/11, Nehru Nagar, Sirinwaspur, Delhi-110065 have changed my name to Laxmi Devi 0070944921-1

I, Jyoti D/O Pappu, W/O Deepraja Deepraja, R/o C/145, New Sanjay Amar Colony Vishwas Nagar Shahdara, Farsh Bazaar, Thana, Shahdara, Cnt Of Delhi-110032, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Janvi 0070944886-1

I, Islam Ahmed S/o Salimuddin R/o-L-2, Abul Fazal Enclave, Jamia, Nagar, Delhi have changed my name to Islam Ahmad 0070944952-1

I, Dimple Taneja D/O Lekh Raj, R/o A-16/1, Nehru Gali, Shiv Mandir Marg, Mandawali Fazalpur, Shakar Pur Baramad, East Delhi, Delhi-110092, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Rashmeet Taneja 0070944889-1

I, Suryakant alias Surya Kant S/o Deo Kumar Prajapati R/o D-46, Gali No-2, Near Sai Mandir, Sangam Vihar, Pushpa Bhawan, Pushpa Bhawan, South Delhi, Delhi-110062, have changed my name to Suryakant Prajapati 0130048088-1

I, Amina Nazam, spouse of No-JC-595564N,Sub Fayaz Ahmed wed, R/O Jugtiyal, Tehsil/District- Kupwara, have changed my name from Amina Akhter to Amina Nazam, D o B 01-01-1984, vide affidavit dated 11-01-2025 before Judicial Magistrate, Tangdhar. It needs corrections. Objections be filled to concerned authorities. 0020487014-1

I, Amardeep Kumar Mahalwar S/O Rajpal Singh R/O A-302, Gandharva Society, Omega-1, greater Noida Dist: G.B.Nagar have Changed My name to Amardeep Mahalwar for all future purposes 0070944927-1

I, No-JC-595564N,Sub Fayaz Ahmed wed, R/O Jugtiyal, Tehsil/District- Kupwara, have changed my daughters name, changed D o B from Aerzoo Fayaz, D o B-21-04-2006 to Arzoo Fayaz D o B-05-01-2008 vide affidavit dated 11-01-2025 before Judicial Magistrate,Tangdhar. It needs corrections. Objections be filled to concerned authorities 0020487015-1

I, Narender Sing S/o Shri Mohan Singh R/o B-109 Third Floor, G. D. Colony, Mayur Vihar Phase -III, Delhi - 110091 have mistakenly mentioned my name in my son's 10th Class marksheet as Narender Chauhan instead of Narender Singh. I hereby declare that the both the name pertain to one and same person i.e. Narender Singh as per the Affidavit sworn in before the Notary Public on 13.01.2025. 0040768433-1

I vandit Sharma S/o Ayush Sharma R/o QD-32,Vishakh Enclave,Pitampura, Saraswati Vihar,S.O., North West,Delhi,Delhi-110034,have changed my name to Vehoan Sharma for all purposes. 0040768404-7

I Shristi Gupta D/o Sandeep Kumar R/O No 2012A, M3M Golf Estate, Golf Course Extn Road, Sector-65, Gurgaon, Haryana-122001, have changed my name to Srishti Gupta for all future purposes 0070944894-1

I Saurabh Sharma S/o Jagdish Prasad R/o Man Mohan Nagar, Ranjhi, PO Khmaria, Dist:Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh -482005 have change my name to Kumar Rambraj for all futurepurposes. 0040768467-1

I Rosamma Cyriac Alias Rosamma John Alias Rosamma Johnny D/o Mampalam Varkey Cyriac and W/o P L John R/o Pottathuparambil, Rose Garden, Near C G Theater, PO-Pudukad, Parappukkara, Dist-Thrissur, Kerala-680301, have changed my name to Rosamma Cyriac 0070944892-1

I Ranjeet Sarathe S/o Kartar Singh R/o Naya Kanchanpur, Ward 42, Adhartal, PO Adhartal, District Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh -482004 have change my name to Rahul for all futurepurposes. 0040768466-1

I Ramesh S/o Mr. Chalppan R/o Flat No. SF 01, KH No. 510, Shalimar Palace, Shakti Bhawan, Shakti Enclave, Burari, Delhi- 110084 have changed My name from BIJU N. J to RAMESH for all future purpose. BIJU N. K and RAMESH is the same and one person. 0040768429-1

I Nitin S/O, Nand Kishore R/o H.No. 354 Village Bherthal Dwarka Sector 26 New Delhi 77 have changed my name to Nitin Kumar . 0040768403-1

I Meenaakshi W/o Abhilekh Singh R/o C-5/5 Tata steel officers enclave sector beta-1 Greater Noida UP, have changed my name to Meenaakshi Vatsa for all future purposes. 0070944933-1

I Manish Kumar S/o Sushila Kumar,R/o A-103, Pkt-00,MIG 60 Meter, Rohini Sector-2,Rohini Sector-7, North West Delhi, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Manish Kumar Soni for all purposes. 0040768404-3

I,Shelly Dohodiyal D/o Dhirendra Prasad, R/o H.No.125 Block-C Khajoori Khas Delhi, have changed my name to Shelly. 0040768484-1

I Baundra Vijay Kumar S/o Begram R/o H.No. D-66, Street No.3, Ankur Enclave, Karawal Nagar, Dayalpur, North East Delhi-110094, have changed my name to Vijay Singh Baundra for all purposes. 0040768404-6

I Ajay Thakkar S/o Som Parkash Thakkar R/o A-6, Old Qtr., Ramesh Nagar, West Delhi, Delhi -110015, have changed my name to Ajay Bhawani Das Thakkar for all purposes. 0040768404-4

I Achin Biyani S/o Bhikham Chand Biyani R/o H-3,Ajnara Enclave, Plot No.6/GH-1,Chander Nagar, Ghaziabad, Chander Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201011, have changed the name of my minor son from Sabhya Biyani to Sabhya Biyani for all purposes. 0040768404-2

I Achin Biyani S/o Bhikham Chand Biyani R/o H-3,Ajnara Enclave, Plot No.6/GH-1,Chander Nagar, Ghaziabad, Chander Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201011, have changed the name of my minor daughter from Saanchi Biyani to Sanchchi Biyani for all purposes. 0040768404-1

I, Rajinder Kumar S/o Ram Chander R/o 18 First Floor, Pocket-9, Sector-21, Rohini, Delhi- 110086 have changed my name from Rajinder Kumar to Rajinder Kumar Garg permanently 0040768445-1

I, Santosh Kumari/Santosh Jindal alias Santosh Kumari Jindal W/O, Hari Krishan, R/O, House, No.93, Block F, Prashant Vihar, Delhi-110085, have Changed, my name, to Santosh for, all future, purposes. 0040768502-4

I, Raghav Krishnan S/o Krishnan Ramaswamy R/o 81, Prayag Apartments, B1 Vasundhara Enclave, Delhi-110096, declare that in my 10th marksheet bears the name of mine as K Raghav and my father's name as R Krishnan & in the 12th marksheet bears the name of mine as Raghav K and my father's name as Krishan R, and my correct name is Raghav Krishnan and my father's correct name is Krishnan Ramaswamy 0130048096-1

"I Mohammad Rashid Alam resident of D-47 top floor Shaheen bagh okhla New Delhi 110025, have my father's name incorrectly spelt as C.Khan and Chootey khan in my marksheet and certificates. The spelling of his name is Chhotey khan and should be considered so for all purposes". 0130048087-1

I, Promod Kumar S/o Kanti Prasad R/o-E-4/22, 3rd Floor, Sector-11, Rohini, Delhi-110085 have changed my name to Pramod Kumar Aggarwal for all purposes. 0040768487-1

I, Shyam Bihari, S/o Shri Ram Subhag, R/o C-352, Dakshinpur, Dr. Amedbkar Nagar, South Delhi-110017, have changed my name to Shyam Bihari Sahani for all future purposes. 0040768442-1

My son's name was VIVAAN. Now I have changed my son's name to VIVAAN CHOUDHARY. In future my son should be known as VIVAAN CHOUDHARY. /Ajay Kumar S/O Shiv Raj Choudhary R/O H.No-B-03, Sector-37, Greater Noida G.B.Nagar, Uttar Pradesh. 0070944937-1

My name was POONAM. Now I have changed my name to POONAM BAKSHI. In future I will be known as POONAM BAKSHI /Poonam Bakshi wife of shri Ajay Kumar R/O H.No B-03, Sector-37, Greater Noida G.B.Nagar, Uttar Pradesh. 0070944916-1

My daughter's name was NAYONIKA. Now I have changed my daughter's name to NAYONIKA BAKSHI. In future my daughter should be known as NAYONIKA BAKSHI./Ajay Kumar S/O Shiv Raj Choudhary R/O H.NO-B-03, Sector-37, Greater Noida G.B.Nagar, Uttar Pradesh. 0070944946-1

It is for general information that I, Nidhi Dubey D/o Purushottam Lal Dubey R/o Patel Nagar, Maharajpur, Adhartal, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh-482004, declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as Purushottam Dubey in My Secondary School Marksheet, Senior Secondary School Marksheet and PAN Card No.: DOJPD7217C. The actual name of my father is Purushottam Lal Dubey, which may be amended accordingly. 0070944866-1

Irina Podkopaeva D/o Alexander Podkopaeva W/o Sh. Rohit Anand R/o H.No.A-349A, 2nd Floor, SRT 24 CARAT St,Chattarpur Enclave, Phase-II, Delhi-110074, have changed my name to Irina Anand for all purposes. 0040768404-5

I Khushaboo Gupta W/O Pawan Gupta R/o F2/289 Gali No18, Ratiya marg, Sangam Vihar, New Delhi-110080 have changed my name to Khushboo Gupta 0070944884-1

I, hitherto known as NIKHIL DEEPAK GAIKWAD, SON OF, LATE SHRI DEEPAK R GAIKWAD, R/O-91F, POCKET-1, MAYUR-VIHAR PHASE-1, DELHI-110091, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as NIKHIL D GAIKWAD. 0040768461-7

I, Vidya Devi, W/o Kulwant, R/O, House, No.267, Street No.14, Blo ck-E Mukund-Vihar Karawal-Nagar, North East Delhi-110094, have changed my name, from Vidha Singh to Vidya Devi, for all, future purposes. 0040768491-1

I, Vanita Rani, W/O Kedar Nath Gupta, R/o 382P, Sector-12A, Gurgaon (Haryana), have changed my name to Vanita Gupta. 0040768481-7

I, VINOD S/O, VISAKH MAL KRIPLANI, R/O B-194, Second Floor, Maharana Pratap Enclave, Pitam Pura, Delhi-110034, have changed, my name, to VINOD KRIPLANI. 0040768502-2

I, Uzma, D/o Shri Mushtaq Ahmed, Resident of House No.-5, Street-No. 4C, Aram-Park, Shastri Nagar, Delhi-110031. My name is erroneously written as Uzma in my passport. Whereas my actual name is Uzma Ansari. 0040768413-1

I, Sushmita Mukherjee, W/o- Somesh Mukherjee, R/o, K-111, Windsor Park, Vaibhav-Khand, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201014, have changed my name to Sushmita Singh, for all, future purpose. 0040768483-6

I, Sushma kushwaha, D/O Chandra bali, R/O-31/30, Krishna-Vihar gali.no.2, mansarovar-park Bamheta Ghaziabad-201001, declared that my name Sushma and my-father name Chandra bali wrongly-mentioned in my-educational certificate-such as 10th, 12th, B.com, M.com, and MBA but my and my-father's correct-name is Sushma kushwaha and Chandra bali. 0040768481-8

I, Suresh Bansal, S/O-Subhash Chandra Bansal, R/O, Flat.No.T 12A 202, Parsvnath Regalia, GT Road Rajbagh, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201005, Have Changed My Name to Suresh Kumar Bansal, For All, Future Purpose. 0040768483-4

I, Shailendra Kumar, S/O, Ashok Kumar, residents, of 137-C, Block-35, Sector-39, Best View-Apartments, Noida, PO:Maharishi Nagar, DIST: Gautam-Buddha, Nagar, Uttar-Pradesh-201304, have, changed, my name, from Shailendra Kumar to Shailendra Kumar Dwivedi. Henceforth, I, would be, know by, the name, of Shailendra Kumar Dwivedi, S/O, Ashok Kumar Dwivedi for, all, future, purposes. 0040768502-7

I, Sanjeev S/o Jai Bhagwan R/o WZ-41, Nangli Jaliib Village, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058, have changed my-name to Sanjeev Jai Bhagwan. 0040768491-3

I, Sujetei Bharti S/O Gajadhar Nath Sinha, R/o 184-D, Pocket-4, Mayur Vihar Ph-1, Mayur Vihar Ph-1, East Delhi, Delhi- 110091, I have changed the name of my minor daughter Suphal Samridhi aged about 16 Years and She shall hereafter be known as Suphal S Samridhi 0070944871-1

I, Sudesh Kumar Sen S/O Om Prakash Sen, R/o 62/2, Vidhyapati Nagar Inder, Enclave-2, Gali No-16, Village Nithari, Sultanpuri C Block, North West Delhi, Delhi-110086, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Sudesh Kumar Sain. 0070944866-1

I, Sanjana D/o Sandeep Kumar, have changed my name after marriage to Sanjana Gupta, W/o Mukul Gupta, R/o C-2/57, First Floor, Janakpuri, Delhi-110058. 0040768461-9

I, Sangeeta devi w/o dhananjay srivastava R/o ward no 6 salahabad, post & ps salempur, district deoria (up), pin code-274509 do hereby informed that, my minor daughter Seemi aged 15 name has been changed seemi to Vishu Srivastav for all future purposes. 0040768425-1

I, SURAJ BHAN, S/O, OM PRAKASH SAINI, R/O-188, HARI-NAGAR ASHRAM, NEW DELHI-110014, have changed my name, from Suraj Bhan to SURAJ BHAN SAINI, for all, future purposes. 0040768461-8

I, SUNIL KUMAR, S/O-MADAN LAL, R/O, WZ-965 AND WZ-965-A, UPPER-GROUND FLOOR, RANI-BAGH, PO: SARASWATI-VIHAR, DIST: NORTH-WEST DELHI-110034, have changed my name to SUNIL, for all, future purposes. 0040768461-5

I, SOSAMMA P Dependents of MONCY PAPPACHAN R/o VILAYIL VEEDU, KARAVALAR (PO), PUNAL UR, KOLLAM, KERALA-691333, have changed by name from SOSAMMA P to SOSAMMA vide- Affidavit IN- UP20074146823193W Dated-26/12/2024. 0040768506-7

I, SHIVANI, W/O ASHISH HATWAL, R/O H.NO-183-C, 2,VILLAGE-KATWARIA SARAI HAUZ KHAS SOUTH, DELHI-110016, have changed my name to SHIVANI HATWAL, for all, future purposes. 0040768461-6

I, SADHANA JASRAPURIA, wife of, Neeraj Kumar Jasrapuria, Presently, residing at, 22 Wing, Air Force-Station Kumbhirgram, Near- Silchar Airport, Dist- Cachar-788109, Assam, have changed my name, from SADHANA JASRAPURIA to SADHANA AHIRWAR, Vide-affidavit dt-11-1-2025, at New-Delhi. 0040768483-9

I, Rohit Kumar S/o Komal Prasad R/o F.No. D-802, Amrapali Princely Estate, Sector-76, Noida(UP) have changed my name to Rohit Sharma for all purposes. 0040768426-1

I, Ritika Mehta W/o Bharat Dhawan R/o WZ-6, Plot No.25, Vishnu-Garden, Tilak-Nagar, New Delhi-110018, have changed my-name to Ritika Dhawan. 0040768491-5

I, Ranjna Kapil, Wife of, Anil Kumar, resident of, TMQ-28A/4, Air Force, New-Delhi, Race Course, have changed my name, from Ranjna Kapil to Ranjana Kapil vide-Affidavit, dated 10/01/2025, before patiyala-house. 0040768481-11

I, Randeep Singh Chauhan, S/o Sh. Dharam Pal Chauhan R/o- H.No.536, First Floor, Orchid Island, Sector-51, Gurugram, Haryana, inform that Randeep Singh and Randeep Singh Chauhan, both names are same person. 0040768481-10

I, Rajesh Goel, S/o-Late, Shri Jogi Ram Goel, R/o, H.No-134, 1st Floor, Savita Vihar, East Delhi-110092, hereby declares that my minor daughter, previously known as Pavni Goel (DOB:02/03/2007), has changed her name to Pawnsi Goel, for all, future purposes. 0040768481-5

I, Rahul S/o Niranjan Singh, R/O-25/43, D-Block, Shahabad Dairy, North West Delhi-110042, have changed my name to Rahul Thakur. 0040768481-6

I, Rahul Goel, S/o Sh Satya Narayan, R/o H.No 1047, sector-9, Near DPS School, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad-201012 (UP), I, have Changed, my name, from Rahul Goel to Rahul Goyal . 0040768502-1

I, RAVIDNER KUMAR, S/O-HARBIR SINGH, R/O-62/4, BERSARAI, HAUZKHAS SOUTH DELHI-110016, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RAVIDNER PAWAR 0040768481-4

I, RAKESH AGGARWAL, S/O LAL CHAND AGGARWAL, R/O, 146, Lok Nayak Apartment, Plot.No.30, Sector-9, Rohini, Delhi -110085, have changed, my name, to RAKESH KUMAR AGGARWAL. 0040768502-3

I, RAJENDER KUMAR, S/O, KALI CHARAN ARORA, R/O- PLOT.No-326, A-3, GYAN KHAND-1, INDIRAPURAM, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH-201014, have changed my name to RAJENDER KUMAR ARORA. 0040768481-2

I, Sajid Akhtar, S/O Mohammed Akhtar, R/O-A-82, Joshi-Colony IP Extension, Delhi-110092, have changed my name to SAJID ALI. Permanently. 0040768461-1

I, Paramjeet Kaur W/o Shri Bhagat singh R/O F-7/199 Second Floor Sector-16 Rohini Delhi-89, have changed my name to Pramjit kaur. 0040768491-4

I, ANUSHA SHIKH, D/O-ISLAMUDDIN, R/O-B-13, UPPER GROUND, GALLI NO-7, NEW GOBIND PURA, DELHI-110051, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME USHA SHIKH TO ANUSHA SHIEKH, FOR FUTURE. 0040768461-4

I, Unnati Sharma W/o Sumit Kumar R/o B-222, N.T.P.C Township, Vidyt Nagar, Po Vidyt Nagar, Dist Gautam Buddha Nagar U.P.-201008 have changed my name to Ardevatiya Unnati for all future purposes 0070944912-1

CLASSIFIEDS & TENDERS 14

I, PRAGATI D/O-MUKESH KUMAR GOEL, R/O 8A/1 3RD FLOOR, SEC-15 ROHINI DELHI-110089, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO PRAGATI GOEL. 0040768506-4

I, POOJA KUMARI GUPTA, W/O-PEEVUSH SINGH RAWAT, R/O-H.NO-C1/1, BLK-C1 SHISHA GODAM-ROAD RAMA PARK, UTTAM NAGAR DELHI-110059, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO POOJA GUPTA RAWAT. 0040768483-3

I, Om Dutta, S/o Dal Chand, R/o H.no-54, Gali no-3, Devli village, New Delhi-110062, Have changed my name to Om Dutt, for all purposes. 0040768483-1

I, Nikhil S/o Mahesh Kumar R/o 169, Feroz Gandhi Colony, Gurgaon (Haryana), have changed my name to Nikhil Singh. 0040768506-2

I, Narain Singh, S/o-Balbir Singh, R/o H.No.22, Near-Community Center, VPO. Punjab Khore, North West, Delhi-110081, have changed my name to Narayan Singh. 0040768461-10

I, Meena Shokeen, w/o- Shri Raj Pal, R/o H.No.3-4, Sector-19, Village Amberhai, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075, have changed my name, from Meena Shokeen to Manisha Devi, for all, future purposes. 0040768483-2

I, Manoj Kumar, S/o, Lt Sh Om Prakash Nagpal, R/o H.No. 74-C, D-2A Block, Janakpuri, Delhi-110058, have changed my name to Manoj Nagpal. 0040768502-5

I, Manju Manoharan, W/o-Ravi Saini, R/o-Pillar, No.116, Main Dadi-Road, Bhangel, Sector-102, Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201304, Have Changed My Name to Manju Saini, For All, Future Purpose. 0040768483-5

I, Manju Devi, W/o Gopal Lal, R/o BC-120, Gali. No.2, Bapu Colony, Mandi Pahari, New Delhi-110047, have changed my name, from Bhuri Devi to Manju Devi, for all purposes. 0040768481-9

I, MUKESH KUMAR, S/O TRILOK CHAND, R/O 8A/1, 3RD FLOOR, SEC-15 ROHINI DELHI-110089, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MUKESH KUMAR GOEL 0040768506-3

I, MUKESH KUMAR, S/O TRILOK CHAND, R/O 8A/1, 3RD FLOOR, SEC-15 ROHINI DELHI-110089, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MUKESH KUMAR GOEL 0040768506-3

I, Kiran Kumari W/O, Shri Ashok Kumar, R/O 213-B, New Loyal Pur Colony, Krishna Nagar, Delhi-110051, have changed, my name, to Kiran Rani. 0040768502-6

I, Kavitt Kumar, S/o Sh.Yogesh Kumar, R/o-147, Old Anakali Krishna Nagar, Delhi-110051, have changed my name to Kavit Kumar Arora, permanently. 0040768491-2

I, KALIKA alias KALIKA PRASAD S/o Shyam Lal Prasad R/o G-2/26 Aaya Nagar, Aaya Nagar, South Delhi-110047 have changed my name to KALIKA PRASAD 0040768519-1

I, KALICHARAN, S/O, BHAGWAN DASS, R/O-D-72, SHAKAR PUR, EAST DELHI-110092, have changed my name to KALI CHARAN ARORA. 0040768481-3

I, IMRAN S/O MOHD HASHIM, R/O H.NO-2912, STREET NO-44 BEADON PARK KAROL BAGH DELHI-11005, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MOHD IMRAN 0040768461-3

I, JISHA MONCY spouse of MONCY PAPPACHAN, R/O AMRUTHA, KARAVALAR (PO), PUNALUR, KOLLAM, KERALA-A 691333, have changed by name from JISHA MONCY to JISHA S vide-Affidavit IN-UP2006436753964W Dated-26/12/2024. 0040768506-8

I, Hari Datt Sharma S/o Bhagwati Prasad R/o-732, Sector-8 faridabad have changed my name to Hari Dutt Sharma 0040768407-2

I, Gaurav, S/o It Ram Kishan R/o 13/273, Block-13, Trilok Puri Delhi-110091, have changed, my name, to Gaurav Goma for, all future, purposes. 0040768506-1

I, GEETA SINGH, W/O SH. DEEPAK SINGH, R/O HOUSE, NO.273, GALI NO.12-A, 3rd 60- FEET-ROAD, MOLAR-BAND EXTN., BADARPUR, NEW-DELHI-110044, have changed my minor son name VANSH to VANSH SINGH, for all, future purposes. 0040768461-2

I, Dhirendra S/o Chintamani, R/O H.No.125 Block-C Khajoori Khas Delhi, have changed my name to Dhirendra Prasad. 0040768484-2

I, Daya Kishan S/o Om Prakash Gupta R/o-80-A, Anand Nagar, Inderlok Delhi-110035, have change my me to Daya Kishan Gupta for all, purposes. 0040768481-1

I, Bhavna Grover, W/O, Sushant Monga, R/O 75, Uco Apartments, Sector-9, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have Changed, my name, to Bhavna Monga for all Purposes. 0040768502-8

I, Tanish Kumar S/O Neeraj Kumar R/o-7/75, Tower-7, Palm Olympia, Sector-162, Noida-201308 have changed my name to Tanish Kumar Singh 0070944914-1

I, Yamin Hussain S/o Ahmad Hussain R/o-JC-9, Khirki Extension, Malviya Nagar, Delhi have changed my name to Mohammad Yamin Hussainin 0070944949-1

PUBLIC NOTICE
General Public is hereby informed that my clients Smt. Manju W/O Rishi Kumar R/O H.No. 26-A Rajendra Park Ext., Nangoli, Delhi-110041 has served all their relations with her son DEEPAK GARG and his wife HEMA GARG due to his balm habits and anti moral behavior, my client has disowned and debarred her said son and his wife from all their movable and immovable properties.
Advocate RK Choudhary
En No 04804/2018

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Office of The Additional Chief Engineer, PHED NCR Region Alwar
No. 4884-95
FOR THIS OFFICE NIT No. 06/2024-25 (UBN is: PHE2425WLOB07170)
FOR THIS OFFICE NIT No. 07/2024-25 (UBN is: PHE2425WLOB07171)
In continuation of the NIT No. 06/2024-25 and NIT No. 07/2024-25 dated December 16, 2024 issued by this office, Corrigendum No. 2 of NIT No. 06/2024-25 and Corrigendum No. 2 of NIT No. 07/2024-25 are hereby issued. Bidders may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.rajn.nic.in>)
Sd/-
Add. Chief Engineer
PHED NCR Region Alwar

CORRIGENDUM NO. 02
Date: 01/01/2025

राज्य निर्वाचन आयोग, राजस्थान
(हस्ति त्त, विकास खण्ड, सचिवालय, जयपुर)
email-seccraj@rajasthan.gov.in, FAX 0141-2227280, 2227072
ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
राज्य निर्वाचन आयोग द्वारा राजस्थान राज्य में होने वाले पंचायती राज संसदीय एवं नगरिक निर्वाचनों के आगामी आयोजनों में उपयोग हेतु चुनाव से सम्बंधित सामग्री यथा चर्च, लिफाफे, प्रत्येक अर्द्ध का मुद्रा करवाये जाने हेतु ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है, जिसकी अनुमति लागत 5 करोड़ रुपये है। विस्तृत जानकारी आमंत्रण सूचना एवं बोली परतलब आगम की वेबसाइट www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> एवं SPPP Portal पर देखा जा सकता है।
Tender ID- 2025_SECCRJ_442235_1
NIB No.- SEC2425A0007
UBN No.- SEC2425SLOB00007

हस्ता./-
(बी.एल.मैथन)
अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता
सा.नि.वि. संभाग द्वितीय उदयपुर मु. बॉसवाड़ा

DIPR-4666

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Pre-Bid Meeting for Procurement of Snow Blower/Cutter
Tender No. 15245170 for procurement of 02 Nos. of Snow Blower/Cutter has been published by this office. The pre-bid meeting is scheduled for dated **05.02.2025** in PCMM Conference Room, Stores Branch, Baroda House from **11:00 hrs. onwards** & tender is due to open on dated **26.03.2025**. Please make it convenient to attend the same.
No. 15245170/Snow Blower/Cutter Dt. 13.01.2025 142/2025
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

क्रमांक : टी-1086
निविदा सूचना संख्या- 13/2024-25
NIB Code:- PWD 2425A3684
सड़क निर्माण कार्य हेतु इच्छुक सर्वेदकों से अनिवार्य माध्यम से निवेदन 05.02.2025, रात्रि 06:00 बजे तक निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा का अनिवार्य वेबसाइट ("http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in" और <http://www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in>) पर देखा जा सकता है। उपकरण की कुल अनुमति लागत राशि रु. 1913.00 लाख है।
UBN- PWD2425WLOB13359


DIPR-C/445/2025

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA
Plot No 16-17, IT Park, Sahasradhara Road, Dehradun-248001
Phone: 0135-2611425; Website: www.rbi.org.in
Email: estatedehradun@rbi.org.in
e-Tender for providing services of Private Security Guards (armed and unarmed) and Security Supervisors at Reserve Bank of India, Dehradun
Reserve Bank of India, Dehradun invites e-tender in two parts (Part I & II) from reputed agencies for providing services of Private Security Guards (armed and unarmed) and Security Supervisors on contractual basis. The interested agency must register on the MSTC portal (<http://mstccommerce.com/eproc/>) for participating through e-tendering.
Details of the Tender document will be available on RBI website (<https://www.rbi.org.in/> → Tenders) and MSTC portal. Amendments/Corrigendum, if any, will be displayed only on RBI Website.
The Tender (Part-I & Part-II) may be submitted on or before 03:00 PM on February 24, 2025 through MSTC portal only.
Sd./-
Regional Director, Reserve Bank of India, Dehradun

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, PHED, REGION AJMER
Telephone No. 0145-2628475, Fax No. 0145-2970247
Email- aceregionajmer@gmail.com
No. F. (J)Ar. MP/2024-2025/1297-986
DATE CORRIGENDUM-1 (NIT No. 13/2024-2025)
In continuation to this office NIT No. 13/2024-2025, issued vide this office letter No. 11831-881 dated 16.12.2024 for the work of "Replacement of 1500 mm PSCC Pipeline near Bhasu Village between Thadholi Headworks and Kerkri Headworks under Bilsalpur Ajmer Water Supply Project. (Budget Announcement 2024-25, Point No 8.08) (NIT No.13/2024-25; Estimated Cost Rs.1679.70 Laacs)", following amendments are hereby notified:
As per Published Information
Following bids are invited from interested bidders up to 07.01.2025 Other particulars of the Bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.rajn.nic.in>) of the state.
Now amended as
Following bids are invited from interested bidders up to 15.01.2025 Other particulars of the Bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.rajn.nic.in>) of the state.
All other terms, conditions and stipulations of the original NIT shall remain unchanged.
Sd/-
UBN No.: PHE2425WLOB07214
(Ram Chandra Rana)
Add. Chief Engineer,
PHED, Region, Ajmer.
DIPR/C/0560/2025

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, संभाग बीकानेर
क्रमांक- 2799
अल्यकालिन निविदा सूचना संख्या 15/पीएमजीएसवाई/2024-25
NIB Code No.- PWD2425A3675
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से प्रधानमंत्री ग्राम सड़क योजना के तृतीय चरण के अन्तर्गत सड़क अपग्रेडेशन के कार्य मय पाँच साल की मरम्मत के लिए 01 पैकेज हेतु उपयुक्त एवं सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान में पंजीकृत सर्वेदकों एवं राज सार्व विभाग/रेवेन इत्यादि में पंजीकृत सर्वेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के उपयुक्त श्रेणी के सर्वेदकों के समक्ष हों, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई-प्रोपोज़मेंट प्रक्रिया से ऑन लाईन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा से सम्बन्धित विवरण वेब साईट www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, <http://dipr.rajasthan.gov.in> व <http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in> व <http://pmgsystendersraj.gov.in>, Gepnic portal पर देखा जा सकता है। पैकेजजर्नल यू.बी.एच संख्या निम्नानुसार है।
PWD2425WLOB13328
इच्छुक सर्वेदकों को अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेब साईट <http://pmgsystendersraj.gov.in> पर रजिस्टर्ड होना आवश्यक है।
DIPR/C/421/2025

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, संभाग बीकानेर
दिनांक:- 07.01.2025



सेन्ट्रल बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया
Central Bank of India

REGIONAL OFFICE, WHITE HOUSE COMPOUND, GAYA-823001


POSSESSION NOTICE
[UNDER RULE 8 (1) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002]

Notice is hereby given under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of (Security) Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002), and in exercise of the power conferred under sub-section (12) of section 13 read with [rule 3] of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule 2002. The Authorized Officer issued a Demand Notice on the dates noted against account as mentioned herein after, calling them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The borrower/guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the under noted borrower/guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sec. 13(4) of Section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on the date mentioned against account. The borrower/guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of Central Bank of India for the amount and interest thereon mentioned against account herein below. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section (13) of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

Name of the Branch	Name of the Accounts/ Borrowers/ Guarantor	Name of the owner & Description of the property mortgaged	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession Notice Affixed	Amount outstanding as on date of Demand Notice
Sasaram	1.M/S Bhagwati Mini Rice Mill Prop. Mr. Naradmun Rai 2. Mr. Naradmun Rai & Guarantors 1.Mr. Manoj Kumar Choudhary S/o Mr. Tieshwar Choudhary 2. Mr. Ramashankar Singh S/o Damani Singh	All that part and parcel of House Property (Land & Building) in the name of Mr. Narad Muni Rai S/o Late Shiv Prasad Rai. Details/Description of the property/ies: Sale Deed No.-Deed No-9427 Dated- 24.07.2008, Area-4.625 Decimal, Location-Mauza-Barhari., P-S-Kargahar Dist-Rohtas, Property details-Khata No.-297, Plot No-162, Thana No-323, Halka No.-5. Boundary As Per Sale Deed -North-Tal, South-Hal Kreta Naradmun Rai, East-Hal Kreta Badamo Kuwar, West-Niz Sale Deed No.-Deed No-9427 Dated- 24.07.2008, Area-7.875 Decimal, Location-Mauza-Barhari., P-S-Kargahar Dist-Rohtas, Property details-Khata No.-297, Plot No-166, Thana No-323, Halka No.-5. Boundary As Per Sale Deed -North-Hal Kreta Naradmun Rai, South-Patiram Chaudhary, East-Hal Kreta Badamo Kuwar, West-Baliram Chaudhary Sale Deed No.-Deed No-9428 Dated- 24.07.2008, Area-6.25 Decimal, Location-Mauza-Barhari., P-S-Kargahar, Dist-Rohtas, Property details-Khata No.-160, Plot No-127, Thana No-323, Halka No.-5. Boundary As Per Sale Deed -North-Kedar Tiwari, South-Shyam Bihari Rai, East-Raj Kumar Rai W/o Mahant Rai, West-Ghatka Sale Deed No.-Deed No-9078 Dated- 26.07.1996, Area-13% Decimal, Location-Mauza-Barhari., P-S-Kargahar, Pargana, Dist-Rohtas, Property details-Khata No.-160, Plot No-127, Thana No-323, Halka No.-5. Boundary As Per Sale Deed -North-Hal Kharidar Shyam Bihari Rai, South-Ram Ji Mahlo and Lachuman Rai, East-Ram Kumar Rai W/o Mahant Rai, West-Ghatka	01.10.2024	09.01.2025	Rs.1,10,86,693.00/- (Rs. One Crore Ten Lakh Eighty Six Thousand Six Hundred Ninety Three Only) and interest thereon.

Place- Sasaram
Date- 09.01.2025

Authorised Officer
Central Bank of India



सेन्ट्रल बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया
Central Bank of India

REGIONAL OFFICE, WHITE HOUSE COMPOUND, GAYA-823001


POSSESSION NOTICE
[UNDER RULE 8 (1) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002]

Notice is hereby given under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of (Security) Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002), and in exercise of the power conferred under sub-section (12) of section 13 read with [rule 3] of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule 2002. The Authorized Officer issued a Demand Notice on the dates noted against account as mentioned herein after, calling them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The borrower/guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the under noted borrower/guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sec. 13(4) of Section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on the date mentioned against account. The borrower/guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of Central Bank of India for the amount and interest thereon mentioned against account herein below. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section (13) of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

Name of the Branch	Name of the Accounts/ Borrowers/ Guarantor	Name of the owner & Description of the property mortgaged	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession Notice Affixed	Amount outstanding as on date of Demand Notice
Jogapur	Mr. Rameshwar Paswan S/o- Late Kameshwar Paswan	All that part and parcel of House Property (Land & Building) in the name of Mr. Rameshwar Paswan S/o- Late Kameshwar Paswan. Details/Description of the property/ies: Deed No.1803 Dtd-24.03.2011, Area-3 Decimal, Location-Mauza-Uchirwan, Thana-Sherghati Dist-Gaya, Property details-Khata No.1078(old) 421(new), Plot No.225, 617 & Part of 620 Thana No.-762 Ward No.-03. Boundary -North:- Niz Vikreta, South:- Sudmiya Devi, East:- Ramlakhan Paswan, West:- Proposed Rasta 8 Feet	01.10.2024	09.01.2025	Rs. 13,94,671.00/- (Rupees Thirteen lakh Ninety Four Thousand Six Hundred Seventy One Only) and interest thereon.

Place- Gaya
Date- 09.01.2025

Authorised Officer
Central Bank of India



केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
कानरा बैंक लिमिटेड

ASSET RECOVERY MANAGEMENT BRANCH
(D.P.-17415) Ground Floor, Luv Kush Tower,
Exhibition Road, PATNA - 800001
Mobile No.: 8102916048, Email: cb17415@canarabank.com

PROPERTY FOR E-AUCTION NOTICE


E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of movable/immovable assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s)/Director(s)/mortgagor(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described movable/immovable property mortgaged/hypothecated/pledged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Constructive/Physical Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer Canara Bank will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on 31.01.2025, Time 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM Details are as under:

Sl. No.	Name and Address of A/c Borrower / Guarantor /Mortgagor	Outstanding in Rs.	Details of Properties	Reserve Price EMD Bid Multiplier Amt.
15 days E-auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties				
1.	M/s Shyam Trading (Borrower) Prop. - Mrs. Aarti Devi R/o Pachna Road, New Bypass Road Naya Bazar, Lakhisarai, Bihar- 811311. b). Mrs. Aarti Devi W/o Shyam Kumar Verma (Proprietor / Mortgagor). c). Mr. Shyam Kumar Verma S/o Sri. Sopenendra Prasad Verma (Guarantor) (b) & (c) residing R/o Pachna Road, Sansar Pokhar, Lakhisarai, Bihar- 811311	₹69,71,968.31 (Rupees Sixty Nine Lakh Seventy One Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Eight and Thirty One Paise Only) as on 20.12.2024 together with future interest and charges from 21.12.2024 till clearance of entire liability	All that part and parcel of Land and Building in the name of mortgagor Smt. Aarti Devi W/o Shri. Shyam Kumar Verma, situated at Khata no.140, Khasra no.1651, Thana no.122, Tauzi no.2591, Mauza-Kiul Basti, Sansar Pokhar, Ward no.19, Post+P.S.+Dist-Lakhisarai, Bihar-811311, Total Area-3.906 Decimal. Boundaries of the property: North:- Bachit Mokir Khesra Haja, South:- Hal Kharidar, East:-Bypass Road, West:- Mr.Rajendra.	₹68,13,000/- ₹6,81,300/- ₹10,000/-
2.	1). Mr. Arshuddin (Borrower) S/o Late Md. Ilyas Alam, Urdu Bazar, Lalbagh Laheriasarai, Darbhanga, Bihar-846009. 2). Mr. Md. Amir Nezamuddin (Mortgagor) S/o Late Md. Ilyas Alam, Urdu Bazar, Lalbagh Laheriasarai, Darbhanga, Bihar-846009 3). Mr.Md. Ziyauddin (Mortgagor) S/o Late Md. Ilyas Alam, Urdu Bazar, Lalbagh Laheriasarai, Darbhanga, Bihar-846001. 4). Mrs. Sabiha Khatoun (Mortgagor) S/o Late Md. Ilyas Alam, Urdu Bazar, Lalbagh Laheriasarai, Darbhanga, Bihar-846009 5). Mr. Sanjiv Ranjan (Guarantor) S/o Sita Pati Sharan, At-K M Bark, Laheriasarai, Darbhanga, Bihar-846001.	₹34,15,555.39 (Rupees Thirty Four Lakh Fifteen Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Five and Paise Thirty Nine Only) as on 07.11.2023 together with future interest and charges from 08.11.2023 till clearance of entire liability	All that part and parcel of land and bulding measuring 1 Kattha 4 Dhur 5 Dhurki = 5.34 Decimal covered under Khesra No- 21737, 21738, 21734 & 21739, Ward No- 29, situated at Mohalla-Urdu Bazar, Thana-Town, Anchal-Sadar Darbhanga, Sub-Registry+ District-Darbhanga, Bihar jointly in the name of Mr. Arshuddin S/O Late Md Ilyas Alam, Md Amir Nezamuddin S/O Late Md Ilyas Alam, Mrs. Sabiha Khatoun W/O Late Md Ilyas Alam & Md Ziyauddin S/O Late Md Ilyas Alam. Boundaries: North- Rasta South- Late Md Safi Akhtar East-Jamil Akhtar West- Drain.	₹37,50,000/- ₹3,75,000/- ₹10,000/-
3.	1). Sri Awdhesh Rawat (Borrower) S/o Sri.Rajendra Rawat 2). Sri Rajendra Rawat (Guarantor/ Mortgagor) S/o Sri.Late Sohrai Rawat, both 1) & 2) residing at Ward no.13, Kishnapur,Daroga Kuan Rd., Hilsa, Dist Nalanda,Bihar, 801302	₹13,92,795.57 (Rupees Thirteen Lakh Ninety Two Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Five and Paise Fifty Seven Only) as on 30.09.2024 together with future interest and charges from 01.10.2024 till clearance of entire liability	All part and parcel of Residential property Building (G+1 Floor) in the name of Sri Rajendra Rawat S/o Late Sohrai Rawat, bearing deed no.613 dated 26.03.1990, situated at Plot No- 2274, Khata No 84, Thana No- 177, P/O P.S- Hilsa, District - Nalanda, Bihar. Total Area- 3.5 dec. Boundary: North- Nandulal, South- Mishrilal, East- Rama Prasad, West- Rasta	₹21,50,000/- ₹2,15,000/- ₹10,000/-
4.	1. Mr. Syed Jamal Asraf (Borrower) S/o Sayed Md. Salimuuddin 2. Mr. Syed Md. Salimuuddin (Co-Borrower) S/o Mr. Late Sayed Bashi Ahamad, Both residing at Nawadih Idagah, P.O- Aurangabad, Bihar- 824101.	₹10,92,011.62 (Rupees Ten Lakh Ninety Two Thousand Eleven & and Paise Sixty Two Only) as on 08.09.2024 together with future interest and charges from 09.09.2024 till clearance of entire liability	All that piece and parcel of Residential property situated at Mohalla-Chaudhary Nagar, Thana no-559, Khata no-138, Plot no-816, Dist- Aurangabad, Bihar-824101 in the name of Mr. Syed Md. Salimuuddin S/o Mr. Late Sayed Bashi Ahamad. Total Area-2 decimal (871 Sq Ft). Boundries :- North-Rasta, South-Niz Mokir, East-Sabnam Pravin, West-Niz Mokir then River.	₹9,50,000/- ₹95,000/- ₹10,000/-
5.	1). M/s Kiran Stores, Prop: Kiran Devi, W/O-Prabhakar Singh, Ward No 2, Nagar Panchayat, Sheohar, Pin- 843329. 2). Kiran Devi, W/o-Prabhakar Singh, Ward No 2, Nagar Panchayat, Sheohar, Pin-843329.	₹20,89,075.87 (Rupees Twenty Lakhs Eighty Nine Thousand Seventy Five and paise Eighty Seven only) as on 03.06.2023 together with future interest and charges from 04.06.2023 till clearance of entire liability	All part and parcel of Residential property Building (G+1 Floor) in the name of Sri Rajendra Rawat S/o Late Sohrai Rawat, bearing deed no.613 dated 26.03.1990, situated at Plot No- 2274, Khata No 84, Thana No- 177, P/O P.S- Hilsa, District - Nalanda, Bihar. Total Area- 3.5 dec. Boundary: North- Nandulal, South- Mishrilal, East-Rama Prasad, West-Rasta	₹10,55,000/- ₹1,05,500/- ₹10,000/-

Last Date of EMD 29.01.2025 by 5.00 P.M.
For Detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in
www.canarabank.com/pages/bihar & https://baanknet.com.

Date : 13.01.2025
Place : Patna

Authorized Officer
(Canara Bank)



इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank
इसहाबाद ALLAHABAD

Zonal Office, Patna, 1st Floor, Budh Marg, Patna-800001


APPENDIX-IV (Rule-8(1)) POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

Whereas, The undersigned being the authorised officer of the Indian Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rules 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a Demand Notice u/s 13(2) on the date noted against the Account as mentioned hereinafter, calling upon the borrower to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
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 possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 and 9 of the said rules on the date noted against the account mentioned hereinafter.
The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Indian Bank for an amount noted against the accounts as mentioned hereinafter with further interest, cost, other charges thereon.
We draw attention to the provisions of section 13(8) of the SARFAESI Act and the rules framed there under which deals with your rights of redemption over the securities.

Sl. No.	Name of the Account Branch Name	Name & address of the Borrower/ Guarantor (Owner of the property) DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY	Date of Demand Notice Date of Possession Notice	Amount outstanding in the Demand Notice
1.	M/s Vaishno Traders B/o: Mahrugung Branch, Patna	M/s Vaishno Traders (Proprietor Sri Santosh Kumar), Sri Santosh Kumar (Proprietor), Smt. Malti Devi (Mortgager/Guarantor). Description of the immovable property: All part and parcel of land and building situated at Circle No.187, Holding No.100/2/85(P) Ward No.67/53/34/28, Sheet No.258, M.S. Plot No.1620(P), Mohalla Lalu Babu Ke Kucha, Police Station Chowk Kala Patna. Total Area of Land 7 Dhur as per Sale Deed No.6113 dated 15/10/2012. Registered at Sub-registry office Patna City in the name of Smt. Malti Devi, W/o Late Vinod Prasad. Bounded as per Sale Deed No.6113: North-Sri Krishna Prasad M.S. Plot No.1623, South-Smt. Lalti Devi, M.S Plot No.1621(P), East-Corporation Branch Road, West-Sri Arun Sah, M.S. Plot No.1619(P).	10.09.2024 08.01.2025	₹46,31,029.55/- (Rupees Forty six lakh thirty one thousand twenty nine and fifty five paise only) as on 10.09.2024 with further interest, cost, other charges and expenses thereon from 10.09.2024.
2.	Mrs. Sushila Devi B/o: Mahrugung Branch, Patna	Mrs. Sushila Devi (Mortgager) W/o Suresh Rai Description of the immovable property: All part and parcel of land and building situated at Mortgaged Assets: Ward No.30/35/54, Sheet No.277, Municipal Survey Plot No.834 Part, Circle No.212, Patna in the name of Mrs. Sushila Devi W/o Suresh Rai, measuring of 13 Dhur 6 Dhuraki and 12 Furaki Bounded as below: Bounded as per Sale Deed:- North-Shree Jadunandan Rai, South-Shree Vijay Rai, East-Municipal Plot No.833, West-6 Feet Common Road.	06.07.2024 08.01.2025	₹3,94,558/- (Rupees Three lakh ninety four thousand five hundred fifty eight only) as on 06.07.2024 with further interest, cost, other charges and expenses thereon from 06.07.2024.
3.	Mrs. Yashoda Devi B/o: Mahrugung Branch, Patna	Mrs. Yashoda Devi (Mortgagor), Co-Borrower Mr. Kamal Kishor, Guarantor Mr. Ram Raj Prasad (Deceased) and Ms. Neha Kumari Description of the immovable property: All part and parcel of land and building situated at Mortgaged Assets: Residential Plot & Building situated at Mauza Dawalpur Mahal Present Chaninpur, P.S.- Chok, Kala, Patna City, District Registry office and Dist. Patna, Registered with Sale Deed No.1742 dated 05.03.1992 in the name of Yashoda Devi, Ward No.29/36, Circle No.199, Holding No.100/965, Present Holding No.133/100A, Sheet No.253, M.S. Plot No.1824, Area 1100 Sq. Feet. Bounded as per Sale Deed No.1742: North-Galli, South-Sahdev Mahto, East-Rajendra Mahto, West-Rajendra Mahto. Boundary of the Land and Building Actual: North-5 Feet Galli, South-Basudev Mahto, East-Ruby Devi, West-Lal Prasad.	30.08.2024 08.01.2025	₹16,17,352.03/- (Rupees Sixteen lakh seventeen thousand three hundred fifty two and three paise only) as on 30.08.2024 with further interest, cost, other charges and expenses thereon from 31.08.2024.

Date : 08.01.2025
Place : Patna

Authorised Officer
Indian Bank



पंजाब नैशनल बैंक Punjab national bank
...भरोसे का प्रतीक! ...the name you can BANK upon!

(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
Circle SASTRA Office, Bhagalpur (Ground Floor-Naulakha Appt.)
Opp. DIG Kothi, Badi Khanjarpur, Bihar-812001
Mob. No. 8918536149 (Email:cs8197@pnb.co.in)

BO: P.N.B. Munger (050820) Email: bo050820@pnb.co.in

Appendix-IV-A

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES [See Provision to rule 8(6) read with rule 9(1)]

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provisio to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described Immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/physical/symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Bank/Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on the date as mentioned in the table herein below, for recovery of its dues due to the Bank/Secured Creditor from the respective borrower (s) and guarantor (s). The reserve price and the earnest money deposit will be as mentioned in the table below against the respective properties.

SCHEDULE OF THE SECURED ASSETS

S. N.	Name of the branch;	Description of the Immovable Properties Mortgaged/Owner's Name (mortgagers of property) (ies)	(A) Date of Demand Notice u/s 13 (2) of SARFAESI Act 2002 (B) Outstanding Amount as on date of 13 (2) notice (C) Possession date u/s 13 (4) of SARFAESI Act 2002. (D) Nature of Possession Symbolic/Physical/Constructive	(A) Reserve Price (Rs.) (B) EMD (Rs.) (C) Bid Increase Amt. (Rs.)	Date/Time of E-Auction	Details of the encumbrances known to the secured creditors.
1.	BO: P.N.B. Munger (eUNI) (050820)	Collateral:- Equitable Mortgage Of Land and Building Vide Sale Deed No. 442 dated 09/02/2007 in the name of Smt. Siyamani Devi W/o Sh.Mohan Singh Situated at Bekapur, PS- Kotwali, Anchal-Sadar, PO & Distt.: Munger, Sub- Registry and District:- Munger, Touzi No.:3713, Khesra no.-41, Sheet no.- 01, Ward no.-10 (Old)/ 12(New) Jamabandi No.- 74, Area Of Land :-0.87 Decimal/380 sq.ft. Boundary of the entire Land & Building:- North- Legal Heirs of Late Bhola Sah and Masomat jagia Hall Dinesh Prasad, South- Nagarpalka Gali 6 Ft., East- Kali Tajjiya Road Vadhu Bhola Mandir, West- Hissedar Radhe Shyam Prasad	(A) 29.04.2024 (B) Rs. 27,10,335/- with further interest at the cotracted rate until payment in full (C) 19.07.2024 (D) Symbolic	(A) Rs. 25,61,422.50/- (B) Rs. 2,56,142/- (C) Rs. 25,614/-	26.02.2025 From 10:00 am to 05:00 pm	Nothing with in the knowledge of the Bank

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF E-AUCTION SALE

The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and to the following further conditions.
1. The properties are being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS"
2. The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule hereinabove have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorised Officer, but the Authorised Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation.
3. The sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the website https://baanknet.in on 26.02.2025 @ 10:am to 05:00 pm
For detailed term and conditions of the sale, please refer https://baanknet.in & www.pnbindia.in

Place : Bhagalpur
Date : 14.01.2025

STATUTORY SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002


Authorised Officer
Punjab National Bank

TENDER NOTICE

STATE COUNCIL OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING HARYANA, OPPOSITE PANCHAYAT BHAWAN, GURUGRAM invites tender for Tentage in sealed cover on the occasion of Rajya Stariya Bal Vaigyanik Pradarshani 2024-25 on or before... 20-01-2025... Details of tender is available at council website- www.scertharyana.gov.in
Sd/-
Director SCERT, Haryana Gurugram
No. 31698/HRY

"IMPORTANT"

Whilst care is taken prior to acceptance of advertising copy, it is not possible to verify its contents. The Indian Express (P) Limited cannot be held responsible for such contents, nor for any loss or damage incurred as a result of transactions with companies, associations or individuals advertising in its newspapers or Publications. We therefore recommend that readers make necessary inquiries before sending any monies or entering into any agreements with advertisers or otherwise acting on an advertisement in any manner whatsoever.



बैंक ऑफ बरौदा Bank of Baroda
बैंक ऑफ बरौदा

REGIONAL OFFICE, WHITE HOUSE COMPOUND, GAYA-823001

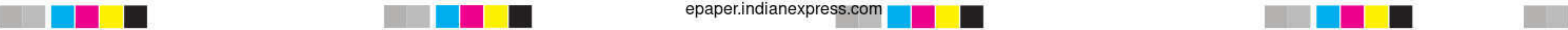
POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorised officer of the BANK OF BARODA under the securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon the borrower(s)/Guarantor to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/Guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub section (4) of section 13 of the Act with rule 8 of the said rules. The Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the BANK OF BARODA for the amount and further interest there of the contractual rate plus, charge and expenses till date of payment. The Borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub section (8) of section 13 of the SARFAESI Act 2002, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Name of the Branch/ Name & Address of the Borrower/Guarantors	Description of the Immovable Properties	Demand/ Possession Notice Date	Outstanding Amount
Bank of Baroda Dharharwa Branch	Equitable Mortgage of Residential Plot situated at Mauza- Dharharwa @ Parani Dharharwa, Thana No. 01, PS & Anchal Aurai, Aub Registry Office Katara, Dist. Muzaffarpur, Bearing Jamabandi No. 2811, 3751, Property 1:- bearing Khata No. 539, Khesra No- 713, Area:- 1.25 Decimal, Boundaries :N: Road Concrete, S: Gonour Rai & Jogendra Rai, E: Chandradeo Rai, W: Madan Rai. Property 2:- bearing Khata No. 539, Khesra No- 713, Area:- 2.05 Decimal, Boundaries :N: RSP No. 728, S: Shibu Mishra, E: Nij Vendee, W: Ramjee Sah	30-10-2024 / 09-01-2025	Rs. 20,67,919.27/- together with further interest thereon 29.10.24 at the contractual rate plus all cost charges & expenses till date payments

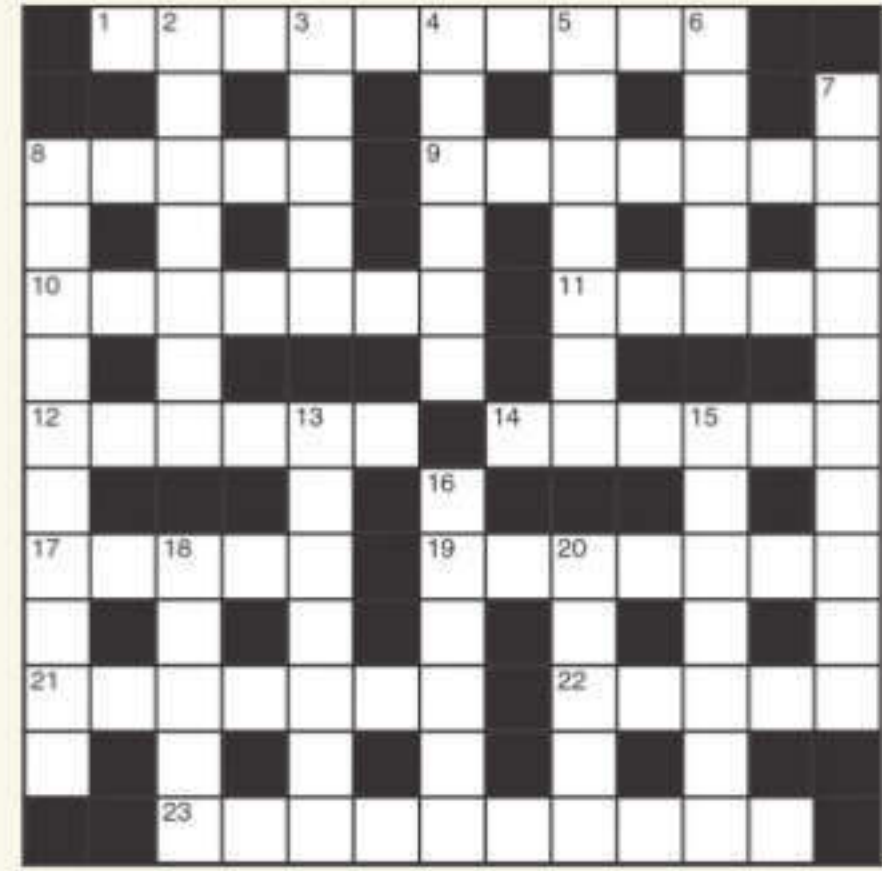
Place : Muzaffarpur
Date : 13.01.2025

Authorised Officer
Bank Of Baroda



epaper.indianexpress.com

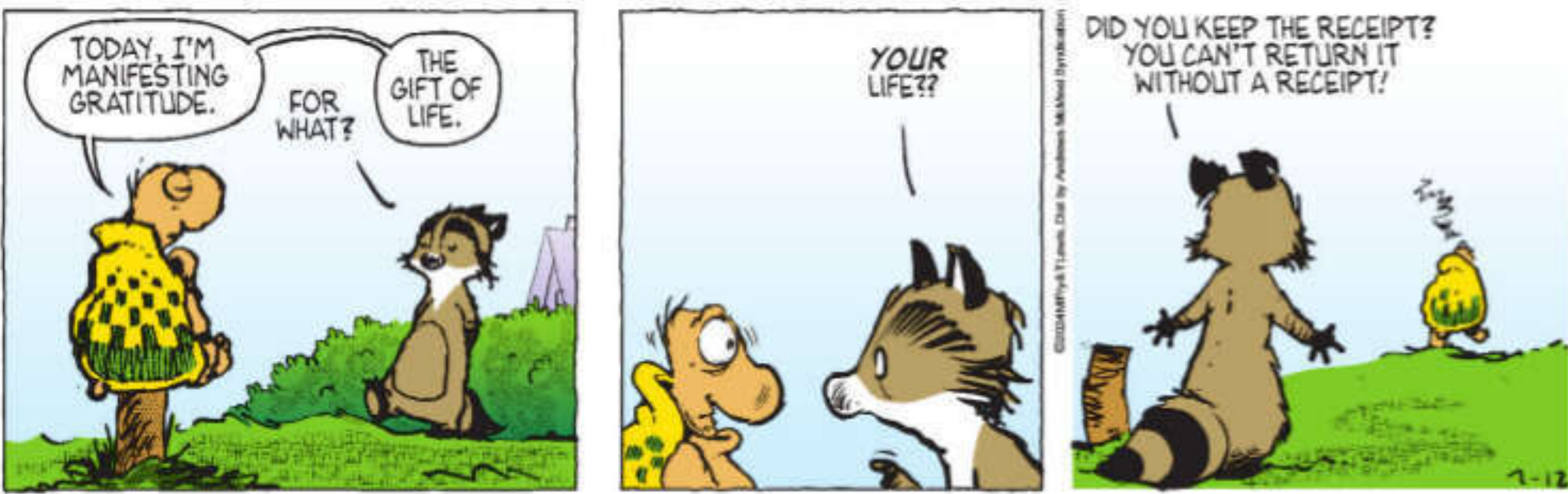
CROSSWORD 5573



- ACROSS
- 1 See that the standard is kept up (3,3,4)
- 8 Expect a hold-up (5)
- 9 It unfolds and gives way (7)
- 10 Raise two points he can change (7)
- 11 One taking part (5)
- 12 A selfish characteristic; no argument about it (6)
- 14 A matter of some gravity (6)
- 17 One who leads a large number to sin (5)
- 19 Fever may produce first-class alarm (7)
- 21 Just the opposite of prosaic? (7)
- 22 The usual object of retirement (5)
- 23 The knowledge of the most suitable gear to use (5,5)
- DOWN
- 2 The cow's outside (7)
- 3 It comes up to beat a giant (5)
- 4 Got out of doing something (6)
- 5 Unofficial news of an escape (7)
- 6 Complete set of notes (5)
- 7 Held by Florence Nightingale's ghost? (6,4)
- 8 Man with an unusually arid place in Egypt (10)
- 13 Add to the general confusion (7)
- 15 Gems that may appear strange in a new setting (7)
- 16 Urges some simple alterations (6)
- 18 Colourful figures in ancient Rome (5)
- 20 I sell new thread (5)

Solutions: Crossword 5572 Across: 1 Scurvy, 4 Tennis, 9 Couplet, 10 Cutie, 11 Delta, 12 Ill fame, 13 Got out of bed, 18 Pitcher, 20 Emmet, 22 Grown, 23 Enthuse, 24 Tender, 25 Extend Down: 1 Secede, 2 Usual, 3 Volcano, 5 Excel, 6 Nitrate, 7 Skewer, 8 Strict order, 14 Outworn, 15 Fuel tax, 16 Spigot, 17 Attend, 19 Hinge, 21 Mouse

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.
___ are but words, and words are but ___ - Samuel Butler (5,...,4)

DIYAS

EEYNT

EJMUDD

EINRHW

Answer: Paths are but words, and words are but wind - Samuel Butler

SUDOKU 5835

SOLUTION SUDOKU 5834

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 CrPc

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Amit Kumar, S/o Suraj Mal, R/o 1/9, Gali No.-01, Jag Jeevan Nagar (Kasturba Nagar), Shahdra, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case registered vide **FIR No. 410/2017, U/S 200 CrPc, P.S. Karawal Nagar, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused **Amit Kumar**, can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Amit Kumar**, has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Amit Kumar**, of **FIR No. 410/2017, U/S 200 CrPc, P.S. Karawal Nagar, Delhi** is required to appear before this court (or before me) to answer the complaint on or before the day of **22.02.2025**.

By Order,
Ms. Isra Zaidi
Judicial Magistrate First Class-04
Room No. 64, 4th Floor, N.E. District
Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

DP/489/NE/2025 (Court Matter)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 CrPc

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Person **Rohit @ Bachchan S/o: Bahadur, R/o G-22, Masjid Wali Gali, Krishan Vihar, Delhi**, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **E-FIR No. 20168/2019, U/S 379/356/411 IPC, P.S. Prasad Nagar, Central Distt., New Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Rohit @ Bachchan** cannot be found, and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Rohit @ Bachchan** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant);

Proclamation is hereby made that **Rohit @ Bachchan** the said accused of **E-FIR No. 20168/2019, U/S 379/356/411 IPC, P.S. Prasad Nagar, Central Distt., New Delhi**, is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **15.02.2025**.

By Order
Ms. Shipra Dhankar
Judicial Magistrate First Class-01 (Central),
Central Distt., Room No.-180,
Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

DP/517/CD/2025 (Court Matter)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Person namely **Satish Kumar S/o: Shriya, R/o: H. No. 11D, Dhankhni Block No. 2, Tehsil Narwaha, Distt. Jind, Haryana** (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **CT No. 5803/2019, U/s 138 NI Act**, registered at P.S.: KNK Marg, Delhi and the warrant has been returned writing upon that the said accused **Satish Kumar** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Satish Kumar** has absconded (or is concealing herself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Satish Kumar** accused **CT No. 5803/2019, U/s 138 NI Act**, registered at P.S.: KNK Marg, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **03.03.2025**.

By Order
Sh. Himanshu Sehloth, LD,
Judicial Magistrate First Class-03
North District, Room No. 213,
Rohini Courts, Delhi

DP/362/RD/2025 (Court Matter)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Person namely **Parmod Verma Prop of Authorised Signatory M/s Tecno, R/o: B-84, Complex, 2nd Floor, Kalyanpuri, Delhi** (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **CC No. 3135/2019, U/s 138 NI Act**, registered at P.S.: Bawana, Outer North Delhi and the warrant has been returned writing upon that the said accused **Parmod Verma** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Parmod Verma** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Parmod Verma** accused **CC No. 3135/2019, U/s 138 NI Act**, registered at P.S.: Bawana, Outer North, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **04.03.2025**.

By Order
Sh. Sarthak Panwar, LD,
Metropolitan Magistrate-05
North Rohini Courts, New Delhi

DP/474/ON/2025 (Court Matter)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Bimla Devi, W/o Amar Kannoja, R/o 16/72 I, Bapa Nagar, Karol Bagh, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 10/2019, U/s 411 IPC, P.S. Prasad Nagar, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Bimla Devi** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Bimla Devi** has absconded (or is concealing herself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Bimla Devi** accused of **FIR No. 10/2019, U/s 411 IPC, P.S. Prasad Nagar, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **14.02.2025**.

By Order
Ms. Shipra Dhankar
Judicial Magistrate First Class-01
Central District, Room No. 180
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

DP/17148/CD/2024

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(See Section 82 Cr.Pc)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Vijay Kapoor, S/o Surjan Dass R/o B-16/93, Geeta Colony, New Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No.408/21 Dt. 23.07.2021 u/s 33/58 Delhi Excise Act, P.S. Kalindi Kunj, New Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Vijay Kapoor** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Vijay Kapoor** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Vijay Kapoor** of **FIR No.408/21 Dt. 23.07.2021 u/s 33/58 Delhi Excise Act, P.S. Kalindi Kunj, New Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **14.02.2025**.

By Order,
Sh. Azad Sehrawat
Judicial Magistrate First Class-10, Room No.307, Ilrd Floor,
South East District, Saket Court, New Delhi

DP/569/SE/2025

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 CrPc

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Anuj Goyal, S/o Sh. Mahavir Prasad Goyal, R/o H. No. - 24, Block A, Gali No. 11, Near Kamal Pioneer School, Som Bazar Road, Vikas Nagar, Uttam Nagar, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case registered vide **FIR No. 81/2016, U/S 365 IPC, P.S. KN Katju Marg, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused **Anuj Goyal**, can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Anuj Goyal**, has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Anuj Goyal**, of **FIR No. 81/2016, U/S 365 IPC, P.S. KN Katju Marg, Delhi** is required to appear before this court (or before me) to answer the complaint on or before the day of **10.03.2025**.

By Order,
Sh. Himanshu Sehloth
LD Judicial Magistrate First Class-03
Court No. 213, North
Rohini Court, Delhi

DP/361/RD/2025 (Court Matter)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 84 BNSS

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **1. Man Kumar Ghale, S/o: Dhan Bahadur Ghale, R/o: Flat No. 2, 4th Floor, E-Block, Ryhan Residency, Ward No. 3, Mehrauli, New Delhi, 2. Kitbok Lyngdoh Nonglait, H/o: Tiewbanda K. Bani, R/o: Umlyangka-Nonglum, East Khasi Hills, Upper Shillong, Shillong, Meghalaya** have committed (or are suspected to have committed) the offence in **FIR No. 215/2024, U/s: 20/61/85 NDPS Act, 78 Juvenile Justice Act, Police Station Safdarjung Enclave, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused **1.Man Kumar Ghale, 2.Kitbok Lyngdoh Nonglait** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **1.Man Kumar Ghale, 2.Kitbok Lyngdoh Nonglait** have absconded (or are concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **1.Man Kumar Ghale, 2.Kitbok Lyngdoh Nonglait** of **FIR No. 215/2024, U/s: 20/61/85 NDPS Act, 78 Juvenile Justice Act, Police Station Safdarjung Enclave, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **24.02.2025**.

By Order
Sh. Gaurav Gupta,
Ld. ASJ/Special Judge NDPS Act, Room No. 505
Saket Courts, New Delhi

DP/461/SW/2025

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 (2) (ii) CrPc

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Namely: **Faizan, S/o. Rahish Ahmed, R/o. H.No.11A/227, Janta Mazdoor Colony, Welcome, Delhi** also at: **Khasra No.1314, Ward No.6, Dabar Talab, Loni, Ghaziabad, U.P** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in a case vide **FIR No.231/2018 U/S 324 IPC** registered at **P.S Jafrabad, Delhi** and it has been returned on a warrant of arrest thereupon issued stating that the said **Faizan** could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that accused **Faizan** is absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Faizan** is required to appear before the court to answer the said complaint on or before **17.02.2025**.

By Order
AAYUSHI SAXENA
Judicial Magistrate First Class-05,
Shahdara Distt., Room No.07,
Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

DP/291/NE/2025

DAY TODAY by PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
For the last few weeks you may have been caught in a fog, unable to see your way forward with your usual clarity. Several planets are now hovering on the very brink of a new sector of your chart, heralding a fresh phase of energetic restlessness.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)
Venus and Mars are in their own ways so constructive that we can conclude that for once you feel like a square peg in a square hole. In other words, you are getting on very well indeed. Just one condition, though, you need to clear up all unfinished emotional business.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
An unusually complex relationship between the Sun and Mercury should make for a lively and satisfying week, mainly from the social point of view. Personal contacts could help your progress at work, but this is no time to take dubious offers at face value: look a little deeper.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)
You're walking an emotional tightrope, but even today there's an impetuous mood in the air which suits you. You'll be free to chop and change and cancel agreements, but don't be surprised if more conventional people look askance at your behaviour.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
You may still feel a little out on a limb or out in the cold, but there's a great deal you can do to re-establish ordinary human contact. The influence of that energetic sign Aries will soon have you back on form, boosting your social confidence and giving you the edge over your rivals.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)
The advantageous sectors of your solar chart are without a doubt those pointing to your financial fortunes. Although it looks as if there'll be a slight hiccup in personal matters, business relationships should be perfectly profitable.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
It's at work that the main problems are likely to crop up. This may come as a surprise to those of you who imagine that personal affairs are most important. Intimate and family issues should be dealt with smoothly over the next forty-eight hours if possible.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
Your social stars are still very strong and, although one friendship or attachment should have weathered recent storms, you must now ensure that you are not getting too carried away by your thoroughly individual emotions. What you need now is a sense of stability.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
You can best make further progress by offloading some financial responsibilities and cutting your costs. Allow loved ones to take over the reins if you think you can trust them. If you can't, then you can at least offer them some constructive advice.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
You're now entering a high-spending phase. Over the next few weeks, you'll be juggling your finances as only a true Piscean can. Everything about the present time suggests an easy ride, so don't make life difficult for yourself. And don't tangle with authority figures either.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)
There are some wonderful planetary alignments this week to encourage you, including aspects to Jupiter, the planet of optimism. It's a week to go wild socially, if that's not too out of character. If you do let your hair down then anything could happen.

SLAM SNIPPETS



Hunger for tennis is 'different from before', says Tsitsipas

STEFANOS TSITSIPAS blew up on his own team midway through a shocking Round 1 loss at the Australian Open. The Greek was angry after going a break down in the fourth set after he floated a forehand long. The 11th seed eventually lost 7-5, 6-3, 2-6, 6-4 to American Alex Michelsen.

Later in the press conference, Tsitsipas explained how tough a time he was going through, including guilt tripping himself unnecessarily for pulling out of doubles where he was supposed to play with brother, Petros. "I guess karma hit me. I was not able to deliver or play the way I was hoping to at this year's event. The whole purpose was just to save up on some energy and be fresher, hopefully in the deeper draw of the tournament." Tsitsipas was also battling serious motivation issues, as compared to his debut in 2018. "I had a fresher mind back then [when I started playing]. It seemed like I was hungrier in a completely different way than I am now," he revealed. "I would definitely say that one thing that stood out the most back then is that I had this hunger to try and make a life out of tennis and to try to have a good beginning in my tennis career and my tennis journey. It's different than it is now." **ENS**

'May have played for last time at Aus Open'

IF THIS was the last Australian Open singles match of Nick Kyrgios' career — and, to be sure, it's hard to know with him, no matter what came out at his news conference — the big-hitting, big-talking tennis player went out rather quietly Monday night.

Sure, Kyrgios delivered the occasional ace and his favorite sort of trick shots, delighting a home crowd as he usually does. But his much-anticipated return to Melbourne Park after two seasons filled with injuries and surgeries did not last long or go particularly well, and the 2022 Wimbledon runner-up was hampered by a recent abdominal strain while losing 7-6(3), 6-3, 7-6(2) to unseeded Jacob Fearnley in under 2 1/2 hours. Afterward, Kyrgios said he doubts he ever will be back to compete in singles at his nation's Grand Slam tournament, although he does plan to remain in the doubles bracket this year alongside countryman and good pal Thanasi Kokkinakis. They won the Australian Open doubles trophy together in 2022.

"I mean, realistically, I can't really see myself probably playing singles again here," Kyrgios said.

Perhaps that was something said purely in the heat of the moment. "It's hard," said Kyrgios, who noted that he does plan to return to Wimbledon in June. "When you're competing for the biggest tournaments in the world and you're struggling to win sets physically, it's pretty tough." **AP**

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Master tested by disciple

Indian-origin American Basavareddy, with attributes inspired by Djokovic, makes a contest of opening round

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JANUARY 13

WITH FORMER rival Andy Murray in his corner, Novak Djokovic's bid to rebuild his form and create more history at the venue at which he has won 10 of his 24 Grand Slam titles, was one of the major storylines heading into this year's Australian Open.

Within the first hour of his first round match on Sunday, the rebuild ran into trouble. The breakthrough American prospect, Nishesh Basavareddy, with Indian heritage, led his idol and the player he has modelled his game after, by one set at his favourite hunting ground — night-time at Rod Laver Arena.

After Basavareddy, 19, faced some cramping and physical issues, Djokovic raised his level to win the match 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-1, 6-2. But the competitive contest would confirm two things: that Djokovic's game remains far from the celestial heights it has often reached in Melbourne Park, and that Basavareddy's promising game may be one to watch for the future.

Djokovic certainly thinks so. "He (Basavareddy) was the better player for a set and a half and deserves all the applause that he got," he said on court. "Just a very complete player. Very pleasantly surprised me with all his shots and the fighting spirit he showed so I wish him all the best."

The 19-year-old's parents hail from Nellore, Andhra Pradesh, and moved to San Francisco back in 1999. Basavareddy was born in Newport Beach, California, and at the age of eight, he moved to Carmel, a town in central Indiana.

Basavareddy would pick up tennis in Carmel, and would soon come under the tutelage of Rajeev Ram — the six-time men's doubles Grand Slam winner who is a fellow Indian-origin American and graduated from the same high school. The teenager has also received two grants from Ram's foundations.

"We've formed a pretty neat bond as two kids from this town, both of Indian-American heritage, trying to make it in professional tennis," Ram told *WTHR* in August, when Basavareddy competed in the qualification round of the 2024 US Open.

The promising American would accept college scholarship to attend Stanford University, and played in the Division I National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) program. During his two years at University, he impressed at the lower-rung Challenger tour and decided to turn pro, shortly after which he qualified for last year's NextGen ATP Finals in Jeddah.

2025 has already been promising, with main draw qualifications in Brisbane and Auckland (where he reached the semifinal), but a statement was made against Djokovic on Monday. Basavareddy holds the Serb as his idol — he was born a few months after Djokovic's Grand Slam debut. "My favourite has always been Djokovic. I've looked up to a lot of different players and modelled my game after a lot of players, but he's been my favourite," he was quoted as saying by *Reuters*.

And the opening exchanges of their match — Basavareddy's Grand Slam debut



Nishesh Basavareddy (L), 19, took a set off his idol before losing in four to Novak Djokovic on Monday.

Reuters

Key Results

MEN'S SINGLES:

[1] Jannik Sinner defeated Nicolas Pietrangeli 7-6(2), 7-6(5), 6-1; [3] Carlos Alcaraz defeated Alexander Shevchenko 6-1, 7-5, 6-1; [7] Novak Djokovic defeated Nishesh Basavareddy 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-2; Alex Michelsen defeated [11] Stefanos Tsitsipas 5-7, 3-6, 6-2, 4-6.

WOMEN'S SINGLES:

[2] Iga Swiatek defeated Katerina Siniakova 6-3, 6-4; [3] Coco Gauff defeated Sofia Kenin 6-3, 6-2; Belinda Bencic defeated [16] Jelena Ostapenko 6-3, 7-6(6); [7] Jessica Pegula defeated Maya Joint 6-3, 6-0.

-- would make that obvious. The American's heavy backhand, solid baseline game and return strategies were straight out of the Djokovic playbook, and while the Serb may have been flat in the opening set, it was Basavareddy who was extracting errors and taking control by moving him across the court.

The high physical toll and nervous energy caused some cramping for the American midway through the second set, from where Djokovic took control. It's the kind of lesson teenagers often learn facing the greats on the biggest stages of the sport. But there was plenty to write home about the young American's game that may suggest he may pull away from the journeyman status that often surrounds first-round losers at the Majors.

AI faux pas: Faceless voice interrupts match with scream

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JANUARY 13

THE TIME violation called in home player Jordan Thompson's first round win at the Australian Open was supposed to be the chief drama of the March. "You could just say 'hurry up' ... you didn't give me one warning," Thompson kept arguing with the chair, early in his 7-6(3), 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 victory against German qualifier Dominik Koepfer.

But it was the eerie faceless voice screaming "foot fault, foot fault, foot fault" before Koepfer even begun his serve in the fourth set, that sent a round of laughter, in the tense match.

"Thommo" as the Aussie is known, post a win against Djokovic in the past, is popular for his high intensity dramatic matches. He had taken the first two sets 7-6(7-3), 6-4 against the countering German who was fighting back. Koepfer broke Thompson right away at the start of the 4th. And what followed was a bizarre erupting of machine-recorded voice, chanting "foot faultx3..."

Koepfer went on to lose the game, his momentum, set and match thereafter as the video surfaced on *theroar.com*.

ABC reported in its live blog, "Jordan Thompson suffered an early scare at the beginning of the fourth set, getting broken immediately by Koepfer. But he was able to break back — not before the AI technology decided to shout out "foot fault, foot fault,

foot fault" before Koepfer had even begun his serve. It sounded like a remix of sorts. Thompson's showing plenty of fight, so let's hope he continues to bring it."

The reported malfunction was a direct result of AI Umpiring which has waded into AI-powered foot-fault detection since 2024. "It utilizes skeletal tracking technology to improve match accuracy and reduce human error. This innovation reflects the Open's proactive adoption of cutting-edge technologies," according to the *upside.us* podcast.

The Australian Open was among the first tournaments to take up Hawk-Eye technology, providing line-calling to challenge umpire decisions. But completely doing away with lines persons was justified with the arguments for technology being: "AI doesn't tire, doesn't feel pressure, and doesn't have personal biases." The AO adoption of tech has been greatly publicized by Machar Reid, the head of Innovation of Tennis Australia who owns the Australian Open Tennis, and his own tech venture. Reid had said on the podcast that it was the "only tennis work to have landed the data analytics prize at the MIT Sloan conference."

While rooting for the tech, Reid added, "part of their product roadmap is to actually build out a line calling solution on a single mobile device...Andy Roddick and James Blake are also equally some of the early investors in the group that I mentioned earlier, Swing Vision. So now we're co-invested with those two."

In the 50-over Vijay Hazare Trophy, Arshdeep is the leading wicket taker with 20 wickets. He was at his menacing best with the new ball, picking up nine wickets including a fifer against heavyweight Mumbai.



Since making his India debut in 2022, Arshdeep Singh has taken 95 wickets. *Sportspics*

Sri Lanka, the in-form Arshdeep Singh is India's best bet for the Champions Trophy.

Arshdeep's former captain Mandeep Singh, who now plays for Tripura in domestic cricket says, "*Abhi nahi toh kab* (If not now then when)."

Mandeep says the Ajit Agarkar-led panel missed the trick by not picking Arshdeep

Singh for the recently concluded Border-Gavaskar Trophy, which India lost by 1-3.

"We went with the pre-conceived notion that we need bowlers, who can hit the deck hard. Not a single swing bowler was picked. Scott Boland showed us what a good bowler can do on those lively surfaces. India should have picked Arshdeep Singh. A left-

Rohit to turn up for Mumbai Ranji team practice

DEVENDRA PANDEY
JANUARY 13

INDIAN CAPTAIN Rohit Sharma has informed the Mumbai team management that he will be turning up for the practice session for Ranji Trophy which is scheduled to be held on Tuesday morning at the Wankhede Stadium.

Sharma has resumed his training at the MCA-BKC ground in order to prepare for the upcoming Champions Trophy. The Mumbai team will make use of a centre-wicket practice session for their next Ranji Trophy league round which is scheduled to be played in Mumbai against Jammu & Kashmir. A source in the MCA informed that Sharma hasn't given his availability yet and is still mulling whether to play the Ranji Trophy league game or not.

"He will be coming for practice sessions with the Mumbai Ranji Trophy team and it is still not decided whether he will be playing the next Ranji Trophy game against J&K. He will tell the MCA in due course," a source in the MCA informed. Sharma's last appearance with the Mumbai team was in 2015 against Uttar Pradesh. He had a series of bad knocks in India's tour of Australia, scoring 3, 9, 10, 3, 6 runs in four Test matches, averaging around 10.93, and then decided to step down from captaincy for the last Test against Australia in Sydney.

Earlier the Indian team coach Gautam Gambhir had stated how he likes everyone to play domestic cricket.

"I would always like everyone to play domestic cricket. That is how much importance domestic cricket needs to be given. Not only one game, but if they are available and have the commitment to play red-ball cricket, everyone should play domestic cricket. It's as simple as it can get. If you don't give importance to domestic cricket, you will never get the desired players that you want in Test cricket," Gambhir had said after India's series defeat in Sydney.

The next Ranji Trophy round is scheduled to kick off from January 23 and it will be interesting to see whether Virat Kohli too turns up for Delhi. Kohli's last appearance for the team came in 2012. The BCCI has advised its players to take part in domestic cricket but it hasn't made it mandatory for its contracted players.

Gill likely to play for Punjab

The Indian Express understands that Indian batsman Shubman Gill will turn up to play for Punjab against Karnataka. Gill had a disappointing tour Down Under, not capitalizing after getting a start. His score in three Test matches read 31, 28, 1, 20 and 13. He looked ordinary and more than his batting, it was his temperament which was questioned in Australia.



Rohit Sharma's last Ranji Trophy appearance for Mumbai was in 2015 in a match against Uttar Pradesh. *Sportspics*

NEW BALL MENACE

Arshdeep, wicket-taking bowler India need for Champions Trophy

PRATYUSH RAJ
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 13

LAST WEEK, a couple of videos of Arshdeep Singh making the ball talk went viral on social media.

After Australia humbled India within three days on a lively Sydney pitch, the County Championship shared a video of the left-arm Arshdeep Singh knocking over Essex's Paul Walter with the commentators gushing: "Oh what a ball, that's a beauty by Arshdeep Singh, top of off stumps, bails flying, and that swung back in as well. Wow, what a beauty!"

A couple of days ago, BCCI domestic shared the highlights of Arshdeep's new ball spell against Maharashtra in Punjab's Vijay Hazare Trophy. The left-arm seamer cut India hopeful Ruturaj Gaikwad in half, beating his outside edge, before knocking his off stump.

Arshdeep has made a habit of producing rippers like the Babar Azam's wicket in his first-ever World Cup (2022) delivery for instance. In three years since making his debut in 2022, with 95 scalps to his name, he has become India's leading wicket take in the T20Is.

In the 50-over Vijay Hazare Trophy, Arshdeep is the leading wicket taker with 20 wickets. He was at his menacing best with the new ball, picking up nine wickets including a fifer against heavyweight

Mumbai. Unlike the stereotype about him, he has also been great with the old ball, snaring 11 wickets.

Punjab bowling coach Harmeet Singh Bansal says the one spell from Arshdeep that selectors must watch before picking up squad for the Champions Trophy is against Mumbai. On a pitch, where there was nothing for seam bowlers, Arshdeep removed Mumbai's five of their top six batters in his first spell. Arshdeep's victims were former and current India U-19 openers Angkrish Raghuvanshi and Ayush Mhatre, his newly-appointed Punjab Kings captain Shreyas Iyer, India's T20I skipper Suryakumar Yadav and Shivam Dube.

"The wicket was not helpful for the seam bowlers at all. Arshdeep was our lone front-line seamer. He bowled beautifully, moved it both ways and toppled Mumbai's top-order. He single-handedly destroyed Mumbai's top-order. Look at the wickets, he has taken. That line-up can easily be at par with any top international side," Harmeet tells *The Indian Express*.

"He bowled beautifully throughout the tournament. Always turned up for big matches. If there is even gentle help from the pitch, he makes the most out of it."

With Jasprit Bumrah unlikely to feature in India's Champions Trophy squad, uncertainty over Mohammed Shami's fitness, and Mohammed Siraj blowing hot and cold since his magical spell in the Asia Cup final against

not big, in eight matches, Arshdeep has picked up 12 wickets, including a fifer in seaming conditions at the Wanderers, where he ran through South Africa's top-order like he did against Mumbai.

Arshdeep's childhood coach Jaswant Rai feels his ward is ready to take bigger responsibilities.

"Before the Mumbai game, he told me 'is match mey mai dikhanuga ki mai kya kar sakta hun (In this match I will show what I can do)'. It was a big match, big team and he turned up and destroyed them. I have only seen the scorecard of that match. But I watched the quarterfinals against Maharashtra. Ruturaj looked clueless."

"He is very keen to play all three formats. He wants to prove himself and wants the selectors to notice his performance," he adds.

Rai says he can have the same effect as Bhuvneshwar Kumar used to have with the new ball. "You remember how MS Dhoni used to utilise Bhuvni with the new ball. He used to bowl seven overs upfront. And if he can get you two or three wickets quickly, you are already ahead in the match."

Arshdeep's real value comes when batsmen put the pedal to metal in the last phase of the innings. "He is a dependable death bowler also," says Rai.

"I feel the time is ripe for him to play longer formats consistently. Now they are kind of delaying his progress. Give him a chance at least to fail."

BRIEFLY

Cummins, Hazlewood in Australia CT squad

Sydney: Pat Cummins was on Monday named captain of Australia for next month's Champions Trophy while fellow pacer Josh Hazlewood too was included in the squad despite lingering injury concerns surrounding both players. Cummins was managing an ankle injury throughout the recent Border-Gavaskar Trophy against India, which played a part in him missing the upcoming tour to Sri Lanka along with the pacer wanting to stay back at home to welcome his second baby. Hazlewood, side lined from the Melbourne and Sydney Tests due to a calf niggle, was similarly not picked for the Sri Lanka series but has been named in the preliminary 15-player Champions Trophy squad. **PTI**

Tardin hits hat-trick in Lajong's 5-0 win

Shillong: Brazilian striker Douglas Tardin scored a hat-trick inside 15 minutes — the fastest of the season — as Shillong Lajong thrashed Sporting Club Bengaluru 5-0 in an I-League match here on Monday. At the SSA Stadium, Lajong ran riot with goals from Daniel Goncalves (40th minute), Figo Syndai (45+2) and Tardin (60th, 67th, 75th) while it was utter humiliation for the newly-promoted Bengaluru side. Lajong's third win of the campaign and fourth consecutive clean sheet at home lifted them to fourth place with 12 points. **PTI**

U19 WC warm-up: India thrash Scotland

Kuala Lumpur: Defending champions India thrashed Scotland by 119 runs in a warm-up match of the ICC Women's Under-19 T20 World Cup here on Monday. Invited to bat, India made 164 for 7 in their allotted 20 overs with Kamalini G top-scoring with 32 off 23 balls. Four Indian batters — Trisha G (26), Sanika Chalke (17), captain Niki Prasad (25) and Kamalini -- were retired out to give chance to their colleagues to be in the middle in the practice match. For Scotland, Ammy Baldie was the most successful bowler with 2/13 from 3 overs. **PTI**

Liverpool braced for Forest test: Slot

Liverpool: Liverpool head coach Arne Slot lavished praise on Nottingham Forest and said on Monday that his side will have their work cut out trying to get a positive result when the two teams face-off at the City Ground. While Liverpool are unbeaten on the road in the Premier League this campaign, Slot was aware Nuno Espirito Santo's Forest are dangerous opponents. Forest are the only team to beat Liverpool in the league this season, with the shock 1-0 win coming at Anfield in September. Liverpool top the Premier League standings with 46 points from 19 matches, six ahead of third-placed Forest. **REUTERS**

New beginning, same desire

PV Sindhu, with new coach Irwansyah in her corner, says the fire is still there to win the big medals

VINAYAKK MOHANARANGAN
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 13

AT 29, PV Sindhu starts the 2025 season with winds of change on her back and it is not lost on her. "Everything is new," she said with a smile when asked at the India Open pre-tournament press event about starting the new year as a newlywed. She is seeking to find joy again in the sport that has given her so much.

The oddly new feeling of restarting her tour without an Olympic medal around her neck. And she will do that with a new coach in her corner.

Sindhu confirmed on Monday that she has recently begun training under Irwansyah, the former Indonesia men's singles coach who has made his move to India. Irwansyah is credited with the rise of Indonesia's men's singles stars Jonatan Christie and Anthony Ginting, who have both been as high as No 2 in the world. Sindhu, as well BAI General Secretary Sanjay Mishra, confirmed that Irwansyah will be taking up the role of India's women's singles coach.

"I'll be training in Bangalore with Irwansyah from Indonesia, who is now basically the women's singles coach," Sindhu told select media on Monday in Delhi. "After marriage, I returned to full training at the start of January, so it's been just over a week. He's here with me for the Indian Open. I've heard a lot about (his work with Ginting and Christie), and I believe he is a good coach for me. The way he thinks and approaches opponents is impressive. I'm really looking forward to working with him. It will take time, of course."

There has been a lot of churn in Sindhu's coaching over the last couple of years. She has tried out quite a few personal coaches since parting ways with Korea's Park Tae Sang. There was Muhammad Hafiz Hashim from Malaysia, Agus Dwi Santoso from Indonesia, Lee Hyun-il of Korea, along with Indian stalwarts Vimal Kumar, Prakash Padukone and Anup Sridhar more recently.

But the difference this time is going to be that Irwansyah is going to train a group of players, of course with Sindhu as the primary asset. "I am looking forward to building a bond, as it's important for a coach and an athlete to understand each other. A few training sessions will help us come together, and I look forward to that process," Sindhu said.

When Tan Kim Her's appointment was confirmed, the BAI decided it clear that he was coming in the capacity of the national team doubles coach, "to continue the development of our badminton stars and also work with a bigger group of players and help build a strong pipeline of talent for the future."

"BAI, along with SAI and sports ministry, are trying to avoid appointing personal coaches," Mishra, the federation's general secretary, told The Indian Express. "Any foreign coach who comes in will be focussing a group of players or pairs. Sindhu is no doubt a national asset, but there is always the question -- who after her? So at least this way a group of 4-5 talented junior girls can train with her, and they will gain the confidence of sparring with a legend. And also, we will have a couple of junior coaches along with this group who can learn from the Indonesian. We want Irwansyah's main focus to be on Sindhu, but along with that, we want to develop the talent."



PV Sindhu will begin her India Open campaign on Tuesday against Sung Shuo-yun of Chinese Taipei

There is one question that has followed Sindhu since Paris constantly: 'Are you thinking about LA 2028?' But in the here and now, Sindhu said that the primary aim is to stay away niggling injuries. "After the Olympics, people ask what's next or if I'm playing in the next Olympics. It's important to stay injury-free, that's my primary goal. We'll be picking and choosing tournaments carefully."

Does she have unfulfilled goals? Sindhu -- a two-time Olympic medallist, a world championship gold medallist and so much more -- said the fire inside hasn't dimmed just yet. "I feel there's a lot more to achieve. I have that fire in me. It's just a matter of time and rhythm. Another medal at the World Championships is something I definitely want, along with the All England Championships. We have big tournaments like the World Tour Finals."

She will begin her campaign on Tuesday against Sung Shuo Yun of Chinese Taipei and will likely run into Gregoria Mariska Tunjung in the quarterfinal.

And if she passes that test, comes the biggest challenge in badminton in the semifinal: An Se Young. The newness in Sindhu's career might take time to shape up but we will get an early sign of what 2025 has in store for her.

Why BAI decided to introduce online ticketing system

VINAYAKK MOHANARANGAN
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 13

FOR THE first time, the India Open badminton tournament will have paid tickets, and an online-only paperless process to go along with it.

Even after being upgraded to a Super 750 event on the BWF World Tour for the last couple of editions, the Badminton Association of India (BAI) continued with the tradition of having free tickets for the event that takes place at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in Delhi.

Last year, the turnout was especially impressive over the last couple of rounds, with Indians HS Prannoy and Satwik-Chirag in action. But the process to get tickets was cumbersome as fans had to come to the venue a day earlier to pick up free paper tickets to be present for next day's matches.

Most importantly, the BAI wanted to trial this system before hosting the World Championships in 2026. "BWF says that for

World Championships, it is mandatory to have a ticketing system in place," BAI secretary general Sanjay Mishra told *The Indian Express*.

"We are trying this for the first time, as we want to tap into the large fanbase for badminton in the country. As far as I know, apart from cricket, no federation in India has been able to figure out having tickets for events in India. So it's a first experience, let's see how it goes, the early signs are good. We are trying to gauge response before the 2026 Worlds."

There is also the ease of it. When announcing Ticmint as the ticketing platform, BAI had said that they were enhancing convenience and accessibility while reducing on-ground congestion. "This move will allow us to give priority to fans who truly want to watch the sport live, offering them a hassle-free way to secure their seats," they had said in a statement.

Tickets are available for the lowest denomination of Rs 200 and as per organisers, a total of approximately 2,500 tickets have been sold as of the day before the event.

Soorma score four times in frantic 10-min spell for victory



Soorma Hockey began their HIL campaign with a 4-1 win over Shrachi Rah Bengal Tigers. **HIL**

EXPRESSNEWSERVICE
JANUARY 13

DOWN BY a goal after just seven minutes, Soorma Hockey Club scored four times in a frantic 10-minute period to begin their women's Hockey India League campaign with an emphatic 4-1 win over Shrachi Rah Bengal Tigers in Ranchi on Monday. In the men's league match, meanwhile, Tamil Nadu Dragons defeated Delhi SG Pipers 3-2.

Hannah Cotter put the Tigers in front against the run of play. The New Zealand international received the ball after the Tigers got a free hit in a dangerous area and fired a powerful shot past the goalkeeper to score her - and her team's - first goal of the season.

Soorma, who hadn't done a lot wrong until then, continued to press but did not have much to show. In search of an equaliser, Soorma won the first penalty corner of the match in the 11th minute but Penny Squibb's drag-flick was deflected well by the Tigers.

Although the Tigers had chances to double their lead, Soorma controlled the flow with some relentless attacking hockey. Soorma won four penalty corners in the second quarter and found the net on one occasion, in the 21st minute, but unfortunately for them, the goal didn't stand after the umpire took a video referral and spotted stick interference made by a Soorma attacker. Olivia Shannon equalised in the 38th minute. Shortly after, Charlotte Englebert put them ahead before captain Salima Tete and Sonam added two more goals to put the result beyond any doubt.

In the opening minutes of the third quarter, they won back-to-back penalty corners but Bengal Tigers keeper Grace O'Hanlon made a couple of brilliant saves to keep the lead intact. Moments later, Tigers too started attacking aggressively and won a penalty corner in the 33rd minute, but captain Udit's drag-flick was thwarted by the Soorma defence.

Soorma's continuous attacking threats finally paid off when they found the equaliser in the 38th minute. Penny Squibb carried the ball from deep in her half beating her markers and passed it onto Deepika Soreng who left it for Olivia Shannon on the left. Shannon fired the ball into the bottom left corner, beating the outstretched goalkeeper.

Four minutes later, Soorma completed their comeback thanks to a goal from Charlotte Englebert, which came courtesy of a successfully orchestrated penalty corner variation. Soorma extended their lead in the 44th minute as captain Salima Tete made a solid effort from distance and found the net from a tight angle to place her side in a dominant position at the end of the third quarter. In the 47th minute, Sonam converted a penalty stroke to complete the tally.

Saudi Arabia can take a leaf out of Qatar's book

SANDIPG
JANUARY 13

IN THE Iranian movie *Offside*, a group of girls disguise themselves as boys to defy the only-male rule and sneak into a stadium to watch Iran's qualifier for the 2006 World Cup. Shot during a real match at a real stadium, with two improvised climaxes, the movie was intended as a comedy. While it delivered the laughs, it also captured the plight of football's female fans in the Middle East.

The movie that won global acclaim was released in 2006, although it took another 17 years for women to enter a stadium in Iran without passing off as boys. In December 2023, 3,000 women swarmed into the stands of the suitably-title Azadi Stadium to watch the Tehran derby between Persepolis and Esteghlal.

Beyond the Persian Gulf, in Saudi Arabia, the gates of three stadiums were opened for the first time for women in 2018. In its global image makeover exercise, Saudi relaxed its stringent, draconian laws on women's freedom. A year later, they relaxed the guardianship norms, which gives a man legal responsibility for a woman's choices. Some of the diktats still exist, but women needn't seek husbands' approval to watch a football game, at least.

In 2020, a women's league was constituted. Two years later, Saudi women played their first-ever international game, a friendly against Mauritius. Remarkably, players were not bound to wear the hijab. It was Saudi officials who lobbied FIFA to ban the hijab in football. Six years on, with the Saudi League glamourising with celebrated footballers from Europe, Africa and Latin America, spot-

ting women in stands, although not bouncing in the aisles or shrieking or whistling like those in Europe or Americas, is no longer rare. Women can drive and enter a restaurant on their own too. Until a few years' ago, there were two doors to enter a restaurant. One for the family; one for men. Now, they can register for a divorce too.

But the question lingers: How friendly would Saudi Arabia be to women during the 2034 World Cup? The country ranked 126th among 146 countries in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap report last year. In 2022, they occupied the 136th place. Nearly a dozen women's rights activists are serving their terms in prisons. For decades, religious police officers roamed the streets hunting for unmarried couples and shouting at women to cover up.

Their image revamp endeavour took a turn for the worse when partners of Real Mallorca players alleged they were "harassed" during their Supercopa de Espana semi-final against Real Madrid last week.

Partner of Dani Rodriguez, Cristina Palavra told Esports IB3: "We were with our children and there was no security. The truth is that the guys from this country (Saudi Arabia) started taking photos of us up close and harassed us. We felt disoriented because nobody was protecting us."

Natalia Kaluzova, the partner of Dominik Greif, told Marca that "a group of people came towards us and made videos of us, they pushed us, they insulted us in Arabic, they recorded us without consent and there were attacks."

Some of the travelling female fans complained of lack of adequate lavatories for women and were inappropriately touched. The Federation of Shareholders and



There were hardly any instances of misbehaviour with female supporters during the Qatar 2022 World Cup.

Members of Spanish Football issued a statement condemning the fans' behaviour. "We've spent years relocating our Supercopa to a country where fundamental rights aren't respected and which lead to a risk for male fans and, above all, for female fans who travel there."

Turning a new leaf

The incidents come at a time when Saudi Arabia is trying its best to improve its image in the Western world. But the country could draw inspiration from Qatar -- a country yet

to criminalise domestic violence or sexual assault and ranks worse than Saudi (130) in the Global Gender Gap report. Similar apprehensions swirled before the World Cup in 2022. But the edition turned out to be one of the safest for women. Heavily manned by police and armed forces, importing thousands of retired Army officers from Pakistan, women hardly felt unsafe even in the dead of the night. Women and children thronged touristy areas such as Souq Waqif and fan zones spread all over the city. In the stadium, too, there was barely an instance of sexual harassment or inappropriate behaviour.

The ban of alcohol in stadiums was cited as one of the reasons for a lower incidence of any type of violence. Liquor laws are stricter in Saudi, where there is just one outlet in the entire country to buy alcohol. It is unlikely that the government would relax the rule nine years later either.

Though the Gender Gap remains, Saudi, according to the World Population Review, is not as dangerous for women travellers as Russia (2018 hosts), Brazil (2014) or Mexico (2026 co-hosts), or India.

It ranks lower in crimes against women than every South Asian country. Saudi Arabia even won an uncontested bid to lead a United Nations body dedicated to women's rights for the 2025 session.

Between 2025 and 2034 though, the country could do its bit to educate its citizens about in-stadia behaviour during the World Cup. Perhaps, it could start from its moneyed league games, so that women needn't hit the stadiums disguised as boys. The complaints of Spanish fans during the Supercopa de Espana should be a rap on the knuckles. Much has changed, but much remains to be changed.

Barcelona rout Real Madrid to lift Spanish Super Cup

ASSOCIATED PRESS
JEDDAH, JANUARY 13

REAL MADRID came out looking for some payback in the latest "clasico" against Barcelona but ended up being embarrassed again. Madrid lost 5-2 to Barcelona in the Spanish Super Cup final at Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on Sunday. That followed a 4-0 loss at home to Barcelona in the Spanish league in October.

Kylian Mbappé put Madrid ahead early in his second clasico, but Barcelona then ran away with goals by Lamine Yamal, Robert Lewandowski, Raphinha -- who scored twice -- and Alejandro Balde.

Rodrygo scored for Madrid on the hour mark after Barcelona goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny was sent off early in the second half.

It was the third straight win for Barcelona in 2025 after it lost two games in a row to end last year. "The Christmas break helped us reflect on what we had done wrong," Lewandowski said. "Now we can look forward to the run of games that we have until the end of the season." Madrid lost for the first time after a run of five consecutive victories. "It was a bad night," Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said. "It's a disappointment, we won't hide it, but it's soccer ... you have to try to learn from the losses. We have to look forward to what's ahead." Mbappé had been contained when the rivals met in October but scored a superb goal five minutes into the match at King Abdullah Sports City stadium after picking up the ball just inside



Barcelona's Robert Lewandowski, Lamine Yamal and Raphinha. **Reuters**

Madrid's half, running at the defense and then finding the net with a clever finish. But Yamal evened the match with a nice run in the 22nd and Lewandowski, who scored twice in the earlier clasico, put the Catalans ahead in the 36th. Raphinha added goals in the 39th and 48th minutes, while Balde scored in first-half stoppage time.

Rodrygo scored from a free kick in the 60th after Szczesny was sent off for a foul outside the area to stop a breakaway.

Lewandowski has 26 goals in 27 appearances across all competitions for Barcelona, while Raphinha has scored 19 times and Yamal eight.

Barcelona was able to count on Spain midfielder Dani Olmo after the Spanish government stepped in to provisionally allow the club to register him with the league.

The final came after Mallorca fans said they were harassed by local men who support Madrid after Thursday's semifinal.