hindustantimes.com
@hindustantimes @httweets @hindustantimes @hindustantimes
VOL. CI NO. 18

NEW DELHI/METRO
Tuesday, **January 21**, 2025

Hindustan Times

VOICE OF THE NATION @100 SINCE 1924

FIRST VOICE. LAST WORD.

DALHOUSIE

PUBLIC SCHOOL

Est. 1970

ADMISSIONS OPEN FOR 2025-26

REGISTER NOW

LIMITED SEATS

DOMESTIC & INTERNATIONAL CURRICULUM

27+ EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

10,000+ STRONG ALUMNI NETWORK

Flexible Residential Opportunities

- Full Boarding
- Weekly Boarding
- Day Boarding

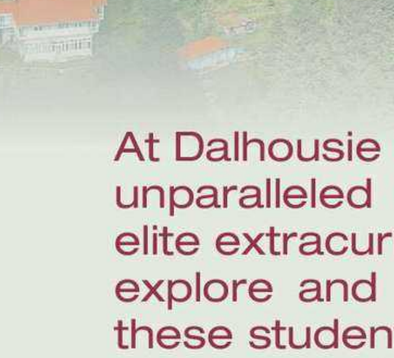
- SINCE 1970 -

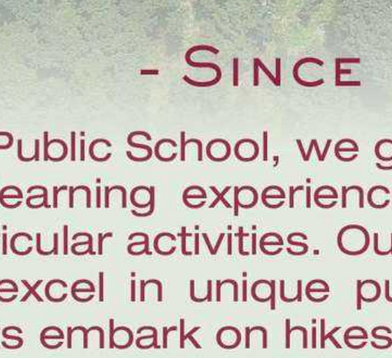
At Dalhousie Public School, we go beyond textbooks to offer an unparalleled learning experience that blends academics with elite extracurricular activities. Our students don't just learn; they explore and excel in unique pursuits. Surrounded by nature, these students embark on hikes and adventures that inspire curiosity and foster a love for life.

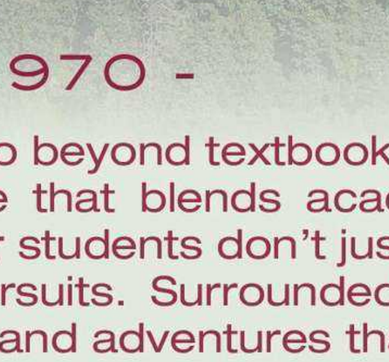
54 YEARS OF EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE IN

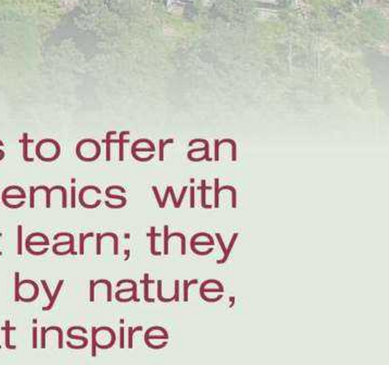
DALHOUSIE & NEW CHANDIGARH

With the New Chandigarh Campus, we explore new frontiers of Dalhousie. Spread over more than 50 acres, we offer a unique multi-track approach to education, catering to domestic and international aspirations.


YOGA


GOLF


POLO


FISHING

SHOOTING

CRICKET

FOOTBALL

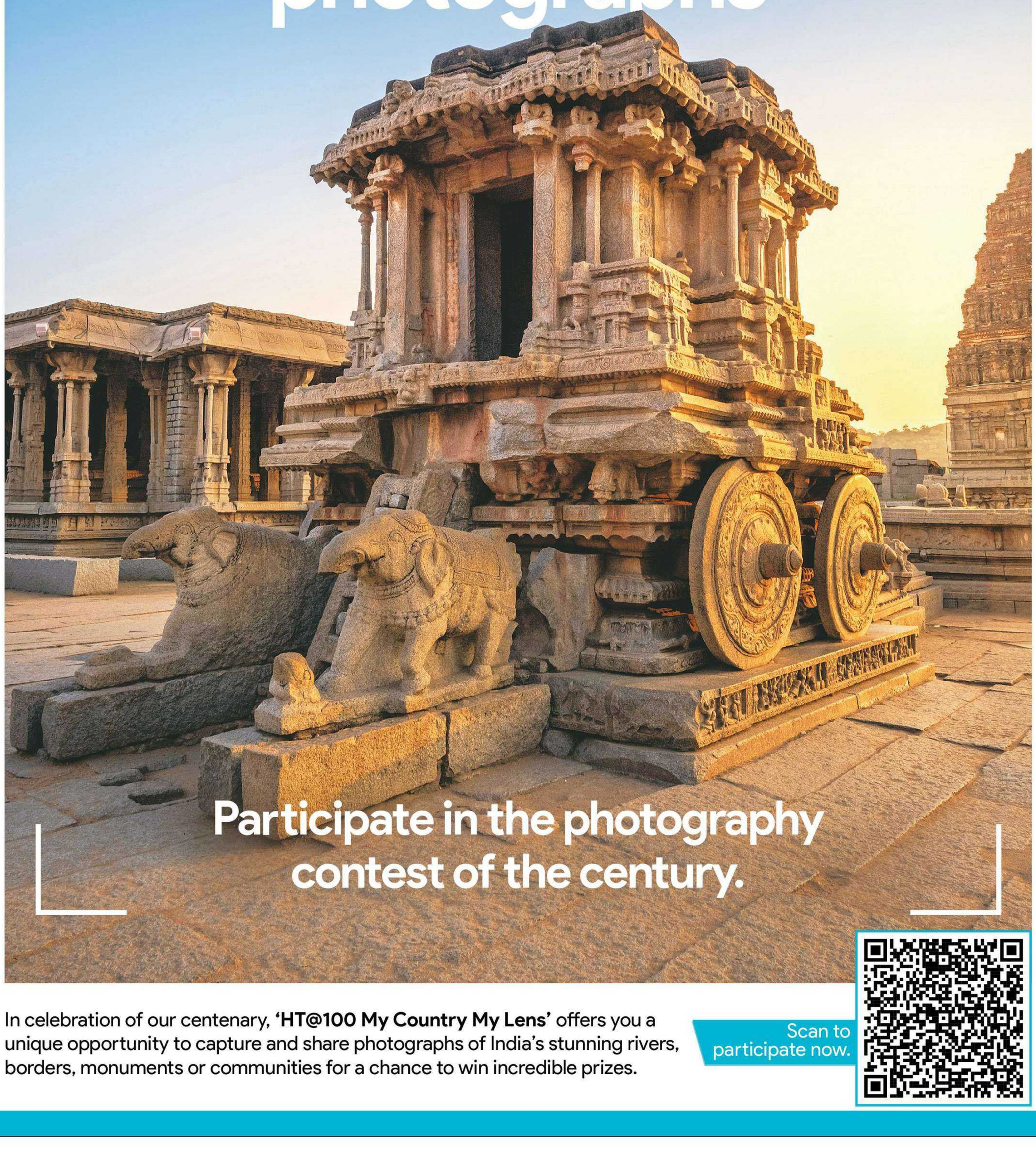
MOUNTAIN BIKING

011 6909 8645 | +91 94183 81111 INFO@DPSDALHOUSIE.COM | WWW.DALHOUSIEPUBLICSCHOOL.COM

Hindustan Times VOICE OF THE NATION. SINCE 1924.

HT@100 VOICE OF THE NATION SINCE 1924 | MY COUNTRY MY LENS

Showcase your India with your photographs



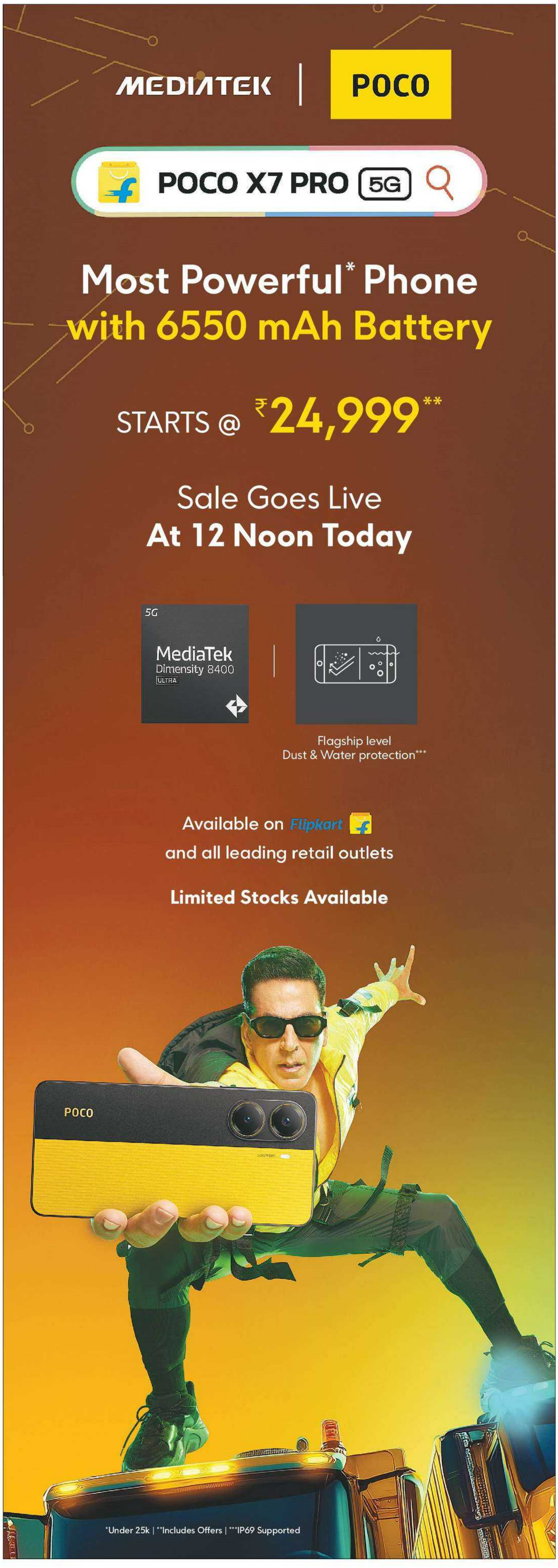
Participate in the photography contest of the century.

In celebration of our centenary, **'HT@100 My Country My Lens'** offers you a unique opportunity to capture and share photographs of India's stunning rivers, borders, monuments or communities for a chance to win incredible prizes.

Scan to participate now.

NEW DELHI/METRO
Tuesday, **January 21**, 2025
■ VOL. CI NO. 18

Hindustar



Hindustan Times @100 VOICE OF THE NATION. SINCE 1924.

HT@100 CENTENNIAL QUIZ

FLY HIGH WITH HINDUSTAN TIMES THIS NEW YEAR!

Join the HT@100 Centennial Quiz and stand a chance to win a FREE helicopter ride.

EXCITING REWARDS

FREE Helicopter Ride for 10 Winners

Spotlight on Social Media to Share Your Journey

Feature in HT City

Win exciting vouchers on participation

Scan to answer.

T&C apply*

Hindustan Times @100 VOICE OF THE NATION. SINCE 1924.

Snap Your Way to Glory:

1. Pick a category
2. Upload your best shots
3. Rally for votes
4. Stand a chance to win exciting rewards

For a century, **Hindustan Times** has captured the pulse of the nation. Now, it's your turn! Show us the majestic rivers, vibrant borders, timeless monuments & lively communities of India with your photographs & stand a chance to win exciting rewards.

Scan to participate

NEW DELHI/METRO
Tuesday, **January 21**, 2025
■ VOL. CI NO. 18

Hindustan

Life in prison for RG Kar hospital rapist, murderer

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

KOLKATA: A 35-year-old former civic police volunteer who raped and murdered a junior doctor at Kolkata's RG Kar hospital last year will spend the rest of his life in jail, a local court ruled on Monday, observing that the grisly crime didn't fall in the "rarest of rare" category to deserve the death penalty.

"While the counsel representing CBI and the victim's family have demanded the death sentence, your counsel has pleaded for a life imprisonment. I am sorry. This is not a rarest of the rare case," additional district and sessions judge Anirban Das said in the packed room.

"I am sentencing you to life imprisonment, meaning till the last day of your life, for causing injury during the act of committing rape on the victim that led to her death," he told Roy.

The decision sparked a controversy with chief minister Mamata Banerjee expressing dissatisfaction at the convict, former Kolkata Police civic volunteer Sanjoy Roy, escaping capital punishment and the parents of the victims blaming the Central Bureau of Investigation.

The sentence came two days after the court had pronounced Roy guilty under sections 64 (rape), 66 (inflicting injury leading to death or cause the woman to be a persistence vege-

continued on →7

Convict Sanjay Roy being escorted to the Sealdah court in Kolkata on Monday. PTI

'Is this not rarest of rare?' Kin, Mamata unhappy with verdict

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

KOLKATA: Leaders across party lines as well as the victim's family were unhappy with the judgment of a Kolkata court sentencing Sanjay Roy to life imprisonment, demanding instead that the 35-year-old be given capital punishment.

West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee expressed "dissatisfaction" over the verdict, alleging the investigation was "forcibly" taken away from the state police.

"The state government prayed for death sentence from the very beginning. All of us had demanded death sentence. We will stick to our demand," Banerjee said.

The victim's parents said they will move a higher court seeking justice.

"We are shocked. How can this not be the rarest of the rare cases? An on-duty doctor was raped and murdered. We are dismayed. There was a larger conspiracy behind this crime," the mother said.

→P9

Intruder's fingerprints at 19 spots in Saif's house: Police

Manish Kumar Pathak
letters@hindustantimes.com

MUMBAI: Police in Mumbai probing the attack on Saif Ali Khan said on Monday that they have found an unidentified person's fingerprints at 19 spots and have tapped forensics to see if they match with the arrested suspect, even as they gave new details on how they zeroed in on the man they arrested the previous day after a frenetic manhunt.

According to officials, the breakthrough in identifying Shariful Islam Fakir, 30, came after investigators, working off of CCTV footage of Khan's residence, deployed facial recognition software to pore over video footage from various cameras in the city's western suburbs.

→P11

Key events that led to arrest

- Police identified **Fakir from CCTV grab**
- They got his phone no. from his ex employer, which was placed under surveillance
- He had taken precautions to evade police but police identified his backpack
- Cops tracked a UPI payment made by Fakir at a food stall, tracing his location to Thane
- Fakir was located lying in a dense mangrove near Hiranandani Estate
- Police said fingerprints from the duct and washroom window will be matched
- Fakir hid in a garden in Bandra for two hours after stabbing the Bollywood actor on January 16

KERALA WOMAN GETS DEATH FOR MURDERING HER BOYFRIEND IN '22

KOCHI: A Kerala court on Monday sentenced to death 24-year-old Greeshma SS for poisoning her boyfriend in 2022, declining her prayer for leniency. The sessions court at Neyyattinkara in Thiruvananthapuram also sentenced her uncle, Nirmalakumaran Nair, the third accused, to a three-year term, for destruction of evidence.

→P9

ATUL SUBHASH'S WIFE GRANTED CHILD CUSTODY

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday rejected the plea moved by the mother of deceased Bengaluru techie, Atul Subhash, for custody of her grandson, and ruled that the minor's custody will remain with Subhash's estranged wife, Nikita Singhania, who is facing charges of abetting his suicide along with her family members.

→P10

26-YR-OLD T'GANA MAN SHOT DEAD IN WASHINGTON DC

Srinivasa Rao Apparasu
letters@hindustantimes.com

HYDERABAD: A 26-year-old student from Telangana was allegedly shot dead in the US by unidentified people, his family members said in Hyderabad on Monday. The victim was identified as Koyyada Ravi Teja, who hailed from Rama Krishna Puram in Hyderabad. The family is still unaware of the details of the circumstances that led to the shooting, they added.

"We received information on Monday morning that Teja was shot dead by unidentified people while he was returning home," said his father, Koyyada Chandra Mouli.

→P10

No Dhruv ALH at R-Day over safety

Rahul Singh
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The grounding of the locally produced Dhruv advanced light helicopter (ALH) in the wake of a recent crash has come as a slight setback for the armed forces and it will not be taking part in the Republic Day flypast, defence secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh said on Monday.

"The ALH's grounding is a little bit of a setback. But (the issues) will get sorted out soon. It is not taking part in the parade as a safety grounding has taken place... but 39 aircraft will take part, and 12 different formations will be displayed. Some helicopters will be there, only the ALH will not be there," he said at a media briefing in South Block ahead of the 76th Republic Day parade.

The military's ALH fleet of around 330 helicopters, designed and developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), was grounded a fortnight ago after a coast guard helicopter crashed at Porbandar in Gujarat on January 5, with authorities still struggling to determine the cause of the accident. Two pilots and an aircrew diver were killed in the latest crash.

→P11

SC GIVES CENTRE 'LAST CHANCE' TO DECIDE ON MERCY PLEA BY RAJOANA

Abraham Thomas
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday gave a "last chance" to the Centre to decide by March 18 on the long-pending mercy plea of Balwant Singh Rajoana, convicted in the 1995 assassination of former Punjab chief minister Beant Singh. If no decision is taken by the next date, the court said it will decide the case on merit.

→P9

CEASEFIRE IN GAZA HOLDS AS ISRAEL FREES 90 PRISONERS

JERUSALEM: A ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war held on Monday, following the dramatic exchange of three hostages for 90 Palestinian prisoners in an agreement aimed at ending more than 15 months of war in Gaza.

The three hostages released Sunday, all women, were reunited with their families and taken to hospital in central Israel where a doctor said they were in stable condition.

Hours later in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, Palestinian prisoners released by Israel left Ofer prison on buses.

→P15

{ IN THE FAST LANE }

India may get newer, faster bullet train — at the same time as Japan

Work on a tunnel for the bullet train underway in Thane. HT

Rajeev Jayaswal
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: India and Japan may see the simultaneous launch of the latest version of the bullet train, Shinkansen Alfa-X, aka Shinkansen E10, in 2029-30, and Tokyo, India's partner in the ambitious bullet train project between Ahmedabad and Mumbai, is alright with India running two indigenously made high-speed trains on the track, which is expected to be ready in 2026-27, three people familiar with the matter said.

India was previously expected to get the Shinkansen E5.

It was Prime Minister Narendra Modi's keen interest in the project and his excellent rapport with the Japanese leadership that saw a very positive outcome from two recent high-level official visits to Japan led

continued on →7

Hindustan Times

NEW DELHI
TUESDAY
JANUARY 21, 2025

NUMBER THEORY

Indispensable yet invisible: What tribal farmers need

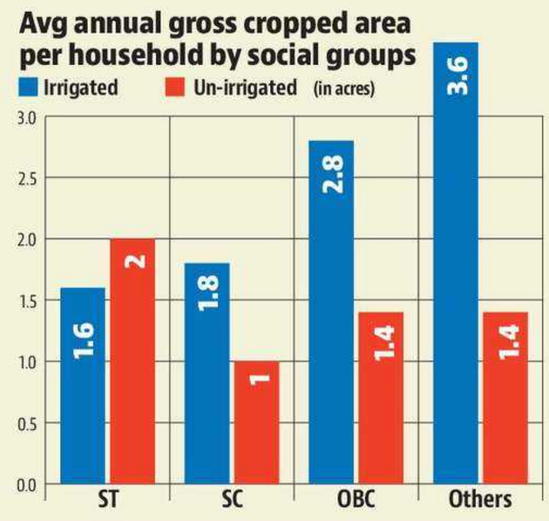
By Sourindra Mohan Ghosh and Nivedita Sharma

The debate on India's food problem increasingly focuses on food distribution, even though economic and institutional bottlenecks of agricultural production persist, particularly for the marginalised sections. Tribal farmers, despite their community-led strategies rooted in seed conservation, production and consumption, remain largely excluded from the policy discourse.
Here is what the data shows.

1 Scheduled Tribes have the lowest land ownership

Nearly 90% of the tribal population lives in rural areas, and by the National Sample Survey (NSS) 77th round estimates, accounts for 14% of agricultural households. Historically disadvantaged, tribal farmers have limited access to land, irrigation, modern inputs, and credit, which constrains their agricultural productivity. Nonetheless, the sustainable agricultural practices intrinsic to these farmers are being touted as solutions to the global climate crisis. Keeping this in mind, we look at the status of the tribal farmers in India through the NSS data. The average annual gross cropped area per household is the lowest among tribal farmers for irrigated area and highest for unirrigated land which indicates greater reliance on rain-fed cultivation.

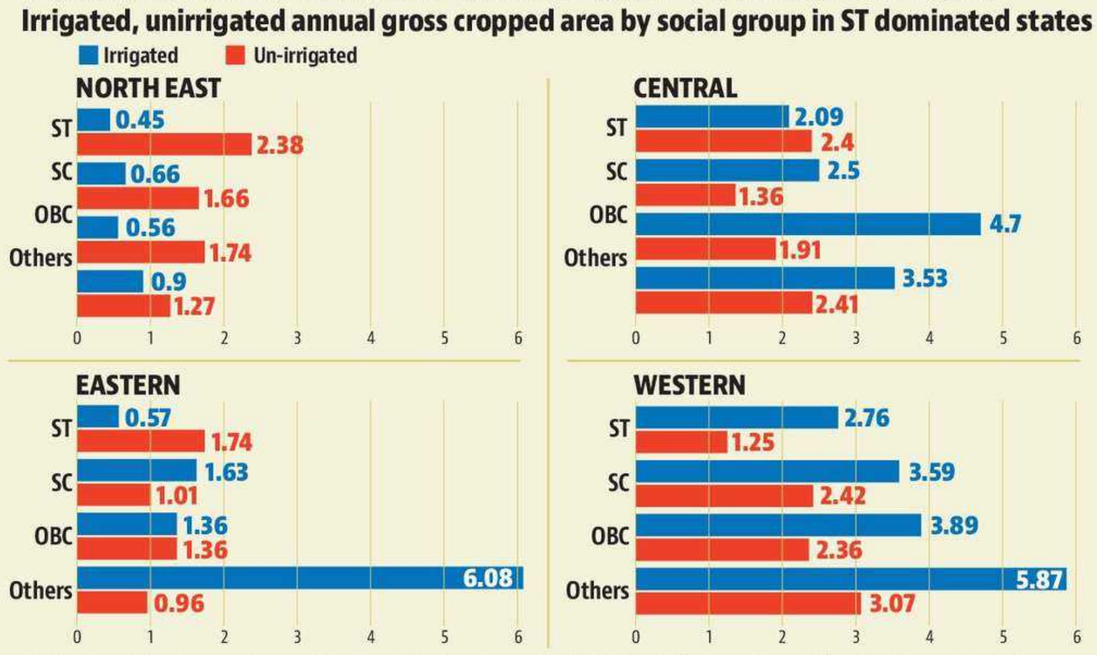
Avg annual gross cropped area per household by social groups



2 This holds across different regions in the country

Geospatial factors play a significant role in differences to access in irrigation as most Scheduled Tribes (STs) live in dry, arid or hilly areas, making access to conventional irrigation a major challenge. When we compare tribal farmers with their geographical peers from other social groups — say within NSS regions (which are cohorts of districts — the difference in the size of irrigated land cultivated by STs diminishes substantially compared to that at the aggregate level. A region-wise analysis of states with a substantial proportion of tribal farmers (20% or more) indicates more variations for STs vis-a-vis the rest of the social groups in the eastern and western regions.

Irrigated, unirrigated annual gross cropped area by social group in ST dominated states



North East: Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Tripura; Central: Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh; Eastern: Odisha, Jharkhand; Western: Rajasthan, Gujarat.

3 Tribal farmers also lag in use of inputs in farming

Tribal farmers are also poorer than farmers from other communities, which limits their capacity to invest in farming. This is exacerbated by low institutional support. For example, only 11.7% of tribal farmers have Kisan credit cards as opposed to 21.6% of other farmers, denying them the opportunity to secure formal credit. Additionally, only 4.4% of tribal farmers insure their harvest as compared to 7.8% of the other communities taken as a whole. Limited access to irrigation restricts the use of other inputs as well, and so does the lack of ability to invest. Hence, tribal farmers have much lower expenditure on inputs such as fertilisers, pesticides, fuel, irrigation, and labour. This is true for both predominantly commercial as well as subsistence farmers.

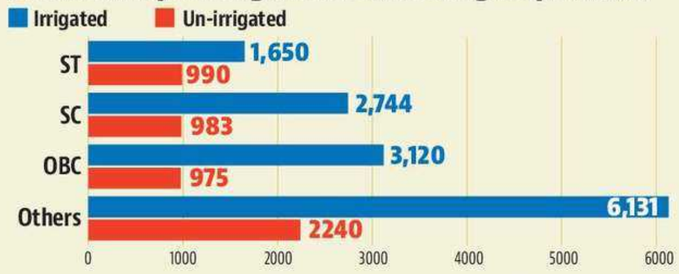
Expenditure on select heads per acre of gross sown area, by caste groups (in ₹)

	Chemical fertiliser	Bio-fertiliser	Chemical-pesticide	Bio-pesticide	Fuel	Irrigation	Human labour
ST	1507	907	384	47	364	353	4534
SC	2120	900	715	66	426	1060	5384
OBC	2110	1016	784	91	543	903	5385
Others	2431	1297	1062	164	604	850	6691
Total	2109	1053	788	99	516	839	5592

4 All this culminates in low productivity and income

Resource scarcity leads to low productivity, even in the irrigated area, impacting both agricultural output and nutrition. Tribal farmers sell only 27-30% of the foodgrain they produce, indicating this is mostly used for self-consumption. According to the data from the National Family Health Survey-5, among the social groups, the incidence of acute undernutrition, anaemia, and child undernutrition is the highest among tribal groups.

Productivity among different social groups (in kg/acre)



Tribal farmers in India face several challenges emanating from social inequities, geospatial constraints and institutional neglect that further amplify the magnitude of their vulnerabilities. Despite their significant contributions through sustainable farming and indigenous knowledge systems, they largely remain on the periphery of policy attention. A multidimensional approach of expanding irrigation infrastructure, institutional support (for inputs and output) and emphasising the sustainable practices for macro agricultural policy framework would help address these systemic challenges. Unless these interventions are initiated soon, tribal farmers will continue to remain trapped in poverty, malnutrition and invisibility in the national agriculture discourse. The next Union Budget will do well to focus on this.

Sourindra Mohan Ghosh is an assistant professor at Council for Social Development. Nivedita Sharma is associate professor, Jindal Global Business School, OP Jindal Global University and Visiting Fellow, Council for Social Development

hindustantimes.com
@hindustantimes @httweets @hindustantimes @hindustantimes
■ VOL. CI NO. 18 ■ PRICE ₹6.00/WITH HINDUSTAN ₹ 10.50 (₹ 9.50 IN FARIDABAD)/WITH MINT ₹ 15.50 ■ 26 PAGES + 4 PAGES OF HT CITY. AREA SPECIFIC PAGES EXTRA.

NEW DELHI/METRO
Tuesday, **January 21**, 2025

Hindustan Times

FIRST VOICE. LAST WORD.

VOICE OF THE NATION @100 SINCE 1924

President Trump, redux

47th President of the United States takes oath, signs a slew of executive orders on immigration, gender, race and trade tariffs

US President Donald Trump holds the hand of his wife Melania as their son Barron and vice-president JD Vance look on. AP

Prashant Jha
letters@hindustantimes.com

WASHINGTON: Donald J Trump took over on Monday as the 47th President of the United States, promising a return to a "golden age" and a "revolution of common sense", pledging that "America First" would be his guiding philosophy, declaring the end of the country's decline, claiming that God saved his life to let him "make America great again", and proclaiming that his greatest legacy will be that of a "peacemaker and unifier".

Trump also gave a sense of the executive orders he intended to sign later in the day, vowing to declare a national emergency on the southern border, a national energy emergency with the intention to "drill baby, drill", sweeping directions on gender and race, and the creation of an external revenue service to collect trade tariffs from other countries.

"We will be respected again. We will not allow ourselves to be taken advantage of. We will put America First. Our sovereignty will be reclaimed, our safety will be restored, scales of justice will be rebalanced..America will be greater stronger and far more exceptional than ever before," thundered a triumphant Trump.

US Supreme Court chief justice

continued on →13

What Trump's return may mean for India...

WASHINGTON: Under Donald Trump, just like the past five American presidencies including his own, America's strategic relationship with India will deepen.

Shared anxiety about China remains the glue binding Delhi and Washington DC. Quad will strengthen, and India will maintain strong relationships across departments in the administration on day-to-day functional issues. The broader political and ideological climate aligns well with Indian political dispensation. In defence, intelligence and security matters, and during national security crises, trust will persist.

The potential for tech cooperation remains deep and promising, and deeper convergence in West Asia will continue.

Yet, bilateral ties will face challenges stemming from the global climate, developments in the US, and specific bilateral issues.

→P2

...And what it could mean for the world

WASHINGTON: President Donald J Trump has articulated a wide set of political and policy interests and picked an ideologically committed and personally loyal set of personnel to implement his agenda.

Trump will focus on immigration and deregulation, national security and technology, trade and energy, among other issues.

He has an agenda and he has a team in place, and his decisions will have profound and disruptive consequences.

His team includes his vice president JD Vance, chief of staff Susie Wiles, and members of his family, particularly Donald Trump Jr, Eric Trump and Lara Trump, and perhaps more informally this time, Jared Kushner and Ivanka Trump.

Where Trump succeeds, and what the intended and unintended consequences of his moves are, will shape America and the world.

→P15

ON THE OVAL OFFICE TABLE

IMMIGRATION
- Declare border emergency
- Deploy military to borders
- End asylum process
- Change birthright citizenship rules

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION
- End all federal diversity schemes
- Stop environmental justice grants
- Eliminate federal diversity training

GENDER POLICY
- Recognise only two biological sexes
- End funding for gender-related medical procedures
- New restrictions on sports participation

TRADE
- Establish External Revenue Service (focused on tariffs)
- Implement new foreign tariffs

ENERGY
- Declare national energy emergency
- Expand oil and gas drilling

U'khand nod for UCC rules

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

DEHRADUN: The Uttarakhand cabinet on Monday approved the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) manual that comprised rules for the administration and courts to implement the controversial legislation, with chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami saying preparations for enforcing UCC were almost complete.

The rules will come into force once they are notified later this month on a day to be announced by Dhami.

"The training process for the UCC implementation is almost complete. During the cabinet meeting, we discussed implementing it as soon as possible. After reviewing everything, we will soon announce its implementation date," the chief minister said after the cabinet meeting.

Officials aware of the matter said the rules provide for a mechanism to implement the law and an appellate authority in case of disputes. "Under the rules, all registrations for marriages, divorces, rights of inheritance, live-in relationships and termination of live-in relationships will have to be done through the online portal. The rules provide for the time frame for approving or rejecting the registration," an official familiar with the development said. The portal is mobile friendly, he

THE RULES WILL COME INTO FORCE ONCE THEY ARE NOTIFIED LATER THIS MONTH ON A DAY THAT STATE CM DHAMI WILL ANNOUNCE

continued on →13

SC stays proceedings against Rahul in J'khand

Abraham Thomas
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday stayed defamation proceedings against Congress Member of Parliament Rahul Gandhi in a 2018 case pending before a Jharkhand court on his comments against the then BJP president Amit Shah referring to him as a "murder accused".

A bench headed by justice Vikram Nath issued notice on the appeal filed by Gandhi, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, challenging the order of the Jharkhand high court in February 2024 refusing to quash the case.

The bench, also comprising justice Sandeep Mehta, granted the state and the private complainant BJP leader Navin Jha four weeks to file responses.

Gandhi made the remarks at a Congress plenary session in March 2018.

→P10

PAGE ONE PLUS | TRUMP INAUGURATION

{ SOCIAL MEDIA } SERVICE RESTORED

'We have to save it': Trump on TikTok

TikTok began restoring its services after President-elect Donald Trump said he would revive the app's access in the United States when he returns to power on Monday. "Frankly, we have no choice. We have to save it," Trump said at a rally on Sunday ahead of his inauguration, adding that the US will seek a joint venture to restore the short-video sharing app used by 170 million Americans. In a message to users hours before the rally, TikTok said: "As a result of President Trump's efforts, TikTok is back in the US." AGENCIES

{ CRYPTO } BITCOIN AT RECORD TOO

Trump crypto coin tops $10 bn mkt cap

Donald Trump's newly created cryptocurrency soared on Monday to more than $10 billion in market value, drawing in billions in trading volume, while bitcoin's price hit a record high hours ahead of his return to the White House. Launched on Friday, Trump's "meme coin", also known as $TRUMP, soared from less than $10 on Saturday morning to as high as $74.59 before giving up some of its huge rise on Monday. AGENCIES

{ THE VEEP } AN INDIAN SON-IN-LAW

JD Vance's rise: From Middle America to the White House

An Indian son-in-law will be occupant of the Naval Observatory residence of the American Vice President in Washington DC. And while India can derive joy from this emotional connection, the real story of JD Vance's miraculous rise in American politics lies in middle America. Vance joined the army early and was deployed to Iraq. He used the funds that armed forces then offer as support for education to go to Ohio State and then read law at Yale Law School, where he met his wife, Usha. →P15

{ FINAL ACT } AGAINST 'REVENGE'

Biden pardons Fauci, his family in final act

Joe Biden on Monday pardoned Dr Anthony Fauci, retired General Mark Milley and members of the House committee that investigated the January 6 attack on the Capitol, in an extraordinary use of the powers of the presidency to guard against potential "revenge" by the incoming Trump administration. Biden also granted pardons to five family members, an announcement that came 21 minutes before he ceded power to Donald Trump. AGENCIES

{ 46TH PREZ } A CHEQUERED LEGACY

Curtains for Biden's long political career

Former president Joe Biden ends his political life a bitter man, convinced he could have won, but for the betrayal of his friends, the public and the media. By any reading of the popular mood, that is somewhat delusional. He ends his international life a discredited and weak man, for having presided over the killings in Gaza, and someone who may have saved Ukraine but couldn't bring peace to the land. His exemplary public life deserves appreciation but also serves as a warning; if you are a politician and don't know when to leave, history will be unkind. →P15

New Delhi keeps an eye on House and Senate picks

Prashant Jha
letters@hindustantimes.com

WASHINGTON: Even as the focus is understandably on the new occupant of White House, an equally important change has happened on the other side of Pennsylvania Avenue in the composition of the US Congress on Capitol Hill. And along with the decisions of the US executive, the views and motivations of key actors in the US legislature will shape bilateral ties with India.

First take the House. Mike Johnson, a Republican from Louisiana and a Trump confidante, will remain Speaker, while Hakeem Jeffries, a New York Democrat, will remain the minority leader. But the real foreign policy action happens in the committees. The new House Foreign Affairs Committee chair is Brian Mast, a 44-year old veteran who lost both his legs and left index finger in an explosion in the war in Afghanistan. The ranking member on the committee will continue to be Gregory Meeks, a senior Democratic figure from New York who has good ties with India and an interest in building on the Mahatma Gandhi-Martin Luther King Jr legacy.

"Every single time I have a foreign delegation or a diplomat or an ambassador in my office, I have three questions on a board. Question one is what does America need from each country and the region? Question two is what does that country or region want from the United States of America? And question three is does what America is providing get America what it needs? And if it doesn't, we somehow spoke past each other. Or in part we are being played for suckers. And I won't speak for President Trump but he doesn't believe in America being played for a sucker," Mast said.

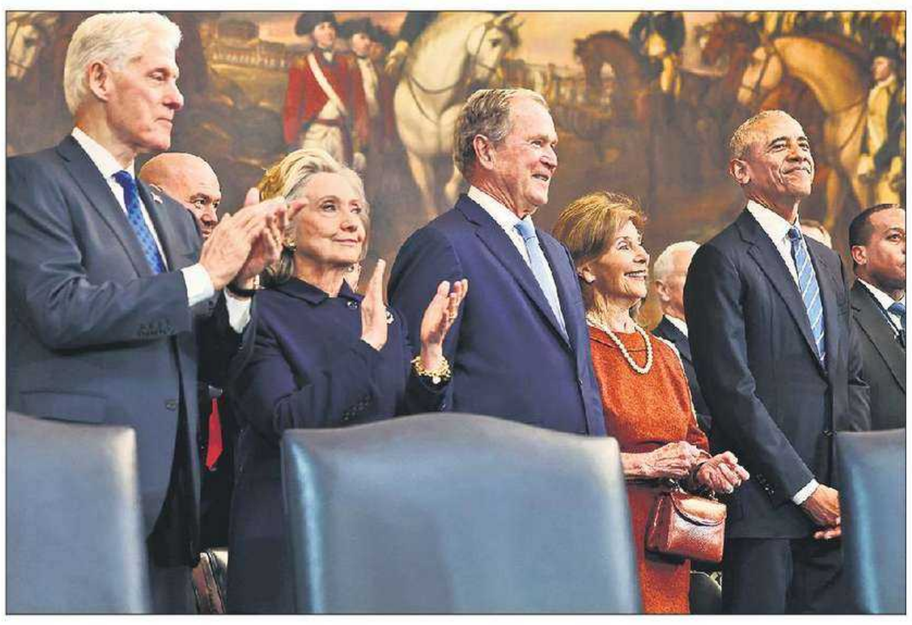
But another shift that has happened in HFAC is the split of the Indo-Pacific subcommittee into the East Asia/Pacific subcommittee and the South and Central Asia subcommittee. The SCA subcommittee, which will deal with India, will be chaired by Bill Huizenga, a Republican from Michigan, and the ranking member of the subcommittee, will be Sydney Kamlager-Dove, a Democratic representative from California.

On the Senate side, India will have to deepen ties with John Thune, the new majority leader, as well as sustain with Chuck Schumer, the minority leader.

The big shift has happened in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee where Jim Risch, an Idaho Republican, has taken over as the chair. Risch is broadly supportive of the strategic relationship with India, but has concerns about India's tie with Russia as well as issues regarding Christian rights and churches in India that will need to be managed.

Put it together and Indian diplomats in DC have their plates full as they revive old relationships and build new ones on Capitol Hill in a bid to align an America First Congress with an India First diplomatic mandate.

Scenes from the Donald J Trump show



(Clockwise from top left) Trump delivers a speech in the Rotunda of the Capitol; Mark Zuckerberg, Jeff Bezos, Sundar Pichai and Elon Musk; Argentine President Javier Milei and Italian PM Giorgia Meloni; Jill and Joe Biden greet Melania and Donald Trump; and former presidents Bill Clinton, George W Bush, Barack Obama, former secretary of state Hillary Clinton, and former first lady Laura Bush at the presidential inauguration in Washington on Monday. REUTERS, AP & AFP

Trump and India-US ties: What will work, what needs work

Prashant Jha
letters@hindustantimes.com

WASHINGTON: Under Donald Trump, just like the past five American presidencies including his own, America's strategic relationship with India will deepen.

Shared anxiety about China remains the glue binding Delhi and Washington DC. Quad will strengthen, and India will maintain strong relationships across departments in the administration on day-to-day functional issues. The broader political and ideological climate aligns well with Indian political dispensation. In defence, intelligence and security matters, and during national security crises, trust will persist. The potential for tech cooperation remains deep and promising, and deeper convergence in West Asia will continue as Israel-Saudi Arabia normalisation progresses and doors open for the India-Middle East-Europe Corridor.

PICK OF THE DAY

Yet, like previous presidencies, bilateral ties will face challenges stemming from the global climate, developments in the US, and specific bilateral issues.

Strategic uncertainty will increase, driven by Trump's sometimes chaotic management of US foreign policy. This uncertainty could manifest in various ways across different domains of the relationship. While there will be questions about Trump's broader strategic commitment to Indo-Pacific, paradoxically, greater strategic demands will be placed on India for burden-sharing. The scale and depth of bilateral defence and tech ties will hinge on India's ability to demonstrate its value to Washington and Delhi's utility for Washington. India-US economic ties will face pressures on both trade and investment fronts, requiring imagination, flexibility and political will to restructure. India must articulate why 'make in India' and 'made in America' are complementary rather than conflicting. Moreover, Trump's domestic decisions—on energy, climate, artificial intelligence, crypto, immigration, and European relations—will have secondary consequences, both positive and negative.

What will work: Politics, strategy, personnel

Three factors will work in India's favour.

First is the political rapport between the ruling dispensations. Reliable first-person accounts suggest Narendra Modi and Donald Trump get along, communicate well, engage in difficult conversations, and maintain a cordial working relationship. As Robert O'Brien, Trump's last NSA, told HT, the US president sees himself reflected in Modi, his nationalism and crowd appeal. Both sides remember successful cooperation during Trump's first term—Doklam, Balakot and Galwan—with DC consistently supporting Delhi all three times. Delhi understands what motivates Trump and how to engage with those factors. There exists strong ideological solidarity between nationalist conservatives, united by common adversaries in Islamism, China and the liberal and Left public sphere. While not decisive in international relations, shared history, personal warmth between principals, and aligned worldviews of ideological movements propelling the dominant party facilitate informal communication channels.

Two, shared concerns about China serve as a crucial binding force. Much of the strategic, defence, supply chain, and economic convergence stems from this anxiety. Technology cooperation—now a key driver of ties—largely derives from the China challenge. The Quad exemplifies this, with Trump taking pride in reviving the grouping and signalling to China by hosting Quad foreign ministers in Washington DC, marking one of the administration's first diplomatic engagements. Three scenarios emerge: Trump maintains Biden's careful but firm China posture, benefiting Delhi through derivative policies; Trump intensifies strategic competition, requiring difficult decisions from India, especially given its public reticence on China despite immense private lobbying against Beijing; or Trump pursues a partial US-China deal, influenced by factors like his ties with Elon Musk and Musk's Chinese business interests, Trump's position on TikTok, and his penchant for short-term dealmaking. Even in the last scenario, the US national security establishment will likely maintain its vigilance towards Beijing, and economic planners will continue reducing Chinese dependence, creating opportunities for India.

Finally, India has found fortune in Trump's national security personnel selections. National security advisor Michael Waltz, principal deputy NSA Alex Wong, senior director for India in NSC Ricky Gill, secretary of State Marco Rubio, FBI director Kash Patel, head of national intelligence Tulsi Gabbard, Undersecretary of defense for policy Elbridge Colby, and other appointees at senior to middle levels generally hold positive views of India, or at least harbour no deep hostility. While key positions like assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia, assistant secretary of defense for Indo-Pacific security affairs, and US ambassador to India remain unfilled, the names under consideration appear favourable to Indian interests. These institutional relationships prove vital for day-to-day operations when top-level political attention is limited.

This trinity—personal bonhomie and ideological alignment at the top, shared China concerns generating multiple convergences, and strong institutional and personnel relationships—will maintain momentum. Each element reinforces the others, creating a robust foundation for continued engagement despite potential challenges. People-to-people ties and strong business lobbies in both countries provide additional layers of support.

India-US economic ties will face pressures on both trade and investment fronts. ANI

What needs work: Trade, investment and uncertainties

But the relationship is not on auto pilot and will continue to need work, particularly in two areas.

The economic relationship presents significant challenges. Trump's frustration with India's $40 billion trade surplus stems from his view that Indian tariffs, rather than competitiveness, drive this imbalance while India leverages the American market. His response could take several forms: across-the-board tariffs with higher rates for China (most manageable for India as terms of trade even out while China loses most); targeted tariffs on India and select countries with higher deficits (worrying for both Indian dispensation and exporters); or sector-specific Indian tariffs (not positive but leaves room for negotiations). It is also not clear given the composition of the Indian export and import basket what Trump will target.

But the broader motivation reflects Trump's belief that India has exploited American markets without offering fair reciprocal access.

If India can find a way to reframe this understanding embedded in the Trump ecosystem imaginatively, through astute messaging, through concessions in terms of domestic access where possible, through greater purchases of American goods where feasible, it will help bridge the deficit and make Trump feel he scored a political win.

American investment presents another challenge. Despite some major successes like Apple, India has not fully capitalised on the China+1 opportunity in global boardrooms, showing relatively dismal foreign direct investment figures. Unlike Biden's administration actively encouraging American industry towards India, Trump is unlikely to do the same. India's domestic regulatory climate remains a persistent concern for American businesses, who may find a more receptive audience in the White House. The Indian market is a tempting proposition but it not a sufficient condition, especially at a time where onshoring and nearshoring will rank higher than friendshoring. Expect less American effort in directing industry to India, but more state backing for American businesses unhappy with Indian policy frameworks in key sectors.

And the third related economic dimension is investment in America.

Trump sees other countries as having stolen American investment without making investments in America. Indian companies have invested billions in America — the last CII report from 2023 suggests 160 Indian companies have invested $40 billion and created 425,000 jobs, which is two-thirds of the American investment in India. And while this is a talking point in select policy gatherings, this story largely remains untold because of almost invisible Indian public diplomacy in America and its failure to communicate with the larger American political and public sphere.

India needs to make a comprehensive economic case encompassing trade, outbound and inbound investment, and technology. Showing to Trump's orbit where India actually adds value and is not just a notional partner that extracts benefits, while doing the work back in Delhi to revise policies without hurting domestic economy or national interest to balance economic ties, is key to winning over sceptics.

Trump's global posture will significantly impact bilateral relations. It isn't what the US does or does not do with India that is the sole determinant of ties. It is what the US does in the rest of the world.

If America's ties with Europe fracture, or the US reliability in Europe comes into serious question, then the slow task of persuading Europe to move away from China will suddenly become more difficult. If America decides to stop supporting public health and civil society initiatives in Africa, it only aids the other big power in the region, China. If America is seen to be cutting a deal with China, its own allies in the Indo-Pacific will try to strike a similar bargain before Washington does so to secure their interests. If America pursues policies that only aid climate crisis and steps back from even the tokenistic commitment it makes to climate finance and helping the world adapt, the global south will look to China for help. If America steps back from multilateral organisations, it leaves a large swathe of the international community disgruntled and allows China to play the responsible cop. If Trump creates a permissive structure for crypto, it will have implications for financial policymakers everywhere. If AI gives way to artificial generative intelligence during a Trump presidency, a possibility that Sam Altman has predicted, Trump will have ways of influencing AI policy and winners and losers of the tech revolution in dramatic ways with global consequences.

While India cannot directly influence these policies, it will have to carefully monitor Trump's externally and internally disruptive actions, which will have profound and not always positive consequences.

Despite challenges over 25 years, the India-US relationship has grown through optimism, energy and new ideas. The fact that Bill Clinton, George W Bush, Barack Obama, Donald Trump and Joe Biden agreed on little except India's importance speaks to an enduring bipartisan Washington consensus. This consensus, born of global circumstances and geopolitics, has been carefully shaped by India to mutual benefit. It has been hard work and sustaining that story over the next four years will require the same degree of work and imagination that has brought ties this far.

CAPITAL CONTEST

BJP will end all welfare plans, claims Kejriwal

Jignasa Sinha
letters@hindustantimes.com

Kejriwal with AAP candidate Deepak Singla. HT PHOTO

NEW DELHI: Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) convener Arvind Kejriwal on Monday addressed a rally in east Delhi's Vishwas Nagar, making a pitch for his party's welfare schemes and alleging that voting for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) would mean losing all benefits provided by the Delhi government.

Speaking at a "Jansabha" in Vishwas Nagar — a BJP stronghold where AAP has consistently failed to win since 2013 — Kejriwal warned that if the BJP retained power, the free electricity scheme would end, government schools would deteriorate, and Mohalla Clinics would shut.

Kejriwal, along with other AAP leaders, visited Vishwas Nagar, Krishna Nagar, and Gandhi Nagar ahead of the assembly polls. In Vishwas Nagar, BJP's Om Prakash Sharma, a three-time MLA, is contesting again against AAP's Deepak Singla.

"Do not press the lotus button on election day—not even by mistake," Kejriwal said. "If you ask the BJP what work they've done, they'll only abuse me. That's their manifesto: abuse Kejriwal. They're the 'Gaali Galoch Party.'"

He highlighted the state of electricity before the AAP government in Delhi, recalling frequent power cuts that plagued the city, especially in summer.

"Today, there are no power cuts in Delhi. But if you press the lotus button on Feb 5, you'll see power cuts again," he said.

Drawing comparisons, he claimed that people in Gujarat pay ₹4,500 for 400 units of electricity, while Delhi residents pay only ₹800. He also invited residents to call friends in nearby cities like Gurugram or Faridabad, where power cuts of 10-12 hours are reportedly common.

CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Turning to education, Kejriwal asked the crowd if government schools had improved. While most responded positively, some stayed silent.

Kejriwal also defended AAP's Mohalla Clinics, claiming they had benefited over 50 million people in five years. He criticised BJP MLA Om Prakash Sharma for opposing the establishment of more clinics in the area. "I told Sharma (BJP's Om Prakash Sharma) 'banwalo clinic', but he refused... This is because you chose the wrong MLA," he said.

The AAP leader also blamed the BJP for the hike in Delhi Jal Board bills, which he linked to his imprisonment. At Krishna Nagar, he made similar accusations. "I made water free for everyone, then they put me in jail over a false case... I don't know what conspiracy they cooked up with the LG but when I came back, people told me that they have received water bills of thousands and lakhs... All these bills are wrong, don't pay. After elections, your Kejriwal will waive them off," he said.

He further promised to establish three mohalla clinics in every ward of Krishna Nagar, and at the Gandhi Nagar rally, he said four mohalla clinics will be built in each ward.

Criticising the BJP's handling of law and order, Kejriwal said, "The BJP controls policing in Delhi, and they've ruined it. Gang wars are rampant, and women, children, and businessmen are unsafe. People are receiving extortion calls demanding crores."

The rally also saw participation from locals. Sujata Devi, 33, a homemaker, said, "How do we know if the roads will be improved? Before the AAP and the BJP, there was Congress. They did nothing. We live on rent and there is no free electricity. We have to pay at least ₹2,000 every month."

Harish Chawla, a resident of Arya Nagar, highlighted poor infrastructure and health services. "Nobody comes here after winning. The roads are a mess, mohalla clinics lack doctors, and sewer management is terrible. During the rains, our house was flooded," he said.

myvoice

JYOTI ARORA
School Principal, Shalimar Bagh

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST PROBLEM YOU ARE FACING IN THE CITY?

1 The primary challenge as a school head is the break of trust among education stakeholders, hindering progress. Additionally, external disruptions, such as pollution breaks, further divert attention from educational priorities.

WHAT HAS CHANGED IN DELHI IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS?

2 The pandemic has amplified the socio-economic divide among learners, including the digital and economic gaps. Despite these challenges, there has been a lack of concrete effort from policymakers to bridge these divides.

WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM THE GOVERNMENT IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS?

3 Recognising the role of private schools in the city's development and ensuring minimal disruptions to the academic year would contribute to a more stable and effective educational environment.

LG CALLS FOR DRIVE IN DELHI AGAINST ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

HT Correspondent
htreporters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Delhi administration, under lieutenant governor (LG) VK Saxena, has instructed the police to initiate a special campaign targeting illegal immigrants residing in the city. The directive follows a recent criminal incident in Mumbai involving a Bangladeshi national reportedly living under a false identity and working at a restaurant.

In an official statement, Saxena expressed concerns about the alleged involvement of illegal Bangladeshi and Rohingya immigrants in unlawful activities in Delhi.

"Such illegal immigrants are often employed by shopkeepers and other residents as workers/house help at far lower wages than the prescribed minimum wages, thereby depressing local labour markets," the LG said.

The statement also flagged the role of organised syndicates in providing forged documents, such as Aadhaar cards, voter IDs, and ration cards, enabling immigrants to secure employment and housing.

To counter the issue, the LG has ordered a citywide outreach programme using print and social media to encourage residents to verify the backgrounds of employees, domestic workers, and laborers.

AAP now targets Verma over 'massive growth in income'

HT Correspondent
htreporters@hindustantimes.com

Saurabh Bharadwaj

NEW DELHI: Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and Delhi's health minister Saurabh Bharadwaj on Monday threw a satire at the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and New Delhi candidate Parvesh Verma's rise in annual income from 2018 to 2024, as per the affidavits filed with the election commission.

Bharadwaj, at a press conference on Monday, cited the election commission's data and said that annual income declared by Verma has increased by 11,488% from ₹17,00,000 per annum in 2018 to over ₹19 crore in 2024. "His moveable assets like cash, gold-silver, bonds etc have seen growth from ₹3.2 crore to ₹96 crore over this five-year period. What a fantastic growth. Big business houses should seek lessons from him. He should tell this art of this massive income growth to us and poor people of this country," he quipped.

Responding to the claims, Verma said that the AAP is making these allegations out of fear of losing.

Further, Bhardwaj said that Verma's overall assets have gone up from ₹15.5 crore to ₹115 crore – a 645% increase. "Donald Trump should have called in to his oath taking. Verma has great talents," the minister said.

Verma, in a response, said, "The public in New Delhi has rejected Kejriwal. Wherever the Aam Aadmi Party leaders are going, they are facing opposition. This election is a battle between truth and lies, and lies are losing! They are making these baseless allegations as they can clearly see that they are losing the election from New Delhi. The AAP is getting restless due to imminent defeat."

Verma complains to ECI over Kejriwal's 'chair distribution'

HT Correspondent
htreporters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The BJP's New Delhi constituency candidate Parvesh Verma filed a complaint against Aam Aadmi Party chief Arvind Kejriwal for allegedly violating the model code of conduct by distributing chairs to residents' welfare associations (RWAs) in the constituency. The AAP, in turn, blamed Verma for distributing cash, shoes, bedsheets, and blankets to garner voters.

According to the complaint filed by Verma's election agent Sandeep Singh on Sunday with police and election officials, Verma accused Kejriwal of "conspiring and playing dirty tricks" to influence voters. "On January 19, 2024, at East Kidwai Nagar Type-2 quarters, Arvind Kejriwal sent his party workers for unlawfully distributing chairs to the RWA at the said address to influence the voters," the complaint read. It also comprised a video clip showing a man carrying chairs in a trolley. HT has not seen the video clip. Verma's complaint comes against a backdrop of the AAP filing multiple complaints against him, accusing him of distributing money, sarees, shoes and other gifts to voters of the New Delhi constituency.

The AAP, in a statement, responded, "Parvesh Verma has brazenly flouted every guideline, shamelessly distributing ₹1,100 cash, shoes, bedsheets, blankets, sarees, and spectacles to sway voters, while the Election Commission and Delhi Police remain silent spectators. Yet, none of this can match the transformative work Kejriwal has done for Delhi."

AMITY UNIVERSITY

2025 SESSION
ADMISSIONS OPEN AT AMITY

AMITY OFFERS OVER 400 PROGRAMMES WITH THE LARGEST OPTION OF CAREER-RELATED AREAS AT THE UG, PG AND Ph.D. LEVEL

- Acting
- Actuarial Science
- Advertising
- Aeronautical Engg.
- Aerospace Engg.
- Agriculture
- Animation
- Anthropology
- Architecture
- Artificial Intelligence
- Automobile Engg.
- Avionics
- Biochemistry
- Bioinformatics
- Biotechnology
- Chemistry
- Clinical Psychology
- Commerce
- Computer Applications
- Computer Sc. & Engg.
- Cyber Security
- Data Sc. & Business Analytics
- Defence & Strategic Studies
- Defence Technology
- Digital Marketing
- Economics
- Education
- Electric Vehicle Technology
- Engineering
- English Literature
- Environmental Science
- Fashion
- Film, TV & Web Series
- Finance
- Fine Arts
- Food Technology
- Foreign Language
- Forensic Sciences
- Forestry & Wildlife Science
- Geography
- Geo Informatics System & Remote Sensing
- Horticulture
- Hospital Administration & Public Health
- Hotel Management
- Information Technology
- Insurance & Banking
- Interior Design
- International Relations
- Journalism & Mass Comm.
- Law
- Life Sciences
- Logistics & Supply Chain Management
- Management
- Marine Science
- Mathematics
- Microbial Science
- Molecular Medicine & Stem Cell Research and Cancer Biology
- Nanomedicine
- Nanotechnology
- Natural Resources & Sustainable Development
- Neuropsychology & Neurosciences
- Nuclear Sc. & Technology
- Nutrition & Dietetics
- Occupational Therapy
- Performing Arts
- Pharmacy
- Philosophy, Political Science & Economics
- Physical Education
- Physics
- Physiology
- Physiotherapy
- Political Science
- PR & Event Mgmt.
- Product Design
- Psychology
- Public Policy
- Sanskrit Studies
- Social Work
- Sociology
- Space Science
- Special Education
- Statistics
- Synthetic Biology & Genome Engineering
- Travel & Tourism
- Urban Planning/ Design
- Virology & Immunology
- Visual Effects & Animation
- Yoga
- Zoology

13,000 Campus Placements in 2023-24
57 Faculty listed in top 2% scientists globally
US & UK Accredited degrees
STUDY ABROAD Opportunity in US, UK, Australia, Dubai... for all students
9,000 Students studying at Amity secured 90%+ in XII Boards
25,000 Merit Scholarships awarded

AMITY UNIVERSITY NOIDA CAMPUS: Apply at www.amity.edu/noida | Helpline : 0120-2445252 / 4713600
GURUGRAM CAMPUS: www.amity.edu/gurugram • Tel.: 7303-399-399 | GREATER NOIDA CAMPUS: www.amity.edu/gn • Tel.: 1800-103-3320

DELHI POLICE
SHANTI SEWA NYAYA

Your Vigilance, Delhi's Strength!
Every Vigilant Step Matters

If something suspicious is spotted, report it immediately.

Be extra careful in crowded areas and public space.

Verify your tenants and guests checking in hotels. Safety starts with checks.

Verify buyers/sellers of vehicles beforehand.

Report cyber crimes promptly at 1930.

Inform the authorities if you suspect foreigners overstaying.

DP/9747/2025

Be a responsible citizen. Act now! Let's make Delhi a safer city for all.

#ProudRajdhaniKeRakshak

E-mail to CP, Delhi at : cp.sanjayarora@delhipolice.gov.in | Write to CP, Delhi at Post Box No. 171, GPO, New Delhi
@DelhiPoliceOfficial | @DelhiPolice | @delhi.police_offical | @DelhiPoliceYT
FOR IMMEDIATE POLICE HELP CALL 112 TO SHARE INFORMATION CALL 14547

MAKE IN INDIA

ZERO DEFECT, ZERO EFFECT

INDIAN WOOD PANEL INDUSTRIES

acknowledge the vision and guidance of Honourable Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi for implementation of quality control order on Plywood, MDF, Particle Board & Wooden Flush Door Shutters.

JOIN US IN SUPPORTING MANDATORY QUALITY PRODUCTS FOR A STRONGER, GREENER, AND MORE PROSPEROUS INDIA

Making Indian standard world standard

Employment of 2 Million people (direct & indirect)

Supporting and scaling up the size and income of carpenters and millworkers

Increasing income of farmers engaged in agro forestry for supply of raw materials of wood panel industry

Opening doors for the export of quality products globally
(VOCAL FOR LOCAL, LOCAL TO GLOBAL)

Increasing Tree Green Cover, reducing carbon footprint, and acting as a carbon sink

Indian wood panel (Plywood, MDF & Particle Board) industry, which is valued at more than ₹50,000 Crore, is growing at more than 10% CAGR

Enhance consumer product safety and avert circulation of sub-standard products

Premium quality and reliability of 'Made in India' products shall be reinforced

A strong industry-government partnership to enhance quality consciousness

Federation of Indian Plywood and Panel Industry (FIPPI) and affiliated associations

Association of Indian Panel Board Manufacturers | Haryana Plywood Manufacturers' Association Plywood Manufacturers Welfare Association, U.P. | All India Plywood Manufacturers Association J&K Plywood Manufacturers Association. | Bangalore Plywood Manufacturers Association Association of Indian Plywood Panels & Laminate Industries | Rajasthan Plywood Manufacturers Association | Punjab Plywood Manufacturers Association | All India Plywood & Laminates Industries. | Wood-Based Udyog Association, U.P. | Delhi-NCR Plywood Manufacturer Association South India Plywood Manufacturers Association. | UK UP Plywood Manufacture Association Aimma All India MDF Manufacturers Association | Kandla Timber Association

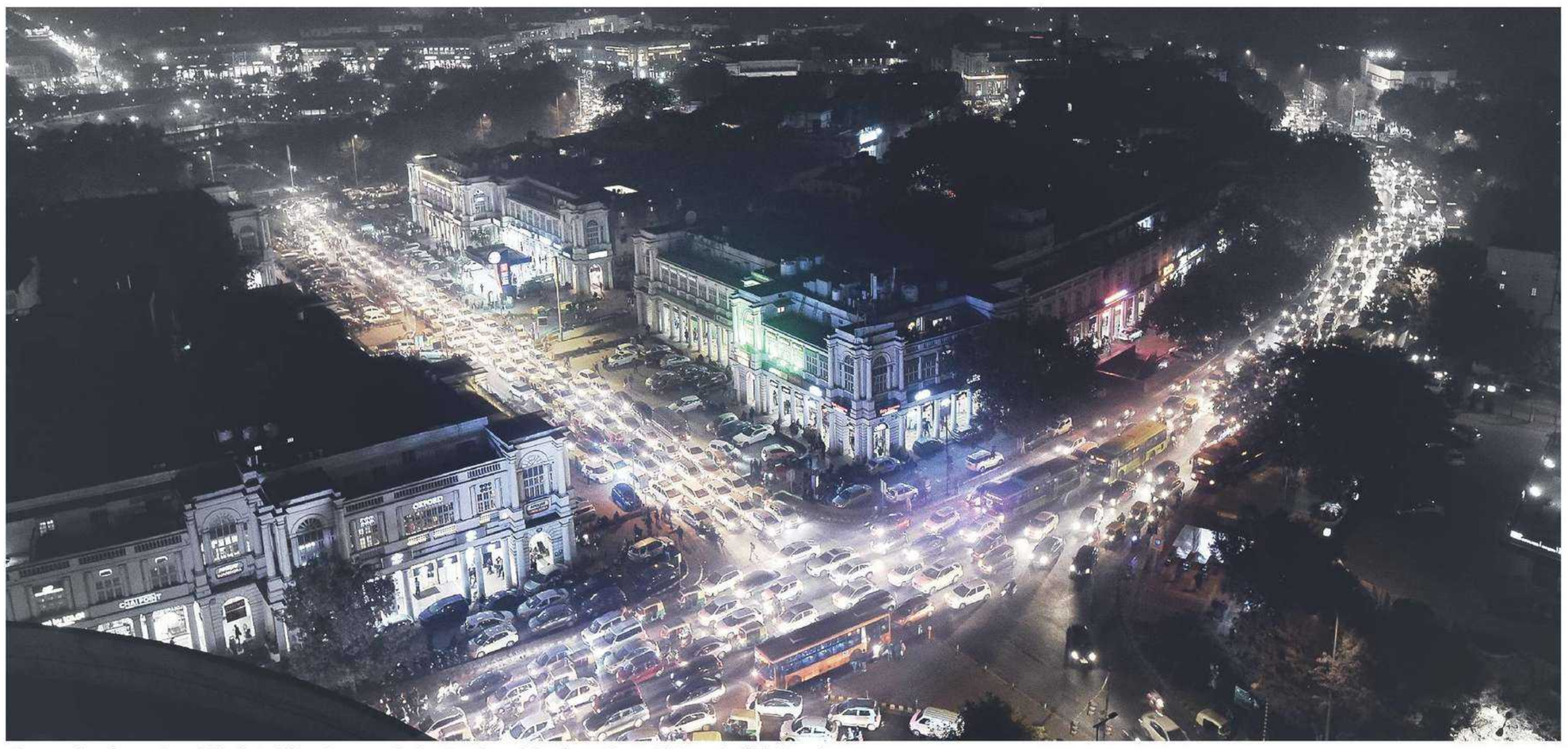
WOOD IS GOOD: GROW MORE, USE MORE

CAPITAL CONTEST THE BIG ISSUE

In a series, HT takes an in-depth view of the major issues that will define the electoral narrative in Delhi. Today, we look at traffic

On the road, but going nowhere

Though Delhi has India's most expansive road network, the city's sprawling streets have remained arenas of constant struggle for its 21mn residents



The promise of smooth mobility in Delhi has been crushed under the weight of countless vehicles and official inaction. HT PHOTO

Snehil Sinha and Karn Pratap Singh
htreporters@hindustantimes.com

Most often, a city's biggest bugbears affect neighbourhoods and regions differently. Delhi, which has its fair share of problems, is no different. For instance, water or electricity supply are problems in some areas, but not in others. Street crime is high in some parts of the city, but less in others. But, there's one problem that unites Delhi residents like no other, one that's impossible to ignore or evade — traffic.

The city's streets, sprawling and well-connected, have become a battleground of frustration and despair. The roads are arenas of constant struggle, where over 21 million residents — across age, class, and creed — find themselves stuck in an unrelenting dance of congestion. In the heart of India's Capital, the promise of smooth mobility has faded, and has been crushed under the weight of countless vehicles and official inaction.

The illusion of infrastructure

Delhi's road network, on paper, puts most other larger cities in India to shame. A radial design, converging at the Ring Road, seamlessly connects satellite towns Gurugram, Noida, and Ghaziabad to the Capital. Over 18,594km of expressways and highways stitch the National Capital Region (NCR) into one of the country's most integrated systems.

The total road length in Delhi is, in fact, more than double that of any other Indian town. The city's total road network is 33,198km, with Bengaluru, which has a road length of 14,000km, a distant second. It is followed by Kolkata with 4,018km, Hyderabad with 3,349km, Chennai with 2,780km and Mumbai with 1,941km, as of 2023.

But beneath Delhi's infrastructural sheen lies a bitter truth: the roads are bursting at the seams.

According to the government portal Parivahan, Delhi had nearly eight million registered vehicles in 2023 — one for every two registered voters.

The imbalance is staggering, especially when seen against the relatively static road network. Between 1981 and 2023, the number of vehicles in the city increased 21 times, but the road length barely doubled – from 15,487km to 33,198km, according to Delhi traffic police's Road Crash Report 2023.

The chasm is further exacerbated by the fact that 92.7% of the city's vehicular population are private cars and two-wheelers. Buses of all categories, the lifeline for millions of people in the city, account for a negligible 0.21%.

Experts warn that this uninhibited growth in private cars has pushed the city's road network to a tipping point.

"The Capital faces the challenge of managing a massive influx of traffic from highways, which is then discharged on Ring Road and Outer Ring Road. Highways and arterial roads have exceeded their carrying capacity, and the influx of vehicles from over 100 entry points daily only worsens the situation," said S Velmurugan, chief scientist and head of the traffic engineering and safety division at the Central Road Research Institute (CRRI). "This also makes it difficult to ascertain actual traffic volume in Delhi."

Even the Delhi Metro, with its expansive 393km network, struggles to ease the load. "Despite the Metro's presence, congestion remains a daily ordeal, leading to longer commutes, pollution, and wasteful fuel consumption," Velmurugan added.

A city without zoning

Another problem that cripples the road network in Delhi is the lack of proper zoning. In metropolises such as Mumbai or Bengaluru, there is a clear demarcation of commercial, industrial, and residential areas, creating predictable traffic flows. In Mumbai for instance, the local train network ferries millions from the city's residential north to the commercial south in the morning. The reverse plays out in the evening.

But Delhi's mixed-use planning ensures that traffic snarls persist at all hours.

Take Connaught Place, for instance. Known as a commercial hub, it also houses offices and residences, attracting vehicles from every corner of the city throughout the day.

Former Delhi Development Authority (DDA) officials explain that the need for "mixed land-use" development was felt after commercial activities grew many fold in the wake of the privatisation initiatives in 1990-1991. Mixed-use planning was officially adopted in the 2007 Master Plan, but experts argue it was poorly implemented.

"Private institutes, coaching centres, and shops began mushrooming in villages such as Jia Sarai and Kalu Sarai near IIT Delhi, Laxmi Nagar and Mukherjee Nagar by the late 1990s. This transition was hastily embraced by property owners to maximise rentals, but civic agencies failed to provide adequate infrastructure like parking and drainage," explains AK Jain, one of the first DDA commissioners.

The result? Residential neighbourhoods near colleges such as Laxmi Nagar and Mukherjee Nagar are now choked with traffic, with streets doubling as parking lots for cars and two-wheelers.

The parking predicament

The massive ballooning of cars in Delhi has led to the creation of another nightmare – parking.

In regions with high car ownership such as south and west Delhi, parked cars line the roads, barely leaving a single lane for the movement of vehicles. In areas such as east and northeast Delhi, narrow lanes are clogged by thousands of autos and e-rickshaws, which are used by millions in the absence of a clear strategy to provide last-mile connectivity.

Attempts to regulate parking have largely failed. Retrofitting measures multilevel parking structures remain underutilised, while on-street parking continues to consume valuable road space.

Anuj Malhotra, an urban planner who worked on multiple projects in Delhi and is now general manager of Srinagar Smart City Ltd, stresses the need for a wider, city-wide approach, rather than makeshift solutions. "Pilots to formalise on-street parking have been inconsistent. In any case, such projects can only be successful once there's full implementation within a stipulated time frame."

Adding to the chaos, buses often park along roads, creating bottlenecks.

At terminals like Anand Vihar and Sarai Kale Khan, buses idle for hours, waiting to fill seats. In residential parts of the city such as RK Puram, Vasant Kunj, Pitam Pura, Rohini and others, school buses occupy streets during pick-up and drop-off hours, forcing traffic to a crawl.

"Delhi does not have a single peak hour timing. There is heavy traffic during the morning hours due to schools and then due to the office hours. By the time office rush hour ends, school dispersal traffic begins. Once that settles, people start leaving offices by early evening, which goes on till at least 8pm. All these need to be juggled with VIP movement, special events, festivals and vehicle breakdowns," said a senior traffic official.

Breakdown blues

Delhi's aging fleet of buses adds another layer of frustration. With frequent breakdowns — averaging five to seven a day — major corridors like the Ring Road and Mathura Road often become parking lots of stranded vehicles.

In 2023, 486 bus breakdowns were reported by September, a slight improvement from 488 in 2022 but still alarming. "Each breakdown causes ripple effects, delaying thousands of commuters," notes the traffic police official.

Unregulated bus stops worsen the situation, according to residents. "Near the Okhla NSIC metro station, it is a daily affair for buses to drop off passengers in the middle of the roads. This area already has heavy traffic because of autos and e-rickshaws that occupy half the road. Huge buses stopping even for two minutes add several minutes of waiting time for others," said Sarita Vihar resident Sanjukta Banerjee.

Chaos from construction

If vehicles aren't causing gridlock, perpetual construction is. From flyover repairs to waterline projects, Delhi's roads are in a constant state of upheaval. Major routes, especially sections of the Ring Road and Outer Ring Road, have been under repair for years, forcing residents to plan trips with generous buffers.

"Travelling along the Ring Road has been a traffic nightmare in the last couple of years. First, there were repairs near the IIT flyover. Then, the Ashram flyover was being constructed. After that, repairs started on the Chirag Delhi flyover, and now after the last monsoon, the entire Ring Road is damaged. There is no time during the day when traffic is low or there is gridlock at some point," said Chetan Sharma, chairman of Federation of GK-II complex RWAs.

The root of the problem lies in Delhi's fragmented governance. With up to 14 agencies involved in road work, coordination is virtually non-existent. Agencies like the Delhi Jal Board and telecom companies dig up roads without consulting each other, leaving commuters to bear the brunt of their inefficiency.

Policy paralysis

Throwing a spanner in the already chaotic condition on the road is the battle for control between Delhi's elected government and the lieutenant governor. Bureaucratic delays, fuelled by this political prolonged power struggle between the elected Aam Aadmi Party government on one side and the Bharatiya Janata Party and the LG on the other, have stalled major infrastructure projects.

A finance department bottleneck has meant that only minor repairs get approved, leaving comprehensive road-strengthening plans in limbo. "The constant tug-of-war between the LG and the Delhi government has paralysed decision-making," said an official from the Public Works Department.

A patchy road ahead

Experts agree that piecemeal measures won't solve Delhi's traffic nightmare. A unified authority to streamline planning and execution is essential. Expanding public transport, improving last-mile connectivity, and implementing strict parking regulations could ease the burden.

For now, Delhi remains a city gridlocked, its roads a daily torment for its residents. Without bold action, the traffic crisis threatens to become the defining issue of the city's political and civic future.

Poor last-mile connectivity

While public transport is affordable and helps reduce traffic, it's private vehicles that account for around 92% of total registered vehicles in Delhi. **Buses and three-seater autorickshaws (TSRs) account for only 0.21% and 1.17% of the total vehicular load in the city.** Lack of last-mile connectivity sticks out, and even though Delhi has the best Metro connectivity in the country, most stations do not have designated auto stands. Lack of proper parking space leads to autos and e-rickshaws being parked haphazardly along roads, blocking traffic movement. The Mohalla bus service which was expected to solve this problem hasn't taken off yet. The Delhi government's Economic Survey of 2024 mentioned, "...Growing uses of personal cars and two-wheelers has led to a tremendous decline in air quality and traffic safety. In many urban areas, congestion has increased, and Delhi is already among India's largest producers of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Hence, promoting uses and improving efficiency and effectiveness of public transport is most desirable in Delhi."

- **92%** Private vehicles out of the total registered
- **0.21%** Buses
- **1.17%** Auto-rickshaws

Rampant encroachment

Whether it's the stretch outside AIIMS, the road outside Anand Vihar railway station or the lane opposite the Red Fort, rampant encroachment by street vendors and unauthorised construction is one of the key reasons for nightmarish traffic snarls across Delhi. Experts suggest that it is a better practice to allocate space to vendors on wide footpaths, rather than displacing them entirely. An internal audit was conducted by the Public Works Department (PWD) between July and November 2023 that found that **just about 16% of the footpaths were wide enough and 25% were usable in terms of the surface condition.**

- **16%** Footpaths wide enough to be given to vendors
- **25%** With usable surfaces

PWD's data from July 2023 to November 2023

No space for walking and cycling paths

The exponential growth in vehicles on the roads of the city due to lack of adequate public transport and safe cycling and walking tracks is one of the causes of congestion. At least 35% of Delhi residents own cycles, but only 4.5% of the population cycles due to safety concerns and lack of cycle-parking facilities, as per the 2011 Census. **Traffic police data stated that pedestrians comprised 43% of all road crash deaths in Delhi in 2023.**

- **43%** Pedestrians in road crash deaths in 2023
- **35%** Cycle owners
- **4.5%** Actually go out to cycle

{ PARTIES' STAND }

Aam Aadmi Party

- To complete phase 4 of Delhi Metro by adding six new corridors and taking total length of metro network to over 500km by 2030
- Number of electric buses to touch 8,000 by 2026 from 2,000 now
- Over 2,000 mohalla buses to be deployed to provide enhanced last-mile connectivity
- Major roads to be redeveloped on European standards by 2030
- Colony roads to be developed to make them pothole free

Bharatiya Janata Party

- To add 3,650 DTC buses on the road each year for three years to ensure that Delhi has 11,000 buses by end of 2027
- To make travel signal-free in Delhi
- Make autos more comfortable and accessible

Congress

- Improve metro and bus networks
- Reintroduce monorail proposal
- Improve last-mile connectivity
- Improve the state of footpaths

{ EXPERT SPEAK } AMIT BHATT, MANAGING DIRECTOR (INDIA), INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF CLEAN TRANSPORT (ICCT)

1 Delhi's EV (electric vehicles) policy set a target of 24% EV sales by 2024-end, but the actual share last year was less than 10%. While there is policy intervention, it needs to be translated on the ground, especially for public transport initiatives like the 9m electric buses procured over two years ago which haven't been launched yet.

2 Delhi requires 12,000 buses to meet its public transport needs, yet the current fleet is only around 7,000. Expanding the fleet is vital to strengthening Delhi's public transport system. There is an urgent need to improve last-mile connectivity, along with parking spaces and fare regulation.

3 Street design plays a key role in promoting the city as a pedestrian-friendly hub, and to foster a more inclusive and sustainable urban environment, we need to redesign streets to ensure safe walking and cycling. Robust pedestrian infrastructure can reduce the need for car usage substantially, especially for shorter trips.

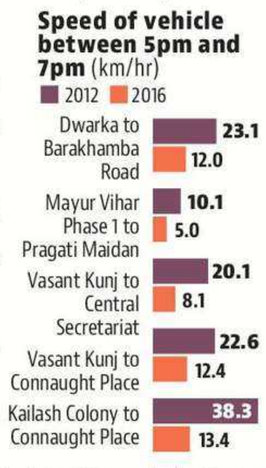
Quantifying the challenge

By Abhishek Jha

Delhi's traffic problem is a labyrinth of issues, shaped by a surging vehicle population, deregistered vehicles that may still crowd roads, and an overstressed public transport system. Meanwhile, data gaps and patchwork policy interventions obscure the true scale of the crisis. Here's a look at the complexity behind the chaos.

1 Is rush hour traffic only getting worse by the year?

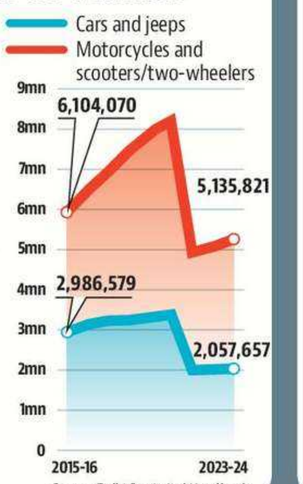
A 2016 study by urban designers and road engineers had found that the speed of traffic during peak hours halved or less between 2012 and 2016. It was conducted for only five stretches connecting residential areas to corporate hubs, but is instructive of what might have happened after the period of the study. During the period of the study, the number of vehicles had increased from around 7mn to 9mn. By 2020-21, this number had increased to 12.2mn.



Research by six Bhopal-based urban designers and road engineers.

2 Deregistration of old cars masks the rising number of vehicles

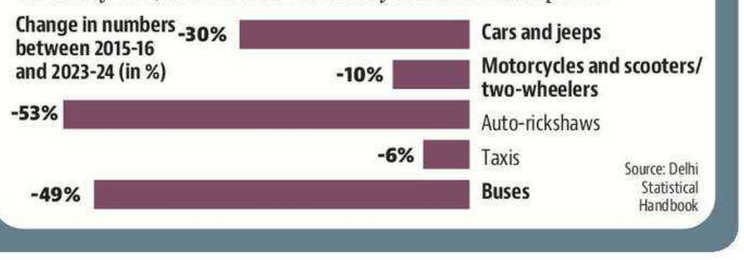
The number of vehicles registered in Delhi drastically decreased to 7.7 million in 2021-22. This drop, however, was largely because of deregistration of older vehicles following orders of the SC and the NGT. Despite deregistrations, the number of registered vehicles in Delhi in 2023-24 was just 1.5 million shy of the number in 2015-16. This suggests that even de-registrations are unlikely to halt the long-term growth. Moreover, it is not necessary that all deregistered vehicles are off the road. For instance, while 5.8mn vehicles were deregistered in 2023-24, the number of scrapped vehicles was only 156,000.



Source: Delhi Statistical Handbook

3 The fledgling public transport network

Another cause of the traffic woes in Delhi is likely the shortage of public transport. Compared to two-wheelers, whose base number is already in millions and grows by several thousand every year, the number of buses in Delhi has remained relatively stagnant. There were only 17,621 buses in Delhi in 2023-24 compared to 2.1 million cars and jeeps and 5.5 million two-wheelers. However, that their number is stagnant while the number of private vehicles is rising fast suggests that public transport is not keeping pace with the need for it. In fact, compared to the change between 2015-16 and 2023-24, even keeping in mind the big deregistration jump, the biggest fall in numbers was reported in autorickshaws and buses with both halving. While the number of autorickshaws on the road has shrunk by 53%, the number of buses has gone down by 49%. In contrast, the number of cars and jeeps shrunk by 30%, and two-wheelers fell by 10% in the same period.



Source: Delhi Statistical Handbook

Modi, Shah, Yogi set to intensify Delhi BJP campaign after R-Day

HT Correspondent
htreporters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: With just over two weeks left for the Delhi assembly elections, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is gearing up for an intense outreach campaign featuring public addresses by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union home minister Amit Shah, and a roster of chief ministers, including Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath, party leaders said.

A senior BJP leader revealed that the campaign would escalate after the Republic Day celebrations, with PM Modi set to spearhead the outreach in the final phase.

While his rally schedule is yet to be finalised, he is expected to address at least three gatherings after January 30, one of the leaders cited above said.

"Between Sunday and Wednesday (when Beating the Retreat is held) there is a possibility of addressing a gathering, but most likely the PM's events will be held after January 30," said a person aware of the details.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses a public meeting in Rohini in northwest Delhi on January 5. VIPIN KUMAR/HT PHOTO

The Delhi BJP unit is advocating for PM Modi's rallies in key locations, including Yamuna Khadar in northeast Delhi, Karkardooma in East Delhi, and a site between Dwarka and Bijwasan, according to a local party leader who asked not to be identified.

"PM Modi has a history of addressing events in Dwarka and attending Dussehra celebrations there. This time, a rally may focus on the Bijwasan-Mehrauli belt," said the leader.

Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath, regarded as a star orator with mass appeal, is expected to begin campaigning this week, with around 10 public engagements planned, a second Delhi BJP leader said.

"Around 10 public meetings of Yogi Adityanath are being planned out of which seven will be smaller public corner meeting while two to three would be larger rallies," BJP leader said.

A BJP leader said that the focus of most of the leaders will be on small public gatherings and sabhas while the larger gatherings with more than 10,000 people will be mostly held by PM Modi, who is likely to hold three rallies, and Amit Shah and Adityanath.

BJP national president JP Nadda is also slated to address five to six public meetings across constituencies.

Meanwhile, Uttarakhand chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami will target areas with significant populations from the hilly state, such as the Patparganj belt, with at least four corner meetings planned.

The party is also deploying its Purvanchali leaders, including Manoj Tiwari and Ravi Kishan, to campaign in areas with a large Purvanchali population. Their presence aims to bolster support among this key voter demographic.

Last week, the BJP released a list of 40 star campaigners, including Union ministers Rajnath Singh, Nitin Gadkari, Piyush Goyal, Hardeep Puri, and Dharmendra Pradhan. The high-stakes election for Delhi's 70-member assembly will be held on February 5, with results announced on February 8.

{ ₹2,100 FOR WOMEN } HC HEARING ON JANUARY 30

No urgent hearing of plea against AAP sop

HT Correspondent
htreporters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Delhi high court on Monday declined to advance the hearing date on a petition seeking to halt further registration under the Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) "Mukhyamantri Mahila Samman Yojana," under which women were promised ₹2,100 monthly aid if the party secured power in the upcoming Delhi elections.

The court maintained its January 30 hearing date, dismissing the petitioner's plea for urgency.

The scheme was challenged in a petition filed by one Vijay Kumar who moved an application to advance the date fixed by the court.

A bench of justice Jyoti Singh found no justification to advance the date, particularly when Kumar did not appear on the last date of hearing despite the matter being called out thrice on January 10. On that day, the high court adjourned the matter to January 30.

"On the last date, matter was passed over three times and the petitioner was unrepresented. No grounds for early hearing is made out," justice Singh said.

In his application seeking early hearing, Kumar underscored that the Delhi government was continuing with the registration under the scheme. His petition claimed that the AAP was luring voters with a false announcement as the government had already denied having such a scheme. He further sought directive for the Election Commission of India (ECI) to act on the complaint, stating that failure of the apex poll body to take a call would have a "grave impact" on Delhi's women voters.

On January 9, the high court had raised questions regarding the maintainability of the plea. "How is it maintainable as an election petition? You go and file a PIL," justice Jyoti Singh had told advocate Shiv Shankar Parashar, representing Kumar.

{ JYOTI SINGH } HC JUSTICE

On last date, matter was passed over three times and petitioner was unrepresented. No grounds for early hearing is made out.

The scheme was rolled out by AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal on December 12, promising that the party would raise the monthly aid from ₹1,000 to ₹2,100 if the party returned to power. Kejriwal clarified that the first instalments under the scheme will only be credited after the elections.

In December 2024, the ruling party in Delhi had also launched a registration drive for the scheme. However, controversy erupted a day later, when the Delhi government's women and child development and health departments issued separate public notices disavowing the programme, calling them "non-existent".

{ HARSH CONDITIONS } AFTER VISIT TO HOSPITAL ON FRIDAY

Rahul writes to CM, BJP on facilities at AIIMS

HT correspondent
htreporters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said on Monday that he has written to Delhi chief minister Atishi and Union health minister JP Nadda urging them to immediately address the harsh conditions faced by patients outside the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Delhi. Rahul visited the hospital last Friday and met the patients and families who have put up on roads, footpaths, and subways outside AIIMS.

"I was deeply saddened to see hundreds of patients and their families huddled on the footpath and subway in the bitter winter cold, with only thin blankets for warmth and no access to drinking water or sanitation facilities," Rahul told Atishi in his letter dated January 18.

He sought urgent relief from the Delhi government, including heating, bedding, water, and shelter for the patients who have nowhere to go. He recommended exploring solutions such as expanding the hospital's accommodation capacity to better support patients.

In his letter to Nadda, Rahul highlighted the overburdened nature of AIIMS, which is struggling to meet the demands of millions of Indians lacking access to affordable healthcare. "The sharp rise in the costs of private healthcare warrants close examination," he added, urging the government to strengthen public healthcare infrastructure and ease the financial burden on patients.

He also sought swift operationalisation of new AIIMS facilities across the country, saying that expanding these facilities was critical to meet the growing demand for medical services.

Patients outside AIIMS on January 8. RAJ K RAJ /HT PHOTO

After Rahul's Friday visit, AIIMS media in-charge, Rima Dada, had issued a statement saying, "We have seen the reports of people waiting outside AIIMS. Firstly, it cannot be confirmed that all the patients are those waiting to get treatment at AIIMS or from Safdarjung. But on average, AIIMS Delhi gets 18,000 to 20,000 patients per day and we are trying to make a lot of efforts to cater to the increasing number. We already have Vishram Sadan, with a capacity of 1,500, where patients and their families can stay while they have to wait to get the treatment. Further, we have recently started a shelter camp called Ashray. The camp has been set up by CRPF, outside our trauma centre which has a capacity of 1,500 camps. We transfer patients who are waiting outside AIIMS gate numbers 6, 1, and 3 to the shelter through our e-vehicles."

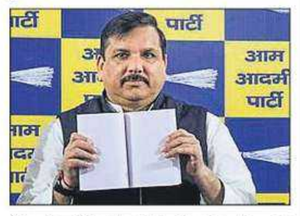
AAP likens BJP's work in Delhi to an 'empty book'

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The AAP on Monday released a blank book titled "Dilli Me Bhajpa Ki Uplabdhiyan (BJP's Achievements in Delhi)," mocking the BJP for allegedly failing to deliver on its election promises. AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh unveiled the book at a press conference, criticising the BJP for unfulfilled pledges on issues ranging from housing to economic reforms.

Singh said the book symbolised BJP's nonperformance, alleging, "They [BJP] won't talk about their achievements, so we've released this book for them." Flipping through the blank pages, he accused the BJP of making hollow promises during the 2014 elections, including providing permanent housing, doubling farmers' incomes, strengthening the rupee, and enhancing border security.

"Despite promises made after 2014, the Prime Minister failed to deliver ₹15 lakh to every citizen's account, create 2 crore jobs annually, or provide pucca houses in slums," Singh said.



Sanjay Singh with the book. PTI

In response, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva accused Singh of "plotting conspiracies, spreading confusion, and dealing with liquor contractors" instead of recognising the Modi government's contributions to Delhi.

"Today, expressways like Urban Extension Road-2, Dwarka Expressway, Meerut Expressway, Eastern-Western Corridor, and the Pragati Maidan tunnel simplify travel and reduce pollution. The Modi government has given Delhi over 1,300 electric buses, while the Kejriwal government hasn't added a single DTC bus in ten years," Sachdeva said.

699 CANDIDATES LEFT IN THE RACE AFTER LAST DATE OF WITHDRAWAL

HT Correspondent
htreporters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: A total of 699 candidates are in the fray for the Delhi Assembly polls after the final scrutiny of nomination papers on Monday, which was the last date for candidates to withdraw their nominations, election commission officials said.

Maximum number of candidates -- 23 -- in the fight are for the New Delhi assembly constituency, where the AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal, BJP's Parvesh Verma and Congress' Sandeep Dikshit are contesting. Kasturba Nagar and Patel Nagar, at five each, are the constituencies with the fewest contestants.

According to the nomination data released by the chief electoral officer (CEO) on Monday, 1,522 nomination papers from 981 candidates were received, out of which 719 candidates were cleared in the scrutiny process and finally 699 were left after the withdrawal deadline.

The scrutiny of the nominations was done on January 18, as the last date for filing nominations was January 17. Delhi will go to polls on February 5 and will witness a contest among the AAP, Congress and BJP.

'UNBREAKABLE' FILM NOW ON YOUTUBE: AAP

HT Correspondent
htreporters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: After two failed bids to screen the film "Unbreakable", which is on the arrest of AAP leaders in corruption cases, the party said the film was released on YouTube on Monday. "Despite BJP's efforts to prevent its public viewing, the documentary was released on YouTube by Dhruv Rathee on his channel," the AAP said.

AAP with 'tukde tukde' gang: Anurag Thakur

HT Correspondent
htreporters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: BJP leader and former union minister Anurag Thakur in a press conference on Monday dubbed the AAP a party of "algavwad", "atankwad" and "afwah" while accusing it of supporting "separatists" and raising questions on the spate of hoax bomb threats to schools in Delhi.

Thakur said: "AAP came to power talking about corruption of the Congress. But now the 'A' in AAP is also known for 'arajakta' (anarchy), 'algavwad' (separatism), 'atankwad' (terorrism), 'afwah' (rumours) and 'apradhi' (criminals)," he added.

Thakur said that "some people were trying for a presidential pardon ahead of the hanging of accused Afzal Guru." "Whose NGO came forward for commuting of Afzal Guru death sentence? Will (Delhi chief minister) Atishi and (Arvind) Kejriwal say something or keep mum?...Who stood shoulder to shoulder with the tukde tukde gang who raised anti-national slogans?" he asked.

Hitting back, the AAP said, "BJP has no vision, no agenda or CM face for Delhi. They're facing a leadership drought and are panicking. The BJP's only response is to abuse Arvind Kejriwal."

Mann campaigns in Badli

Punjab chief minister Bhagwant Mann during a roadshow in support of party candidate from Badli constituency Ajesh Yadav, in the city on Monday. PTI

BJP, Congress hit out at AAP over EWS housing: Thousands of flats lie in ruins

HT Correspodent
htreporters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The BJP and Congress on Monday targeted the AAP-led Delhi government for allegedly failing to deliver "thousands of flats" developed for economically weaker section (EWS) which were never handed over to the recipients and are lying in a "ruined" and "dangerous state."

The issue of housing has become the latest flashpoint in the run-up to the Delhi elections, a day after AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal announced a new housing scheme for government workers, starting with sanitation staff.

At the centre of the tussle are thousands of EWS flats which were constructed under the Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission in 14 areas.

The AAP, in turn, blamed the Centre for creating a clash of opinions on whom to allot the flats, thereby delaying the allocation.

Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva, accompanied by North West Delhi MP Yogendra Chandolia, visited the vacant flats near the Bawana JJ cluster on Monday.

"Despite serving as chief minister thrice, Kejriwal has ignored these flats, mismanaging public funds while misleading the poor with false promises," said Sachdeva. He alleged that the flats, built with central government assistance, were neglected because the AAP government insisted on rebranding the project under its name.

ON THE GROUND

Hours later, at a press conference, Congress leader and MP Rajiv Shukla accused both the BJP and the AAP of turning housing projects into a battleground for credit.

"The Congress at the Centre approved construction of 52,344 flats at a cost of ₹2,415.82 crore of which 35,744 were built but only 4,883 were allotted...others are decaying...The BJP and the AAP's fight for credit has damaged infrastructure...These schemes, implemented by the Congress to uplift the poor, are now being appropriated by both parties to mislead voters."

The AAP, in a statement, said, "Though these flats were ready for many years before the AAP came to power, there is a conflict created by the Centre regarding the flats' allocation. The Centre wants to rent them to people working in the Centre. But the Delhi government is of the view that slum dwellers should get these accommodations."

UTTARAKHAND CIVIL AVIATION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Sahastradhara Helidrome Dehradun, P.O Kulhan, Pincode 248013 Email : ucadadoon@gmail.com
Letter No. 090/UCADA/B200/2025 **TENDER NOTICE** Date: 20 Jan 2025
Uttarakhand Civil Aviation Development Authority, Govt of Uttarakhand is Operating and Maintaining its own SKA-B200 Aeroplane (Proline 21 Equipped) under their own DGCA Approved CAR145 Maintenance Organization at JollyGrant Airport Dehradun. We are Inviting 01 Year Duration Tender from DGCA Approved CAR145 Maintenance Organizations for B1 and B2 Engineering Support for SKA-B200 Aeroplane (Proline 21 Equipped) Under our Quality Control System. The detailed tender schedule is as follows:
Date of Downloading of Tender : 21/01/2025 Time: 09:00 hrs
Pre-bid Meeting : 27/01/2025 Time: 11:30 hrs
Last Date for submission of Tender : 04/02/2025 Time: 11:00 hrs
Last Date for submission of documents physically at UCADA : 04/02/2025 Time: 12:00 hrs
Opening of Technical Bid : 04/02/2025 Time: 12:00 hrs
Opening of Financial Bid will be intimated by e-mail to the technically qualified bidders.
For more details, please visit www.uktenders.gov.in/official website www.ucada.in/ Uttarakhand Civil Aviation Development Authority, Doon Helidrome, Mussoorie bypass P.O.-Kulhan, Dehradun, Uttarakhand-248013. CEO, UCADA

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Open E-Tender Notice
The Sr. Divisional Engineer-II, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for the following work.
NIT -61 — Name of work: Gradient verification of stations yards and sections using Lidar Survey technology in the section of ADEN/GZB & ADEN/MUT. Approx cost of work: As per NIT or IREPS. Earnest Money to be deposited: As per NIT or IREPS
Date & Time of opening of tender: 14.02.2025 15:00 Hrs.
Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen: www.ireps.gov.in
•The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for participating in the e-tender system.
•For all terms and conditions please refer tender document.
•No manual offers are acceptable.
•Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only.
•No. NIT- 128-W/280/e Tender Notice/NIT-61-24-25-W-II Date: 20.01.2025 216/2025
Serving Customers With A Smile

GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN
DISTRICT SUPPLY OFFICE, ALWAR
Email- dsofood-ALW-rj@nic.in, Phone No.:- 0144-2344553
कमांक:- 39 दिनांक:- 09.01.25
Notice Inviting Bid
e-Bids for selection of Handling and Transportation of Food grains Under PDS from FCI Depots in District ALWAR are invited from interested bidders up to Date- 30.01.2025 Time 12.00 pm Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in or http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in) of the state, The approximate value of the procurement is 12.50 crore for One year.
UBN: FCC2425SLOB00106
NIB: FCC2425A0076
Sd/- District Supply Officer ALWAR
Dipr/c/692/2025

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Regd. Office: Vidyut Bhavan, Block-DJ, Sector-II, Bidhannagar, Kolkata - 700 091
CIN: U40109WB2007SGC113473, www.wbsedcl.in
WBSEDCL invites e-Tender as follows:
NIT No.: WBSEDCL/SPGD/2X10 MW SPVPP/Gangapur Ph I & II/2024-25/NIT-60, Dt.: 15.01.2025 of the Chief Engineer, Solar Power Generation Department, WBSEDCL. Estimated Cost: ₹ 56.51 Cr. (for Gangapur- I) & ₹ 56.51 Cr. (for Gangapur- II) for 'Design & Engineering, Manufacture/Procurement, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning, including warranty obligation with 5 (five) years Comprehensive Operation and Maintenance of 02 (two) nos. 10 MW (AC) [Minimum 12 MWp (DC)] capacity of Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Power Plants each at Gangapur-I & Gangapur- II under Rajnagar Block, Birbhum, West Bengal'.
For details, visit https://wbtenders.gov.in & www.wbsedcl.in ICA- T1510(3)/2025

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL S.M.S. MEDICAL COLLEGE & CONTROLLER OF THE ATTACHED HOSPITALS, JAIPUR
No.- F/MC/Store/2024-25/6197-6200 Dated: 8.01.2025
Notice Inviting Bid
Bid for procurement of below mentioned items at SMS Medical College, Jaipur, are invited from interested bidders as per schedule in NIT Notice. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the Procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in) of the state; and SMS Medical College, Jaipur department website.
UBN: SMS2425GLOB00405 To SMS2425GLOB00412
Sd/-
Dipr/c/557/2025 PRINCIPAL & CONTROLLER

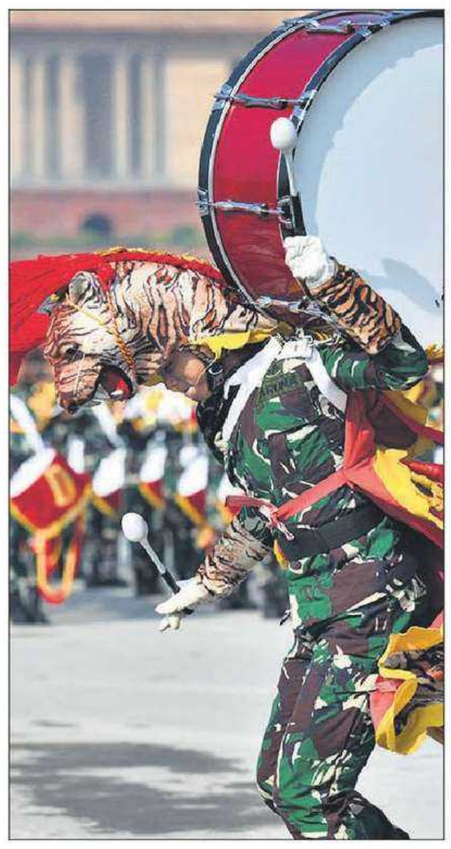
सस्य विज्ञान संभाग
Division of Agronomy
भा.कृ.अनु.प.-भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान संस्थान
ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute
पूसा, नई दिल्ली-110012 / Pusa, New Delhi -110012
Dated: 20.01.2025
WALK-IN-INTERVIEW
A walk-in interview for 01 Young Professionals (on a temporary/contractual basis, up to January 2026 or until the project's completion, whichever is earlier) under the project "Evaluating the Impact of CleanRise on Yield Improvement and carbon footprints in Wheat and Canola mustard Crops" will be held on 10th February 2025 at 10.00 AM at the Division of Agronomy, ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa, New Delhi-110012. For details about the vacancies, essential and desirable qualifications, and other information, please visit the institute's website: www.iari.res.in.
(Assistant Administrative Officer)
Division of Agronomy
ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute
New Delhi-110012

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala)
Corporate Identification No. U40109PB2010SGC033813
website: www.pspcl.in
(Contact 9646118773)
Short Term Tender Enquiry No.: Q-4029/24-25/PO-T/CE-MM
Chief Purchase Officer/MM, Central Purchase Organization, PSPCL, 2nd Floor, Multi Storey Building, The Mall, PSPCL invites Short Term E-tender of 320 Nos., Three Phase, 315 kVA, ISI Marked, EEL-2/Star-2, oil immersed, CRGO/Amorphous core, Aluminium wound, distribution transformers complete with fittings as per PSPCL specifications & conforming to IS 1180 Part-1 (2014) & IS 2026 (with latest amendments). For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 21.01.2025 onwards.
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at http://eproc.punjab.gov.in
C39/25 40954

INDIAN RAILWAYS
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (BHARAT SARKAR)
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAIL MANTRALAYA)
(RAILWAY BOARD)
No. 2024/RS(E)/TM/1 New Delhi, Dated: 16.01.2025
CORRIGENDUM No. 1
Sub : E-open Global Tender No: 2024-TM-1A closing on 24.01.2025 for Design, Manufacture, Supply, Testing & Commissioning of 23 nos. of 'Multi Purpose Tamper (MPT)' along with Training of Indian Railway personnel and 3 years post warranty AMC.
1. The due date of closing of the subject tender has been changed from 24.01.2025 (Friday) to 17.03.2025 (Monday).
2. All other terms and conditions of the tender shall remain the same.
Director, Railway Stores (F)
(Railway Board)
217/2025
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

BRIC-NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF IMMUNOLOGY
(A Research Institute under Department of Biotechnology, Govt. of India)
JNU Complex, Aruna Asaf Ali Marg, New Delhi - 110067
Phone: 011-26717121-45 & 26717010-19, web: www.nii.res.in
No. NII/IWS/2.10/Auc-2025 Date: 21.01.2025
AUCTION NOTICE
Sealed Bids are invited on behalf of the Director, NII, for disposal of the Surplus, Unserviceable, Obsolete, Scrap & Empties Stores articles such as laboratory equipments, furniture, office computers metal and plastic scrap items on "As is where is Basis and No complaints Basis"
1. Inspection of the material - 05.02.2025, 06.02.25 & 07.02.2025 (Between 02:00 PM to 3:00 PM at NII)
2. Last date of Receipt of Bids - 10.02.2025 up to 3:00 PM
3. Bid Opening - 10.02.2025 at 3:30 PM
The List of Items along with T&C can be obtained from web site "www.nii.res.in"
SENIOR MANAGER

Indonesia's finest ready for R-Day



A 160-member Indonesian military contingent and a 190-member band contingent will take part in the Republic Day parade, as Indonesian president Prabowo Subianto will be the chief guest for the event. Foreign soldiers took part in the parade for the first time in 2016, when a French army contingent of 130 soldiers marched down Rajpath (now Kartavya Path).

RAJ K RAJ /HT PHOTOS

Temp remains above normal, AQI improves

Jasjeev Gandhiok
htreporters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: There was bright sunshine, pleasant winds and light fog on Monday, all the makings of a spring day as Delhi's air quality improved. But missing, by contrast, was a severe winter chill, a characteristic of January in the Capital, as temperatures continued to remain well above normal for this time of the year.

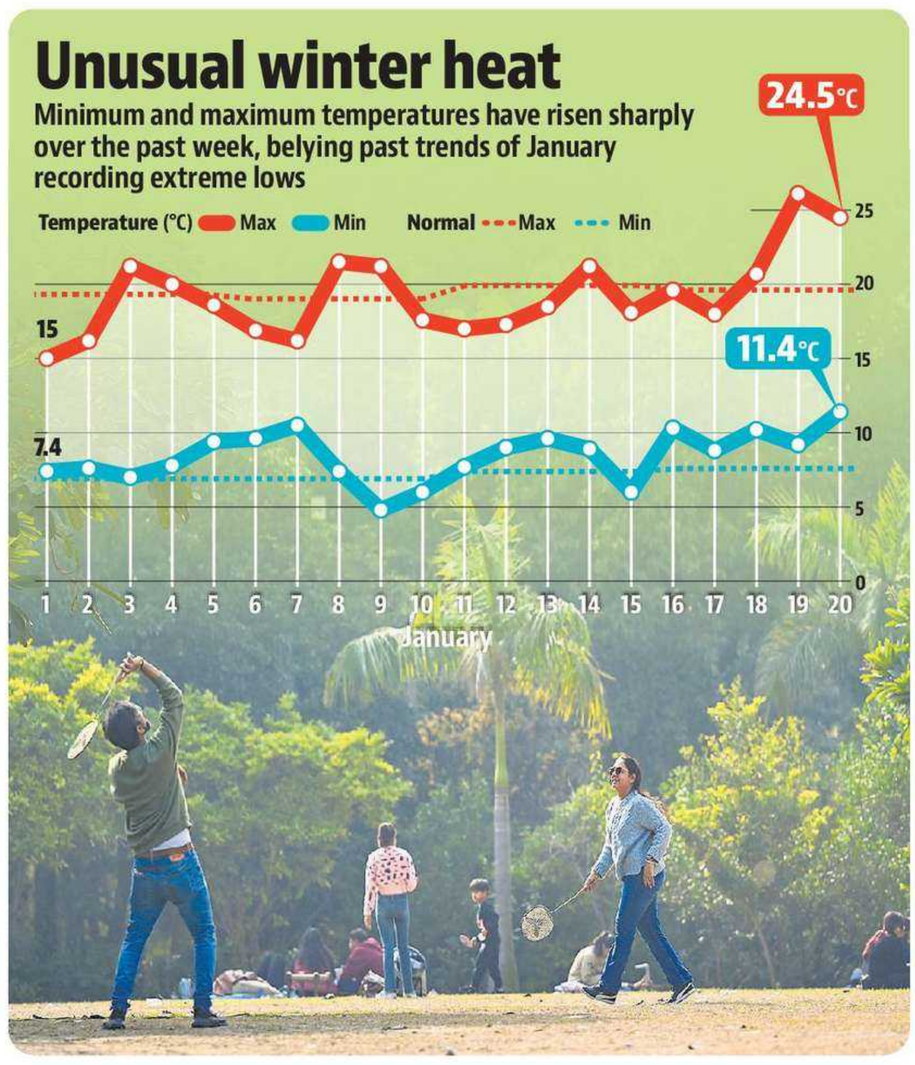
Delhi recorded a maximum temperature of 24.5 degrees Celsius (°C) and a minimum temperature of 11.4°C, which were five and four degrees respectively higher than the normal, as western disturbances continue to wreak havoc on the winter pattern.

"To have dipping temperatures, one needs northwesterly winds for multiple straight days. These are icy-cold winds and gradually lead to a dip in both maximum and minimum, but especially minimum. This month, we have been recording western disturbances one after another, which changes the wind direction," said Mahesh Palawat, vice president at Skymet meteorology.

Palawat said Sunday and Monday's rise in maximum temperature was down to the absence of strong northwesterly winds, coupled with clear skies. "We are now seeing bright sunshine and even the fog intensity has reduced," he said, stating despite rain predicted this week, a significant dip in temperature is unlikely.

On Sunday, Delhi recorded a maximum temperature of 26.1°C, which was the warmest January day in six years, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD). The department forecasted similar weather to persist on Tuesday, before a western disturbance is expected to influence the region from Tuesday evening, and issued a yellow alert for light rain and moderate to dense fog.

Across the city, the highest maximum temperature was 24.8°C, recorded at the Palam observatory, and the lowest was 19°C, recorded at Najafgarh. The lowest minimum temperature on Monday was 10.4°C, recorded at Palam, and the highest was 13.6°C, recorded at Pitampura.



This is in stark contrast to the lowest maximum and minimum temperatures of the season—4.5°C on December 12, 2024, and 14.6°C on December 27, 2024.

In its seven-day forecast until January 26, IMD forecasted Delhi's maximum to dip again following a spell of light rain on Wednesday and hover around 19°C. The minimum temperature is, meanwhile, expected to hover between 10°C and 12°C until Thursday, before dipping to around 8°C by the weekend.

Delhi witnessed shallow fog on Monday, with the lowest visibility at 600 metres at Safdarjung and 500 metres at Palam. IMD forecasted moderate fog for Tuesday, with moisture intrusion from the approaching western disturbance to once again lead to dense fog by Wednesday morning.

AIR WE BREATHE

Delhi's AQI improves

Clear skies and an increase in wind speed over the past 24 hours took Delhi's air quality to the lower end of the "very poor" category. The 24-hour average air quality index (AQI) at 4pm on Monday was 314, an improvement of 54 points from the AQI of 368 recorded on Sunday, according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

The Centre's Early Warning System for Delhi forecasted the AQI to be in the "poor" range on Tuesday, before possibly returning to "very poor" on Wednesday. The impact of rainfall on Wednesday is then likely to lead to another improvement on Thursday, it said.

"Winds slow down when a western disturbance approaches a region. However, the impact of rains will help Delhi's AQI again," Palawat said.

SC TO HEAR BAIL PLEA BY TAHIR HUSSAIN TODAY

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court will take up on Tuesday a petition by Mohammad Tahir Hussain seeking bail in the 2020 Delhi riots case to contest the Delhi assembly elections.

The court was hearing the petition filed by Hussain challenging a Delhi high court order of January 13 denying bail.

A bench headed by justice Pankaj Mithal observed, "Nowadays, people are fighting elections from jail and also winning elections. All these persons should be debarred from contesting elections."

Hussain, who is contesting the upcoming Delhi elections on an All India Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen (AIMIM) ticket, was recently granted parole by the high court to enable him to file his nomination for the Mustafabad assembly constituency.

Senior advocate Siddharth Agarwal, appearing for Hussain, sought interim bail as Hussain's nomination has been accepted and the polls are scheduled for February 5. HTC

21-yr-old uses AI pictures to extort college student; held

Karn Pratap Singh
htreporters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: A 21-year-old man was arrested for allegedly sexually harassing a 19-year-old woman, a college student, by threatening to publicise pictures and videos of her created using artificial intelligence (AI) software unless she paid him ₹50,000, police said on Monday.

Cyber cell officials said the accused, identified as Nikhil Singh, a resident of Harsh Vihar, created a fake social media account, pretended to be a woman and befriended the victim to gain access to her photographs. He then sent the morphed content to her as a one-time view message to limit her access and started threatening her.

"The pressure exerted by the accused to pay the money caused her significant distress, to the point where she considered taking extreme steps," deputy commissioner of police (southwest) Surendra Choudhary said.

Police said that besides a few text messages, there was minimal interaction between the accused and the victim, and that they never met in person.

Investigators said that to receive the payment, he shared a UPI QR code of a street food vendor near his house—planning to implicate him in case the police tracked the payment—who was hounding him over making payments for food previously ordered.

DCP Choudhary said the woman, who is a second-year B.Sc college student, filed the complaint on January 6. In it, she alleged that the accused befriended her asking her for a favour, and as she was a woman, she accepted the request and exchanged a few text messages.

An officer with the cyber cell, not wishing to be named, said: "The chats show that the victim had been pleading with the suspect to show mercy. The suspect rudely wrote that she did care what happened to the victim's life, as money was what mattered."

Police said they zeroed in on the accused by contacting the social media platform and obtaining his phone number, following which they used the victim's help to lure him with the promise of money. He shared the QR code for payment, following which they tracked down the food vendor.

"The vendor told the personnel that a local man, who often had food with friends, had taken it on the pretext of clearing previous dues. The vendor identified the suspect as Nikhil Singh. A raid was conducted and Singh was arrested from near his residence on Saturday. The mobile phone used in the cybercrime was recovered from him," Choudhary said.

Police said Singh confessed to have targeted at least six more women using the same modus operandi.

{ FROM PAGE 1 }

RG KAR CASE SENTENCE

tative state) and 103 (1) (murder) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

Since early morning on Monday, room number 210 on the second floor of the Sealdah court was packed with lawyers, police and media persons, everyone jostling for space even as the judge pronounced the verdict. The judge had to request those present in the courtroom at least twice to maintain silence so that the proceedings could continue. A few hundred policemen set up multiple layers of barricades outside the court to avoid any law and order problem.

"In view of the manner in which the offence was committed by the convict, as proved by the prosecution, according to me, one can only say that the action of the convict is barbaric and brutal. The gruesome acts of the convict were diabolic in their conception and cruel in execution," said the 172-page order.

For rape, Roy was sentenced to life imprisonment and slapped with a fine of ₹50,000. If he fails to pay, he has to undergo imprisonment for another five months. For murder, he was sentenced to life imprisonment and slapped with a fine of ₹50,000 failing which his sentence would be extended by another five months. For inflicting injury leading to death or a vegetative state, he was sentenced to imprisonment till death.

"The Supreme Court has consistently emphasised that the death penalty should be used only in exceptional circumstances where the collective conscience of the community is so shocked that it expects the holders of judicial power to inflict the death penalty," it said.

The court further held that the state government will have to pay a compensation of ₹17 lakh to the victim's family as per guidelines of the National Legal Services Authority as the victim was raped and murdered on duty in the hospital. "We don't want compensation judge saheb. We wanted justice," the victim's father told the judge inside the courtroom.

"Do not consider this as compensation. I know death can't be compensated for. It is the liability of the state because she was an on-duty doctor... we have to pay this compensation because we are bound by law," the judge said.

During the hearing, the court heard Roy and final arguments of the counsel of all sides on the sentence. "I haven't done this. I have been framed. Lots of things were destroyed. If I had done it then my rudraksha mala would have broken. You decide whether I have been framed or not," Roy told the court from the witness box.

"You know best what you have done," the judge told Roy while adding that the court only took into account the evidence placed before it. The lawyers of both the victim's family and Roy said they were likely to move the Calcutta high court.

"We cited Supreme Court verdicts that even in the rarest of the rare cases, death penalty is awarded only when there is no other option left. Next, we cited verdicts in which the death penalty is awarded only when the convict is beyond reformation. Third we cited the doctrine of residual doubt. There remains some gap even after the guilt is proved beyond doubt," said Senjuti Chakraborty, Roy's counsel.

The sentence draws the curtain on a gruesome crime on August 9, 2024, that upended Bengali civil society, threw Kolkata into ferment and shook the state government. Since that day, tens of thousands of ordinary people flooded the streets repeatedly, demanding justice for the victim, and junior doctors struck work for close to six weeks, prompting the government to remove the Kolkata police commissioner and several senior health department officials.

But it opened a new debate with Banerjee and the victim's family questioning the sentence. "I am not satisfied with this verdict. Had it been under our purview, we would have ensured the death penalty. We have been demanding capital punishment," Banerjee told reporters in Murshidabad. The victim's parents blamed CBI.

"My daughter was raped and murdered on duty inside the hospital. I think this is a rarest of the rare case. If this isn't a rarest of the rare case, which one is? The CBI has failed to prove that this is a rarest of the rare case," the victim's mother told the media.

Junior doctors staged a protest outside the court premises. Members of the Abhaya Mancha, a social democratic united platform of common people, formed a human chain at Moulali in central Kolkata for a few minutes.

The body of a second-year postgraduate student, who was allegedly raped and murdered inside a seminar hall of the hospital, was found on August 9. The crime took place at the third-floor seminar hall of the chest department late at night and police later said that multiple lacerations and wounds were found on her body.

Roy was arrested on August 10 and the investigation was handed over to CBI on August 13.

According to the CBI probe, Roy entered the hospital around 4am in an inebriated condition and left after about 40 minutes. The autopsy report of the doctor revealed that she was strangled and smothered to death; as well as injuries suggesting she was sexually assaulted. The federal agency conducted a polygraph test on Roy and collected 11 pieces of evidence, including CCTV footage, DNA samples, blood stains, and hair strands, to charge the convict, maintaining that he was the only one who committed the crime. The in-camera trial lasted for more than two months.

The Bharatiya Janata Party said no one was satisfied with the verdict.

"The guilty should be released in front of a pack of hungry wolves. The court could have given him capital punishment or life imprisonment. It chose to give him a life sentence. It is the court's jurisdiction. I am not commenting on that. But no one is satisfied with this verdict. We would stand beside the victim's family in their appeal in the high court," said Suvendu Adhikari, BJP legislator and leader of the Opposition in the assembly.

BULLET TRAIN

by railway minister Ashwini Vaishnaw in September and December 2024, the people added, requesting anonymity. The E5's maximum speed is 320km/h, while the E10, which is still undergoing trials in Japan, can run at a top speed of 400km/hour.

"It is the first time that a developed nation has agreed to launch its latest product simultaneously in its own country as well as in a foreign land," one of the people said. Compared to E5, the new model is a state-of-the-art machine, safer and faster, and the US and Taiwan are also eyeing this model, he added.

India could complete the necessary infrastructure, including a special track for the bullet train, by 2026-27. Instead of keeping the infrastructure idle, the two partners have agreed that India could test and launch its two prototype bullet trains in 2027 using the same infrastructure between Ahmedabad and Mumbai, the people said.

Indian Railways' production unit Integral Coach Factory (ICF) has already awarded the ₹867 crore contract to manufacture and commission the two semi high-speed trains to BEML Ltd in October 2024. The two indigenous trains are expected to be delivered by the end of 2026. They may have a top speed of 280km/h, but can be operated at around 249km/h.

"Japan has recently given its consent to the plan where India can utilise infrastructure for its indigenously made trains," a second person said.

This person added that it was only after this that the National High-Speed Rail Corporation Ltd (NHSRCL), on Saturday, January 18, "floated a global tender for design, manufacture, supply, installation, testing and commissioning of signalling and train control system on Mumbai Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail (MAHSR) project."

NHSRCL, the railways ministry, the ministry of external affairs, the government of Japan and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) did not respond to e-mail queries. MAHSR was approved by the Cabinet in December 2015.

The infrastructure construction for the bullet train project is "literally on a fast track" with the minister for railways himself supervising every development, the people said. On Saturday, he supervised construction of a 21-km long undersea tunnel, India's first such, between Bandra-Kurla Complex and Shilphata.

The $17 billion MAHSR project is a joint project of the Centre, Gujarat and Maharashtra. It is being executed by a special purpose vehicle (SPV) , NHSRCL. The SPV has been formed with a shareholding of 50% by the Centre and 25% each by governments of Gujarat and Maharashtra. Approximately 81% of the cost of the project is being funded through a soft loan by the Government of Japan through JICA.

JICA's loan to MAHSR is for a tenure of 50 years at 0.1% interest rate and with a moratorium period of 15 years. Thus, the loan repayment will be done in 35 years, according to NHSRCL. The project will launch the country's first bullet train covering the 508 km from Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) in Mumbai to Sabarmati, near Ahmedabad, in about two hours and seven minutes. The train will run at 320 km per hour and have stops at Thane, Virar, Boisar, Vapi, Bilimora, Surat, Bharuch, Vadodara, Anand, Ahmedabad and will terminate at Sabarmati.

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

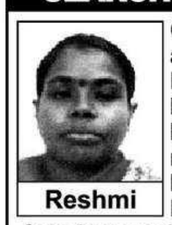
Vartika

General public is hereby informed that a Girl Namely **Vartika Tiwari D/o:** Narender Kumar Tiwari, **R/o** 26/453 Trilokpuri, **Delhi** has been Missing/ Kidnapped from her home since 11.01.2025 Approx 12:30 AM to 01:00 AM. In this regard, a **DD No 6A Dt. 11.01.2025** has been registered at **PS: Mayur Vihar, Delhi** The description of the missing Girl as under.

Age: 19 years, **Height:** 5'0" **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Round, **Build:** Thin. **Wearing:** Brown Colour High Neck T-Shirt Maroon Colour Pajama & Slipper in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out her but no clue has come to light so far. Any person is having information or clue about this missing Girl may kindly inform to the following.

Ph. No. 011-24368638, 24368641
Website: http://cbi.nic.in
E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in **S.H.O**
Fax No. 011-24368639 **PS: Mayur Vihar, New Delhi**
DP/652/ED/2025 **Ph No. 7838813928, 8368803285**

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED


Reshmi

General public is hereby informed that a female namely **Reshmi W/o:** Atul Barman, **R/o** 8/A-31, Geeta Colony,**Delhi** has been missing/ kidnapped from her home since 01.01.2025 at 05:00 PM. In this regard, a **DD No 50A Dt. 06.01.2025** has been registered at **PS: Geeta Colony, Delhi** The description of the missing female as under.

Age: 34 years, **Height:** 5'0" **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Round, **Build:** Thick **Wearing:** Black Colour Suit salwar & White Colour shoes in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out her but no clue has come to light so far. Any person is having information or clue about this missing female may kindly inform to the following.

Ph. No. 011-24368638, 24368641
Website: http://cbi.nic.in **S.H.O**
E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in **PS: Geeta Colony, Delhi**
Fax No. 011-24368639 **Ph No. 8750871801, 7065036026,**
DP/496/SHD/2025 **7011580506**

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No. 37 UBL 2024-25 Dated: 13-01-2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Sl.	Name of work	Approx. Value
1	**Hubballi Division :** Proposed Constructions of RPF barrack at Koppal.	Rs. 81,35,578/-
2	**Hubballi Division :** Londa-Vasco (LD-VSG): Rebuilding of Br No.75 and associated protection works such as flooring, pitching, tunnel portal extension, slope stabilization, Retaining wall, side drain, etc., at the landslide spot (Km. 28/800-29/000) between Tunnel No. 2 & 3 in Castlerock-Caranzol (CLR-CRZ) Section. (Two Pocket System)	Rs. 18,79,97,579/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 10-02-2025**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Engineer /Co-Ordination Hubballi

PUB/714/AAF/PRB/SWR/2024-25

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.)/ Chakradharpur, South Eastern Railway acting For & On behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against Open Tender. **Tender Notice No. :** CKP-BR-LINE-24-25-27; **Name of work :** Provision of Side Pathways along with the Girder Bridges under Chakradharpur Division (41 Bridges); **Tender Value :** ₹10,60,40,290.94; **EMD :** ₹6,80,200.00; **Cost of Tender form (In ₹) :** 0.00 ; **Date of opening :** 07.02.2025. The tender can be viewed at website **http://www.ireps.gov.in**. The tenderer/ bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate & must be registered under on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering. All relevant paper must be uploaded at the time of participating in e-tendering. **Note :- e-Tender Forms shall be issued free of cost to all tenderers. (Authority - Rly. Bd's letter No. 2020/CE-I/CT/3E/GCC/Policy dtd. 16.07.2020)**. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. **(PR-1034)**

BSES **BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi**

TENDER NOTICE **Date: 21.01.2025**

Sealed tenders under two Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) is invited for following job from all bidders.

NIT No.	Brief Item Description	Estimated Cost (₹)	Cost of EMD (₹)	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of Opening
CMC/BR/25-26/ FK/PR/KB/1239	IMPLEMENTATION OF SECURITY OPERATIONS CENTER IN BRPL	5.38 Crores	5.38 Lakhs	10.02.2025 15:00 HRS	10.02.2025 15:30 HRS

Cost of each Tender Document : : ₹ 1180/- (Including GST)

For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submission of tender documents etc. please visit our website **www.bsesdelhi.com** **Head (Contracts & Materials)**

Regd. Off. : BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, BSES Bhawan, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019 I Corporate Identification No.: U40109DL2001PLC111527
Telephone No. : +91 11 4910 7235 I Website : www.bsesdelhi.com

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ELECTION OFFICER (EAST)
L.M. BUNDH, SHASTRI NAGAR, DELHI-110031
Tel. No. 011-21210843, Email: sdmelectioneast@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

1. In pursuance of the ECIs instructions, the following schedule for inspection of Election Expenditure Registers of the Contesting Candidates is brought to the notice of all concerned and the general public of 06 Assembly Constituencies of District East Delhi.

Designated Officers	AC No. & Name	1st INSPECTION	2nd INSPECTION	3rd INSPECTION
Sh. Stalin B, IRS Expenditure Observer 8076211781 (M)	55-Trilokpuri (SC)	23rd January 2025	28th January 2025	30th January, 2025
	56-Kondli(SC)	24th January, 2025	29th January, 2025	31st January, 2025
	57-Patparganj	22nd January, 2025	27th January 2025	1st February, 2025
Sh. Rajendra B. Joshi, IRS Expenditure Observer 8368886915 (M)	58-Laxmi Nagar	24th January 2025	29th January 2025	3rd February 2025
	60-Krishna Nagar	24th January 2025	29th January 2025	3rd February 2025
	61-Gandhi Nagar	24th January 2025	29th January 2025	3rd February 2025

2. Timings for the inspection are from 11.00 AM to 2.00 PM and the venue will be Conference Room, Office of the District Election Officer, District East, L.M. Bundh, Shastri Nagar, Delhi-110031.
3. All the candidates are requested to produce, by them or through their authorized agents, the Election Expenditure Register for inspection on the scheduled date & time as above.
4. It is also brought to the notice of general public that they can also be present during the inspection of Election Expenditure Registers and can obtain a copy of the Election Expenditure Registers of the candidates from the Returning Officer @ Rs.1/- per page.

(AMOL SRIVASTAVA, IAS)
District Election Officer
District East

DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0398/24-25

{ BIRD ATLAS }

Delhi birders record 168 species so far

Jasjeev Gandhiok
htreporters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Over 168 bird species have been recorded in the Capital between January 1 and 20, featuring on 361 checklists gathered by birders as part of the Delhi Bird Atlas — a detailed guide with bird species in Delhi, their geographical distribution and habitat that is being collated this year. The month-long survey, which aims to cross off 580 checklists, will cover roughly 10% of Delhi's total geographical area to find and document bird species. A second survey for the summer months is planned in July, with the Atlas expected to be released in December.

Birders, part of the Delhi Bird Foundation and Bird Count India, said the unusual sightings made so far include the grey-headed canary-flycatcher and ultramarine flycatcher, with the presence of the house sparrow – Delhi's state bird – in 57 checklists being a good sign.

ULTRAMARINE FLYCATCHER AND GREY-HEADED CANARY-FLYCATCHER WERE AMONG UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

"We were able to spot both the grey-headed canary-flycatcher and ultramarine flycatcher on the same tree in Delhi Cantt. This has been an unusual sighting. Around 15% of 57 checklists had the house sparrow, which despite urbanisation, appears to be a fairly good number for the bird," said birder Pankaj Gupta, one of the organisers of the count, which is jointly being conducted by Delhi's forest department in collaboration with volunteers, NGOs and student groups.

The birders divide Delhi into grids of 6.6sqkm, with each grid having a 3.3sqkm quadrant, which is further divided into sub-cells of 1.1sqkm. As part of the atlas survey, 145 sub-cells of 1.1 sqkm each will be covered by birders.

Gupta said each sub-cell will be covered four times, with an average of 15 minutes being spent per assessment. So, for 145 sub-cells — 580 checklists will be prepared, with a total of 145 hours spent birding-on-ground, he said, adding that this count of 168 species will only increase further.

Each checklist is being uploaded on the eBird portal, allowing other birders to track and identify which species have been logged so far.

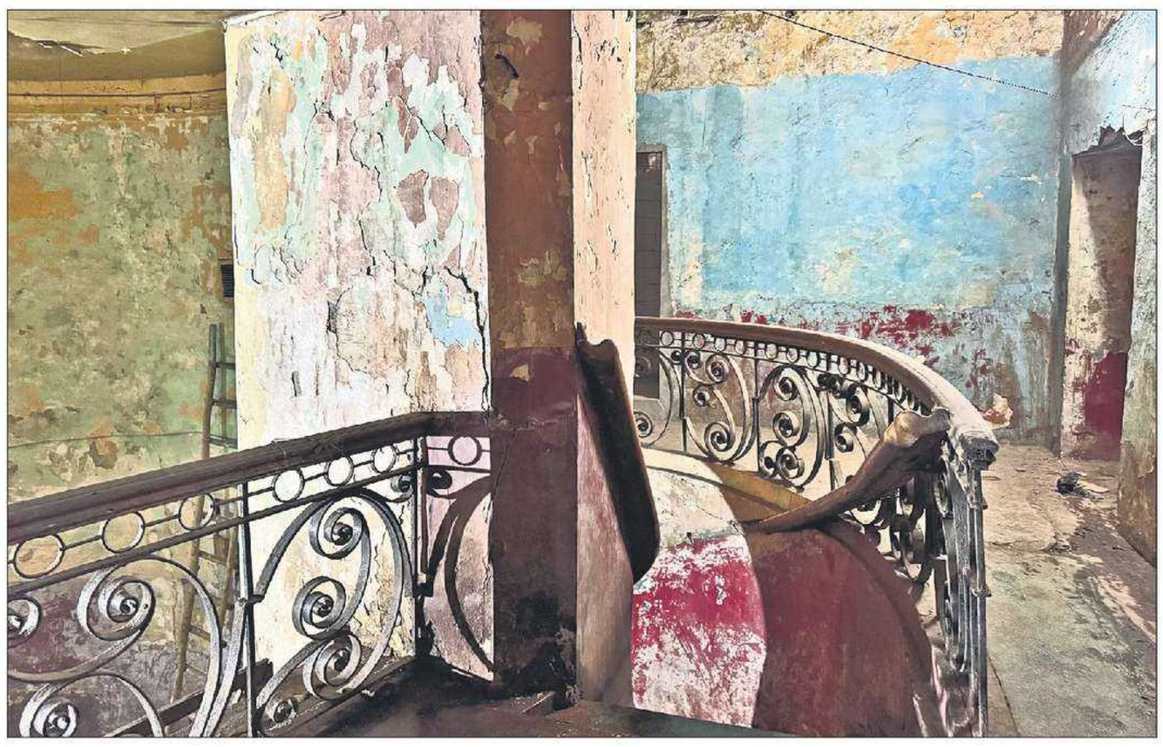
Mohit Mehta, who has covered multiple sub-cells in Najafgarh, said he had submitted 16 checklists with mixed findings. "We were able to spot a spotted dove, which is slightly unusual for this part of the region. A lot of natural spaces, including grasslands have also been converted to agricultural land or seen construction. In certain cells, we were able to record 20 to 25 different species in the 15-minute period," he said.

Sohail Madan, an ecologist and director of the Wild Tales Foundation, who carried out surveys in urban, peri-urban, and forested habitats of south Delhi, said: "Migratory species such as the Hume's warbler were equally at home in urban gardens and forested areas."

Delhiwale

EXPERIENCE YOUR CITY LIKE NEVER BEFORE

Mayank Austen Soofi



Into the world of Jagat

A surreal journey inside a long-closed landmark

{ PRIVATE CAPITAL }

In the crowded bazar, a deserted building. Inside this silenced building, a strange sort of diffused luminosity. A scratchy wall is glowing in insipid gold. Otherwise not much to be seen.

Gradually, eyes adjust to the darkness. A staircase emerges, bending slowly smoothly along its upwards spiral. The staircase's baluster is stylish. So is the metallic handrail.

Old Delhi's Jagat cinema has been shut for years. This afternoon, by a freak chance, the entrance was open, making it possible to step into the darkened lobby—and into the vacant ticket counter, into the manager's bare room, and up the stairs into the empty balcony.

Nowhere else in the city might anyone experience a sight as haunting as Jagat, closed since 2004. The hushed interiors are marinating in utter desolation; colourful walls with their severely peeled paints resemble abstract art. In the lobby, a bulky hook hangs from the vaulted ceiling like the ghost of a long-gone chandelier. A wooden board by the box office window is displaying the ticket rates. The adjoining sliding bars slide as effortlessly as the beads of an abacus; the manually operated slides would indicate the show's "full" or "open" status.

During the 1960s, Jagat had the privilege of screening Mughal-e-Azam. During the 2010s, this reporter excavated Jagat's Rear Circle ticket of that classic film from the "kabad" of a famous Walled City recycler, the late Shanky. (The earlier owner-collector had it laminated).

Today, the cinema's wide screen is gone, revealing a derelict brick wall.

During the 1970s, the cinema screened the Meena Kumari musical, Pakeezah. According to a book by Delhi's single-screen scholar Ziya Us Salam, a resident of nearby Matia Mahal would daily attend Jagat's Pakeezah screening with his family. The entire party would wait for the song Chalte Chalte, after which they would exit, not bothering for the remaining film.

Today, the cinema's huge auditorium is left with not even a single seat. But the markings of those hundreds of absent seats continue to exist on the expansive floor, as palpable as the stains left on walls by photo frames. But the auditorium's roof is so severely disfigured that it is difficult to determine if it is of wood or tin. Doesn't matter—the roof is as leaky as a sieve, daylight freely falling through the many gaps.

Then there are other corners preserving other wonders. A toilet decked with exquisite tiles. A tall mirror dotted with mirror rust. A lobby board showing the "hall exit plan"— the only thing here that hasn't corroded a bit.

Later in the day, the cinema is again seen locked.

READ: For more stories by Mayank Austen Soofi, scan the QR code

HT Homage

Smt. Mahesh Kumari Batra

Your beautiful soul has left behind a trail of cherished memories. You were always there for us, guiding and supporting us through thick and thin. Even though you are no longer with us, you always hold a special place in our hearts.

We remember you always and pray that the Lord blesses your soul with eternal peace, wherever you are.

Fondly Remembered by:
A.L. Batra and Family

MAN ATTEMPTS TO SMUGGLE ₹1.4CR IN FOREIGN MONEY, ARRESTED AT IGI

NEW DELHI: A 26-year-old man was arrested at the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport on Saturday for trying to smuggle foreign currency worth ₹1.35 crore abroad. The currency, which was in the form of US dollars, Saudi Riyal and Qatari Riyal had been concealed in an inner lining of the passenger's luggage, officials said.

Custom department officials said that the man was to fly to Hyderabad and then to Ras Al-Khaimah in the UAE on the same day. Officials said that the man has admitted that he wanted to smuggle this out of the country. HTC

In Everlasting Memory Of

Sri Babulalji Sethia
14.02.1945 - 21.01.2014

On your
11th Death Anniversary,
we remember you.
Our Strength
Our Inspiration, Our Guide.
Fondly remembered by :
DHANWANTI SETHIA *(Wife)*
Deepak - Pushpa Sethia
(Son-Daughter-in-law)
Sneh Lata - Rajendra Chouraria
Anju - Manoj Lunia
Meena - Rakesh Baid
(Daughters & Sons-in-law)
Saumyaa, Akriti, Devansh
(O): 43524776, (M): **9810872121**
Email: DevElec2856@gmail.com

Two arrested for raping 12-year-old girl in F'bad

GURUGRAM: Two people were arrested for raping a 12-year-old girl, a neighbour, at a guest house in Faridabad's Sector 46 last Friday evening, officers said on Monday.

The main suspect is a 33-year-old vegetable vendor, who is from Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh, and the other suspect is a 40-year-old man from Nepal, police said. Their identities were held back to protect the identity of the victim.

Police said the vegetable vendor lured the girl with chocolates, and dresses, and on the pretext of a scooter ride, took her to the guest house, where the second accused worked.

"After raping the girl, he dropped her back in her locality...the girl narrated everything to her mother," Yadav said.

The girl's mother approached the police. A medical examination of the girl revealed internal injuries, police said. HTC

CHAUTHA CEREMONY

Our beloved mother,
SAVITA MEHTA
passed away on 19th January 2025
To honor and pray for her eternal peace,
we are holding a chautha-prayer meeting on:
Tuesday 21st January 2025 | 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM
Venue: Arya Samaj Mandir, Kotla Mubarakpur, opp Defence Colony
Thank you for your presence and prayers during this difficult time.
In grief
Kavita, Bela & Arvind

Traffic jam on NH24 near the Yamuna, on Monday. ARVIND YADAV/HT

R-Day rehearsals gridlock key city roads, highways

HT Correspondent
htreporters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The week started with traffic snarls through the morning rush hour that lasted till well past afternoon, especially in central Delhi, owing to parade rehearsal for Republic Day, and the situation set to persist for the entire week. A traffic advisory is likely to be issued for Thursday's full-dress rehearsal and the final event on January 26, Delhi Traffic Police said on Monday.

Vehicular movement was severely hit on the route leading to Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg near the ITO, arterial roads of the Ring Road, between Ashram and IP Estate flyover, the Delhi-Meerut Expressway, National Highway 9, Vikas Marg, Pragati Maidan Tunnel, India Gate Circle, Mandi House-Barakhambha Road, Man Singh Road, Rafi Marg, Janpath Road, Shahjahan Road, Akbar Road, Ashoka Road and other routes around the Kartavya Path.

Motorists blamed traffic personnel for not regulating traffic properly or removing vehicles that were parked haphazardly.

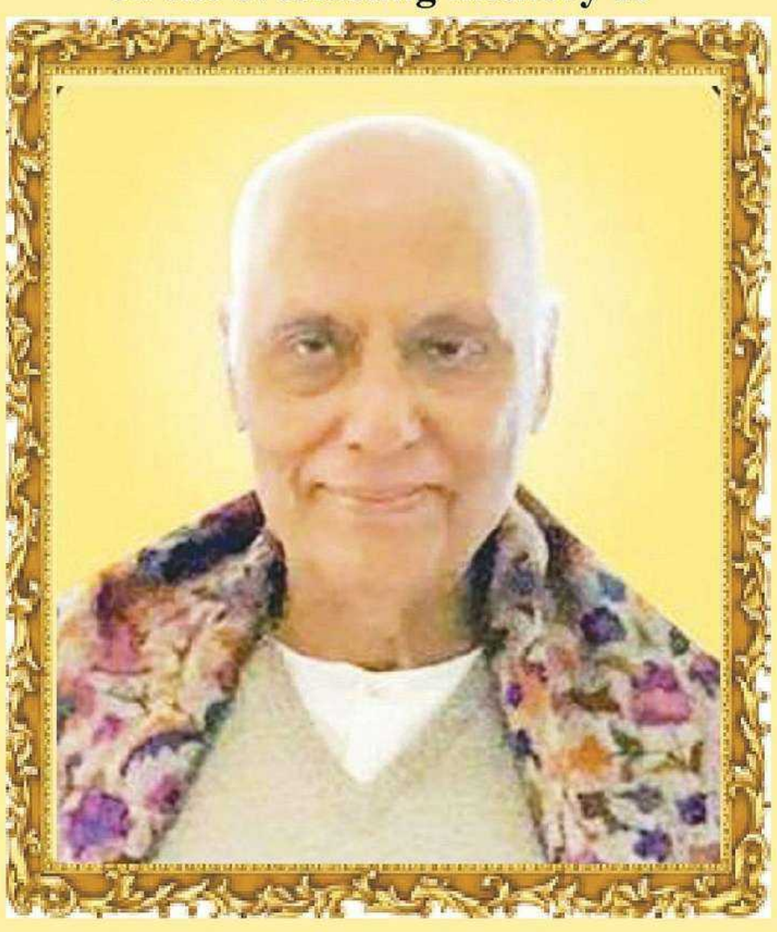
"There was nearly a kilometre-long backlog of vehicles between the Pragati Maidan tunnel and Ring Road on the route to the India Gate Circle. Initially, I thought the congestion was because of traffic restrictions on the C-Hexagon for the parade rehearsal. But when I exited the tunnel, I found that improperly parked vehicles on the Purana Quila Road opposite the Patiala House Court had narrowed the driving space," said Lakshya Saini, a 32-year-old businessman from Indirapuram in Ghaziabad who was driving to Connaught Place.

A senior traffic police officer said the traffic police issued a detailed advisory through their social media handles on January 15 regarding traffic arrangements for the Republic Day parade rehearsal on January 17, 18, 20 and 21.

"Some mechanised columns of the parade moved till Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg for parking because of which traffic is disrupted on the Vikas Marg, Tilak Marg, Ring Road, and Mandi House Road. We allow the vehicles to move when there is a gap of around one minute between one tableau and the another in the procession," the officer said.

न जायते म्रियते वा कदाचि-न्नायं भूत्वा भविता वा न भूयः।
अजो नित्यः शाश्वतोऽयं पुराणो-न हन्यते हन्यमाने शरीरे।।

In the everlasting memory of



Mr. Vaishno Das Mehra

03.03.1936 - 21.01.2023

Mehrae-Di-Hatti (P) Ltd. Jewellers

We are here for you

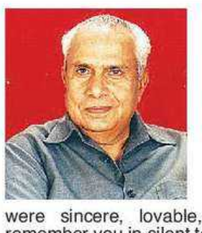
To place an obituary or remembrance advertisement with
Hindustan Times

Scan the code:

You can also call on:
1800-103-1800 (9 AM to 9 PM everyday)
or
Email at: counterclassifieds@hindustantimes.com

HT Unforgettable

In loving Memory Of
Sh. V. N. Sharma



No words can express our Grief of loosing you. You still alive in our hearts and remembered for your qualities, simplicity, compassion, service to humanity and smile. You were sincere, lovable, endearing person. We will remember you in silent tears. **All family members**

'Not satisfied': CM seeks death sentence, Oppn hits out at TMC

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

KOLKATA: Leaders across party lines on Monday expressed discontent with the judgment of a Kolkata court pronouncing life imprisonment till death for prime accused Sanjay Roy in the rape and murder of a 31-year-old resident doctor at the West Bengal government-run RG Kar medical college and hospital, demanding the capital punishment for the convict.

Chief minister Mamata Banerjee expressed "dissatisfaction" over the verdict of a Sealdah court in Kolkata, alleging the investigation was "forcibly" taken away from the state police.

"I am surprised. I cannot comment on the court but I am not satisfied. The state government prayed for death sentence from the very beginning. All of us had demanded death sentence. We will stick to our demand," Banerjee said. "Had it been death penalty, at least my heart would have been somewhat at peace."

Her remarks came minutes after additional district and sessions judge Anirban Das pronounced the sentencing around 2.50 pm, ruling that the crime did not meet the criteria for the "rarest of the rare" category, which would have warranted the death penalty.

"We were handling the investigation but the case was forcibly taken from us. Had it been with the (Kolkata) police, we would have ensured that he got death sentence. We have ensured death sentence in three recent cases within around 60 days (of the crimes). We could have ensured death sentence in this case long time ago," she alleged.

The TMC chief also criticised CBI for its probe and questioned the federal agency's inability to convince the court that the convict deserved to be sent to the gallows. "It seems they (CBI) failed to establish the point. I don't know what arguments they had put up in court," Banerjee said.

On Saturday, judge Das convicted Roy (34), a civic volunteer of Kolkata police, of raping and murdering the on-duty postgraduate trainee doctor at the hospital on August 9 last year, with the verdict coming over five months after the crime that sparked nationwide outrage and led to prolonged protests by medics.

Roy was sentenced to jail for the remainder of his life under Sections 66 (rape), 64 (causing injury resulting in death) and 103 (1) (murder) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

Later in the day, Banerjee in a post on X said the state government would challenge the Sealdah court verdict before the Calcutta high court. "...I strongly feel that it is a heinous crime that warrants capital punishment. We will plead for capital punishment of the convict at the High Court now," she said.

BJP leader and Union minster Sukanta Majumdar also expressed dissatisfaction with the sentencing. "We wanted the highest punishment. Being an elected representative, I can't say anything against the court verdict. The people of West Bengal do not believe that only one person is involved in the RG Kar rape-murder case. I think there should be more depth in this," the BJP leader was quoted as saying by news agency ANI.

Samik Bhattacharya, chief spokesperson of BJP's state unit, said: "Deciding punishment is the discretion of a judge. It seems the court was also convinced that influential people were involved in the crime and Roy was not the sole perpetrator."

Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said that the common people of West Bengal were disappointed with the verdict as it was not as per their expectation.

"The people of West Bengal expected the strictest punishment for the accused and others who are involved in this case. We saw that only one accused was punished, so this decision of the court is not as per the expectations of the common people," the former lawmaker told ANI.

Questions were raised over the investigation in the crime, especially after a Kolkata court on December 13 last year granted bail to former RG Kar medical college principal Sandip Ghosh and another accused Abhijit Mondal, former officer-in-charge of the Tala police station, after CBI failed to submit the charge sheet against them within the stipulated 90-day period.

Ghosh was accused of tampering with evidence in the case, while the police officer was accused of delaying the filing of a FIR.

Meanwhile, the National Commission for Women welcomed the Sealdah court's verdict, but urged legal action against the other accused individuals out on bail.

"While we had sought the death penalty, we respect the court's judgment and appreciate the swift proceedings that have ensured justice for the victim," the commission said in a statement.

> Strongly feel it is a heinous crime... We will plead for capital punishment of the convict at the High Court now
>
> **MAMATA BANERJEE,** West Bengal chief minister

Looking back at the case

A trial court on Monday sentenced to life imprisonment, Sanjay Roy, for the brutal rape and murder of a doctor at a Kolkata hospital in August. How the case evolved over the last five months:

Aug 9,2024: The body of 31-year-old doctor is found in the seminar room of RG Kar Hospital early in the morning

Police said the woman was tortured before she was throttled to death, with injuries across her abdomen, lips, fingers, shoulders and left leg, and a broken neck

Aug 10: 34-year-old civic volunteer Sanjay Roy is arrested; junior doctors begin 'cease work' demanding justice for the victim

Aug 13: Calcutta high court orders CBI probe into the case

Aug 14-15: 'Reclaim the Night' protest turns violent as mob vandalises hospital; protesters allege the violence was conspired to destroy evidence

Aug 23: HC directs CBI to probe alleged financial irregularities at the hospital

Oct 5: Junior doctors begin fast-unto-death, seek justice for victim and improved workplace security

Oct 21: Junior doctors call off hunger strike after meeting chief minister Mamata Banerjee

Nov 11: In-camera trial of Roy begins at Sealdah court in Kolkata

Jan 18, 2025: Court holds Roy guilty of rape and murder

Jan 20: Roy sentenced to life imprisonment

The CBI prayed for the death penalty. The defence lawyer prayed that a jail term be given instead of the death penalty... this crime does not fall under the rarest of the rare category
— Anirban Das, Sealdah court judge

'This is not over yet': Doctors, victim's kin

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

KOLKATA: The victim's parents said they were not at all satisfied with the verdict of the court pronouncing life imprisonment till death for prime accused Sanjay Roy as well as the financial assistance and would move to a higher court seeking justice. They claimed that the investigation was done "half-heartedly and several other culprits involved in the crime were shielded".

"We are shocked. How can this not be the rarest of the rare cases? An on-duty doctor was raped and murdered. There was a larger conspiracy behind the crime," the victim's mother said.

The victim's father said they did not want any compensation, adding that they would continue their fight until all the other culprits were brought to book.

Discontent with the judgment, doctors in West Bengal said they would move to the higher court and continue protesting till others involved in the case were punished.

"It's an institutional crime and can never be the job of one person. There was more than one person involved in it. We cannot accept the quantum of punishment and the financial compensation to the family of the deceased. This is very unsatisfactory and unacceptable," Dr Rajiv Pandey, a senior doctor, told reporters.

Another senior doctor Dr Punyabrata Gun said that they would continue demonstrations in the state demanding justice for their deceased colleague. "This is not over yet. Our demonstration will continue as we believe that there were others involved. The matter has been hushed up and we will continue our protest," Gun said.

The Indian Medical Association (IMA), also expressed dissatisfaction. Finance secretary of IMA, Piyush Jain told ANI, "...Today, the judgement has come. When the guilt was proven, everyone was expecting capital punishment and that would have given a strong message to the public and to the doctor fraternity that the judicial procedure and the government were standing with them."

The Federation of Resident Doctors' Association (FORDA) also expressed disappointment after the verdict.

"A terrible judgment. We as a nation should be ashamed," it said in strong disapproval of the verdict.

{ 2022 KERALA MURDER CASE }

Death penalty to woman who poisoned boyfriend

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

KOCHI: A Kerala court on Monday sentenced to death 24-year-old Greeshma SS for poisoning her boyfriend in 2022, declining her prayer for leniency on account of her academic achievements, lack of prior criminal history, and the fact that she is an only daughter.

The sessions court at Neyyattinkara in Thiruvananthapuram district also sentenced her uncle, Nirmalakumaran Nair, the third accused in the murder case, to a three-year term, finding him guilty of destruction of evidence. The court acquitted Greeshma's mother Sindhu last week.

In the 586-page verdict, additional district sessions judge AM Basheer observed that there was no need to consider the convict's age and other circumstances given the gravity of the crime, terming it a "cold-blooded murder". The order said that Greeshma poisoned to death, 23-year-old Sharon Raj, with whom she was in a relationship, after her parents fixed her marriage with another person and the victim refused to end their relationship.

"The act of inviting Sharon over under the pretext of sexual intimacy and subsequently committing the crime cannot be ignored... Evidence such as Sharon recording a video of the suspicious juice, despite Greeshma asking him not to record, indicates that he suspected something was wrong," the judge noted in the order.

Convict Greeshma SS comes out of the court in Thiruvananthapuram.

According to the prosecution, Greeshma invited Raj to her house at Ramavarmanchirai in Kanyakumari district of Tamil Nadu on October 14, 2022 and poisoned him with an ayurvedic tonic laced with paraquat, a toxic herbicide used for killing weeds. Raj succumbed to multiple organ failure at a Thiruvananthpuram hospital 11 days later. The prosecution told the court that Greeshma, then 22, plotted the murder after Raj refused to end their relationship.

In his dying declaration to the magistrate, Raj admitted that he had consumed the herbal medicine given by Greeshma without suspecting any harm. The police filed the charge sheet on January 25, 2023 .

Special public prosecutor VS Vineeth Kumar said the "exemplary" verdict was fully justified and the court observed that this case is falling under the rarest of rare category.

"The court noted that the convict was a brilliant criminal who meticulously planned the brutal murder," Kumar told reporters after the sentencing.

The court also rejected Greeshma's claim that she had no criminal background stating that she had previously attempted to poison Sharon by mixing paracetamol tablets into fruit juice. However, that attempt, on August 22, 2022 failed when he refused to drink it, citing its bitter taste, the prosecutor said. He added that the court also observed that the woman's actions sent a harmful message to society and violated the sanctity of love.

Expressing satisfaction with the verdict, the victim's mother, Priya, said she was grateful to the court for issuing such an exemplary order. "Finally, my son can rest in peace," she told reporters outside the court.

KY Johnson, deputy superintendent of police (dySP), who was the investigation officer in the case, said "We collected evidence and the court considered all the evidence produced by the investigation team... The accused searched on Google about slow poisoning and came to know about paraquat, a lethal herbicide," the officer said.

Following her sentencing, Greeshma was taken to a women's prison and correctional home at Attakkulangara in Thiruvananthapuram.

SC grants Centre till Mar 18 to decide on Rajoana's mercy plea

Abraham Thomas
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI : The Supreme Court on Monday gave a "last chance" to the Centre to decide by March 18 on the long-pending mercy plea of Balwant Singh Rajoana, convicted in the 1995 assassination of former Punjab chief minister Beant Singh.

If no decision is taken by the next date, the court said it will decide the case on merit.

Rajoana has been in prison for 29 years, of which 15 years have been spent on death row following his conviction in 2007. He claimed that the Union home ministry took a decision to commute his death sentence to life in 2019, but the Centre has maintained that the issue is "sensitive" and requires extensive consultation with several agencies.

A bench headed by justice Bhushan R Gavai, which granted four weeks to the Centre on November 25 last year, on Monday said: "We will grant you time by way of last chance. Either you take a decision or we will hear the matter on merits."

Posting the matter on March 18, the bench, also comprising justices PK Mishra and KV Viswanathan added: "We will hear on merits on March 18. By then, if you can decide, well and good. It will facilitate us."

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Rajoana, said that the court should consider releasing the petitioner from jail and allow him to reintegrate into society as the Centre does not seem to be keen to decide on the mercy petition.

Balwant Singh Rajoana

But the court reminded Rohatgi, "In many matters, we have confirmed life sentence till death. We will grant them some time."

Rajoana's lawyer also sought a medical report for the long period he has remained on death row. "Let there be a medical report on his state of mind as he has been on death row," Rohatgi requested the court, pointing to the case of another death row convict Devinder Pal Singh Bhullar, convicted in the 1993 Delhi bomb blasts, whose capital punishment was commuted to life imprisonment by the top court due to the delay in deciding his mercy petition.

However, the Union government, represented by additional solicitor general Tushar Mehta, opposed this contention on the grounds that no medical report can be furnished to ascertain mental capacity in such a case.

Rajoana, a former Punjab Police constable, was sentenced to death in 2007 for his role as a backup bomber in the suicide attack outside the Punjab civil secretariat in Chandigarh on August 31, 1995. The bombing killed Beant Singh and 16 others. The Punjab & Haryana High Court upheld the death sentence in 2010.

SC ORDERS VIDEO FACILITIES AT TIHAR JAIL, JAMMU COURT FOR YASIN'S TRIAL

Abraham Thomas
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday directed the high courts of Delhi and Jammu & Kashmir to ensure the video conferencing facility provided in a Jammu court and Delhi's Tihar jail are functioning well to enable the trial against terror convict Mohammad Yasin Malik in two high-profile cases of kidnapping and murder.

The order was passed in an appeal filed by CBI seeking transfer of the case from the Jammu court to Delhi as the trial required Malik's personal presence to cross-examine witnesses in the 1989 kidnapping of Rubaiya Sayeed, daughter of then Union minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, and the killing of four Indian Air Force personnel.

A bench of justices Abhay S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan directed the registrar general of the J&K high court to take immediate steps for installing a proper video-conferencing (VC) system at the Jammu court. The bench, said, "The RG of the J&K HC shall do the needful and submit a report to this court after deputing any expert to examine the newly installed system."

Further, with regard to VC facility at Tihar, the court said, "We direct the registrar in charge of information technology of the Delhi HC to visit the facility in Tihar Jail and find out whether the facilities are good enough to enable respondent (Malik) to cross examine witnesses in the trial."

The two respective high courts have been asked to submit reports by February 21, next date of hearing.

WOMAN RUSHED TO HOSPITAL DIES AS AMBULANCE DOORS GET STUCK

JAIPUR: A 43-year-old woman died due to suffocation after the doors of an ambulance she was being rushed in to a hospital after she attempted suicide got stuck for about 20 minutes, officials said on Monday. The incident was reported from the Bhilwara district of Rajasthan on Sunday night.

The woman allegedly attempted suicide at her home on Sunday evening, officials said. Her elder son found and rescued her within seconds, and informed his father. The two of them, along with the woman's younger son rushed her to the Bhilwara Mahatma Gandhi Hospital, the officials said.

"On Sunday evening, the woman attempted suicide at her house. She was immediately rushed to the hospital as she was alive," said Pratapnagar SHO Surjeet Tholiya. "She died in a span of 20 minutes inside the ambulance after reaching the hospital," he said.

While the police have sent the body for a post-mortem examination to confirm cause and time of death, a preliminary probe has suggested she died of suffocation.

The woman's family has accused the ambulance operator and the hospital of negligence. "The ambulance driver initially drove in wrong direction for about 2km. When we were trying to give oxygen to her the cylinder did not have enough," one of her sons said.

Police have order a preliminary inquiry into the matter under section 173 of BNSS. The inquiry is conducted to determine if there is a prima facie case for a cognisable offence.

Bhilwara district chief medical officer Dr CP Goswami denied the family's allegations.

"The gate malfunctioned due to overcrowding. The family should have been patient," he said. HTC

Judge slams police, RG Kar hospital

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

KOLKATA: Slamming the Kolkata Police and RG Kar hospital over the investigation into the rape and murder of a 31-year-old resident doctor on August 9 last year, trial court judge Anirban Das on Monday questioned why the FIR was registered after 11.30pm when the incident was reported in the morning.

The judge, in the observations recorded in his verdict, also questioned the motive of the hospital authorities for their attempts to "suppress" the rape and murder of the on-duty doctor, and held both the police and hospital authorities responsible for making the "helpless father of the victim (run) from pillar to post to get relief and to lodge the complaint".

> JUDGE ASKED WHY FIR WAS LODGED AFTER 11.30PM WHEN INCIDENT WAS REPORTED IN THE MORNING

As for the motive of the crime committed by Sanjay Roy, civic volunteer of Kolkata police, who was awarded life imprisonment till death, the judge said it appeared that the accused entered the seminar room of the hospital and "on sudden impulse he had attacked the victim to satisfy his lust". Highlighting the "illegal act" on the day of the crime undertaken by a sub-inspector of the Tala Police Station, Das "noted with surprise" that the process of seizure and starting of unnatural death case was noted in the GD book after 11.30 pm on August 9.

"It was his admission that GD no. 452 dated 09.08.2024 was in his own handwriting and he had noted the same after coming back from the scene of crime by mentioning the time as 10.10 am, when he was not physically present at Tala PS," he said.

Das also slammed the hospital authorities' initial attempts to pass off the crime as "suicide". The judge found little doubts to consider that "from the end of any authority, efforts were made to show the death as a suicidal one so that the hospital authority would not face any consequences".

Forensic experts hint at DNA 'contamination'

Scientists from the Central Forensic Science Laboratory in Kolkata, who conducted DNA analysis of samples collected from the victim's body had found the DNA of a female along with that of Sanjay Roy in the victim's nipple swab, the court was told.

The report, however, stated that the female DNA was found in "very poor percentage" raising doubts on whether another female was involved in the crime or was it because of DNA contamination.

"From the analysis of the nipple swab, it appears that it contained 100% DNA profile of the accused Sanjay Roy and there was obviously full DNA profile of the victim. But in the said swab, very poor percentage of another female DNA was found," said the 172-page court order released on Monday.

2 Union ministers may lead Feb 14 farm talks

Zia Haq
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The proposed talks between protesting farmer unions and the Centre slated for February 14 will likely be led by one or two Union ministers, along with their counterparts from Punjab and Haryana, a person aware of the matter said, as farmers prepared a 13-point charter of demands, including guaranteed minimum support prices (MSP) and farm-loan waiver.

The central team, which will include bureaucrats, is likely to make a presentation to the farm unions on "concrete steps" being taken to ratchet up agricultural incomes and output, the person cited above said. "We want a legal guarantee for MSPs. The Centre is scheduled to hold the talks in Chandigarh or any convenient location in the state but we want the talks to be held in Delhi," said Gurdeep Singh Chahal, a member of the Bharatiya Kisan Union (Dallewal).

Last week, the Centre had reached out to leaders of the SNM(NP) as well as Kisan Mazdoor Sangh led by Sarwan Singh Pandher, the two groups leading a farmers' agitation. "We have finalized a set of 13 demands but it is open to revision and additions," a farm leader said.

Meanwhile, the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha (KMM) also announced the deferment of the January 21 march by a group of 101 farmers to Delhi till January 26. "We have to fight with the government and for this, the main leader should be healthy. The KMM appeals to farm leader Jagjit Dallewal that he should start taking food so that we can press the Centre to accept our demands," KMM leader Sarwan Singh Pandher said.

Illegal cylinders under lens after Kumbh fire

Kenneth John
letters@hindustantimes.com

MAHAKUMBH NAGAR (PRAYAGRAJ): A large number pilgrims attending the Maha Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj are using banned "non-ISI" marked 5kg LPG cylinders which, relatively cheaper and more portable than the regular domestic ones, pose a higher fire risk, an HT investigation found on Monday, a day after a major blaze triggered by a cylinder blast engulfed several tents at the world's largest religious gathering.

Eyeing an opportunity amid a surge in demand, a network of suppliers of these illegal cylinders is thriving in the Mahakumbh Nagar — a temporary district created by the Uttar Pradesh government to host millions of devotees converging at the Maha Kumbh, which is being held after 12 years. Traders of these banned cylinders can be seen operating in full public glare in Daraganj, Buxi Bandh, Alopibagh, Naini and Jhunsi localities near the Mela area.

Smoke rises from a fire that engulfed a camp during the Maha Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj on Sunday. AP

Many devotees cited the "arduous procedure" in availing a temporary gas connection from registered dealers as well as the hefty security deposit, though refundable, as main reasons for buying the illegal ones.

Ratnesh, a resident of Badaun in Uttar Pradesh said the cost of getting a domestic 14.2kg gas cylinder allotted from the government counter was ₹4,400. "We sell vegetables in Badaun and cannot afford ₹4,400 for just getting a cylinder allotted. The 'nonmarka' (the term used for 'non-ISI' cylinder in local parlance) costs just ₹500 with ₹85 per kilogram of LPG refill," he said.

ISI mark is a standards-compliance mark for industrial products in India.

Sellers of the illegal cylinders offer on-the-spot delivery in Mela area, primarily in Kalpvasi camps — where pilgrims live for a month. "We charge between ₹80 and ₹100 for one kg of LPG refill. The cost of a new cylinder is ₹500," a seller of illegal cylinders at Daraganj said.

Three suppliers — Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum and Bharat Petroleum — have been roped in for the Mela, Sunil Singh, the district supply officer of Prayagraj, said.

"There are three categories of cylinders provided by the administration to pilgrims against a fixed security fee. For a 5kg LPG cylinder, the security deposit is ₹1,018 and the gas cost is ₹578, thus bringing the total initial investment to ₹1,576," Singh said. He added that the initial investment for each domestic 14.2-kg cylinder is ₹4,352 — security deposit of ₹3,496 and ₹856 for the cooking gas price. Similarly, for a 19-kg commercial cylinder, used by nearly 100 Bhandaras and Ann Kshetras where bulk cooking takes place, the security deposit is ₹4,800 and the cost of each refill is ₹1,970, bringing the initial cost for each cylinder to ₹6,770, the DSO said.

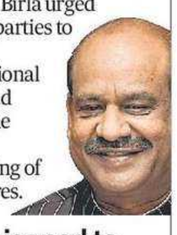
"One private gas agency each has been deputed in each of the 25 sectors of the Mela. Cylinders from other than these three suppliers are illegal and would be seized on detection," Singh said.

Chief fire officer, Mahakumbh Nagar, Pramod Sharma said special teams have been formed to check sale of the "risky" non-ISI cylinders. "We have started a search operation to check the sale of such gas cylinders. FIR will be filed against violators."

The fire that broke out on Sunday in the camp set up by the Gita Press in the Maha Kumbh was suspected to have been caused by a gas leak in one such small cylinder. No casualty or major injuries were reported.

Dipping legislative House sittings a concern: Om Birla

NEW DELHI: Lok Sabha speaker Om Birla expressed concern over the declining number of legislative sittings and disruptions in parliamentary proceedings, calling for collective efforts to address these challenges. Speaking at the inaugural session of the 85th All India Presiding Officers' Conference in Patna on Monday, Birla urged political parties to uphold constitutional values and ensure the smooth functioning of legislatures.



HC denies nod to extend interim bail to Sengar

NEW DELHI: The Delhi high court on Monday refused to further extend the interim bail granted to expelled BJP leader Kuldeep Singh Sengar on medical grounds in the Unnao rape cases. Sengar, who was told to surrender on January 20, failed to secure the relief from a division bench in the main rape case, after it was noted that his application seeking extension was not supplied to the survivor.

TN activist who opposed illegal mining killed

PUDUKKOTTAI: A social activist who has been waging a battle against illegal mining activities in Thirumayam in the district was allegedly killed and four people have been arrested in connection with the murder, police said on Monday. The suspects, including a stone quarry owner, were produced before a court which sent them to judicial custody till February 3.

SC stays defamation trial against Rahul in 2018 case

Abraham Thomas
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday stayed defamation proceedings against Congress member of Parliament (MP) Rahul Gandhi in a 2018 case pending before a Jharkhand court on his comments against then BJP president Amit Shah referring to him as a "murder accused".

A bench headed by justice Vikram Nath issued notice on the appeal filed by Gandhi, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, challenging the order of the Jharkhand high court in February 2024 refusing to quash the defamation case.

Granting four weeks to the state and the private complainant BJP leader Navin Jha to file responses, the bench, also comprising justice Sandeep Mehta said, "Till further orders, further proceedings before the trial court shall remain stayed."

The statement was made by Gandhi at a Congress plenary session in March 2018. He said, "The people of this country will accept a lying Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) leadership drunk with power because they know that, what the Bhartiya Janata Party is designed for. They will, accept a man accused of murder as the president of BJP but the people will never accept the same in the Congress Party". At the time, Shah was the BJP president.

Rahul Gandhi

The complaint said that the comments referring to Shah as a "man accused of murder" was not only false but an insult to all workers, supporters and leaders of the party dedicated to the country.

Senior advocates Abhishek Manu Singhvi and RS Cheema appearing for Gandhi, informed the court that the settled law in defamation cases require that the person aggrieved should alleged defamation and it cannot be done by a proxy.

"If you are not a person aggrieved, you cannot have a proxy to file a complaint. There are seven judgments to this effect," said Singhvi, while arguing the appeal filed by Gandhi. The complainant Jha was represented by senior advocate Mahesh Jethmalani who sought time for a reply.

The bench issued notice to Jha and the state while posting the matter after four weeks.

Gandhi, in his petition filed through advocate S Prasanna said, "The complaint (Jha) ambiguously describes himself as a worker/supporter and does not aver that he is an official member of the party, capable of maintaining a defamation complaint in law. Moreover, there is no evidence led to establish his membership even subsequent to the complaint."

It was further submitted that the statements do not fall within the ambit of Section 499 IPC (defamation), as they constitute "fair political comment" which is a constitutionally protected speech. The Rae Bareli MP argued before the HC that his statements merely reflected "historical facts" as the then BJP president Amit Shah "had indeed faced charges of murder."

The Jharkhand high court last year refused to interfere with a non-bailable warrant issued by the MP/MLA court in Jharkhand's Chaibasa court. The warrant was issued on the complaint filed by Jha claiming that the remarks made by Gandhi against then BJP president Amit Shah was objectionable and derogatory.

The HC found the comments made by the Congress leader and present Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha as "prima facie defamatory".

Waqf JPC set to hold final discussions on Jan 24-25

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

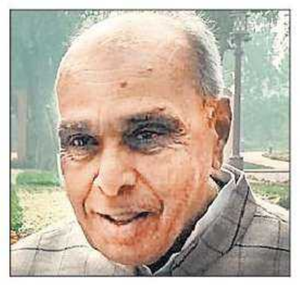
NEW DELHI: The joint parliamentary committee scrutinising the Waqf amendment Bill is set to begin clause-by-clause discussion on the proposed amendments on January 24-25, a communique from the Lok Sabha secretariat said, with the meetings expected to set the stage for tabling of the final report during the Budget session of Parliament.

Separately, speaking to reporters in Kolkata, JPC chairperson and BJP MP Jagdambika Pal said that he is hopeful of reaching a consensus.

The communique sent to lawmakers who are members of the JPC on Monday asked them to submit recommendations by Wednesday.

"We are going to present the report in the budget session," Pal told ANI.

He further said that the JPC has been meeting continuously for the last six months, holding meetings across the country. "I am confident that we will all come to a consensus and present our report. Last time we had to present it in the winter session but it was extended, so we are going to present this report in the budget session," the BJP MP said.



Jagdambika Pal

The committee was given an extension by Speaker Om Birla till the last day of the incoming Budget Session, which will run from January 31 to April 4, with a recess in between.

The JPC has held meetings in 10 states and will be in Lucknow on Tuesday to wrap up the consultations, a person familiar with the matter said, reiterating Pal's statement. "There is a likelihood of the report and the Bill being presented in the Budget session," this person said.

The bill to amend the Act that was introduced in August and referred to the JPC, seeks to bring about reforms, including digitisation, stricter audits and legal mechanisms in the governance of Waqf boards, which manage Islamic charitable establishments.

While some opposition parties have expressed reservations about the provisions of the Bill, the government has said the amendments are in line with recommendations of the 2006 Rajinder Sachar Committee.

A senior Opposition member of the JPC told HT that the draft report will be taken up after the panel completes its meeting in the states.

Some Opposition members, however, are expected to give dissent notes to the report.

Top court grants custody of B'luru techie's son to his estranged wife

HTC and agencies
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday rejected a petition filed by the mother of deceased Bengaluru-based engineer Atul Subhash seeking the custody of her four-year-old grandson, ruling that the minor child's custody will remain with the techie's estranged wife, Nikita Singhania, who is facing charges of abetting his suicide along with her family members.

A bench of Justices BV Nagarathna and Satish Chandra Sharma, while hearing the habeas corpus plea filed by Subhash's mother Anju Devi.

The bench told the lawyer appearing for Singhania to produce the child through a video-conferencing.

> THE APEX COURT INTERACTED WITH THE MINOR CHILD THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCING BEFORE ALLOWING HIM TO REMAIN WITH HIS MOTHER

"This is a habeas corpus petition. We want to see the child. Produce the child," the bench said. The lawyer sought 30 minutes to comply with it.

The court then interacted with the child, allowing him to remain with his mother.

Earlier, the apex court was informed that the child had dropped out of his school in Haryana and was currently residing with his mother.

On January 7, the Supreme Court denied Anju Devi the minor's custody, saying she was "stranger to the child".

The techie (34), who was found dead at his residence at Munnekolalu in Bengaluru on December 9 last year, purportedly left behind lengthy messages, blaming his wife and in-laws for pushing him to take the extreme step. Later, his estranged wife and her family members were arrested on charges of abetting suicide and granted conditional bail.

On January 4, the city civil court in Bengaluru granted bail to Singhania along with her mother Nisha Singhania and brother Anurag Singhania, days after they were arrested on December 15.

MP MAN DIES BY SUICIDE, LEAVES VIDEO BLAMING WIFE, IN-LAWS

Press Trust of India
letters@hindustantimes.com

RAJGARH: A 27-year-old man allegedly died by suicide in Rajgarh district of Madhya Pradesh, after recording a video on his mobile phone in which he purportedly accused his wife and in-laws of harassing him, police said on Monday.

The body of the deceased was found at his home in Biaora town on Sunday, Biaora city police station in-charge Virendra Dhakad said.

In the purported video, the 27-year-old accused his wife and in-laws of harassing him, the officer said, adding that further legal steps will be taken after an investigation.

In the video that surfaced on social media, the man claimed that his wife visited her parents' house every fortnight and quarrelled with his family members after returning. He also accused his in-laws of mentally harassing him and said he made every possible effort to bring his wife back, but she wanted to live alone.

HELP IS JUST A CALL AWAY
SNEHI: 011-65978181
SUMAITRI: 011-46018404
9315767849

Army personnel carry out a cordon and search operation in Sopore on Monday. ANI

Soldier gunned down in Sopore encounter

Mir Ehsan
letters@hindustantimes.com

SRINAGAR: An Indian Army soldier was killed on Monday during an encounter with terrorists in Sopore town of Baramulla district in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

The soldier, identified as sepoy Pangala Kartheek, died following an exchange of fire with terrorists at their hideout in Gujjarpatti Zaloora area of Sopore. The incident took place during the second day of a joint operation of the army, police, and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). Kashmir inspector general of police (IGP) Virdhi Kumar Birdhi said that the operation was still ongoing as of Monday evening.

"All Ranks of the Chinar Corps salute the supreme sacrifice of Braveheart Swr Pangala Kartheek, who laid down his life in the line of duty," the army's Chinar Corps said in a post on X.

"On 19 Jan 25, based on specific intelligence input regarding presence of terrorists, a Joint Cordon & Search Operation was launched by #IndianArmy & @JmuKmrPolice at Gujjarpatti, Sopore, Baramulla," the Chinar Corps said on X on Sunday.

Security forces laid out a cordon in the region when terrorists began firing while they were busting a military hideout. "The firing took place from inside the hideout. Soon, the entire area was cordoned off," a police spokesperson said.

Police officers privy to the development said two to three terrorists were likely present in the hideout on Sunday. However, it's unclear whether any of them have escaped since then.

"One soldier was injured, who later succumbed to his injuries." Kashmir IGP Birdhi said.

2 MAOISTS KILLED IN GUNFIGHT, SAYS ODISHA TOP COP

BHUBANESWAR: At least two Maoists, both women, were killed in an encounter with security forces at the Odisha-Chhattisgarh border on Monday, Odisha director general of police (DGP) YB Khurania said.

A large quantity of arms and ammunition were also seized from the two women's possession, the top officer added.

Odisha police's special operation group, Chhattisgarh's E-30 force and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) launched a joint operation on Sunday night at the interstate border after getting intelligence reports regarding the presence of Maoists at the Kularighat reserve forest, the DGP said. The gunbattle began on Monday morning in the forest at Gariaband in Chhattisgarh, adjacent to Nuapada district in Odisha.

"The identities of the two deceased Maoists are yet to be ascertained," the DGP said.

Stating that a massive search operation is underway by police in the area, Khurania said that a large quantity of firearms, ammunition and IEDs, including one SLR, have been recovered by the security forces. The anti-Maoist operation is still on, the DGP added. HTC

RESCUED JUMBOS TO BE BROUGHT TO GUJARAT: VANTARA

Jayashree Nandi
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: After activists and environmentalists raised concerns about the transport of elephants, reportedly from Arunachal Pradesh to Vantara, a private zoo and philanthrophic initiative of Reliance Foundation at Jamnagar in Gujarat, the foundation said that it is preparing for the arrival of 20 elephants that have been "rescued" from exploitative logging industry in the northeastern state.

The rescue operation of 10 males, eight females, one subadult, and one calf was carried out with the approval of the high-powered committee, constituted by the Tripura high court and entrusted by the Supreme Court. It has been conducted with the full consent of the current owners of the animals, according to a statement issued by Vantara on Monday evening.

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA
Public Works Division chhatrapati sambhajinagar
E-Tender Notice No. 364 OF 2024-2025

E-Tender for the following works in "B-1/ Form" for the (01) Works is invited via online E-Tendering system from Contractor/Agency/Firm/Company of Eligible Class by Executive Engineer Public Works Division Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar (PH No.0240-2331174) on behalf of Public Works Department of Government of Maharashtra.

All details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Maharashtra e-Tendering Portal **https://mahatenders.gov.in** on sub Portal of public works Department also on **www.mahapwd.gov.in** portal as per online tender Schedules.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Public Works Division Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar

DGIPR/2024-2025/ROC 5772

CORRIGENDUM-1 AGAINST TENDER NOTICE NO. CON/2024/DEC/02 DATED: 06-11-2024

Corrigendum-1 has been issued against **Tender No. CE/CON/BH/PMS/2024/14.** For details please visit **www.ireps.gov.in**
Chief Engineer/Con/Katihar DL Project/Maligaon
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
(Construction Organisation)
Serving Customers With A Smile

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Department of Fisheries
Ph.0194-2500092, 0191-2958673
email: jkfdjmu@gmail.com, jkfdkmr@gmail.com

Re-auction Notice No. 08 of 2025 **Dated: 17.01.2025**

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, e-Bid affixed with Revenue Stamp worth Rs. 5/- are invited from the **Citizen of India**, for the auction of Fishing Rights of Ranjit Sagar Reservoir (J&K portion) viz Satwain/Basohli, District Kathua for a period of one-year from the date of issuance of fishing rights contract. The society of Fishermen registered under the Cooperative Act of the J&K State (now Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir) if any, can also participate in the auction proceeding.

The Bid documents containing detailed terms & conditions can be seen/downloaded against e-Bid document fee of Rs. 2000/- (Rupees Two Thousand only) in shape of DD pledged to Assistant Director Fisheries, District Kathua from the official Government website **www.jktenders.gov.in** from:-

1	**Download date start**	20.01.2025
2	**Bid Submission date start**	21.01.2025
3	**Bid submission date ends**	10.02.2025
4	**Submission of original Earnest Money Deposit along with Tender document Fee in shape of Demand Draft.**	11.02.2025
5	**Bid opening Date**	13.02.2025

The original Demand Draft of EMD Rs. 5,00,000/- (Rupees Five Lakh only) along with Tender Document Fee of Rs. 2000/- (Rupees two thousand only) pledged to the Assistant Director Fisheries, District Kathua respectively in a sealed cover addressed to Accounts Officer (Member Secretary of the Auction Committee Ranjit Sagar Reservoir) Department of Fisheries, Canal Road, Nowabad Jammu-180016 shall reach by or before **11.02.2025 upto 4.00 PM** without of which no bid shall be accepted.

However, in case the interested/genuine bidders fail to submit hard copies (original) of CDRs (tender document fee and earnest money deposit), the technical bid shall still be opened to verify/check the uploaded documents including the copies of CDRs. The bidders who shall have failed to submit hard copies of CDRs (tender document fee and earnest money deposit) but have uploaded them with bid document on JK tenders, in that case concerned bank/branch shall be approached for forfeiture of the CDRs and defaulters shall be blacklisted in J&K UT for future auction process. The other terms and conditions will remain same as are mentioned in detailed bid document.

The Bid shall be opened on **13.02.2025 at 11.30 AM** or any other date convenient to bid opening authority in presence of bidders who may like to be present.

No: DF/Acctts//E-Auction/2024-25/
Dated: .01.2025
Accounts Officer
Member Secretary Auction Committee,
Ranjit Sagar Reservoir,
Fisheries Department

DIP-J-9349-24

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
विद्युत कार्य मण्डल,
दक्षिणांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि0,
विद्युत कालोनी, गोविन्द नगर, कानपुर
CIN U31200UP2003SGC027460

अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना

विद्युत कार्य मण्डल, कानपुर के अन्तर्गत निम्नलिखित कार्यों हेतु अनुभवी व सक्षम निविदादाताओं से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

ई-निविदा सं0 20/EWC(K)/2024-25: विद्युत कार्य मण्डल, कानपुर के अन्तर्गत बिजनेस प्लान 2023-24 कि 339 करोड़ पैकेज के तहत, वि0वि0खं0-चौबेपुर में 33/11 के0वी0 विद्युत उपकेन्द्र चौबेपुर असाईड के अन्तर्गत 220 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र पनकी से चौबेपुर असाइड उपकेन्द्र तक 3x300 sq mm केबिल बलने का कार्य (0.300 सर्किट कि0मी0), 33/11 के0वी0 विद्युत उपकेन्द्र गढेवा में 220 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र बिठूर से गढेवा उपकेन्द्र तक 3x300 sq mm केबिल बदलने का कार्य (2.60 सर्किट कि0मी0) तथा 33/11 के0वी0 विद्युत उपकेन्द्र शिवराजपुर आई0पी0डी0एस0 के अन्तर्गत 132 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र सांभी से सांभी रोड तक 3x300 sq mm केबिल बदलने का कार्य (0.300 सर्किट कि0मी0)।

निविदा शुल्क निगम की वेबसाईट www.dvvnl.org के माध्यम से ही स्वीकार्य किया जायेगा। निविदा से सम्बन्धित समस्त जानकारी उ0प्र0 शासन के ई-प्रोक्योरमैंट पोर्टल https://etender.up.nic.in पर अपलोड की जायेंगी, जहाँ से निविदा प्रपत्र डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है।

उपरोक्त निविदा निर्धारित तिथि को 13.00 बजे तक केवल ऑनलाईन माध्यम से जमा की जायेंगी तथा उसी दिन दोपहर 16.00 बजे ई-टेण्डरिंग माध्यम से खोली जायेंगी।

अधिक जानकारी हेतु कृपया https://etender.up.nic.in एवं www.dvvnl.org को लॉग-इन करें।

"राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचायें"
(आर0के0 सिंह)
अधीक्षण अभियन्ता

पत्रांकः 96/वि0का0म0का0/विज्ञापन दिनांकः 20.01.2025

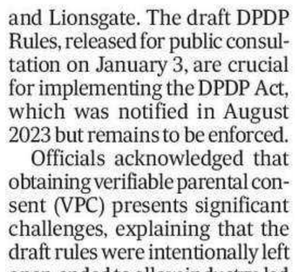
Hyd man shot dead in US, kin urge govt to help bring body

Srinivasa Rao Apparasu
letters@hindustantimes.com

HYDERABAD: A 26-year-old man from Hyderabad was shot dead by unidentified people at Washington Avenue in the US on Sunday, his family members told reporters on Monday.

The deceased was identified as Koyyada Ravi Teja, a resident of Green Hills Colony at Rama Krishna Puram in Hyderabad. The family is still unaware of the details of the circumstances that led to the shooting, they added.

"We have received information on Monday morning that Teja was shot dead by unidentified people while he was returning home," said his father, Koyyada Chandra Mouli.



Koyyada Ravi Teja

According to preliminary information received by the family, Teja succumbed to the bullet injuries on the spot.

Union minister of state (home) Bandi Sanjay Kumar spoke to the family members of the deceased student and promised to help them, a release from his office said.

The victim had moved to the US in 2022 to pursue his master's degree. After completing his studies, he was looking for a job.

On coming to know about the incident, friends and relatives of Teja thronged his Hyderabad house to console his bereaved parents. "Nobody should face this situation. He went to the US with high hopes and see how he is returning now," Chandra Mouli said. "My appeal to the government is to send back his mortal remains as early as possible," he added.

{ IT MINISTRY CONSULTATIONS IN MUMBAI }

Consent, transparency key in DPDP talks

Aditi Agrawal
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Companies are not obligated to use government-issued identity documents to obtain parental or guardian consent for processing children's data under the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act or the proposed rules, senior officials from the ministry of electronics and information technology (Meity) told stakeholders during a Mumbai consultation on Monday.

IT secretary S Krishnan led the consultation, joined by additional secretary and UIDAI CEO Bhuvnesh Kumar, and head of Meity's cyber laws division Deepak Goel. Unlike the New Delhi consultation on January 14 that drew more than 300 attendees, Monday's meeting focused on banking, fintech, and health care, with fewer than 50 participants including representatives from HDFC Bank, Johnson & Johnson, Sony, and Lionsgate. The draft DPDP Rules, released for public consultation on January 3, are crucial for implementing the DPDP Act, which was notified in August 2023 but remains to be enforced.

> THE MEETING HAD FEWER THAN 50 PARTICIPANTS AND FOCUSED ON BANKING, FINTECH, AND HEALTH CARE

Officials acknowledged that obtaining verifiable parental consent (VPC) presents significant challenges, explaining that the draft rules were intentionally left open-ended to allow industry-led solutions. Krishnan emphasised the importance of maintaining data minimisation principles while seeking VPC, according to two sources who spoke to HT on condition of anonymity.

Consent dominated discussions, particularly regarding legacy data processed under the Sensitive Personal Data or Information Rules, 2011. Under SPDI Rules, consent was required only for processing sensitive personal data, whereas the DPDP Act requires consent for all personal data processing. This raises questions about data that companies currently hold without consent under SPDI Rules but now requires it.

Stakeholders raised numerous questions about consent managers, including their business model. One official suggested that revenue would likely come from service providers rather than users, as the ministry doubted users would pay for consent processing. At least two stakeholders noted that current RBI regulations restrict account aggregators to processing financial data only. Similar sectoral limitations exist for health data consent managers, prompting questions about whether consent managers would be sector-specific or cross-sectoral.

Meity officials emphasised that consent managers cannot belong to the same group entity as an existing data fiduciary to avoid conflicts of interest. They stressed that consent managers must remain "data blind" except for consent-gathering purposes.

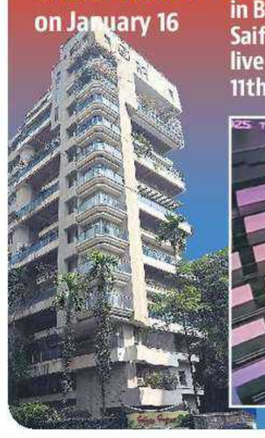
Regarding breach reporting, stakeholders urged harmonisation with existing regulatory requirements. One suggestion proposed a unified portal for reporting all breaches, accessible to relevant regulators and adjudicators.

MeitY insisted that companies must inform users of breaches immediately, sharing all available information. Officials clarified that the Data Protection Board would serve as an adjudicatory body rather than a regulatory one, unlike the RBI or SEBI.

The attacker's trail

Tracing the assailant's route from Saif Ali Khan's building in Bandra in the early hours of January 16 to his arrest in a mangrove area in Thane on January 19

1.37 am on January 16 ▶ Climbs up the stairs at Satguru Sharan building in Bandra West, where Saif Ali Khan's family lives in a duplex on the 11th and 12th floors



2.33 am on January 16 ▶ Leaves Saif's apartment via fire escape and climbs down the stairs to exit the building

Suspected to have slept in Patwardhan park opposite National College, 300 metres from Satguru Sharan

7:00 am ▶ on January 16: Seen walking on Linking Road near National College after changing his clothes

8:24 am ▶ on January 16: Enters Bandra railway station

8:36 am Boards a Churchgate-bound train

8:45 am Alights at Dadar station

9:04 am ▶ on January 16: Purchases headphones from a mobile accessories shop in Dadar West

9:15 am on January 16: Leaves Dadar and heads towards Worli Koliwada

Sometime later, buys a paratha and a water bottle from a stall near Century Bazaar in Worli

2:00 am on January 19

Arrested in a mangrove area near Hiranandani Estate in Thane where he had gone to meet a labour contractor, perhaps in search of work

Intruder's fingerprints found at Saif's house

Manish Kumar Pathak
letters@hindustantimes.com

MUMBAI: Police in Mumbai probing the attack on Saif Ali Khan said that they have found an unidentified person's fingerprints at 19 spots and have tapped forensics to see if they match with the arrested suspect, even as they gave new details on how they zeroed in on the man they arrested the previous day after a frenetic manhunt.

Shariful Islam Shehzad Mohammed Rohilla Amin Fakir, 30, ostensibly a Bangladeshi national, was arrested around 2am on January 19 from a mangrove area near Hiranandani Estate in Thane, approximately 72 hours after the alleged assault.

According to officials, the breakthrough in identifying Fakir came after investigators, working off of CCTV footage of Khan's residence on the night of the attack on January 16, deployed facial recognition software to pore over video footage from various CCTV cameras in the city's western suburbs.

They discovered Fakir had travelled on trains between Dadar and Andheri four times this month - on January 1, 9, 15 and 16, an official said, asking not to be named. On January 9, cameras captured him in DN Nagar, Andheri West, riding pillion with Amit Pandey, whom he had met outside Andheri station, the officer added.

After tracing the bike's registration to Pandey, police questioned him, leading to crucial information about Fakir's identity and phone number.

Police learned Fakir had obtained a SIM card in Kolkata using fake ID and tracked his mobile location to Thane on Saturday, losing signal temporarily when he switched off his phone. "He was arrested hours later after switching it back on," the person quoted above said.

According to officials, Fakir entered Khan's flat through the bathroom window in Jehangir's bedroom about 10 minutes after Khan's wife, actor Kareena Kapoor Khan, returned home at 1.33am on January 16. Fingerprints of an unidentified person were found in the duct shaft and staircase of the Satguru Sharan building, and in Khan's younger son Jehangir's bedroom. Police will send these for forensic analysis to match with the arrested accused's prints, the official quoted above added.

After allegedly assaulting Khan and two staff members, Fakir left around 2.30am, captured on a private CCTV camera descending the building's staircase at 2.37am. However, he remained in the vicinity, sleeping in a garden near National College, about 300 metres away, before departing around 6.30am.

Officials traced his subsequent movements through Mumbai: he reached Bandra station around 8.26am, arrived at Dadar by 8.45am, bought earphones from a shop there at 9.04am, and later had a paratha in Worli, paying through UPI, before heading to Thane to meet Pandey.

Probe revealed Fakir, from Bangladesh's Jhalokathi district, allegedly entered India illegally in August under the alias Vijay Das. After obtaining Indian documents in Kolkata, he moved to Mumbai's Worli Koliwada. He worked briefly at a Lower Parel pub and a Thane restaurant before becoming unemployed 15 days ago.

A Mumbai court has remanded Fakir to police custody until January 24, noting possible international conspiracy concerns. His lawyer contends that Fakir and his family are long-term Indian residents with proper documentation.

Khan, 54, sustained six stab wounds, including a serious thoracic spinal cord injury from a lodged knife fragment. Following a five-and-a-half hour surgery at Lilavati Hospital, doctors reported on January 17 that he was recovering well and could be discharged within days.

The three questions yet to be answered

1. The police investigation is yet to establish how the alleged Bangladeshi national gained entry into Satguru Sharan building where actors Saif Ali Khan and Kareena Kapoor-Khan live with their family in a duplex apartment that sprawls across the 11 and 12 floors and part of the terrace on the 13th floor. Did the intruder target the actors' home specifically, and if so why?
2. The second question that remains unanswered is why did the accused, after grievously injuring Saif Ali Khan, continue to roam around the vicinity of the building for the next six hours, as first reported by HT
3. The third question that needs asking is whether the intruder had accomplices who guided him to Khan's home. It beggars belief that he randomly selected Satguru Sharan and of all the apartments in the building, he chose the Khans' penthouse, which would be the hardest to reach

Slugfest continues over 'infiltration' from B'desh

MUMBAI: The political slugfest continued in Maharashtra on Monday, a day after police confirmed actor Saif Ali Khan's attacker to be a Bangladeshi national, with the opposition Shiv Sena (UBT) leaders holding the BJP-led Centre responsible for the attack, alleging it failed to curb alleged infiltration from the neighbouring country.

The Mumbai police said that the accused, identified as Shariful Islam Shehzad Mohammed Rohilla Amin Fakir (30), was an illegal immigrant from Bangladesh. He was arrested at around 2am on Sunday from a mangrove area near Hiranandani Estate in Thane district.

Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut said the Centre was responsible for the attack on Khan and demanded Union home minister Amit Shah's resignation. "An actor has been attacked and the people should be told the truth... If he is a Bangladeshi, then the central government is responsible," he alleged. "It is Amit Shah's responsibility and he should resign."

Party leader Aaditya Thackeray questioned the Centre over infiltrators. "...This is the failure of the BJP... The BJP should tell how many Bangladeshis (infiltrators) they have caught in the last 10 years," he alleged.

Hitting back, Maharashtra minister and BJP leader Ashish Shelar accused the Shiv Sena (UBT) of "hypocrisy" for political gain. "Illegal immigration of Bangladeshi citizens does not occur in states like Assam and Tripura, where the BJP is in power. It is happening in Mamata Didi's West Bengal. Why Uddhav Thackeray has not confronted her about this illegal immigration?" he said on X. HTC

ALH grounding a setback, will sort it out soon: Def secy

Rahul Singh
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The grounding of the locally produced Dhruv advanced light helicopter (ALH) in the wake of a recent crash has come as a slight setback for the armed forces and it will not be taking part in the Republic Day flypast, defence secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh said on Monday.

"The ALH's grounding is a little bit of a setback. But (the issues) will get sorted out soon. It is not taking part in the parade as a safety grounding has taken place... but 39 aircraft will take part, and 12 different formations will be displayed. Some helicopters will be there, only the ALH will not be there," he said at a media briefing in South Block ahead of the 76th Republic Day parade.

The military's ALH fleet of around 330 helicopters, designed and developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), was grounded a fortnight ago after a coast guard helicopter crashed at Porbandar in Gujarat on January 5, with authorities still struggling to determine the cause of the accident. Two pilots and an aircrew diver were killed in the latest crash.

The wreckage of the helicopter has been flown to Bengaluru for HAL to analyse it in detail, find out what went wrong and take steps to fix the problems so that the helicopters can return to service soon.

The integrated drive system, including the transmission system, gearbox and rotor hub, of the ALH that crashed in Porbandar was flown to Bengaluru for a thorough inspection last week.

The ALH has been involved in around 15 accidents during the last five years.

This year's parade, which will be witnessed by around 77,000 spectators, will feature the indigenous Pralay surface-to-surface missile, developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), for the first time, Singh said. The missile has a range of 150 to 500 km, depending on the payload.

The parade will be heralded by 300 artistes playing a variety of Indian martial musical instruments and will include a cultural performance by around 5,000 folk and tribal artistes, compared to 1,500 women dancers last year. "What is unique this year is that from a military character, we wanted the parade to become a broader societal, cultural programme," Singh said.

Indonesian president Prabowo Subianto will be the chief guest at the Republic Day celebrations. A 160-member Indonesian military contingent and a 190-member band contingent from that country will also take part in the parade, Singh said. Last year, French marching and band contingents participated in the parade at which French President Emmanuel Macron was the chief guest.

The parade will feature 18 marching contingents, 15 bands and 31 tableaux from different states, union territories, ministries and the armed forces, he said. Two of those will be showcasing the theme of 75 years of the Indian Constitution.

The states showcasing their tableaux are Bihar, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Goa, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Haryana. The Republic Day line-up will feature a variety of fighter jets, transport aircraft, attack helicopters, tanks, infantry combat vehicles, missile and rocket systems, a raft of fighting vehicles, soldiers on horseback, and the much-loved Border Security Force camel contingent.

ALH may be grounded at R-day flypast

6 jawans hurt in accidental mine blast near LoC

JANUARY 15: HT carried a report on the Dhruv ALH being grounded at the Republic Day flypast.

5 cops guilty of accused's death in custody in Badlapur: Probe

Prateem Rohanekar
letters@hindustantimes.com

MUMBAI: A magistrate's inquiry has held five Maharashtra policemen responsible for the custodial death of Akshay Shinde, the lone accused in the Badlapur school sexual assault case, and raised doubts on their claims of opening fire at him in self-defence in September last year.

Magistrate Ashok Shengde, in his report tendered in a sealed cover to the Bombay high court on Monday, noted allegations levelled by Akshay Shinde's parents -- that their son was killed in a fake encounter -- has found substance if all evidences, including forensic reports, are considered.

"The report reveals that the allegations made by the parents of the deceased are justified. It concludes that the force used by the five policemen was unwarranted, and they are responsible for Shinde's death," the bench observed. The court highlighted critical findings from the report, including the absence of Shinde's fingerprints on the gun he allegedly snatched and the lack of gunshot residue on his hands. It also questioned the police's claim of self-defence, stating that it was "in the shadow of suspicion."

PARENTS OF THE ACCUSED HAD RAISED DOUBTS ON THE POLICE'S CLAIMS OF OPENING FIRE IN SELF-DEFENCE IN SEPT LAST YEAR

The court pointed out that the incident occurred inside a moving vehicle, and the situation could have been managed without the use of lethal force. "There were no fingerprints of the deceased on the gun and no gunshot residue found on his hands, handcuffs, or clothing," the court emphasised, reinforcing the magistrate's conclusion.

The bench directed that a First Information Report (FIR) be registered against the policemen involved and called for a thorough investigation. Public prosecutor Hiten Venegaonkar was given two weeks to inform the court about the agency that would conduct the probe into the alleged fake encounter.

The court was hearing a petition filed by Anna Shinde, the father of the deceased, who claimed that his son was killed in a staged encounter for political reasons.

He has sought the formation of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to investigate the incident. Akshay Shinde, 24, was arrested on August 16 last year for allegedly sexually assaulting two four-year-old girls at a pre-primary school in Badlapur East, where he worked as cleaning staff. On September 23, he was shot dead by Thane police in an encounter near Mumbra while being transported in a police van from Taloja jail.

According to police, Shinde had snatched a service pistol from an officer seated next to him and fired three rounds. One bullet reportedly hit an officer in the thigh. The police claimed that as Shinde tried to fire again, an officer shot him in the head, killing him on the spot.

{ AT DELHI CAMP }

NCC cadets a reflection of India, says Rajnath

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Defence minister Rajnath Singh on Monday asked NCC cadets to strive hard to help realise India's vision of becoming a developed country by 2047, described them as the country's assets, and hailed their contribution towards nation building through "leadership, discipline, ambition and patriotism" — qualities imbibed during training.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken a pledge to make India a developed country by 2047. He has been an NCC cadet himself. So, if an ex-NCC cadet has seen a dream, it becomes the biggest responsibility of all other cadets to fulfill it. Viksit Bharat does not mean development of a piece of land; it means the progress of 140 crore Indians who live in unison despite social and cultural diversity," Singh said, during a visit to the NCC (National Cadet Corps) Republic Day camp.

He said India's achievements were the result of everyone's hard work, especially the youth.

"Whenever I meet NCC cadets, I don't just see a cadet in them. I see the reflection of India, which has many bodies but one soul, many branches but one root, many rays but one light... Their energy and enthusiasm is proof that India's future is bright," the defence minister said.

He asked the cadets to never stop learning and keep upgrading their skills. Singh also reviewed a guard of honour presented by the cadets.

Defence minister Rajnath Singh during his visit to the NCC Republic Day Parade 2025 camp in New Delhi. PTI

LAKHIMPUR CASE: COPS TO PROBE IF WITNESSES ARE BEING INFLUENCED

Abraham Thomas
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday directed the superintendent of police in Lakhimpur Kheri to conduct an inquiry into allegations against Ashish Mishra of influencing witnesses in the 2021 violence case.

A bench of justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh directed the Lakhimpur Kheri SP to file the report in the court and posted the matter after four weeks. "In our considered view the veracity, genuineness and reliability of such material can only be gone into by the police administration. The police administration may submit a report in support or against the allegation made in the application seeking cancellation of bail," the bench said.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for the complainants, alleged he had an audio recording of an attempt made to influence witnesses in the case. Mishra denied the allegations in his affidavit, and said every time the matter was listed, such averments were made for the cancellation of his bail granted by the top court.

CBI clubs graft cases in Mahadev scam

Neeraj Chauhan
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered a corruption and cheating case in connection with the Mahadev online betting app scandal, people familiar with developments said on Monday, roughly four months after the Chhattisgarh government asked the agency to probe the larger conspiracy and role of public servants in a case where former chief minister Bhupesh Baghel was earlier named.

The federal agency registered a regular case (or first information report) last week by consolidating 77 FIRs filed at various police stations and economic offences wing (EOW) in Chhattisgarh, said the people cited above. Baghel was named as an accused along with Sourabh Chandrakar and Ravi Uppal, the fugitive founders of Mahadev whose extraditions are being pursued in the UAE, in an FIR filed by the Chhattisgarh Police on March 4, 2024.

Ex-CM Bhupesh Baghel was earlier named as an accused.

This FIR has now been taken over by CBI, but it was not clear if Baghel was named in the agency's re-registered case. "Baghel is definitely under the scanner since he was named by the Chhattisgarh police and the Enforcement Directorate (ED)," said an official aware of developments.

HT reached out to Baghel's political aide for a comment from the former CM but received no response at the time of going to print. On previous instances, he has vigorously defended himself, saying his name was "forcefully" added by the ruling BJP.

As first reported by HT, the Chhattisgarh government recommended a CBI probe in the Mahadev case in August 2024, roughly nine months after the Bharatiya Janata Party came to power in the state, displacing the Congress.

Over the past four months, the agency was occupied in consolidating the voluminous case documents including FIRs, charge sheets filed by the state police, and court documents. The exercise of taking over all the files finished last week after which CBI launched its regular case.

In its charge sheet filed in July 2024, EOW of Chhattisgarh police stated that the Mahadev service was still operational, and its promoters obtained protection from various police and administrative officials, as well as influential political figures to prevent legal action against their criminal activities related to online betting.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED), which is conducting a money laundering probe in the matter, alleged that Chandrakar and Uppal paid bribes worth ₹508 crore to former CM Baghel. Chhattisgarh police's FIR naming Baghel was filed on a reference from ED.

The agency alleged that the Mahadev betting app syndicate – which started in 2018 and saw Chandrakar and Uppal remotely run illegal betting operations, with the proceeds of crimes running into several thousand crores – allowed people to put illegal bets on live games such as poker, card games, chance games, cricket, badminton, tennis and football, and even allowed access to apps to place bets on elections in India.

So far, ED has filed two charge sheets in the case. It has estimated proceeds of crime in the case worth about ₹6,000 crore, out of which assets worth ₹2,426 crore have been seized.

1-year BEd programme may soon return: NCTE

Sanjay Maurya
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The National Council for Teachers Education is expected to submit draft regulations to the education ministry which seek to restart the one-year bachelor of education course, a decade after it was discontinued in 2014, to align with recommendations of the new education policy, NCTE chairman Pankaj Arora said on Monday.

The course, if restarted, will be offered to candidates who have completed the four-year bachelor's degree or a two-year master's degree, Arora said.

"One-year BEd programme will be for four-year undergraduate (UG) students and two-year postgraduate students. It will not be offered to those who have completed three-year UG programmes and they will have to enrol in the two-year BEd programme. Institutions offering two-year BEd programme will have to become multidisciplinary institutes by 2028," Arora said.

THE COURSE WILL BE OFFERED TO CANDIDATES WHO HAVE COMPLETED THE FOUR-YEAR BACHELOR'S OR A TWO-YEAR MASTER'S DEGREE

At a January 11 meeting, the governing body of the teachers education regulator approved several decisions related to teacher training courses. The commission is discussing these decisions with the education ministry and work is going to submit them as draft NCTE regulations 2025 for public consultation, Arora said.

NEW DELHI, **TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2025**

TO BOOK YOUR AD CALL **0120-4030403 (9 am to 9 pm, Everyday)**
OR E-MAIL **htclassifieds@hindustantimes.com**

HT Classifieds {Tuesday}

SCAN THE CODE TO BOOK YOUR ADS ONLINE

www.htclassifieds.com

EMPLOYMENT/ACADEMIC

Mount Abu Public School
Sector-5, Pkt. B-8, Rohini, Delhi-110085
CBSE I IB PYP WORLD SCHOOL

Qualified professionals with minimum 2 years of relevant experience for the following posts

- **PGT-** Maths, Psychology, Phy Edu, Legal Stu., Accountancy
- **TGT-** Maths, English, Science, Hindi, Social Science
- **PRT -** General & All Subjects (IB PYP Certified Preferred)
- **Early Child Educators (NTT)**
- **ICT Educators-** TGT, PRT
- **Coaches-** All Sports
- **Dance/Music/Theatre/ Visual Arts**
- **Counsellors / Career Counsellors**
- **Accountant/ Mktg Excu./ Office Asst. (F)/ Front Office Executive/ Caretaker**

- Candidates can apply within 5 days. Link is available at school website **www.mountabuschool.com**
- Only shortlisted candidates will be called for interview

Somerville Schools
(Administered By : Lott Carey Baptist Mission in India)

REQUIRE

SOMERVILLE SCHOOL,
VASUNDHARA ENCLAVE, DELHI-110096
E-mail: somervilleve@gmail.com

1. **PGT Biology :** M.Sc. Biology, B.Ed., age below 36 years.

SOMERVILLE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL,
A-07, SECTOR-132, NOIDA, U.P.–201301
E-mail: school@somervilleinternational.in

1. **PRT :** B.A/M.A., B.Sc./M.Sc., B.Ed./B.El. Ed.
2. **TGT English :** B.A.(Hons.) English/M.A. English, B.Ed.
3. **TGT Social Science (History) :** M.A. B.A., B.Ed., specialising in History
4. **TGT Science :** M.Sc./B.Sc., B.Ed., specialising in Physics / Chemistry / Biology
5. **Pre-Primary Teacher :** B.A./M.A., B.Sc./M.Sc., B.Ed./ B.El. Ed.

SOMERVILLE SCHOOL,
Block H, Sector Alpha II, Greater NOIDA, U.P.-201308
E-mail: somervillegn@gmail.com

1. **PGT English :** M.A., B.A., English, B.Ed.
2. **TGT English :** B.A.(Hons.) English/M.A. English, B.Ed.
3. **PRT English :** M.A. English/B.A. (Hons) English; B.Ed., B.El.Ed.

COMMON CRITERIA FOR ALL POSTS :

- Degrees from the UGC recognized Universities / Institutions
- 5 years' experience in a reputed institution
- Proficiency in English for all the posts
- CTET qualified for the posts of Primary Teachers and TGTs

Apply on the prescribed application form available free of cost at the concerned school office on all working days between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. along with a passport sized photograph and relevant certificates, to the Principal on or before **10th February, 2025.** Salaries as per the recommendations of the 7th Pay Commission for the deserving candidates. Degree certificates from UGC recognized universities only will be entertained. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Sd/- (Thomas T. Roy)
Secretary/Treasurer (Lott Carey Baptist Mission in India)

WE'RE HIRING — Golden Bells® EARLY YEARS
The Multiple Intelligences based Pre School

- Center Head
- Front Desk Associate
- Graphic Designer
- Nursery Trained Teachers
- Marketing Head

Walk-in-Interview
Monday, January **20th** to Friday, January **24th** 2025
between 10:00 am to 03:00 pm
Golden Bells Early Years, Sainik Vihar, Pitampura, Delhi.
42060385, 49050812, 8076605812

HOLY CHILD PUBLIC SCHOOL
Sector-29 & 75, Faridabad
REQ'T FOR SESSION: 2025-26
(Under the expansion plan)

- Vice Principal
- Academic Coordinators (All Depts. / Wings)
- Faculty for : JEE / NEET / CUET / CLAT / Olympiads
- PGT, TGT & PRT: All Subjects
- Faculty for Robotics / AI
- Faculty for Abacus & Vedic Mathematics
- NTT (Mother Trs. & Asst.Trs.)
- Art • Music • Dance • Theatre
- Sports Teachers / Coaches
- PA to Director & P.R.O
- Librarian
- Band Master
- Counsellor
- Special Educator
- IT Incharge
- HR Manager
- Accountant
- Office Superintendent
- Graphic Designer
- Transport Incharge
- Software Expert (MCA)
- Maintenance Incharge
- Lab Attendant

Please send your resume at:
hrdeptschool@yahoo.com & hrholychild@gmail.com
Please mention post applied for

HT Classifieds
FOR EMPLOYMENT RELATED ADS
"For hiring best talents."
PLEASE CONTACT
Sumit Negi : 9899268321
Direct Line : 011-6656-1139
Telebooking : 1800-103-1800
HT Classifieds

Apeejay Education
Applications invited for various positions in Apeejay Schools across Delhi NCR.

At Apeejay Education, we are committed to providing holistic, well-rounded and quality education. We strive for excellence and aim to set high standards in the field of education.

We invite applications from passionate and qualified teachers with strong communication skills to join the Apeejay Education family.

Requires

PPRT All Subjects

PRT English, Hindi, Mathematics, Computer Science, Science, Physical Education, Social Science

TGT English, Hindi, Social Science, Sanskrit, French, Mathematics, Science, Home Science, Fine Arts, ATL Coordinator

PGT Chemistry, History, Political Science, Economics, Psychology, Business Studies, Accountancy, English, Physics, Mathematics, Biology, Home Science, Physical Education, Computer Science, Fine Arts

PRIMARY IN-CHARGE

ACADEMIC COORDINATOR

SPECIAL EDUCATOR

ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN, LIBRARIAN

ACTIVITY TEACHERS Dance (Western and Classical), Painting, Art, Music (Classical Vocal, Western and Instrumental), Band, Percussion

SPORTS AND GAMES COACHES Basketball, Skating, Taekwondo, Football.

Applicants must meet the minimum qualifications and experience as prescribed by CBSE.

Interested candidates may apply online within 7 days from the date of this advertisement at **www.apeejay.edu/careers** for the school of their choice in Delhi NCR.

Candidates who have applied within the last 6 months and appeared for an interview but were not shortlisted, need not apply.

- HR

KAMAL PUBLIC SR. SEC. SCHOOL
D-Block, Vikas Puri, N.D.-18. Ph: 28534507, 28537741
Mob: 7428957749 E.mail: hrkews@gmail.com

REQUIRES
HEADMISTRESS • CO-ORDINATORS

PGT English, Physics, Chem., Maths, Biology, Comp. Sc., Inf. Prac, Accounts, B. Studies, Economics, History, Hindi, Geography, Legal Studies, Pol. Science, Sociology, Psychology, Fine Arts

TGT English, Hindi, Maths, Social Sc., Science, French, Sanskrit, Art & Craft, Computer

PRIMARY & NURSERY TRS., PET, SPORTS COACHES, DANCE, MUSIC, THEATRE TR., SPECIAL EDUCATOR, LAB ASSISTANT
LIBRARIAN, GRAPHIC DESIGNER, COMPUTER OPERATOR, STORE KEEPER, ACCOUNTANT, CASHIER, TRANSPORT INCHG.
ADM. COUNSELLOR, RECEPTIONIST

HIMALAYA PUBLIC SR. SEC. SCHOOL
D-12, Sector-7, Rohini, Delhi-110085
TEL.NO. 27046118, 27052223

Requires well Trained, Efficient and Experienced Female Candidates With Excellent Communication Skills with Proficiency in English. Age and Qualification as per Govt Rules.

- **PGTs:** Chemistry, Physics, Maths, English, Computer Science, Psychology, History, Fine Arts.
- **TGTs:** English, Maths, S.Studies, Science, Sanskrit.
- **PRTs:** Primary Teachers (All Subject), Computer Teacher Mother Teacher For Class II
- **NTTs:** Graduate With Two Years Course.
- **Activity Teachers:** Music (Classical/Hindustani Vocal), Dance (Classical), Drawing/Art And Craft Teachers, Special Educator & Counsellor, Librarian, Tabla Master.
- **Part Time Coach:** Takewando & Skating
- **Play School Custodian**

NOTE:- Apply Within a Week on the School Prescribed Form available Between 9:00am To 1:00pm Alongwith Testimonials And Latest Photograph. Short-listed Candidates will be Called for Interview.

MANAGER

DEEPANSHU Public Sr. Sec. School
Kamerdin Nagar, Nangloi, Delhi-41

Requires

1. **PGTs:** History, Commerce, Chemistry & Computer Science.
2. **TGTs:** English, Science, Social Science.
3. **PRTs:** EVS, English, Hindi, Computers.
4. **Others:** NTT, P.E.T., Wellness Edu., I.T. Executive.

Expd. & CTET qualified candidates (Post 2 & 3) having proficiency in Comp. & spoken Eng. may apply within a week at: **dpskdn1996@gmail.com**

Only shortlisted candidates shall be called for the interview.

Arunodaya Public School
Karkardooma, Delhi

Urgently Required
PGT : Maths
PRT : English
NTT
Receptionist

Qualification as per CBSE norms. Please apply on prescribed form available at school office.

Call : +919667431423 or Arunodayaschool96@gmail.com

AVB PUBLIC SCHOOL
I.P. Extension, Near Bathla Apartment (Plot No. 43), Patparganj, Delhi-92

Requires Female Staff :

- VICE PRINCIPAL
- PGT's- ENGLISH, BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY
- TGT's- MATHS, ENGLISH, HINDI, MUSIC
- PRT's & NTT's

Please send your CV at avbps.ip@gmail.com

Amar Jyoti Charitable Trust
Amar Jyoti Insitute of Physiotherapy
FACULTY REQUIREMENT (FULL TIME)

Applications are invited from eligible candidiates within 15 days of advertisement for the post(s) of

1. Associate Professor
2. Assistant Professor

Apply (with latest CV and copies of certificates) in prescribed format downloadable from www.ajipt.org and send to Officiating Principal at Karkardooma, Vikas Marg, Delhi - 110092

DEEP PUBLIC SCHOOL
Sr. Sec School, (Affiliated to CBSE), Sector D Pocket II, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070; 8595870897, Ph: 011-26897382, 011-26131771
Website: deeppublicschool.co.in

REQUIRES

- **PRT:** All Subjects
- **TGT'S:** English, SST, IT, PET [Female]
- **PGT'S:** Physics, Maths, Geography, English
- Librarian, Art & Craft, French Yoga, Judo, Karatte, Dance & Music

ADMISSION COUNSELLOR
PRO (PREFERABLY BBA IN HR)

Salary is not a constraint for Candidates with 3 years Experience in similar capacity & Public-School background having proficiency in Computer & English.

Mail Resume to us at
deeppublicschool@rediffmail.com

ACADEMIC

CANTERBURY PUBLIC SCHOOL
B-1 Block, Yamuna Vihar, Delhi-53

REQUIRES
English Medium FEMALE Trained Staff on Contractual Basis

- **HEAD MISTRESS - (Middle)**
  Must have good communication skill, knowledge of School Education, Computer, School Admin, having atleast 5-7 years experience of Teaching.
- **N.T.T. :** Experience 2-5 yrs, (Graduates can also apply)
- **TGT's :** Science, Maths, S.St., Sanskrit, Hindi
- **Primery Trs.:** Exp. 2-5 yrs.
- **Special Educators**
- **Receptionist / Comp. Tr.**
- **Exp. Office Assistant** (M/F)
- **Computer Operator / Account Assistant**
- **Hardware Engineer**

EXCELLENT SALARY
WALK IN INTERVIEW (9am-12 noon)
Contact immediately to Principal

PP INTERNATIONAL School, Pitampura,New Delhi requires PGT-Physics,Phy.Ed,Commerce & German teacher.With min 5 yrs of experience apply at info@ppischool.in

UNIVERSAL PUBLIC SCHOOL
G-109, Mahavir Enclave, New Delhi-45
Tel : 011-46040231

Reqs. Qualified Candidates with 3 yrs. exp.

- **PRTs-** All Subjects • **Librarian**
- **P.E.T** • **Pre School Teacher**
- **TGTs-** All Subjects • **NTT**
- **PGTs-** English, Geography & Maths, Physical Education, Food Nutrition & Dietitian.

Send resume by post/Email/ by hand at school address. **upsdelhi45@gmail.com** on or before **03rd February 2025**

Sanskriti School
Dr. S. Radhakrishnan Marg Chanakyapuri, New Delhi-21

- **PGT:** Economics, Legal Studies, Maths
- **TGT:** English, History, Maths
- **PRT:** General, Special Educator
- **Lab Assistant (Biology)**

For more details, visit www.sanskritischool.edu.in

J M INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
A Sr. Sec. School Affiliated to CBSE
Plot 23A, Techzone-4, Gr. Noida West
Tel.: # 91-999 967 1884 - 85

Applications are invited for the post of

PRINCIPAL

from dynamic, confident, dedicated & self-motivated transformational pedagogical leaders with minimum 4-5 years experience as Principal of a reputed Senior Secondary School of Delhi/ NCR. Qualifications as prescribed & laid down by CBSE. Female candidates will be preferred.

Apply within 7 days with complete details on schoolprincipal.edu25@gmail.com

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL
Sec-19, Dwarka, New Delhi - 75
Phone : 28042487, 8506003695

REQUIRES
T.G.Ts

HINDI & SANSKRIT
Teacher proficient in both Hindi & Sanskrit Graduate / Post Graduates with B.Ed. & of 2 years experience preferred.

COMPUTER SCIENCE
Graduate / Post Graduates with Relevant Qualification 2 years experience preferred

PRIMARY TEACHER
PRT, ART & WESTERN MUSIC
Graduate / Post Graduates with Relevant Qualification 2 years experience preferred

Candidates are required to apply on the prescribed form available at the School Office, between 10.00 am to 12.00 noon before 25.01.2025

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

REQD. ACCOUNTANT, CA, Article Clrk, Audit Asst., Office Asst., M/F. Immd. appointment. Cont: MC Maheshwari & Co., CA, 17, FF, Yusuf Sarai, Green Park Metro,gt 4, ND-16. 9899350801

REQUIRE EXPERIENCED Accountant for Restaurant in South Delhi. Send CV Email : kumarmastana53@gmail.com

COMPUTER/IT

IT COMPANY Needs: MCA / B.Tech / Diploma Holders as Tech / Robotics Trainers for School @ Delhi. Call: 011-45693772, 9811023595, Email: techkidz@gmail.com

ENGINEER/ PROD/TECHNICAL

A REPUTED Material Handling Mfg .Co. requires the following personnel:- 1-Project Manager-Graduate Engineer with min. 10-15 yrs. exp. in executing Material Handling Projects. 2-Quality Control Manager- Graduate Engineer with min. 05-10 yrs. exp. in quality control for fabricated & Machined items. 3-Erection Manager-Graduate Engineer with min. 10 yrs. exp. in erection & commissioning of Material Handling equipment. Apply To:- Administrative Manager M/s Simplicity Projects Pvt. Ltd. GF-34, Ozone Centre, Sec-12, Faridabad Mob:-8130308006 Email:- sppl@simplicityprojects.com

REQUIRED CIVIL Supervisors/ Engg. for Petrol Pump Works for Delhi, UP, Haryana, Bihar, Jharkhand. Please Cont. M -9212720097, E-mail : hrshtnj7@gmail.com, # 9211553677

LEGAL

Required For Nehru Place
Male / Female, Full / Part Time
Legal Assistant / Advisor
Preferably Having Law Degree
Having 10 years' experience of preparing / vetting documents received from advocates /stakeholders experties in drafting / reviewing & finalizing property related flawless documents.
Strong knowledge of property Laws of Delhi/NCR including title verification and due diligence etc.
WHATSAPP / MAIL
MUKUL CONSULTANTS GROUP
9811225618 | mahesh_md@hotmail.com

DESIGNERS

ADVERTISING AGENCY reqd. Graphic Designer in Rajendra Place, New Delhi-08. Familiar with all Softwares & must know hindi typing too. Only Ad agency experience preferred. Immediate Joining. adagency306@gmail.com

MEDICAL

RMO (MBBS/BAMS), MRD,Lab Quality Manager, OT Sister / Nurse / X-Ray / TEC, GDA, Sweeper, ICN, Receptionist interview 1-3 SNA hosptl J-293 Saket 9667200146 snah293hr@gmail.com

WANTED DENTIST to run a fully set up Dental Clinic in Kalkaji. Contact: 9811034712 or WhatsApp Resume.

GENERAL MULTIPLE VACANCIES

RANSON DEALING in Structural Consultancy, Structural Repairs, Rehab & Indl. Consts Pan India. We are hiring for Proj. Mgr. /Site Engr, Business Dev. Mgr./Engg. Tendering Exe, Office Exe, having exp of 5 yrs in similar field. Send resume at: info@ranson.biz , Mob. 9899164222.

REQD. EXPERIENCED Telecallers (F) - Eng., Hindi, Telgu, Kannad, Bengali & Marathi, Technicians Electronics (M), Wiring Operator, Office Asstt. & Mktg Executive. Contact: Megabridge Ventures, C-126, Naraina Indl. Area Ph-1, Delhi. 9810137552/ 47541846

MANAGER REQUIRED at Dharamshala Haridwar. Lodging and Boarding Available. Age 50- 65. Salary 12000/- To 15000/- (Nego). Prefd. Knowing Scooter Driving. Call: 9013130808.

PART TIME JOB

REQ PART/FULL time candidates for MNC noida. Age 30-65 yrs. Edu: grad+ prefd- retired, H'wife, VRS, Self empl. Fix salary+incentive / Month & frgn trip. 9315760113

PART/FULL TIME vacancies for MNC Noida, Prefd Retd pers H'wives, self emplyd, CA . Fix pay+Variable+Rgulr Income+foreign Trip, age 30-65 yrs. #9891060961, 9818881077.

REPTD CO. Reqd. Leadership Profile for Rtrd. Govt/Banker/ PSU/Self Emp/ Housewife Age 35 to 75 Part/Full time. Fixed+ Incentive # 9999504449 / 9999106532

REPUTED CORPORATE Reqd Leadership Profile for Housewife / Retired Government/Bankers/PSU Self Employed / Businessman, Age 40- 65 yrs, Incentive+fixed Income# 9811454332

SECRETARIAL STAFF

REQUIRED FEMALE Well Qualified, Intelligent, Energetic Exp. Secretary Full time/ Part time in Multi Speciality Hospital Yamuna Vihar in East Delhi. Contact : 9711315331

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MOHAN Prakash Yadava S/O Sh. Om Prakash Yadav R/O W-161/149, A-11-12 Mayapuri Industrial Area Phase-1, South West Delhi, Delhi-110064, have changed my name to Mohan Prakash Yadav for all future Purposes

I, NEELAM W/o Sh. Chandan Ram R/o J/37-D, Sheikh Sarai Phase-II, New Delhi-110017 have changed my name from Neelam to Neelam Arya for all purposes.

I, TARAN Bhasin, S/o Gagan Bhasin, R/o A77 Lajpat Nagar Sahibabad Ghaziabad, have changed my name from Taran Kumar Bhasin to Taran Bhasin for all Future Purposes.

I, KULVINDER Kaur W/o Sh. Gurdev Singh Rainu R/o J-3/110, Ground Floor, Rajouri Garden, Delhi-110027 have changed my name to Kulvinder Kaur Rainu for all future purposes.

I, TARKESHWAR Swarnkar, S/o Jagdish Saw, R/o B11/20, FF2 DLF Ankur Vihar Loni Ghaziabad, UP-201102, have declared that my name is wrongly mentioned in my son 10th Certificate as Tarkeshwar Swarankar The actual and correct name is Tarkeshwar Swarnkar, which may be amended accordingly.

I, PARVINDER Kumar, S/o Sh. Raman Lal R/o H.No.114-B, Gandhi Park Dindarpur Najafgarh New Delhi-110043, have changed my name to Parvinder Dev for all future Purposes

I, ADITYA Sharma S/o Ajay Sharma R/o Nagla Firoz Mohanpur Ghaziabad have changed my name from Aditya Sharma to Aditya for all future purposes.

I, VASUDHA Gupta W/o Vinay Gupta R/o D-25, Ashok Vihar, Phase-1, Opp Deep Market Ashok Vihar, Delhi-110052 inform that in my 10th class documents my name is wrongly mentioned as Vasodha Gupta instead of my correct name Vasudha Gupta, which should be amended accordingly. Vasodha Gupta and Vasudha Gupta are one and same person, that's me.

I, AMIT Goel, S/o L C Goyal, R/o 80, First Floor, Golf Links, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003, have changed my name to Amit Goyal for all future purposes.

I, PUSHPA Devi D/O, Rameshwar Nath R/o Hno 149, Vpo Sukhrali, Gurgaon, Haryana have changed my name to Pushpa for all purposes.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, NUNGKHUNG Siddarth Yadav S/o Satvir Yadav, R/o Type-5, Tower-15, CG, East Kidwai Nagar, New Delhi-110023, have changed my name from Nungkhung Siddarth Yadav to Joel for all future purposes.

I SUMAN spouse of Ashok Kumar resident of C- 311 BETA-1 Greater Noida GB Nagar UP -201310 have changed from Suman to Suman Bachchas vide Affidavit IN-UP5405819905711 3X dated 18 -01-2025 at Greater Noida.

I, SARITA Bista W/o No-15738470N NK/ OCC Tika Ram Bista R/o Vill-Serou part-2, PO-Sugnu, Dist-Thoubal, Manipur-795101, declare that I have change my name from Sarita Bista to Sarita Bhattarai for all future purposes vide Public Notary Delhi affidavit dt 16-01-2025.

I, MANJU Antil, The Single Parent, Resident Of 373, Sector 15, Sonipat, Haryana Have Changed My Minor Son Name from Harditya to Harditya Singh for all Purposes.

I SHRUTI Ramje W/O, Jitendra Kumar Ramje R/o 1001 Sugar Palm A, Omaxe Palm Green, Sector Mu, Greater Noida 201310 have changed my name to Shruti K Ramje.

I BINNY Ahuja D/o Rajesh Ahuja W/o Deepak Gogia R/o 55, 2nd Floor, Pkt - 3, Sec-21, Rohini, New Delhi-110086 hereby confirm that I have changed my name to Binny Gogia.

I, HIMANSHU Dhiman S/o Shri Virender Kumar R/o Plot No 112, Flat No. FF-1, Second Floor, Gyan Khand-I, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, UP-201014 have changed my name from Himanshu to Himanshu Dhiman for all future purposes.

I, SOBHA Tiwari w/o Harshit Mishra r/o L2A/11, Mohan Garden, Uttam Nagar New Delhi -59. I have changed my name from Sobha Tiwari to Sobha Mishra after marriage for all future legal and other purposes

I, MOHD Aurangzeb S/o. Mohd Muslim R/o H.No - 8A/56O, DDA Janta Flat, Trilok Puri, East Delhi - 91 have changed my minor son's name from Mohd Saheel to Mohd Shaheel for all future purposes

I, DIVYA Tyagi W/O Kanishk Sharma R/o : F-1502, VVIP Homes, Gaur City-2, Sec-16C, Gr. Noida West, Gautam Buddha Nagar, U.P.- 201009, have changed my name from Divya Tyagi to Divya Sharma. Henceforth I, would be known by the name of Divya Sharma for all future purposes.

I, NARENDRA Kumar S/o Sh. Randhir Singh R/o H 1501,Time Residency, Secter-63, Gurugram Haryana, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare That my minor daughter birth certificate bearing no 10843 on Reg. 11/06/2012, Issued date 20/12/2012, wherein her name spelling wrongly mentioned as Fiona in the place of Fiona Singh . That my daughter correct name is Fiona Singh in all my documents for all purposes.

I, AMIT Dhiman S/o. Rajinder Kumar R/o. A 177, 1st Floor, Kardhani Yojana, Kalwar Road, Shiv Mandir, Hathoj B.O, Jaipur, Rajasthan - 302012 have changed my name to Amit Kumar Sharma for all purposes.

I, RIDHI Kothari, D/O Prabhat Kumar Kothari, W/O Ritwik Tyagi, R/O Flat.No 1304, Tower-5, The Aranya, Sec-119, Noida, UP have changed my name to Ridhi Kothari Tyagi for future references.

I, GURDEV Singh S/o Sh. Darshan Singh R/o J-3/110, Ground Floor, Rajouri Garden, Delhi-110027 have changed my name to Gurdev Singh Rainu for all future purposes.

I, NEHA Atterey D/O Ravi Kiran R/O H2a 2nd Floor,Gharwali Mohalla,Dak Khana Road,Laxmi Nagar,Delhi-110092.Have Change My Name To Neha Attrey.

I, SAKEENA Khatun, resident of F 153 A/1/F Ramesh Park, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-92, have changed my name to Sakeena Khatoon as per affidavit dated 30th Dec 2024 at the Gazette Office, Civil Lines, Delhi-54.

I, SAROJ Wadhwa W/o Shri Deen Dayal Rajdev R/o 60/18, Ashok Nagar, Tilak Nagar, New Delhi-110018 have changed my name to Hema Rajdev for all future purposes.

I, KISHORE Singh S/O Prem Singh DOB-21/1/1965 R/O A-16, Sahyog Apartment, Sec-9, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad, UP Pincode 201012 have changed my name from Kishore Thakur to Kishore Singh for all future purposes.

I, MONIKA Lakhanpal W/o Vaibhav Gaggar R/o E-9/11, 3rd Floor, Vasant Vihar, ND-57, have changed my name to Monica Lakhanpal for all purposes.

I, SUNIL, S/o Daya Veer Singh, R/o 117, Sarswati Colony, Site-4, Industrial Area Sahibabad, P S. Link Road, Ghaziabad, U.P -201010, have changed my name to Sunil Malik for all Future Purposes.

LOST & FOUND

WE, ABHAY Savargaonkar S/o Mr. Narayan Savargaonkar and Mrs. Poornima Abhay Savargaonkar W/o Mr. Abhay Savargaonkar are both R/o 42 Espace, Nirvana Country, Sector 50, Gurgaon, Haryana-122018, have lost our Original Allotment Letter ref.no.UL:RED:NRES/00205/ 21181/05 of our property 42 Espace, Nirvana Country, Sector 50, Gurgaon, Haryana-122018. Anybody finds please contact 9910398132.

PRIME PROPERTIES

COMMERCIAL LEASE / RENT
Newly Constructed Independent Building on Notified Commercial Road No. 28, Shivaji Enclave, Near Shivaji Colleage, Rajouri Garden Metro Stations (Pink & Blue Lines)

PLOT SIZE: 360 SQ.YD.
SIX FLOORS
(BASEMENT, STILT, UPPER GROUND, FIRST, SECOND, THIRD)
GLASS FACADE, AMPLE PARKING, LARGE LIFT.
Call: 9810057795

EDUCATION

2023-2024 Estd. 1971
Ph.D. Few Seats Authorised Guide & Guidance for Synopsis , thesis Writing Publications, of Journals
UGC Recognised Universities , Highly Experienced Professors Already Admitted Students in any University May Contact
Excellence Is On Top Priority
BA.LLB / LL.B/LL.M
Send Your Documents to Mail:-E-Mail:-vidyarthi1970@gmail.com
D.S. Negi: 9997222397 Khushbu: 9958328395
VIDYARTHI INSTITUTE
Delhi OFF:- 25/155 Gate No. 16. Vikram Vihar, Lajpat Nagar IV- N. Delhi-24 (Mool Chand Metro Station)
Meerut OFF:Bhavya Place, Pallav Puram Ph II, Meerut City - 250110

LOST & FOUND

I, SUDESH gupta, have lost Allotment Letter, Possession letter and payment receipts for my flat no G-701 Monsoon breeze, sector 78, Gurgaon, Haryana 122004. Finder Contact: 9810434393

I, MANU Shankar r/o C 6/3 Welcomegroup Appt, Sec-3, plot no. 6, Dwarka,New Delhi -78 have lost share certificate no. 29404 (membership 273 in the name of Manu Shankar & Mrs. Satya Sri vastva) of the said CGHS society.

I, SANJEEV BHAT S/o Chuni Lal Bhat R/o A-501, Crown CGHS Limited, Plot No- 18B, Sector-7, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075 Have Lost Original Property Document Share Certificate Numbered 4671, Issued by Crown CGHS Limited. Finder may please contact at above address

M/S MMR International LLP through its Partner Raj Kumar Goel R/o AN-2, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi, have lost Payment Receipts and Builder buyer agreement in respect of Unit No. T-G-41, DLF Privana South, Sector-76-77, Gurugram HR. Finder may cont at address above.

MY FATHER Late Shri Mangat Ram Arora S/o Shri Late Chanan Shah Resident A 23 Agrasen Vihar Shastri Nagar Meerut fd no01928810000427 SAc..01920110057971 The forms and pass books of UCO Bank which operates in Meerut Main Branch have actually been lost. Informant Jitendra Arora, son of Late Mangat Ram Arora

I, VEENA Kumari W/o Tilak Raj R/o AE-144, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi-110088 Have Lost Original Property Document Involving Conveyance Deed No. - 9102, Book No. 1, Vol - 465 on pages 16 to 18 dated 29.09.1997, Allotment Letter, Site Possession , Form - C, Form - D, Possession Letter . Finder Please Contact at above address or contact Mobile 9821122851

I, MRS. Ramesh Yadav, D/o Late Shri Harphool Singh, Flat B-101 Jagran Appt, Plot No. 17 Sector- 22, Dwarka, Delhi-110077 have lost my original papers (1). Allotment Letter (2). Agreement to sell, of Flat No. C-046 Ashiana Rangoli, Bhiwadi, Rajasthan. FIR Registered on :20/01/2025 with LR No:2511272/ 2025. Finder of the documents may contact at Flat B-101 Jagran Appt. Plot No. 17 Sector-22, Dwarka, Delhi-110077 or Call: 9868836223

I RAJENDER Kumar S/o Sh. Bhagirath Singh R/o W2407 A/2, Basai Dara Pur, New Delhi -110015 have lost my Original back chain(Sell/Purchase) of F-360, Plot No.7B, Khasra No. 20/8, Inder Enclave, New Delhi. Finders may contact at Mobile No.9311987793.

I, A. Ramasubramanian S/o Dr. R. Amppadurai, R/o Villa 112, Ground Floor, Block-5, Eros Garden, Faridabad, Haryana have lost my original Buider Buyer Agreement dt. 20th Jan 1990 & possession letter builder name R.C Sood and Company Pvt. Ltd. Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019 document in favor of Mr. A. Ramasubramanian S/o R. Appdurai property address 112, Ground Floor and Basement (Front) Block-5, Eros Garden, Surajkund Road Faridabad, Haryana- 121009. Finder may contact on above address.

TENDER NOTICE

MDI GURGAON Management Development Institute
Mehrauli Road, Sukhrali, Gurugram-122007
Tel.: 124-4560535; Website: www.mdi.ac.in

TENDER

MDI Gurgaon invites Sealed bids (two bid system) for **"Supply, Installation, Testing, and Commissioning of 03 Passenger Lifts, Make-KONE".** Tender document can be downloaded from MDI Gurgaon website: **https://www.mdi.ac.in/tenders**.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Indian Overseas Bank
Regional Office, 2 Rachna Building, IIIrd Floor, Rajendra Place, 2 Pusa Road, New Delhi-110008, Ph.: 011-47094117

PUBLIC NOTICE OF TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT

Name: **Ms. Vandana**, Roll No / Branch / Region: **Roll No.43433**, Sec-20, **Panchkula Branch**, Chandigarh Region, Unauthorized absence since: **13.12.2022.**

The above member is on unauthorized absence and was advised to report for duty.

In spite of many communications, she did not report for duty which reveals that she has no intention to report for duty. Her continuous absence resulted in dislocation of routine of the bank services. Hence, Bank initiated disciplinary proceedings against the member by issuing charge sheet and subsequently inquiry was conducted in this matter. The inquiry Authority findings was sent to her for her representation, however the same returned undelivered. Hence, we now issue this Public Notice giving her 07days' time from the date of this advertisement to submit her representation if any. If the above member fails to submit her representation, it will be presumed that she has no submission to make, and the matter will be decided as deemed fit and proper and Bank will proceed with further disciplinary action.

Place: New Delhi
Date: 21.01.2025

Assistant General Manager

HT Classifieds Quick Booking Centres

THERE IS ONE NEAR YOU

NORTH DELHI

Ashok Vihar : Jain Ads, A-193/1, Ashok Vihar, Phase-1, Delhi-110052, Ph: 011-47082653, 9810098228; **Prashant Vihar (Rohini) : Paavan Advertiser,** D-4, 1st Floor, Safeway House, Commercial Complex, Central Mkt., D-Block, Prashant Vihar, (Rohini), Near PVR Cinema, Delhi-85 Ph: 9311288839, 9811288839; **Shalimar Bagh : Adage Classifieds,** BN (Poorvi) 55, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi-88, Phone: 9810065095, 9811362363 ; **Shakti Nagar : Disha Marketing,** 19, (GF) Chadha Bhawan, 23/4, Shakti Nagar, Delhi-110007, Ph: 9811121599, 9311874217, 011-47741183; **Mukherjee Nagar: Make My Ad Private Limited,** E-4, Gandhi Vihar, Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-110009. Ph: 9999339437, 9999889437; **Kishanganj : Shri Narain Advertising,** 205, (FF) Kishanganj Market, Old Rohtak Road, Delhi-7, Ph: 23696326, 9811095804; **Wazirpur : Delhi Classifieds Ad Agency,** AL- 85/B, 2nd Floor, AL Market, Shalimar Bagh, (Near Metro Station) Delhi - 110088, Ph: 9810588681, 9810588680, 011-27472626.

EAST DELHI

Mayur Vihar : The Vision Advertising, 13-A, Pocket-1 Pratap Nagar, Mayur Vihar, Phase 1, Near Mayur Vihar Metro Station New Delhi, Mob.: 9999278636, 9717557792; **Preet Vihar : Ad-Bridge Classifieds,** 305/8, Chopra Complex, (Behind McDonald), Preet Vihar, Delhi, Ph : 42421234, 22017210, 22057210.; **Yamuna Vihar : Hello East News,** F-27A, Ground Floor, Gurudwara Road, Near Gurudwara, Madhu Vihar, Patparganj, Delhi-110092 Mob : 8010288833, 8010288822; **Shakarpur (V3S Mall Chowk) : Ritika Ad,** Ist Floor, Parichay Complex, 4-5 Veer Savarkar Block, Madhuban Road, Shakarpur, Delhi-92, Ph: 22449890, 9968289890, 9350309890; **Mandawali: Bhaskar Advertising,** F-11, Office No. 109, Jai Ambay Complex, Main Road, Mandawali, Near IP Extn., New Delhi - 110092, Ph: 8826693931, 9899733173; **Surajmal Vihar (Anand Vihar) : Vidhi Advertising Pvt. Ltd,** Kamal Complex, Krit Plaza, A-Block Market, L.S.C, Surajmal Vihar, (Above Chaskaa Restaurant), Delhi-110092, Ph: 9899701024, 9899701023; **Dilshad Garden : Damask,** 31-D, Pocket-B, Dilshad Garden, Delhi-110095, Ph: 9810735111.

WEST DELHI

Dwarka : Rebel Advertisers & Sales Promoters, 227, Vardhaman Plaza, (Building Adjacent to IndusInd Bank, Above SUB-WAY) Plot No. 3, Sector-10 Market, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075, Ph: 9811172799, 9312225551; **Janakpuri : Aero Ad Agency,** D1B/2-A, Janakpuri, New Delhi-58; Ph:28520666, 9811254535; **Janakpuri Distt. Centre : Elegant Advertising,** 104, Vishal Tower Distt. Centre, Janakpuri, New Delhi-58, Ph: 9971259928, 011-42401558, 47010215; **Uttam Nagar : Atul Advertising Agency,** D-8, Om Vihar Main Market, (Near Santoshi Mata Mandir) Uttam Nagar, New Delhi - 110059. Ph: 9810497098, 9625908234; **Tilak Nagar : Verma Ji Business Center,** 69-D, Mukherjee Park (Gate No. 6), Tilak Nagar, New Delhi-110018, Ph: 9891461543, 9310347796, 011-25980670; **P. S. Enterprises,** H.No. WZ-44/2D, Street No.16, Krishna Puri, Tilak Nagar, New Delhi - 110018, Mob. 9810056896, 9810799269; **Ramesh Nagar : Advertising Hub,** E-77, Double Storey, Ramesh Nagar, New Delhi-110015, Ph: 9891195327, 9310006777; **Moti Nagar : Lakshay Ads Media,** Shop No. 2, 1st Floor, DLF-1, Najafgarh Road, Moti Nagar, (Nr. Metro Station), New Delhi-110015, Ph.: 9312272149, 8585901553; **Rajendra Place : Connection,** Shop No.144, Rajendra Bhawan, Rajendra Place, New Delhi-110008, Mob. 9911889108, 9899786999; **Paschim Vihar :

{ FROM PAGE 1 }

UNIFORM CIVIL CODE

added.

According to officials, the manual comprises procedures related to registration of marriage and divorce, live-in relationships, birth and death registration, and rules of inheritance. "It is basically a procedure document for officials," an official said.

Under the rules, a provision was also made for the registration of complaints by citizens through an online portal. In case citizens are not happy with complaint resolution, they can move the authorised court also, officials said.

To make the registration process easy, the Common Service Centres (CSC) was authorised by the state government to carry out the registration through an online platform. In hilly and remote areas where internet facilities are not available, CSC agents will go door-to-door to provide the above facilities to citizens, the official said. The rules also provide for instant registration under Tatkal Seva with a higher fee.

Officials said in rural areas, the Gram Panchayat Development Officer was appointed as sub-registrar to help people to get registered easily.

People can apply for various services and registration through Aadhaar and they can track their applications related to registration through e-mail and SMS also. Officials said the online portal will have an Aadhaar-based verification system, translation in 22 Indian languages, and data coordination with more than 13 departments.

The rules said that registration and termination process of live-in relationships will happen once the other partner confirms the end of the live-in relationship. In succession cases, the facility of online registration and amendment, cancellation or revival will be available after uploading the will on the portal.

The UCC legislation has provisions for equal rights for women in inheritance in ancestral properties, equal rights to adopt, divorce and a ban on polygamy, mandatory registration/self-declaration for live-in relationships, and mandatory registration of marriage of marriages and divorce. Dhami said the BJP promised in 2022 that it will bring UCC if it came to power in the assembly elections. "We have fulfilled the promise. Uttarakhand will be the first state to implement UCC in the country," he told reporters.

Home secretary Shailesh Bagauli said the rules framed were in accordance with the UCC Act passed by the state assembly. On reports that some aspects of personal laws were not included in the rules, Bagauli said, "Rules are primarily related to procedures only and don't go against the provisions of the act. If the government wants to make some changes, it will have to amend the UCC act."

UCC refers to a common set of laws that will subsume customary laws across faiths and govern issues such as marriage, divorce, inheritance and maintenance. Part of the troika of core ideological goals of the BJP, UCC was among the party's poll promises in the 2022 assembly elections. In the Constitution, it is a part of the non-justiciable directive principles of state policy.

Last February, Uttarakhand passed the UCC bill that provided for equal rights to women in marriage, divorce, alimony and inheritance of property, proscribed certain kinds of relationships, banned polygamy, made registration of marriages mandatory, and mandatory registration or self-declaration for live-in relationships.

BJP state president and Rajya Sabha MP Mahendra Bhatt said the move will lay the foundation stone for the rollout of UCC in the country. "On this proud decision of the people of the state, the Opposition should now stop its politics of spreading fear and confusion on this issue. Congress is spreading hatred, fear and confusion on UCC in the society," he said. However, Congress state vice president Suryakant Dhasmana said that approving UCC rules at this juncture was a violation of the model code of conduct. "The elections in nearly 100 civic bodies are scheduled on January 23. Passing UCC Rules at this time is a clear violation. We will file a complaint with the chief electoral officer of the state in this regard," Dhasmana said.

TRUMP INAUGURATION

John Roberts administered the oath of office to Trump in a ceremony that restored the bipartisan nature of the peaceful transfer of power, held inside the US Capitol rotunda to avoid Washington's freezing weather. The theme of the inaugural ceremony was "enduring democracy", and saw the participation of all of America's living former presidents. This was different from January 20, 2021, when Trump, who refused to accept the 2020 election results, did not attend Joe Biden's inauguration.

Justice Brett Kavanaugh administered the oath of office to America's new Vice President JD Vance. His Indian-origin wife Usha, and his three children, stood alongside.

In his inaugural address, minutes after being sworn in right after noon on Monday eastern time, Trump depicted both a dark image of where America is and a promise of a different future. He said that the US confronted a crisis of trust "because of radical and corrupt establishment", the pillars of its society were broken, the government couldn't manage a crisis at home but stumbled into "catastrophic" crises abroad, and that US provided unlimited funding for defence of foreign borders but didn't defend its own borders. He claimed that the American health system was broken as was its education system which taught students to "hate" America.

"The election mandate is to completely and totally reverse betrayals and give people back their faith, wealth, democracy and freedom. America's decline is over," declared Trump. He said that he had been tested and challenged like no other president in America's history; his liberty and life was under attack. "My life was saved for a reason. I was saved by God to make America great again," he declared.

Offering a glimpse of his first set of executive orders, Trump said, "We will begin the complete restoration of America and revolution of common sense. First, I will declare a national emergency at our southern border. All illegal entry will be immediately halted and we will begin the process of returning criminal aliens to back to where they came. We will reinstate my remain in Mexico policy. I will end the practice of catch and release. And I will send troops to the southern border to repel the disastrous invasion of our country. We will designate cartels as foreign terrorist organisations. By invoking the Alien Enemy Act of 1798, I will direct government and law enforcement to eliminate the presence of all foreign gangs and criminal networks."

Incoming administration officials told American media outlets earlier that the executive order may also include the end of provisions for asylum and birthright citizenship (a prospective move applicable to children of non-citizens, which is sure to invite legal challenge).

Trump then said he will instruct all government departments to bring down costs and that he would declare a national energy emergency.

"We will drill baby drill. America will be a manufacturing nation once again. And we have something that no other manufacturing nation has. We have the largest amount of gas and oil and we will use it. We will export American energy all over the world. We will be a rich nation again. We will end the green new deal, end electric vehicle mandates, keeping my sacred pledge to great American auto workers," he said.

The President is expected to permit easier construction of energy pipelines and plants, roll back regulations for domestic energy production, permit drilling in Alaska, and eliminate environmental justice schemes.

Trump also said he would begin an overhaul of the trade system and "tariff and tax" foreign countries to enrich Americans.

"We are establishing external revenue service to collect tariffs and revenues coming from foreign sources." Incoming administration officials told reporters that Trump's executive order will mandate studies of the impact of unfair trade practices of other countries and focus on China's compliance with a past trade pact; if this is the case, it may mean that there may not be any immediate imposition of tariffs. On TikTok, Trump has already said that he will issue an order to allow American companies to host, maintain, distribute the Chinese-owned app.

Trump then formally declared the government will set up the department of government efficiency, he would sign an order to end all government censorship and bring back free speech, and that he would stop weaponisation of the justice department.

"I still end government policy to insert race and gender into every policy. We will forge a society that is colour blind and merit based. It will be the official policy of the US government that there are only two genders, male and female," Trump then said, catering to what had become a key campaign issue that Republicans took up against who they termed "cultural Marxists". Trump said he would also reinstate those serving military personnel who were asked to leave because they didn't fulfil vaccine mandates, and end any pedagogy around critical theories in the armed services so that they focused on their sole mission — "defeating America's enemies".

Trump said that he wanted to be a "peacemaker and unifier" and cited the ceasefire deal in Middle East and return of hostages as evidence. "We will measure our success by the wars we end, and more importantly, the wars we will never get into. My proudest legacy will be that of a peacemaker." But then he doubled down on key foreign policy issues he has flagged in recent days. He declared that the Gulf of Mexico would now be called Gulf of America. He regretted handing over Panama Canal to Panama, alleged that China was operating it, and declared that the US was taking it back. "My message to Americas is it is time for us to act with courage and vitality as history's greatest civilisation."

He said that American astronauts will plant the flag on Planet Mars, a key ambition of Elon Musk. "Americans are explorers, builders, innovators and entrepreneurs...no one comes close..in America, the impossible is what we do best," the President said, offering his own political comeback as a story.

Trump, along with First Lady Melania Trump, began the day with a prayer at St John's Church right across the White House. He then went to the White House where Joe Biden greeted him and reportedly said, "Welcome home". Biden and Jill Biden then hosted the incoming first couple for tea, and then travelled down the Pennsylvania Avenue to the US Congress on Capitol Hill.

On the Hill, besides Trump's cabinet members and top donors, tech CEOs adorned the inauguration stage. Tesla's Elon Musk, Google's Sundar Pichai, Amazon's Jeff Bezos, Apple's Tim Cook, and Meta's Mark Zuckerberg could be seen chatting with each other and Trump's closest aides. TikTok CEO Shou Zi Chew, whose app remains alive thanks to Trump's executive order in defiance of a US law, was reportedly present too.

Former presidents Bill Clinton (with Hillary), George W Bush (with Laura Bush), and Barack Obama (without Michelle Obama, who chose not to attend) were at the Inauguration. Vice President and Trump's election rival, Kamala Harris, walked on to the stage along with Biden. The Congressional leadership from both parties attended the ceremony. And Trump's children — Ivanka, Don Jr, Eric, Tiffany and Barron — were all present and are expected to yield influence in ways seen and unseen.

The ceremony began with Senator Amy Klobuchar, the Democratic chair of the inaugural committee, reaffirming the importance of the American constitution, rule of law, democracy and freedoms. Deb Fischer, the Republican ranking member of the committee, celebrated the election verdict of November.

The inauguration marked one of the most remarkable comebacks in American political history. Trump faced accusations of inciting a mob to attack the US Capitol to block the certification of the 2020 election results, lost the support of his party leadership, was impeached by the House, confronted four criminal indictments, got convicted as a felon, and survived two assassination attempts.

And yet, Trump swept the Republican primaries, exposed Biden's age-related deficits in the first presidential debate, confronted Kamala Harris with 100 days to go for the elections, constructed a campaign that focused on inflation, immigration and America's foreign entanglements and weakness abroad, created a wider multiracial coalition, won over the support of major tech and Wall Street donors, and became the first president to win non-successive terms in over a century. The result: He won all the seven swing states, the popular vote, and the Republicans got a majority in both the Senate and the House of Representatives. Monday marks the beginning of this new presidential chapter in American history, with Trump set to preside over the country in the 250th year anniversary of the American Revolution and Declaration of Independence next year.

HT Shine Jobs

POWER FINANCE CORPORATION LTD.
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
Regd. Office : "Urjanidhi", 1, Barakhamba Lane, New Delhi - 110 001
CIN: L65910DL1986GOI024862, Website: www.pfcindia.com

RECRUITMENT

Power Finance Corporation Ltd. is a Schedule-A Maharatna CPSE, and a leading Non-Banking Financial Corporation in the Country providing financial assistance to various entities in the power sector. In order to augment manpower resources, PFC is looking for dynamic, committed and self-motivated professionals. Interested and eligible candidates should visit our website i.e. **www.pfcindia.com** (career page) for the detailed advertisement including eligibility criteria and other terms and conditions on or after **24.01.2025**. The detailed advertisement will also be published in the Employment News later. The last date for submitting online application is **13.02.2025**. For further updates in this regard, please visit website regularly.

Funding For A Brighter Tomorrow

HINDUSTAN FERTILIZER CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of India Undertaking)
CIN: U74899DL1978GOI008915

PDIL Bhawan, 5th Floor, A-14, Sector-1, Noida-201301 (U.P.)
Email: hfcl.noida@gmail.com

Vacancy Notice for Young Professionals on Contract

Applications are invited from qualified and eligible candidates for recruitment to the position of Young Professionals on contract basis in HFCL. The details are available on company website **hfclfert.in**. Last date for submission of application form (in prescribed format) is **21.02.2025.**

OSD, HFCL

DELHI METRO RAIL CORPORATION LTD.
(A Joint Venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of NCT of Delhi)

INDICATIVE ADVERTISEMENT

ADVT No. DMRC/PERS/22/HR/2025 (186) Dated: 13/01/2025

Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Limited (DMRC) invites applications from experienced personnel for the posts of System Supervisor & System Technician in various departments, of Mumbai Metro Line-3, at Mumbai, on Fixed Term Contractual Engagement Basis.

ADVT No. DMRC/PERS/22/HR/2025 (187) Dated: 13/01/2025

Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Limited (DMRC) also invites applications from experienced personnel for the post of Sr. Manager/Operations of Mumbai Metro Line-3, at Mumbai, on Fixed Term Contractual Engagement Basis.

The last date of receipt of duly filled application shall be 28/01/2025.

The advertisement is only indicative. The detailed vacancy notification and particulars regarding the eligibility criterion, qualification, experience, age limit, mode of selection etc. are available in the Career Section of the DMRC website: **www.delhimetrorail.com**

Executive Director (HR), Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Ltd.
Metro Bhawan, Fire Brigade Lane, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi

Advertisement No.: DMRC/957/2025

HT Shine Jobs

भारत हेवी इलेक्ट्रिकल्स लिमिटेड
Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
Corporate Office: BHEL House, Siri fort, New Delhi-110 049

Inviting Applications for General Manager (GM)/ Additional General Manager (AGM) as "Project Directors" & General Manager (Law) at Corporate Office

BHEL, a premier engineering enterprise is inviting applications from dynamic, result oriented, experienced and motivated individuals for leadership roles at various Project Sites and for exciting career in legal function.

	Post/ Grade & Scale of Pay	Vacancies
A)	General Manager/ E8 OR Additional General Manager/ E7 (Rs 1,20,000-2,80,000)	Total Vacancies – 08 (05-UR, 02-OBC & 01-SC)
B)	General Manager (Law)/ E8 (Rs 1,20,000-2,80,000)	01 – UR

Date of Opening for Online Applications: 24.01.2025
Date of Closing for Online Applications: 10.02.2025
For details visit our Website: https://careers.bhel.in

www.bhel.com /BHELOffical /BHEL_India /BHEL_India /bhel.india /company/bhel

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY KANPUR

IIT Kanpur is an Institute of national importance declared as such under the Institutes of Technology Act, 1961, to provide for education and research in various branches of engineering, technology, science and arts. The Institute invites online applications for different posts, from eligible Indian nationals for appointment on regular/contract basis. For detailed advertisement, please visit the Institute's website **www.iitk.ac.in/infocell/recruitment.** Interested candidates can apply through **ONLINE mode** latest by **05:00 PM** of **January 31, 2025.**

Advt. No. 1/2024 **Registrar**

NTPC Limited
(A Govt. of India Enterprise)

Registered Office Address : NTPC Bhawan, Core-7, SCOPE Complex, 7-Institutional Area, Lodi Road, New Delhi-110003
Corporate Idenfification Number-L40101DL1975GOI007966

Advt.No. 01/25

NTPC Limited is India's largest integrated energy company with installed capacity of 76,708 MW and has presence in the entire value chain of the power generation business. Commensurate with our country's growth challenges, NTPC has embarked upon an ambitious plan to attain a total installed capacity of 130 GW by 2032.
NTPC is looking for experienced professionals in the area of **Commercial** on **Fixed Term basis** as per details mentioned below:

Name of Post	No. of Post
Senior Executive (Commercial)	8

How to Apply: Interested eligible candidates should log on to our website **careers.ntpc.co.in** or visit careers section at **www.ntpc.co.in** for viewing detailed eligibility criteria, qualification & experience requirement, job profile, consolidated compensation per month, other terms & conditions, full text of the advertisement and for applying. **The online application portal will remain open from 21.01.2025 to 04.02.2025.** Only online mode of application will be accepted. Any further addendum/corrigendum/updates will only be published on our website.

Commencement of online application : 21.01.2025
Last date for online application : 04.02.2025

Leading the Power Sector

भारत हेवी इलेक्ट्रिकल्स लिमिटेड
Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
Corporate Office: BHEL House, Siri fort, New Delhi-110 049

ENGINEER TRAINEE & SUPERVISOR TRAINEE RECRUITMENT

ENTER INDIA'S LEADING ENGINEERING ENTERPRISE

BHEL invites young, bright and dynamic candidates for its various engineering and diploma level positions. Candidates interested in joining have to apply online at BHEL recruitment website: http://careers.bhel.in after confirming the eligibility, as per the detailed online notification and appear for a Computer Based Examination.

For BHEL Engineer Trainees - 2025

Candidates must possess Full-Time Bachelor's Degree in Engineering /Technology or Five-year integrated Master's degree or Dual Degree program in Engineering or Technology from a recognized Indian University/ Institute

Discipline	Total
Mechanical	70
Electrical	25
Civil	25
Electronics	20
Chemical	05
Metallurgy	05
Total	**150**

For BHEL Supervisor Trainees - 2025

Candidates must possess Full-Time regular Diploma in Engineering from a recognized Indian University/Institute, with a Minimum 65% marks or Equivalent CGPA in aggregate of all years/semesters (relaxable to 60% for SC/ST Candidates)

Discipline	Total*
Mechanical	140
Electrical	55
Civil	35
Electronics	20
Total	**250**

Opening of BHEL recruitment website for online submission of applications: **1st February, 2025**

www.bhel.com /BHELOffical /BHEL_India /BHEL_India /bhel.india /company/bhel

हिन्दुस्तान कॉपर लिमिटेड
HINDUSTAN COPPER LIMITED
www.hindustancopper.com

Advertisement No. HCL/KCC/HR/Rectt/25 **Date : 18.01.2025**

Hindustan Copper Limited Khetri Copper Complex invites online applications for the following posts from eligible candidates.

Sl. No.	Post	UR	SC	ST	OBC (NCL)	EWS	Total
1	Chargeman (Electrical)	12	03	02	05	02	**24**
2	Electrician 'A'	17	05	04	07	03	**36**
3	Electrician 'B'	16	06	04	07	03	**36**
4	WED 'B'	02	01	00	03	01	**07**
	Total Vacancies	**47**	**15**	**10**	**22**	**09**	**103**

Start date of online application is 27.01.2025 & the last date is 25.02.2025. Eligible candidates can apply. For details visit H.C.L. website (www.hindustancopper.com) at career section.

Khetri Copper Complex
P.O. Khetri Nagar - 333504, Distt. Jhunjhunu (Rajasthan), India
E-mail : kcc_careers@hindustancopper.com, CIN: L27201WB1967GOI028825

NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
PALIKA KENDRA: SANSAD MARG
ELECTRIC ESTABLISHMENT-I, PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT

VACANCY CIRCULAR

The New Delhi Municipal Council proposes to fill up 02 posts of **Superintending Engineer (Electric)** in the pay level 13 of Rs. 123100-215900 under 7th CPC pay matrix on deputation basis. The eligibility criteria and other terms and conditions for the post may be downloaded from NDMC website i.e. **https://www.ndmc/gov.in/vacancy_new.aspx.**

The last date for receipt of applications completed in all respect is 28.02.2025.

Joint Director (Electric)

SAPTHAGIRI NPS UNIVERSITY
UNMATCHED EXCELLENCE, UNLIMITED POTENTIAL

FACULTY RECRUITMENT

Professor, Associate Professor & Assistant Professor

- Computer Science and Engineering
- CSE (Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning)
- CSE (Artificial Intelligence and Data Science)
- CSE (Data Science)

Qualification: First class in B.E & M.Tech., Ph.D. is compulsory for Professor & Associate Professor as per AICTE & UGC Norms.

Salary: 7th Pay Scale for Eligible Candidates.

MARKETING AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

- AGM. Counsellor - Admissions
- Social Media Managers

General Conditions:

- The interested eligible and competent candidates are required to send resume and relevant documents to Email ID: **recruitment@simsrc.edu.in**
- Hard copy through post to The Registrar, Sapthagiri NPS University, No.14/5, Chikkasandra, Hesaraghatta Main Road, Bengaluru – 560 057.
- Interested candidates may apply on or before 07 days from the date of Advertisement.

Chancellor

BHARAT ELECTRONICS LIMITED
(A Govt. of India Enterprise under the Ministry of Defence)
(CIN: L32309KA1954GOI000787)

Tech-Perfect Solutions for the Nation's Defence

Bharat Electronics Limited, a Navratna Company and India's premier professional Electronics Company under the Ministry of Defence, requires the following personnel on fixed term basis (for 05 years) for Kotdwara Unit for its DMRC Project :

Post	No. of Posts	Qualification	Prescribed age limit	Experience
Dy. Manager (Fixed Tenure) (E-IV-grade)	1 (UR)	B.E/ B.Tech in Engineering [preferably from Civil/ Mechanical/ Electrical Engineering Discipline] along with Degree / Diploma in Safety a recognised institution/body. OR	39 years	BE/B.Tech - 8 years of relevant experience or ME/M.Tech - 6 years of relevant experience
Sr. Safety Officer (Fixed Tenure) (E-III grade)	1 (UR)	Two years M.E/ M.Tech in Industrial Safety from recognised institution/ body. OR B.E. in Fire and Safety Eng. from recognised institution/body.	35 years	BE/ B.Tech - 4 years of relevant experience or ME/ M.Tech - 2 years of relevant experience

Last date for applying is 10.02.2025. For detailed advertisement please visit our website www.bel-india.in

'Har Ek Kaam Desh Ke Naam'

JOIN US
Unlock your potential
Delivering Happiness

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited is a Maharathna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) with strong presence in Refining & Marketing Petroleum products, Petrochemicals, LNG and Renewable Energy etc.

HPCL is cognizant of the importance of environmental sustainability for the health of our planet, the well-being of current and future generations and the preservation of ecosystems and biodiversity. We are committed to conducting business to preserve the environment, sustainable development, being a safe workplace, and enriching the quality of life of employees, customers, and the community

Applications are invited from talented & motivated candidates looking for exciting career opportunities in energy sector and willing to contribute towards India's energy future by being part of our growth journey.

Interested and eligible candidates can visit our CAREERS PAGE on http://hindustanpetroleum.com for detailed advertisement.

Positions Available (Marketing Division)

Junior Executive (Diploma Engineers) — Chemical, Electrical, Mechanical, Instrumentation

Pay Scale (E0)	Vacancies	CTC (Approx)	Work Experience
Rs. 30,000–1,20,000	**234**	**Rs. 10.58 LPA**	**Nil**

Important dates

Commencement of online application **15th January 2025**
Last date of online application **14th February 2025**

Regd.Office: 17, Jamshedji Tata Road
Mumbai - 400020
CIN NO: L23201MH1952G01008858

/hpcl | /hpcl | /hpcl
www.hindustanpetroleum.com

The Hindustan Times
ESTABLISHED IN 1924

{ OUR TAKE }

Engaging with President Trump

India-US ties may be immune to a change of guard in Washington, but New Delhi should be prepared to respond to the challenges ahead

As Donald Trump begins his second term as the president of the United States (US), there is little to suggest a shift away from the fundamentals that have driven strategic alignment between the US and India over the past two decades, especially in key areas such as security and defence, strategic concerns such as the challenge posed by China and recent initiatives to jointly develop and set standards for critical technologies. For much of this period, bipartisan consensus in the US on the importance of the partnership with India has deepened, benefiting New Delhi in numerous domains. This is reflected in the outgoing Joe Biden administration's decision to end restrictions on key Indian nuclear entities and the Trump transition team's move to set up a meeting of the Quad foreign ministers to coincide with the inauguration. In a sense, therefore, work on crucial pillars of the India-US relationship is expected to continue uninterrupted and this is something that Indian leaders such as external affairs minister S Jaishankar have been quick to point out in recent weeks, ahead of Trump's inauguration.

The tricky part is the chaos, uncertainty and whimsical decision-making that accompanies a Trump presidency, especially in foreign policy. The world, including the closest allies of the US, is tense not knowing what the new president is going to unleash. The MAGA agenda of Trump's core support base, trade and investment, and policies on immigration are just three areas where the path chosen by Trump can have a major impact on the contours of global relations. Given the numerous pledges and threats he has held out over the past year, the question is if Trump will walk the talk. For example, will he go ahead with retaliatory tariffs on India, and will he be willing to go along with the imperatives of Make in India, when his stated goal is bringing manufacturing back to the US? Even a step back from the Biden administration's strong posture on China could have ramifications for India, while a move to shrink the US's role on the global stage could impact the rules-based order.

The India-US relationship has grown to such an extent that it is unlikely to be affected by a change in the White House. Trump is perceived as a friend of India, and more significantly, as a personal friend of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. These should not be reasons for complacency and New Delhi should be prepared for nimble responses and deft footwork to respond to the challenges that lie ahead.

The bovine beliefs of a man of science

Veezhinathan Kamakoti loves cows. More so if they are indigenous breeds. He also believes that cow urine has medicinal value. As a private individual, he has every right to stick to his beliefs, which are derived from faith-based claims than evidence provided by modern science.
The trouble is Kamakoti, who has a doctorate in computer science, and has taught the subject to many batches of undergraduate science students, is now the director of IIT-Madras, a reputed institute set up to teach and train young minds in science and technology. Kamakoti was invited to share his wisdom on cow urine by Go Samrakshana Sala because he heads IIT-Madras; endorsement from an IIT scientist-professor would be seen as the perfect validation of a claim that has now assumed the contours of a faith-centric political project. Simply put, regardless of his qualifications, Kamakoti has exposed himself as lacking in scientific temper, which is founded on evidence that can be independently verified, and he is guilty of promoting faith-based pseudo-science. A science teacher and the head of an institution with global standing should have been more careful with his words.

What is disturbing is that Kamakoti is not alone. There is no shortage of people willing to tailor their views to suit those of the State. Some years ago, the government invited research proposals on the uniqueness of indigenous cows and the curative properties of cow urine, dung, and milk, including potential cancer treatments. Using public policy and public funds to make science subservient to faith, or politics is a fraught project with consequences for public health. Kamakoti should tend his thoughts in the bucolic pastures of faith but without the badge of a scientist and the brand of IIT.

Truce to peace, the challenge in Gaza

Sustained international engagement and goodwill from all parties will be essential to build on the Hamas-Israel ceasefire deal

The ceasefire aims to halt the ongoing violence that has resulted in nearly 47,000 Palestinian casualties and near-total destruction of Gaza. AFP

Ausaf Sayeed

After 15 months of devastating conflict, Israel and Hamas have reached a ceasefire deal that aims to stop violence in Gaza and facilitate the release of hostages. The agreement, brokered by Qatar, Egypt, and the United States (US), marks a significant turning point in the long-standing Israeli-Palestinian conflict and raises hopes for lasting peace in West Asia. The Israeli cabinet approved the deal on January 18, with 24 out of 33 ministers voting in favour. The implementation of the agreement started on Sunday, January 19, a day ahead of Donald Trump's inauguration as the 47th US President.

The deal is structured in three phases, each lasting approximately six weeks. The first phase involves the release of 33 Israeli hostages by Hamas, including women, children, and the elderly, in exchange for about 1,650 Palestinian prisoners. Israeli forces will withdraw from populated areas in Gaza, pulling back to a kilometre-long buffer zone along the border. The Rafah crossing with Egypt will open seven days after the start of the first phase, allowing for a significant increase in humanitarian aid, with up to 600 trucks entering daily. Subsequent phases aim to address the release of remaining hostages, further Israeli troop withdrawals from Gaza, and the initiation of reconstruction efforts in Gaza.

The ceasefire aims to halt the ongoing violence that has resulted in nearly 47,000 Palestinian casualties and near-total destruction of Gaza. The truce with Hamas is expected to extend Israel's existing ceasefire with Hezbollah in Lebanon, thereby reducing immediate tensions in its neighbourhood and avoiding the risk of a broader regional conflict. This de-escalation could create a more stable environment for diplomatic initiatives and regional economic cooperation.

Trump described the deal as an "epic ceasefire agreement" and vowed to continue working closely with Israel and other allies to ensure Gaza does not become "a terrorist safe haven". He pledged to promote "Peace Through Strength" throughout the region, invoking a foreign policy doctrine that emphasises the belief that a strong military presence can prevent conflicts from escalating. The ceasefire presents an opportunity for the US to reassert its diplomatic role in the region; however, achieving this requires a careful balance between supporting Israel and addressing the legitimate grievances of the Palestinians.

The agreement highlights the evolving dynamics among key regional players. Qatar's role as a primary mediator has further elevated its diplomatic standing. Egypt's regional stature has also been enhanced following its successful involvement in brokering the deal, reinforcing its historic role as a key mediator between Israel and Palestinian factions.

The ceasefire may help revive discussions to expand the Abraham Accords further by pursuing a potential Saudi-Israeli rapprochement. While Riyadh has expressed interest in forging diplomatic relations with Israel, the Palestinian issue remains a significant obstacle. The Kingdom now insists on a clear roadmap for establishing a Palestinian State before entering into talks to normalise ties with Israel.

For Israel, the ceasefire offers a respite from international criticism and an opportunity to address domestic concerns, particularly the return of hostages. Prime Minister (PM) Netanyahu's political survival is at stake as he faces significant challenges, as far-Right coalition members oppose the deal. The agreement's implementation has long-term implications for Israel's security and will be crucial in shaping its political landscape and regional standing.

For Hamas, the ceasefire provides a breather, allowing it an opportunity to regroup and consolidate its support among the Palestinians and even claim a symbolic victory as it was able to survive Israel's onslaught and secure the release of Palestinian prisoners.

Iran, a major supporter of Hamas, has portrayed the ceasefire as a "victory" for the Palestinian resistance. Tehran's recent setbacks in Lebanon, Syria, and Gaza have left it isolated with diminished regional influence. The country is also concerned about its future relations with the US under the Trump administration.

While the proposed ceasefire deal represents a significant milestone in West Asia's tumultuous history, its implementation remains challenging, particularly in its later phases, which make it vulnerable to collapse.

For example, it does not address the future governance of Gaza. Will Hamas be allowed to assume a political role again? During last week's meeting of the Global Alliance for the Implementation of the Two-State Solution held in Oslo, Palestine's PM Mohammad Mustafa rejected a proposal discussed by the US, the United Arab Emirates, and Israel for an international post-war administration in Gaza, led by a senior UN official. He emphasised that the Palestinian Authority (PA) must be the sole governing body in Gaza following the ceasefire. Ironically, Netanyahu has consistently opposed the PA's return to Gaza since the 2007 conflict between Hamas and Fatah, which effectively removed the PA from the Gaza Strip.

The reconstruction of Gaza will be a monumental task. According to UN data, 70% of concrete structures in Gaza have been severely damaged or destroyed, including over 245,000 homes, which has transformed the area into a wasteland. Restoring health care facilities in Gaza and providing nutritious food to more than 1.8 million Palestinians facing "extremely critical" levels of hunger is a top priority. Rebuilding Gaza will require substantial funding, estimated at $100 billion, and several years of dedicated effort. Israel should be discouraged from pursuing its threat to ban the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), as this would significantly impede the distribution of aid to the Palestinians at this critical juncture.

To translate the temporary truce offered by the ceasefire deal into lasting peace and stability in the region, sustained international engagement and goodwill from all parties, especially the US and other guarantors, will be essential. The fundamental issue at the heart of the conflict — the establishment of an independent state of Palestine coexisting with Israel — must be addressed with sincerity and pragmatism.

Ausaf Sayeed is former secretary to the Government of India, ministry of external affairs and former ambassador of India to Saudi Arabia, Yemen and Seychelles. The views expressed are personal

Donald Trump 2.0 and the limits of CEO as president

Kiertisak Toh

Prahlad Kasturi

Donald J Trump has officially become the 47th President of the United States (US). An interesting feature of the Trump team is that many of his appointees are wealthy elites, billionaires, and multimillionaires from the business and financial world — all bound, among other things, to win Trump's trade war with tariff revisions. Given his successful experience on *The Apprentice* television show, Trump believes that governing a country is like running a corporation.

Should a President govern a country like a CEO running a big corporation? Paul Krugman, a winner of the Economics Nobel, argued in a *Harvard Business Review* article (1996) that a country is not a company, and business leaders need to understand the differences between economic policy on the national and international scale and business strategies on the organisational scale. Though related, economics and business are distinct disciplines requiring different mind sets, styles, and thinking skills. An executive thoroughly comfortable with corporate finances does not necessarily know how to read national income accounts, understand a country's trade balance and its balance of payments, or monetary or fiscal policy, and how they are related.

The economy, in contrast to a corporation, is the ultimate giant conglomerate, with hundreds of thousands of product lines and services united only by the fact of being within the country's borders. This complexity means that a national economy must be run based on general principles and theory. Best economic management almost always consists of creating a market-friendly environment based on a sound analytical framework. The idea rarely sits well with businesspeople, especially with know-it-all billionaires.

Most corporations are built around a core competence, for instance, a particular technology or an approach to a specific type of market. Corporate CEOs succeed not by general concepts or theory, but by finding specific product strategies or organisational innovations that work for their businesses. Successful business leaders have trouble accepting the comparatively hands-off role of a wise economic policymaker.

In his analysis, Krugman also pointed out another difference. Economists view the national economy as a closed system with strong feedback implications and much uncertainty. In the business world, businesspeople are accustomed to thinking of an open system, and feedback tends to be more certain and positive. This is particularly relevant when it comes to Trump's tariff policy to address America's trade deficit. The trade imbalance, to economists, is a macroeconomic condition determined by the difference between investment (both domestic and foreign) and savings (private and public or government's budget surplus or deficit). As an accounting truism, the deficit or surplus must be matched by corresponding capital (financial) inflows or outflows. Trump's approach from an open system (a zero-sum perspective) is unlikely to rebalance America's trade deficit and can even be counterproductive.

This leads us to the broader question: Is experience in running large corporations a reliable qualification for running a country and its economy?

During the high stagflation of the 1970s and early 1980s in the US, Arthur Okun, the late professor at Yale University and chairman of President Lyndon Johnson's Council of Economic Advisors, developed the Index of Discomfort designed to measure the material well-being of the people living in the country. The index is simply the sum of inflation and unemployment rates. When the index is higher — high inflation and more unemployment — people feel less well off. It was intended as an intuitive measure of economic conditions that affect everyday life. In the 1980 campaign against the incumbent Jimmy Carter presidency, Ronald Reagan popularised the index and renamed it the Misery Index.

We analysed the change in the Okun Misery Index over the period from 1948 to the present, spanning 14 presidencies, from Harry S Truman to Joe Biden (up till the latest available data). Five of the 14 presidents were businessmen — four successful and one failed businessman (President Truman). Carter, George H Bush, George W Bush, and Trump were successful businessmen before they became presidents. George W Bush and Trump can even boast of having formal Ivy League MBA training in their resumes, at Harvard and the University of Pennsylvania, respectively. Yet, both ended up leaving a "more miserable" legacy than when they assumed the presidency. On the other hand, Reagan and Biden — the former an actor-turned-politician and a state governor and the other a career politician who is a former senator and vice-president — seem to defy the myth of prior business success and wealth as prerequisites for a successful presidency. Both had inherited high misery from their predecessors and managed to turn it around. Reagan left office with the largest turnaround in misery (15 points). Biden turned around the economic misery from the Covid-19 pandemic he inherited and changed it for the better by more than six points.

The Okun Misery Index, of course, has its limitations. It is not intended to be predictive as some political pundits have implied; rather, it is a lagging indicator measuring a president's aggregate performance over a period of time.

In most societies, business success is respected and valued for legitimate and good reasons. Political leaders will rightly and inevitably seek advice from business leaders. Do Trump and his team have the wisdom to know the difference between a country and a large corporation and a proper sense of what business success does or does not teach about economic policy? Time will tell.

Kiertisak Toh is former senior fellow at Duke Center for International Development, Duke University (North Carolina, USA), and Prahlad Kasturi, is emeritus professor of economics at Radford University. The views expressed are personal

{ TEDROS ADHANOM GHEBREYESUS } DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Restoring the health system in Gaza will be a complex and challenging task, given the scale of destruction, operational complexity and constraints involved

The lingering pain of the Kashmiri Pandit exodus

Upendra Kaul

It has been more than three decades now since the unfortunate exodus of the Kashmiri Pandits began in January 1990. The community's fault was that it did not identify itself with the *azadi* movement led by the masses in the Valley, who were challenging Indian sovereignty. It has been a sad story as militancy erupted, and there were targeted killings of some well-known and prominent Pandits, which resulted in fear for life among members of the community. The State apparatus also failed to control militancy and provide security to the minorities in the erstwhile state, and approximately 100,000 to 140,000 of the total Pandit population left the Valley for Jammu, the national capital region (NCR) and other parts of the country. After all these years, the question of the Kashmiri Pandits' forced migration is very much alive in the discussions on the history of the Valley. The number of Kashmiri Pandits living in the Valley at present is not more than 4,000 to 5,000. Most Pandits have sold their properties and land, and have no roots left there. A large number of them have settled in different parts of the country. However, the people who had migrated from the villages are still languishing in townships made for them by the authorities on the outskirts of Jammu city. They keep on lamenting about the past.

Despite attempts by successive governments to create jobs and accommodation for them and persuade them to return, the response has been dismal, especially with the sporadic killings of Pandits in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K). Their return to J&K is a tall order. Unfortunately, this small community, with an estimated total population of around eight lakh scattered all over the country, doesn't have the numbers to ensure elected representation in either the J&K legislative assembly or Parliament. The community only receives hollow promises from the administrators, while political parties capitalise on their plight to seek votes in other parts of the country.

Kashmiri Pandits are the remainder of the original Hindu population of J&K. They are a part of the tumultuous history of Kashmir which was an important centre of Hinduism in the first millennium. However, over the years, as the rest of India came under the influence of Buddhism under the Mauryas and the Kushanas, Buddhism influenced Kashmir too. It eclipsed Hinduism in Kashmir till Islam took over.

All Kashmiri-speaking Hindus are Brahmins. This is because the Hindu system of *varnas* that divides society into Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas and Shudras was influenced by Buddhism in the third century. That was the time when most of the non-Brahmin Hindus embraced Buddhism because of its appeal of being a casteless religion. However, while the rest of India was being plundered by the Turks and Arabs, Kashmir was not invaded. During this period, a native tradition of Shaivism became popular and acceptable in Kashmir. This was during the rule of the Utpala and the Lohara dynasties, till the arrival of Islam in the 14th century through the Sufism of Bulbul Shah that led to Sultans coming in and Shah Mir became the first Muslim ruler: This dynasty ruled Kashmir for the next five centuries.

These were difficult times for the Pandits. They resisted conversion to Islam and split into their three sub-castes: *gurus* (priests), *jyotish* (astrologers) and *karkuns* (employees of the rulers). Most *karkuns* chose professions like medicine, law, teaching, and engineering, and those who could not enter these professions opted to become clerks and accountants. This was the time when many of them started seeking jobs in other parts of India because of their good educational background. The Dogra rule, which followed the Sikh rule in Kashmir, was a comfortable time for Pandits as they were a favoured section of the population, during the period 1846–1947.

However, after 1950, with the Independence of India, and during Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah's regime of the National Conference, around 20% of the Pandits left the Valley. This was because Pandits were major landowners, and the policy of land-to-the-tiller resulted in financial losses to them. Over a period of time, their population share steadily declined, from 6-7% during 1889 -1941 to around 5% in 1950-1960. However, the harmony between the two major communities, Muslims and Pandits, continued. The historical mass conversion to Islam did not erode their earlier cultural traditions. These traditions continue with Pandits even today in spite of their unfortunate exodus in 1990. Pandits are known for their resilience despite all the struggles they encountered. It is a sad story for this small but bright and highly educated community, which has seen such difficult periods for no fault of its own.

Upendra Kaul is a cardiologist and former president of the Cardiological Society of India and SAARC Cardiac Society. The views expressed are personal

R. N. I. No. 503/1957 ● Postal Reg. No. DL(ND)-11/6058/2018-19-20 'Licensed to post without prepayment' LICENCE No. U(C)-113/2006-08, AIR SURCHARGE: Raipur and beyond by Rail or Road - Rs. 5/-, Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Coimbatore, Chennai, Cochin, Goa, Hyderabad, Khajuraho, Mumbai, Trivandrum, Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada and beyond by Rail or Road - Rs. 10/-;

PRINTED & PUBLISHED BY MANHAR KAPOOR for and on behalf of HT Media Ltd. 18-20, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi-110001 and printed at HT Media Ltd. Presses at Plot No.-8, Udyog Vihar, Greater Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar. (UP). Pin-201306.
BOARD: (011) 23361234 ● EDITORIAL: (011) 66561234 Extn. 1254, 1268 ● CIRCULATION: (011) 66561111 ● ADVERTISING: (011) 66561389 ● FAX: (011) 66561270.

EDITOR: KUNAL PRADHAN - Responsible for selection of news under PRP Act, @ All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission of Publisher is prohibited.

Trump and the world: What lies ahead

Prashant Jha
letters@hindustantimes.com

WASHINGTON: President Donald J Trump has articulated a wide set of political and policy interests and picked an ideologically committed and personally loyal set of personnel to implement his agenda. As he sets out to roll his executive orders on Day 1, here is a look at five Trump priorities, the political context, and key individuals in that domain:

President-elect Donald Trump (top) takes the oath of office during the 60th Presidential Inauguration in the Rotunda of the US Capitol in Washington, while attendees watch the inauguration at Capital One Arena in Washington, DC, US, on Monday. AP, BLOOMBERG

Immigration

Context: Immigration across America's southern border has a long history, but the surge in crossings under the Joe Biden presidency became one of the Democrats' biggest political liabilities. Trump's long-standing opposition to immigration carries two meanings for different audiences. To moderates, including legal immigrants, it appears as a reasonable call for secure borders and process. To racists and White supremacists, it represents a call to protect the nation from outsiders, often Brown, Black and Asian people.

Agenda: Trump's 2024 win can be partly attributed to anger over the rise in undocumented workers, struggling public infrastructure, perceived links between immigrants and crime, apparent Democratic weakness in enforcing border controls, and validation of Trump's promise to act against illegal immigrants.

The form this immigration crackdown takes, its scope, law enforcement's capacity to sustain extreme measures without Congressional authorisation, eventual Congressional approval, legal challenges, economic trade-offs, impact on immigrant communities, and international response will be recurring policy issues throughout his presidency.

Starting with a Day 1 executive order, expect what the incoming team calls a "shock and awe" operation of border closure, raids in major cities, and deportation of those with criminal records.

People: Stephen Miller, Trump's deputy chief of staff and homeland security adviser, Kristi Noem, secretary of the department of homeland security, and Tom Homan, the "border czar" leading immigration and customs enforcement (ICE), are Trump's key policy and operational drivers on border and immigration issues.

National security and diplomacy

Context: Trump presents a grand narrative about American national security over the past decade: how he secured and strengthened America and maintained world peace, while under Biden, wars erupted and the US lost respect. Now, in Trump's narrative, he returns to restore American strength and prestige.

Agenda: Trump has unprecedented opportunities to reshape global dynamics. In West Asia, key questions include whether he can extend the ceasefire into something more permanent, secure Israel while creating a viable pathway to Palestinian statehood, facilitate Israel-Saudi Arabia normalisation, and navigate relations with Iran between diplomatic engagement and military action. Regarding Ukraine, Trump will need to reconcile his apparent desire for peace with preserving Ukrainian sovereignty, managing Russian ambitions, reassuring Europe, maintaining American credibility, and deterring China.

His approach to China — whether maintaining a hard security and economic stance, intensifying competition, or seeking tactical accommodation — along with his engagement with allies, sectoral priorities, and crisis management will shape global geopolitics.

People: Michael Waltz as national security adviser, Marco Rubio as Secretary of State, and John Ratcliffe as CIA director — all China hawks — will be Trump's principal foreign policy advisers. FBI director Kash Patel will oversee domestic intelligence, while Tulsi Gabbard, if confirmed as head of national intelligence, will coordinate 17 agencies. Pete Hegseth will lead the Pentagon as defence secretary, with others like undersecretary Elbridge Colby influencing macro policy. Special envoys include Steve Witkoff for Middle East and Rick Grenell for special missions. Elon Musk, as a close adviser with active interests in European politics and global business, will maintain significant influence.

Tariffs and manufacturing

Context: Trump believes America's embrace of free trade agreements and globalisation opened its markets while China exploited cheap labour and unfair practices to flood American markets whilst protecting its own.

In Trump's view, this, along with similar exploitation by other countries (including India), drove American de-industrialisation. He sees tariffs as the solution — among "the most beautiful words in the dictionary", as he puts it.

Agenda: Having initiated a trade war with China and disputes with other nations in his first term, Trump now promises 60% tariffs on Chinese goods and 20% on imports from elsewhere. He's threatened tariffs against China, Mexico and Canada for non-economic ends.

Questions remain about the extent and selectivity of these tariffs, and their inflationary implications. Some answers will emerge in his Day 1 executive order establishing an external revenue service, while others will depend on bilateral agreements and ongoing policy debates.

People: Peter Navarro will serve as senior counsellor for trade and manufacturing, alongside trade representative Jamieson Greer, a protege of former trade czar Robert Lighthizer. These China hawks share Trump's belief in tariffs as tools for balancing trade deficits and reviving manufacturing. Treasury secretary Scott Bessent and commerce secretary Howard Lutnick will contribute market and industry perspectives to tariff discussions.

Deregulation

Context: American conservatives view big government as fiscally ruinous and dependency-inducing, while libertarians see it as the primary threat to individual freedom, criticising unaccountable bureaucrats. The Supreme Court has limited regulatory agencies' interpretative powers, while Trump remains sceptical of career bureaucrats' loyalties.

Agenda: Trump's new Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), led by Elon Musk, will recommend spending cuts and deregulation. Musk brings his wealth, presidential access, and frustration with regulators to the role, supported by tech libertarians and fiscal conservatives who prioritise addressing national debt. This aligns with Trump's plan to strip career protections from bureaucrats through a Schedule F order.

People: While Musk leads DOGE's deregulation agenda, co-chair Vivek Ramaswamy may depart to run for Ohio governor. Budget Management chief Russel Vought will work closely with Musk, while Stephen Miller, House representative Marjorie Taylor Green (DOGE caucus head), and Senator Joni Ernst (Senate caucus leader) will influence policy.

AI and crypto policy

Context: Trump's second term notably differs from his first in Silicon Valley support, driven by three factors: the crypto industry's hope for liberal regulation; AI companies' resistance to regulation amid breakthrough predictions; and opposition to FTC chair Lina Khan's anti-monopolistic stance.

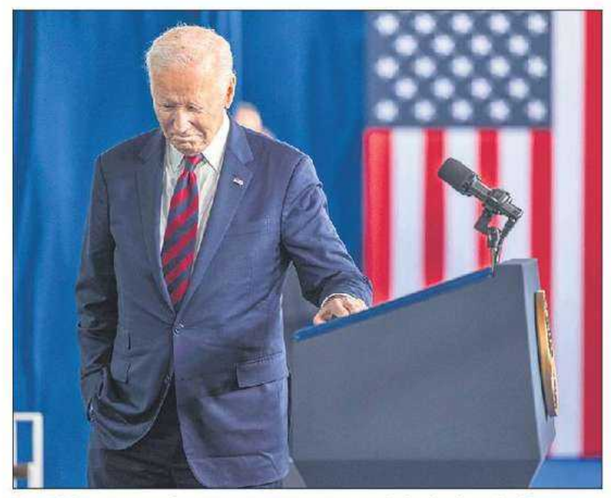
Agenda: Trump, now with crypto business interests, is expected to issue an executive order establishing a more liberal regime, potentially including a strategic crypto reserve, banking access, and clearer disclosure requirements. On AI, expect strong state support for American industry through permissive energy policies and reduced regulation. Competition policy will likely see tension between economic populists wary of Big Tech and business conservatives favouring lighter regulation.

People: David Sacks leads AI and crypto policy, with Sriram Krishnan focusing on AI. Michael Kratsios will direct the office of science and technology policy, while Lynne Parker heads the science and tech advisory council. Expect significant input from tech advisors Marc Andreessen, Peter Thiel and Elon Musk.

Trump's broader agenda spans energy policy to dismantling diversity initiatives. Core advisers including vice president JD Vance, chief of staff Susie Wiles, and family members Donald Trump Jr, Eric Trump, Lara Trump, and informally, Jared Kushner and Ivanka Trump will influence all policy areas.

Change marks tragic end for the Biden presidency

Prashant Jha
letters@hindustantimes.com



Joe Biden pauses for a moment as a gospel choir sings before addressing attendees at the International African-American Museum in Charleston, South Carolina, on Sunday. AFP

WASHINGTON: All political lives end in tragedy.

Think about Joe Biden. A boy born with a stutter, Biden was the youngest Senator who just met the minimum age threshold of 30 before taking oath back in 1972. He was the epitome of personal courage and sacrifice who lost his wife and daughter in an accident, at the same time as his Senate win, and took the Amtrak every day from DC to Wilmington to be with his two young sons. He was the upright young politician who became the first senator outside Georgia to endorse Jimmy Carter for president. He rose up the ranks of the judiciary and foreign relations committees in the Senate. He flirted with a presidential run in 1988, but had to withdraw because of charges of plagiarising a speech, a turn of fate that turned out to be a blessing because he had to undergo a brain aneurism surgery right after.

Twenty years later, in 2008, Biden threw his hat in the presidential ring again, only to see his candidacy collapse as a prodigious political talent rose in the form of Barack Obama. But Obama needed a Washington veteran with relationships on the Hill, and Biden stepped in as his running mate and then Vice President for eight long years. Biden lost his son, Beau, to cancer, and it appeared he won't attempt a presidential run again. Obama, perhaps as a part of a prior understanding, backed Hillary Clinton as the party nominee. But Biden, it seems, had wanted to run, and never forgave Obama for passing him over. When Clinton lost to Trump, Biden felt even more vindicated, convinced he could have beaten the Republican nominee.

And then 2020 happened. Biden decided to contest in the most unusual of presidential races. He got the party nomination, largely due to the support of influential Black leaders, campaigned through Covid largely from home and virtually, and won. Trump refused to accept the results, and Biden had to take office with the task of rescuing American democracy, bringing back discipline to American government, overcoming the pandemic, saving the economy, competing with China, managing revolutionary technological breakthroughs, and dealing with other global crises.

And what a fine job he did for his country. Biden's stimulus helped save millions from economic distress. His infrastructure plan inaugurated a chapter of rebuilding American public works and creating jobs. His vaccine push saw the country heal from the pandemic. He introduced a far more thoughtful and methodical approach to dealing with China, with both competitive actions and alliance building and engagement. He ensured that the American economy didn't just not slide into recession but maintained robust growth. He took domestic action on climate. And he created the most diverse administration in US history.

The two wars

Biden's administration and policy had flaws and Trump succeeded in making them key themes of the election. This included the spike in illegal immigration, an issue Democrats didn't do enough to tackle for most of Biden's presidency. Biden's policies had inflationary consequences, and this, coupled with global uncertainty in supply chains, hurt consumers. Biden involved US in the war in the Ukraine, without adequately explaining to American people what was at stake; he backed Israel after October 7 attacks, without offering a compelling case, if at all there can be one, on what could justify killings and devastation of the scale witnessed in Gaza — in which US was seen as complicit. Biden let the cultural Left run with the political mandate to push American society in directions it wasn't ready for at this stage.

All of this was a part of any administration's strengths and weaknesses. But a fair evaluation of his term is not the luxury that history will afford Biden, for he let a fatal personal flaw, of ambition and a sense of his own indispensability and invincibility, ruin his legacy.

Biden was already the oldest man to become president and stay president. Trump is only a few years younger but has a far more vigorous appearance. Biden's real opportunity to leave in glory was after the 2022 midterms where he had delivered a better than expected performance for Democrats. But his decision to stick on, and the silence of the entire Democratic establishment in warning him and the public that the president may not be able to run again or be able enough to complete a second term, meant that till the presidential debate in June, Americans genuinely did not know how weak and frail, incoherent and inarticulate, Biden actually got. And that was perhaps the moment they took a decision to opt for Biden's rival.

It still took weeks to persuade Biden to withdraw. He then backed Kamala Harris, a logical choice but one that had not emerged from the primary process, leaving many disillusioned. She lost and the Biden's legacy is now of making way for his predecessor as successor.

Biden ends his political life a bitter man, convinced he could have won, but for the betrayal of his friends, the public and the media. By any reading of the popular mood, that is somewhat delusional. He also ends his public life a compromised manic having pardoned his son despite promising not do so. He ends his international life a discredited and weak man, for having presided over the killings in Gaza, and someone who may have saved Ukraine but couldn't bring peace to the land and didn't have an endgame.

As he heads back home to his beloved Delaware, where it all began for him, Joe Biden's exemplary public life deserves appreciation but it also serves as a warning; if you are a politician and don't know when to leave, history will be brutal and unkind.

People sit before the 60th Presidential Inauguration in the Rotunda of the US Capitol in Washington, on Monday. AP

The rise and rise of JD Vance in American politics

Prashant Jha
letters@hindustantimes.com

WASHINGTON: An Indian son-in-law will soon occupy the Naval Observatory residence of the American Vice President in Washington DC. While India can derive joy from this emotional connection, the real story of JD Vance's miraculous rise in American politics lies in middle America.

Born to a mother struggling with addiction and raised by his grandmother, Vance joined the army and served in Iraq. He used military education benefits to attend Ohio State and later Yale Law School, where he met his wife, Usha.

Vance became deeply concerned with the fate of communities in middle America — places that had lost jobs, succumbed to addiction, and struggled to keep pace with globalisation and technology. His book exploring these themes, "Hillbilly Elegy", became essential reading after Donald Trump's 2016 victory, helping readers understand why working-class communities in the de-industrialised heartland had thrown their support behind the New York billionaire.

The irony was that Vance himself was then a Trump critic. After Yale, he moved to California, became a protege of technologist Peter Thiel, and worked as an investor, while Usha clerked for top judges before joining a law firm. Vance's perspective eventually shifted — he embraced Trump, successfully ran for the Senate, and became Ohio's junior senator in 2022.

During this period, he developed close ties with Trump's son, Donald Trump Jr, and others in Trump's circle, ultimately securing his position as Trump's running mate at the Republican convention in Milwaukee in July 2024. When confronted with controversies over his past remarks about women, trans rights, and Trump himself, Vance adopted his future boss's aggressive media strategy — cultivating his own audience and base while allowing public attention to move on.

While January 20, 2025 belongs to Donald Trump, it also places Vance a heartbeat away from the world's most powerful position, regardless of his standing in Trump's often whimsically run court.

Vance brings distinct convictions to his role. A fierce critic of globalisation who laments America's declining manufacturing strength, he harbours deep frustration with China's impact on American jobs and markets. He will advocate strongly for economic protectionism and industrial revitalisation.

China executes 62-year-old who killed 35 in Zhuhai car rampage

BEIJING: China on Monday executed a man who killed 35 people in a car rampage in the southern city of Zhuhai in November, in the country's deadliest mass attack in years.

On November 11, Fan Weiqiu, 62, deliberately drove a small SUV through crowds of people exercising outside a sports complex, also injuring 45 in China's worst such crime since 2014.

He was sentenced to death last month, with a court saying his motives "were extremely vile, (and) the nature of the crime extremely egregious".

State broadcaster CCTV said on Monday a Zhuhai court "executed Fan Weiqiu in accordance with the execution order issued by the Supreme People's Court".

The municipal public prosecutor "sent personnel to supervise (the execution) in accordance with the law", CCTV reported.

He was detained at the scene with self-inflicted knife wounds and fell into a coma, police said at the time.

The court found he "decided to vent his anger" over "a broken marriage, personal frustrations, and dissatisfaction with the division of property after divorce". AFP

A man lights a candle at the plaza where a 62-year-old deliberately rammed his car into people in Zhuhai, China AP

MILITARY LAUNCHES SECURITY OPS IN PAK'S NORTHWEST

PARACHINAR, PAKISTAN: Pakistani security forces launched an operation targeting militants in a restive northwestern district bordering Afghanistan, officials said on Monday, following a surge in attacks and sectarian strife. It is the first large-scale operation in the area in recent years.

The latest attack in Kurram, in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, was on Friday when unidentified gunmen ambushed and burned aid trucks, killing two security personnel and at least five drivers.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gaza deal holding after hostage-prisoner swap

Agence France-Presse
letters@hindustantimes.com

JERUSALEM: A fragile ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war was holding on Monday, following the dramatic exchange of three hostages for 90 Palestinian prisoners in an agreement aimed at ending more than 15 months of war in Gaza. As the ceasefire took effect, thousands of displaced, war-weary Palestinians set off across the devastated Gaza Strip to return home.

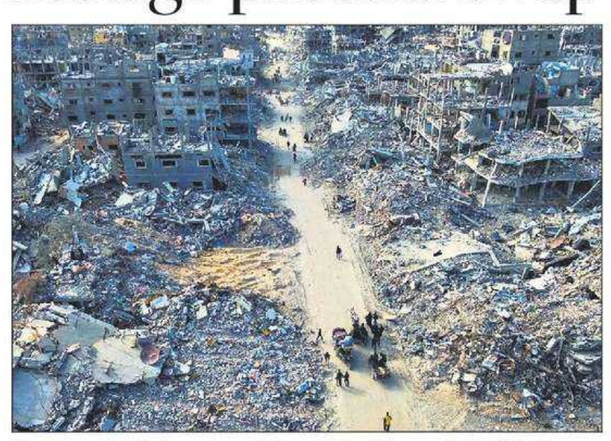
The truce began on the eve of the Donald Trump's inauguration for a second term as US president, who has claimed credit for the agreement after months of fruitless negotiations.

If all goes according to plan, the implementation of the truce will take weeks if not months, with only the first phase of the truce agreed so far by all the parties.

Despite the risks, hundreds of Palestinians were streaming through an apocalyptic landscape in Jabalia in northern Gaza, one of the worst-hit areas in the war.

"We are finally in our home. There is no home left, just rubble, but it's our home," said Rana Mohsen, 43.

The initial 42-day truce was brokered by mediators Qatar, the United States and Egypt.



People make their way past the rubble of houses in Rafah, Gaza Strip on Monday, a day after a ceasefire deal came into effect AFP

buzz

Motorcycle Expedition announced by the ICG

As part of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) 49th Raising Day celebrations, ICG proudly announced the commencement of the 'Sentinels of the Sea - Sarhad Se Samandar' motorcycle expedition. The landmark event will be flagged off by Inspector General Bhisham Sharma, PTM, TM, Commander Coast Gurad Region (West) along with Dr Atul Fulzele, Inspector General, BSF Punjab Frontier at 1330 hrs on Jan 22 Jan, from the Attari Border, Amritsar. This prestigious rally will span over 10 days, covering 2,300 kms.

IREDA, SJVN, GMR and NEA partner up for Nepal Project

IREDA finalised a Joint Venture Agreement with SJVN Ltd, GMR Energy Ltd, and NEA for the development of the 900 MW Upper Karnali Hydro-electric Project in Nepal. This strategic initiative aims to strengthen regional energy security and accelerate renewable energy growth. The joint venture agreement lays out a comprehensive framework for the project development, construction, operation, and maintenance under a BOOT model, with 25-years project term from the CoD.

NBCC and Hindu College sign MoU for Centre for Advance Studies

NBCC (India) Ltd and Hindu College, University of Delhi, signed an MoU for the development of "Centre for Advance Studies" valued at Rs 180 cr approx. It was signed by Prof Anju Srivastava, Principal, Hindu College, and Nagendra Kumar, CGM, NBCC.

Horse show presented by cadets in NCC Republic Day Camp

The Annual Horse Show was presented by the NCC cadets taking part in the Republic Day Camp at 61 Cavalry Ground, Delhi Cantt on Jan 19. The camp hosts national-level inter-directorate NCC equestrian competitions, with a spectacular horse show.

NIELIT reaches a milestone in India's Digital Education Landscape

NIELIT hit milestone by becoming a Deemed to Be University, revolutionising higher education in emerging technologies. This landmark institution is the first university under MeitY, Govt of India. On July 15, the Ministry of Education, Govt of India, on the advice of the UGC, issued a notification declaring NIELIT Ropar with its 11 constituent units - Aizawl, Agartala, Aurangabad, Calicut, Gorakhpur, Imphal, Kohima, Patna, Srinagar, Kekri, and Itanagar - as an Institution Deemed to Be University. The establishment of NIELIT Deemed to Be University reflects the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to equip professionals with skills in cutting-edge technologies.

Voter's Carnival organised by DEO, West Delhi

DEO, West Delhi, led by Dr Kinny Singh, IAS, hosted a vibrant Voter's Carnival at Pacific Mall, Tagore Garden, to raise awareness about the upcoming Delhi Vidhan Sabha Elections on Feb 5. Highlights included the Wall of Democracy exhibition by SPM College students, gaming zones, and handicraft stalls.

24/7 reading lounge opens at the Maha Kumbh Mela 2025

At Maha Kumbh Mela 2025, National Book Trust, India set up a 24/7 reading lounge inside the Namami Gange Mandap, Prayagraj. The lounge welcomed nearly one lakh visitors on its first day. Amit Yadav (IAS), Secretary of the Department of Social Justice & Empowerment, also visited the lounge as well.

PwD-led rally promotes voting awareness in Shahdara

The District Election Officer, Shahdara conducted an Awareness Scooty/Bike Ride Rally on Jan 19 at Vivekananda College, Vivek Vihar, Shahdara, Delhi led by PwDs to inspire and encourage Delhis's voters, especially the PwD voters to cast their vote in the forthcoming Delhi Legislative Assembly Election-2025. The Scooty/Bike Rally was organised under the SVEEP Programme.

BSES achieves prestigious "Great Place to Work" award

BRPL and BYPL were awarded the "Great Place to Work" Certification, a globally recognised benchmark for workplace excellence. This certification underscores BSES' commitment to fostering a workplace culture rooted in trust, respect, and inclusivity. The recognition reflects the organisation's focus on creating an environment where employees feel valued, empowered, and inspired to excel. In its debut attempt, BSES has achieved remarkable scores of 77% for BRPL and 78% for BYPL, significantly surpassing the qualifying benchmark of 70%. These results highlight the organisation's success in implementing transformational HR practices, including innovative employee engagement programs, leadership development initiatives, and a strong emphasis on diversity, inclusion, and well-being. The certification is based on rigorous assessments, incorporating employee feedback and organisational practices across dimensions such as credibility, respect, fairness, pride, and camaraderie.

DEO holds event to raise voting awareness

As part of SVEEP initiative, the DEO of New Delhi, organised an innovative event, "Roll to the Polls", in collaboration with Delhi skating community, blending skating and Zumba to promote voting awareness ahead of the Delhi Legislative Assembly elections on February 5, 2025.

IIM Shillong hosts roundtable discussion

IIM Shillong hosted a discussion focused on waste management. It was organised by NE-CCIE, IIM Shillong and brought together key stakeholders, like the representatives from the Meghalaya Institute of Governance, Bethany Society, OCU, and Synjuk ki Nongsynshar Shnong Nongthymmai Pyllun.

PFC and JBIC sign loan agreement

PFC, the largest NBFC in India signed a Loan Agreement for JPY 120 Billion (Rs 6,500 Cr) with Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) on Jan 15. Under the agreement, JBIC will provide funding of JPY 72 billion, with the balance to be funded by commercial banks.

NIXI launched the Internet Governance Internship and Capacity Building Scheme. This program aims to build awareness and develop expertise in internet governance among citizens. The program was launched by S Krishnan, Secretary, MeitY, Govt of India and Chairman, NIXI.

"The Cottage" organised Gandhi Shilp Bazaar from Jan 8 to 14, where 46 Artisans participated from various states. The event showcased exclusive Handcrafted traditional artisanal crafts made by the likes of master crafts persons and National awardees.

BIS, Delhi Branch Office-I celebrated its 78th Foundation Day with a grand Standards Carnival at MAIT Rohini, New Delhi on Jan 17. The event emphasised the importance of quality and standardisation, attracting participants from educational institutions, industries and laboratories.

A winter carnival celebrating J&K Day was held at New Moti Bagh Club. It was organised by the Resident Commission, Govt of J&K and New Moti Bagh Residents Welfare Association, convened by the efforts of Sudhandu Pandey, IAS, President, NMB-RWA and Dr Rashmi Singh, IAS.

HUDCO, a Navratna CPSE, provided an Ambulance equipped with Advanced Life Support (ALS) facilities to Rabindranath Tagore Ayurvigyan College and Joint Hospital Association, Udaipur under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme.

Raksha Rajya Mantri (RRM) Sanjay Seth visited the National Cadet Corps (NCC) Republic Day Camp 2025 at Delhi Cantt on January 18. He lauded NCC Cadets as Ambassadors of Viksit Bharat @2047 and expressed his delight over the NCC expansion plan of enrolling 20 Lakh cadets.

An enforcement raid was conducted by BIS Faridabad Branch Office under the leadership of Vibha Rani (Director Faridabad Branch Office) led by B Rohith Reddy (Deputy Director) and Arnob Samui(Deputy Director) on Jan 16 at M/s Nirvana, Ballabhgarh, Faridabad, Haryana.

Defence Secretary RK Singh visited the NCC Republic Day Camp 2025 at Delhi Cantt on January 17, 2025. In his address, the Defence Secretary commended the cadets for their hard work in putting up a spectacular show that represented the creative and youthful energy of the nation.

Doon Library & Research Centre
Lansdowne Chowk, Dehradun 248001

DLRC Fellowships

Applications are invited for DLRC Fellowships for conducting research in the areas of anthropology, archaeology, sociology, cultural studies, economics & development studies, environment & ecology, history, politics and religion and society. The duration of the Fellowships shall be for a maximum period of six months and shall carry an honorarium of 25,000/- per month.

Completed research studies that meet certain quality standards shall be selected for publication.

Application containing the CV of the applicant along with a proposals be sent by E-mail to librarydoon@gmail.com mentioning subject as **"Application for DLRC Fellowships & Name of the Applicant"** by **January 31,2025** to the Director, Doon Library & Research Centre.

DIRECTORATE, URBAN ADMINISTRATION AND DEVELOPMENT, BHOPAL

Notice Inviting Tenders (NIT)

NIT No- UADD/1131 **Date : 13.01.2025**

Directorate of Urban Administration and Development (UADD), Bhopal invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Selection of an agency for **"Supply, Implementation and Maintenance of Video E KYC Solution"**, The Bidders shall submit Bids on "Item rate Basis" for all of the following Services/Project/Work(s) :

S. No.	Work Name	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in (INR)	Cost of Bid Document in (INR)	Project Duration (Including Support Period)
1	**Request for Proposal for Selection of an agency for "Supply, Implementation and Maintenance of Video E KYC Solution"**	**₹ 5,00,000/-**	**₹ 5000.00 +** (Processing Fee Non-Refundable)	**2.5 Month -** (Implementation, Integration & Go live) **5 Year -** (Operation & Support after Go-Live)

- Detailed NIT & Bid Documents can be seen at the website **https://www.mptenders.gov.in/** and can be downloaded from the same.
- The Bid Documents can be purchased only online from **13/01/2025 to 12/01/2025 on 17:00 Hrs**.
- Any subsequent addendum / corrigendum shall be published only at website **https://www.mptenders.gov.in/**

Additional Commissioner
Directorate, Urban Administration and Development Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

G-21920/24 **"स्वच्छता ही सेवा"**

Govt. of National Capital Territory of Delhi
DIRECTORATE OF EDUCATION
Examination Cell, Room No. 222-A, Old Secretariat, Delhi-110054

RASHTRIYA INDIAN MILITARY COLLEGE (RIMC), DEHRADUN, ADMISSION NOTICE (FOR BOYS & GIRLS)

Applications are **invited from Boys & Girls (whose parents/guardians normally reside in Delhi)** for admission for the term starting Jan 2026. An admission test for the same will be conducted at a selected centre located in Delhi on **01.06.2025 (Sunday)**.

Eligibility Age: Candidate should not be less than 11½ years and should not have attained the age of **13 years as on 01 Jan 2026** i.e. the candidate should not be born earlier than **02 Jan 2013** and not later than **01 July 2014**.

Educational Qualifications: The candidate should either be studying in class VII or have passed class VII from any recognized school at the time of admission to the RIMC i.e. on **01 Jan 2026**.

Procedure to Obtain Application Forms:

(c) **Online Payment:** The prospectus-cum-application form and booklet of old question paper can be obtained by making online payment of Rs. 600/- for General Candidates & Rs. 555/- for SC/ST candidates on RIMC website **www.rimc.gov.in**. (on receipt of the payment, the Prospectus-cum Application Form and Booklet of Old Question Papers will be dispatched by Speed post only).

Or

(d) **By Sending Demand Draft:** The Prospectus-cum-Application Form and Booklet of Old Question Papers can be obtained by sending a written request with a demand draft of Rs. 600/- for General Candidates & Rs. 555/- for SC/ST candidates along with caste certificate in favour of "THE COMMANDANT RIMC FUND" DRAWEE BRANCH, HDFC BANK, BALLUPUR CHOWK, DEHRADUN, (BANK CODE-1399), UTTARAKHAND". The address should be typed/written clearly in CAPITAL LETTERS with Pin Code and contact number. RIMC will NOT be responsible for any postal delay or loss in transit of prospectus caused by illegible or incomplete address. The delay on part of postal department is not the responsibility of RIMC.

Submission of Application: Duly filled application in duplicate alongwith documents mentioned in the prospectus **should reach Examination Cell, Room No. 222-A, Directorate of Education, Old Secretariat, Delhi-110054** by **31 March 2025**.

Note:

3. **The application forms issued by RIMC only shall be valid. Application Form Locally printed/Photocopied and without RIMC hologram (Seal) application forms shall not be accepted.**
4. **The wards of service personnel, Para Military Personnel and other Central govt. employees with transferable job may submit the application form in the state of domicile or the state where they are posted. However, their candidature will be considered from their original domicile state. It is, therefore mandatory for such candidates to get the application deposited in the same state where the exam has to be taken. Further, they are required to enclose service certificate from their office stating that they are presently posted in Delhi with the application form for verification of antecedents.**

For details see the Notification dated 03.01.2025 on RIMC website: **www.rimc.gov.in**

DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0397/24-25 **EXAM CONDUCTING OFFICER, DELHI**

Govt. of Bihar

Urban Development & Housing Department
Office of the Executive Engineer, Urban Development Division, NCD.
SBD Based detailed Notice Inviting Re-Tender
(through e-procurement mode only-www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
(only Short e-tendering system through website : www.eproc2 bihar.gov.in
Local/ National Competitive Bidding NIT No.:- 01/E/NCD/2025

1. Designation and Address of the Advertiser : Executive Engineer, Urban Development Division , New Capital Division, PMC
2. Date of issue of Notice Inviting E-Tender : 17-01-2025
3. Period for download of Tender Document : 27-01-2025 (10-00AM) to 07-02-2025 (03-00PM)
4. Date, Time & Place of Pre Bid meeting : 27-01-2025 (At office of Chief Municipal Engineer, Patna Nagar Nigam, Patna)
5. Last Date of uploading tender documents by Bidder . : 07-02-2025 (Till 03.00 PM)
6. Date, time and place for submission of Original instrument of EMD (in case of BG) : 08-02-2025 (Till 03-00PM)
7. Opening of Technical Bid : New Capital Division; 08-02-2025 (04.00PM)
8. Details of work:-

Bid No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost/ECV (in Rupees)	Amount of Earnest money Online/Offline mode	Cost of BOQ in Rs. (Non Refundable payment only through online mode)	Bid processing fee in Rs. (Non Refundable payment only Online mode in favor of Beltron)	Time of Completion	EMD Payable at
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Construction of garbage transfer station at nutun Rajdhani Anchal (80mx40m) Re-Tendar.	10,53,38,024.00	20,53,380.00	10000.00	5900.00	6 Months	EE, New Capital Division, PMC

For further details please visit : **www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar**

PR. No.17520 (B & C) 2024-25

Executive Engineer,
Urban Development Division, New Capital
Patna Municipal Corporation,
Patna

नशे की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, KENDRAPARA-JAJPUR.
At-Chandikhole, Po-Sunguda, Dist. Jajpur-754296,
E-mail id-serw_kpd@yahoo.com

O-1298

Repair and Maintenance of Rural Roads Under PMGSY

e-Procurement Notice

Lr No. 62 Dtd.16.01.2025

The Chief Construction Engineer. R. W. Circle, KENDRAPARA-JAJPUR on behalf of Odisha State Rural Road Agency invites **percentage rate** bids in electronic tendering system for **Repair/Maintenance of the Rural roads Constructed under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana** in the districts of **KENDRAPARA-JAJPUR for 2 (Two)** number of packages with estimated cost totaling to **Rs 3.14 Cr** including maintenance for five year from the eligible contractors registered with **State PWD / CPWD / MES / Railways**, The registered bidder of outside Odisha, can also participate in this process, but shall have to subsequently undergo registration with the appropriate authority of the State Govt. preferably within a month of the deadline for bid submission, but prior to signing of the contract.

Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement dtd. 27.01.2025 (dd/mm/yyyy)

Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission: The bid document is available online and should be submitted online in http://www.pmgsytenders.gov.in. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have a valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities. The bidders are required to submit (a) original Demand Draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security in approved form and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B (a) (ii) of ITB with **C.C.E., R. W. Circle, KENDRAPARA-JAJPUR,** on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the Bid. either by registered post or by hand, failing which the bids shall be declared non- responsive.

Last Date/ Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement: 10.02.2025 (dd/mm/yyyy) up to 5.00 PM (time)

For further details please log on to http://www.pmgsytenders.gov.in.

Chief Construction Engineer
R.W. Circle, Kendrapara-Jajpur

OIPR - 25129/11/0025/2425

गाजियाबाद नगर निगम
(I.S.O. 14001, 18001 एवं 19001 प्रमाणित संस्था)

पत्रांक–334 / विज्ञापन / 2024–25 दिनांक– 20.01.2025

प्रस्ताव के लिए अनुरोध (आरएफपी) नगर निगम गाजियाबाद के लिए आउटडोर मीडिया निगरानी समाधान प्रदान करने हेतु विज्ञापन एग्रीगेटर का चयन

ई–टेण्डर निविदा सूचना

गाजियाबाद नगर निगम द्वारा उपरोक्त कार्य हेतु ई–निविदाए आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा प्रपत्र उत्तर प्रदेश की ई–प्रिक्योरमेन्ट की वेबसाइट **http://etender.up.nic.in** से प्राप्त किया जा सकता है, जिन्हे दिनांक 10.02.2025 को दोपहर 3:00 बजे तक वेबसाईड से डाउनलोड कर अपलोड करना आवश्यक होगा। प्राप्त निविदाओं को दिनांक 10.02.2025 को सांयः 04:00 बजे से खोला जायेगा। निविदा हेतु धरोहर धनराशि एवं निविदा शुल्क (नॉन रिफन्डेबिल) वेबसाईट **https://etender.up.nic.in** पर जमा करना अनिवार्य होगा।

विस्तृत निविदा सूचना / नियम व शर्तें **http://etender.up.nic.in** पर देखी जा सकती है।

प्रभारी विज्ञापन
गाजियाबाद नगर निगम

Office of The Director General of Police Uttarakhand
Sardar Patel Bhawan, Court Road, Near Doon Govt. Hospital, Dehradun 248001

-: E-Tender NOTICE :-

S.N.	Description	Qty.	Tender No.
1.	Forensic Solution For Disk Forensics Academic 30 Users	01	DG-III- 212 (PTC)/2024
2.	All in one Universal Write Blocker Portable with Machine	01	
1.	Forensic Duplication Device (Imaging & Cloning)	01	
1.	Cell ID Extractor	01	

1- Last Date of Receipt of E-Tender 03-02-2025 Time 10:00 A.M
2- Date of Opening of bid 03-02-2025 Time 11:00 A.M
3- Further Details can be seen from the e-procurement portal **http://uktenders.gov.in**

IG(P&M)
Police H.Q. Uttarakhand,Dehradun

विशेष शाखा, पुलिस मुख्यालय
मध्यप्रदेश, भोपाल

क्रमांक- विशा/स्टोर/2025-25(22) दिनांक : 17.01.2025

निविदा सूचना का शुद्धि पत्र

विशेष शाखा पुलिस मुख्यालय की निविदा सूचना क्रमांक SB/Store/2024-25 (535), Dated 13.11.2024 द्वारा CCTV Surveillance for High Court Jabalpur, Indore & Gwalior के क्रय हेतु ई-निविदा सूचना जारी की गई है। उपरोक्त आमंत्रित निविदा में क्रय किये जाने वाले उपरोक्त उपकरण की समय-सारणी में ''आंशिक संशोधन'' के संबंध में ''शुद्धि पत्र'' (Corrigendum) जारी किया गया है जो website https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app पर तथा विभाग की वेबसाईट www.mppolice.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है।

सहायक पुलिस महानिरीक्षक
विशेष शाखा (जी), म.प्र. भोपाल
दूरभाष क्र.-0755-2443654
ईमेल : sec25-sb@mppolice.gov.in

जी-21974/24 **"स्वच्छता ही सेवा है"**

मुख्यालय, राज्य आपदा आपातकालीन मोचन बल मध्य प्रदेश
पुलिस ऑफिसर मैस के सामने, नूरबाग कैम्प, भोपाल-462008

क्रमांक :-/41/डिवी.कमा./आर.प्र./2025 भोपाल, दिनांक :- 17.01.2025

ई-निविदा सूचना

महानिदेशक, होमगार्ड, नागरिक सुरक्षा तथा आपदा प्रबंधन मध्य प्रदेश की ओर से संभागीय सेनानी, आपदा प्रबंधन, म.प्र. भोपाल, पुलिस ऑफिसर मैस के सामने, भोपाल द्वारा नीचे दर्शित तालिका अनुसार निम्नलिखित सामग्री हेतु ऑनलाईन ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है :-

स. क्र.	उपकरण का नाम	संख्या	निविदा क्रमांक/ दिनांक	निविदा डाऊनलोड/ जमा प्रारंभ करने की तिथि	निविदा जमा करने की अन्तिम तिथि	निविदा खोलने की अन्तिम तिथि
1	फुट पंप	312	GEM/2025/B/5833703	17.01.2025	31.01.2025	31.01.2025

- होमगार्ड मध्यप्रदेश की वेबसाइट (www.homeguard.mp.gov.in) पर निविदा प्रपत्र एवं विस्तृत जानकारी डाउनलोड की जा सकती है।

संभागीय सेनानी
एसडीईआरएफ म.प्र., भोपाल

जी-21907/24

"बच्चों की मुस्कान है अनमोल, इसे सुरक्षित रखें हर हाल"

'EVs to reach 35% of total vehicle sales by 2030'

Govt working on a second policy to promote EVs, said environment minister

Jayashree Nandi
jayashree.nandi@htlive.com

NEW DELHI: Electric vehicle (EV) are projected to reach 35% of total vehicle sales in India by 2030 and grow to 10 million units by the end of this decade, creating jobs for 5 million people, Union environment minister Bhupender Yadav said on Monday.

"By 2030, India's EV fleet will avoid around 5 Metric tonnes of CO2, while in 2050, the amount could range from 110 to 380 Mt CO2. EV deployment can also considerably reduce citizens' exposure to air pollution," Yadav said at the third international conference on sustainable circularity.

The minister announced that the Union environment ministry will implement Environment Protection (End of Life Vehicles) Rules 2025 from April 1 to regulate handling and scrapping of old vehicles in an environmentally sound manner.

"These rules aim to regulate the handling, processing, and scrapping of End-of-Life Vehicles (ELVs) to ensure environmentally sound practices. The given policy is applicable to vehicle producers, registered owners, scrapping facilities, and other entities involved in the vehicle lifecycle," he said.

The rules exclude waste materials already governed by separate regulations such as batteries, plastic, and e-waste. Producers must fulfil Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) by ensuring ELVs are properly scrapped in registered facilities.

Yadav said the government is working on a second policy to promote EVs. "To bring the sector on track with the 2070 Net Zero goal, this share needs to reach 50%," he added.

Decoded: India's new rules for ELVs

India has introduced comprehensive regulations for managing end-of-life vehicles (ELVs) with an aim to reduce pollution. Here's what you need to know:

WHAT ARE THE NEW RULES?
Announced on **January 6,** the Environment Protection (End-of-Life Vehicles) Rules, 2025 **will take effect from April 1, 2025** and introduce an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) framework, primarily focused on steel recycling from scrapped vehicles.

IMPLEMENTATION TIME
Announced: January 6, 2025
Effective: April 1, 2025
Annual reporting cycle begins: June 30, 2026

RESPONSIBILITIES FOR KEY STAKEHOLDERS

For manufacturers (producers):
- Must register with the Central Board and meet specific scrapping targets
- Required to establish collection centres and maintain documented networks
- Can fulfil EPR obligations through own facilities or via certificates
- Submit annual returns by June 30, declare EPR obligations by April 30

Vehicle owners:
- Must deposit end-of-life vehicles within 180 days at authorised facilities
- Cannot retain ELVs beyond the mandated period
- Required to ensure vehicles undergo mandatory fitness testing

Scrapping facilities will:
- Handle depollution, dismantling, and material segregation
- Send materials to authorised recyclers
- Generate EPR certificates based on steel recovery
- File quarterly returns

WHAT MAKES A VEHICLE 'END-OF-LIFE'?
Vehicles are classified as ELV if they:
1. No longer hold valid registration
2. Fail automated fitness tests
3. Face registration cancellation
4. Are self-declared waste by registered owners

Applies to:
- All motor vehicles
- Electric vehicles
- Battery-operated vehicles
- E-rickshaws and e-carts

WHY THE RULES ARE KEY
- The regulations come as Indian cities grapple with severe air pollution. Recent studies indicate vehicles contribute 17% of Delhi's PM2.5 concentrations, highlighting the environmental significance of proper vehicle disposal.
- The regulations mark India's first comprehensive attempt to manage vehicle disposal through a market-based mechanism, potentially creating a structured ecosystem for vehicle recycling while addressing environmental concerns.

The minister highlighted two flagship programmes supporting road transport electrification: "The Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles (FAME) scheme, which provides purchase incentives and charging infrastructure support until 20, and the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes that provide incentives for manufacturing in different sectors," he told the conference co-organised by Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM).

India has allocated ₹10,000 crore for FAME II. Yadav invited SIAM to join the Green Credit Scheme, which incentivises voluntary plantation activities and measures to reduce carbon footprint.

"The auto industry has much to contribute and much to gain from participating in this initiative. By 2050, the circularity of India's manufacturing systems could provide $624 billion in value annually for the country's economy. SIAM must demand circularity in vehicle manufacturing and convey to buyers why it is important," he said.

Under the new rules, producers failing to comply with environmentally sound handling and scrapping of ELVs will be liable to pay environmental compensation equal to the damage caused, as per Central Board guidelines.

Go First fails to take off, NCLT orders liquidation

Krishna Yadav & Daanish Anand
krishna.yadav@livemint.com

NEW DELHI: The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) ordered the liquidation of debt-laden Go First on Monday, bringing to an end a 20-month-long insolvency process after the grounded budget carrier failed to get any viable resolution plan.

Go First, which had initiated a voluntary insolvency resolution process in May 2023, had a 6.9% share in India's domestic aviation market. However, its assets were effectively wiped out and revival became a distant possibility after the Delhi High Court allowed the budget airline's lessors to repossess its fleet of 54 planes.

The airline owes around ₹6,200 crore to creditors, with significant claims from Central Bank of India (₹1,934 crore), Bank of Baroda (₹1,744 crore), and IDBI Bank (₹75 crore), besides claims from vendors and travel agents. Liquidation is the process of shutting down a business or a company and selling its assets to pay its creditors and shareholders in order of priority.

While Go First is the second major airline to go bust in the past six years, along with Jet Airways, the development is not likely to dampen growth prospects for the aviation sector as its growth story remains intact led by robust domestic demand and expansion by the likes of Air India, IndiGo, and Akasa. Indian airlines have placed orders for over 1,500 aircraft, as demand for air travel is set to soar in the world's fifth largest economy.

The airline owes around ₹6,200 crore to creditors. MINT

Experts believe the government must ensure the business environment for the sector is healthy, with ATF (aviation turbine fuel) brought under GST purview. CEO of Avialaz Consultants Sanjay Lazar told Mint: "The closure of Go First has put a slight dampener on the aviation market in India, which has become a duopoly. However, there is ample interest from foreign investors in the aviation sector, given necessary protections. There should be a more amiable environment for airlines that can then flourish and pass on the benefits to passengers."

Lazar said India is a huge aviation market and there is still great opportunity for at least one more full-service carrier (FSC) and two ultra-low-cost carriers. "The government must bring ATF under a uniform GST and rationalize taxes and levies for airlines. The approval by the Union cabinet of the 'Protection and Enforcement of Interests in Aircraft Objects Bill, 2024' will add a lot of comfort to foreign lessors and investors, as it aims to enforce provisions of the Cape Town Convention."

ATF, considered a variant of kerosene, accounts for about 40% of an airline's operational cost. It is currently subject to a variety of state and central government levies, including excise duty and value-added tax, raising the fuel's price.

Levying a uniform GST is expected to bring down the price by eliminating cascading taxes.

GOVT SELECTS 24 COMPANIES FOR ₹3,516-CRORE WHITE GOODS PLI

Dhirendra Kumar
dhirendra.kumar@livemint.com

NEW DELHI: The commerce ministry's Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has selected 24 companies in the third round of the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for white goods, with a total investment commitment of ₹3,516 crore. This includes ₹2,299 crore from 18 new applicants and an additional ₹1,217 crore from six existing beneficiaries, the ministry said in a press statement.

Those selected include Hindalco Industries Ltd, LG Electronics India Pvt. Ltd, Voltas Ltd and Blue Star Climatech Ltd, which committed a combined additional investment of ₹1,173 crore.

Fifteen air-conditioner component manufacturers will invest ₹3,260 crore, while nine companies producing LED light components will contribute ₹256 crore.

The scheme aims to strengthen India's manufacturing ecosystem by supporting the domestic production of key components such as compressors, copper tubes and brushless DC electric (BLDC) motors for ACs, along with LED chips, drivers, and packaging for lights.

Turf questions in CCI's Meta order

Gireesh Chandra Prasad
gireesh.p@livemint.com

NEW DELHI: A Competition Commission of India (CCI) order against Meta Platforms Inc. in November over its messaging application WhatsApp's 2021 privacy policy update has revived questions of overlapping jurisdictions between sectoral regulators and CCI, two persons said about the development said.

The competition watchdog imposed a ₹213 crore penalty on Meta for allegedly abusing its dominant position and prohibited WhatsApp from sharing user data collected on its platform with other Meta companies or products for advertising purposes for five years. The order, however, is in conflict with the Digital Personal Data Protection Act of 2023 and the draft rules to implement the law released by the ministry of electronics and information technology (Meity) on 3 January. The rules allow processing of digital personal data of individuals with informed consent, the persons said, requesting anonymity. The new law entrusts the Data Protection Board of India—to be set up by the government—with overseeing legitimate use of personal data based on consent.

CCI HAD IMPOSED A ₹213 CRORE PENALTY ON META FOR ALLEGEDLY ABUSING ITS DOMINANT POSITION

"CCI's order on Meta Platforms prohibiting data sharing by WhatsApp for five years signals CCI's role as a guardian of personal data. It goes against the individual's sovereignty over data and small and medium businesses' ability to go for targeted advertising on the basis of such data," the person cited above said.

Meta's appeal against the CCI order is currently pending in the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal. As per the CCI order, the company has time till mid-February—three months from the date of order—to comply with its directions on specific data-related practices. Stopping data sharing among group entities could impact Facebook's advertisement business and small businesses' ability to target advertisements, the second person said.

Govt eyes pvt play in onion logistics

Dhirendra Kumar
dhirendra.kumar@livemint.com

NEW DELHI: Steep prices, rotting stocks and cartel concerns—The heartburn that comes with onion harvests every year may become a thing of the past, with the government looking to sign up private firms for efficient storage and transport of the kitchen staple to supplement its own buffer stocks. Selected companies will source and store onions from hubs in Maharashtra, Karnataka and MP at a pre-agreed price, to be delivered across the country when needed, a person aware of the plans said on the condition of anonymity.

India maintains buffer stocks to stabilize prices of onion, a kitchen bulb prone to volatile prices since a quarter of the produce is lost after harvest. Currently, the stocks are maintained at warehouses run by national agriculture cooperatives.

"The preparation of the terms and conditions for the tender document is nearing completion and will be released soon. Under the tender, the responsibility for the transportation and storage of onions will rest with the selected private entity. Any failure to fulfill these obligations will result in the forfeiture of their security deposit and blacklisting from future contracts," a second person aware of the plans said on the condition of anonymity.

Onion prices have posed a headache for governments over the years. Prices tend to rise during August and remain high through October and November. To address this, the government begins selling onions at subsidised rates of ₹35 per kg from August or September. The government has often ordered stock limits and export curbs to ensure ample supplies.

Currently, the government's buffer stock is managed by the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India (NCCF) and the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (Nafed). Queries emailed to the consumer affairs ministry which plans to float the tender remained unanswered.

New 'oligarchy' under fire as elites descend on Davos

AFP
feedback@livemint.com

DAVOS, SWITZERLAND: A leading NGO warned Monday of an emerging "aristocratic oligarchy" with massive political clout and primed to profit from Donald Trump's presidency, as global elites descend on Davos for their annual confab.

The World Economic Forum kicks off in the Swiss Alpine resort on the same day as the presidential inauguration of Trump, who will not be in Davos but will make an online appearance later in the week.

Global charity Oxfam said in a report that Trump's election win and tax-cut plans are a boon to billionaires, whose combined wealth already grew by another $2 lakh crore last year to $15 lakh crore.

"Lakh crores are being gifted in inheritance, creating a new aristocratic oligarchy that has immense power in our politics and our economy," Oxfam said in its traditional annual pre-Davos report on the super rich.

Oxfam pointed out that Tesla and X owner Elon Musk helped to bankroll Trump's campaign. REUTERS

The organisation echoed similar language used last week by outgoing US President Joe Biden, who sounded the alarm about an extremely wealthy oligarchy that "literally threatens our entire democracy".

Oxfam pointed out that Tesla and X owner Elon Musk helped to bankroll Trump's campaign.

"The crown jewel of this oligarchy is a billionaire president, backed and bought by the world's richest man Elon Musk, running the world's largest economy," said the charity's executive director Amitabh Behar.

"We present this report as a stark wake up-call that ordinary people the world over are being crushed by the enormous wealth of a tiny few," Behar added.

The report, titled "Takers Not Makers", found that 204 new billionaires emerged last year -- almost four every week -- to bring the total to 2,769.

Total billionaire wealth grew three times faster last year than in 2023, each billionaire seeing their fortune increase by $2 million per day on average. And, according to Oxfam, five lakh croreaires could emerge in a decade.

Trump's election "gave a huge further boost to billionaire fortunes, while his policies are set to fan the flames of inequality further", Oxfam said.

In the United States "we are in a situation where you can buy a country, with the risk of weakening democracy", said the head of Oxfam France, Cecile Duflot.

Private banking booms as super-rich ranks swell

Sneha Shah
sneha.shah@livemint.com

MUMBAI: There has never been a better time than now to manage the wealth of the rich, after the parabolic rally in equities in the post-pandemic era swelled the ranks and bank balances of super-rich Indians.

Private bankers, whose job it is to manage the finances of such wealthy individuals, have mushroomed; salaries are skyrocketing as well, as they switch jobs and demand shoots through the roof.

The number of private bankers in the wealth management industry has almost doubled in the past two-three years, data compiled by Native, a homegrown headhunting firm, shows. Today, there are around 3,200 private bankers in India across metro, tier-I and tier-II cities, compared to just around 2,000 bankers two years ago, the data compiled exclusively for Mint shows.

The number of private bankers in the wealth management industry has almost doubled in the past two-three years. ISTOCKPHOTO

Compensations have kept pace too. Those earning more than ₹2 crore annually have doubled from 100 executives in 2022 to around 200 as on date, the data from Native shows.

Similarly, the number of people earning more than ₹1 crore in annual compensation has doubled from around 250 people in 2022 to 500 as on date. This effectively means every one in five private bankers earns more than ₹1 crore in annual salary today.

"Esops have long been a crucial factor in attracting private bankers. Following the successful listings of firms like 360 One WAM, Nuvama, and Anand Rathi, they have become a key determinant in talent acquisition, particularly for senior-level positions," said Shujat Ali, director of private banking practice at Native.

Post-covid, the surge in capital markets has coincided with the growth of the wealth management industry, of which private bankers are a part. Even as the Nifty has grown more than 206% till date from the panic low of March 2020, the wealth management industry in India has grown at an annual compounded rate of around 18-20% over the same period.

Today, the industry's assets under management (AUM) stands at more than $750 billion, according to new reports. It is projected to climb to more than $2 lakh crore over the next decade, thus becoming the fastest growing segment in the financial services industry.

"The next decade is going to be a golden era for the wealth management industry, where a significant amount of wealth creation will happen across all segments of the society, from retail clients to the ultra HNI clients," said Raghav Gupta, joint CEO of IIFL Capital.

Gupta added that the wealth management industry is likely to grow exponentially driven by the addition of high-net-worth individuals (HNIs). "The annual likely growth is minimum 20% over the next decade," he said.

According to the Hurun India Rich List 2024, India saw one new billionaire every five days in the past year, as reported by Mint last August. "India is emerging as Asia's wealth creation engine," Anas Rahman Junaid, founder and chief researcher at Hurun India, said. "While China saw a 25% decline in its number of billionaires, India experienced a 29% increase, reaching a record 334 billionaires." The cumulative wealth of these billionaires is an eye-popping ₹159 lakh crore.

To capitalise on the rising number of ultra-high-net-worth individuals (UHNIs) and HNIs, several new wealth management startups have come up in the past 12-24 months.

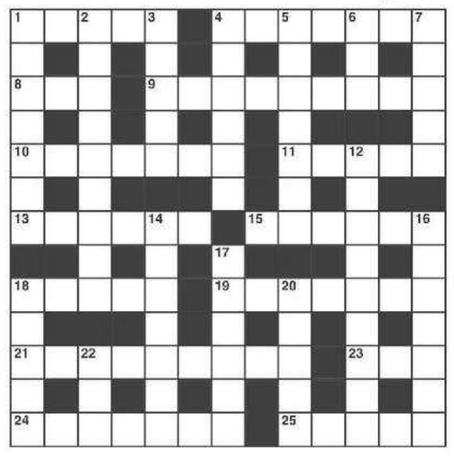
{ THE CROSSWORDS }

CRYPTIC CLUES

ACROSS
1 Dad's brother Sam is in the US (5)
4 Habit of weapon-carrying chap? (7)
8 It's by way of being an extract of caviare (3)
9 Uninterrupted flow of traffic (4,5)
10 Aims to show where campers are to be found? (7)
11 Hot places out of the shade (5)
13 Fights for leftovers (6)
15 Sorted out and put away (6)
18 Took a ride round the Wild West show (5)
19 Hide article in play (7)
21 Not in front of the supporters (9)
23 Operate in succession (3)
24 Seldom will it stop to put thought into words (7)
25 Name of a good man the first mate is after (5)

DOWN
1 Discloses one in France lives wildly (7)
2 Three-card trick has been given a licence (9)
3 Puckish - that's the Spanish and French conclusion (5)
4 Agrees to change gun ammunition (6)
5 Idle chatter has teeth on edge (7)
6 Are in the ascendant for a time (3)
7 People that pull strings to get ranks? (5)
12 Little known competitor like Black Beauty? (4,5)
14 Suggest you give somebody a ring (7)
16 Put out of mind (7)
17 They fight with one another (6)
18 It may be trained to kill (5)
20 A brief for example is for the defence (5)
22 Comfortable place to sit and have a drink (3)

PUZZLE 17075 © Gemini Crosswords 2018 All rights reserved



QUICK CLUES

ACROSS
1 Persian Gulf sheikhdom (5)
4 Pertinent (7)
8 In favour of (3)
9 Pen-name (9)
10 Excess over requirements (7)
11 Seek to influence (5)
13 Be a symbol of (6)
15 Wobble (6)
18 18th century Austrian composer (5)
19 Definitely stated (7)
21 Book's jacket (4,5)
23 Cancelled (3)
24 White Siberian breed of dog (7)
25 Country bumpkin (5)

DOWN
1 Lay down (7)
2 Branch of literature (9)
3 Drive forward (5)
4 Gladden (6)
5 Give free rein to (7)
6 Yellowish-brown (3)
7 Mock-up of proposed book (5)
12 Strictly according to rule (2,3,4)
14 Over-particular (7)
16 Soothing (7)
17 Ardent (6)
18 Hell (5)
20 Ward off (5)
22 Arithmetical problem (3)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS (17074)

CRYPTIC

		S	T	A	B	L	E	D	O	O	R			
		O		R		M		U		I		P		
I	N	U	R	E		P	O	T	E	N	C	E		
N		R		S		I		D		S		N		
P	A	I	N	T	E	R		O	B	E	S	E		
R		S				E		O				T		
A	S	T	U	T	E		G	R	O	C	E	R		
C				O		S				O		A		
T	A	P	E	D		L	E	V	E	R	E	T		
I		A		D		I		I		T		E		
C	O	W	S	L	I	P		S	P	E	E	D		
E		N		E		U		T		G				
		S	C	R	A	P	P	A	P	E	R			

QUICK

		S	A	N	T	A	M	A	R	I	A			
		N		E		E		I		B		E		
S	W	O	R	N		D	O	S	S	I	E	R		
H		T		S		L		I		D		I		
A	C	H	I	E	V	E		B	L	E	A	K		
C		E				Y		L				T		
K	A	R	A	T	E		F	E	T	I	S	H		
L				U		O				N		E		
E	L	G	A	R		P	A	N	T	H	E	R		
T		O		M		P		O		U		E		
O	R	I	N	O	C	O		T	I	M	I	D		
N		N		I		S		C		A				
		G	O	L	D	E	N	H	I	N	D			

{ SUDOKU }

DIFFICULTY LEVEL ★★★★

			1					6
5	8						9	
				5		1		2
	5	4		7				
		6	3		8	5		
				1		4	2	
9		3		8				
	2						6	7
6					1			

Fill in all the squares in the grid so that each row, column and each of the 9X9 squares contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

{ WEATHER }

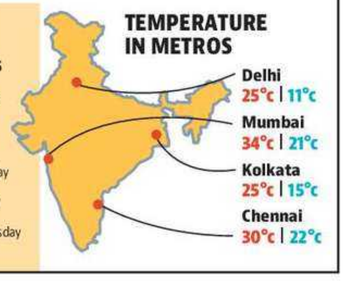
TEMPERATURE ■HIGH ■LOW

TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Moderate fog	Thunderstorm with rain	Generally cloudy sky with light rain
25°c | 11°c	22°c | 11°c	20°c | 12°c

ALMANAC
Today is
21st January 2025
- 20 Rajab, 1446
- 07 Magha, Krishna Paksha, 07
- Samvat 2081

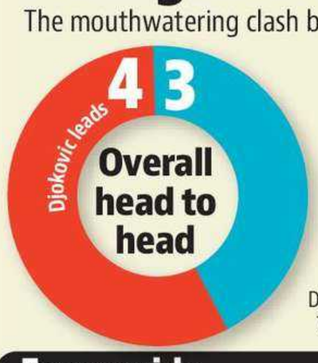
Sunset: Tuesday at 05:51 pm
Sunrise: Wednesday at 07:13 a.m.
Moonset: Tuesday at 11:20 a.m.
Moonrise: Wednesday at 12:41 a.m.

TEMPERATURE IN METROS



Paris gold rematch for Melbourne quarter-finals

The mouthwatering clash between the Olympic finalists that everyone anticipated is finally here



In 2024

Paris Olympics final: Djokovic won 7-6(3), 7-6(2)

Wimbledon final: Alcaraz won 6-2, 6-2, 7-6(4)

On hard courts

2023 ATP Finals (indoor): Djokovic won 6-3, 6-2

2023 ATP Cincinnati Masters final: 5-7, 7-6(7), 7-6(4)

When: Tuesday (approx 3pm IST)
Schedule: Second match of the night session

Australian Open record

Djokovic		Alcaraz
20	Appearances	4
10	Titles	0
15	QF appearances	2
Semi-final	2024 result	Quarter-final
2	Sets dropped in 2025	1

Form guide

Djokovic
Djokovic had a bit of a slow start in this first two rounds, but has since picked up his level. With coach Andy Murray by his side, they will hope to crack the Alcaraz code.

Alcaraz
He's looked dialled in thus far in a tournament where he has failed to get into rhythm. He will need to be much more consistent against Djokovic. Should be fresher of the two.

Chasing history

Djokovic
The Serb is looking to become the first player ever to pocket 25 Grand Slams, and a record-extending 11th title in Australia.

Alcaraz
The 21-year-old Spaniard, who was won every other Slam, could become the youngest player to complete a career Slam.

Doing it like the greats: A special Sinner win made of guts and grit

A 6-3, 3-6, 6-2, 6-3 4th-rd win over Rune may seem like run-of-the-mill but it forced the ice-cool Italian to dig deep on Monday

Rutvick Mehta
rutvick.mehta@htlive.com

Italy's Jannik Sinner reacts beating Denmark's Holger Rune in the Australian Open in Melbourne. AFP

MUMBAI: When Jannik Sinner won the point that made him the 2024 US Open champion, he lifted both his arms, looked skyward for a couple of seconds, took a quick glance towards his box and walked up to the net. Try finding a more no-frills celebration from any 23-year-old to have won a Grand Slam.

On Monday, the moment Holger Rune's forehand drifted wide, Sinner dropped his head, grit his teeth and clenched his fist, pumping it extendedly. Try finding a more exuberant celebration from this 23-year-old ice-cool Italian.

This was no ordinary Sinner reaction. But then this was no ordinary Sinner victory. Even though a 6-3, 3-6, 6-2, 6-3 fourth-round scoreline may suggest otherwise.

Over the past one year, we're used to seeing Sinner all smooth and silky. Here he was all guts and grit. We're used to seeing Sinner sliding and sailing. Here he was huffing and puffing and, literally, shaking. We're used to seeing Sinner ascend with machine-like skill efficiency. Here he dug deep with greatness-like mental resolve.

The defending champion came out of it to deliver one of the most tenacious victories of his young career, in a match that involved multiple medical time-outs and a lengthy delay across three hours and 13 minutes on a hot Melbourne afternoon.

The world No.1 woke up knowing it would be a difficult day in the office, not just because 13th seed Rune was his toughest test yet at Melbourne Park but he was also "not there, health-wise". Speaking to the press later, Sinner did not wish to reveal what exactly the issue was, though he confirmed it wasn't injury related and that he had a "little check-up" by the doctor before heading on court. He skipped the pre-match warm-up.

"Came here as late as possible," he said. "I knew that it was going to be very, very difficult, playing against a tough opponent but also playing against myself a little bit."

Battles "against myself" are always the trickiest, and often separate the greats from the rest. They may have won thousands of matches but not every day do they turn up on court feeling like a million bucks. Sometimes they're "not there", mentally or physically.

While most others tend to throw in the towel in such times (as a matter of fact, that is, without being critical), they tend to hang in there. Roger Federer never retired mid-match on the tour. You'd bet Rafael Nadal or Novak Djokovic — after his early professional days — wouldn't be dragged off court or beaten in the mind until something unbearable bothered them. They were absolute giants in pulling off such matches.

With his fight on Monday, after a near-flawless 73-6 win-loss 2024 season in which he surged, Sinner showed that he could unlock that side when chained to adversity. That he has the mindset mirroring those greats. "I tried to stay there mentally," Sinner said.

The first set showed no visible signs of discomfort from the two-time Slam winner, who was his dominant self early doors. Through the middle of the second set, though, the Italian walked around gingerly. Something wasn't right with Sinner, and Rune did well to cash in and eke out the second set.

The defending champion was struggling physically yet combating mentally. The point at 1-1, 30-40 on the Sinner serve best reflected that. Rune threw everything at him: crushing forehands, backhand slices, drops, lobs, overhead. Sinner came up with an answer to everything. Running, stretching, prolonging, surviving. And finally, as Sinner smacked a forehand drive volley off the 37th shot, both players crouched placing their hands on knees and gasping for breath. Only one man wasn't broken, in that point or that game.

"If he breaks me early, game-changer, you know," Sinner said.

Sinner got the key hold, but was falling apart a bit physically in that third set. Head hidden behind the towel, his hands were trembling and body shaking at one of the changeovers. "Was a bit dizzy at times," Sinner said. He was attended to on court, and soon taken away for a lengthy medical timeout in which he was given "little medication".

The Italian quickly felt a lot better. "The face looked better, the colour was a little bit back". Rune, however, suddenly went off-colour. A poor eighth game comprising hit-me slices and freebie double fault gifted the world No.1 the break and the set. From Sinner's viewpoint, it helped that Rune wasn't looking 100% himself (he too took a medical timeout) while also littering errors. What also helped him was a 21-minute pause due to a net screw coming off early in the fourth set.

"Big, big luck to me," Sinner said.

He may have ridden that luck by coming out and getting the break in the third game, yet Sinner wouldn't stop running around to fetch balls even late into the contest. At love-15 serving for the match, Sinner sprinted across to his right for a forehand taken fully stretched close to his ankle, and then rushed to the net to get the drop.

Sinner won that point and the match. With a frail body but a fighting spirit.

AUSTRALIA OPEN SNIPPETS

WADA WON'T APPEAL SWIATEK DOPING CASE

Five-time tennis major champion Iga Swiatek said she had "closure" after the World Anti-Doping Agency announced Monday it will not appeal to sport's highest court in her doping case. The world number two, currently in action at the Australian Open, late last year accepted a one-month ban after testing positive for a banned substance. The 23-year-old Pole had pulled out of the WTA's Asian swing in September-October citing "personal matters". Only later was it revealed that she had been absent because of a one-month ban for testing positive for the banned heart drug trimetazidine (TMZ). She has consistently denied knowingly doping, saying it came from contaminated non-prescription medication.

WILL REMEMBER SURREAL OPEN: TIEN

Teenage qualifier Learner Tien said Monday his debut Australian Open had been "surreal" and he would remember it for the rest of his career. The 19-year-old became the youngest man to reach the last 16 in Melbourne since Rafael Nadal in 2005, stunning fifth seed Daniil Medvedev, last year's finalist, along the way. The American's run came to an end at the hands of Italian Lorenzo Sonego in four sets on Monday. "I came here not really having any expectations," he said after a 6-3, 6-2, 3-6, 6-1 defeat in which he was hampered by a leg injury with his body "a bit broken". "To have the run that I did is surreal, and honestly, probably a few weeks that I'll remember for the rest of my career." Tien was one of a trio of teens who upset top-10 players in Melbourne, alongside Brazil's Joao Fonseca and Jakub Mensik.

DJOKOVIC ACCEPTS CHANNEL 9 APOLOGY

A leading TV presenter apologised on air Monday to Novak Djokovic after mocking the 24-time Slam winner and Serbian fans, with Elon Musk and PM Anthony Albanese among those wading into the row. Djokovic refused to do a routine on-court interview after beating Jiri Lehecka. "It's way better just to talk to the public directly than go through the negativity filter of legacy media," Musk posted in response, with Djokovic replying: "Indeed." Boris Becker, Australian Nick Kyrgios, Jannik Sinner's coach Darren Cahill and Grand Slam champion Victoria Azarenka all spoke out in support of Djokovic.

RESULTS: FOURTH ROUND

MEN'S SINGLES

Jannik Sinner (ITA x1) bt Holger Rune (DEN x13) 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 6-2

Alex De Minaur (AUS x8) bt Alex Michelsen (USA) 6-0, 7-6 (7/5), 6-3

Ben Shelton (USA x21) bt Gael Monfils (FRA) 7-6 (7/3), 6-7 (3/7), 7-6 (7/2), 1-0 ret

Lorenzo Sonego (ITA) bt Learner Tien (USA) 6-3, 6-2, 3-6, 6-1

WOMEN'S SINGLES

Madison Keys (USA x19) bt Elena Rybakina (KAZ x6) 6-3, 1-6, 6-3

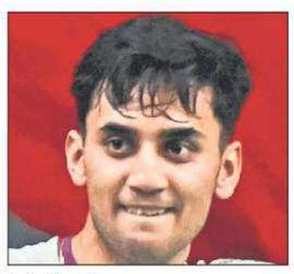
Elina Svitolina (UKR x28) bt Veronika Kudermetova (RUS) 6-4, 6-1

Emma Navarro (USA x8) bt Daria Kasatkina (RUS x9) 6-4, 5-7, 7-5

Iga Swiatek (POL x2) bt Eva Lys (GER) 6-0, 6-1

Lakshya needs to find ways to get over the line: Vimal

Sandip Sikdar
sandip.sikdar@htlive.com



Lakshya Sen. PTI

NEW DELHI: After losing the India Open first round to Lin Chun-Yi of Chinese Taipei last week, Lakshya Sen had said that it "just wasn't his day". The worrying matter is that India's top men's singles shuttler hasn't had many 'good days' since the Olympic Games.

Since Paris, the world No.12 has played in seven tournaments but only reached the quarters twice. At the China Masters in November he entered the quarters. Though he broke a 17-month title drought by winning the Syed Modi last month, it is important to note that Sen barely faced any top-level competition.

"Post the Olympics, he's lost some close matches which he should've won, something very similar to what happened at the Olympics," said Sen's coach U Vimal Kumar. "He needs to overcome how to deal with it. We have talked to him enough. He also knows but has to apply himself. It's in his hands, how the thought process happens and how he deals with it."

Sen came close to medalling at the Olympics when he almost beat eventual champion Viktor Axelsen in the semis. He had another chance in the bronze playoff when he was again ahead of Lee Zii Jia, but another meltdown helped the Malaysian grab the medal.

Sen's team at the Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy (PPBA) have discussed with him to 'get physically better' so that the 23-year-old is confident about his body in all conditions.

Sen is also regularly in touch with his mental health expert Gayatri Vartak, a former India shuttler, having also worked with Paddy Upton before the Olympics. "Malaysia Open (Round 1 loss) was a disappointment. He played without any interest. We had a talk with him. I told him that at your level you cannot afford to do that," said Vimal. "I told him when things go wrong, don't get disheartened, just stick in there, keep at it, it will happen, because you're good and have the experience, that you've dealt with such situations in the past also like in the beginning of last year."

Sen was undergoing an extremely poor phase at the end of 2023 and early 2024 when he almost fell out of the Race to Paris. "This is also similar. I told him after the Olympics that the heartbreak he had, he'll only be able to get rid by winning a big event, either the All England or World Championships which he's capable of," added Vimal.

With the burden of qualifying for the Olympics not there, Sen has a strong chance to returning to top form like he did in 2022 when he won the Commonwealth Games and India Open apart from reaching the finals of All England and German Open.

"That is what Lakshya has to do now. He is in good physical shape and has trained well. The more matches he plays, the better he starts playing. But to get that he has to get past (early) rounds," said Vimal.

INDIA SET TO HOST 2025 FIDE WORLD CUP FROM OCT 31

Susan Ninan
susan.ninan@hindustantimes.com

BENGALURU: India is all set to host possibly the most important chess tournament of the year, the Fide World Cup. While an official announcement is still awaited, it is understood that India has been virtually confirmed as the host for the flagship Fide event, which is scheduled to take place from October 31 to November 27, 2025.

The World Cup will be significant, as it will offer the top three finishers a spot in the 2026 Candidates tournament. The eight-player Candidates will determine who will face D Gukesh in the 2026 World Championship match. Top Indian players, such as Arjun Erigaisi and R Praggnanandhaa, will undoubtedly be eyeing a spot in the Candidates and the prospect of an all-Indian World Championship match next year cannot be ruled out.

While the venue for the knockout tournament is yet to be named, it wouldn't be surprising if Delhi or Mumbai were chosen to host the event, given their direct connectivity to international locations and the large number of players expected to arrive from around the world. The October-November schedule might raise concerns about smog, should Delhi be selected.

It's crazy, almost surreal: Karun Nair on Vijay Hazare run with bat

Samreen Razzaqui
samreen.razzaqui@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Karun Nair has reminded the cricketing world of his hunger for runs with a record-breaking Vijay Hazare Trophy campaign. It was a campaign mammoth enough to propel Vidarbha into the final and even get Sachin Tendulkar to take note of his performances.

"It feels very satisfying and I'm proud of myself. Vidarbha couldn't go all the way, which would have been icing on the cake," Nair told HT. "But individually, I am very happy with how I'm batting. I would like to keep going this way and score a mountain of runs."

Nair was averaging a whopping 752 before his dream run ended against Karnataka. Nair sits pretty at the top of the scorers list with 779 runs in eight innings at an average of 389.50. Before his dismissal for 112 against Uttar Pradesh, Nair had also set a new List A record of scoring 542 runs without being dismissed. He scored five centuries in eight innings.

"The games were coming so thick and fast that I didn't get too much time to think about all these things," the 33-year-old said. "But I would be lying if I said it didn't cross my mind. It did. Whenever I got a hundred, I used to think 'Oh my God, what's happening!?' It was crazy, almost surreal. Something I have not experienced before but something that I'll keep very close to myself."

The ton against Rajasthan in the quarter finals, however, was his personal favourite considering it came against a quality bowling attack comprising the likes of Deepak Chahar, Khaleel Ahmed, Aniket Choudhary and Manav Suthar. Nair had started strong since the first match against J&K but he had to make sure he did not burn bright but burn out after that. To reset and repeat the same feat against different oppositions and varying bowling attacks was vital.

"When you start the tournament well, it's important to keep that going so I would tell myself that every day is a new game and you need to start from zero."

Once celebrated for his historic triple century in Test cricket, Nair has quietly gone about rebuilding his career. Prioritising his fitness, having the self-belief and a solid support system through it all has ensured that the motivation stays unmoved. Nair first spent the English summer with Northamptonshire, scoring 487 runs in 11 innings, including an unbeaten 202. Nair's stellar domestic campaign was culminating in the background of the lead-up to the selection of India's Champions Trophy squad. While the Vidarbha captain piled on the runs, social media and former cricketers piled on the pressure to include Nair.

He missed out but donning the India jersey again is a dream that continues to inspire him. "The possibility of an India comeback has to be on your mind. There are these thoughts and dreams in the head but that's just motivation."

Nair is far from done this year. The Ranji challenge awaits. In a couple of months, Nair will also be seen at a new IPL home at Delhi Capitals after having gone unsold at the previous auction.

"The mindset comes from the hunger to keep getting better every day when I go out to play. To not be happy with what you've done in the past to keep looking forward to doing better in the future."

Pant's leadership skills given a fresh vote of confidence at LSG

Dhiman Sarkar
dhiman.sarkar@htlive.com

Rishabh Pant at an event where he was named captain of the Lucknow Super Giants. PTI

KOLKATA: In the time of one team, one bus, Rishabh Pant arrived over one hour late. But this being in the exclusive – and expensive – bubble that is the Indian Premier League (IPL), India team rules do not apply. And because the franchise cricket universe makes many demands on a top player, Pant alone may not have been responsible for his timing being so, well, off.

Sanjiv Goenka apologised for the delay but well before he introduced Pant as the new captain to the media, a comment attributed to the owner of the Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) on how the explosive wicketkeeper-batter could be among the best leaders in IPL was available on X. That LSG would name Pant captain was expected after they spent an IPL record ₹27 crore, nearly 14 times his base price, to win a bidding war that, including a right-to-match offer, involved four teams. Monday's event was merely for confirmation.

"We start with new aspirations, new hope and, most importantly, new confidence," said Goenka before presenting Pant his LSG shirt. Cue, cameras and mobile phones kicking into overdrive with the request that owner and skipper face them which meant the duo having to look left, right and centre. Thanking the management for "showing the faith", Pant, 27, promised to give "200%". Looking forward to a new beginning with new energy, he said. "Have a blast out there."

LSG mentor Zaheer Khan said Pant looks "at the game differently" and it is "commendable" that he inspires a "new style of play". Khan promised fearless and exciting cricket and said the team would be one to look up to in the coming years.

Pant will need to amalgamate everything the former India fast bowling great said if he and LSG are to win their first IPL. LSG have been in the Eliminators twice but not made the final, and Pant has been a losing finalist with Delhi Capitals. "We haven't been where we want to be," he said. With a squad that he said has a mix of youth and experience, Pant said he was hopeful this collaboration would change that.

Captaincy, Brendon McCullum has said, come with a certain amount of criticism. "Some people don't like Mother Teresa as well," according to the England coach. Pant knows this because he has been in IPL since 2016 and captaincy is not new to him. But if the job at Delhi Capitals came by chance after Shreyas Iyer was injured in 2021, this is by design.

Which could mean greater responsibility. How will it sit on the man known for making the audacious look ordinary but one whose shot selection in Australia copped a fair amount of criticism?

Also, for the batter who doesn't blink playing a falling scoop to Pat Cummins and a reverse scoop to Jimmy Anderson in the red-ball game, Pant has not been able to reproduce the strike rate of 173.6 in IPL 2018 which fetched him 684 runs, including an unbeaten 128 and five half-centuries. His strike rate since 2021 has been 128.52, 151.79 and 155.40 respectively.

Pant top-scored for Delhi Capitals aggregating 446 runs last term but it wasn't enough for them to make the play-off stage. When the flamboyant left-handed batter was addressing the media, India were training at Eden Gardens, around 6km away, for a T20 series against England for which Pant has not been considered.

So, will his approach be any different this time? "I know this is a new beginning for me...But the ideology of captaining a side doesn't change for me," said Pant.

Included in that is what Pant said he learnt from Rohit Sharma. "With Rohit *bhai*, I have learned how to care for a player. And I feel the same when I captain a side," he said. "I feel if you give confidence and trust to a player, he will do things which you can't even imagine for you and for the team. And that's the kind of ideology we like to have." That and a never-say-die attitude, he said.

Sharma is proof that a successful IPL captain can lead India. Hardik Pandya is another. In a television interview on Monday, Goenka said Pant was born to lead. "Surely Rishabh Pant will play for at least 14-15 years for us, we hope at least five IPL titles in these years." Call it coincidence or what you will but five is the number of IPL titles Sharma has.

"We have all the ingredients," said Goenka at the press conference. "We have a great captain, a good team, a good mentor and a good coach (Justin Langer)."

It was the kind of vibe expected at an event like this. The cricket begins here on March 21, and as Richie Benaud has said, the backslappers tend to fade away when performance dips. For that to not happen, for the brand to grow as Khan said he hoped it would, Pant will need the 90% luck Benaud lists as a vital ingredient for captaincy. The 10% skill, LSG are sure Pant has.

> ...The ideology of captaining a side doesn't change for me. With Rohit *bhai*, I have learned how to care for a player. And I feel the same when I captain a side
>
> **RISHABH PANT,** Lucknow Super Giants captain

Kohli set to play Ranji after 12 years

HT Correspondent
sportsdesk@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Virat Kohli is set to play his first Ranji Trophy game since 2012 after making himself available for Delhi's tie against Railways scheduled from January 30.

Kohli could not make it for Delhi's upcoming away clash against Saurashtra, beginning in Rajkot on January 23, due to a neck sprain but DDCA president Rohan Jaitley confirmed that Kohli would be available for the next round, the team's last league match of the Ranji Trophy against Railways.

The BCCI has made playing domestic cricket mandatory for its contracted cricketers unless there is a fitness issue following the series loss in Australia earlier this month. Kohli last played a Ranji match in November 2012 when Delhi took on UP in Ghaziabad.

Axar hopes the numbers start adding up for him

Somshuvra Laha
somshuvra.laha@htlive.com

Axar Patel. AFP

KOLKATA: Axar Patel wasn't on the flight to Australia last November. He is the vice-captain for the T20Is series. Not all decisions make sense, but Patel is still here. And now that Indian cricket is going through an inevitable transition, this may be the most opportune time for him to establish himself as an all-format indispensable.

There have been many occasions over the last few years — at home mostly — when Patel was called upon as the backup for Ravindra Jadeja. Like-for-like, many have pointed out, but more a triumph of skills if you go through Patel's career graph, especially in the 2021-22 Test season where he had bagged five five-wicket hauls.

Similar batting averages, but a better bowling strike rate than Jadeja suggests Patel is more than ready to take over whenever the slow left-arm bowling slot is vacated in red-ball cricket.

Beyond that, he has already featured in the T20 World Cup final and was part of the 2023 ODI World Cup squad before an injury ruled him out. And though it could be said that India were in a bind over Patel's place in the scheme of things when Jadeja was fit and available, there was also a counter argument that the initial phase of Patel's shorter format batting had flatlined a bit.

That has changed significantly with India using Patel as a floater in their batting, a policy that has included Tilak Varma, Hardik Pandya, Rinku Singh, Nitish Reddy and Washington Sundar as well. "Batting-wise, it's not just about me; it applies to everyone in the team," said Patel here on Monday. "Right from the start of 2024, we had decided to have a fixed opening slot, and from No. 3 to No. 7, everyone has been told to be flexible based on the situation, combinations, and matchups.

"There is no fixed position where a particular batter will always play. Anyone can be used as a floater at any point. It's not just me; it's the same for everyone in that range, depending on who is having a great day, which we assess during practice. In T20 cricket, it's all about utilising the right batter in the right situation."

It has resulted in an uptick in Patel's returns—his T20I average increasing to 25.15 from 14.25 since November 2022, and the strike rate soaring to 147.96 from 132.55. In the last two years alone, Patel has hit thrice as many sixes he had to his name till the 2022 T20 World Cup.

Good returns but could be better, now that Patel's role will be more prominent in the wake of Jadeja's, T20I retirement after the 2024 final. In that backdrop, Patel's promotion as T20I vice-captain is a timely validation of his significance given the next T20 World Cup will also be hosted by India and Sri Lanka in February-March 2026.

Any gains in this series thus can only further bolster Patel's position in the shortest position. The target obviously is much bigger but Patel is not willing to be overwhelmed by its pressure. "I just keep telling myself that I have played all three formats, be it in Tests, ODIs, or T20s. My focus is simply on doing well whenever I get an opportunity, rather than feeling the need to prove anything to anyone, whether I'm picked or not," said Patel.

"I don't take the pressure of thinking that I deserve a spot. When it comes to selection or the Australia series, I think more about where I can get opportunities rather than whether I deserve a place. It's all part of a cricketer's journey. Only 15 players can be in the squad, and you can't take your place for granted. I don't think along those lines.

"Yes, a transition phase is coming, and ultimately, it's the selectors' and captain's call. I don't feel the need to prove anything to anyone. My approach is to focus on fulfilling the role assigned to me and continuously improving myself. If I perform well, my place in the team will take care of itself automatically."

Nigeria beat NZ in Women's U19 T20 WC

KUALA LUMPUR: Debutants Nigeria stunned NZ by two runs in a rain-interrupted thriller at the ICC Women's U-19 T20 World Cup. Nigeria scored 65/6. The Kiwis were 57/5, needing nine runs with one over to go in the 13-over contest. Tight bowling from pacer Lilian Udeh got them over the line with the Kiwis falling short by just two runs. Anika Todd top-scored for NZ with a 19-run effort.

Soorma HC beat Bengal Tigers 2-1

ROURKELA: JSW Soorma scored twice in the second quarter to eke out a 2-1 victory over Bengal Tigers in HIL match. Prabhjot Singh (21') and Maninder Singh (28') scored for Soorma, while Jugraj Singh's 39th minute proved to be a consolation goal for Shrachi Rarh Bengal Tigers. Prabhjot Singh was in the right place at the right time as he put JSW Soorma ahead.

Gukesh draws with Caruana in Tata Steel

WIJK AAN ZEE: D Gukesh had it easy in the third round of Tata Steel Chess as the Indian played out a draw with top seed Fabiano Caruana of the US. Gukesh thus moved to 2 points out of a possible three in the first major tournament of the year. Playing white, the Queen pawn opening was met by the Ragozine defense. Gukesh decided pretty soon that fighting for an advantage was probably not on cards.

ग्रेटर नौएडा औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण
प्लाट सं. 01, नालेज पार्क-IV, ग्रेटर नौएडा, गौतमबुद्ध नगर, उत्तर प्रदेश-201308
वेबसाइट: www.greaternoidaauthority.in ई-मेल: authority@gnida.in

पत्रांक : परियोजना/वर्क सर्किल-सीवर/2025/3376 दिनांक : 20.01.2025

ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

प्रभारी (निविदा सेल), ग्रेटर नोएडा औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण द्वारा मुख्य कार्यपालक अधिकारी, ग्रेटर नोएडा की ओर से ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या - परियोजना/वर्क सर्किल-सीवर/2025/3375 दिनांक 20.01.2025 के माध्यम से उल्लेखित क्रम सं. 1 में अंकित कार्य की ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। ई-निविदा की समस्त नियम व शर्तें ग्रेटर नोएडा प्राधिकरण की वेबसाइट : **www.greaternoidaauthority.in** पर ई-निविदा लिंक एवं ई-पोर्टल **https://etender.up.nic.in** पर उपलब्ध है। किसी परिवर्तन, संशोधन व अतिरिक्त सूचनाओं के लिए उक्त वेबसाइट देखते रहें।

क्र. सं.	कार्य का नाम/वर्क सर्किल	अनुमानित लागत
1.	RFP approval for Appointment of Consultant to do the holistic study of the water supply, Sewerage system and drainage system networks of entire Phase-1 area of GNIDA for furnishing services Master Plan cum DPR based on GNIDA Master Plan 2021 & DRAFT MASTER PLAN-2041	रु० 300.00 लाख

अतः उक्त कार्य की निविदा/आर.एफ.पी. दिनांक 03.02.2025 को सायं 5.00 बजे तक अपलोड किया जा सकता है एवं प्राप्त ई–निविदाओं की प्री–क्वालिफिकेशन दिनांक 04.02.2025 को सायं 3.00 बजे खोली जायेगी।

प्र० वरिष्ठ प्रबन्धक (निविदा सेल)

Follow Us On / OfficialGNIDA

Government of Rajasthan
Office of the Chairman, NEET PG Admission/Counseling Board-2024
SMS Medical College, Jaipur, Rajasthan
Phone: 0141-2619020
https://medicaleducation.rajasthan.gov.in/me/#/home/dptHome | www.rajpgneet2024.org
No. State PG Counseling Board/2025/ Dated: 17.01.2025

NOTIFICATION

State Medical PG Seats (M.D M.S)/Post MBBS DNB/Post MBBS Diploma Allotments-2024 (Round 3)

In continuation to earlier notification and MCC Notice No. U-12021/05/2024-MEC Dated 04.01.2025, informing about decision taken by MoHFW in consultation with NMC reducing the percentile for NEET PG 2024, the Registration and choice filling process for State PG Counseling Round-3 will commence out from 18.01.2025 as per the detailed schedule available at **www.rajpgneet2024.org**. The candidates are advised to visit the website for all details and further updates.

Dipr/c/851/2025

CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
8th Floor, Tower-B, World Trade Centre, Nauroji Nagar, New Delhi 110029
Tel: 2618 9709
सत्यमेव जयते

ENGAGEMENT OF INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT IN CERC

Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, invites applications for engagement of Individual Consultant at the level of Senior Advisor in the Engineering Division of CERC on contract.

2. Kindly visit CERC's website **www.cercind.gov.in** for detailed qualifications and experience required and other terms and conditions.
3. Interested and eligible candidates may submit their applications in the prescribed proforma therein to Deputy Chief (Admin) to the above address by **5.00 P.M., 10th February, 2025.**

(Rajiv Kumar)
Deputy Chief (Admin)

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified Male namely **Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown was found dead on 27.12.2024 from Old Rohtak Road Footpath, Near Railway Colony, Kishan Ganj, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 24A, dated 27.12.2024** has been lodged at Police Station **Gulabi Bagh, Delhi**. Physical Description of unidentified male dead body is as under:

Name: Unknown, Age: About 40-45 Years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Oval, Built: Thin, Injury Mark: The Left Leg Is Amputated, Wearing: Blue Colour T-Shirt and Blue Colour Pant.

If anyone have any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly be inform undersigned.

SHO
Police Station Gulabi Bagh, Delhi
DP/665/N/2025 **Ph.: 011-23651692, 8750871634**

SEARCH FOR MISSING

Nanshi

General Public is hereby informed that one Female **Namely: Nanshi D/o:** Munim Kumar **R/o:** H. No. A-47, Gali No. 04, Panchal Vihar, Karawal Nagar, Delhi, **Sex:** Female, **Age:** 20 Years, **Height:** 5', **Complexion:** Fair, **Built:** Thin, **Face:** Round **Wearing:** Coffee Colour T-Shirt & Lower, and Chappal in feet has been missing since 09.01.2025 from H. No. A-47, Gali No. 04, Panchal Vihar, Karawal Nagar, Delhi, from the Jurisdiction of Police Station Karawal Nagar, Delhi, In this regard **DD No. 39A Dated 12.01.2025** has been registered at **P.S.: Karawal Nagar, Delhi,** Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the Missing Female but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this Missing Female Please inform to the following.

Website : http://cbi.nic.in
E-Mail ID: cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639
DP/863/NE/2025

SHO
P.S.: Karawal Nagar, Delhi
Mobile: 9205832616, 9582529810

GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN
UDAIPUR SMART CITY LIMITED
Registered Office Address: Udaipur Smart City Limited, Udaipur, Udaipur Municipal Corporation, Town Hall, Udaipur. (Rajasthan)- 313001CIN: U75144RJ2016SGC049591

No. : USCL/2024-25/973 Date :- 17/01/2025

Udaipur Smart City Limited hereby invites individual professionals for thefollowing position under the CITIIS 2.0 projectpurely on contractual basis for 12 months and it will extendable as per the requirement of the project.

Sr. No.	Post	No. of Posts
1	Environmental & Social Safeguard Nodal Officer (ESNO)- CITIIS	01
2	Public Engagement Officer (PEO) - CITIIS	01

For all other details such as essential qualifications, eligible criteria, remuneration and other instructions, please visit the careers option in the link **https://udaipursmartcity.in**. Interested candidates should send their CV along with scanned educational and experience certificates (self-attested) on email id **usc12016@gmail.com** and also may submit your CV offline at office address mentioned above latest by 27.01.2025, 5.00 P.M. The CVs received after the said date and time shall not be considered.

Raj.Samwad/C/24/10536 **Chief Executive Officer**

SEARCH FOR MISSING

Neeraj

General Public is hereby informed that one male namely **Neeraj S/o Ram Naresh R/o** Vicky ka Makan D-4511 Gali No.4, Pooth Khurd Bawana, Delhi has been missing since 16.01.2025 at 08.30 AM from the area of P.S. Bawana, Delhi. In this regard a case vides **DD No. 33A** dated **17.01.2025** has been registered at PS. Bawana, Delhi. The description of missing male is as under :

Name : Neeraj **Father's Name** : Ram Naresh, **Age** : 24 yrs, **Height** : 5'6", **Built :** Thin, **Face :** Long, **Complexion** : Fair, **Wearing** : Black Color Sweater & Blue Color Jeans and Black Color Shoes in feet.

If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned.

Website : http://cbi.nic.in
e-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax : 011-24368639
Ph. : 011-24368638, 24368641
DP/859/ON/2025

SHO
P.S., Bawana, Delhi
Ph.: 011-27752534
7065036321

PUNJAB ROADS & BRIDGES DEVELOPMENT BOARD
SCO 61-62, PHASE-2, S.A.S. NAGAR (MOHALI)
e-Procurement Notice

The Chief Engineer & Empowered Officer, SRRDA, Punjab on behalf of Government of Punjab invites the percent rate bids in electronic tendering system regarding **"Request For Proposal (RFP) for Engagement of Project Management Unit (PMU) at SRRDA for supervising, monitoring & quality check for roads to be taken up for construction/up-gradation with CTB & Full Depth Reclamation (FDR)Technology in Punjab under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)"** from the reputed firms/consultants/companies having experience in similar nature of work.

The Date of release of invitation for Bids through e-procurement: 21.01.2025 (dd/mm/yyyy)

Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission: The bid document is available online and should be submitted online in **https://pmgsytenders.gov.in**. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have a valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities.

Last Date & Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement: 04.02.2025 (dd/mm/yyyy) upto 1500 Hours (time). For further details please log on to **https://pmgsytenders.gov.in**.

Chief Engineer
State Rural Road Development Agency
O/o Punjab Roads & Bridges Development Board
SCF 61-62, Phase-2, Sector 54, S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali)
Chandigarh, India - 160055
40965 **Tel.: +91 172 5134620, Email: srrda.punjab@punjab.gov.in**

कार्यालय श्री महाकालेश्वर मंदिर प्रबंध समिति
उज्जैन
Website : shrimahakaleshwar.com, Fax : 0734-2550144, 2550563
क्र./महा/स्टोर/2025/73 उज्जैन, दिनांक : 20.01.2025

निविदा विज्ञप्ति (खाद्यान्न सामग्री)

Tender ID : 2025_MMPSU_397212_1

श्री महाकालेश्वर मंदिर प्रबंध समिति द्वारा संचालित लड्डू प्रसाद निर्माण इकाई, नि:शुल्क अन्न क्षेत्र, नित्यभोग, वैदिक प्रशिक्षण एवं शोध संस्थान एवं अन्य आयोजित कार्यक्रमों में वर्ष 2025-26 में खाद्यान्न सामग्री (किराना) प्रदाय करने हेतु संबंधित व्यवसायियों से ई-टेण्डर के माध्यम से ऑनलाइन दरें आमंत्रित की जाती हैं :-

कार्य का नाम	:	श्री महाकालेश्वर मंदिर में खाद्यान्न (किराना) सामग्री प्रदाय करने हेतु।
कार्य की अनुमानित लागत	:	रुपये 20,00,00,000/- (बीस करोड़)
निविदा की प्रतिभूति राशि	:	रुपये 40,00,000/- (चालीस लाख)
टेण्डर डाक्यूमेन्ट की लागत	:	रुपये 5000/- (पांच हजार)

टेण्डर डाक्यूमेंट क्रय करने एवं बिड प्रस्तुत करने की दिनांक ई-टेण्डरिंग पोर्टल **https://www.mptenders.gov.in** पर देखी जा सकती है। पोर्टल में उल्लेखित दिनांक अनुसार कार्यवाही सुनिश्चित करें।

म.प्र. माध्यम/118428/2025 **प्रशासक**

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that this person (depicted in the photo) **Name:** Bhola, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** About 75 Years, **Sex**: Male, **Height:** 5 feet 9 inch, **Complexion:** Fair, **Wearing:** Black Colour Coat, Army Shirt and Gray Lower, was found at Nagar Park Near Tant Wala School, West Sagar Pur, New Delhi, then admitted in DDU Hospital on dated 10/01/2025, where he died during the treatment on dated **15.01.2025** Under area of **P.S. Sagar Pur, Delhi.**

In this regard a **DD. No.14, dated 15.01.2025**, has been Lodged at **P.S. Sagarpur, Delhi.**

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far.

If any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following.

SHO
P.S. Sagar Pur, Delhi
DP/873/SW/2025 **Ph.: 91-11-28522653, 7065036228**

M.P. MADHYA KSHETRA VIDYUT VITARAN CO. LTD.
Govt. of M.P. Undertaking
Nishtha Parisar, Bijalee Nagar, Govindpura, Bhopal-23
Phone No. : 0755-2602033-36, Fax : 2589821, 2586636

Ref. : MD/MK/04/Abgd.NIT/2941 Date : 20.01.2025

TENDER NOTICE

MPMKVVCL, Bhopal, invites following bid from Service Provider through e-tendering.

Tender specification Number	Particulars	Aproximate Tender value (Rs. Cr)	Tender Fee including GST (in Rs.)	Date of Pre-Bid meeting	Date of opening of tender
MD/MK/04/1128	Appointment of Service Provider Agency to supply Outsourced Manpower for different Operation and Maintenance works in Various Circle of MPMKVVCL, Bhopal	404.76	23600.00	29.01.2025 03:30 PM	11.02.2025 03:30 PM

Other details are available on Company website **https://portal.mpcz.in** & **https://mptenders.gov.in**
M.P. Madhyam/118421/2025 **CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (PROC.)**

Have fun with facts on Sundays
Catch the latest column of
HT TWTW
THE WEEK THAT WAS
A quiz on the week's development.
HT FIRST VOICE. LAST WORD.

MARUTI SUZUKI

THANK YOU,

Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, for gracing the Maruti Suzuki Pavilion at Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025 to witness our global EV, the e VITARA.

The e VITARA is a perfect tribute to Prime Minister's vision of "Make in India Make for the World". e VITARA which is the first Global EV model from Suzuki Motor Corporation, will be manufactured exclusively in India for the Indian customers and will also be exported to 100 countries of the world. A true symbol of India's manufacturing prowess, the e VITARA realizes Hon'ble PM's vision for the Indian automotive industry to be "fantastic" and "future ready". e VITARA is powered with our vision of 'e for me', where we are committed to providing Electric Eco-solutions for every customer. Together, we aim to pave the way for a greener, more sustainable future and showcase India's manufacturing excellence on the global stage.

Envisioning a smarter and greener India

PM at the Maruti Suzuki Pavilion, Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025

Unveil of the all-new e VITARA