



DONALD J TRUMP BACK AS 47th U.S. PRESIDENT: ‘SAVED BY GOD TO MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN’ ‘Golden Age of America begins now’

Trade to immigration, energy to gender, Trump 2.0 ushers in major policy shifts

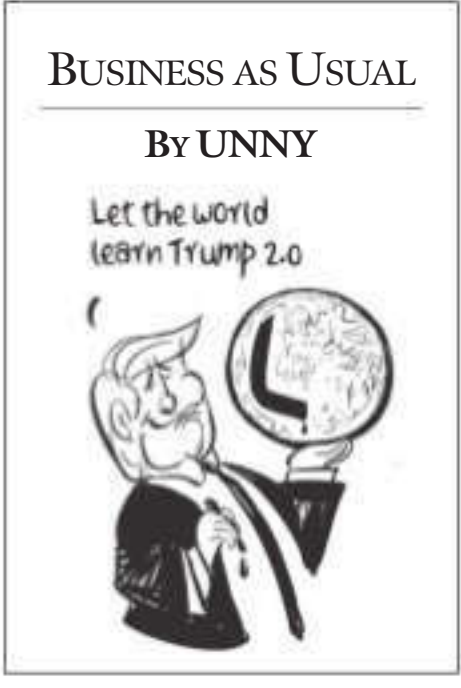
DAVID MORGAN, GABRIELLA BORTER, JEFF MASON & JOSEPH AX
WASHINGTON, JANUARY 20

DONALD TRUMP vowed to usher in a new era of American greatness, minutes after he was sworn in as the US President for the second time to complete an extraordinary political comeback following two impeachment trials, a felony conviction, two assassination attempts and an indictment for attempting to overturn his 2020 election loss.

In his inaugural address, Trump pledged to rescue America from what he described as years of betrayal and decline, prioritising a crackdown on illegal immigration and portraying himself as a national savior chosen by God. “The golden age of America begins right now,” he said.

“First, I will declare a national emergency at our southern border,” he said. “All illegal entry will be immediately halted and we will begin the process of returning millions and millions of criminal aliens back to the places from which they came.”

The speech echoed many of the themes he sounded at his first inauguration in 2017 when he spoke darkly of the “American carnage” of crime



THE WORLD



TECH BOSSES TO CELEBRITIES: THOSE WHO ATTENDED

BIDEN ISSUES PARDONS FOR FAMILY [PAGE 14](#)

and job loss that he said had ravaged the country.
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Donald J Trump speaks after being sworn as the 47th US President in the US Capitol Rotunda in Washington, DC, Monday. Reuters

Delhi’s challenge: Trump will play hardball, change rules of the game

CRAJA MOHAN
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 20

HERALDING A “thrilling new era of success”, President Donald Trump declared Monday that a “revolution of common sense” will guide his bold new effort to redirect America away from the “liberal extremism” at home and “declinist pessimism” abroad.

Trump’s inaugural speech, delivered immediately after he was sworn in as President, set the stage for what could be a hugely controversial and potentially transformational second term as American president.

Attacking America’s “corrupt establishment” that has failed to address multiple crises at home

and triggered what he called several “catastrophes” abroad, Trump promised radical departures from America’s long-standing policies on immigration and trade and more recent ones limiting free speech, promoting race and gender identities, mandating green choices on consumers.
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TRUMP’S ORDERS ON DAY 1

IMMIGRATION: National emergency at the US-Mexico border, sending troops to the southern border

ENERGY: National energy emergency, focus on development in Alaska; revoke federal mandates on EVs

GENDER: Recognise only two genders — male and female

DIVERSITY: End ‘radical and wasteful’ diversity, equity and inclusion programmes inside

the federal government

PARDONS: Issue pardons for some of those convicted/charged in connection with the 2021 Capitol riots

TARIFFS: Establish External Revenue Service to collect all tariffs, duties and revenue

CLIMATE: Withdraw from the Paris Agreement

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Look forward to working together... shape a better future: Modi

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 20

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi Monday congratulated Donald J Trump on his “historic inauguration as the 47th President of the United States” and wished him a successful term ahead.

No sooner did Trump take oath as the US President at the Capitol Hill’s rotunda than Prime Minister Modi tweeted: “I look forward to working closely together once again, to benefit both our countries, and to shape a better future for the world. Best wishes for a successful term ahead!”

While India-US relations are on a strong footing, Delhi is concerned about two specific issues — tariffs and illegal immigration — that Trump flagged in his 29-minute inaugural speech.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar was seated in the audience at Capitol Hill as the Special Envoy of the Prime Minister. This is his second visit to the US within the last 30 days; he had visited the US in the last week of December, and met the incoming Trump administration officials as part of an outreach from Delhi to Washington DC. “Privileged to represent as
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J&K statehood awaited, Omar Govt not keen on local body polls before it

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 20

WITH THE Centre giving no indication of early movement on restoring statehood for Jammu and Kashmir, sources in the Omar Abdullah government have indicated they are not keen on holding the pending local body elections without the same.

Sources said the National Conference (NC) government believes holding elections to panchayats or the District Development Councils (DDCs) would have no import if J&K remains a Union Territory. Panchayat elections in J&K have been due since January 2024, while the five-year term of the DDCs ends in a year.

“The reins of power are in Delhi. There is a multi-level command structure in the UT... Until statehood is restored, we are not in favour of holding elections to panchayats and DDCs,” a J&K government source said, also pointing out that the DDCs set up by Delhi have not been able to

RG Kar rape-murder convict gets life term; will go to HC, ask for death, says Mamata



Convict Sanjoy Roy at the Sealdah court, Monday. Partha Paul

TANUSREE BOSE
KOLKATA, JANUARY 20

A SEALDAH court on Monday sentenced Sanjoy Roy to life imprisonment “until his last breath” for the rape and murder of a junior doctor at the state-run RG Kar College and Hospital on August 9 last year, which triggered outrage and massive protests by doctors across West Bengal.

While reading out the ruling, the court of additional sessions

judge Anirban Das said it was not the “rarest of rare case”.

In her first reaction soon after the ruling, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said she “is not satisfied with the punishment”. Later, she said her government would appeal the ruling in High Court and seek the death penalty for Roy.

Roy, a 35-year-old civic volunteer with Kolkata Police, was convicted on Saturday under Sections 64 (punishment for rape), 66 (punishment for

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No ‘mystery’ disease behind Rajouri deaths, experts point to pesticide

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL & ANONNA DUTT
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 20

DAYS AFTER 17 members of three families died under mysterious circumstances in a village in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir, an initial investigation has revealed the presence of pesticide residues in a nearby “baoli” (water reservoir). It is suspected that the victims consumed water from this reservoir, sources told *The Indian Express*.

However, local authorities,
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A grave being dug for Yasmeen Kousar, the 17th victim, in Baddal village of Rajouri district, Monday. PTI

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Police probe: Saif attack accused used Bengal resident’s Aadhaar to get SIM

VIJAY KUMAR YADAV
MUMBAI, JANUARY 20

FROM CROSSING the Dawki river to enter India about seven months ago, to travelling to West Bengal where he stayed for a few weeks and used an Aadhaar card of a resident there to get a SIM card, and finally moving to Mumbai in search of a job. Based



Mohammed Shariful Islam

on his questioning, the Mumbai Police have traced the movement of Mohammed Shariful Islam alias Vijay Das (30), the Bangla-

deshi national arrested for the attack on actor Saif Ali Khan.

A preliminary probe has found that the SIM card being used by the accused was registered in the name of ‘Khukumoni Jahangir Sekh’ from West Bengal, whose Aadhaar card he is suspected to have used to procure it, police sources said. Shariful Islam is suspected to
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Uttarakhand Govt clears UCC rules, set to be rolled out after local body elections

AISWARYA RAJ
DEHRADUN, JANUARY 20

TATKAL REGISTRATION, door-to-door services in remote areas, and a state-wide mock drill on January 21 — these are some of the key provisions in Uttarakhand’s Uniform Civil Code manual of rules, which the Pushkar Singh Dhami Cabinet approved Monday. The move drew criticism from the Opposition Congress, which called it a violation of the Model Code of Conduct in place ahead of local body polls.

According to sources, the rules manual, which was approved at the Cabinet meeting convened for the purpose Monday, is expected to be announced after the election Thursday. The training of the officials is also in the final stages.

Once these are rolled out, Uttarakhand will become the first state to implement the UCC. Leaving the State Secretariat after the Cabinet meeting, Chief



CM Dhami: Will soon announce date of its enforcement

Minister Dhami said: “We had announced in 2022 that our first work will be UCC after the government is formed. The committee framed the draft and it was passed with the President’s assent. The training is in the final stages and we will soon announce the dates for the implementation... We have discussed the rules today”.

On January 13, Uttarakhand government began training its officials to help familiarise them with the UCC portal.

Officials said online portals have been developed for citizens and officials, featuring Aadhaar-based verification, AI-based translation services in 22 Indian languages, and data integration across more than 13
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In Hyderabad, an exclusive police station for lakes, land, lung spaces

PAGE 1
ANCHOR

NIKHILA HENRY
HYDERABAD, JANUARY 20

SITTING ON a plush black sofa, T Ramanaiah, 67, narrated how four acres of government land allotted two decades ago to 20 Dalit families in Hyderabad’s Kukatpally area had allegedly been usurped by land grabbers in a span of 10 years. As he handed over a petition, handwritten on a letterhead that sported a portrait of Dr B R

Ambedkar, a police inspector sitting beside him patiently noted down his complaint and said, “We will send a team to the area within two days.”

The scene was set in Hyderabad’s Buddha Bhavan, a government complex where a new, one-of-its-kind police station is coming up. The station, which will start its official functioning by the second week of February, will deal only with cases of government asset protection and disaster management. Meaning, a police station exclusively meant for the protection of lakes, parks, open lung spaces, government land and

other assets in Hyderabad.

The Indian Express took a peek into the functioning of this unique police station, which will come under direct supervision of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HY-DRAA) Commissioner A V Ranganath, even before it is allotted office space.

Ramanaiah told *The Indian Express*, “We had petitioned the revenue officials several times before turning up here. We are hopeful that the police here will give us our land back.”

Shortly after Ramanaiah’s case was heard, came another



T Ramanaiah, a petitioner, narrates his grievance to an inspector who notes down his complaint. Nikhila Henry

petitioner — KSN Reddy. A resident of the posh Saroornagar area in Hyderabad, Reddy said that about 30 acres of the Saroornagar lake had been encroached upon.

“The lake has shrunk from 90 acres to 60 acres due to illegal constructions,” Reddy, who has been living in the area for 26 years, told *The Indian Express*. “Either the buildings have to be regularised under the law or demolished for violating environmental laws.” He carried with him a map of the shrunken lake.

Reddy’s grievance, too, was noted down by a police officer of the rank of inspector.

Back inside his office, HY-DRAA Commissioner Ranganath, an IPS officer, was surrounded by a crowd of petitioners, who had come in to raise their grievances regarding similar cases of lake and land encroachments — while some wanted a quick inspection of the sites, others wanted a clear assurance of demolitions.

“Now all the cases, hundreds of them, that HYDRAA had lodged in different police stations will be transferred to this police station,” Ranganath said.

According to an order issued by the state government on January 7, the police station will be headed by an officer of the

rank of Assistant Commissioner of Police. “This will be a team of police officers who are committed to environmental protection because we are doing this for posterity — for our children,” Ranganath said.

Adjacent to Ranganath’s office, in B-Block of Buddha Bhavan, some security officers were giving last-minute instructions to carpenters who were setting up cubicles for the police station.

Another petitioner, N Venkatesh, said, “Hyderabad has dozens of lakes and *naalas* which make the city unique. It is the duty of every citizen to protect
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FROM

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FULL REPORTSON
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

‘Golden Age of America begins now’

Trump, 78, took the oath of office to “preserve, protect and defend” the US Constitution inside the US Capitol, administered by Chief Justice John Roberts. His Vice President, J D Vance, was sworn in just before him.

Trump intends to sign a raft of executive actions in his first hours as President, incoming White House officials said on Monday, including 10 focused on border security and immigration, his top priority.

In addition to declaring an emergency, the President will send armed troops there and resume a policy forcing asylum seekers to wait in Mexico for their US court dates, officials told reporters. He will also seek to end so-called birthright citizenship for US-born children whose parents lack legal status, a move some legal scholars have said would be unconstitutional.

“The journey to reclaim our republic has not been an easy one, that I can tell you,” Trump said, before referring to the assassin’s bullet that grazed his ear in July. “I was saved by God to make America great again.”

The ceremony was moved inside the Capitol due to the cold, four years after a mob of Trump supporters breached the building, a symbol of American democracy, in an unsuccessful effort to forestall Trump’s loss to Democrat Joe Biden, 82.

Biden and outgoing Vice President Kamala Harris, who lost to Trump in November, were on hand inside the Capitol’s Rotunda, along with former Presidents Barack Obama, George W Bush and Bill Clinton. Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who lost to Trump in 2016, arrived with her husband Bill, but Obama’s wife, Michelle, chose not to attend.

Numerous tech executives who have sought to curry favor with the incoming administration — including the three rich-est men in the world, Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk, Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos and Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg — had promised seats on stage, next to cabinet nominees and members of Trump’s family.

Trump, the first US President since the 19th century to win a

second term after losing the White House, has said he would pardon “on Day One” many of the more than 1,500 people charged in connection with the January 6, 2021, attack. He skipped Biden’s inauguration and has continued to claim falsely that the 2020 election he lost to Biden was rigged.

Biden, in one of his last official acts, pardoned several people whom Trump has targeted for retaliation, including former White House chief medical adviser Anthony Fauci, former Republican US Representative Liz Cheney and former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Mark Milley.

Trump will restore the federal death penalty, which Biden had suspended, and require that official US documents such as passports reflect citizens’ gender as assigned at birth, incoming administration officials told reporters. They said he will also sign an order ending diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives in the federal government on Monday, which is also Martin Luther King Jr. Day, a national hol-

iday in memory of America’s most famous civil rights leader.

But Trump will not immediately impose new tariffs on Monday, instead directing federal agencies to evaluate trade relationships with Canada, China and Mexico, a Trump official said, an unexpected development that unleashed a broad slide in the US dollar and a rally in global stock markets on a day when US financial markets are closed.

Some of the executive orders are likely to face legal challenges.

Even as he prepared to retake office, Trump continued to expand his business ventures, raising billions in market value by launching a “meme coin” crypto token over the weekend that prompted ethical and regulatory questions.

Earlier Trump and incoming first lady Melania Trump arrived at the White House, where Biden and outgoing first lady Jill Biden greeted them with handshakes.

“Welcome home,” Biden said.

Disruptive force

As he did in 2017, Trump enters office as a chaotic and dis-

ruptive force, vowing to remake the federal government and expressing deep skepticism about the US-led alliances that have shaped post-World War Two global politics.

He returns to Washington emboldened after winning the national popular vote over Harris by more than 2 million votes thanks to a groundswell of voter frustration over persistent inflation, though he still fell just short of a 50% majority. In 2016, Trump won the Electoral College — and the presidency — despite receiving nearly 3 million fewer votes than Hillary Clinton.

Trump, who surpassed Biden as the oldest president ever to be sworn into office, will enjoy Republican majorities in both chambers of Congress that have been almost entirely purged of any intra-party dissenters. His advisers have outlined plans to replace nonpartisan bureaucrats with hand-picked loyalists.

Even before taking office, Trump established a rival power center in the weeks after his election victory, meeting world leaders and causing consternation by

summits in Manila, Philippines. This was aimed at forming a coalition of like-minded countries to challenge the growing assertive behaviour of China in the Indo-Pacific region.

During his first term, Trump became the first US President to name China as a strategic threat and rival. There is an expectation that he will continue with his strategy towards China in the second term, considering that he has named China hawks as the US Secretary of State and National Security Advisor.

Secretary of State nominee Marco Rubio is known to be a China hawk. In July last year, he had introduced a Bill proposing that India be treated similarly to allies like Japan, Israel, South Korea and NATO partners in terms of technology transfers.

Rubio had said China continues to aggressively expand its domain in the Indo-Pacific region and seeks to impede the

sovereignty and autonomy of US regional partners. His Bill had said the US-India partnership is vital to countering influences from Communist China. It also advocates enhancing strategic, diplomatic, economic and military ties with New Delhi.

Mike Waltz, set to be the next NSA, is also an India supporter. He is the head of the India caucus, and has advocated strengthening US defence and security cooperation with India. He has criticised China’s trade and economic practices and has long called for reduction of American dependence on China’s manufacturing, and strengthening US technology.

The choice of key officials on foreign and national security policy is a window to the priorities of the Trump 2.0 administration. In his first administration, he had Mike Pompeo, the CIA Director who became Secretary of State, who was also tough on China.

REUTERS

● Look forward to working together... shape a better future: Modi

External Affairs Minister and Special Envoy of PM at the Swearing-In Ceremony of the 47th President of the United States of America today in Washington DC. Attended the Inauguration Day Prayer Service at St John’s Church this morning,” he tweeted Monday.

In what was described earlier in the day by aides as a “shock and awe” start to his Presidency, Trump said “all illegal entry will be immediately be halted, and we will begin the process of returning millions and millions of criminal aliens back to the places from which they came.”

While his rhetoric is aimed at those coming from Mexico to begin with, there is fear in Delhi it may include Indians too at some point who entered the US as illegal immigrants — either through Mexico in the south or the Canadian borders in the

north.

On tariffs, where India has been at the crosshairs, Trump said he will “immediately begin the overhaul of our trade system to protect American workers and families. Instead of taxing our citizens to enrich other countries, we will tariff and tax foreign countries to enrich our citizens.”

India has been the target, apart from China, EU and other countries, and it has been referred to as “tariff king” and “abuser of tariffs” by Trump in the past.

Talking up America as a country that would be “respected again all over the world”, Trump sought to cast himself as a “peacemaker”. “We will measure our success not only by the battles we win, but by the wars we end and more importantly the wars we never get into,” he said. He took credit for the release

of the hostages in the Middle East, a task achieved jointly with the Joe Biden administration. Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris both stood up and gave a standing ovation when he talked about the hostage deal between Israel and Hamas.

Trump described himself as a bulwark against a world that has been “angry, violent, and totally unpredictable.” “Our golden age has just begun,” he declared to an applauding audience, who gave him a standing ovation several times during his almost half-an-hour speech, surrounded by family, friends, tech moguls and the Washington’s new political elite of MAGA Republicans. Former Presidents Bill Clinton, George W Bush, Barack Obama were also present in the audience.

Trump, in his trademark style, also named China by

claiming that it controlled the Panama Canal — while a Hong Kong-based company manages some ports, while Panama controls the Panama Canal.

Ahead of Trump’s inauguration, the Quad became the dominant theme of Jaishankar’s meetings with Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong and Japanese Foreign Minister Takeshi Iwaya in Washington DC on Sunday. While Jaishankar referenced Quad in public articulation about both meetings, Wong described Quad as “an iron-clad commitment” and the Japanese Foreign Ministry said discussions were held on “efforts by the Quad”.

This assumes significance since Trump was instrumental in reviving the Quad grouping of India, Japan, Australia and the US in November 2017, on the sidelines of the ASEAN and East Asia

● No ‘mystery’ disease behind Rajouri deaths, experts point to pesticide

sources said, have not yet established a direct link between the contaminated water and the deaths, nor have they determined the cause of the contamination.

Sources have also confirmed that a central team, which is currently in Jammu and Kashmir and assisting the local administration, has prima facie ruled out the possibility of a “mystery disease” outbreak. This, they said, means that an outbreak caused by a virus or bacteria has been ruled out.

All the victims, including 14 children, belonged to three families from Baddal village in Rajouri district.

Sources also confirmed that the local administration has passed an order to block and seal the baoli. “There is an apprehension that the tribal population of the village may collect the flowing water of this spring stealth-

ily,” the order says.

On Saturday, Union Home Minister Amit Shah ordered the formation of an inter-ministerial team and directed them to visit the village, located about 55 km from Rajouri town, to determine the exact cause of the deaths in three incidents over the past six weeks. The team is led by officials from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and includes representatives from the ministries of Health, Agriculture, and other departments.

After reaching the village, a source said, the inter-ministerial team, along with experts from the Chemicals and Fertilizers Ministry, collected water samples from the area and found traces of pesticides during their initial examination.

“For now, the district administration has been directed to seal

the baoli and ensure that all villagers undergo medical examinations,” the source said.

However, the team has not yet reached a final conclusion linking the deaths to a neurotoxin, although it remains one of the possibilities under investigation. Neurotoxins are substances that can damage nerve tissues and disrupt the normal functioning of the nervous system.

Earlier, *The Indian Express* reported that 3,500 samples collected from the region tested negative for any viruses or bacteria. Typically, outbreaks are monitored through a network of surveillance teams across the country. These teams investigate spikes in diseases such as dengue, dysentery, food-borne hepatitis, and clusters of unexplained symptoms. The data is reported on a centralised portal, and cen-

tral teams are deployed as needed to assist states and union territories in managing outbreaks.

“A team of experts that previously investigated the deaths did not detect any bacteria or viruses in the samples. They also examined the water and food sources,” said a senior health official.

According to sources familiar with the matter, the deaths do not currently constitute a public health emergency. However, the local administration, with assistance from the central team, continues to maintain surveillance.

During outbreaks, central teams typically work with local administrations to collect samples from symptomatic individuals or those who had contact with the deceased or ill. They also enforce isolation measures to prevent the spread of disease while samples are tested.

● Police station for lakes, land

these, especially when the city is facing urban flooding during the past few years.”

The criticism against the HYDRAA police station’s operations, however, is that several people who have already been living in buildings built on encroached land have no option but to deal with demolitions which happen rather quickly. So far, Hyderabad has seen demolitions of villas, convention centres and even individual houses, which were built on lake beds. Ranganath, however, said, “Those who have usurped the land are very influential people who can fill the lakebed and construct on top of that. The police station is going to be a headache for them.”

With HYDRAA being the brainchild of CM Revanth Reddy, the police station will also be under scrutiny of Opposition parties in the state, including the BRS and BJP. HYDRAA’s powers are being used to settle political scores, both parties have alleged. The January 7 Government Order, however, clearly states: “The police station will file cases against landgrabbers, encroachers and other public property damagers...”

Summing up, petitioner Ramanaiah said, “If such a police station did not exist, we would have been doing the rounds of three police stations in Hyderabad where we have lodged land-grab complaints.”

● Uttarakhand Govt approves UCC rules

departments/services (e.g., birth/death registrations, district/high courts, etc). These portals are cloud-based and equipped with disaster recovery systems.

An official source said: “The government has set separate fees for expedited registration under the Tatkal service. The registration and termination process for live-in relationships has also been simplified. Termination applications by one partner will require confirmation from the other partner. In testamentary succession, wills can be uploaded on the portal for online registration, modification, revalidation, or revival.”

Extensive training programmes are being conducted for the effective implementation of these provisions, the source said.

“A state-wide mock drill is scheduled for January 21. Additionally, the target is to train 10,000 village development officers (VDO) under the CSC scheme by January 24, 2025. District-wise nodal officers have been appointed, and a helpline has been established to address portal-related queries. For legal queries, district-level prosecution department officers have been designated,” the source said.

Apart from the portal, the state government has authorised Common Service Centres (CSCs) to facilitate online registration. In remote and mountainous ar-

eas where internet access is limited, CSC agents will provide door-to-door services to ensure that citizens can avail of these facilities.

In rural areas, Village Panchayat Development Officers have been appointed as sub-registrars to provide registration services at the local level, ensuring easier access for rural citizens.

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

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

A five-member expert panel was formed to frame a report, led by retired judge Ranjana Prakash Desai, and based on this, the Uniform Civil Code Bill, 2024, was passed in the Assembly on February 7, 2024. The Act was notified on March 12, 2024, after assent from the President. Though the committee formed to draw up rules for implementing UCC submitted its report to the government on October 18 and the government planned to have the UCC in place before November 9, the state’s 24th

Foundation Day, this could not happen as the training of staff was not yet complete.

Meanwhile, the Uttarakhand Congress Monday wrote to the state Election Commission seeking action against the BJP for allegedly violating the MCC by approving the UCC rules in a Cabinet meeting. In a letter to the poll panel, the Congress said, “The ruling party is employing various tactics to influence voters and blatantly disregarding the Model Code of Conduct enforced in the state. In this regard, today, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, violating the Model Code of Conduct, held a cabinet meeting in Dehradun and approved the regulations for the UCC.”

The letter condemned it as an “unconstitutional move by the state government” and demanded that the Election Commission take immediate action to stop the violations.

“The Congress Party considers this a direct violation of the Model Code of Conduct and demands that such actions by the government be immediately halted and that they be directed to adhere to the Code... Pushkar Singh Dhami government convened a cabinet meeting, approved the regulations for the Uniform Civil Code, and publicised it widely in direct violation of the principles of the Model Code of Conduct in a democracy,” it said.

● Trump will change rules of game

Trump did not announce any specific tariffs on trade but reaffirmed the commitment to taxing imports to promote domestic manufacturing. He also unveiled plans to establish an External Revenue Service to complement the Internal Revenue Service that collects income taxes at home.

Trump also reversed American policies on constraining growth to protect the environment and prevent climate change. Highlighting the importance of reducing inflation, concerns about which have been at the heart of wide-ranging support he got in the elections, Trump declared that he is gutting climate controls and unleashing America’s energy production, including the drilling of the “liquid gold” under American soil.

Trump promised to rebuild the US economy, renew traditional American values, reclaim American sovereignty, regain control over borders, restore America’s global primacy, and reinvigorate American leadership in the outer space frontier, including the planet Mars.

Trump highlighted his aversion to wars abroad and promised to be a “peacemaker.” For Trump, defending America’s borders from alien invasion and securing America’s citizens from criminal gangs is more important than defending nations in distant lands. He is ready to deploy American armed forces to achieve these tasks at home rather than pursue military adventures abroad.

That does not mean Trump is willing to give up his assertive claims on the Panama Canal. Trump omitted any references to Canada and Greenland but announced plans to rename the Gulf of Mexico as ‘Gulf of America’. Contrary to widespread criticism, Trump is not an isolationist but will pick his fights carefully and decisively where he believes American interests are clear and tangible.

Much like his near magical comeback to power, Trump hopes to propel America towards the pole position in the international system. All major interlocutors of Washington — both friends and foes — must prepare to engage with an America that is quite different from the one

that they have been familiar with since the Second World War.

India, which has seen its relationship with the United States steadily rise along an upward arc over the last two decades, must now prepare to deal with a transactional Trump, who is determined to put America First.

Some policymakers in Delhi might feel Trump’s hardball realism will be easier to engage with than the liberal hypocrisy and condescension that has long marked US foreign policy. With Trump, it would seem, what you see is what you get.

Yet Delhi will have challenges ahead, especially on trade and immigration. It will have to temper its tendency to take the relationship for granted and marshal all its negotiating skills at give and take in advancing ties with an assertive Washington under Trump. Internal reform in India could be critical in dealing with the many consequences of Trump’s radical solutions to “Making America Great Again.”

In acting quickly and decisively on several complex issues, Trump is keeping his word not to waste even a moment this time around. It is also perhaps practical since he will become lame duck after the mid-term elections set for November 2026. The focus will then turn to the race for presidency in 2028 and the election of Trump’s successor.

Trump, then, is ready to go full tilt for the next two years. His speech and the decisions today suggested there is no holding back. Although sceptics, including liberals, environmentalists, and human rights activists, will denounce the talk of a “golden age,” Trump can count, at least for now, on expansive domestic support—from the corporate and tech titans, the working classes, and social conservatives. Trump also pointed to the growing support among the Black and Hispanic minorities for his agenda.

Trump has sounded the bugle for prolonged battle against liberal hegemony that has long dominated America’s domestic and foreign policy. Given its global weight, America’s internal war will inevitably envelop America’s relations with the rest of the world.

● J&K statehood awaited

get much work done for a variety of reasons, including the security situation.

Sources at the Centre said the panchayat polls were earlier delayed as the government wanted to hold them after the Assembly elections had been conducted. A commission’s report on reservation to other backward classes in the local bodies is also awaited.

However, an official said: “The Centre is keen on elections to panchayats and other local bodies. It is among the key thrusts of changes that the Centre intends to bring in J&K”

In his maiden address to the newly elected J&K Assembly in November last year, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said: “Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Local Bodies will be strengthened by conducting elections at all levels, for ensuring peoples’ participation in decision-making”

Under the J&K Panchayati Raj Act and Rules, it is the “government” which notifies the holding of elections for panchayats and DDCs in consultation with the “Election Authority”. However, there is continuing lack of clarity

on powers of the government and Raj Bhavan in J&K, in the absence of clearance of business rules by the Centre.

In Puducherry, another Union Territory with a Legislature, whose model was used as basis for the J&K Reorganisation Act, the power to recommend notification of the panchayat and local body elections lies with the elected government, which then sends it to the LG for approval. Panchayat elections in Puducherry though have not happened since 2006 because of litigation.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah often credits the Modi government with “bringing democracy” to J&K via elections, including for panchayats in 2019, giving the people “35,000 representatives” at the grassroots level, and for the DDCs in December 2020.

Shah says that by doing this, the Modi government had broken the power of “three families... who held democracy in Kashmir to ransom”, and would not allow panchayat elections.

The DDCs were envisaged to fill the political vacuum in J&K following the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019.

● Saif attack accused

have travelled across a few districts in West Bengal for a few weeks. He tried to make an Aadhaar card but failed to do so, said sources.

According to sources, Shariful Islam told the police that he had studied till Class 12 in Bangladesh, has two brothers, and came to India in search of employment. He claimed that he crossed the Dawki river, on the India-Bangladesh border in Meghalaya, to enter India. In India, he allegedly used a fake identity as Vijay Das.

After a few weeks in West Bengal, he came to Mumbai, where he chose to work at places where documents were not required. A labour contractor, Amit Pandey, helped him get house-keeping work in pubs and hotels in Worli and Thane, said sources.

During questioning, Shariful Islam first claimed he was a resident of Kolkata, police said. On going through his cellphone, police found several calls made on Bangladesh numbers. He had also used mobile apps to make calls to his family in Bangladesh, police sources said. Police then made him call his family, and he spoke to one of his brothers in

Bangladesh, from whom they got his identity documents. The documents confirmed his Bangladesh nationality.

Police sources said before entering Khan’s building, Shariful Islam made a failed attempt to enter a nearby bungalow of another Bollywood superstar. He fled after the dogs there barked at him. The attempt was captured on CCTV cameras, but the visuals are not very clear, said sources. A police officer said they have not received any complaint in this regard.

Police sources said the accused was armed with a knife and some tools when he went to Khan’s house. After fleeing from Khan’s house, he slept in a garden near a college in Bandra and also changed his clothes, said sources.

He was eventually caught hiding in the mangroves in Thane at around 2 am on Sunday — after a manhunt that involved tracking CCTV footage and an online payment he made at a food stall.

Khan was seriously injured in the break-in at his residence on January 16, between 2 am and 2.30 am. He was stabbed multiple times during an alleged failed robbery attempt.

Arms racket busted, 3 involved in Pragati tunnel robbery held

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 20

THREE MEN, who were also involved in the 2023 Pragati Maidan Tunnel robbery, have been arrested as the Delhi Police busted an interstate illegal

firearms supply network, officials said on Monday.

An official said that police have recovered five semi-automatic pistols, six country-made pistols, and 28 live cartridges from the accused.

Raja Banthia, Deputy Commissioner of Police (North

Delhi), on Monday informed that the Special Staff, under the supervision of its in charge, inspector Rohit Saraswat and ACP (Operations Cell) Anil Kumar, arrested Kuldeep aka Lungad (27), Praveen (46), and Julfiqar aka Hazi Guddu (52) for allegedly supplying illegal firearms across

Delhi, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. "The investigation was triggered by a tip-off about Kuldeep, who was planning a robbery with a firearm. On December 15, 2024, the police raided his residence in Burari, and arrested him with a semi-automatic pistol," he said.

High Court seeks police response on AAP MLA Naresh Balyan's bail petition

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 20

THE HIGH Court on Monday sought a status report from Delhi Police on AAP MLA Naresh Balyan's regular bail plea in a case filed against him under the stringent Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA).

Balyan pointed out, through his counsel, that he was arrested under the MCOCA case immediately after he was granted bail in an extortion case, and requested bail, saying he wanted to participate in the poll process as his wife is contesting in the Assembly polls. "Two co-accused have just given my reference but I don't have any case with them at all. Anyone can say anything against me. In none of the cases I'm an accused with them... I understand they have the power to arrest anyone, accuse anyone... He (Balyan) himself has filed complaints against the same gang... not even a single day of custody should be given in this case... I'm a sitting MLA. Please grant me interim bail. I'm not a criminal... At least, I can come out and participate in the elections," said senior advocate Vikas Pahwa, appearing for Balyan. Justice Vikas Mahajan issued notice to the prosecution, seeking a status report from the police, with next hearing on January 23.

A Delhi court on January 15 denied bail to Balyan in the MCOCA case. Balyan was arrested on November 30, 2024, in connection with an extortion case, and was granted bail on December 4 but was arrested in a separate case under MCOCA.



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BJP & Congress field Dalit candidates from general category seats

Fielding Dalits from general seats of Ayodhya and Meerut in Lok Sabha polls had brought SP rich electoral dividends

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY & JATIN ANAND
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 20

IN AN election preceded by pitched battles between the BJP-led NDA and the Opposition over the legacy of B R Ambedkar in the Parliament, the BJP and the Congress appear to have taken a leaf out of the Samajwadi Party (SP) book to woo Dalits ahead of the February 5 polls in Delhi.

Both parties have fielded Dalit candidates from general category seats – a formula that helped the SP reap rich dividends in last year’s Lok Sabha polls – in more than the 12 constituencies reserved for Scheduled Castes (SC) in the Capital.

The BJP, which has been working overtime to woo Dalits following its underwhelming performance in the Lok Sabha polls, has fielded two Dalit candidates from non-reserved seats – both Muslim-majority constituencies and located in the heart of Old Delhi – on the basis of their “performance and popularity”.

The Congress, which has made “saving the Constitution” its key electoral narrative in successive polls, has fielded one Dalit candidate from a non-SC seat.

The AAP is the only key party that has fielded Dalit candidates from only reserved seats. Notably, a few weeks ago, the party released an AI-generated video of Ambedkar blessing AAP national convenor and former CM Arvind Kejriwal.

Delhi has 12 seats reserved for the SC community. But while the BJP has fielded 14 Dalit candidates, the Congress has fielded 13. Generally, most major parties field Dalit candidates only from reserved constituencies.

The Dalit candidates given ticket by the BJP from general seats are Deepti Indora from Matia Mahal and Kamal Bagri from Ballimaran. From the Congress, Aruna Kumari is contesting from Narela, a non-reserved seat.



(Clockwise from top left) Deepti Indora, Kamal Bagri, Aruna Kumari

Indora was filed by BJP as a probable in the 2022 MCD elections from the Delhi Gate ward, which falls under the Matia Mahal constituency but had lost to AAP’s Kiran Bala by a little over 1700 votes. Bagri, on the other hand, is a sitting councillor from Ram Nagar ward – part of Ballimaran – which he had won with a margin of more than 2,300 votes.

The development underlines BJP’s recognition of its inability to keep its Dalit support intact in the Lok Sabha polls despite having worked hard over the years to appropriate Ambedkar.

The SP-Congress combine had stunned the BJP in Lok Sabha polls, winning 43 seats in Uttar Pradesh against the NDA’s 36. Compared to the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, BJP had lost 30 seats it had in the state. This loss led to the BJP falling short of the majority in the Lok Sabha.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, leaders across party lines sought to attribute their respective ticket distribution-related decisions on reserved constituencies to “dynamic changes” in the demographic profile of the city and the popularity of the candidates that they had chosen to field irrespective of whether or not they belonged to the SC category.

“Both Deeptiji and Kamalji are popular in the constituencies from where they have been fielded owing to their experience as councillors and delivering on local development projects. Their effectiveness as officials elected to a public office is more significant than their caste,” a senior BJP

leader said.

The AAP’s sole criteria, according to an insider, was the same – the popularity of the candidate. “Irrespective of which party they belonged to earlier or their caste, we have given tickets to deserving candidates based on winnability,” the insider said.

The Congress said its decision was also guided by “experience and popularity over everything else”. “Arunaji is a strong candidate on the seat (Narela). She has represented it as a councillor some years ago and is seen as someone who can deliver development,” a senior Congress leader said.

One of the key reasons for this was deft social engineering by the SP. It fielded two Dalit candidates from general seats in Meerut and Ayodhya in the Lok Sabha polls. It even ended up winning the Ayodhya seat much to the embarrassment of the BJP, which had gone into polls riding on the euphoria over inauguration of Ram Temple in January that year.

In the backdrop of the narrative that the NDA would change the Constitution if it crossed the 400-mark and the dwindling popularity of Mayawati-led BSP, this move sent a message to Dalits that the SP was ready to give representational space to Dalits beyond the constitutional mandate. Dalits are said to have voted for the SP in significant measure, in turn, hurting the BJP.

The national political discourse since has revolved around the Constitution with the Congress and the BJP sparring over who has done more damage to it.

The BJP-Congress move also comes at a time when Dalit parties such as the BSP and the Chandrashekhar-led ASP (KR) are putting in considerable political energy in Delhi polls. While the BSP is contesting on all seats, ASP (KR) has declared candidates for 16 seats that fall on the UP-Delhi border. ASP (KR) has even promised that if it emerges as a king-maker, it will ensure Constitution is taught in all Delhi schools.

CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Heard at GK: ‘AAP fulfilled basic needs of *bijli, sadak & paani*... Bharadwaj is available for us’

ANKITA UPADHYAY
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 20

A GROUP of old men and women are sitting outside their homes in Kalkaji, soaking in the rare sun on Monday morning.

Suddenly, slogans rent the air and a flurry of activity explodes as Saurabh Bharadwaj, the Health Minister of Delhi and MLA from Greater Kailash Assembly constituency, walks in.

He touches the feet of a few people and greets the others inside the DDA flats’ complex. As soon as he reaches J block, a huge crowd of men rush to greet him with folded hands near Budh Vihar, a Buddhist temple at DDA flats. He says “Dhyan rakhiyega”.

Greater Kailash constituency has 1.88 lakh voters, including 99,050 men, 89,305 women and 9 third gender voters. It houses people from middle income and upper middle income groups.

Bharadwaj (45) is the three-time MLA from the constituency. In 2013, he had defeated Ajay Kumar Malhotra of BJP. Prior to Ajay, BJP’s Vijay Kumar Malhotra had won the seat. In 2020, Bhardwaj was re-elected from GK for the third time. He defeated BJP’s Shikha Roy by a margin of 16,809 votes. Rai, a BJP councillor, is going up against him again this time.

As Bharadwaj walks in the stress of DDA flats area in Kalkaji with a few party workers, the street is reverberating with songs like ‘Delhi ki janta ke kaam karta hai’ and ‘Fir laayenge Kejriwal’ from a speaker being carried by an AAP worker.

According to Y K Singh (68), a Budha Vihar resident, Bharadwaj has done enough in the area. He got roads constructed, improved street lights and installed CCTV cameras, among others. “He used to come here every Wednesday to meet us,” Singh says.



AAP MLA Saurabh Bharadwaj campaigns on Monday. Abhinav Saha

However, Shehnaz Kaur does not agree. Maintaining that she will not vote for anyone, she says, “They have not given me widow pension despite my repeated requests.”

When Bharadwaj crossed her street, Shehnaz could not meet him. She says she got to know about his visit late and was looking to meet him but he left in a hurry.

As Bharadwaj reaches L block, there are several requests from the elderly to get the trees pruned or cut. “This is causing us a lot of trouble because we are not getting enough vitamin D. It’s not safe either. The sunlight doesn’t penetrate these trees,” says an elderly resident.

Bharadwaj explains that while due to a high court order, trees cannot be felled but he will

look into the matter.

A group of elderly women gather around him to inquire about the Mahila Samman Yojana and the widow pension scheme of the AAP. “You can come to my office, I will ask my people to look into your issues,” he says.

“*Ek hi pension milegi...*,” he tells an elderly woman, who says that she retired from government service and also gets her service pension.

Bharadwaj believes his connection with his constituents gives him an edge. “The conversation here is about the work done by me compared to the BJP candidate. Here, the Congress got 2% votes in 2015 and 3% in 2020. They are insignificant,” he says.

“The contender from BJP is a second-time councillor from GK

1 ward. People have seen her work for the last eight years and people have seen my work for the last 11 years as MLA... I say to them that I don’t want to get into the *tu-tu main main* of politics. I just want to tell you that you have seen our work and behaviour and how I deal with people and RWAs (resident welfare associations) and how she deals with people and RWAs. I can say with all humility and responsibility that 80%... and at some places probably 90%... of the work is done by the MLA.”

“Even MCD works, supposed to be done by the councillor... for example fixing internal roads... have been done by me,” he told *The Indian Express*.

As he moves to the next block in Kalkaji, the former software engineer comes across 80-year-

old R K Mehta, a retired defence employee. Mehta asks Bharadwaj to help him waive off his water bill of Rs 70,000. The minister promises to look into it.

Mehta’s friend D S Arora (71) says AAP has managed to fulfill the basic needs of bijli, sadak and paani. Praising Bharadwaj, Arora says that the minister is available for people and visits the area often. “He also got all the parks revamped in our area,” he says.

However, Sulabha Basarkar (70) and Shanti Devi (48) from the same block say there is sewage is an issue here and the whole area gets flooded with gutter water during the monsoon. “We will complain when he meets us,” says Shanti. Sulabha, meanwhile, complains that she applied for a widow pension but couldn’t get it.

Kejriwal neglected allocation of 50K flats built by Centre, says BJP; AAP rejects claim

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 20

ACCUSING HIM of “obstinacy” and “espousing double standards”, the BJP on Monday claimed that former Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal deliberately neglected the allocation of around 50,000 flats constructed by the Centre to the Capital’s poor.

Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva and northwest Delhi MP Yogendra Chandolia visited Bawana, among other locations, where such flats had been constructed, criticising the AAP government for “wasting public money.” “Today, we inspected the dilapidated flats, which are a consequence of Kejriwal’s obstinacy and political rivalry, thereby ex-

posing his double standards,” Sachdeva said on Monday.

Chandolia, accusing the AAP government of “injustice toward the underprivileged” citizens, said, “Kejriwal did not deliver on what he promised and only acted in ways that were detrimental during his tenure.”

Highlighting how the flats’ walls had collapsed due to a lack of maintenance and their premises covered with dense overgrowth of wild plants and weeds, Sachdeva accused the AAP government of “squandering public funds”, adding that 50,000 flats were “left to deteriorate” solely because Kejriwal “insisted on renaming the flats after himself” and sought personal credit for the Central government’s project.

“The Central government al-

located around Rs 12,000 crore for constructing these flats for sanitation workers and the poor. However, even after being elected as the CM thrice, Kejriwal has neglected their allocation and instead made hollow promises of new flats...once a BJP-led government comes to power in Delhi, the party will repair these flats just as the Central government has built solid houses for 4 crore citizens across India,” Sachdeva added.

Responding to the allegations, the AAP hit back, saying that the flats were constructed much before its government came to power in Delhi and a “conflict (was) created by the Central government” regarding the allocation even as the flats were ready “for many years”.

GAYATHRI MANI

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 20

FROM AAP’S Mahila Samman Rashi scheme, Congress’s Piyaari Didi Yojna to BJP’s Mahila Samridhhi Yojana, women are at the centre of the electoral campaign of the three key parties in the run-up to the February 5 polls. However, when it comes to fielding women candidates, all three parties leave much to be desired – among the 210 candidates fielded by them to contest from the 70 seats, only 25 are women.

Of the 210 candidates, at 9, BJP and Congress have fielded the maximum number of women candidates. Congress has fielded only seven. Many of the candidates come from strong political backgrounds or political families.

The AAP has repeated seven woman candidates from the 2020 polls, including Chief Minister Atishi, Rakhi Bidlan, Parmila Tokas, Dhanwati Chandela, Bandana Kumar and Sarita Singh. Of the remaining two, Anjana Parcha is a new face, while Pooja Balyan is wife of MLA Naresh

Women candidates in fray: 25

AAP: 9



Atishi Kalkaji



Pooja Balyan Uttam Nagar



Parmila Tokas R K Puram



Rakhi Bidlan Madipur

- Bandana Kumar, Shalimar Bagh
- Preeti Tomar, Tri Nagar
- Dhanwati Chandela, Rajouri Garden
- Anjana Parcha, Trilok Puri
- Sarita Singh, Rohtash Nagar

BJP: 9



Rekha Gupta Shalimar Bagh



Poonam Sharma Wazirpur



Shikha Rai Greater Kailash



Priyanka Gautam Kondli

- Deepti Indora, Matia Mahal
- Urmila Kailash Gangwal, Madipur
- Shweta Saini, Tilak Nagar
- Neelam Pahlwan, Najafgarh
- Kumari Rinku, Seelampur

CONGRESS: 7



Ragini Nayak Wazirpur



Aruna Kumari Narela



Alka Lamba Kalkaji



Ariba Khan Okhla

- Sushma Yadav, Najafgarh
- Harbani Kaur, Janakpuri
- Pushpa Singh, Mehrauli

2015 polls: 19 women candidates

AAP: 6 Congress: 5 BJP: 8

2020 polls: 24 women candidates

AAP: 9 Congress: 10 BJP: 5

JAN SABHA

Kejriwal focuses on jobs for youth, warns against voting for BJP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 20

AAP NATIONAL convenor Arvind Kejriwal, while addressing his first Jan Sabha in East Delhi’s Vishwas Nagar Assembly constituency, announced that if the AAP is voted to power in Delhi again, his top priority would be to provide employment opportunities to youngsters.

“The biggest work I am going to do is on employment. I will arrange employment for our youngsters. Providing employment to our youngsters will be my top priority,” Kejriwal said.

He also highlighted the achievements of his party’s government in Delhi over the last 10 years, including providing free

electricity, water and quality healthcare to people, as well as improving the condition of government schools.

For the last 12 years, Vishwas Nagar has remained out of AAP’s reach, voting for BJP’s Om Prakash Sharma three consecutive times since 2013. This time, AAP has again fielded Deepak Singhal, a local face, who lost to Sharma in 2020 by a margin of 16,457 votes.

Addressing the gathering, Kejriwal said, “In Delhi, electricity up to 200 units is free. From 200 to 400 units, one has to pay only Rs 800. In Gujarat, for 400 units, there will be a bill of Rs 4,500...”

“If you press the wrong button by mistake, you will get electricity bills worth thousands,” he



At the Jan Sabha addressed by Arvind Kejriwal (right) on Monday. Tashi Tobgyal



warned the gathering.

Kejriwal further warned the voters against supporting the BJP, claiming that if they vote for the saffron party, it will shut down the mohalla clinics, stop the free bus rides for women and “you will have to pay for bus tickets”.

He also slammed the BJP over the alleged breakdown of law and order in Delhi and asked the residents what has the party done for them.

“We have a half government in Delhi. Rest of the half is with the BJP. In 2014, you gave half power to us, half power to them... I have listed so many of my achievements. Tell me what has the BJP done with its half government.”

“Name one work that they have done. They have done nothing. You gave them one (work) – law and order. Today, a gang war is going on in Delhi’s streets. Women can’t go out of their houses. Traders get extortion calls... Now they are saying ‘give us all of Delhi’. How do we give you Delhi?” he asked..

Promising to replace all of Delhi’s old sewer lines if AAP returns to power, he said, “I have got to know that many areas are facing problems related to sewers. I will focus on this personally.”

An elderly woman, who has come to listen to Kejriwal, said she was confident that Singhal will win. “Deepak hi jeetega, Om Prakash ne toh koi kaam nahi karaya idhar,” she added.

Kamal Sharma, a 35-year-old teacher, also said that AAP will win from Vishwas Nagar this time. “There are only three mohalla clinics in Vishwas Nagar, when there should have been 16,” he said, adding that mohalla clinic initiative has been stalled in the constituency, as it was represented by the BJP.

DRONES FOR CRITICAL POLLING STATIONS

Police plan for polling day: 1 lakh jawans on duty, heightened security along border

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 20

WITH MORE than 1 lakh security personnel on duty, the Delhi Police have come up with elaborate arrangements to conduct polling for Assembly elections in 13,033 booths spread across the Capital as the city votes on February 5.

Heightened security presence at 162 border points that connect Delhi with Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, and additional support of drones mounted with cameras for 429 sensitive or critical polling stations are in special focus, said officials.

The CCTV facility, sources said, will be available in and around all the booths on the day of voting.

The booths that have been declared sensitive or critical are on the basis of a detailed security survey, sources revealed, adding that a majority of these 429 polling stations are located in North East, South East, and Outer districts of Delhi.

Asserting that an elaborate plan has been drawn up to con-

duct free and fair elections in Delhi, a senior police officer said, "There will be at least two layers of security at each polling station. Each booth will also be manned with security personnel."

Apart from Delhi Police's 45 thousand personnel and 15 thousand men of the Home Guards, 250 companies of Border Security Forces, Central Reserve Police Force, Sashastra Seema Bal (check), and Central Industrial Security Force will be on duty.

Of the 162 border points, around 100 connect Delhi with Haryana while the rest connect Delhi and Uttar Pradesh. At each such checkpoint, six security personnel are to be deployed, including at least four personnel of the Central forces. The Delhi Police have also decided to set up random checkpoints inside the city.

A team of Cyber Police has been asked to keep a watch on social media platforms. Sources said the police are keeping a tab on violations of the Model Code of Conduct and also the parties have been told not to indulge in 'deep-fake' or any AI-generated photos or videos.



POLL FEVER

Punjab Chief Minister and AAP leader Bhagwant Mann campaigns for party's Model Town candidate, Akhilesh Pati Tripathi, in New Delhi on Monday. Tashi Tobgyal

In two weeks before poll announcement, nearly 4,000 police personnel transferred

ALOK SINGH
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 20

IN THE run-up to the February 5 Delhi elections, nearly 4,000 police personnel, including 14 deputy commissioners of police (DCPs), 55 inspectors, out of which 30 are station house officers (SHOs), were transferred over a fortnight ending on January 7. Around 1,000 new recruits have also been deployed.

Most of these transfers took place between January 1 and 7. On January 7, the Election Commission (EC) had announced the poll schedule for the Capital.

Last November, the EC had directed the National Capital Territory of Delhi to transfer officers deployed at their home districts or those who had completed three years in a district. Indian Police Service (IPS) officers, SHOs or inspectors from a department or unit are usually transferred every two years.

Ten months after his appointment as Special Commissioner (Vigilance), an order dated January 2 relieved Robin Hibbu, a 1993-batch IPS officer, of his charge. Hibbu, who has been appointed as Special Commissioner (Public Transport Safety Division), has been replaced by Viplav Kumar Choudhry, a 1997-batch IPS officer on deputation from the CBI. A transfer order dated December 26, 2024, shifted nine IPS (Indian Police Services) and three DANIPS (Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Daman and Diu, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli Police Services) officers. Among those transferred is Rakesh Paweriya, a 2012-batch IPS officer, who was relieved as DCP (North East District), within two months of his posting. He has been transferred to Delhi Police Headquarters at present.

Apoorva Gupta, a 2013-batch IPS officer, was shifted to the Crime Branch this January, a year

after she took over as DCP (East District). Among others transferred before the Delhi elections are 55 inspectors and SHOs. An order dated January 1, facilitated the transfer of at least 28 inspectors, including 14 SHOs, from Sarojini Nagar police station to Welcome police station, Mandir Marg to Maidan Garhi, Tughlak Road to Cyber Police Station in Dwarka, Tilak Marg to Delhi Armed Police (DAP) station, Civil Lines to Seemapuri, Welcome to Okhla, Govindpuri to Tughlak Road, Bhalswa Dairy to Dayalpur, Maurice Nagar to Tilak Marg and Connaught Place to DAP station.

An order dated January 4 saw the transfer of 31 inspectors, including 16 SHOs, from Naraina police station to DAP station, Sangam Vihar to Security unit, Mehrauli to Security unit, Amar Colony to Rashtrapati Bhavan, Rajendra Nagar to Security unit, Vasant Kunj North to DAP, Kotla Mubarakpur to DAP, Vasant Vihar to Security unit, and Dwarka South to

Supreme Court security.

At least 30 SHOs were transferred in two orders issued between January 1 and January 4. Some of the SHOs transferred were moved barely 10 months after taking charge, according to sources. Among those who served the shortest stints before being transferred were the SHO of Tughlak Road police station, who was transferred within three days of his appointment, and the SHO of Vasant Kunj North police station, who was relieved on January 4, within a week of taking charge.

The same order, dated January 4, facilitated transfers of at least six assistant commissioners of Police (ACPs), including those from Mayapuri and Mehrauli sub-divisions to Rashtrapati Bhavan and the Legal Cell, respectively. Police headquarters also transferred nearly 230 sub-inspectors (SI), 270 Assistant SIs, around 1,000 head constables and over 3,400 constables from units or police stations to others.

ATTACK ON SAIF ALI KHAN

L-G orders fresh drive against illegal immigrants

HIMANSHU HARSH
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 20

IN THE wake of an attack on actor Saif Ali Khan, Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Monday directed Delhi Commissioner of Police Sanjay Arora to launch a special campaign to identify and remove "illegal Bangladeshi and Rohingya immigrants employed by shopkeepers and other residents as workers or house help" in the Capital on a "mission mode".

Earlier, the L-G Secretariat, on December 10, had directed a crackdown on "illegal Bangladeshi immigrants" living in Delhi. Following the order, the Delhi Police had launched a special drive and carried out searches across the 15 districts of the city while arresting and deporting the alleged illegal immigrants, said officials.

The latest directive from the L-G's office comes after the Mumbai Police on Sunday said it had arrested a Bangladeshi national, identified as Mohammad Shariful Islam (30), for allegedly breaking into actor Saif Ali Khan's Bandra home last week and stabbing him multiple times amid a robbery bid.

The L-G "has taken note of the grave criminal incident involving a high profile Bollywood actor in Mumbai, wherein a Bangladeshi national was involved in a house break and criminal assault. It has been widely reported that the concerned individual was living under an assumed identity and was working at a restaurant," read the statement from his office.

The latest directive comes after the Mumbai Police on Sunday said it had arrested a Bangladeshi national for allegedly attacking Saif Ali Khan

According to officials, Islam had changed his name to Vijay Das after entering India. "Initially, he was working at a hotel in Thane after coming to Mumbai about six months ago... He was recently looking for work as he had left that job about a fortnight back," a police officer had told *The Indian Express*.

The Delhi L-G, in his order, has also expressed concern regarding the presence of illegal immigrants in Delhi, stating that their "involvement in criminal activities in Delhi cannot be ruled out."

"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 directive further read.

Many of these "illegal immigrants", the L-G's order read, are employed without proper verification, sometimes using forged documents like Aadhaar, voter ID, and ration cards, "facilitated by organised syndicates and vested interest groups which facilitate the settlement of such immigrants."

HURLING ABUSES IS BJP MANIFESTO: AAP

Rahul & Kejriwal stand together on issues of national security: Thakur

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 20

THE BJP on Monday accused both the AAP and the Congress of being on the wrong side when it came to issues of national security ranging from the surgical strike to Afzal Guru's hanging. Former union Minister Anurag Thakur and Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva alleged that Congress and the AAP "have shown the same position, with Rahul Gandhi and Arvind Kejriwal standing together" on such issues. "The AAP had come into power by speaking against Congress's corruption, but today their brand 'AAP' stands for 'Arajakta' (anarchy), 'Algavadv' (separatism), and 'Atankwad' (terrorism). They are known for spreading rumours and offering shelter to criminals," Thakur alleged.

"The nation was awaiting the death sentence for Afzal

Guru, who had attacked Parliament. However, whose NGOs came forward to seek clemency for him? Whose relatives and parents were involved in this? The people of Delhi demand an answer. Will Atishi and Arvind Kejriwal remain silent or speak up?" he asked.

AAP chief spokesperson Priyanka Kakkar hit back, accusing the BJP of having "no vision, no agenda or CM face for Delhi." "They're facing a leadership drought and are panicking. When asked about their vision for Delhi, BJP's only response is to abuse Arvind Kejriwal. When asked who their Chief Minister candidate is, they say, 'Kejriwal is a crook.' When asked about their vision, they respond, 'Kejriwal is a Naxalite.' 'Kejriwal is a terrorist'... This is BJP's manifesto. They proudly claim their plan is to hurl abuses at Arvind Kejriwal. Will abusing Arvind Kejriwal solve Delhi's problems?" she asked.

Posing as Army veteran, UPSC board member, man dupes father & son

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 20

WHEN SAIYAM Maini expressed his desire to join the armed forces in 2018, his father Varinder Maini zeroed in on Defense Career Academy to train his son for the National Defence Academy and Naval Academy examination.

But a mathematics teacher at the academy, Sanjeev Jha, who claimed to be a board member of UPSC - which conducts the examination - and an Army veteran, made them an even better offer. He allegedly took more than Rs 7 lakh to get Saiyam a place in the National Defence Academy without sitting for the exam, and then fled with the money.

On the run never since, Jha was arrested on January 18 from his hideout at Vasundhara in Ghaziabad. The arrest came after the Delhi Police received a tip-off about his location.

According to the police, Jha, a BSc graduate and a teacher from Patna, got married in 2003 and has two children. Not able to

sustain his family on a teacher's paycheck, he, along with a couple of his associates, started posing as members of the UPSC and promised to get candidates selected even if they skipped the NDA exam, an officer said. The police said he also claimed to be a retired Armyman who could reserve seats for candidates.

Additional CP (Crime Branch) Sanjay Kumar Sain said, "He revealed that he was arrested in a cheating case and after being granted bail, had gone into hiding, as he was being pursued by various law enforcement agencies, including the Haryana and Rajasthan Police."

The cheating case was registered at Ranjit Nagar police station. It was based on a complaint filed on November 11, 2020, by Varinder Maini, police said.

According to the FIR, between 2018 and December 2019, Varinder took loans of more than Rs 7 lakh from his sister to pay Sanjeev and his associates - Mukesh Jha, Kalsi and R K Sinha. Later, Varinder came to know from Defense Career Academy that none of Jha's associates were part of the UPSC.



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NEIGHBOURS' PRIDE

UTTAR PRADESH Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is among the most sought-after campaigners for the BJP in the Delhi election. He is, however, more in demand in areas with a higher number of people from Uttarakhand. Adityanath, originally from Uttarakhand, is expected to address at least 13-14 Jan Sabhas in such areas, including Patparganj, Janakpuri, Dwarka and Karawal Nagar. The UP Chief Minister is expected to launch his campaign in Delhi on January 23.

UNMATCHED FERVOUR

THE MINISTRY of External Affairs on Monday hosted a group of foreign journalists at its office in the Capital and briefed them about the Maha Kumbh's spiritual, cultural and economic significance. Those present at the briefing included senior officials from the Uttar Pradesh government who highlighted how the event at Prayagraj — with an anticipated 45 crore attendees in 45 days — will surpass other major global events in terms of visitors, be it the Rio Carnival with around 70 lakh attendees, or the Hajj with 25 lakh pilgrims, or the Oktoberfest with 72 lakh participants. The foreign guests were also explained how the akharas at the Maha Kumbh symbolise gender equality and a progressive approach. Assurances were made to address the challenges faced by foreign media covering the mega event.

LAST STOP

THE 31-MEMBER Joint Parliamentary Committee reviewing the Waqf (Amendment) Bill will have its last state meet on Tuesday in Lucknow. Having wound up its state visits, the Jagadambika Pal-led panel is expected to submit its report soon and the Bill is likely to be taken up in the Budget Session, sources said. The panel members have visited 10 states and held wider consultations, they said. Last week, the committee held its meeting in Patna and discussed the Bill with several organisations, stakeholders, advocates and journalists.

PROTESTS AT PUNJAB-HARYANA BORDER

Advance govt meeting with farmers, hold it in Delhi: KMM's Pandher strikes discordant note

RAAKHI JAGGA
LUDHIANA, JANUARY 20

SARWAN SINGH Pandher, coordinator of Kisan Mazdoor Morcha (KMM) and Samyukta Kisan Morcha (non-political), Monday urged the Centre to advance its meeting with farmers — currently scheduled for February 14 — and hold it in Delhi instead of Chandigarh.

This is Pandher's first public disagreement over the current course of action and comes two days days after Jagjit Singh Dallewal, who is on fast-unto-death, accepted the Centre's invitation to talks.

"Dallewalji is on a hunger strike, and February 14 is too far away. He has started receiving medical assistance but is not consuming food. If the meeting happens on February 14, it will be the 87th day of his hunger strike. The government should hold the

meeting earlier and in Delhi. It is not a condition but a demand," Pandher said at Shambhu.

On Saturday, a central delegation met Dallewal and others at the Khanauri border point, and invited them for resumption of talks on February 14 at Chandigarh. Pandher said farmers were told that February 14 was fixed for the meeting as the model code of conduct was in force till February 9 in view of Delhi Assembly polls. "I don't buy this argument. If the announcement of the 8th Pay Commission can be made during the code of conduct, why can't a meeting take place? The elections are for the Delhi, while this meeting is with the union government," he said.

Sources said Saturday's developments at the Khanauri border, where Dallewal agreed to a meeting with the centre, caused some difference of opinion among union leaders.

SC gives govt final chance to decide on Rajoana mercy plea

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 20

THE SUPREME Court on Monday granted the Centre a final chance to take a decision on the mercy plea of former Punjab chief minister Beant Singh's assassin Balwant Singh Rajoana, failing which it said it would hear his petition for commutation of the death sentence on its merits.

"We will grant you time by way of last chance. Either you take a decision or we will hear on merits," a bench presided over by Justice B R Gavai told Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, who appeared for the Centre.

The bench, also comprising Justices P K Mishra and K V Viswanathan, scheduled the next hearing for March 28 and added, "If you can decide by



Beant Singh's assassin Balwant Singh Rajoana

then... well and good..."

Rajoana, convicted for the assassination of Beant Singh and 12 others on August 31, 1995, was sentenced to death in 2007 by a special CBI court. The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee filed a mercy petition on his behalf in March 2012. In September 2019, the Ministry of Home Affairs wrote to Punjab proposing the commutation of his death sentence to life imprisonment to commemorate the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev, but the proposal was never implemented.

In September 2020, Rajoana moved the Supreme Court requesting that his long-pending mercy petition be taken up for immediate disposal and that the home ministry's 2019 proposal be implemented.

The court then directed the Centre to make a decision. The Government subsequently filed an affidavit stating that it "has decided to defer taking any decision on the mercy plea," as it "has a serious potential of compromising the security of the nation or creating a law and order situation".

On May 3, 2023, the Supreme Court rejected Rajoana's plea and left it to the Centre to decide on the mercy plea at an appropriate time. He then filed a fresh plea.

Appearing for Rajoana, senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi said nothing had happened since the last hearing in November 2024,

when the court gave the Centre four weeks to decide on the mercy petition. "Your lordship granted so much time. They have done nothing... From the time of Justice S A Bobde being Chief Justice, the last five years this has been going on," he submitted.

The senior counsel pointed out that Rajoana has been in jail for 29 years, with 15 of those years on death row. He urged the court to order Rajoana's release without waiting any further for the Centre's decision.

Mehta responded that the case was related to the murder of a chief minister and involved significant sensitivities, requesting the court to grant an additional four to five weeks.

The court agreed to provide further time, subject to the condition that a decision would be made by the next hearing date.



BIRLA FLAGS HOUSE DISRUPTIONS

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla at the All India Presiding Officers Conference, in Patna on Monday. Birla expressed concern over the decreasing number of sittings of legislative bodies. He also flagged disruptions in Parliament and state Assemblies, urging political parties to draft guidelines for maintaining the dignity of the House. *PTI*

MP Cong chief warns: Cancer of factionalism may destroy us

ANAND MOHAN J
BHOPAL, JANUARY 20

MADHYA PRADESH Congress Committee (MPCC) president Jitu Patwari has triggered a controversy by highlighting factionalism within the Congress, describing it as a "cancer" that must be eliminated for the sake of the party's survival in the state.

Patwari's statement has brought factionalism and infighting plaguing the Congress into sharp focus at a time when the party is making attempts to revive and reorganise itself in the state in the wake of its debacles in the 2023 Assembly polls and the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

The MPCC has been facing tension over factional feuds, even as the party workers in the Malwa-Nimar region are stepping up preparations to organise a mega rally at Dr Ambedkar Nagar (Mhow) — the birthplace of Dr BR Ambedkar — on January 27 as part of the party's "Jai Bapu,



Madhya Pradesh Congress president Jitu Patwari

Jai Bhim, Jai Samvidhan" campaign, which will be attended by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi.

In a video circulated on social media on Monday, Patwari said, "If we cannot end this cancer of groupism, we will be finished. I don't want any position; I just want to form the government for the party."

The MPCC president said, "There is a cancer in Congress. It is the cancer of groupism and factionalism. This cancer of factionalism has to be eliminated, or we will be eliminated. What should be done? If we cannot eliminate this cancer of groupism, we will perish."

He also spoke out against sycophants in the Congress. "Sycophants are present in every political party. We need to stay away from them. We have to end groupism in the party — otherwise, we will be finished."

Recently, some Congress leaders belonging to the camps of state party stalwarts and former chief ministers, Kamal Nath and Digvijaya Singh, alleged that the Nath and Singh had not been consulted over certain key MPCC decisions involving organisational appointments and event planning. Both Nath and Singh denied such claims.

Responding to Patwari's statement, Congress Rajya Sabha MP Vivek Tankha said these issues were common in most political parties. "Everyone has their own perspective. There are some people who are never satisfied. This is a problem in every party. Many leaders have unmet aspirations, which is why they make such statements, but I don't take it negatively," he said.

Rahul remarks against Shah: SC stays trial court proceedings in defamation case

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Monday ordered an interim stay on criminal defamation proceedings against Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi for his alleged remarks against Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP workers.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta ordered the stay while issuing notice on Gandhi's appeal against the Jharkhand High Court order refusing to quash the case. The court has sought the response of the Jharkhand government and the complainant in the case, BJP leader Navin Jha. In 2019, Jha had alleged that in the March 18, 2018 AICC plenary session, Gandhi referred to Shah, who then was BJP chief, as a murder accused.

Senior Advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing for Gandhi, Monday submitted that defamation complaints cannot be filed by proxy, pointing to judgments which said only the aggrieved can file a case. **ENS**

'Bull on the loose': Independent MLA's run-ins irk Rajasthan govt

HAMZA KHAN
JAIPUR, JANUARY 20

RAJASTHAN Police Sunday booked Independent MLA from Sheo Ravindra Singh Bhati after an association of companies alleged he was responsible for stalling renewable energy projects worth ₹8,500 crore in his constituency.

Bhati, 27, who was formerly associated with the BJP, has also come under attack from Rajasthan BJP chief Madan Rathore, who recently termed him a "*chhutta saand* (bull on the loose)" for his tendency to create regular "disruptions" in Barmer district.

Since his election as an MLA in 2023, Bhati has remained in the news, either for his initiatives or due to his run-ins with the administration, police and private firms.

Cong's new 'nyay' initiative is clothed in Rahul's calling card: white T-shirt

MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 20

THE CONSTITUTION of the Congress has nine conditions that "every Member will have to fulfill". The second on the list is, "He/She is a habitual wearer of certified Khadi." Ninety years after the Congress at its 1934 Bombay Session first made the wearing of khadi a necessary criterion for elective membership, the party is moving on.

Rahul Gandhi, often accused of using a one-size-fits-all approach to problems, has a new motif for the Congress: a white T-shirt.

The Congress leader who has since his first Bharat Jodo Yatra more than two years ago made the white T-shirt his calling card, pairing it with khaki trousers — and sporting it sans any woollens even at the height of Delhi winter — announced the launch of a "White T Shirt Movement", "for justice and equitable future for all", Sunday.

As per a leader, the idea is simple: "Everyone, rich or poor, can associate with a T-shirt. When Mahatma Gandhi spoke about swaraj, he introduced charkha, khadi and topi as key symbols. We need a symbol too to popularise Rahul's 'nyay' brand of politics. White, of course, symbolises peace and harmony."

Says the campaign's website: "White T-shirts mark the beginning of a powerful new movement, a platform for youth to unite workers across sectors whose labour shapes our lives. If you oppose growing wealth inequality, stand for economic fairness for all, demand social justice, reject religious discrimination, and believe in peace and stability, put your white T-shirt on and join the movement for change."

Another Congress leader said: "We had much back and forth on the symbol for the campaign... We felt that a white T-shirt is the best symbol... a common man's dress. And there already is brand recognition associated with Rahul."



'Everyone, rich or poor, can associate with a T-shirt... Needed a symbol too to popularise Rahul's brand of politics'. File

The first outreach as part of the movement is set to be with gig workers, with Rahul pushing for a national law for their security. Big cities such as Delhi-NCR have around 15 lakh gig workers each, estimates the party, with their number sizeable in smaller towns and cities as well.

"The current Government's leanings toward crony capitalism have left companies largely unregulated, allowing them to sidestep accountability even in clear cases of exploitation..." says the website, adding that "political mobilisation is essential to stop exploitation and to channel workers' collective power toward meaningful change".

Another element of the White T-shirt campaign is a volunteer programme called "kaam ke bande (those who toil)". The party calls it "a first-of-its-kind political apprenticeship programme for young people to reach out, organize, and mobilize platform workers in metro and tier-2 cities". The idea is to enrol 500 youngsters in the 18-25 age group. They will not receive any remuneration.

A leader said that while considering a symbol for their movement they drew from the White Shirt Movement in Singapore and the Yellow Vests movement in France.



Sheo MLA Ravindra Bhati was in ABVP and BJP

Bhati has been booked for extortion. Sources said the instructions regarding the latest FIR came from the top in the government.

Bhati is also rising high due to his popularity among the people for raising local issues. In the year since his election as an MLA, he has spoken up on housing for nomadic tribes and Pakistani refugees, protested against the death of an inmate in Barmer jail, demanded reservation for locals in private companies, raised the issue of unemployment, and water scarcity, power cuts, etc.

Bhati's relationship with the BJP has been marked by ups and downs. Having won as an MLA from Sheo, Bhati also fought the Lok Sabha polls from Barmer but lost. In 2019, Bhati was denied an ABVP nomination for student body polls at Jai Narain Vyas University. He emerged as the university's first independent student union president. By October-November 2023, about the time Assembly elections were on the horizon, Bhati had established himself in Sheo. Bhati joined the BJP but was denied a ticket following which he contested as a rebel and won.

Although he has regularly questioned the BJP government in Rajasthan, Bhati never loses a chance to praise PM Narendra Modi.

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In make-or-break election for AAP and Kejriwal, what to watch out for



THE NEERJA CHOWDHURY COLUMN

Weekly insight into what's changing in national politics — and why

THERE IS a story behind why elections in Delhi should become such a make-or-break battle for the contending parties even though it is not even a state.

It is certainly a make-or-break contest for Arvind Kejriwal. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) convener and former Chief Minister is the key figure around whom the February 5 election is revolving. Whether he wins or loses, he is the face of the elections, setting the poll narrative as others respond to it. If he becomes the CM for the fourth time, nationally he will be seen with new eyes. Barring Narendra Modi and Rahul Gandhi there is

no other leader whose party is in power in two states.

The Delhi polls will show whether "AK" has been able to mend his image. The AAP has lost its "party with a difference" sheen over the years and the BJP is concentrating on the "Sheesh Mahal" and the liquor policy case — under which several AAP leaders, including Kejriwal, went to jail — to question Kejriwal's "saam admi" credentials and dent the clean image that he sported.

Even so, the AAP's rise as a national party in the last 12 years has been noteworthy. Since Independence, except for the Asom Gana Parishad (which is confined to Assam), no other group that emerged out of the womb of a movement became a party that won successive elections. If Kejriwal loses Delhi — it is a fight this time — the party could face an existential crisis. A defeated AAP will be a sitting duck for the BJP and may erode

at the seams or even splinter. Out of power and under attack, it will be difficult for even the lion-hearted amongst the AAP MLAs to resist the pressures that will likely come their way. From all accounts, the BJP is already working on a Plan B if it does not come to power.

Having been in power for 12 years, the AAP is expected to lose some of its vote share and seats this time, but it could still make it past the majority figure. However, as things stand, a mere majority is not going to be good enough. Unless it gets upwards of 50 out of 70 seats, it may not feel "safe" and that is why Kejriwal is leaving no stone unturned to convincingly win.

The Congress factor

Even more than the BJP, the fate of the AAP is linked to how much the Congress revives in Delhi. It is not expected to win many seats but it could dent the AAP vote. After Rahul Gandhi's



If Kejriwal loses Delhi — it is a fight this time — the party may face an existential crisis

yatras, the party's appeal among Dalits has gone up. It also remains the preferred choice of Muslims.

But it neither has a "chehra (face)" nor an organisation worth the name or an attractive narrative. Targeting RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, Rahul Gandhi vowed to fight the "Indian State", all calculated to send out a signal to

Muslims, and he raised his usual cry for a caste census that has so far not got him many votes of the Other Backward Classes (OBCs).

The Delhi election is not about caste. If anything, it is more about class, the divide being more along rich-poor lines, with the jhuggi-jhopri (slum) dwellers still rooting for Kejriwal. Kejriwal, who swept the National Capital in 2015 and 2020, belongs to the "wrong" caste, the numerically minuscule Baniya community. But, like Prime Minister Modi, he has created a new category of "revdiwalas (welfare beneficiaries)" who swear by him. Kejriwal's appeal, despite the charges against him, lies in being a "jadoogar (magician)" who delivers.

For many in the BJP, Kejriwal could be the "biggest threat" to the party in the future though his party is in power in only Punjab and Delhi, where the Lieutenant Governor calls half the shots. He is politically savvy; reads the popular mood; uses the same id-

iom as the BJP — pro-Hindu rhetoric without being anti-Muslim and Hindu symbols such as Hanuman — focuses on welfare and delivery of benefits; and is a strong leader.

The Congress would like Kejriwal to lose — he has, after all, risen from its ashes. His victory may also give a new impetus to his office or sign files as CM — have not been lifted. Kejriwal has said he is waiting for the "people's court" to decide if he

will be the CM again but the question remains if there will be legal impediments even if he again becomes the CM. The AAP has said Kejriwal will return as CM if the party retains power.

If push comes to shove and Kejriwal cannot become CM because of legal obstacles, can the powersharing model of the last few months hold? Then it will be Kejriwal calling the shots behind the scenes and Atishi as the woman executive head of government, much like the Sonia Gandhi-Manmohan Singh model of the UPA days.

Delhi, the world's second-most populated city with 32 million people in the metro region, is now a metaphor for urban governance symbolising the politics of the future. It has the highest per capita income of all the cities in India. It is in the fitness of things that "how schools function" should become a central issue in the elections. While parties blame each other, the

cleaning of the Yamuna and the need to control pollution are at the centre of the poll rhetoric.

Yet, while the AAP, the BJP, and the Congress all talk about pollution, they have not gone beyond blaming each other or talked about the responsibility being a collective one. None has come out with a concrete action plan on how they intend to go about mobilising other stakeholders or diluting the inter-party bitterness that is a roadblock to meaningful action.

What could be more basic than the right to breathe clean air? Surely the people of Delhi deserve better than watch helplessly the lives of their children cut short by a smog of pollution that other countries have managed to get the better of.

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



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ISRO to repeat SpaDeX docking manoeuvre to perfect precision

ANONNA DUTT
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 20

AFTER SUCCESSFULLY completing the space docking experiment (SpaDeX) on January 16, the Indian Space Research Organisations (ISRO) is now preparing for a second docking attempt to perfect precision in space, the agency said on Monday. It will also attempt undocking — separation of the two satellites — for the first time, said officials.

India became the fourth country in the world — after the United States, Russia, and China — to have the space docking capability when on January 16 morning, ISRO scientists brought two 220-kg satellites — 3SDX01 (Chaser) and SDX02 (Target) — within a distance of 3 metres from each other in orbit, their extended rings joined with each other, retracted and locked in space. ISRO demonstrated sending commands to both the satellites as one composite spacecraft. The space agency had to postpone the docking experiment at least twice: the first time on January 7 to carry out more simulations on the ground, and again on January 9 when the

satellites drifted more than expected during one of the manoeuvres. Later, the satellites were moved away to a safe distance before ISRO brought them to a distance of 3 metres from each other. At this point, the on-board cameras could clearly see the two satellites.

The docking, however, was not attempted and the satellites were moved back.

Docking is a process by which two fast-moving satellites are brought together and joined in orbit. It is essential for missions that require big payloads that cannot be carried up to the orbit in a single launch.

India requires the capability for its planned Chandrayaan-4 mission that will bring back lunar samples, its own Bharatiya Antariksh Station and a mission to take an Indian to the Moon by 2040. The Bharatiya Antariksh Station is planned to be constructed by bringing together five modules, the first of which is scheduled to be launched in 2028. The Chandrayaan-4 mission will see samples being brought from the Moon in a transfer module which will dock with the re-entry module waiting for it in Earth orbit.

Non-meat products certified as halal: UP raises issue in SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 20

SOLICITOR GENERAL Tushar Mehta representing the Uttar Pradesh government told the Supreme Court on Monday that he was “shocked” to see products other than meat certified as halal, attesting that the products meet requirements of Islamic law.

Responding to petitions challenging the ban imposed by UP on halal-certified products within the state, Mehta told a bench of Justices B R Gavi and A G Masih that while halal meat certification is not objectionable, the certification of products like water bottles and cement is not so.

“So far as Halal meat etc. is concerned, nobody can have any objection... even cement used is to be halal-certified. *Sariyas* (iron bars) used have to be halal-certified... Water bottles are required to be halal-certified...,” the SG said. “Even *atta* (wheat flour), *besan* (chickpea flour) has to be halal-certified... how can besan be

halal or non-halal?,” the SG said, adding that agencies have made “few lakh crores” with such certification.

Senior Advocate M R Shamshad appearing for the petitioners, said halal is defined elaborately in the Centre’s policy is not only about non-vegetarian food. Mehta also submitted that Halal certification is driving up prices and said the court might have to consider the question why those who do not subscribe to halal should be forced to consume the higher priced items.

The petitioners however said consumption of halal-certified products is a matter of choice.

On January 5, the SC, issued notice to the state on petitions filed by the Halal India Pvt Limited and Jamiat Ulama Maharashtra, challenging the Constitutional validity of the notification issued by the Food Safety and Drug Administration, UP, “prohibiting the manufacturing, storage, sale, and distribution of food products with halal certification within the state...,”

MILKIPUR ASSEMBLY BYPOLL

SP moves EC seeking transfer of 3 SHOs over ‘filing false cases against its workers’

MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, JANUARY 20

THE SAMAJWADI Party has filed a complaint with the Uttar Pradesh Election Commission requesting the transfer of three station house officers (SHOs), alleging they are filing false cases against their office-bearers, workers and panchayat pradhans ahead of the February 5 Milkipur Assembly by-election in Ayodhya district.

The SHOs are Devendra Pandey (Inayatnagar), Amarjeet Singh (Kumaraganj) and Sandeep Singh (Khandsa).

The complaint was sent to the EC by the Opposition party’s state president Shyam Lal Pal alleging that these SHOs were try-



SP’s state president Shyam Lal Pal

ing to intimidate their members, preventing them from campaigning, and thus hindering the process of a free and fair election.

Pal requested that the three be shifted out of the district and the FIRs filed by them on false charges be quashed so as to ensure a free and fair election.

To support its allegations, the party has attached the copies of the FIRs filed against its office-bearers, workers and supporters. “We have copies of 10 FIRs in which over a dozen party workers, office-bearers, sector in-

charges and pradhans supporting us were booked in the last six days. The cases are of alleged physical assault, criminal intimidation and extortion. This has created an atmosphere of fear in the constituency, affecting the election process,” said SP’s district president Paras Nath Yadav. The party workers named in the cases are underground fearing their arrest, he added.

“The number of cases against SP workers and leaders started filing soon after the Election Commission declared the polling date. It appears that cases of physical assault and other offences are being lodged in only these three police stations,” Yadav said.

Among those named in the purported false cases are SP’s Ayodhya district general secre-

tary Bakhtiyar Khan, district secretary Ram Bahadur Yadav, party’s Milkipur block president Ramtej Yadav, party’s district executive member and village head Mohammad Rais Ahmed, alias Niyaz, Milkipur block secretary Kashiram Pal, former pradhan Purushottam Das, Bhadokhara village head Lalu Yadav, Baraipara pradhan Ramlahu Yadav, and booth in-charge Hidesh Yadav, according to the complaint.

A total of 10 candidates are contesting the by-election, which was announced by the Election Commission on January 7. The last date for withdrawing names was Monday.

The BJP has fielded Chandrabhan Paswan, a lawyer, against SP’s Ajit Prasad, son of Ayodhya MP Awadhesh Prasad.

TVK CHIEF TAKES ON TN RULING PARTY OVER NEW AIRPORT



TVK chief and actor Vijay at Parandur in Kanchipuram district of Tamil Nadu on Monday. PTI

Vijay criticises DMK, says party abandons farmers when in power

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, JANUARY 20

IN HIS first public outreach since launching his political party — the Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam (TVK) — actor-turned-politician Vijay Monday visited villagers protesting against the proposed Chennai second airport project in Parandur, south of Chennai city. The visit, heavily monitored by local authorities, saw Vijay delivering a scathing critique of the state government’s decision to acquire agrarian land for the project.

Addressing the crowd in Ekanapuram in Kanchipuram district — where he was allowed by the police to speak at a peculiar spot — Vijay struck a defiant tone. “This has become the right place for me to start the journey,” he said while being surrounded by hundreds of fans and followers. “I am not against growth, but I am say-

ing only that the airport shouldn’t come up at this place. A decision to build an airport by destroying 90 percent of the agrarian land in this place can only be taken by an anti-people government,” he said.

The villagers have been protesting for more than 900 days against the acquisition of farmland for the project. The airport, proposed to be built on wetlands near Chennai, has sparked outrage among farmers and environmental activists who fear the irreversible impact on the ecosystem and livelihoods. Vijay has taken up the issue after the state government is successfully going ahead with the land acquisition plans, almost as per their schedule. Vijay said the government’s approach in the project is a betrayal of its own principles.

“When you were in the opposition, you opposed the eight-lane highway and the Kattupalli port project,” he said. “Isn’t it the

same position you should take here also? Isn’t it like you support farmers when you are in the opposition and abandon them when you are in power? I don’t understand this. Our people have realised it too,” he said.

Vijay used the platform to condemn what he described as governmental indifference and vested interests. “You take decisions for your own benefits, supporting or not supporting people as it suits you... I demand both the union and the state government to return the lands already acquired for this airport project. Build your airport in places that don’t affect agrarian lands.”

Tamil Nadu Finance Minister Thangam Thennarasu Sunday said the project is a necessity. “Chennai airport is handling around 2.2 crore passengers a year, and this is expected to reach 8 crore in the next 10 years...,” he said.

‘Against Islamic norms’: Kerala cleric objects to popular fitness programme

Thiruvananthapuram: Kerala’s prominent cleric Kanthapuram A P Aboobacker Musliyar, who is known for pro-CPI(M) political line, Monday raised objections to a popular physical fitness programme — Multi-Exercise Combination (MEC-7) — saying it is “against Islamic norms”.

At a function in Malappuram, Musliyar said: “Under the guise of exercise, a collective has come across villages and cities... There is intermingling of men and women in the exercise. Women are participating in the exercise and exposing their body. The programme has even abolished the thought that men and women seeing one another is haram (forbidden)... Those who turn against it (MEC-7) are being criticised as people with no exposure.”

Kanthapuram, head of a powerful Sunni segment — AP Group — said in the past there were norms for women with regard to mingling with men. “This fitness programme has taken away that veil and they (women) think there’s nothing wrong in men and women coming together. This is causing massive disaster...”

The MEC-7 fitness programme ran into a controversy last month when the CPI(M) raised an alarm saying the “Jamaat-e-Islami... using it for their narrow politics”. “The Jamaat is using it as a shield for its campaign for Islamic nation,” said a party leader, who softened his stand after criticism from opponents. **ENS**

AFTER OVER TWO YEARS

Centre allows 10 LMT sugar exports for current season

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 20

THE CENTRE on Monday allowed the export of 10 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) of sugar during the 2024-25 season (October-September). Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Pralhad Joshi said the measure “will benefit 50 million farmer families and 500,000 workers”. It will also, he said in a post on X, boost the liquidity of sugar mills, ensuring timely payment of cane dues, besides balancing availability and prices for consumers.

India’s sugar production in the current sugar season is estimated to be 27 million tonnes in 2024-25, a decline from 32 million tonnes last year.

Prices have been stable over the past few months: According to data with the Department of Consumer Affairs, the all-India retail price of sugar was ₹44.67 per kg, almost similar a month ago and a year ago. The retail inflation too has come down in recent months, with the Consumer Price Index-based retail inflation recorded at -0.40 per cent in December 2024.

In June 2022, the Centre took measures to restrict sugar exports in order to ensure sufficient availability for domestic consumption at a reasonable price. However, the export of sugar to the EU and the US under the CXL Concessions and the Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) were unaffected.

Monday, an order issued by the Ministry said, “Export quota of 10 LMT have been pro-rated

EXPLAINED
● Removing the bar

IN THE 2021-22 sugar season, before the restrictions to ensure domestic availability were imposed, India ranked number two in sugar exports, shipping 110 LMT of the sweetener to several countries including Indonesia, Bangladesh and the UAE.

amongst those sugar mills which operated in at least one sugar season amongst the last three sugar seasons by taking into account their average production of sugar during the last three operational sugar seasons i.e. 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24...”

“All the sugar mills have been allocated a uniform export quota of 3.174% of their three years’ average production of sugar,” it said. The sugar mills in Maharashtra, larger, will get the maximum share of the quota — 3.74 LMT — followed by Uttar Pradesh at 2.74 LMT.

As per the order, mills can export either directly or through merchant exporters until September 30. They have the option to surrender quotas by March 31 or exchange them with domestic quotas to reduce transportation costs. The policy also allows mills to swap export quotas with domestic monthly release quantities through mutual agreements, subject to the Food Ministry’s approval.

MP: Two ASIs suspended for cutting cake with ‘habitual offenders’

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BHOPAL, JANUARY 20

TWO ASSISTANT Sub-Inspectors (ASIs) in Mandsaur, Madhya Pradesh, were suspended after a video of them cutting a birthday cake with “habitual criminals” went viral on social media.

The two police officers were identified as Sunil Singh Tomar and Jagdish Thakur, who were stationed at the Nai Abadi police station. The video, which surfaced Sunday evening, purportedly showed the officers celebrating a birthday alongside repeat offenders.

Although the date of the video is unclear, Mandsaur Superintendent of Police (SP) Abhishek Anand both ASIs and sent them to the police lines.

Wrong place, wrong time: Hyderabad man shot dead in DC wanted to settle in US with parents

K Ravi Teja, 26, was delivering food when he ran into escaping robbers; died after being shot twice

cording to his family members back at Green Hills Colony in Hyderabad’s Chaitanyapuri area. Teja reportedly suffered two bullet injuries and died on the spot.

“I knew something was wrong when I received a call at 4 am today,” said Koyyada Chandramouli, Teja’s father. The inconsolable man was informed by the father of Teja’s roommate about the tragic news. “Soon I understood they were hiding something from me. His mother and I should have gone to the US for our daughter’s convocation recently. We would have at least seen him one last time,” the father said. Teja’s mother Suparna has been in shock since she got the news. “Please bring my son back once for me to see his face,” she said.

Teja had recently completed his master’s from Sacred Heart



Teja’s family mourns his death. Rahul V Pisharody

University in Connecticut, while his sister Shriya recently graduated with a master’s from a university in Chicago. “On the 25th of last month, he turned 26 years old. He was planning to visit his parents in Hyderabad once he secured a job. The family was looking for a bride for him. He would have been married this

year, and he wanted to relocate his parents to the US, just like some of his cousins,” said his uncle Koyyada Muthyam.

“He used to call his daddy every day. He was a good child who wanted to live for his parents,” said Muthyam, adding that the family has very little information about his death. The incident, according to him, happened in broad daylight at around 1.30 pm in the afternoon. The bereaved parents are now concerned about the processes involved in bringing the body back home.

Chandramouli is a cab driver and runs his own business, while Teja’s mother is a homemaker.

G Kishore, Teja’s cousin, said the family was so happy when he went to the US for higher studies in March 2022. “He faced no hiccups regarding the visa or admis-

sion process. It was such a big relief. This is so unfortunate. He was only at the wrong place at the wrong time,” he said. After the incident, Teja’s employer called his roommate since he didn’t return to the office, and together they tracked down Teja’s GPS to find out about the shooting and the death of an Indian in the incident.

Teja’s cousins Kavya, Satish and Dileep said that one of his friends had recently been killed in the US. “They both shared the same name, Teja, and were friends,” said Kavya.


In December, 2024, 22-year-old Sai Teja Nukarapu, who hailed from Khammam district of Telangana, was killed at a gas station near Chicago, where he used to work at a store. He had completed a BBA in India and was pursuing an MBA in the US.



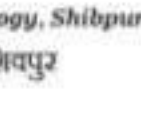
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e-Procurement Notice (National Competitive Bidding)
e-Tender Notice No.: IRCON/NZ/CVL/eTEN/2/ Date: 21.01.2025
IRCON invites e-Tender in two packet system from bidders meeting qualifying requirements for the work of “Repair, Maintenance and Renovation work of IRCON’s premises in Delhi/NCR.”
Estimated Cost of the Work Rs. 48,54,865/-
Tender Document shall be available for downloading on website w.e.f. 21.01.2025
Last Date and Time of e-Bid Submission 10th February 2025 upto 1500 hours
For further details, visit website <https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app>. Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted only on the website.
Chief General Manager/Building, B-40A, Sector 1, Noida-201301




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ভাৰতীয় অভিযান্ত্রিক বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তিবিদ্যা প্রতিষ্ঠান, শিবপুর
(An Institution of National Importance under MOE, Govt. of India)




**Non-filling to the post of Assistant Professor
Grade-II at Pay Level 11**
Advt. No. RO/JA/25/03 Date: 20.01.2025
Vide Rolling Advt. Notice RMS/452/23 dt. 18.10.2023 and Backlog Advt. RO/JU/23/05, dt. 21.06.2023, the post of Assistant Professor Grade-II at Pay Level 11 shall not be filled as per the instructions/regulation issued by the MoE, GoI. Applicants for the said post are requested to check the institute website (www.iiests.ac.in) for details and proceed accordingly.

Registrar



NORTHERN RAILWAY



Tender Notice
Invitation of tender through E-tendering (e-Procurement Systems)
NIT No. 282531
Name of Work and its location Tender for "Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract of Industry 4.0 system in 06 nos. of CNC Machines at Wheel Shop, RCNK/SNP"
Approx. Cost of Work Rs. 240649.68/- including GST (Rs. Two Lakh Forty Thousand Six Hundred Forty Nine and Paise Sixty Eight only)
Earnest Money Rs 4800/-
Completion period of work 24 months of date of execution of work
Cost of Tender document on cash/by post NIL
Date and Time for submission of tender and opening of tender Upto 15:00 hrs on 10.02.2025 Opening of Tender at 15:00 hrs.
Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in
No. - 282531 Dated :- 20.01.2025 211/2025
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

8 EXPRESS NETWORK

SC asks 23 states, 7 UTs to file compliance reports of road safety provisions

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 20

THE SUPREME Court Monday directed 23 states and seven Union Territories to file compliance reports indicating implementation of the motor vehicle law's recent provisions besides rules on electronic monitoring and road safety measures.

A bench comprising Justices Abhay S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan noted that West Bengal, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Delhi had filed their reports. The top court on September 2, 2024 passed directions on the implementation of Section 136A of the Motor Vehicles Act read with Rule 167A of the Motor Vehicles Rules, which allow authorities to electronically monitor speeding vehicles.

The bench has now asked the remaining 23 states and seven UTs to file their compliance reports which will be shared with the Supreme Court committee on road safety. The committee was tasked by the bench to oversee the implementation of the measures. The panel would provide its inputs which could be considered by the Centre in framing the standard operating procedure on electronic monitoring and enforcement of road safety measures, the bench said.

Senior advocate Gaurav Agrawal, Amicus Curiae to the bench, said that the necessary directions may be passed with regard to the states that had filed their reports. The bench said it would consider the aspect on March 25. The panel, in the meantime, could seek assistance from those states while deliberating upon the reports, the bench said.

Looking positively at US role to end war, India can play big role: Head of Ukraine President's office

DIVYA A
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 20

ON THE day Donald Trump is taking over as US President, Ukraine says it won't waste any time and will start talking to the Trump administration soon about ending the war. During a virtual interaction with reporters in New Delhi from Kyiv on Monday evening, Andriy Yermak, Head of the Office of the President of Ukraine, said that President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is looking positively towards the US and the Trump administration to end the war, which is going to complete three

years next month.

"We are looking very positively at the role of the US and President Trump for ending this war. We are looking at starting consultations with the new US administration," Yermak said in response to a question, adding that Ukraine is also looking at non-West countries like India and South Africa — with global influence — to play a role in that.

"Before I even arrive at the Oval Office, shortly after we win the presidency, I will have the horrible war between Russia and Ukraine settled," Trump had vowed at a campaign rally in June last year. Russia's Foreign Minister



Andriy Yermak

Sergey Lavrov recently said that he welcomed signals coming from the US President-elect over the Ukraine conflict.

Several weeks ago, Yermak visited the US and met Marco Rubio, Trump's nominee for the Secretary of State. "We will not lose time and immediately start working towards it (after Trump's inauguration)," he added.

On India's possible role,

Yermak said, "India is one of the biggest democracies in the world, and not just regional, but a world leader, and its position can play a big role. During the last two years, we have held a lot of meetings on the platform of the peace formula, which was mooted in Switzerland."

"I am waiting to continue dialogue with my Indian colleague Ajit Doval (National Security Advisor) with whom we have worked all this period of time," he said, adding, "The global goal is to end this war, I am sure the position of India that this war has to end is extremely important, not just by some temporary ceasefire

but by bringing peace."

During the interaction, Yermak, along with UK-based Baroness Helena Kennedy, International Human Rights Lawyer & Labour member of the House of Lords, also spoke on the humanitarian crisis facing children in war-torn areas.

Kennedy, co-chair of the Bring Kids Back Task Force, highlighted the alarming situation of Ukrainian children abducted by Russian forces, estimating that between 10,000 and 19,000 have been taken under the pretense of safety. She emphasised the severe psychological impact this could have on the children.

Police found 19 fingerprints at Saif house, to match them with accused

VIJAY KUMAR YADAV
MUMBAI, JANUARY 20

FOLLOWING THE attack on actor Saif Ali Khan, the Mumbai Police found 19 fingerprints at his house that are suspected to be of the attacker, said sources. These will now be matched with the fingerprints of the Bangladeshi national, Mohammed Shariful Islam alias Vijay Das, who has been arrested in the case.

Sources in the Mumbai Police said they lifted fingerprints from the bathroom window from where the attacker is suspected to have entered and escaped, the duct shaft, and the ladder he used, among other places. They ran these fingerprints through the state and national databases, but they did not find any matches.

"We should have realised that the robber could be from outside and probably a Bangladeshi national, as many people enter the country illegally from there," said a police officer who is part of the probe.

Following the arrest of Shariful Islam (30) on Sunday, the police now have his fingerprints. The fingerprints, if they match, will be the strongest evidence to secure a conviction, said officials.

Meanwhile, the accused, who was sent to police custody for five days on Sunday, was brought to the Bandra police station on Monday. He is likely to be taken to the actor's house in Bandra West to re-create the crime scene, including how he entered the building and fled.



Mohammed Shariful Islam

Khan was seriously injured in the break-in at his duplex residence on January 16, between 2 am and 2.30 am, after he was stabbed multiple times during an alleged failed robbery attempt. He was taken to the Lilavati Hospital, where he underwent surgery. Doctors have said he is stable and out of danger.

While the attacker fled, the police traced his route with the help of CCTV footage — he was purportedly seen buying a cellphone cover from a shop in Dadar, and some food from a stall in Worli where he made an online payment, following which his cellphone number was traced.

The cellphone number was then tracked, leading the police to a labour camp near Ghodbunder in Thane. Police also traced the contractor who had hired Shariful Islam a few months back and questioned him. A CCTV footage from Andheri had caught the contractor, Jitendra Pandey, with the accused on a motorcycle.

Pandey had dropped Shariful Islam somewhere on his motorcycle, said police sources. From Pandey, the police learnt that the accused could be in Thane. After hours-long searches by over 100 policemen on Saturday, Shariful Islam was eventually caught hiding in the mangroves in Thane.

‘Changes in the West will affect our trade’

Chief Economist, Bank of Baroda, Madan Sabnavis, on the economic slowdown in the country, growth prospects in forthcoming quarters and the effects of global geopolitical developments. The session was conducted by Hitesh Vyas, Assistant Editor, Business



On the economic slowdown in Q2

We keep saying that India's economy will grow at over 7 per cent. We have had these dreams of making India a \$5-trillion economy, a \$10-trillion economy, a developed nation with various targets. So when we got this number of 5.4 per cent for the second quarter, personally, I was a bit surprised because we were anticipating around 6.6-6.8 per cent.

The economy is broadly divided into three parts: the primary sector, or agriculture, the secondary sector, or industry — which includes mining, manufacturing, and electricity — and the services sector, which includes trade, transport, communications, the financial sector, real estate, and public administration.

When you look at the breakdown of all these sectors, we see that agriculture has been doing well, and this was before the Kharif harvest, which takes place from October onwards, in September, but primarily in October and November. In services, too, people are spending a lot of money.

But in the industrial sector, we saw that growth came at around 2.5 per cent, which is very anaemic. A deep dive into manufacturing reveals that it is primarily a demand problem. Multiple FMCG companies, primarily the MNCs, have attributed this to urban stress. We know of rural stress, which is when the monsoon fails. Similarly urban stress, I think, implies a fall in demand due to higher prices or higher inflation. This may be because the input costs for companies have gone up ever since the Ukraine war in 2022, and they have been holding back on increasing the final prices of their products. Over the following years, from the end of 2023, they have begun increasing product prices.

More importantly, we have seen that while inflation has been in this region of 5.5-6 per cent, food inflation in particular has been double digits. Due to high food inflation, we spend more money on necessities, and there is less money left for discretionary spending. So we spend less on manufactured goods. People were spending less on products like mobile phones, television sets, toasters and other kinds of household goods. Automobile sales were also lower in September.

Also, in September, we have this period called



(Left) Madan Sabnavis, Chief Economist, Bank of Baroda; Hitesh Vyas

AUDIENCE QUESTIONS

What led to a slower growth in the current year?

In the current year, the industrial sector has under-performed. And within the industrial sector, we have mining, manufacturing, and electricity, which were handicapped a high base effect. Urban demand came down. There was a festival effect which probably kept some part of the demand down. So that is what contributed to slow growth in manufacturing. Otherwise, the services sector has been doing exceptionally well. That is quite contrary to what we have seen in manufacturing.

Shradhh. This happens for around two weeks every year. If you're a devout Hindu, you follow this practice of austerity and don't buy any consumer goods. People do not buy automobiles or mobile phones, because they think it's inauspicious, and must wait for the good times. So in September, even before the corporate results came out, we saw that auto sales were down, but production was higher and inventories had built up. Going into October and November, we saw that all these goods actually got sold in a month. So this has also contributed to the lower growth which we have seen in the manufacturing.

Now, surprisingly, when you look at services, we see tourism and hospitality doing very well. A lot of people were going for what we call experiences and travelling, regardless of their income level. Depending on your wallet, you went to a place, you stayed in a hotel. So the hospitality industry did very well in all three months.

Can policy enhance resilience to geopolitical challenges?

From the point of view of policy, we can counter the negative impact of what happens to currencies. This is where the RBI will need to take proactive steps. A decision that has to be taken is how to ensure that the rupee does not slide down too much. I don't think monetary policy perse, that is the repo rate we're talking of, is something which will help to counter it. What could happen in America is something concerning physical goods, which would be impeded or become more expensive if tariffs were imposed.

Overall, 5.4 per cent is not bad when we examine the numbers. It's a fairly okay number, especially when we look at what's going to happen in Q3 and Q4, which we believe will be different.

On economic prospects in Q3, Q4

We have seen a lot of turnaround signs. Different economists see differently. If you want to get the right picture of what's happening on the consumption side, look at the data. For instance, look at the GST collections. GST is a consumption-based tax. GST collections have been over Rs 1.8 lakh crore in October and November. This can no longer be attributed simply to compliance — people are obviously spending money. It's partly because of A, we've had a good kharif crop, we have seen rural spending picking up, and B, this is also the festival time when typically people tend to spend a lot on gifts, on products, on household products. Based on this, I believe con-

sumption has picked up in Q3. And as consumption picks up, there's normally a case of saying that investment also increases.

Investment data is not readily available, but we can look at the CMI database on investment intentions. Between April and June, there were hardly any announcements because the elections were going on. The private sector always likes to wait and watch, irrespective of their perceptions of which government will come to power. But if you look from July 1 onwards till date, it has been amazingly high. If I compare it with last year, there are signs that investment, particularly private sector investment is picking up. I see that as a positive.

Finally, if we look at Central government expenditure, it was lagging primarily because of the election. Also, by that time you have all the ministries together, you decide to push forward your projects. The data we get up to October shows that there's not been too much movement compared to last year. So if you look at what has been the overall capex expenditure, Rs 11.1 lakh crore, and see what percentage — if I remember right, it's a little less than 50 per cent has been spent. Compared to last year, it was about 50 per cent. So therefore there's been some kind of a lag when it comes to government expenditure on capital on projects.

Now this to my mind is something which is going to change. I say this because if you look at the kind of determination the government has shown in the past, based on experience, it looks like that will be very much close to the Rs 11.1 lakh crore, which is supposed to be spent by March. This means our shortfall has been there up to October and is something we are very confident will be made up. This is why we think growth in Q3 and Q4 would average a little above 7 per cent.



SCAN THE CODE TO WATCH VIDEO

how are they going to do it? You'll let the currency depreciate, which they're doing already. They will give us stimulus. They will try and produce more goods and dump it in other territories. This is the concern we have on the trade front. So geopolitics through what happens in the Western nations, in particular, the US will affect us on the export and import fronts. On the currency side, we have already seen that the dollar has been strengthening at the expense of all other currencies. It is now left to the Central bank to decide what extent it will go and defend the rupee. In doing so, the RBI will need to take a call on drawing on its foreign reserves. This presents another conundrum.

FOUR ARRESTED, 3 FROM HYDERABAD, 1 NEAR JAIPUR: GOA POLICE

‘Multi-crore scam’: Listing Goa villas that do not exist, gang cons 500 tourists looking to rent properties through portals

PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA
PANAJI, JANUARY 20

GOA POLICE on Monday said it busted a “multi-crore scam” and arrested four persons suspected of conning at least 500 tourists by offering “non-existent” villas and other properties for rent through online booking platforms and collecting advance payments.

According to police, several tourists lodged complaints in recent months that they had been duped by “fake villa listings” on popular online travel platforms. They were asked for advanced

payments for properties listed online, which they later found did not exist, the complaints alleged.

Police said connmen posed as hotel operators and deceived unsuspecting tourists by “exploiting loopholes on renowned booking platforms”.

North Goa SP Akshat Kaushal said the money transactions were not done on the booking websites, but directly to those who listed the properties on the platforms. “The transactions were not made through websites. We have been given to understand that there are two kinds of properties that are listed

on websites — one is verified and the other unverified. On unverified listings, one has to contact the manager of the listed property after the booking,” the SP said.

Police began investigations after a Chandigarh resident sent a complaint via email to the Goa Police that he was conned of Rs 20,000 while booking a property named ‘Ruby Villa’ on an online booking platform.

When the complainant reached Goa for his vacation, he discovered that the villa did not exist, police said. An FIR was registered at Anjuna police station under section 318 (4) of BNS,

which pertains to cheating. Subsequently, a police probe revealed a larger conspiracy.

Four accused, identified as Saurabh, Sayed Ali Mukhtar, Mohammad Firoz, and Mohd Azharuddin Saif, have been arrested. Three of them were picked up from Hyderabad and one near Jaipur.

SP Kaushal said the gang had conned at least 500 tourists. “Based on call records of the accused, we found that they had been in contact with more than 500 customers. This contact was only established after a customer made an initial booking on the website. So, we feel more than

500 people were in touch with them for bookings... How many of these actually made the payment is being probed,” he said.

“The accused shared photos of villas from locations outside Goa or, in certain cases, put up pictures of villas from YouTube. These villas were offered at relatively cheaper and attractive prices to lure tourists. During their conversation, the accused would create an impression that if they did not pay an advance to secure the deal, the property would no longer be available. So, in many cases, customers ended up paying Rs 10,000-20,000 as advance, and since the amount swindled

from one customer was not big, the accused were able to go under the radar,” the SP said.

Police said the accused have lived in Goa in the past and were well versed with the rental business. “They were operating from a rented room in Hyderabad, where they would field calls from potential victims. They employed women telephone operators to build trust with victims. The perpetrators exploited vulnerabilities in booking platforms to create fraudulent listings for non-existent properties. They collected advance payments through digital payment systems linked to multiple bank accounts,” Kaushal said.

RAPE-MURDER CONVICT GETS LIFE TERM

At RG Kar, sealed door, a symbolic bust — and signs of disappointment



‘Cry Of The Hour’ bust installed at the RG Kar hospital as a tribute to the trainee doctor; banners of the protest on the hospital premises, Monday. Partha Paul

SWEETY KUMARI & RAVIK BHATTACHARYA
KOLKATA, JANUARY 20

OUTSIDE THE seminar hall at Kolkata’s RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, a white-and-blue tape has the words ‘Kolkata Police do not cross’. At any time of the day, the brown door with a wooden signboard is guarded by two policemen — all in a bid to bar entry of anyone into the room.

A junior doctor on duty was raped and murdered in this very room in the early hours of August 9, triggering a massive outrage and an indefinite doctors’ strike for justice and better work conditions.

On Monday, after 66 days of in-camera hearing and examination of 120 witnesses, a court in Kolkata’s Sealdah finally gave its ruling — life imprisonment for Sanjoy Roy, a 35-year-old civic volunteer attached to the Kolkata Police, who was found guilty of the crime on Saturday.

In the corridors of the busy RG Kar Medical College, which was the victim’s world until the incident, her memory lingers on. The air is heavy with disappointment at the final ruling, with many still calling for the death penalty for Roy. “This department, this ward, the building and the hospital premises was her world, which ended abruptly and violently. Or else now she would be sitting and working with us” a post-graduate trainee doctor of chest medicine tells *The Indian Express*.

But it’s not only the seminar room that still bears evidence of the rape-murder and its aftermath. Just outside the main entrance is the site of protest, where doctors spent months demanding justice and a change in work conditions. A painting of Goddess Durga holding the body of a junior doctor lies freshly garlanded. On a table beside it is a shrine — two symbolic pictures of the victim, garlanded with fresh incense candles in front.

Piles of papers, brush, and paints are littered around, with signs screaming ‘We want justice’, ‘Ogo Matri Shakti, Prati Inchte Justice Nio Mepe (O

Mother Goddess, do not leave an inch where justice is concerned), and ‘Amar Didir Bichar Chai (We want justice for our sister)’.

Right at the back of the now-empty protest site are relatives of patients, who are resting after a heavy day’s running around. One of them, Subrata Purkayait from Hooghly district, was at the hospital on August 9, when the incident sparked the protests. His wife had just had a baby girl, and he was completing formalities for their discharge when a crowd of media and police gathered at the hospital.

The incident left Subrata, who’s now here on account of his infant daughter’s breathing issues, deeply shaken, he says. “I have a daughter. If I’m doing everything to save my five-month-old daughter, it pains me to think about the pain that the parents who made her a doctor are going through. I just pray that she gets justice.” As the day progresses and the hour of the ruling draws near, security is beefed up at the hospital. The sprawling hospital is now guarded by the Central Industrial Security Force, with teams from the Kolkata police personnel.

Some 5 minutes from the protest site, the small garden has a symbolic bust of the victim. The bust, named ‘Cry of the Hour’, was erected in memory of ‘Abhaya’ — the name protesters call the victim by.

Protesters are upset at the ruling. “I’m not in a position to talk,” said Dr Subhayan Mondal, the victim’s classmate after the ruling. Another protester, final-year MBBS student Saikat Talukdar, believes more people were involved.

“It’s not possible for anyone to commit the crime alone and leave the crime scene without being noticed,” he says.

Dr Shreya, a PGT doctor at RG Kar Hospital, calls the ruling “deeply disappointing”.

“The accused was apprehended the very next day following the crime. Both her parents believe there is more to this case. I agree. This outcome feels like a mockery of the judicial system,” she says.



A search operation near the site of the gunfight in Sopore area of north Kashmir’s Baramulla district on Monday. PTI

Soldier killed in north Kashmir gun battle

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JANUARY 20

AN ARMY soldier was killed on Monday in an encounter with militants in north Kashmir’s Sopore.

On Sunday evening, a joint team of forces cordoned off the Gujjar Pati area of Zaloora in

Sopore after receiving inputs about the presence of a militant hideout. As the joint team of forces zeroed in on the target, the militants hiding in the area opened fire, leading to a gunfight, officials said.

Reinforcements were sent to the area and the cordon was strengthened, but the operation had to be suspended for the

night due to fading light. On Monday morning, as the operation restarted, the militants opened fire again, injuring Swr Pangala Kartheek. He was then evacuated from the area, but succumbed to his wounds on the way.

“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. Chinar Warriors salute his immense valour and sacrifice, express deepest condolences and stand in solidarity with the bereaved family,” the Army’s Chinar Corps said in a post on X.

The operation against the militants is ongoing, officials said.

Top court grants custody of techie Atul Subhash’s son to estranged wife

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 20

THE SUPREME Court on Monday ruled that the custody of the minor son of Bengaluru techie Atul Subhash, who took his own life, will remain with his estranged wife Nikita Singhania, who is facing charges of abetting his suicide along with her family members.

A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and S C Sharma made this decision while denying a request from Subhash’s mother Anju Devi to grant her

the child’s custody. During a hearing on January 7, Justice Nagarathna remarked that Anju Devi was “virtually a stranger to the child,” indicating a lack of familiarity between them.

The court wanted to interact with the child, who is said to be studying at a boarding school in Haryana. It also requested affidavits from the Haryana Government and Singhania on the child’s condition.

On Monday, Anju Devi’s counsel sought additional time in the matter, but the court declined and had a private online

interaction with the child. Anju Devi urged the top court to grant her custody of her grandson, arguing that children of such a tender age should not be sent to a boarding school.

She referred to the allegations that Singhania had a role in Subhash’s death.

However, the court said Singhania has not yet been found guilty and that conclusions cannot be drawn based on media coverage of the case.

Subhash died by suicide on December 9 last year. He left behind a ‘justice is due’ placard and a 24-page suicide note.

SC: Pained to see son unable to bury father in village move apex court

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 20

THE SUPREME Court on Monday said it was pained to see a man move the top court to bury his father as per Christian rites in a Chhattisgarh village after the authorities failed to resolve the issue.

A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and Satish Chandra Sharma was hearing a plea filed by one Ramesh Baghel, challenging an order of the Chhattisgarh High Court which disposed of his plea seeking burial of his father, a pastor, in the area specified for

the burial of Christians in the village graveyard.

“Why should a person who has lived in a particular village be not buried in that village? The body is lying in the morgue since January 7. Sorry to say that a man has to come to the Supreme Court for burial of his father. We are sorry to say that neither the Panchayat, nor the state government or the high court was able to resolve this problem. We are surprised by the high court’s remark that there will be law and order problem. We are pained to see that a person is unable to bury his father and has to come to the

Supreme Court,” said the bench. Baghel said while villagers had “aggressively objected” to the burial, police threatened him with legal action.

Solicitor general Tushar Mehta, appearing for the state, informed the court that there was no burial ground for Christians and the man could be buried in a place 20 kilometre away from the village.

Senior advocate Colin Gonsalves, appearing for Baghel, said the affidavit submitted by the state showed his family members were also buried in the village.

COLOSSAL BUDDHA HEAD, MASSIVE PALM AMONG DISCOVERIES, ESTIMATED TO DATE BACK 8TH & 9TH CENTURY AD

ASI excavations in Ratnagiri spotlights ancient Buddhist site, its SE Asia links

SUJIT BISOIY
BHUBANESWAR, JANUARY 20

IN DECEMBER, when Archaeological Survey of India’s superintending archaeologist D B Gamayak and his team took up excavations at the 5th-13th Century Buddhist complex in Ratnagiri, in Odisha’s Jajpur district, after a gap of 60 years, their aim was two-fold — to uncover more of the complex and to find material evidence of the state’s link to the larger Southeast Asian culture.

So far, the mission has been partially successful — they have unearthed a colossal Buddha head, a massive palm, an ancient wall and inscribed Buddhist relics, all of which are estimated to date back 8th and 9th Century AD.

“The Buddha head was 3-4 feet tall and the palm was 5 feet,” says Sunil Patnaik, a Buddhist researcher and secretary of Odisha Institute of Maritime and South

East Asian Studies who is part of the excavation team. “You can imagine the richness of the area from just this.”

The discoveries are significant, especially given Odisha’s historical relationship with Buddhism beginning with Mauryan Emperor Ashoka (304-232 BCE), one of Buddhism’s greatest patrons whose invasion of the kingdom of Kalinga — the ancient name for Odisha — led to him embracing the religion.

Located 100 km northeast of Bhubaneswar and part of the famous Diamond Triangle of Odisha along with Udaygiri and Lalitgiri, Ratnagiri — translated as the ‘Hills of Jewels’ — was first documented as a historical site in 1905. The site stands on a hill between Birupa and Brahmani rivers and is Odisha’s most famous — and the most excavated — Buddhist site.

The last excavations were carried out between 1958 and

1961, led by archaeologist Debala Mitra, who eventually became ASI’s director general. The efforts led to the discovery of many remains — including a brick stupa, three monastic complexes and over hundreds of votive and commemorative stupas.

According to Gamayak, the latest excavation aims at unearthing the partially visible structures and sculptures “and to find out if any shrine complex/chaitya complex — a sacred Buddhist assembly or prayer hall — as noticed in the neighbouring sites and to know the ceramic assemblage (a collection of pottery found at an archaeological site) of the site, which has not been addressed in the earlier excavations”.

“The effort is also to find evidence on the material culture (the aspect of culture studied through physical objects and architecture) of Southeast Asian origin or beyond, which has not been studied so far, and to un-



The Buddha head excavated in Ratnagiri, Odisha. Express

derstand the cultural framework of the colossal Buddha head from the site,” Gamayak told *The Indian Express*.

Odisha, Southeast Asia and Buddhism

Odisha has long enjoyed maritime and trade links with Southeast Asian countries: according to historians, pepper, cinnamon, cardamom, silk, cam-

phor, gold, and jewellery were popular items of trade between the ancient kingdom of Kalinga and Southeast Asia.

The state also annually holds Baliyatra, literally ‘voyage to Bali’ — a seven-day festival to commemorate the 2,000-year-old maritime and cultural links between Kalinga and Bali and other South and Southeast Asian regions such as Java, Sumatra,

Borneo, Burma (Myanmar) and Ceylon (Sri Lanka).

Even though there is no evidence of Buddha visiting Odisha during his lifetime, Kalinga played a great role in popularising Buddhism, especially in Southeast Asia, because of its trade link with the region: experts believe that Tapassu and Bhallika, the two merchant brothers who became the first disciples of Lord Buddha, having their origins from Utkala, another ancient name of Odisha.

Mauryan Emperor Ashoka is believed to have invaded Kalinga in 261 BC but, deeply moved by the bloodshed in the war, he eventually embraced Buddhism, which he eventually helped spread not only to his own empire but also to Sri Lanka, and Central and Southeast Asia.

In Odisha, Buddhism is stated to have particularly flourished under the Bhaumakara dynasty, which ruled parts of the state in

between the 8th and 10th Century.

Experts date Ratnagiri to the 5th and 13th Century, although the peak period of construction is dated between the 7th and 10th centuries. According to Thomas Donaldson, a former professor at Cleveland University who is a scholar in iconography and an expert in Odisha’s art and Buddhist sites, Ratnagiri rivalled Nalanda as a learning centre, with even some of the Tibetan texts even seen at the place where the Mahayana and Tantrayana (also known as Vajrayana that involves mystical practices and concepts) sects of Buddhism originated.

However, with the ASI eventually shifting focus on sites such as Lalitgiri, where the oldest Buddhist monastery in the state was found, the Ratnagiri excavation was put on the backburner.

It was Gamayak who was instrumental in bringing the focus

back to the site. This, he said, was because “several of the structures at the site were partially visible and merited excavation”.

According to scholars like Patnaik, the latest discoveries signified how Odisha — home to over 100 ancient Buddhist sites — was once a place of great Buddhist learning.

“The findings suggest that this place (Ratnagiri) was once a key Buddhism centre in ancient times. There are some studies that suggest that the renowned Chinese Buddhist monk and traveller, Huiyen Tsang, who visited Odisha, during 638-639 AD, might have visited Ratnagiri. The new excavations would shed light about the lifestyle, culture, religion, art and architecture at different times and also suggest whether there were more ancient (before 5th century) relics at the site.”

The excavations at Ratnagiri will continue for another month or two, officials said.

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Mitigating, aggravating circumstances in death penalty cases

AJOY SINHA KARPURAM
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 20

A SESSIONS court in Kolkata sentenced Sanjoy Roy, convicted of the rape and murder of a doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, to life imprisonment on Monday.

The CBI had argued strongly for the death penalty in the case that shook West Bengal and triggered several weeks of protests and strikes by doctors. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had demanded death for the murderer.

The Supreme Court has held that a sentence of death should be passed only in the “rarest of rare” cases, after the court has considered possible “aggravating” and “mitigating” circumstances (Bachan Singh v. State of Punjab, 1980).

‘Rarest of rare’ test

In Bachan Singh, the SC considered a challenge to the constitutionality of the death penalty. It upheld the death penalty, but said it should be imposed only in the “rarest of rare” cases where there is no possibility of

reformation.

The five-judge Constitution Bench did not specify the standards to determine whether the death penalty should be imposed, but laid down non-exhaustive lists of “aggravating” and “mitigating” circumstances for courts to consider while making the decision.

AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES, which could tilt the court’s decision towards the death penalty:

- If the murder is pre-planned, calculated, and involves extreme brutality;
- If the murder involves “exceptional depravity”;
- If the accused has been found guilty of murdering a public servant, police officer or a member of the armed forces while on duty, or because of anything they may have lawfully done while discharging their duty.

MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES, which could tilt a case away from the death penalty:

- Whether the accused was “under the influence of extreme mental or emotional disturbance” at the time of the offence;
- Age of the accused; they would not be given death if they are very young or very old;
- Probability of the accused posing a con-

tinued threat to society;

- Probability of reforming the accused;
- If the accused was acting on the directions of another person;
- If the accused believed their actions were morally justified;
- If the accused suffers mentally and is unable to appreciate the criminality of their actions.

After Bachan Singh

The understanding of mitigating and aggravating circumstances has evolved over the years, and new factors have been added to the list through several decisions. These include:

AGE OF ACCUSED: In several cases including Ramnaresh and Ors v. State of Chhattisgarh (2012) and Ramesh v. State of Rajasthan (2011), the Supreme Court considered the young age of the accused persons (below 30 in these cases) as an indication that they could be reformed.

However, as the Law Commission of India noted in its 262nd Report (2015), *The Death Penalty*, age as a mitigating factor “has been

used very inconsistently”. In *Shankar Kisanrao Khade v. State of Maharashtra* (2013), the SC split several cases with similar facts into two groups: where age was considered as a mitigating factor, and where age was ignored or considered irrelevant. The court also noted that sentencing in death penalty cases had become “judge-centric”.

In the RG Kar case, the convict Sanjoy Roy is 35 years old.

NATURE OF OFFENCE: In *Shankar Khade*, the SC said courts should compare the case before them with a pool of cases concerning similar offences before determining the punishment. Otherwise, the court said, applying the “rarest of rare” doctrine would become “subjective”. The Law Commission Report used the example of cases concerning the rape and murder of a young child, and presented examples to show that it “shocks the judicial conscience in some cases, not in others”.

In *Machhi Singh v. State of Punjab* (1983), the SC held that death could be given in cases where the “collective conscience” of society is so shocked that the judiciary is expected

to impose the death penalty.

The Law Commission noted that this decision, and the decisions it influenced in the future, focused only on the circumstances of the crime, and not the circumstances of the criminal and the possibility of reform.

POSSIBILITY OF REFORM: In *Bachan Singh*, the SC held that the government must prove there is no possibility of reform, and that the presumption would be against such a penalty. In *Santosh Bariyar v. State of Maharashtra* (2009), the SC said “the court will have to provide clear evidence as to why the convict is not fit for any kind of reformatory and rehabilitation scheme”.

The Law Commission Report said the requirement for evidence was held as “essential” in *Bariyar* “for introducing an element of objectivity into the sentencing process”.

Stage of the trial

When should the court consider these circumstances?

In *Bachan Singh*, the SC said courts must conduct a separate trial after convicting, so that judges can be persuaded why the death sentence should not be imposed.

When should this separate trial take place? In several rulings, the SC has held it can be on the same day; in other cases, it has stressed the importance of a “real, effective and meaningful hearing” during the sentencing hearing in death penalty cases.

In *Dattaraya v. State of Maharashtra* (2020) the court held that such a hearing did not take place, and that this was a valid reason to commute a death sentence to life imprisonment.

In *suo motu* proceedings instituted in 2022 (INRE: Framing Guidelines Regarding Potential Mitigating Circumstances To Be Considered While Imposing Death Sentences), the SC asked whether sentences delivered on the same day as the conviction satisfy the requirement of a meaningful and effective hearing.

It also noted that aggravating circumstances form a part of the record of a case and are always available to a judge, whereas mitigating circumstances are only placed on record after a conviction and before sentencing.

“This”, the Bench said, “places the convict at a hopeless disadvantage, tilting the scales heavily against him”, and referred the case to a larger Bench to create a uniform approach to sentencing hearings in death penalty cases.

EXPLAINED GLOBAL

ANNUAL MEET BEGINS IN DAVOS: WHAT IS THE WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM?

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 20

THE WORLD Economic Forum (WEF) is holding its Annual Meeting from January 20 to 24 in Davos, Switzerland. Attendees will include European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, China’s Vice Premier Ding Xuexiang, and other leaders in business and politics.

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw is heading the Indian delegation. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu will also attend. “There will be a detailed discussion in the WEF Annual Meeting World Economic Forum about inclusive growth, investment in social, physical and digital infrastructure and democratising technology,” Vaishnaw said.

The WEF, its founder

German professor Klaus Schwab founded the WEF. He was a mechanical engineering graduate who then earned a Master of Public Administration degree from the John F Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

After working as a professor for several years, he founded the WEF in 1971, originally known as the European Management Forum. It introduced the concept of “stakeholder capitalism”. According to the WEF website, “A company should serve all its stakeholders, not just its shareholders: employees, suppliers, and the community it is part of.”

In service of this idea, business, government and civil society leaders annually make their way to the Alps “to consider the major global issues of the day and to brainstorm on solutions to address these challenges”.

What happens at WEF

Initially, Schwab focused the meetings on how European firms could catch up with US management practices. Events in 1973, namely the collapse of the Bretton Woods fixed exchange rate



Major Indian companies such as TCS and Infosys will also be present in Davos. Reuters

mechanism and the Arab-Israeli War, saw the Annual Meeting expand its focus to socio-economic issues.

Two years later, the organisation introduced a system of membership for “the 1,000 leading companies of the world”. The European Management Forum was the first non-governmental institution to initiate a partnership with China’s economic development commissions in 1979, the same year China and the US established diplomatic ties.

Davos brings together some 3,000 participants (including paying members and select invitees), among whom are investors, business leaders, political leaders, economists, celebrities and journalists. Last year, the major themes at the event were Artificial Intelligence, geopolitical uncertainties and climate change.

Funding of WEF

The WEF is largely funded by its partnering corporations. These are generally global enterprises with annual turnover greater than \$5 billion.

In 1998, participants emphasised the need to include major developing countries in the process. One idea was to set up a body to include 20 countries — half developed economies and the other developing ones. Such a meeting of what would become the G20 was held in Bonn, Germany, later that year.

ANONNA DUTT
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 20

THE LANCET medical journal’s Diabetes & Endocrinology Commission last week proposed a new definition and method for diagnosing obesity, beyond simply looking at a person’s Body Mass Index (BMI), the ratio of one’s weight and height.

This comes after years of research, and the piling up of a significant body of evidence suggesting that BMI alone is an inadequate measure for diagnosing, and treating people for obesity.

An associated publication also proposed a new definition of obesity specifically for Indians, on the lines of the broader recommendations made by *The Lancet*.

This major development comes at a time when doctors have in their arsenal new, highly effective medicines, specifically GLP-1 receptor agonists such as Ozempic, to deal with clinical obesity.

How has obesity been measured thus far?

The standard method of determining obesity across the world has thus far employed BMI cut-offs as the sole determinant.

A person with a BMI of less than 18.5 is considered to be underweight, a BMI between 18.5 and 24.9 is considered to be normal, those with BMI between 25 and 29.9 are considered to be overweight, while those with BMI over 30 are considered to be obese.

BMI is calculated by dividing a person’s body mass (weight) in kilograms by the square of their height measured in metres. For instance, a person weighing 70 kg and having a height of 1.75 cm (roughly 5 feet 9 inches) has a BMI of 22.86, which falls in the healthy range, according to the definition followed thus far.

Why has this method been criticised?

Relying solely on BMI cut-offs leads to both over- and under-diagnosis of obesity.

People with excess body fat may not always have a BMI of more than 30. They may nonetheless suffer the health consequences of obesity. On the other hand, people with high muscle mass may have a BMI of more than 30 while being extremely healthy, and in no need of any intervention.

Then there are many people who do have excess body fat, but still maintain normal organ function. They too require minimal, if any, medical intervention.

In India, for instance, many seemingly lean people with a BMI of less than 30 have abdominal fat that can affect the function-

OBESITY: A GLOBAL PROBLEM

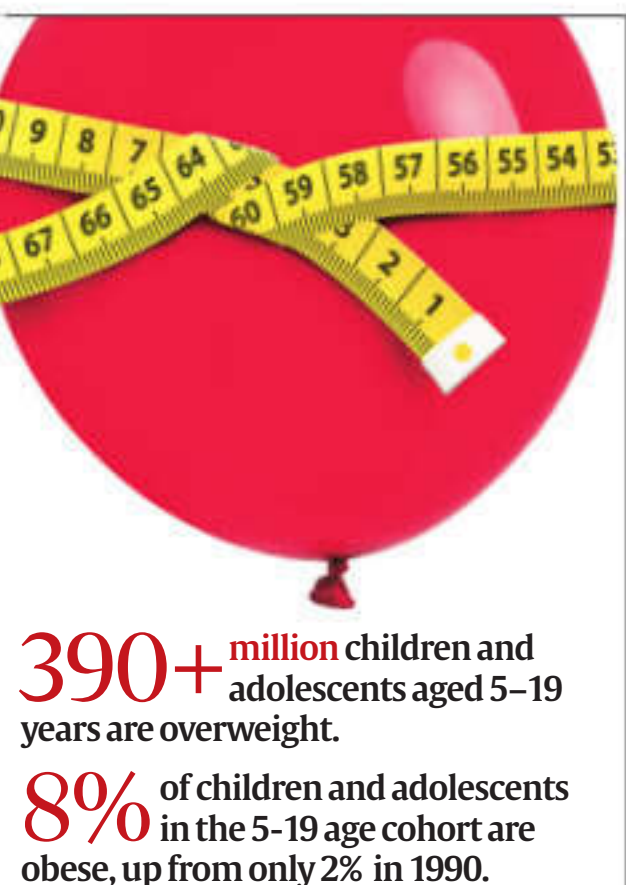
According to the World Health Organization’s (WHO’s) fact sheet on obesity*

2.5 billion adults globally are overweight (including those living with obesity), corresponding to 43% of all adults. Only 25% of adults were overweight in 1990.

890 million adults are living with obesity globally, corresponding to 16% of all adults. The prevalence of obesity among adults has doubled compared to 1990.

37 million children under the age of 5 years are estimated to be overweight.

*Data is from 2022; it was published on WHO’s website on March 1, 2024. Numbers are based on the prevalent method of determining obesity, using BMI cut-offs.



ing of various organs.

“We saw that Indians would get diabetes, hypertension, heart diseases and other consequences of obesity even at lower BMI. This is because they typically have higher body fat percentages and central obesity as compared to Western counterparts,” Dr Anoop Misra, chairman of the Fortis CDOC Hospital for Diabetes, and the only Indian on the Lancet Commission, said.

Indeed, the BMI cut-offs for obesity were adjusted for Indians in 2009. Those falling in the 23 to 24.9 range were deemed overweight, while a BMI of more than 25 was deemed to indicate obesity. This too did not, however, do away with the problems arising out of using BMI as the sole yardstick to determine obesity.

What is the Lancet Commission’s new proposed definition of obesity?

The Lancet Commission defines clinical obesity as a chronic illness that results in alteration in organ functions regardless of other conditions a person might have. “It can lead to life-altering or life-threatening complications,” the Commission states.

The new definition broadens the meaning of obesity to take into account a number of physical parameters such as height, weight, and waist circumference, as well as things such as muscle mass, and the functioning of various organs.

For a clinical obesity diagnosis, the physician will have to check for all kinds of signs and symptoms, such as breathlessness,

wheezing, sleep apnoea, high triglyceride levels, metabolic dysfunctions, non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, changes in reproductive system, heart failure, chronic fatigue, and knee and joint pain, among others. They may also consider how active a person is in their day-to-day life, before arriving at a diagnosis.

Under the new definition, obesity cannot simply be self-diagnosed — it is a determination for a qualified physician to make, like other diseases and conditions.

What does ‘pre-clinical obesity’ mean under the new definition?

The new definition does away with the overweight category, adding instead a category called “pre-clinical obesity” where a person has excess body fat, but no associated ongoing illness. Like the diagnosis for clinical obesity, this requires meeting multiple physical parameters, and a physician to make assessments regarding organ function.

The Commission defines preclinical obesity as a physical attribute but not an illness. It says: “In some people it might represent an earlier stage of clinical obesity, whereas in other people it can be a phenotype with lower tendency to directly affect organ function.”

How is body size calculated for this evaluation?

Even with all the additions to the definition of obesity, body size remains a crucial factor. What has changed is that BMI is now

not the sole determinant of body size, which in turn is not the sole determinant of obesity.

The Commission suggests looking at any two of the following four parameters for evaluating body size:

- BMI
- Waist circumference
- Waist-to-hip ratio
- Waist-to-height ratio

Doctors may also use methods such as Dexa scan to directly measure body fat.

What is different about the new definition for Indians?

Although on the same lines as the Lancet Commission recommendations — Dr Misra is a common author — the Indian guidelines use the classifications of ‘stage 1’ and ‘stage 2’ obesity instead of preclinical and clinical obesity.

Moreover, “BMI has been retained as the entry-point for the diagnosis in India. This is because people are familiar with it, and it would be easier to implement,” said Dr Misra.

According to the Indian definition, a person would be deemed to have stage 1 obesity if they have a BMI of more than 23 — waist circumference and waist-to-height ratio is optional for this group — but do not have symptoms that show limitations in day to day activities, and other obesity-related chronic conditions.

For diagnosis of stage 2 obesity, a person would have to have a BMI of more than 23, meet one more physical parameter of obesity (such as waist circumference and waist-to-height ratio), and suffer from obesity-associated limitations, comorbid diseases.

How is obesity to be treated?

For pre-clinical obesity, the Lancet Commission says that the focus has to be on risk reduction and prevention of progression to clinical obesity. This requires counselling for weight loss, and prevention of weight gain along with regular monitoring. “Lifestyle interventions such as good diet and regular exercise can suffice in this group,” Dr Misra said.

For those with clinical obesity, there will be more evidence-based, and personalised interventions. Success in dealing with obesity should be assessed by improvement in signs and symptoms associated with obesity rather than loss in weight.

“Doctors now have newer weight loss medicines that can be used for treating obesity. Weight loss surgery is available. These new guidelines help physicians select better the patients who need these interventions. Using medicines to treat a person with a high BMI but no other condition or symptoms is injudicious use of the medicine,” Dr Misra said.

Bail under PMLA: interpretation by SC, HCs of law on exception for women

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
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THE SUPREME Court criticised the Enforcement Directorate (ED) last week for arguing that the rigorous bail conditions in money laundering cases will apply to women even though the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA) provides an exception to this standard.

“We will not tolerate conduct on the part of Union of India to make submissions contrary to statute,” a Bench of Justices A S Oka and Augustine George Masih said while hearing the bail plea of a woman accused of aiding alleged money laundering activities by the promoter of a Lucknow-based real estate company.

The court gave bail to the woman, a government school teacher named Shashi Bala.

PMLA and exception

Section 45 of the PMLA, which provides for bail, puts the onus on the accused seeking bail to prove that there is no *prima facie* case against them. This is similar to the stringent bail standard under the anti-terror law Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (UAPA).

Section 45(1) reads: “No person...shall be released on bail or on his own bond unless (i) the Public Prosecutor has been given an opportunity to oppose the application...; and (ii) where the Public Prosecutor opposes the application, the Court is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for believing that he is not guilty of such offence and that he is not likely to commit any offence while on bail.”

However, there is an exception to this bail standard, which applies to minors, women, and sick people:

“Provided that a person, who is under

the age of sixteen years or is a woman or is sick or infirm, may be released on bail, if the Special Court so directs.”

This exception is similar to exemptions under the Indian Penal Code, 1860 (IPC) for women and minors.

Legal precedent

In 2023, Delhi High Court granted bail to Preeti Chandra, wife of Sanjay Chandra, who was the Director of M/s Unitech Group, underlining the exception for women. The HC rejected the ED’s argument that the accused was not entitled to the benefit of the exception because she was not a “household lady”.

“...To argue what kind of woman is entitled to fall within the *proviso* to section 45(1) PMLA by creating an *ad-hoc* illusion-

ary sub-classification of educated women, business women, women belonging to high social strata, within the broader classification of “woman”...is misconceived,” the court said.

However, to be eligible for bail, the accused must not be a “flight risk” or “tamper witnesses”, the court said. (*Preeti Chandra vs Directorate of Enforcement*, June 14, 2023)

In April 2024, however, a trial court in Delhi denied interim bail to Bharat Rashtia Samithi (BRS) leader K Kavitha in the Delhi excise scam case, observing that it was not “obligatory” or “mandatory” for the court to follow the exception.

Judge Kaveri Baweja observed that Kavitha was “well-educated” and a “well-placed woman in the society”, and could not

be considered a “vulnerable” woman for the purposes of the exception under the PMLA. (Kavitha was subsequently given bail by the Supreme Court.)

Case of Shashi Bala

The ED is investigating alleged fraud by Shine City Group and its promoter Rasheed Naseem, who, according to a May 2024 release by the agency, “collected huge amount of money (approximately Rs 800-1000 Crore) from the public...and promised huge returns on such investment”.

“However, no such returns were given to the investors and they were cheated by the accused by way of committing fraud,” the ED said.

Shashi Bala is one of several individuals accused of assisting Naseem in money laundering and concealing the proceeds of crime. The ED has alleged that she was

Naseem’s main confidant, and received more than Rs 36 lakh as a part of the money laundering exercise.

Shashi Bala was arrested in November 2023, and her plea for bail was denied by Allahabad High Court in September 2024.

The HC held that she was in contact with Naseem, who is absconding, and “coupled with the proportion of fraud committed”, she does not fall under the category of a “vulnerable woman” and would not be entitled to bail under the exception for women under Section 45 of the PMLA.

Shashi Bala appealed to the SC, and in December 2024, the ED argued before the court that the exception should not be available to her. On January 15, Justice Oka said: “If people who appear for the Union of India do not know basic provisions of law why should they appear in the matter?”



Who’s afraid of Trump?

Apprehensions of disruptions to the global order may be greatly exaggerated



SANJAYA BARU

TRUST AFTER RG KAR

Verdict offers some closure. But case has raised questions that demand more answers, interventions by city, state, country

NEARLY SIX MONTHS after he was arrested for the rape and murder of a 31-year-old trainee doctor in Kolkata’s RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in August last year, the Sealdah Court awarded a life sentence to Sanjay Roy on Monday. The verdict offers a semblance of closure for the irreparable loss of a young life in a metropolis that prides itself for its progressive traditions and safe spaces, especially for women. The road ahead now must concern itself with the task of rebuilding citizen trust in the city.

The public outrage triggered by the incident at RG Kar rippled across the country last year. In Kolkata, agitating doctors had flagged issues that continue to haunt institutions and public spaces — CCTV cameras that don’t work, absence of on-call rooms, gender-segregated wash rooms, lack of a centralised patient referral system and inadequate security measures that have rendered doctors increasingly vulnerable to violence. They were speaking for West Bengal but their demands and complaints could hold true for any city in India. When it comes to women’s safety, there continues to be a yawning chasm between intentions and outcomes. For instance, the 100 per cent increase in the budgetary allocation of the Nirbhaya Fund for 2024–25 notwithstanding, data shows that between 2013, when the fund was set up, and 2022, less than half of the allocation had been used. In the aftermath of the RG Kar incident, the Aparajita Woman and Child (West Bengal Criminal Laws and Amendment) Bill 2024, was passed by the state assembly, seeking speedy trials and death penalty for heinous crimes against women. Expediting cases and ensuring that there is a restraint of the law — rather than a sense of impunity — are crucial for deterring future incidents. But it must also come with safeguards against knee-jerk reactions and quick-fix solutions.

For long, Bengal has been a place where women have been at the centre of a development narrative. Women also form the core of the electoral base of the current ruling party, TMC, bolstered by Mamata Banerjee’s women-oriented schemes such as Lakshmir Bhandar and Kanyashree. The party has the highest proportion of women in the Lok Sabha. In the initial days after the incident, Banerjee had chosen to be blinkered, refusing to hear the rumblings both within her party and in the city-wide agitations. She acceded eventually to the requests of agitating doctors to look into their grievances. At the Sealdah court, as the victim’s father refused compensation, the judge said, “I don’t think money can compensate (for) any death. It was the liability of state to protect your daughter as she was on duty...” No amount of retroactive action can make up for the senseless loss of a loved one to violence. But this is the moment for the state and society to affirm the commitment to make good on promises of empowerment and equality. Gender-sensitive design and policy should be integrated into city planning, women’s mobility must not come at the cost of their safety. Most of all, larger conversations on gender are needed, across spectrums.

MIS, NOT MSP

For farmers, minimum income support, not minimum support price, is the way forward

IN NOVEMBER 2021, the Narendra Modi government repealed its three agricultural reform laws following protests by farm unions agitating at Delhi’s borders. At that time, it tried hard to reach out to the unions and convince them about how the laws — which allowed trade in produce to take place outside state government-controlled markets and agri-businesses to source directly from growers — were in farmer interest, but in vain. Today, the shoe’s on the other foot. Since February last year, farmers from Punjab and Haryana have been unsuccessfully attempting to enter the national capital, while demanding enactment of a law guaranteeing payment of the government-declared minimum support price (MSP) for all crops. One farm union leader has been on a hunger strike since November 26 — he has accepted medical aid on Day 55 of his fast. This time round, however, the Modi government’s approach has been one bordering on indifference. It has finally offered to hold talks, but only on February 14.

But sides are at fault here. The farm reform laws were, no doubt, well-intentioned. The failure, then, lay not in the bills’ provisions, but in the way they were steamrolled through Parliament sans any real debate. The dialogue with the farm unions happened much after the laws got passed. The Modi government shouldn’t make the same mistake of not engaging at the right time. The ruling party’s recent electoral victories in Haryana and Maharashtra leave it with sufficient bargaining position to convince the unions about the unreasonableness of the demand for a “legal MSP”. Prices of crops, like all commodities, are or should be determined by the forces of supply and demand. Farmers must ultimately produce what the market wants. The government would do better to ensure well-functioning markets rather than fixing, leave alone guaranteeing, MSPs.

The debate should move from guaranteeing minimum “prices” for crops to assuring some kind of a minimum “income” for farmers. There is already a Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme that provides Rs 6,000 annually to all landholding farmers. The quantum of income support under this scheme can, perhaps, be enhanced and even modified from a per-farmer to per-hectare or per-animal basis. All the taxpayer money now being spent on farm input subsidies — whether on fertiliser, electricity, water or credit — can be redirected and converted into direct income support. With pricing of crops and inputs left to the market, it will enable the government to focus on what farmers actually deserve — a minimum income so long as they continue to farm. MIS, not MSP, is the way forward.

DJOKOVIC’S LAST STAND

At the Australian Open, in a riveting game between a titan and a star, both bragging rights and history are at stake

THE TENNIS CALENDAR is only into its first month but already what could turn out to be the defining contest of the year is here. The last titan of the greatest generation in the men’s game, Novak Djokovic, against one of the current stars on the circuit, Carlos Alcaraz. At 37 and coming off a season without adding to his Grand Slam tally, it would be tempting to conclude that Djokovic is no longer a force at the very top of the sport, especially when Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner evenly split all the Majors of 2024 between them. But as the Serb showed in winning his first Olympic singles gold in Paris, beating Alcaraz in the final, nothing is beyond him. With the Spaniard needing the Australian Open to complete a career Grand Slam, both bragging rights and history are at stake.

Djokovic is the most successful male player in Grand Slam history, lifting the Australian Open trophy no less than 10 times. But he wears on his sleeve a grievance that he hasn’t got his due, or not as much as his illustrious contemporaries Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal have. This year, too, he has brought up the ignominy of deportation from Australia during the pandemic and even alleged that he may have been “poisoned” during that episode.

Djokovic plays his best when he believes the world is against him. It fuels his angst to prove a point and makes him a dangerous proposition for his opponent. The Serb has improved as the tournament has progressed, and has a narrow 4–3 lead in their head-to-head history. But in a bid to prevent himself from being consigned to the status of a legend from the past, that too at his favourite hunting ground, this could be Djokovic’s last stand.

GRANT IT TO Donald Trump. He knows how to sell an idea and get the market all excited and worried. He will reclaim the Panama Canal, occupy Greenland and subjugate Canada. He might even orchestrate a political coup in London. An entire industry of global commentators has emerged predicting turbulence in world affairs caused by a disruption of the so-called post-war “rules-based international order” by President Donald Trump. It is not merely adversaries like China, Iran and Russia that he will go after, it is predicted, but also allies and friends across Europe and Asia.

The Indian leadership seems to have gone into a funk, more after President Xi Jinping received an invitation to Trump’s inaugural. All the speculation about who was spotted at which do in Washington DC this weekend is no different from the excitement surrounding the guest list to a billionaire’s wedding.

How much of this Trumpian turbulence and disruption talk is bluff and bluster? Indeed, how capable is the United States today to disrupt and damage the existing global order without hurting itself? Can Trump Make America Great Again hurting allies and losing friends? Can he do that taking countries hostage? Is the international community so weak, disorganised and vulnerable that it will simply bend and crawl? Do sovereign nations have no options?

What is so special and challenging about Trump’s “America First” platform? When was the last time the United States placed another country’s needs and wants ahead of its own for Trump to now claim that it is time for the US to declare America First? America has always been first for its leadership after the Second World War. It has refused to step away from the countries it defeated and occupied in that war. On the other hand, it engaged in new wars to secure control over new territories, and then claimed it was ensuring global peace and stability in the name of a “rules-based liberal international order”. This was true even when it invested in the defence of countries that it either occupied, like Japan, South Korea and most of western Europe, or in supplicant countries of the Anglosphere.

The global economy is far too integrated for even the most powerful entity to imagine that it can hurt without getting hurt. If the US looks inward to improve its infrastructure, invest in the education and health of its citizens, create more jobs at home for the unemployed that would be good for the world economy. If America First means investing US taxpayers’ money at home and not in soldiers who go to distant lands to die that too would be good for America and the world. The US still has the capacity to do global good and in helping itself it could help the world.



AKSHITA AGARWAL

INDIAN AGRICULTURE IS at a critical juncture, balancing the need for food security, rural livelihoods, and sustainability amid global and domestic challenges. While strides have been made in productivity, India continues to lag in adoption of several modern technology innovations. To build a *viksit* agri economy by 2047, here are seven imperatives for the Indian agri industry.

First, use of AI in agriculture. India is starting to deploy AI for critical use cases such as weather forecasting, pest detection and control, and crop yield optimisation. However, penetration is limited to a small subset of tech-savvy farmers. In the US and Europe, generative AI tools have started offering precision farming at scale, integrating large datasets to provide real-time agronomic insights. For at-scale integration and accessibility of in India, it would be helpful to develop vernacular AI platforms for smallholder farmers, partner with AgTechs to create affordable AI solutions, and disseminate AI-based advisory services through government programmes.

Second, India has started in pockets with regenerative farming practices such as organic farming and zero-budget natural farming. However, monoculture practices and excessive chemicals and fertiliser use dominates most farming systems, leading to soil degradation and biodiversity loss. France and the US lead in regenerative agriculture through structured policies, farmer incentives and R&D on sustainable practices. For India, the focus should be on a national regenerative farming

FIELDS OF VIKSIT BHARAT

Seven imperatives for the Indian agri industry

India stands at a crossroads in modernising its agricultural practices. By embracing innovation and fostering public-private collaborations, it can become a global leader in sustainable and technologically advanced farming. The idea is not to copy-paste solutions that have worked elsewhere in the world, but rather to customise and adapt farming practices based on the Indian agri context.

policy and private sector-led R&D for capital efficient agro-ecology practices.

Third, robotics adoption in India is limited due to high costs and a large labour force in rural areas. Basic automation tools like seeders and sprayers are more common, but advanced technologies such as robotic harvesters are inaccessible to most farmers. To build a foundation for robotics and automation, India must develop low-cost robotic solutions tailored for small farms, set up AgTech hubs for testing and deploying automation and promote public-private partnerships to scale robotics innovation. Fourth, India’s alternative protein market is in its infancy, driven by startups. Affordability and scalability remain major barriers to adoption. The EU leads in alternative proteins with government-backed initiatives and cutting-edge R&D. In India, the focus must be on collaborating with global leaders to improve production, formulation techniques and public awareness on lab-grown proteins.

Fifth, digital twins are limited in Indian agriculture. Field trials are manual and time-consuming, increasing costs and delaying the deployment of new crop technologies. The US employs digital twin technology at-scale to model field trials virtually, reducing costs and speeding up the launch of agri-inputs. In India, partnering with AgTechs to pilot such projects, training researchers in digital modeling and exploring tax incentives for investing in digital twin solutions can not only boost transparency but also unlock productivity.

Sixth, blockchain is still at an experimental stage in India, with pilot projects in food traceability. Wider adoption is hindered by lack of infrastructure and farmer awareness. China has integrated blockchain across multiple agricultural supply chains, ensuring transparency, reducing fraud and improving market access. Export crops should be a focus for India blockchain scale-up, to materially improve price realisation for farmers.

Seventh, climate-smart farming techniques. While programmes like PM-KUSUM promote renewable energy for irrigation, large-scale climate-smart initiatives are limited. India needs to scale up micro-irrigation technologies, invest in climate-resilient seed varieties and bio-based crop protection products, and leverage AI to develop localised climate advisory systems.

India stands at a crossroads in modernising its agricultural practices. By embracing innovation and fostering public-private collaborations, it can become a global leader in sustainable and technologically advanced farming. The idea is not to copy-paste solutions that have worked elsewhere in the world, but rather to customise and adapt farming practices based on the Indian agri context. To act on these imperatives will require a strategic mix of investments, policy reforms, and grassroots engagement to ensure that smallholder farmers are not left behind in Viksit Bharat.

The writer is a management consultant at McKinsey & Company. Views are personal

JANUARY 21, 1985, FORTY YEARS AGO

JAYALALITHA DISMISSED

THE POWER STRUGGLE in the AIADMK took another turn with the party parliamentary board removing Jayalalitha, Rajya Sabha Member, from the post of deputy leader of the AIADMK parliamentary party. Jayalalitha has challenged the high command’s decision. Party General Secretary PU Shanmugam said that the decision was taken following a letter “received from MGR.” Jayalalitha described it as “100 per cent bogus.”

TRAIN BLOWN UP

AT LEAST 34 people including 23 soldiers

were killed in Sri Lanka when Tamil guerillas blew up a Colombo-bound train about 300 kilometres north of the capital. A senior government spokesman confirmed that the death toll was 34 and said it may run higher because of serious injuries sustained by other passengers.

ISRAEL’S EXIT

THE ISRAELI ARMY began the first stage of its withdrawal from southern Lebanon by moving support units away from the Lebanese city of Sidon. A source said that combat units will not be affected until the very last moment. The government set

February 18 as the deadline for the completion of the first stage of the withdrawal in the region of Sidon and the Zahrani estuary.

SPY SCANDAL

ALLAIN BOLLEY, DEPUTY military, air and naval attache of the French Embassy, was asked to leave the country for his alleged involvement in the spy scandal in which about a dozen persons, including officials of the Prime Minister’s office and other sensitive ministries have been arrested by intelligence agencies. Bolley pleaded ignorance about the involvement of any French diplomat or member of the Embassy in the spy scandal.



Rekindling republicanism

Let this R-Day be about more than going through the motions of a sarkari ritual



DESHKAAL
BY YOGENDRA YADAV

WHAT EXACTLY DO we celebrate on Republic Day? It took me nearly 50 years to figure it out. And I must thank our prime minister for this. Sure, Modi hai to mumkin hai.

As a child, I knew what we celebrated on the 15th of August. *Azadi* from British raj was not hard to comprehend. For us, 26th of January was more of a gala celebration as we filled the colours of our imagination in the jhankis of the Republic Day radio commentary. In the *sarkari* function in our town, a *pahalwan* would move a truck with his teeth. But we didn't quite know what was this *ganatantra* that we celebrated. It had something to do with the Constitution, we were told.

My civics teacher in Class IX, Master Fateh Chand Goyal, was a Wikipedia on the Indian Constitution, one of the reasons for my abiding interest in political science. He clarified the difference between November 26 (not yet Constitution Day then) and January 26, the day we became a republic. Any country that is not ruled by a hereditary ruler is a republic, he told us. Unlike Britain, still stuck to the bygone institution of the monarchy, we had adopted a republican form of government. The idea of India being one up on England appealed to me at a time when we lost most of our test matches to their cricket team, but then every other country was also a republic. What was so special about being a republic in this age and time, I asked him. "*Bade hokar samjhoge*", he said.

I didn't, even after I grew up. Once you read Harishankar Parsai's biting satire, you can never take "*Thithurata Hua Ganatantra*" (A Shivering Republic) out of your mind on January 26. Recalling his visits to the Republic Day parade, he wondered where the "thunderous applause" in the Akashvani commentary came from, as none of the persons in the enclosures took their hands out of their warm coat pockets in the bitter cold of Delhi. He surmises that the applause must come from those hands whose owners did not have warm clothes to wrap themselves in. His immortal line — "*lagta hai, ganatantra thithurate hue hathon ki taliyon par tika hai*" (apparently, the republic rests on the applause of shivering hands)" — left me scarred for years. It still leaves me with goose bumps. Celebration of the republic was a cold thought.

Narendra Modi's rise to power and the journey of the last decade made me rediscover the concept of a republic. As we began losing our institutions, our freedoms, our voices and our sanity, I kept looking for the word that could give this loss a name. We were losing democracy and our Constitution, I was told. That was, of course, true, but there was something more this time than the mutilation of constitutional democracy during the dreadful Emergency. We were losing our shared sense of purpose, our collective being, our Indianness. How do we name this momentous loss?

This is when the *jhumka* suddenly dropped: We are losing our republic. A republic is not just a negation of that quaint institution called monarchy; it is a rejection of arbitrary power in all its forms — political, social and economic. A republican is not someone



C R Sasikumar

with a MAGA-lomania. Republicanism connects to a deep political and intellectual tradition in the Euro-Atlantic world, an alternative to liberal-democracy, a radical tradition centred around the ideals of political liberty, popular sovereignty, equal citizenship and civic virtues. Republicanism recalls the key value of our freedom struggle — *swaraj* in all dimensions of our life — and the political quest of Babasaheb Ambedkar as well as the spirit of *gana* that informed ancient Indian republics. Indeed, radical republicanism is the underlying philosophy of our Constitution. Now I understood why my civics teacher was so proud of us being a republic.

This realisation took me back to academic — that is, western — political theory after a long gap. I discovered that "republicanism" had staged a comeback. Following the path-breaking research by Quentin Skinner and JGA Pocock, it was understood that thinkers like Machiavelli were not monarchists but belonged to a robust tradition of civic republicanism, that their understanding of liberty was very different from that of the dominant liberal tradition. Building on this understanding in his book *Republicanism: A Theory of Freedom and Government*, Philip Pettit redefined liberty as non-domination. In this version, "neo-republicanism" is not just an academic fad, it opens the door for modern democrats to reconnect with the egalitarian, anti-power, impulse of various struggles all over the world. *Radical Republicanism* (edited by Bruno Leipold, Karma Nabulsi and Stuart White) makes this connection across various domains of social, economic and political life in our times.

How does this connect to our political tradition? I turned to Babasaheb Ambedkar, arguably the only democratic theorist of 20th century India, for an answer. His writings on democracy (so ably curated by Christophe Jaffrelot and Narender Kumar in *Dr Ambedkar and Democracy: An Anthology*) show a shift from republicanism to a radical republicanism, culminating in this astounding

A republic is not just a negation of that quaint institution called monarchy; it is a rejection of arbitrary power in all its forms — political, social and economic. A republican is not someone with a MAGA-lomania. Republicanism connects to a deep political and intellectual tradition in the Euro-Atlantic world, an alternative to liberal-democracy, a radical tradition centred around the ideals of political liberty, popular sovereignty, equal citizenship and civic virtues. Republicanism recalls the key value of our freedom struggle — 'swaraj' in all dimensions of our life — and the political quest of Babasaheb Ambedkar as well as the spirit of 'gana' that informed ancient Indian republics.

ing statement (italics in original): "My definition of democracy is 'a form and a method of government whereby revolutionary changes in the economic and social life of the people are brought without a bloodshed'". For him democracy was not merely a political order. A genuine democracy must also be a social order sans hierarchy that is based on a shared sense of community of all citizens. Such a moral order requires a cultivation of civic virtues, an attitude of mind based on equality and liberty, but above all anchored in fraternity or maitree. To avoid any misunderstanding, he declares "Let no one, however, say that I have borrowed my philosophy from the French Revolution... I have derived them from the teachings of my Master, the Buddha." Radical republicanism comes closest to defining Babasaheb's democratic theory. No wonder, he founded the Republican Party of India.

This Republic Day must not be about going through the motions of a tired sarkari ritual but about rekindling this spirit of republicanism. Satirist Parsai had proposed that each Republic Day *jhanki* could display the reality of the state that year: Drought relief scam, corruption scandals, riots, atrocities. In a similar vein, this year UP could be represented by a bulldozer, Maharashtra by a giant washing machine, Haryana with a scene of lynching and Delhi with the images of Umar Khalid and other UAPA detainees without trial. Towards the end, there could be a blank mega TV screen and the statue of justice without a blindfold or eyes. This Republic Day could be a *jhanki*, a glimpse, of the fracturing of the *gana* in our *ganatantra*, the dismantling of our republic.

If republic names what we have lost over the last 10 years, reclaiming the republic must be the clarion call, our *shankhanaad*, this 26th of January.

Yadav is member, *Swaraj India*, and national convenor of *Bharat Jodo Abhiyaan*. Views are personal

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Ultimately, Gaza should become part of an independent Palestinian state. In the best of worlds, this ceasefire will be the beginning of this essential change."
— THE WASHINGTON POST

A virus in perspective

Anxieties about HMPV are understandable after Covid. But it has been in circulation since 2001, our health system is equipped to deal with it



SOUMYA SWAMINATHAN
AND HARKABIR SINGH
JANDU

FIRST DETECTED IN 2001, HMPV (Human metapneumovirus) is a virus from the family called Pneumoviridae and has been in circulation even earlier in human populations. Hence HMPV is well known to the medical community in terms of its characteristics, illness caused, prevention, detection and management. Further, many people in India would have been exposed to HMPV because it is a common virus. The virus just happens to now be picked up by the media. The few cases of the HMPV detected in India during the current flu season are within the expected range and not a cause for alarm.

HMPV usually spreads from infected people through droplets, infected surfaces, and contact such as handshakes. The typical period between infection and appearance of symptoms is three to six days. Symptoms can include nasal congestion, sneezing, cough, breathlessness, fever, and sore throat; similar to the ones caused by common cold or flu. In almost all cases, HMPV causes only mild symptoms that resolve in a few days. Like most respiratory viruses that affect humans, HMPV can cause more severe respiratory illnesses especially in infants, young children, the very elderly, and those who have weakened immune systems.

HMPV can be prevented by following the usual precautions of the flu season. These include wearing masks, avoiding touching the face, frequently washing hands, avoiding crowded places, especially by the very young and the elderly. In fact, routinely wearing masks could help reduce many high-burden diseases in India including seasonal flu, pneumonia, and tuberculosis.

The health system in India is fully equipped to deal with HMPV. The virus can be detected through a routine RT-PCR test of the kind used for detecting the Covid19 virus, though this is not needed for most cases. Management of HMPV is similar to that of other respiratory viruses and principally revolves around symptomatic management including hydrating, taking warm fluids, resting, and taking paracetamol for managing high fever. It is important to keep an eye out for warning signs, particularly in infants and the elderly. These include breathing fast, difficulty in breathing, persistent high fever, incessant coughing, vomiting, and infants being unable to feed. One should seek medical attention from a doctor if these symptoms appear.

We can say with a high degree of confidence that the handful of cases of HMPV that have been detected so far in India originate not from outside the country but from within, as is expected during the winter months.

Using its country-wide lab-based surveillance network, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has found that

HMPV has caused approximately 3 per cent of the cases of Influenza Like Illness (ILI) and Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI) in the current season. The vast majority of cases have been caused by SARS-CoV-2 (that caused the Covid19 pandemic and is still circulating in the country), Influenza A, Influenza B, RSV and other pathogens. This distribution typically changes month-on-month. Of course, the more we test the more we will detect. For an infection like HMPV, the absolute numbers of cases are not important and need not be counted — only overall trends in virus circulation in the country are useful to know.

Further, there is no data to suggest that the circulating HMPV has mutated in any way that is of public health concern. ICMR and its institutes continue to track this aspect as well.

Anxieties about respiratory disease outbreaks are understandable in the wake of the Covid19 pandemic. Hence, science-based communication and response become even more critical for all sections of society.

When SARS-CoV-2 was first detected in 2019, it was a truly novel virus for the world. At the time, no one in the world had been exposed to SARS-CoV-2 or had specific immunity against it. In contrast, people across the world have been exposed to HMPV for decades and the virus is well studied. HMPV and SARS-CoV-2 belong to two very different virus families with fundamentally different characteristics and epidemiology, with strong seasonality seen for HMPV unlike SARS-CoV-2. Both viruses cause different severity of symptoms particularly over the long-term and the affected population segments do not fully overlap. HMPV in general causes milder illness with deaths being very rare and no long-term post-viral symptoms.

India's Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has taken prompt action during this flu season, keeping in mind the sensitivities around HMPV. Learning from the Covid19 pandemic, ICMR and the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) are closely monitoring surveillance data across the country. The national and state governments are also communicating proactively. We should use this period to test our surveillance and risk communication systems, to learn and refine processes in anticipation of an actually virulent outbreak in the future.

The Niti Aayog published its framework report on future pandemic preparedness and emergency response in August 2024. The recommendations of this report should be implemented on priority along with increased investments in R&D for vaccines and counter measures against pathogens of concern, which have been identified by the World Health Organisation. This will help India to be fully prepared for future outbreaks, epidemics from known and emerging infections.

Finally, air pollution significantly exacerbates respiratory illnesses, including ILI and SARI, and is one of the leading drivers of mortality globally. It's time we swiftly and effectively act on air pollution across the country through a multi-sectoral and all-of-government approach.

Swaminathan is chairperson, *MS Swaminathan Research Foundation*, Chennai, and principal advisor, *MOHFW*. Jandu is an independent consultant



SUMIT GANGULY

AS PRESIDENT JOE Biden was about to leave a press conference following the announcement of a possible ceasefire accord between Israel and Hamas, a reporter asked him, "Who gets credit for this, Mr. President, you or Trump?" Apparently, Biden had stopped, turned around, smiled and said, "Is this a joke?"

His sardonic response aside, according to reliable news reports, his administration had made a relentless effort in its last days to try and conclude a ceasefire between the two warring parties. This endeavour, that his Secretary of State, Anthony Blinken had spearheaded, was no doubt an effort to cement his legacy as his presidency ended.

To no surprise, President-elect Trump wasted little time in claiming that his election was responsible for the accord even before it had been formally announced in the Middle East. His self-aggrandising announcement notwithstanding, the Biden administration had initiated this process and Trump's new emissary for the Middle East, Steve Witkoff, helped to conclude it. Even Wikoff conceded that it was Brett McGurk, President Biden's trusted Middle East hand, who had played a crucial role in bringing this deal to a successful close.

The agreement is now being imple-

mented. Ninety Palestinians, who had been held in Israeli prisons, have now been released in exchange for three Israeli hostages. Another 30, who still remain in Hamas' custody, will be released in the next several weeks. In the meanwhile, many displaced Palestinians are now returning to their demolished homes.

This six-week ceasefire may well lead to a broader diplomatic initiative that culminates in a more permanent peace. Whether or not that happens remains uncertain. The relentless Israeli bombardment of Gaza designed to eviscerate Hamas, and its military prowess has actually had an unintended and perverse consequence: As per some reports Hamas is alleged to have actually exploited the abject conditions prevailing in Gaza to recruit almost as many of fighters that it has lost. Consequently, it is still not a completely spent force, a key objective of the Netanyahu government's war.

It should also be noted that at least one key member of his war cabinet, National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir, who was staunchly opposed to the ceasefire, has now resigned along with two other ministers. Another hardliner, Minister of Finance Bezalel Smotrich, who chose not to quit the government, has stated that Israel should ex-

plicitly reserve the right to go back into Gaza should it deem necessary.

As both Israelis and Gazans see the implementation of the agreement, a key question remains unanswered. Why was the agreement reached at this very late hour, in the twilight of the Biden administration? It is impossible to provide a definitive answer to this question. However, both informed analysts in the US as well as key members of the Israeli administration, a long-standing Israeli demand had been granted. In December 2017, the United States had accepted Jerusalem and not Tel Aviv as the nation's capital and the US Embassy was also shifted to the city. Furthermore, in 2019, the Trump administration had recognised Israeli sovereignty over the occupied Golan Heights.

Finally, Trump, with his usual bombast, had repeatedly stated in the last few weeks that there would be "hell to pay" if the Israeli hostages were not released before he took charge on January 20. This message, for a certainty, was not lost on Hamas. Additionally, its weakened leadership may have also concluded that given Trump's inclination to grant extraordinary leeway to any Israeli government, it was perhaps best to conclude a ceasefire while the Biden administration was still in office.

The accord, if it goes into effect as planned, will bring this sanguinary war to a close, at least for the next several weeks. What will transpire thereafter will depend in considerable measure on two key factors. First, the degree of latitude the Trump administration is willing to grant Netanyahu's government in dealing with Hamas and the Palestinians in general. Second, on Netanyahu's ability to hold his fractious government together and his willingness to appease the most extreme members of his coalition as he seeks to ensure his own political survival given his legal woes.

Ganguly is senior fellow and directs the *Huntington Program on US-India relations* at Hoover Institution, Stanford University

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BIDEN'S SEND OFF

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Triumph & tragedy' (IE, January 20). Joe Biden's term in office was a mixed bag. Despite all the naysayers, he won the presidency in 2020. Then, he secured major legislative victories like the Inflation Reduction Act, and managed to double the number of Americans who have access to affordable healthcare. The economy created 2.3 million jobs. But his administration failed to solve the inflation crisis, and continued unwavering support for Ukraine and Israel which was met with fierce opposition. His administration has failed in controlling illegal immigration. Regardless of the political leadership change in the White House, all indications are that the Indo-US relationship will only grow stronger.

SS Paul, *Nadia*

HEALTH IS WEALTH

THIS REFERS TO the article 'For better health' (IE, January 20). Health is an essential factor in all spheres of nation-building and healthy citizens are precious assets. We must invest in the health of the citizenry and the nation. Following the policy of "One health", we need digital records of citizens' health. Investment in research of zoonotic and other illnesses is a must. We must also

centralise treatment plans of patients and update them regularly so healthcare professionals, researchers and the state have the information required to preempt a health disaster. A healthy nation will progress in leaps and bounds; that should be the goal.

Subhash Vaid, *New Delhi*

AN ESSENTIAL TEST

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'Carnage to Good Morning: How to get ready for Trump's shock & awe' (IE, January 20). There are immense challenges and opportunities that await Donald Trump in his second term. The focus on foreign policy and immigration overshadows a crucial internal issue: The future of America's democratic institutions. Trump 2.0 could be a defining moment for the state of democracy itself. His past rhetoric and actions have often raised questions about the erosion of democratic norms, particularly in relation to the rule of law, political polarisation, and respect for constitutional checks and balances. As Trump seeks to reaffirm America's global leadership, he must also address the pressing need for unity, stability, and institutional integrity within the country. This may be his most difficult, yet most essential test.

Sanjay Chopra, *Mohali*

IMMIGRATION, ENERGY, TARIFFS AMONG
200 executive decisions to be taken on Day 1

IN INAUGURAL SPEECH, TRUMP PROMISES
people their 'faith, wealth and democracy'

U.S. TO AGAIN WITHDRAW FROM PARIS
climate agreement, says White House

'From this moment, America's decline is over'

REUTERS
JANUARY 20

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump said on Monday he would issue what is expected to be a flurry of executive orders and directives, as he sought to put his stamp on his new administration on matters ranging from energy to immigration. Two sources familiar with the plans said more than 200 such orders and directives could be released. Promising people their faith, wealth, and democracy, Trump said: "From this moment on, America's decline is over."

Here is what we know about the executive orders so far:

IMMIGRATION
Trump said he would declare illegal immigration a national emergency, send troops to the U.S.-Mexico border and reinstate his "remain in Mexico" policy.

He also said he would seek to stop all illegal entries and detain all migrants caught crossing illegally as part of a sweeping immigration crackdown that is expected to include deportations.

Trump will issue a sweeping proclamation that aims to block access to all asylum seekers at the Mexico border, an incoming Trump administration official told Reuters.

He will also issue an order intended to end birthright citizenship for U.S.-born children whose parents lack legal immigration status, the official said.

ENERGY
Trump said he would immediately declare a national energy emergency, promising to fill up strategic oil reserves and export U.S. energy all over the world. "We will be a rich nation again, and it is that liquid gold under our feet that will help to do it," he said.

The U.S. also will withdraw from the Paris climate agreement, according to a White House document. In addition, Trump said he would revoke



Donald Trump is sworn in as the 47th President of the United States by Chief Justice John Roberts as Melania Trump holds the Bible; JD Vance is sworn in as Vice President as wife Usha Vance looks on, in the US Capitol in Washington on Monday. Reuters

what he has called an electric-vehicle mandate.

TARIFFS
Trump said on Monday he would tariff and tax countries to enrich Americans, promised an overhaul of the trade system, and said the U.S. would establish an "External Revenue Service."

Trump will issue a broad trade memo on Monday that stops short of imposing new tariffs on his first day in office, but rather directs federal agencies to evaluate U.S. trade relationships with China, Canada and Mexico, an incoming Trump administration official said.

TRANSGENDER RIGHTS
Trump said his government's policy would be that there are only two genders, male and female. The president has vowed to sign an executive order ending transgender rights in the U.S. military and inside U.S. schools.

As for transgender athletes, he told a rally on Sunday that he would act on his first day to stop the participation of trans athletes in women's sports.

letes in women's sports.

PARDONS
Trump has also said he will take action immediately on taking office to issue pardons for some of the hundreds of people convicted or charged in connection with the Jan 6, 2021, assault on US Capitol by his supporters.

GENDER-AFFIRMING
Trump said in a campaign video in 2023 that on his first day in office he would revoke the Biden administration's policies that provide information and resources to those seeking medical care so they can align their bodies with the gender they identify with. That care can include hormone therapy and surgery.

DRUG CARTELS
Trump said on Monday he would also invoke the Alien Enemies Act of 1798 to eliminate foreign gangs and designate cartels as foreign terrorist organizations, fulfilling a promise he made on the campaign trail to crack down on the sources of the lethal opioid fentanyl.

Musk to Bezos to Meloni: Tech bosses, far-right leaders, artistes attend event

CHRIS CAMERON
WASHINGTON, JANUARY 20

THREE OF the richest people in the world, foreign dignitaries, tech and business executives, former presidents and an assortment of performers and other celebrities are on the guest list for President-elect Donald J. Trump's inauguration on Monday, even as much of the midday ceremony has been moved indoors amid forecasts of extreme cold.

Elon Musk, Mark Zuckerberg and Jeff Bezos, three of the world's wealthiest men, were reported to be among the major tech executives who sat in a position of honor on the dais at Trump's inauguration — before



Donald Trump is sworn in as the 47th President of the United States by Chief Justice John Roberts as Melania Trump holds the Bible; JD Vance is sworn in as Vice President as wife Usha Vance looks on, in the US Capitol in Washington on Monday. Reuters



(From left) Mark Zuckerberg, Lauren Sánchez, Jeff Bezos, Sundar Pichai and Elon Musk, at the Rotunda of the Capitol in Washington, Monday. AP

the event was moved indoors. Tim Cook, the chief executive of Apple, and Shou Chew, the CEO

of TikTok, had also been invited to sit on the dais. China's vice president, Han

Zheng, attended the inauguration on behalf of Xi Jinping, whom Trump had invited to the inauguration. A number of other world leaders also attended the event. Many of them shared Trump's ideology and policy preferences. Javier Milei, the right-wing populist president of Argentina, made an appearance. From Europe, Giorgia Meloni, the right-wing PM of Italy attended.

Three representatives from key U.S. allies in the Asia-Pacific region also attended: S. Jaishankar, the External Affairs Minister for India; Penny Wong, the foreign minister of Australia; and Takeshi Iwaya, the foreign minister of Japan. NBC News also reported that several athletes and musicians would be in attendance. **NYT**

Biden's parting gift: Pre-emptive pardon for kin, Jan 6 panel, Trump foes Fauci & Cheney

REUTERS
WASHINGTON, JANUARY 20

JOE BIDEN issued preemptive pardons on Monday for several of his immediate family members and people his successor Donald Trump has targeted for retaliation, including Republican former lawmaker Liz Cheney and Mark Milley, the former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The pardons, issued in Biden's last hours as president, cover the select committee that investigated the Jan. 6, 2021, storming of the U.S. Capitol by Trump supporters, as well as all lawmakers, including Cheney, who served on the congressional committee and police officers who testified before it. They also



(Clockwise from top left) Mark Milley, former chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff; Anthony Fauci, former White House chief medical advisor; James Biden; former US Rep Liz Cheney. AP & Reuters

covered Anthony Fauci, who served as White House chief medical advisor during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Trump, who was sworn in as president on Monday, has repeatedly called for the prosecution of his perceived enemies since winning the White House in November.

Biden praised public servants as the "lifeblood of our democracy." Without mentioning Trump, he expressed alarm that some of them were subjected to threats and intimidation for doing their job. Just before he handed over the office to Trump, Biden also pardoned five members of his family, saying he wanted to protect them from politically-motivated investigations.

He pardoned his siblings — James Biden, Frank Biden and Valerie Biden Owens — as well as their spouses, John Owens and Sara Biden. "My family has been subjected to unrelenting attacks and threats, motivated solely by a desire to hurt me — the worst kind of partisan politics," Biden said. "Unfortunately, I have no reason to believe these attacks will end."

In December, Biden pardoned his son Hunter after repeatedly saying he would not. Biden also commuted the life sentence imposed on Native American activist Leonard Peltier, who has been jailed for nearly five decades for the 1975 killings of two FBI agents.

The U.S. Constitution gives a president broad pardon powers for federal offenses.

Moments after its creation, 'DOGE' advisory group attracts lawsuits

REUTERS
WASHINGTON, JANUARY 20

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump has officially announced the creation of an advisory group aimed at carrying out dramatic cuts to the U.S. government, attracting immediate lawsuits challenging its operations.

The group — dubbed the Department of Government Efficiency, or "DOGE" — is being co-run by Tesla CEO Elon Musk and failed presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy, and has grandiose goals of eliminating entire federal agencies and cutting three quarters of federal government jobs.

"To restore competence and effectiveness to our federal gov-



Vivek Ramaswamy at the US Capitol, Monday. Reuters

ernment, my administration will establish the brand new Department of Government Efficiency," Trump said in his inaugural speech Monday. Despite

the name, the committee is not a department and has little official power to carry out any reorganization, let alone the head-spinning cuts proposed by Musk and Ramaswamy.

Public interest law firm National Security Counselors sued within minutes of the announcement, opens new tab, alleging that the group was breaking a 1972 law that governed federal advisory committees. So too did, opens new tab the American Public Health Association, the American Federation of Teachers, and Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, a watchdog group. Another watchdog group, Public Citizen, is suing over the group's uncertain legal status along with a union representing US government employees.

UK's Southport stabbings: Teen pleads guilty

London: A British teenager on Monday unexpectedly pleaded guilty to murdering three young girls at a Taylor Swift-themed dance event last July, an atrocity that triggered days of nationwide rioting.

Axel Rudakubana, 18, surprised the judge, prosecutors and police by admitting he had carried out the killings in the northern English town of Southport, making the trial that was about to start at Liverpool Crown Court unnecessary. He also pleaded guilty to 10 charges of attempted murder relating to the attack, as well as to producing the deadly poison ricin and possessing an al Qaeda training manual. After his conviction, British media reported Rudakubana had previously tried to attack former classmates at a school from which he had been expelled for carrying a knife. They said was referred to a counter-radicalisation scheme, but no action was taken. **REUTERS**

HOURS AFTER HAMAS FREES 3 ISRAELI HOSTAGES

Truce deal: Israel frees 90 Palestinian prisoners

REUTERS
GAZA, CAIRO, JANUARY 20

ISRAEL RELEASED 90 Palestinian prisoners hours after Hamas released three Israeli hostages on Sunday, the first day of a ceasefire suspending a 15-month-old war that has devastated the Gaza Strip and inflamed the Middle East.

The truce allowed Palestinians to return to bombed-out neighborhoods to begin rebuilding their lives, while relief trucks delivered much-needed aid. Elsewhere in Gaza, crowds cheered Hamas fighters who emerged from hiding. Fireworks were launched in celebration as buses carrying the Palestinian prisoners arrived in Ramallah on the West Bank, where thousands of people waited to welcome them.

Large white buses carrying the detainees exited the gates of



Palestinian prisoners reach Beitunia in West Bank, after being released by Israel, Monday. AP

Israel's Ofer prison, just outside the West Bank city of Ramallah, as celebratory fireworks erupted overhead. Crowds of Palestinians thronged the buses, chanting and cheering.

Those freed from Israeli pris-

ons included 69 women and 21 teenage boys from the West Bank and Jerusalem, according to Hamas.

In Tel Aviv, hundreds of Israelis cheered and wept in a square outside the defense

headquarters as a live broadcast from Gaza showed three female hostages getting into a Red Cross vehicle surrounded by Hamas fighters. According to a list provided by the Palestinian Authority's Commission for Prisoners' Affairs, all of those released are women or minors.

The Israeli military said Romi Gonen, Doron Steinbrecher and Emily Damari had been reunited with their mothers and released a video showing them in apparent good health. Damari, who lost two fingers when she was shot the day she was abducted, smiled and embraced her mother as she held up a bandaged hand.

"I would like you to tell them: Romi, Doron and Emily — an entire nation embraces you. Welcome home," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told a commander by phone.

At Sheba Medical Center, the women were reunited with their

families in long embraces that went from tears to laughter. A smiling Damari was draped in an Israeli flag. A Palestinian medical student who was among 90 prisoners freed by Israel says conditions of her detention were "terrible" and that she had limited access to food and water.

Still, 22-year-old Bara'a Al-Fuqha says she was relieved and overjoyed to be reunited with her family in the occupied West Bank early on Monday. She hugged her family as she stepped off the white Red Cross bus and into the sea of cheering Palestinians welcoming the dozens of detainees, all women and minors, back from Israeli prison.

Overall, 33 hostages and nearly 2,000 Palestinian prisoners and detainees should be freed over the ceasefire's 42-day first phase, and the next release of hostages and prisoners comes on Saturday. **WITH AP INPUTS**

Gaza rescue workers start searching for bodies under rubble

REUTERS
GAZA, CAIRO, JANUARY 20

PALESTINIANS BEGAN searching on Monday for thousands of Gazans believed still buried under rubble, as residents expressed shock at the devastation wrought by 15 months of war on the enclave on the second day of a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas.

The truce in the 15-month-old conflict, which has laid waste to the Gaza Strip and inflamed the Middle East, took effect on Sunday with the release of the first three hostages held by Hamas and 90 Palestinians freed from Israeli jails.

Now attention is starting to shift to the rebuilding of the coastal enclave which the Israeli military has demolished in retal-

iation for a Hamas attack on Israel on Oct. 7, 2023.

That assault killed 1,200 people with around 250 hostages taken into Gaza. In the subsequent conflict, more than 47,000 Palestinians have been killed, Gaza's health ministry says.

"We are searching for 10,000 martyrs whose bodies remain under the rubble," said Mahmoud Basal, spokesperson of the Palestinian Civil Emergency Services.

At least 2,840 bodies were melted and there were no traces of them, he said.

"It was a big shock, and the amount (of people) feeling shocked is countless because of what happened to their homes — it's destruction, total destruction. It's not like an earthquake or a flood, no no, what happened is a war of extermination," he said.

LEADERS SPEAK

"Congratulations, President Trump. Canada and the US have the world's most successful economic partnership. We have the chance to work together again — to create more jobs and prosperity for both our nations"

JUSTIN TRUDEAU
CANADIAN PRIME MINISTER

"President Trump is always decisive, and the peace through strength policy he announced provides an opportunity to strengthen American leadership and achieve a long-term and just peace, which is the top priority."

VOLODYMYR
ZELENSKY
UKRAINE PRESIDENT

"I believe that working together again we will raise the U.S.-Israel alliance to even greater heights... On behalf of the people of Israel, I also want to thank you for your efforts in helping free Israeli hostages."

BENJAMIN
NETANYAHU
PRIME MINISTER OF ISRAEL

"For centuries, the relationship between our two nations has been one of collaboration, cooperation and enduring partnership ... Together, we have defended the world from tyranny and worked towards our mutual security and prosperity"

KEIR STARMER
BRITISH PRIME MINISTER

"With President Trump back in office we will turbo-charge defence spending & production. My warm congratulations to @realDonaldTrump on his inauguration as 47th President of the USA and to @JDVance as Vice President."

MARK RUTTE
NATO SECRETARY-GENERAL

"Since Trump repeatedly said he would end the Russia-Ukraine war, we as Turkey will do whatever necessary in this regard. We need to resolve this issue as soon as possible... I wish Mr. Trump's second term would bring good for all humanity"

RECEP TAYYIP
ERDOGAN
PRESIDENT OF TURKEY

NEW US PRESIDENT SAYS WILL DECLARE A ‘NATIONAL ENERGY EMERGENCY’

‘Drill, baby, drill’: Trump vows to pump, export more oil, lower prices

SUKALP SHARMA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 20

DONALD TRUMP’S first speech as the 47th President of the United States featured various slogans that he employed during his presidential campaign, and among them was “Drill, baby, drill”, indicating that his administration will push for more oil and gas production as well as consumption in the US. Trump, who said that he will be declaring a “national energy emergency” to boost US oil and gas production and bring prices down, also announced that the US will increase its energy exports.

The US President’s comments right after his inauguration could lead to further downward pressure on oil prices. In fact, oil prices did slip a bit after Trump’s inauguration speech, even as the market awaits the details of his executive orders on the “energy emergency”.

For India, which is the world’s third-largest consumer of crude oil and depends on imports to meet over 85 per cent of its requirement of the commodity, that would be a good thing. The US is already the fifth-largest supplier of crude oil to India, and a boost in US oil exports could further benefit India.

Heavy dependence on imported crude oil makes the Indian economy vulnerable to global oil price volatility, apart from having a bearing on the country’s trade deficit, foreign exchange reserves, rupee’s exchange rate, and inflation. “The inflation crisis (in the US) was caused by massive overspending and escalating energy prices, and that is why today I will

BRIEFLY

‘T’ factor impact on globaleconomic dynamics: Birla

Mumbai: Aditya Birla group Chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla on Monday said the one factor that could disproportionately influence the course of the year is the T factor—The Trump Factor—that holds the potential to reshape geopolitical dynamics, with profound implications for the global economy and business. Birla said the US has long been the most significant market for the group outside India, with investments exceeding \$15 billion, including a \$4 billion greenfield expansion currently underway. **ENS**

Hexaware gets Sebi ok for ₹9,950 cr IPO

Mumbai: Hexaware Technologies Ltd has received market regulator SEBI’s approval to raise Rs 9,950 crore through an offer for sale (OFS) of shares. This IPO will be the biggest ever in the infotech sector segment. Sebi also approved the IPOs of PMEA Solar Tech Solutions Ltd, Scoda Tubes Ltd, AJAX Engineering Ltd, All Time Plastics Ltd and Vikran Engineering Ltd. **ENS**

NCLT orders liquidation of Go First

New Delhi: The National Company Law Tribunal has ordered the liquidation of Go First, the carrier that stopped flying after being bogged down by financial woes. **PTI**

Hindenburg says not under probe by US SEC

Toronto: US short-seller Hindenburg Research has said it is not under probe by US SEC as it rubished alleged links of its founder to a hedge fund for preparing reports targeting companies. **PTI**



Delegates to the World Economic Forum watch Donald Trump’s inauguration as US President on a giant screen at the Ukraine House, on the opening day of the 55th annual meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. *Reuters*

also 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 will ever have, the largest amount of oil and gas of any country on earth. And we are going to use it,” Trump said.

“We will bring prices down, fill our strategic (petroleum) reserves up again, right to the top, and export American energy all over the world. We will be a rich nation again, and it is that liquid gold under our feet that will help to do it,” Trump said, adding that he will also revoke what he terms as the “electric vehicle mandate”, or the Joe Biden administration’s policies that pushed for more electric vehicle adoption.

While it is too early to say how Trump’s second term as US president will turn out to be for global oil markets, industry watchers expect the Trump administration’s economic and energy policies to put downward pressure on oil

prices. If strictly implemented, his plans to impose high tariffs on imports—particularly on those from China—could negatively impact global oil demand as China is the world’s top oil importer.

Moreover, Trump’s push to significantly increase US oil production and even exports could add to the global oil supply and even push major oil producers to compete for market share, which again could put pressure on prices. Realistically though, the incoming dispensation in Washington is likely to push for a largely balanced global oil market to keep oil prices in check while avoiding a steep decline or crash, as that would make production unviable for American oil producers as well. And although Trump has been promising voters that he will drastically cut energy bills in the US, the White House on its own has limited instruments to meaningfully sway oil prices.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

... announces trading system ‘overhaul’

New external revenue service to collect tariffs from foreign countries

RAVIDUTTAMISHRA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 20

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump, during his inauguration speech on Monday, announced the establishment of an external revenue service to collect tariffs from foreign countries exporting goods to America.

“I will immediately begin the overhaul of our trade system to protect American workers and families. Instead of taxing our citizens to enrich other countries, we will tariff and tax foreign countries to enrich our citizens,” Trump said. “For this purpose, we are establishing the external revenue service to collect all tariffs, duties, and revenues. It will be massive amounts of money pouring into our treasury, coming from foreign sources. The American dream will soon be back and thriving like never before, to restore competence and effectiveness to our federal government,” he added.

This announcement follows Trump’s threat last month to impose 100 per cent tariffs on Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (the BRICS nations) if they create a new BRICS currency or back any other currency to replace the US dollar as the world’s reserve currency. Trump’s proposed tariffs may primarily target China, given the far larger trade imbalance. A

fresh round of US-China trade wars could potentially benefit India by redirecting investments and manufacturing opportunities away from China. Trump has, however, also flagged high tariffs imposed by India repeatedly. At an election rally, he criticised China, Brazil, and India, calling India a “tariff king” and a “trade abuser.”

The US is India’s largest trade partner, with bilateral trade reaching almost \$120 billion in FY24—slightly higher than India’s trade with China. However, unlike China, India’s trade relationship with the US is favourable, making the US a vital source of foreign exchange. Despite attempts to diversify its exports, India’s dependence on the US has grown over the past decade. According to official 2022–23 data, the US accounts for 18 per cent of India’s exports, compared to 10 per cent in 2010–11. India’s export basket to the US is well-diversified, benefiting industries ranging from textiles to electronics and engineering.

During his first term, Trump invoked national security provisions to impose a 25 per cent tariff on steel and a 10 per cent tariff on aluminium from India and other countries, breaking with the tradition of not targeting friendly nations. President Biden chose to negotiate with India and the European Union rather than lift these tariffs.

Two Trump executive orders, 4 years apart, and a reversal of TikTok’s fortunes



Guests attend Power 30 Awards, an inauguration party sponsored by TikTok for influencers who supported US President Donald Trump, in Washington, DC, on Sunday. *Reuters*

ANIL SASI
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 20

A SAGA of two executive orders captures, in part, the extremes that US President Donald Trump could traverse on exactly the same subject.

In August 2020, then President Trump invoked his emergency economic powers to issue an executive order that imposed broad sanctions against TikTok on national security grounds. Fast forward to January 19, 2025, a day before taking charge again, Trump said that he plans to issue an executive order that would give TikTok’s China-based parent company ByteDance more time to find an approved buyer before the popular video-sharing platform was subject to a permanent US ban. Trump, the initiator of all of TikTok’s troubles in the US less than five years ago, is now the potential saviour.

on his Truth Social account as millions of TikTok users in America awoke to discover they could no longer access the TikTok app or the platform. Google and Apple removed the app from their digital stores to comply with a US federal law that required them to do so if TikTok parent company ByteDance did not sell its American operation to an approved buyer by Sunday.

Triggered by Trump’s 2020 executive order, and after multiple twists and turns, US legislators enacted this federal law that required ByteDance to sever ties with the platform’s American operations by Sunday citing national security concerns posed by the app’s Chinese origins. This was passed with wide bipartisan support in April, and President Joe Biden then went on to sign it. ByteDance sued citing the rights accorded under the US First Amendment. The American Supreme Court upheld the law on Friday.

Unprecedented Move
The TikTok ban was in many ways an unprecedented step. The US has never banned a major social media platform and this move did mark a clear break from the past. Web searches for the word “VPN” surged in the minutes after American users struggled to access TikTok, according to Google Trends quoted by *Reuters*.

This also comes at a particularly tense moment in US-China relations, given Trump’s public threats of higher tariffs on China. Earlier, on Friday, the Chinese

Embassy in Washington accused the US of using unfair state power to suppress TikTok. “China will take all necessary measures to resolutely safeguard its legitimate rights and interests,” a spokesperson said.

In the days running up to his inauguration, Trump has, however, struck a discernibly conciliatory tone on bilateral relations with China and indicated that he wants to have more direct contact with Chinese leaders. Significantly, Beijing is sending its Vice-President, Han Zheng, to Trump’s inauguration on Monday—the first time a senior Chinese leader will witness a US president taking oath. Foreign leaders traditionally do not attend US presidential inaugurations. TikTok CEO Shou Zi Chew also plans to attend the inauguration, *Reuters* said, quoting a source.

After Trump’s August 2020 executive order, a deal structured as a partnership that would have included both Oracle and Walmart taking stakes in TikTok was formulated, but it subsequently fell through. This time around, media reports say Beijing has held talks about selling TikTok’s US operations to Trump ally Elon Musk, though the company has denied that. Search engine startup Perplexity AI submitted a bid on Saturday to ByteDance for Perplexity to merge with TikTok US, *Reuters* said, quoting a source.

Privately held ByteDance is about 60 per cent owned by institutional investors that include General Atlantic and BlackRock, while its founders and employees own 20 per cent each.

Despite a hiccup in last qtr, India’s growth one of the highest globally: Murthy

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, JANUARY 20

DESPITE A slowdown witnessed in the second quarter of FY25, India’s growth rate continues to remain one of the fastest-growing globally, said NR Narayana Murthy, founder, Infosys.

“Our GDP (gross domestic product) growth rate has been one of the highest in the world for the past several years despite a hiccup during the last quarter. Our foreign exchange reserves have been comfortable,” Murthy said. He was speaking at the Kilachand Memorial lecture on “Compassionate Capitalism”.

In the July–September 2024

THIRD QUARTER

Zomato net drops 57%

Mumbai: Zomato has reported a 57.24 per cent year-on-year (YoY) decline in the profit after tax (PAT) at Rs 59 crore for the third quarter ended December 2024 as against Rs 138 crore in the same period a year ago, primarily due to the ongoing store expansion. It had reported a net profit of Rs 176 crore in the September quarter. Zomato’s revenue from operations rose 64 per cent YoY to Rs 5,405 crore in Q3, up from Rs 3,288 crore a year ago. It had reported a revenue of Rs 4,799 crore in the previous quarter. Zomato shares fell by 3.14 per

cent to Rs 240.95 on the BSE on Monday. It is aiming to get to 2,000 stores by December 2025, one year ahead of earlier guidance of Dec 2026. “Muted 17 per cent GOV (gross order value) growth in food delivery this quarter driven by broad-based demand slowdown,” it said. “The losses in our quick commerce business this quarter are largely on account of pulling forward the growth investments in the business that we would have otherwise made in a staggered manner over the next few quarters,” said Deepinder Goyal, Founder & CEO, Zomato. **ENS**

Top firms to invest ₹3,516 cr under PLI for white goods

New Delhi: Voltas, Blue Star, Hindalco, Uno Minda, and LG are among 24 companies that have been selected in the third round of applications for the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for white goods that covers components of air conditioners and LED lights.

Together these companies have committed an investment of Rs 3,516 crore. After the third round, a total of 84 companies have been selected for PLI for white goods. They have committed investment of Rs 10,478 crore that will result in the production of Rs 1.72 lakh crore worth of goods during the duration of the scheme, a statement said. In the third round that opened for applications on July 15 and closed on October 12, thirty-eight applications were received. Twenty-one applications came from manufacturers of AC components and 17 applications from the makers of LED components. “After reviewing these applications, the government has provisionally selected 18 new companies. These companies include 10 manufacturers of components of air conditioners and eight manufacturers of LED lights, with committed investment of Rs 2,299 crore. In addition, six existing PLI beneficiaries have been provisionally selected to upgrade to higher investment categories, committing an additional investment of Rs 1,217 crore,” according to the statement. **FE**

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.rajpgpneet2024.org
No. State PG Counseling Board/2025/ Dated: 17-01-2025

NOTIFICATION

State Medical PG Seats (MD / MS) / Post MBBS DNB / Post MBBS Diploma Allotments-2024 (Round 3)
In continuation to earlier notification and MCC Notice No. U-1201/05/2024-MCC Dated 04-01-2025, informing about decision taken by MoHFW in consultation with NMC reducing the percentile for NEET PG 2024, the Registration and closing process for State PG Counseling Round-3 will commence out from 18-01-2025 to per the detailed schedule available at www.rajpgpneet2024.org. The candidates are advised to visit the website for all details and further updates.
DIPR/C/851/2025

OFFICE OF THE PROJECT MANAGER
UNIT-45, CONSTRUCTION & DESIGN SERVICES
U.P. JAL NIGAM (URBAN)
SK-122, First Floor, Sector-116
Noida (Gautambuddhanagar)-201301
E-mail: pmunit45@yahoo.in

NIT No: 57/M-10/05
Dated: 18.01.2025

ई-निविदा सूचना
उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम (नगरीय) की ओर से अयोध्याखरी द्वारा Construction of Proposed Abhyudaya Composite School at Khwajpur, Jewar, Gautambuddh Nagar (U.P.), अनु0 लागत रु0 98.34 लाख (लेबर सेस सहित एवं जीएसटी00 रहित) हेतु निविदांक 18.02.2025 की अपरान्त 4:00 बजे तक ई-निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। उक्त कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक 20.01.2025 से दिनांक 18.02.2025 के मध्य उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार की e-procurement की वेबसाइट <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है। समस्त शुद्धिपत्र (Corrigendum) <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है। समस्त शुद्धिपत्र (Corrigendum) <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर ही अपलोड किये जायेंगे, इनका पृथक से कोई प्रकाशन नहीं किया जायेगा। निविदादाताओं को सलाह दी जाती है कि वे उक्त वेबसाइट का समय-समय पर अवलोकन करते रहें।

कार्यालय परियोजना प्रबन्धक, युनिट-36
कन्दूरखान एण्ड डिजाइन सर्विसेज
उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम (नगरीय)
1470/01, सिविल लाईन्स, गड रोड
अखिलेश के पास, झौरी-284001
ई-मेल: pmunit36@gmail.com

पत्रांक: 67/M-10/13
दिनांक: 17.01.2025

अतिअल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना
उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम (नगरीय) की ओर से अयोध्याखरी द्वारा जनपद झौरी में एनीमल बर्थ कन्ट्रील सेंटर कॉजामांवर के अवशेष निर्माण कार्य हेतु अनुमानित लागत रु0 74.93 लाख (जीएसटी00 रहित एवं लेबर सेस सहित) हेतु सी0एण्ड जी0एसटी में खोपित श्रेणी में पंजीकृत वैकेंदरों से दिनांक 25.01.2025 के अपरान्त 4:00 बजे तक ई-निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। उक्त कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक 18.01.2025 से दिनांक 25.01.2025 के मध्य उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार की e-procurement वेबसाइट <https://etender.up.nic.in> से डाउनलोड किये जा सकते हैं तथा ई-निविदा दिनांक 18.02.2025 को अपराह्न 04:30 बजे Office of the Project Manager, Unit-45, Construction & Design Services, U.P. Jal Nigam (Urban), SK-122, First Floor, Sector-116, Noida (Gautambuddha Nagar) में खोली जायेगी। ई-निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य रु0 5000.00+GST(18%) अतिरिक्त देय होगा। निविदा से सम्बन्धित विस्तृत विवरण विभाग की वेबसाइट www.cdsupjn.org एवं प्रोक्वोरमेंट पोर्टल <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है। समस्त शुद्धिपत्र (Corrigendum) <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर ही अपलोड किये जायेंगे, इनका पृथक से कोई प्रकाशन नहीं किया जायेगा। निविदादाताओं को सलाह दी जाती है कि वे उक्त वेबसाइट का समय-समय पर अवलोकन करते रहें।

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता वातापत वृत्त
उत्तर प्रदेश आवास एवं विकास परिषद
कार्यालय परिसर, मन्डोला विलार, गाजियाबाद-201102 ई-मेल: circleem@upavp.com

अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा आमंत्रण की सूचना
मण्डोला विलार योजना, गाजियाबाद के विभिन्न सेक्टरों में एकल/द्व-बिल्ड सिस्टम के अन्तर्गत ऑनलाईन ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या-79/पी0आर0ओ0-60ई/02, दिनांक 20.01.2025 द्वारा आमंत्रित की गयी हैं। निविदा से सम्बन्धित विवरण वेबसाइट www.upavp.com एवं कार्यालय में किसी भी कार्यदिवस में देखा जा सकता है।
अधीक्षण अभियन्ता

कार्यालय, नगर पालिक निगम, कोरबा (छत्तीसगढ़)
ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट निविदा सूचना

क्र. /1420/न.प्र./2025 दिनांक 20.01.2025

एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अंतर्गत सक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत टेकंदरों से निम्नलिखित निर्माण कार्य हेतु (E-mail) ऑनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

क्र.	कार्य का विवरण	अनुमानित लागत (रु. लाख में)	निविदा डालने की अंतिम तिथि (T.No. 164891)
1.	चंपा गेवरा रेल लाईन के कि.मी 704/1-3 में लेवल क्रॉसिंग सी.जी. 28 में सुनालिया जेलर्स के पास आर.पू.बी. का निर्माण के कारण बिछाई गई डी.आई. पाईप लाईन शिफ्टिंग कार्य (रिप्लैजमेंट वर्क) (प्रथम निविदा)	151.02	11.02.2025

उपरोक्त कार्यों की निविदा की जानकारी ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट वेब पोर्टल <http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> से डाउनलोड की जा सकती है, साथ ही निगम के वेब साईट www.korbamunicipal.in एवं www.korba.urbanecg.gov.in पर भी देखी जा सकती है।

॥ दृष्टव्य भारत निर्माण में योगदान दें ॥

हस्ता/-
अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
नगर पालिक निगम
कोरबा (छत्तीसगढ़)

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (e-Procurement Systems)
No. 6-SEFile-276844Tender Dated: 17.01.2025

NIT No. 6-SEFile-276844Tender

Name of Work and its location	Tender for "Provision for Segregation of 110V DC +VE & -VE cables at all levels and provision of cage clamp Terminals with Glass Fuses for enhanced fire safety in 40 LHOB EOG AC Chair Car Coaches and Executive AC chair coaches as per scope of work."
Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 673257.60/-including GST (Rs. Six Lakh Seventy Three Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Seven Rupees And Paise Sixty only)
Earliest Money	Rs. 13500/-
Completion period of work	12 months of date of execution of work
Cost of Tender document on cash/by post	NIL
Date and Time for submission of tender and opening of tender	Upto 12:30 hrs on 08/02/2025 Opening of Tender at 12:30 hrs.
Website particulars notice board location	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in
complete details of tender can be seen	212/25

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No : Re T No.166/2024-25/SE/Q
JMM- CWSS to Kunnothoor-Clear Water Transmission Main, Clear water Pumping main from Sump at Edakkadu Market to Devagiri OHSR, Supply erection and Commissioning CF Pump set in Poruvazhy-Revised EMD : Rs. 500000
Tender fee : Rs. 16540+2978 Last Date for submitting Tender : 10-02-2025 02:00:pm Phone : 0474 2745293 Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
Superintending Engineer
PH Circle Kollam

KWA-JB-GL-6-1060-2024-25

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL, RNT MEDICAL COLLEGE & CONTROLLER ASSOCIATED GROUP OF HOSPITALS, UDAIPUR (RAJ.)

No. RNT/Pur-1/F/16/(e-Tendering Proc)/2024-25/726 Dated:-07.01.2025

Notice Inviting Bid No.15/2024-25(e-Tender)
Bids for Medical Equipments is invited from interested bidders upto Date: 31.01.2025 Time: 10.30 AM. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.raj.nic.in>) of the state.
UBN-MCU2425GLOB00128
DIPR/C/498/2025

Sd/-
PRINCIPAL & CONTROLLER

INDIAN RAILWAYS
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (BHARAT SARKAR)
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAIL MANTRALAYA)
(RAILWAY BOARD)

No. 2024/RS(E)/T/M/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)

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Short RFP Notice

No. Agri/Engg/7127/RIDF-XXX/Emp_Solar_STW/2024-25/01,
The Director of Agriculture, Assam invites proposal through e-Procurement Portal: <https://assamtenders.gov.in> for 'Empanelment of manufacturers for Supply of Solar-PV Pump-set and installation of STW on Turn-key basis in Assam'. The online submission of proposals through e-Procurement Portal: <https://assamtenders.gov.in> will open from 10:00AM on 06/02/2025 and will close at 1:00 PM on 10/02/2025. The authority will not be liable for any delay in submission of bid and system errors (if any).
Sd/-
Director of Agriculture, Assam, Khanapara
Janasanyog/CF/3357/24/21-Jan-25

AMARAVATI DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED (ADCL)
54-15-1, Venkateswara Nagar, Beside Yamanchilli Complex, Sonavision Building, Ring Road, Vijayawada, NTR Dist. Andhra Pradesh-520008.
Email: amaravati-adcl@gmail.com, cdmc.amaravati@gmail.com. Website: <https://adcl.in>
CIN Number: U93000AP2015SGC105535

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
NIT No. 401/ADCL/IPD/2025, Dated: 20.01.2025
RFP for Engagement of Project Management Consultant (PMC) for WORLD BANK and ADB financed Amaravati Capital City Development Program related to "Construction of Roads, Storm Water Drains, Water Supply Network, Sewerage Network, Utility Ducts for Power & ICT, Reuse Waterline, Pedestrian Tracks, Cycle Track, Avenue Plantation & Street Furniture in E3 (Phase I), E6, E8, E9 and E14 Roads in Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh including DLP of 2 Years.
NIT No. 402/ADCL/IPD/2025, Dated: 20.01.2025
RFP for Engagement of Project Management Consultant (PMC) for WORLD BANK and ADB financed Amaravati Capital City Development Program related to "Construction of Roads, Storm Water Drains, Water Supply Network, Sewerage Network, Utility Ducts for Power & ICT, Reuse Waterline, Pedestrian Tracks, Cycle Track, Avenue Plantation & Street Furniture in N6 (Utilities only), N9, N11, N12, N15 and N18 Roads in Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh including DLP of 2 Years.
NIT No. 403/ADCL/IPD/2025, Dated: 20.01.2025
RFP for Engagement of Project Management Consultant (PMC) for WORLD BANK and ADB financed Amaravati Capital City Development Program related to "Construction of Balance flood mitigation works of (i) widening and deepening of Kondaveeti Vagu, Pala Vagu and Construction of Gravity Canal (Length: 48.3 Km) (ii) Construction of Neerunkonda Reservoir (0.4 TMC), Krishnapalem Reservoir (0.1 TMC) and Sakhamuru Reservoir (0.03 TMC) in Amaravati Capital City, Andhra Pradesh including DLP of 2 Years.
The RFP can be downloaded on AP e-procurement portal from 21.01.2025 to 12.02.2025 up to 15.30 Hrs. Due date for submission of Bid is 12.02.2025 up to 16.00 Hrs. Technical Bid opening is on 12.02.2025 @16.30 Hrs. For further details please refer to www.apetenders.gov.in and www.adcl.in
Sd/- Chairperson & Managing Director, ADCL, Vijayawada

E-AUCTION PROGRAMME FOR SALE OF RAILWAY SCRAP MATERIAL
E-Auction programme for sale of Railway Scrap material under jurisdiction of Dy CMM/NFR/New Jalpaiguri for the month of JANUARY & FEBRUARY' 2025 unit wise, is hereby fixed as under:
For GSD-New Jalpaiguri
SN Month Date Fixed
1 JANUARY' 2025 28-01-2025
2 FEBRUARY' 2025 07-02-25, 14-02-25, 21-02-25 & 28-02-25
For Alipurduar Division
SN Month Date Fixed
1 JANUARY' 2025 28-01-2025
2 FEBRUARY' 2025 07-02-25, 14-02-25, 21-02-25 & 28-02-25
For Katihar Division
SN Month Date Fixed
1 JANUARY' 2025 28-01-2025
2 FEBRUARY' 2025 07-02-25, 14-02-25, 21-02-25 & 28-02-25
Interested bidders may participate in E-auction through IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in
Dy. Chief Material Manager/ New Jalpaiguri

AXIS FINANCE LIMITED
(CIN: U52501MH1995PLC210370)
Axis House, C-2, Wadia International Centre, Pandurang Bhukar, Mar. West, Mumbai - 400 005
BY SPEED POST/EMAIL
Notice under Rule 8(6) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002
Date: 13/01/2025

1. M/S YASH METALS (Borrower) 5434 5503 5505, Plot No. 15, Basti Harpool Singh, Delhi - 110008
Mobile: 9606030410, 8860539729
Email: yashmetals@gmail.com
2. Mr. YASH GARG (Co-Borrower II) Plot No. G-2 (Plot No. 2, Block-G), Second Floor, Preet Nagar, CHS Ltd. Colony, Preet Vihar, Delhi - 110092
Mobile: 9606030410, 8860539729
Email: yashmetals@gmail.com
3. Mrs. RAJNI GARG (Co-Borrower II) Plot No. G-2 (Plot No. 2, Block-G), Second Floor, Preet Nagar, CHS Ltd. Colony, Preet Vihar, Delhi - 110092
Mobile: 9606030410, 8860539729
Email: yashmetals@gmail.com

REF: Loan Account Nos. 0456MMA00001821
SUB: Notice of 30 days in terms of Rule 8(6) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 For Sale of the immovable property being:

"Plot No. G-2 (Plot No. 2, Block-G), Second Floor, Preet Nagar, CHS Ltd. Colony, Preet Vihar, Delhi- 110092 admeasuring 355 sq. yards." (hereinafter referred to as "Immovable property/ Secured Asset").

Sirs,
1. This notice is issued to you Nos. 1 to 2 (hereinafter collectively referred to as "You"), the above-named addressees in terms of Rule 8(6) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 and Section 13(6) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFESI Act, 2002).
2. That after availing the aforesaid loan from Axis Finance Ltd. (AFU/Secured Creditor), You had committed default in repayment of the loan amount and in view of the continuous default of more than the time period stipulated under the relevant applicable guidelines by any one mode as classification issued by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the above referred loan account of the Borrower was classified as **Non-Performing Asset (NPA)** on 04.03.2024 in accordance with the concerned guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
3. That thereafter, a demand notice dated 02.04.2024 u/s 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFESI Act) was duly served upon you but You failed to make the payment of demanded amount i.e. INR. 2,19,92,170/- (Rupees Two Crore Nineteen Lakhs Ninety Two Thousand One Hundred and Seventy one thousand 170/-) (Rupees Two Crore Forty Five Lakhs Seventy Seven Thousand Four Hundred and Thirty Two Only) by way of Outstanding Principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 05.01.2025 with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by it prior to the date of publication of this public notice for transfer of the Secured Asset by any one mode as contemplated under the Act. You may note the date of publication of public notice will be 30 days after which your right of redemption of the Secured Asset would stand terminated immediately upon publication of the sale notice under Rule 9(1) of the said Rules.
For Axis Finance Ltd.
Authorized Officer

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON
(See Section 82 Cr. P.C./84 BNSS)
Whereas complaint has been made before me that the accused **Pradeep S/o Shri Muni Ram R/o H. No. 884, Ward No. 01, Devi Nagar, Gohana, District Sonapat, Haryana** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **Case FIR No. 117/2020 U/s 406/420/120-B IPC P.S. Economic Offence Wing** and it has been returned to warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused **Pradeep** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Pradeep** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that **Pradeep in Case FIR No. 117/2020 U/s 406/420/120-B IPC P.S. Economic Offence Wing** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 05.03.2025.
By order
Shri Deepak Kumar-1
Chief Judicial Magistrate
East District, Court No. 29
Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

DP/730/EOW/2025

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED
See Section U/S 82 Cr. P.C.
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Shivam S/o Sona @ Sohan Lal R/o Jhuggi No. 3375, JJ Colony, Bawana, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 862/2021 U/s 356/379/511/34 IPC, P.S. Bawana, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Shivam** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Shivam** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Shivam** of case **FIR No. 862/2021 U/s 356/379/511/34 IPC, P.S. Bawana, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 25.03.2025.
By Order
Sh. Sarthak Panwar
Judicial Magistrate First Class-05
Room No. 114, First Floor
Rohini Courts, Delhi

DP/830/ON/2025(Court Matter)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON
See Section 82 Cr.P.C.
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Dinesh Gupta, S/o : Sh. Pitambar Shah, R/o : H. No. L-322/2, Lakshman Puri, Nabi Karim, Paharganj, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **Case FIR No. 00393/2022 U/S 379/411 IPC, P.S.: Kamla Market, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Dinesh Gupta** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Dinesh Gupta** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Dinesh Gupta** accused of **Case FIR No. 00393/2022 U/S 379/411 IPC, P.S.: Kamla Market, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 01.03.2025.
By Order
Ms. Sayesha Chadha
Judicial Magistrate, First Class-08 (Central)
Room No. 272, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

DP/417/CD/2025 (Court Matter)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON
See Section 82 Cr. P.C.
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person(s) **Ravi @ Manish, S/o: Ram Sagar, R/o: Harish Choudhary Ka Makan Near Muskan Hospital 4th Pusta New Usmanpur, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **FIR No. 21/2022, U/s: 356/379/411 IPC, P.S.: Karol Bagh, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused person(s) **Ravi @ Manish**, cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused person(s) **Ravi @ Manish**, has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused person(s) **Ravi @ Manish**, of **FIR No. 21/2022, U/s: 356/379/411 IPC, P.S.: Karol Bagh, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 24.02.2025.
By Order
Shipra Dhankar
LD Metropolitan Magistrate-01
Room No. 180
Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

DP/668/CD/2025 (Court Matter)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON
See Section 82 Cr.P.C.
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Rajeev, S/o: Sh. Gokul, R/o: Premises to the Left Hand Side of A-202, Pocket-4, Near Pole No. VKPD 372, Bindapur, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi - 110071** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **Court Case No. 1232/2019, U/s 135 of Indian Electricity ACT, P.S.: Bindapur, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Rajeev** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Rajeev** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Rajeev** accused of **Court Case No. 1232/2019, U/s 135 of Indian Electricity ACT, P.S.: Bindapur, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 28.02.2025.
By Order
Sh. Vinod Kumar Meena
DP/16332/DW/2024 Addl. District and Sessions Judge (South-West)
(Court Matter) Room No. 609, Dwarka Court, New Delhi

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON
(See Section 82 Cr. P.C./84 BNSS)
Whereas complaint has been made before me that the accused **Angrej S/o Shri Jai Karan R/o H. No. 90, VPO- Nangal Khurd, near Harijan Chopal, Sonapat, Haryana** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **CT No. 510/2020 U/s 138 NI ACT, PS KNK Marg, Delhi** and it has been returned to warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused **Angrej** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Angrej** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that **Angrej in CT No. 510/2020 U/s 138 NI ACT, PS KNK Marg, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 26.05.2025.
By order
Ms Ruby Neeraj Kumar
Chief Judicial Magistrate
North, Court No. 115, 1st Floor
Rohini Courts, Delhi

DP/778/RD/2025

pnbank
...the name you can BANK upon

E-AUCTION NOTICE

CIRCLE SASTRA CENTRE, CIRCLE SASTRA, SCO-170, SECTOR 13-17, PANIPAT, HARYANA Ph.: 0180-2620334, Email: cs8293@pnb.co.in
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPETIE
E-auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002). Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive / physical / symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of the Bank / (Secured Creditor will be sold on "As is Where is", "As is What is, and "Whatever There is" on the date mentioned in the table here in below for recovery of its due to the Bank / Secured Creditor from the respective borrower(s) & guarantor (s). The reserve price and the earnest money deposit will be as mentioned in the table below against the respective properties.
SCHEDULE OF THE SECURED ASSETS

Name of Branch Name of Account Name & Addresses of the Borrower / Guarantors Account	Description of the Immovable Properties (mortgaged / Owner's Name (mortgagors of property(ies)	A) Date of Demand Notice u/s 13(2) if Sarfesi Act 2002 b) Outstanding Amount as on c) Possession Date u/s 13(4) of SARFESI ACT 2002 d) Nature of Possession Symbolic / Physical / Constructive	A. Reserve Price B. EMD C. Bid increase Amount	Date / Time of E-Auction	Detail of the encumbrances Known to the Secured Creditors.
1. PNB Branch Office : Gurudwara Road, Sonapat (1) Smt. Aarti W/o Sh. Bijender R/o H. N o . 1 8 3 1 2 / 5, Mayapuri, Sonapat 131001 (2) Sh. Bijender S/o Sh. Ram Bhajan R/o H. N o . 1 8 3 1 2 / 5, Mayapuri, Sonapat	Residential House measuring 100 Sq. Yards being 1/126 share of area measuring 12 Bigha 12 Biswa comprising in Khewat no. 437, 438, 439, Khatta No. 582, 583, 584 Khasra No 229=4-12, 228=3-7, 231= 4-13 situated at RakbaKalapur under abadi West Ram Nagar, under MC	a) 06.12.2022 b) Rs. 15,64,397.00/- (Rupees Fifteen Lakh Sixty Four Thousand Three Hundred Ninety Seven only) as on 31.10.2022 with further interest and other expenses minus recovery if any until payment in full (hereinafter referred to as "secured debt") c) 19.04.2023 D) Symbolic	a) Rs 15,94,000/- b) Rs. 1,59,400/- c) Rs. 10,000/-	12.02.2025 from 11:00 to 4:00 P.M. with unlimited extensions of 10 minutes	Not know to Bank
2. PNB Branch Office : Assandh Road, Panipat (1) Smt. Guddi Devi W/o Sh. Karam Singh R/o H. N. 491-222, New Sanjay Colony, Gohana Road, Panipat 132103 (2) Sh. Amit Kumar S/o Karam Singh R/o H. N. 491-222, New Sanjay Colony, Gohana Road Panipat 132103	Residential House on plot measuring 30 Sq. Yards 12/3940 part of total land 9 Bigha 17 Biswa comprising in Khasra no 143/1/1/2(2-17), 143/1/1/2(2-3-14), 143/1/2(1-1), 144/1/1/2(2-5) situated at Waka Gaddiwada Abadi New Sanjay Colony, Panipat within M.C. Limits Panipat vide Title Deed No. 2513 dated 20.06.2011 owned by Smt. Guddi Devi W/o Karam Singh Bounded as under: North: Plot of Karm Singh, South: Plot of Karm Singh, East: Rasta, West: Property of Other Owner	a) 06.05.2021 b) Rs. 15,32,462.20 (Rupees fifteen lakhs thirty two thousands four hundred sixty two and twenty paise only) as on 31.03.2021 with further interest from 01.04.2021 and other expenses minus recovery if any until payment in full c) 06.01.2022 D) Symbolic	a) Rs 15,06,000/- b) Rs. 1,50,600/- c) Rs. 10,000/-	12.02.2025 from 11:00 to 4:00 P.M. with unlimited extensions of 10 minutes	Not know to Bank
3. PNB Branch: Khadi Ashram, Panipat (408800) (1) Ms Pooja Texo Fab (Through its Prop. Sh. Pankaj Khurana S/o Sh. Har Bhagwan) Address: H. No. 1/7, SD College Road, Panipat-132103 (2) Sh. Pankaj Khurana S/o Sh. Har Bhagwan R/o H. No. 1/7, SD College Road, Panipat-132103 (3) Sh. Devender Kumar S/o Sh. Dharam Prakash (Guarantor) R/o H. No. 29/03, Mahajan Gali, Near Kila, Panipat-132103	Equitable Mortgage of House No 29, Ward no 3 measuring 120 sq yards situated at Ward No. 3, Panipat vide Gift Deed No. 7061 of 13-12-2011 and transfer deed no 5617 dt.07.10.2014 in name of Sh. Devender Kumar S/o Sh. Dharam Parkash Bounded as under: East - House of Raj Kumar-44-0", West - House of Rakesh Kumar & Sharma-North to South 17' then towards west 12'-10" then towards south 25'-7", North - Gali-15'-9", South - House of Sharma Ji 30'-3"	a) 07.06.2022 b) Rs. 18,96,700.30/- (Rupees Eighteen Lakh Ninety Six Thousand Seven Hundred and Thirty paise only) as on 06-06-2022 with further interest from 01.06.2022 and other expenses minus recovery if any until payment in full c) 07.07.2023 D) Symbolic	a) Rs 15,39,000/- b) Rs. 1,53,900/- c) Rs. 10,000/-	12.02.2025 from 11:00 to 4:00 P.M. with unlimited extensions of 10 minutes	Not know to Bank
4. PNB Branch Office : New Sabzi Mandi, Panipat (1) Ms Rohit Entp. (Through Prop. Rohit Rawal) Address: On Indo Farm Road, near Risalu Road, Panipat-132103 (2) Sh. Rohit Rawal S/o Suresh Rawal R/o H. No. 321, Bapoli, Dhadola, Panipat-132103	Land cum building at land measuring 1 Kanal 6 marle in Khewat no.555, kahasra no 25/24/1(1-6), salam mauza Dadola Tehsil Bapoli Distt. Panipat vide zamabandi year 2014-15 in name of Rohit Rawal S/o Suresh Rawal S/o Sahiram vide sale deed no 96 dated 19.05.2020. Bounded as under: East - Road, West - Nala, North - Johad/Taalab, South - Road	a) 05.03.2022 b) Rs. 19,99,272.44/-(Rupees Nineteen Lakh Ninety Nine Thousand Two Hundred Seventy Two and Forty Four paise only) as on 01.07.2022 with further interest w.e.f 01.07.2022 and other expenses minus recovery if any until payment in full c) 29.08.2022 D) Symbolic	a) Rs. 34,65,000/- b) Rs. 3,46,500/- c) Rs. 10,000/-	12.02.2025 from 11:00 to 4:00 P.M. with unlimited extensions of 10 minutes	Not know to Bank
5. PNB Branch Office : Assandh Road, Panipat (1) Rattan Singh through his legal heirs- Smt. Saroj W/o Late Sh. Rattan Singh H. No. 489-221, Gali No. 1, New Sanjay Colony, Gohana Road, Panipat (2) Sh. Anil Kumar S/o Late Sh. Rattan Singh, H. No. 489-221, Gali No. 1, New Sanjay Colony, Gohana Road, Panipat (3) Ms Pinki D/o Late Sh. Rattan Singh, H. No. 489-221, Gali No. 1, New Sanjay Colony, Gohana Road, Panipat	Property Residential House on plot measuring 63 sq yds (33 foot) 14 foot, via gali 4 foot (27 foot), Khasra No.- 143/11/1/2(2-17), 143/11/1/2(2-3-14), 143/12(1-1), 144/1/1/2(2-5) waka Gaddiwada Abadi New Sanjay Colony, within the limits of M.C. Panipat. As per title deed no 10487 dated 30.03.2015 owned by Sh. Rattan Singh S/o Sh. Shri Ram.	a) 30.12.2021 b) Rs. 12,97,932.82 (Rupees Twelve lakhs Nin			

FORM NO.14
[See Regulation 33(2)]
By Regst A/D, Dasti failing which by Publication

OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER- III
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL PATNA
2nd Floor, (A, B & F Wing) Karpuri Thakur Sadan, Kendriya Karamchali
Parisar (GPOA), Ashiana Digha Road, Patna-800025.
DEMAND NOTICE
NOTICE UNDER SECTIONS 25 TO 28 OF THE RECOVERY OF
DEBTS & BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993 AND RULE 2 OF
SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961.

RC/27/2024
PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK
Versus
M/S R. P. DEVELOPERS AND OTHERS.

To
(CD 1) M/S. R.P. Developers and Others through its Partners, Registered Office
Urmila Sadan, Indira Colony, Alaiapatti, Darbhanga BIHAR-846003
(CD 2) REENA DEVI Partner of M/s R.P. Developers Wife of Shri Kapilshwar
Mandal, Resident of at Indira Colony, Alaiapatti, Darbhanga-846003
(CD 3) RAVINDRA KUMAR, Partner of M/s R.P. Developers Son of Shri Gopal
Mandal Resident of at Bela Shankar, PO- Lalbagh, Darbhanga-846004.
This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders
passed by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL PATNA in
OA/531/2022 an amount of **Rs 5005254.34 (Rupees Fifty Lakhs Five Thousand
Two Hundred Fifty Four And Paise Thirty Four Only)** along with pendente lite
and future interest @ 10.25 % Compound Interest Monthly w.a.f. **23.09.2022** till
realization and costs of **Rs. 35000** (Rupees Thirty Five Thousands Only) has
become due against you (Jointly and severally/ Fully/Limited).
2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the
notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of
Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules there under.
3. You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of yours assets
on or before the next date of hearing.
4. You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on **28.02.2025 at
10:30 a.m.** for further proceedings.
5. In addition the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay:
(a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this
notice of the certificate / execution proceedings.
(b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice
and warrants and other processes and all other proceedings taken for recovering
the amount due.
Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this date: **10.01.2025**
Recovery Officer
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, PATNA

Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Advertisement for
filling up post of Chairperson, National Biodiversity Authority
Advertisment No.J-22018/12/2003-CSC(BC)Vol.III

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is to fill up the post of Chairperson of the
National Biodiversity Authority (Rasthriya Jaiv Vividhata Pradhikaran). The Authority was set up on
October 1, 2003 through Gazette Notification No. 906 in exercise of the powers conferred by the sub-
section (1) and (4) of Section 8 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 (18 of 2003). The Authority is a
body corporate and its head office is at Chennai.
As per Rule 3(2) of the Biological Diversity Rules, 2024, the appointment of Chairperson shall be made
either on deputation basis including short-term contract or by selection from outside the Government. In
case, the appointment is through deputation from the Government or a short-term contract, the applicant
shall not be below the rank of Additional Secretary to the Government of India.
As per Section 8(4)(a) of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, the Chairperson shall be an eminent person
having adequate knowledge, expertise and experience in the conservation and sustainable use of
biological diversity and in matters relating to fair and equitable sharing of benefits. As per Section 10 of
the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, the Chairperson shall be Chief Executive of the National Biological
Authority and shall exercise such powers and perform such duties as may be prescribed.
The Chairperson shall hold office for a term of 3 years from the date of publication of appointment and
shall be eligible for the re-appointment, provided that no Chairperson shall hold office as such after he
attains the age of sixty-five years or his term of office expires, whichever is earlier. In case of
appointment of Chairperson, National Biodiversity Authority from the Government on deputation or
short term contract basis, the term of office shall be three years or till the date of superannuation,
whichever is earlier.
As per Rule 5 of the Biological Diversity Rules, 2024, the Chairperson shall be entitled to a pay
equivalent to that of a Secretary to the Government of India. In case a retired person is appointed as
Chairperson, pay shall be fixed in accordance with the extant orders of the Central Government as
applicable to such persons.
The candidates should hold at least a post-graduate degree, and have 30 years of experience in dealing
with issues of science and social sciences, with at least 5 years of experience of working in the Central/
State Government at senior level including heading Government institutions. He must also have
administrative experience and be well versed with current developments related to access and benefit
sharing under various relevant international fora. Experience of working with different stakeholders in
biodiversity, experience in participation in international negotiations, and an undertaking of legal issues
shall be desirable.
The Government may on its own discretion relax one or more of the aforesaid requirements in case of
applicant of outstanding ability.
Applications should be submitted online on the Ministry's website www.moef.gov.in on or before
28.02.2025 (midnight).
Adviser/Scientist 'G'
CS-III (Biodiversity) Division
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj New Delhi-110003

CBC-13101/11/0020/2425

MUTHOOT FINCORP LTD. | GOLD AUCTION NOTICE


Regd. Office: Muthoot Centre, TC No 27/3022, Punnen Road, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India - 695001.
CIN : U65929KL1997PLC011518, Ph: +91 471 4911400, 2331427

Notice is hereby given for the information of all concerned that Gold ornaments pledged with under mentioned branches of the company for the period upto 31.03.2024 & MSGL, SPL-16, One plus, Guide Prepaid, Super value, ADGL and all other 6 months tenure Gold loans up to 30.06.2024 and MSGB, SME Savarna & EMI due up to 31.12.2024 which were overdue for redemption and which have not been redeemed so far in spite of repeated notices, will be auctioned on 11.02.2025 from 10 am onwards:
CHINDIWARA DISTRICT - CHINDIWARA: 408000595, 408000606, 408000636, 408000667, 408000680, 408000684, 408000706, 408000737, 408000757, 408000758, 408000785, 408000797, 408000800, 408000810, 408000823, 408000826, 408000840, 408000848, 408000863, 408000864, 408000869, 408000871, 408000872, 408000885, 408000887, 408000890, 408000892, 408000893, 408000894, 408000896, 408000901, 408000902, 408000916, 408000919, 408000922, 408000926, 408000928, 408000934, 408000935, 408000936, 408000948, **DAMOH DISTRICT - DAMOH - JABALPUR:** 276700464, 276700472, 276700489, 276700521, 276700522, 276700524, 276700550, 276700561, 276700579, 276700583, 276700586, 276700588, 276700593, 276700598, 276700599, 276700610, 276700625, 276700628, 276700637, 276700638, 276700640, 276700642, 276700661, 276700673, 276700676, 276700679, 276700681, 276700682, 276700683, 276700686, 276700689, 276700716, 276700717, 276700720, 276700731, 276700733, 276700738, 276700740, 276700745, 276700747, 276700755, 276700756, 276700776, 276700778, 276700785, 276700787, 276700792, F10376, F10392, F10417, F10429, F10435, F10438, F10449, F10463, F9119, F9557, **MANDLA DISTRICT - MANDLA - MADHYA PRADESH:** 265200665, 265200672, 265200684, 265200707, 265200761, 265200765, 265200770, 265200790, 265200792, 265200794, 265200797, 265200812, 265200822, 265200859, 265200862, 265200863, 265200875, 265200883, 265200901, 265200902, 265200905, 265200906, 265200909, 265200911, 265200912, 265200916, 265200917, 265200922, 265200925, 265200926, 265200926, 265200937, 265200944, 265200956, 265200963, 265200964, 265200965, 265200966, 265200967, 265200968, 265200969, 265200978, 265200987, 265200988, 265201008, 265201009, 265201015, 265201017, 265201017, 265201018, 265201021, 265201026, 265201027, 265201030, 265201031, 265201032, 265201033, 265201034, 265201042, 265201043, 265201045, 265201056, 265201057, 265201059, 265201060, 265201063, 265201065, 265201067, 265201076, 265201077, 265201079, 265201082, 265201083, 265201092, 265201093, 265201096, 265201097, 265201101, 265201106.
Auction will be conducted at respective branches. Please note if the auction does not get completed on the same day due to any reasons, the same will be conducted on 21.02.2025 at 10.00 am at **CHINDIWARA:** Muthoot FinCorp Ltd., Ground Floor, Door No. 216, Opp. Bharat Bharati Vidyalaya, Narsinghpur Road, Chindwara, Madhya Pradesh - 480002. **MANDLA-MADHYA PRADESH:** Muthoot FinCorp Ltd., Ground Floor, Door No. 216, Opp. Padma Road, Belor, Jan Tempal, Padma Ward, Mandla, Madhya Pradesh - 481961. **DAMOH-JABALPUR:** Muthoot FinCorp Ltd., Ground Floor, Nr Gupta Lodge Station, Chowk Civil No.08, Sagor Road, Opposite Khanda Complex, Damoh, Madhya Pradesh - 470061. The bidders are requested to produce Photo Id card, Pan Card, The successful bidder should transfer the money through RTGS. Muthoot FinCorp Ltd.

MUTHOOT FINCORP LTD. | GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

Regd. Office: Muthoot Centre, TC No 27/3022, Punnen Road, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India - 695001.
CIN : U65929KL1997PLC011518, Ph: +91 471 4911400, 2331427

Notice is hereby given for the information of all concerned that Gold ornaments pledged with under mentioned branches of the company for the period upto 31.03.2024 & MSGL, SPL-16, One plus, Guide Prepaid, Super value, ADGL and all other 6 months tenure Gold loans up to 30.06.2024 and MSGB, SME Savarna & EMI due up to 31.12.2024 which were overdue for redemption and which have not been redeemed so far in spite of repeated notices, will be auctioned on 11.02.2025 from 10 am onwards:
NARSINGPUR DISTRICT - NARSINGHUR: 278000045, 278000043, 278000051, 278000560, 278000567, 278000581, 278000585, 278000586, 278000593, 278000609, 278000623, 278000629, 278000639, 278000657, 278000661, 278000667, 278000672, 278000693, 278000715, 278000722, 278000728, 278000730, 278000731, 278000732, 278000739, 278000742, 278000745, 278000747, 278000780, 278000787, 278000807, 278000812, 278000814, **REWA DISTRICT - REWA:** 435800310, 435800326, 435800336, 435800341, 435800347, 435800353, 435800372, 435800377, 435800392, 435800398, 435800400, 435800408, 435800412, 435800416, 435800436, 435800440, 435800444, 435800449, 435800452, 435800471, 435800479, 435800481, 435800482, 435800484, 435800495, 435800499, 435800504, 435800507, 435800508, 435800512, 435800519, 435800522, 435800523, 435800524, 435800532, F717, **SAGAR DISTRICT - BINA - SAGAR:** 436300693, 436300697, 436300731, 436300738, 436300766, 436300772, 436300860, 436300878, 436300884, 436300895, 436300907, 436300909, 436300941, 436300944, 436300964, 436301041, 436301050, 436301054, 436301056, 436301088, 436301104, 436301109, 436301112, 436301172, 436301178, 436301193, 436301197, 436301211, 436301218, 436301219, 436301225, 436301226, 436301237, 436301262, 436301281, 436301303, 436301303, 436301330, 436301339, 436301347, 436301362, 436301366, 436301421, 436301434, 436301442, 436301443, 436301446, 436301477, 436301492, 436301493, 436301502, 436301536, **SAGAR-MADHYA PRADESH:** 265100591, 265100596, 265100601, 265100606, 265100619, 265100642, 265100683, 265100689, 265100708, 265100723, 265100735, 265100753, 265100759, 265100760, 265100766, 265100776, 265100781, 265100788, 265100825, 265100826, 265100829, 265100830, 265100833, 265100836, 265100837, 265100859, 265100861, 265100862, 265100871, 265100879, 265100886, 265100886, 265100892, 265100902, 265100910, 265100912, 265100918, 265100925, 265100940, 265100948, 265100953, 265100957, 265100958, 265100961, 265100962, 265100963, 265100965, 265100968, 265100969, 265100971, 265100976, 265100977, 265100978, 265100979, 265100980, 265100982, 265100985, 265100986, 265100988, 265100989, 265100991, 265101012, 265101016, 265101018, 265101017, 265101019.
Auction will be conducted at respective branches. Please note if the auction does not get completed on the same day due to any reasons, the same will be conducted on 21.02.2025 at 10.00 am at **NARSINGHUR:** Muthoot FinCorp Ltd., First Floor, Shri Sadaa Complex, Plot No.4/8, 4/9, 4/10, Bahari Road, Narsinghpur, Above UCO Bank, Narsinghpur, Madhya Pradesh - 487001. **REWA:** Muthoot FinCorp Ltd., Ground Floor, Matra Complex, Simor Road, Kuzhali Rewa, Madhya Pradesh - 486001. **SAGAR-MADHYA PRADESH :** Ground Floor, Sahu Building Below HDFC Life, Plot No.264, Bazar Bazar Road, Opposite Shilpa Hotel, Sagar, Madhya Pradesh - 470002. The bidders are requested to produce Photo Id card, Pan Card, The successful bidder should transfer the money through RTGS. Muthoot FinCorp Ltd.

**सेंट्रल बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया**
Central Bank of India

Regional Office: B-Block, Mauryalok Complex, Patna-800 001
POSSESSION NOTICE
(under rule-8 (1) of security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002]

Notice is hereby given under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of (Security) Interest Act. 2002 (54 of 2002), and in exercise of the power conferred under sub-section (12) of section 13 read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 The Authorized Officer issued a Demand Notice on the dates noted against account as mentioned herein after, calling them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The borrower/guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the under noted borrower/guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sec. (4) of Section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) said Rules on the date mentioned against account. The borrower/guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Central Bank of India for the amount and interest thereon mentioned against account herein below. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section (13) of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

Name of the Branch	Name of the Accounts Borrowers/ Guarantor	Name of the owner & Description of the property mortgaged	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Symbolic Possession Notice Affixed	Amount outstanding as on date of Demand Notice	Amount outstanding as on date of Possession Notice
Alampur Gompura	Borrowers Puja Kumari D/o Rajesh Prasad & Puja Kumari Prop- Pari Palace and Grarantors Rinku Devi W/o Rajesh Prasad	Land & Building in the name of: Mrs. Rinku Devi W/o Rajesh Prasad, Deed No. 6257, Khata No- 35, S. Plot No- 269, Area- 4 Decimal, Location- Thana No- 292, Halka No- 6, Tauzi No- Bihar Sarkar, Mauza- Hanumangarh, PS- Chandi, Dist- Nalanda, Sub Registry Office- Hilsa, Boundary: North- Sunaina Devi, South- Khata, East- Ramashish Prasad, West- Raod	11.11.2024	18.01.2025	Rs. 38,06,952/- (Rupees Thirty Eight Lakh Six Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Two Only) + Applicable interest & Other Expenses	Rs. 38,06,952/- (Rupees Thirty Eight Lakh Six Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Two Only) + Applicable interest & Other Expenses
Place: Patna Date: 18.01.2025			Authorized Officer CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA			

**पंजाब नैशनल बैंक**
punjab national bank
...भारते का प्रतीक !

Circle SASTRA Centre, G.M. Road, Darbhanga
PIN Code- 846004, Email – cs8217@pnbc.co.in
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES


E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 9 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/physical/ symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Bank/ Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on the date as mentioned in the table herein below, for recovery of its dues due to the Bank/ Secured Creditor from the respective borrower (s) and guarantor (s). The reserve price and the earnest money deposit will be as mentioned in the table below against the respective properties.

Sl. No.	(A) Name of the Branch (B) Name of the Account (C) Name & addresses of the Borrower/ Guarantors /Account	Description of the Immovable Properties	(A) Date of Demand Notice u/s 13 (2) of SARFAESI Act 2002 (B) O/S Amount as on date of 13 (2) Notice (C) Possession Date u/s 13(4) of SARFAESI Act 2002. (D) Nature of Possession Symbolic/Physical/ Constructive	(A) Reserve Price (B) EMD (C) Bid Increase Amount
1.	(A) Tower Chowk, Darbhanga (010800) (B) M/s Sai Nath Cold Storage Pvt. Ltd. (C) M/s Sai Nath Cold Storage Pvt. Ltd. R.S. Tank, Naviloya, P.O.- Laheriasarai, Dist.- Darbhanga-846001 Smt. Reena Devi , Guarantor & Director of M/s Sai Nath Cold Storage Pvt. Ltd. W/o Kapleshwar Mandal, Mohalla- Madarpur, P.O.- Laheriasarai, Dist.- Darbhanga-846001	Land and building contained in Sale Deed No. 472, Dated:- 31.01.2005 in the name of Reena Devi situated at Mohalla- Madarpur, Laheriasarai, Darbhanga, Khata No. 446 (O), 541 (N), Khesra No. 964 (O), 1037 (N), Tauzi No.-3331, Thana No. 509, Ward No. 28, Area- 12 Dhur 14 Kanma, Boundary- North- 10 feet wide road, South- 10 feet wide road, East- Dr. Sagna Kumari and Rinku Kumari, West- Nij Vikreta	(A) 05.04.2024 (published in two leading newspaper dated 25.04.2024) (B) Rs.34,53,056.00 as on 31.03.2024 + further interest w.e.f. 01.04.2024 and other charges, (C) 27.06.2024 (D) Symbolic	(A) Rs.56,68,000/- (B) Rs.5,66,800/- (C) Rs.25,000/-
2.	(A) Anandpur Sahora (932900) (B) Ravi Shankar Jha & Bharti Jha (C) Shri Ravi Shankar Jha, S/o Sri Gopi Chandra Jha & Smt. Bharti Jha, W/o Shri Ravi Shankar Jha Both resident of AT+PO-Moh- Kalidham, Kharajpur, P.O.- Laheriasarai, Thana Bahadurpur, Dist.- Darbhanga, Bihar, Pin-846001, Also at- AT- Village, Majhailiya, Wasipatti Sohra, Anchal- Hayaghat, Dist.- Darbhanga, Pin-847105	All the piece and parcel of land alongwith building constructed thereon registered in the name of Sri Ravi Shankar Jha, S/o Sri Gopichandra Jha bearing Deed No. 5988, dated 08.07.2020, situated at Mouza- Majhailiya Wasipatti, Sohra, Thana -Ashok Paper Mill, Thana No. 557, District- Darbhanga, totalling 01 Katha as per details given below:- (I) Khata No. 106 (N), 235 (O), Khesra No. 315 (N), 114 (O), Area- 07 dhur 06 Kanwa, bounded as North- Ram Bujhawan Choudhary, South- Gopal Jha, East- Nij Kharidar, West- Shobhakar Choudhary & Other (II) Khata No. 106 (N), 235 (O), Khesra No. 315, (N), 114 (O), Area- 13 Dhur 10 Kanwa, bounded as North- Nij Bikreta Tara Devi, South- Gopal Jha, East- Sarak, West- Nij Kharidar & Ram Bujhawan Choudhary	(A) 19.03.2024 (published in two leading newspaper dated 25.04.2024) (B) Rs.30,84,081.14 as on 29.02.2024 + further interest w.e.f. 01.03.2024 and other charges. (C) 27.06.2024 (D) Symbolic	(A) Rs.42,45,000/- (B) Rs.4,24,500/- (C) Rs.25,000/-
3.	(A) Tower Chowk, Darbhanga (010800) (B) M/s R. P. Developers (C) M/s R. P. Developers Partnership Firm Urmila Sadan, Indira Colony, P.S.- Alaiapatti, Dist.- Darbhanga-846003 Smt. Reena Devi W/o Kapleshwar Mandal Madarpur, Bankers Colony, Rahamganj, P.S.- Laheriasarai, Dist.- Darbhanga-846004 Shri Ravindra Kumar S/o Gopal Mandal, Bela Shankar, Dist.- Darbhanga-846004	Land and building situated at Moh- Rasulpur Khurd (Indira Colony), Pargana- Purab Bhigo, District- Darbhanga:- (i) Deed No. 10883 Dt.11.07.2011, Thana no.494, Tauzi no. 1722, Khata No. 83 (O), 98 (N), Khesra No. 175 (O), 413 (N), Area- 14 Dhur, Owner name- Smt. Reena Devi, w/o Kapleshwar Mandal, Boundary- N-Road (12feet), S-Hasan Jaram, E- Shiv Pd. Yadav, W- Mohan Kumar (i) Deed no. 11477 Dt. 22.07.2011, Thana no. 494, Tauzi no. 1722, Khata No. 83 (O), 98 (N), Khesra No. 175 (O), 413 (N), Area- 15.25 Dhur, Owner name- Smt. Reena Devi, w/o Kapleshwar Mandal, Boundary- N-Road (12feet), S- Indira Co-operative, E- Nij Mokri, W- Nij Kharidar	(A) 01.10.2021 (B) Rs. 44,43,045.34 as on 30.09.2021 + further interest w.e.f. 01.10.2021 and other charges. (C) 13.12.2021 (D) Symbolic	(A) Rs.73,35,000/- (B) Rs.7,33,500/- (C) Rs.25,000/-
4.	(A) Marwari College, Darbhanga (465000) (B) M/s Thakur Engineering Works, Prop.- Sri Sunil Sagar (C) (1) M/s Thakur Engineering Works, Prop.- Sunil Sagar, Plot No C-15, C-16, Donar Industrial Area, Darbhanga- 846004, (2) Sri Sunil Sagar S/o N. Gangaram Thakur, Vill- Majhaura, Post- Bahera, Via Benipur, District- Darbhanga-847201	Land & Building constructed thereon situated at Donar Industrial Area, Vill- Mathurapur, Pargana- Purab Bhigo, Sadar Thana, Dist.- Darbhanga, Lease Deed No 8202 dated- 22/05/2013 in the name of M/s Thakur Engineering Works, Prop. Sri Sunil Sagar, Survey Khesra No 223(P), Plot No C-15 & C-16, Thana No.498, Area 17424 sq. ft. Boundary:- N- Plot 223(P), S- Plot 223(P) & BIADA Road, E- Plot 223(P), W- Plot 223(P)	(A) 17.12.2014 (B) Rs.78,77,121/- as on 30.09.2014 + further interest w.e.f. 01.10.2014 and other charges (C) 31.03.2015 (D) Symbolic	(A) Rs.78,95,248/- (B) Rs.7,89,525/- (C) Rs.25,000/-
5.	(A) Samastipur (050920) (B) M/S Hero Bricks, Prop.- Sri Suresh Ray (C) M/S Hero Bricks, Prop.- Sri Suresh Ray S/o Late Mushar Ray, Vill-PO- Harpur, Bhndi Block- Morwa, PS- Tajpur Samastipur-481122, Sri Suresh Ray, S/o Late Mushar Ray, Prop. of M/s Hero Bricks, Mohanpur, Samstipur-481011, Sh Raj Kumar Ray, S/o Late Mushar Ray Legal Her of Late Munaki Devi alias Munaka Devi, Mohanpur Samastipur- 848101, Smt. Sita Devi W/o Ram Naresh Ray Legal Her of Late Munaki Devi alias Munaka Devi, Vill- Dadhina Belar, PO- Karpungram, Samastipur- 848101, Sh Dinesh Ray S/o Late Mushar Ray Legal Her of Late Munaki Devi alias Munaka devi, Village- Mohanpur, PS- Mohanpur, Distt-Samstipur Thana No -181 Khata No 395,226(N), Khesra No 668(O),669(O), 436(N),Area 2 Katha, Boundary - N- Ram Pragdas Roy, S-Mokiraleh, E-Jagdaun Roy, W-NU	Property No 1- All the piece and parcel of mortgaged land and Building (IP) in the name of Smt Munaki Devi alias Munaka Devi W/O Late Mushar Ray (since deceased) now represented by legal her Sale Deed No 10403, Dated 13.08.1985, Mauza-Mohanpur Distt- Samastipur Thana No- 181 Khata No 395, Khesra No 669(O), 436(N) 436(N) Area-1 Katha, Boundary:- N- Pragdas Roy, S- Mokiraleh E-Road, W- Mokiraleh, Property No 2- All the piece and parcel of mortgaged land and Building (IP) in the name of Smt Munaki Devi alias Munaka Devi W/O Late Mushar Ray/ (since deceased) now represented by legal her Sale Deed No 3928, Dated 09.04.1985, Mauza- Mohanpur Distt- Samastipur Thana No -181 Khata No 395,226(N), Khesra No 668(O),669(O), 436(N),Area 2 Katha, Boundary - N- Ram Pragdas Roy, S-Mokiraleh, E-Jagdaun Roy, W-NU	(A) 06.12.2022 (B) Rs.26,09,691.55 as on 30.11.2022 + further interest w.e.f. 01.12.2022 and other charges (C) 28.03.2023 (D) Symbolic	(A) Rs.63,00,000/- (B) Rs.6,30,000/- (C) Rs.25,000/-

Date / Time of E- Auction:- 12/02/2025 11:00 AM to 04:00 PM

Details of the encumbrances known to the secured creditors:- Nil

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF E-AUCTION SALE:- The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and to the following further conditions: (1) The properties are being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS". (2) The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule hereinabove have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorised Officer, but the Authorised Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation. (3) The sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Website <https://www.ebkay.in> on 12.02.2025 from 11.00 A.M. to 04.00 P.M. (4) For detailed term and conditions of the sale, please refer <https://ebkay.in> & www.pnbndia.in.
Authorized officer
Punjab National Bank (Secured Creditor)

**पंजाब नैशनल बैंक**
punjab national bank
...भारते का प्रतीक !

Circle SASTRA Office, Bhagalpur (Ground Floor-Naulakha Appt.)
Opp DIG Kothi, Badi Khanjarpur, Bihar-812001
Mob.No. 8918536149 (Email:

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Prince S/o Darshan Pal R/o- Ward-8, Adarsh Nagar, Sonipat, Haryana-131001 have changed my name to Prince Vinak for all purposes 0070946153-1

I, PUNEET BALASUBRAMANIAN S/O SHRI K.I. BALASUBRAMANIAN RESIDENT OF D-316, for JALVAYU TOWERS, SECTOR-47, NOIDA, DISTT- GAUTAM BUDDH NAGAR, U.P.- 201303, have changed my son's name KARTTIK PUNEET BALASUBRAMANIAN TO KARTTIK PUNEET for all future purpose 0070946166-1

I, P SAIDA BEGUM, Spouse of No.15414830F(HAV) P MOULALI, R/o Village-Nalakaddodi, P.O.- Atikelagundu, P.S.-Pathikonda, Distt.-Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh-518347, have changed my name from P SAIDA BEGUM to PINJARI SAIDA BEGUM, vide affidavit IN- DL21417024087001X, dated: 20/01/2025, before Notary, Advocate: Rajkumar, Regd.No.- 6536, New Delhi. 0070946131-1

I, Old name Rajee Singh D/o Ravinder Singh R/o B-101 Riviera Eldeco Green Meadows Sep.PI-1, Greater Noida, G.B.Nagar have changed my name to Rajvinder Kaur for all future purpose 0070946169-1

I, Nidhi Gandass W/o Naveen Dabas R/o 1665-T-17-B, PS- Road, Najafgarh, Delhi-110043, have changed my name to Nidhi Dabas. 0040769626-2

I, Megha Chauhan D/o Mr. Suresh Chauhan R/o Thakurnar Mohila Dadi Gautma Buddha Nagar 203207. Inform you that my father name mentioned in my all documents written as Mr.Suresh Chauhan whereas in my father's aadhar Card written as Mr. Suresh Chand both names belongs to my father. 0070946168-1

I, MORIYAM BEGUM, Mother of No.17040054H(LNK) MD SAKIKUL ALAM, R/o Village- Talibpur, Post Office-Talibpur, Tehsil-Kandi, District- Murshidabad, West Bengal- 724202 have changed my name from MORIYAM BEGUM to MARIYAM BEGUM vide affidavit IN-DL21418205257721X dated 20/01/2025 before Notary Advocate: Rajkumar, Regd.No.- 6536, New Delhi. 0070946132-1

I, MONTU SINGH S/o P S Chouhan, R/o 370/A/5, Third Floor, 5, Govindpur, Kalkaji, Delhi-19 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MOHINDER THAKUR. 0040769541-1

I, Kumaramitesh Amreshkumar Singh S/o Amresh Kumar Singh, R/o Flat No-2402, Tower-Ambrose, Sportschome Techzone-4, Greater Noida West, Gautam Buddha Nagar, UP-201318 have changed my name to Kumar Amitesh Singh for all future purposes. 0070946163-1

I, Kamla Rani W/o Krishan Lal R/o D-198, Tagore Garden Extension Delhi-110027 have changed my name to Raj Rani for all purposes. 0070946157-1

I, KM. SHEEVA KHALID, D/O KHALID SABIR QURESHI, R/O, C-204, SWAPNALOK APARTMENT, IN FRONT OF SBI-BEHTA, PALAKA, BASHA, LUCKNOW, UTTAR PRADESH-226026, have changed my name to SHEEBA KHALID For all future purposes. 0070946101-1

I, Gurmeet Singh Sachdeva S/o Harbhajan Singh R/o 142/B, 2nd-Floor, LIG-Flats, Rajouri Garden, New Delhi-110027, have changed my name to Gurmeet Singh. 0040769626-5

I, Girja Tikoo Alias Girja Kher Tikoo D/o C L Kher R/o Flat No. D-3, Kashmir Apartments, Pitampura, Delhi- 110034 Have Changed My Name To Girja Kher Tikoo for all purposes. 0070946176-1

I, Geeta Sharma, W/o Jitender Sharma, R/o C-2 Shivaji park west Delhi-110026, have changed my name to Geenita Sharma. 0040769626-4

I, Dod Ashokbhai Velubhai, resident at Village & PO - Badarkha, PS-Bavla, District-Ahmedabad, State-Gujrat, PIN-382260, have changed my name from DOD Chandrika to DOD Chandrika Ashokbhai vide Affidavit dated 16/01/2025 before Notary Public, District Court Srinagar, Government of Jammu and Kashmir. 0020487315-1

I, DOD Chandrika spouse of Dod Ashokbhai Velubhai, resident of at Village & PO - Badarkha, PS-Bavla, District-Ahmedabad, State-Gujrat, PIN-382260, have changed my name from DOD Chandrika to DOD Chandrika Ashokbhai vide Affidavit dated 16/01/2025 before Notary Public, District Court Srinagar, Government of Jammu and Kashmir. 0020487316-1

I, Anjani spouse of Anjani Dhurve, resident of at Village & PO-Meghasaoni, PS-Chhindwara, District-Chhindwara, State-Madhya Pradesh, PIN-480223, have changed my name from Anjani to Anjani Dhurve vide Affidavit dated 16/01/2025 before Notary Public, District Court Srinagar, Government of Jammu and Kashmir. 0020487318-1

I,hitherto known as,HINA SHEHZAD alias HEENA,W/o-MOHD AQIL,residing at-38,THIRD FLOOR,ISHWAR-NAGAR, NEW-DELHI-110065,have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as HINA SHEHZAD. 0040769582-8

I, Amitesh Kumar Singh S/o Amresh Kumar Singh, R/o Flat.No-2402, Tower-Ambrose, Sportschome Sportscity, Techzone-4, Greater Noida West, Gautam Buddha Nagar, UP-201318 have changed my name to Kumar Amitesh Singh for all future purposes. 0070946161-1

I, Ambika Kumari spouse of Angaj Kumar, resident of at Village & PO- Meghpur, PS-Sursand, District-Sitamarhi, State-Bihar,PIN-843331, have changed my name from Ambika Kumari to Ambica Kumari vide Affidavit dated 16/01/2025 before Notary Public, District Court Srinagar, Government of Jammu and Kashmir. 0020487317-1

I, Amandeep Kaur Sachdeva W/o Gurmeet Singh R/o 142/B, 2nd-Floor, LIG-Flats, Rajouri Garden, New Delhi-110027,have changed my name to Amandeep Kaur. 0040769626-6

I, ASHOK SHARMA, S/O RAM DHARI SHARMA, R/O-A-1/84, PASCHIM VIHAR, WEST DELHI, DELHI-110063, have changed my name to ASHOK KUMAR SHARMA For all future purposes. 0070946102-1

I,15446514W(NK) AJAY KUMAR DARJEE, R/o Village-Dhekiajuli Gaon, P.O.- Dhekiajuli, P.S.- Dhekiajuli, District-Sonitpur, Assam-784110, declare that my mother's name incorrectly updated as DHAN MAYA DEVI in my service record and to be corrected to DHANAMAYA DEVI respectively, vide affidavit IN-DL21419510744699X dated: 20/01/2025, before Notary Advocate: Rajkumar, Regd.No.- 6536, New Delhi. 0070946131-1

I,15414830F(HAV) P MOULALI, R/o Village-Nalakaddodi, P.O.- Atikelagundu, P.S.-Pathikonda, Distt.-Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh-518347, have changed my minor son's name from P. RAFFEEQ AHAMMED vide affidavit no. IN- DL21414397732335X dated- 20/01/2025, before Notary Advocate- Rajkumar, Regd.No.- 6536, New Delhi. 0070946141-1

I,15414830F(HAV) P MOULALI, R/o Village-Nalakaddodi, P.O.- Atikelagundu, P.S.-Pathikonda, Distt.-Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh-518347, have changed my minor daughter's name from P. RIHAANA PARVEEN to PINJARI RIHAANA PARVEEN vide affidavit no. IN- DL21412077740451X dated- 20/01/2025, before Notary Advocate- Rajkumar, Regd.No.- 6536, New Delhi. 0070946136-1

I, Ex No-9107836H Rank Naik (TS) Mohd Abid Mir Unit 4 JAKLI R/o Village Markoot, PO:Dawar, Tehsil Gurek, District-Bandipora,J&K declare that I want to change the name of my son in my service records from Buhran Abid Mir to Burhan Abid Mir in my Service Records. Anybody having objection may inform JAK LI Records within 7 days of publication. 0020487312-1

I,hitherto known as Babu Sahab S/o Kishor Tantli, R/o Kh.No.156, Pansali, North West Delhi, Delhi-110042, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Kumar Babu Sahab Raj. 0040769553-1

I,Saumya Makkar D/o Sh. Prashant Makkar R/o B-70, New Rajinder Nagar, Central Delhi,New Delhi-110060, have changed my name from Saumya Makkar to Saumya Anand for all future purposes. 0040769544-1

I,Govinda Rajan Nair S/o Narayanan Nair R/o H-No-1-112/WE/E/B/711, Flat No-711, East Block, Western Exotica, Maharshi Marg, Shilpa Park, Kondapur, K.V.Rangareddy, Telangana-500084, have changed my name to Govinda Rajan Narayanan 0070946148-1

I,Abhishek S/o Sh. Om Bir Singh,R/o H.No.350,B-Block Street No.12,Om Nagar,Badarpur,New Delhi-110044, have changed my name,from Abhishek to Abhishek Rana,for further, all purposes. 0040769588-1

I,hitherto known as,PRAGATI KUMARI,DOUGHTER OF,SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR JHA,R/o-Q,158/A,GALI NO.6,SAINIK-CHOWK MOHAN-GARDEN,UTTAM-NAGAR, WEST,DELHI-110059,have changed my name and BIRTH DATE i.e.06.11.2009 shall hereafter be known as,PRAGATI JHA AND MY- BIRTH-DATE IS-23.03.2010. 0040769582-2

I,hitherto known as,MOHANI DEVI ALIAS MUNNI DEVI,D/O-BACHE SINGH RATELA,W/O-TARA SINGH,R/O-H.NO.E-356,GALLI,NO.15,KHAJOORI KHAS, KARAWAL-NAGAR,NORTH-EAST,DELHI-110094,have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MUNNI DEVI. 0040769582-3

I,hitherto known as,MEHAR TABA USMAN,W/O-USMAR ZAKI,R/O-86,AB GROUND-FLOOR(C-18)JOHRI-FARM LANE-3,JAMIA-NAGAR OKHLA,NEW DELHI-110025,have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MEHAR UMAR. 0040769588-5

I,hitherto known as,MEENU JAIN alias BABITA JAIN,D/O-NATHI LAL JAIN,W/O-LATE RAJEEV JAIN,R/O-R-5/133,NAWADA HOUSING-COMPLEX,DWARKA MORE,D.K. MOHAN-GARDEN,WEST DELHI,DELHI-110059,have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as BABITA JAIN. 0040769582-4

I,Saravjeet Virmani,W/O-Mohit Gaba,R/o E-1055,Dubaa Colony,NIT,Faridabad,State: Haryana-121004,have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as BALLO DEVI. 0040769582-10

I,Varun Narinder Kumar Maurya,S/O-Narinder Kumar Address-A-60,Shivalik Malviya Nagar,Delhi-110017,changed my name to Varun Maurya. 0040769594-1

I,Vaishali,D/o-Anil Kumar,residing at,Quarter-18,5th Floor,Type-04,Police-Station,Mandir-Marg,Mandir Marg Police-Colony,New Delhi-110001,have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Vaishali Tomar. 0040769594-11

I,Usha Rani Kubba,W/o-Raj Kumar R/o A-1/273,Paschim-Vihar West,Delhi,Delhi-110063,have changed my name to Usha Rani. 0040769572-4

I,Uday Mohanrao Bokan,S/o,Mohan Bhavadnas Bokan R/o,WZ-30, Manohar-Park,East Punjabi-Bagh,West-Delhi-110026,have changed my minor-son's name Dhananjay Uday Bokan to Dhananjay Bokan. Aged-9-years. 0040769626-3

I,Shubham Aggarwal,S/o,Sandeep Jindal,R/o-D-383 Gali-no-3,near Santi Vastika Tashil Noid District Ghaziabad,U.P,inform that,in my 10th & 12th-marksheet my,father name,is wrongly-mentioned as Sandeep Aggarwal Instead, of Sandeep Jindal.His correct,name is Sandeep Jindal.Sandeep Jindal and Sandeep Aggarwal are,one and same,person. 0040769580-1

I,Sanjiv Kumar S/o Shiv Charan Lal R/o-92 G/F,Gali No.6,East azad Nagar,Delhi-110051,Have Changed My Name To Sanju. 0040769594-6

I,Sanjay Kumar S/o Ram Naresh,R/o H.No.F-46,A Gali No.16,Near Hasanpur Depo,Madhu-Vihar,Patpar Ganj,Delhi-110092,inform that Sanjay Kumar and Sanjay both are same and one person. 0040769539-1

I,SONIKA LOHIYA,D/O RAJENDER,R/o-12, GANGDAS-MOHALLA AYA-NAGAR NEW-DELHI-110047 have changed my name to SONIKA,for all,future purpose. 0040769588-9

I,SHRADDHA D/O KISHAN KUMAR,R/O 2410 HUDSON LINE,GTB NAGAR,DELHI-110009,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SHRADDHA RANI. 0040769572-5

I,SHABANA BHATI,W/O- FARMDOO ALIR/O-FLAT NO-106,TOWER EBONY-A,SHALIMAR CITY,SHALIMAR GARDEN,GHAZIABAD,UTTAR PRADESH,201005,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SALONI. 0040769626-1

I,Rajender S/o Bhuvhal Yadav R/o-113/A, Gali-No-13, Noor Nagar, Jamia Nagar, Delhi-110025 have changed my name to Rajender Yadav for all purposes 0070946155-1

I,RAVI KUMAR,S/O-RAM KARAN,RESIDING AT,B-187,POCKET-1,KENDRIYA VIHAR-2,SECTOR-82, NOIDA,GAUTAM BUDDHA NAGAR,U.P.-201301,HAVE CHANGED THE NAME OF MY-MINOR DAUGHTER SHANAYA KUMAR ALIAS KIARHA KUMAR AGED-6YEARS AND SHE SHALL HEREAFTEr BE KNOWN AS KIARHA KUMAR. 0040769594-4

I,RAMESH CHANDRA-S/O-JAMNA PRASAD,R/O-15-T-HUTS,CAMP NO.2,BHIM NAGAR,WEST DELHI,DELHI-110087,have changed my name to RAMNAGIA. 0040769594-2

I,Prem Chand.S/o Tek Chand Goyal,R/o-Plot.No.91,Block-A PitamPura,Delhi-110034,have changed my name to Prem Chand Goyal. 0040769600-4

I,Ajay Kumar S/o Ram Mehar,R/o E-1055,Dubaa Colony,NIT,Faridabad,have changed my name of Ajay Yadav. 0040769572-3

I,Praveen Saxena S/o Jagdish Behari Saxena R/o-A-297,Block-A Prashant,Vihar,Rohini Delhi-110085,inform tht my Father's name Jagdish Behari Saxena and Jagdish Bihari both,name are Same,person. 0040769605-4

I,Guddi Devi W/o Kaishash Chandi,R/o A-17,Ganeshpuri, Shalimar Garden,Sahibabad,Ghaziabad have changed my name to Gaytri Devi,for all,future purposes. 0040769576-2

I,Esha Chawla,W/o-Puneet Chawla,R/o-Flat.No.69,HEWO Apartments, Sector-15,Part-2,Gurgaum(Haryana) 122001,changed my-Minor Son's name,from Yaksh Dhiman to Yaksh Chawla. 0040769600-6

I,Pradeep Kumar S/o Shri Om Prakash,R/o-WZ-220A,Tilak Nagar,New Delhi-110018,Have Changed my name to Pardeep kumar,for all future purposes. 0040769536-1

I,Pappy S/o Rishi Pal,R/o T-41-B,Part-1,Near Durga Mandir,Jain Colony,Uttam Nagar,West Delhi,Delhi-110059,have changed my name to Pushpendr R Pal for all purposes. 0040769537-3

I,PUJA DEWAN,W/O-MR.ASHISH DEWAN,R/o-A-289, Sector-43,Noida,inform that PUJA DEWAN & POOJA DEWAN & PUJA JAIN & POOJA JAIN DEWAN are all,names are same person.My correct name is PUJA DEWAN,for all,future purpose. 0040769594-5

I,Neelesh Rajput S/o Indresh Rajput R/o Plot No.604,UGF,Sector-5,Vaishali, Ghaziabad,have changed my name to Nilesh Rajput. 0040769576-1

I,NISHKARSH S/O-DINESH KUMAR,R/O WZ-54A,GALI.NO-2-3,KRISHNA PURI DELHI-110018,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO NISHKARSH JAGIA. 0040769600-10

I,Mukesh Kumar S/o Shri Chander Bhan Goyal R/o-F1U-173,Pitampura Delhi-110034 have changed my name to Mukesh Kumar Goyal 0040769605-1

I,Mohammad saalim Qureshi,S/o-Haji Mohammad Yousof,R/o-11090,East Park Road,Doriwalan,Karol Bagh,Central Delhi-110005,have change my minor son,name Mohd. Arhaan,to Mohammad Arhaan Qureshi,for all future,purpose. 0040769588-4

I,Manmeet Singh Sethi,S/O Indeerjeet Singh,R/O-House Number-28,2nd floor,Jangpura Bhogal,New Delhi-110014,Have Change My Name To Manmit Singh Sethi,For All,Future Purpose. 0040769594-3

I,Manish alias Mahesh Kumar Mahalwal S/O Chander Bhan,R/o H.No.74,Madngir Village,Dr. Ambedkar Nagar, Pushpa Bhawan S.O.,SouthDelhi,Delhi -110062,have changed my name to Mahesh Kumar Mahalwal for all purposes. 0040769537-4

I,Malti Devi W/o Sanjay Kumar,R/o H.No.F-46,A Gali No.16,Near Hasanpur Depo,Madhu-Vihar,Patpar Ganj,Delhi-110092,inform that Malti Devi and Malti Pal both are same and one person. 0040769539-2

I,MOHD FARMAN,S/O-MOHD VAKIL,R/O H.NO.165A,GALLI.NO.10,MAIN CENTRAL ROAD,GHAFFAR MANZIL,JAMIA-NAGAR,SOUTH DELEHI,DELHI-110025,That my minor son-name is mentioned in Dev Samaj School is AAHIL FARMAN,My son correct-name is MOHD AAHIL and aged-12-years. 0040769582-9

I,MD SHAMS ANWAR,S/O-SHAMSUZZAMA,H.NO-16/C,BLOCK-B,BHAGWATI-GARDEN UTTAM-NAGAR,NEW DELHI-110059,have changed my name to SHAMS ANWAR,for all,future purpose. 0040769576-3

I,MANSI KESARWANI W/o MANU KESARWANI & D/o VINOD JINDAL R/O-D-25, Model Town II,G.T.B Nagar,Delhi-110009,have changed my name to MANSI J KESARWAANI. 0040769605-5

I,Kuwar Raj Singh,S/o Amarjeet Singh,R/o C-2/5,Vasant Vihar-1, South-West, Delhi-110057,Have Changed My-Minor Son Name,from Adhiraj Singh to Adhiraj singh Bhatia. 0040769600-7

I,HAR SAHAI MEENA S/o Sukhpal Meena R/o Echeri,Dausa Rajasthan-303323,have changed my name to HARSAHAY MEENA 0040769605-2

I,Kusum Rangwala,W/o,Ram Babu Gupta,R/o H-No-50,Block-A, Sector-31,Noida GautamBuddh Nagar,UP-201301,Have changed my name to Kusum Gupta,for all,purposes. 0040769582-6

I,Kanika Hassaria alias Kanika,W/O-Deepesh Hissaria,R/o-24/60-G/1,SF,West Patel Nagar,Delhi-8,have changed my name to Kanika Hissaria 0040769588-2

I,Kamla Devi Nim,W/o-Shri Om Prakash,R/o O-M-2,404,Subhddham Apartment,Sec-2,Rajendra Nagar,Sahibabad Ghaziabad,UP-201005,have changed my name,from Kamla Devi Nim,to Kamla Nim,Henceforth,I,would be known,by the name,of Kamla Nim,for all future,purposes. 0040769588-10

I,KUMARI BIBHA,D/O CHANDRA MOHAN PANDEY,R/O-D-1306,ARIHANT ARDEN, PLOT.NO-GH-074,SECTOR-1,GREATER NOIDA-WEST,BISHRAKH,GAUTAM BAUDDHA-NAGAR-201306,U.P.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO BIBHA KUMARI,FOR ALL,THE PURPOSES 0040769588-3

I,Jyoti W/o Ajay,R/o Village Sarurpur,Ballabgarh,Faridaba d,have changed my name to Jyoti Kumari,for all,future purposes. 0040769572-1

I,Jitin Kumar,S/o Sukhbir Singh,H.No.57D,Ward No.17, Arya-Nagar,Jhajjar (Haryana)-124103,have changed my name to Jitin Ahlawat. 0040769600-2

I,GULAFSHA PARVEEN,C/o Mustaqeem Ahmed,R/o House. No.B-60,Third Floor,Pocket-1, Jasola,Jamia Nagar,New Delhi-110025,have changed my name from GULAFSHA to GULAFSHA PARVEEN,for all future purpose. 0040769594-7

I,Esha Dhiman,W/o Puneet Chawla,R/O-Flat.No.69,HEWO-Apartments, Sector-15,Part-2,Gurgaum(Haryana) 122001, have changed my name to Esha Chawla. 0040769600-5

I,Dharam Beer,S/o Kahan Chand,H.No.-401 GATE.-5,NEW-JAGANNATH-VIHAR,PANIPAT (Haryana)-132103,have changed my name to Dharamveer. 0040769600-8

I,DHARMENDER,S/o Jagdish Prasad,R/o-16/30,Dakshin Puri Extn.,New Delhi-110062,have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as NITIN ROHILLA. 0040769572-6

I,DARYASBEL NORALES,W/O-ROHTASH R/O-GANDHRA 44,ROHTAK HARYANA-124501, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SUNITA DEVI. 0040769600-11

I,CHANDRESHWER YADAV, S/O, RASIK LAL YADAV,R/O-169, MANSI VIHAR, SECTOR-23, SANJAY NAGAR, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH-201001,have changed my name to CHANDRESHWAR YADAV. 0040769600-9

I,Arun Kumar Gupta S/o Sat Narayan Gupta,R/o Plot No.39,Om Vihar Phase-1, Uttam Nagar,West Delhi,Delhi-110059,have changed my name to Arun Garg for all purposes. 0040769537-5

I,Archana Wati Saxena/Archna Saxena W/o Praveen Saxena R/o A-297,Block-A Prashant Vihar Rohini Delhi-110085 have changed my name to Archana Saxena 0040769605-3

I,Gopal Das S/o Murari Lal Mittal,R/o 472, Gali No.18, Bhikam Colony,Ballabgarh have changed my name to Gopal Mittal. 0040769572-2

I,Anoop w/o-Suraj katarya,R/o H-No-1414, Sector-17C, Gurugram,Delhi-120011,Haryana Have changed my name to Anoop Katarya,for all purposes 0040769582-7

I,Adishri Charla Gupta,W/o-Nitin Gupta,R/o-10,Birch Court,Nirvana Country, Sector-50, Gurgaon, Haryana, 122018, have changed my name to Adishri Charla,for all,purposes. 0040769582-1

I,Abhishek S/o Sh. Om Bir Singh,R/o H.No.350,B-Block Street No.12,Om Nagar, Badarpur, New Delhi-110044,have changed my name,from Abhishek to Abhishek Rana,for further,all purposes. 0040769600-1

I,Aanchal Gaba W/o Udit Malik,R/o 524,3rd-Floor, Sector-31,Gurgaon(Haryana),Have changed my Name Aanchal Malik. 0040769600-3

I,Vineet Kumar S/o Late Shri Nathu Singh R/o 1/339, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad, U.P.- 201012 declare that my mother's name as Anita Singh and Anita Singh at Jaikali are for the same person. That my mother's name in records, Is, Anita Singh. 0070946152-1

I, Singh Amreshkumar Sarjog S/o Saryug Singh, R/o D/29, DR Prabhu Nath Singh Road, Ajanta Niketan Colony, Pulwari, Patna, Bihar-800024 have changed my name to Amresh Kumar Singh for all future purposes. 0070946173-1

I, SUSHMA alias SUSHMA CHAUHAN D/o Ram Bahadur Verma, R/o H.No.111/8, Prakash Mohalla, East of Kailash, New Delhi-110065 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SEEMA. 0040769554-1

I, SHYERSHAN LAL ARORA S/O SHYAM DASS ARORA R/O 2141, 1st FLOOR, TRI NAGAR, DELHI-110035 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SUDERSHAN ARORA FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES. 0070946144-1

I, Raghuvansh Bhushan Sharma S/o Raghuraj Sharan Sharma R/o Near Railway Gate Mukhtiyar Gaj, shivanchal bhawan, Raghurajnagar, Satna, Madhya Pradesh, 485001 have changed my name to Raghuvansh Bhushan Sharma for all future purposes. 0070946174-1

I,Ramkishor S/O Jaiprakash R/O C-8/138, gf, Yamuna vihar, Delhi -53, have changed my name to Ramkishor Gupta for all future purcha 0040769626-10

I, Himanshu Mittal, S/O Manohar Lal Mittal, residing at C-194, Parnampott Golf Foreste, Site C, Opp. Zeta-1, Greater Noida, Kasna, Gautam Buddha Nagar, UP-201310, have lost/stolen my original property allotment letter dated 07/MAY/2024, original possession letter & builder payment receipts Between M/S Jai krishan Estate Pvt Ltd. & Himanshu Mittal of my property allotment number 216, D1, Krishna apra plaza, Alpha-1, Commercial Belt, greater Noida, somewhere its use elsewhere would be illegal, and if found or any objection please return/contact in above address. 0070946171-1

Original documents of Property No.T-466, 3rd-Floor, Baljeet Nagar, Patel Nagar, New Delhi-110008, has lost.Finder contact:Puneet Sethi S/o Ashok Kumar Sethi Mobile-No.7042426942 0040769626-8

CLASSIFIEDS & TENDERS

I,Min Kyounghee,D/o,Min Hawng Gi,R/o,104,Doedeok-Daero 556 Beon-gil,Yuseong-gu,Daejeon,Republic of,Korea.I have,lost my,M.A. in,politics(specializing in international-relation),Marksheet in JNU Campus,New,Delhi on,01.07.2017.The Marksheet-were issued,by JNU,New,Delhi.Finder-Contact:9592645495

0040769626-7

I,AMITABH,S/O-NARENDRA KUMAR,R/O-A-52,Aditi-Cooperative Group-Housing Society,I.P.Extension, Delhi-110092,have changed the name of my-minor son,VIVAN,aged-13-years and he shall hereafter be known VIVAN ANAND. 0040769626-9

Lost my original Allotment Letter, Possession Letter, BBA or other Property Papers of TDI Flat No.53/703, Kundli, Sonipat (Haryana).Finder may Contact- Prekshya Singhal at H.No.13,Vasudha Enclave, Pitampura,Delhi-110034 0040769545-1

I, Amit Kumar Garg S/O Lt. Sh. Shri Niwas Garg, R/O D-13 A/4, Model Town II, Delhi 110009, property papers of my company, "TRUMEN STATIONERY MFG. CO. (P) LTD., having address PLOT No. 102, POCKET C, IFC GHAZIPUR, DELHI 110096 have been lost, property documents: Allotment letter, Sanction Letter, Lease Deed, Possession Letter, Completion Letter, Physical Possession Letter, Mutation Letter and other important Property documents. Finder may please contact 9811524159.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to all concerned that by the Conveyance Deed dated 16/07/2004 pertaining to Plot No:191-G, Pkt-4, Mayur Vihar phase-1, Delhi 110091 is allotted to Mr S.P. Pal S/o late Shri Bhavani Singh, R/O -D-1001, Neelgudan, Kirti Sd, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, who is selling his above said property to Mrs. Vijayalaxmi Manjunath Meled W/o Manjunath Meled R/o Flat No. 194-G, pkt-4, Mayur Vihar, phase-1, Delhi-110091. In the sale deed of this property by Mr S.P. PAL, his wife Mrs. Meena w/o S.P. Pal who is signing the sale deed as a witness at the time of registration of documents i.e. sale deed. If anyone has/have any objection to this, he/she may file his/her any objection along with the sufficient proof in the records of the DDA or to the seller or the purchaser or the State Bank of India, Unity One Mall Branch within 15 days from the date of publication of Notice.

Sd/-
ANUJ SAINI
Chamber No. K-162/A, 1st Floor,
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public at large hereby informed that my clients Sh. Gurmeet Singh Gambhir and Smt. Harbir Kaur Gambhir both R/o M-475, Gun-Harishan Nagar, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-110087, have debarred and discovered their son namely Harjeet Singh Gambhir and Daughter-in-law namely Ms. Jasleen Kaur W/o Harjeet Singh Gambhir and their Grand-son namely Master Tegmroop Singh Gambhir S/o Sh. Harjeet Singh Gambhir from their all movable and immovable properties due to their disrespectful and hostile behavior and also severed all their relations with them. If anyone deals with them in any manner, he/she shall do so at his/her own risks, costs and consequences. My clients shall not in any manner be liable and responsible for the same.

Sd/-
Sunil Kumar Kaushtik
Advocate
Ch. No. 1099,
Rohini District Courts,
New Delhi-110085

Public Notice
It is hereby informed that my clients S. SURENDER SINGH & his wife SMT. SURINDER Kaur have disowned their son S. KARAMEET SINGH and daughter-in-law Ms. TINSI from their all movable & immovable properties and severed all relations with them due to their aggressive attitude, misbehaviour and misconduct. My clients shall not be responsible in future for any acts of their disowned son and daughter-in-law.

Sd/-
RAVI BHARGAVA
(Advocate)
D-177207,152/A, PLOT NO. 151, AZAD NAGAR DELHI-110085

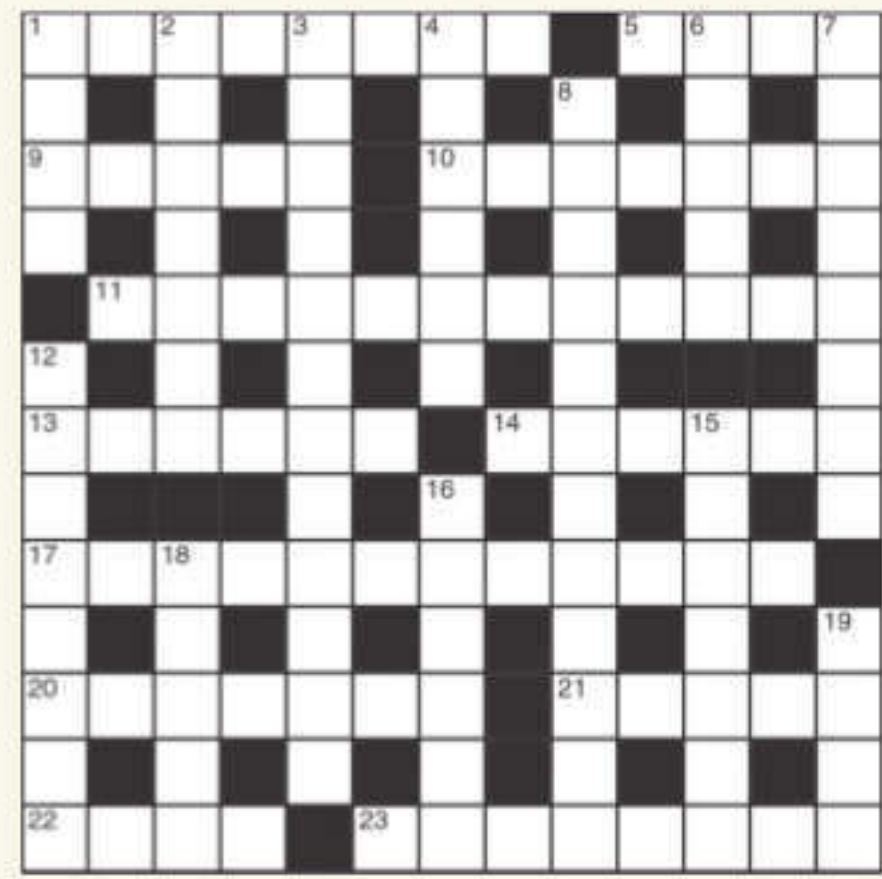
PUBLIC NOTICE
General Public hereby inform that the Property bearing No. FIRST FLOOR OF B-123, DERAWAL NAGAR, DELHI-110085 (Hereinafter referred to the said property). On the abovesaid property, The Hon'ble Court of Rohini (North District), Delhi has been pleased to GRANT STAY ON THE FIRST FLOOR of the abovesaid subject property vide order dated-10.09.2024 in the case titled as- GURJEET SINGH AND ANR. Vs. RACHNA KHANNA AND ANR. Case No. CS JD 303/23. All the general Public is advised in good faith not to be enter into any kind of deal with the abovesaid subject property for the sake of any Legal Hurdle. By Issued
V.K. Puri & Puri (Advocates)
A-4, L.G.F., Gurgaon, Haryana, Part-1, Delhi-110009

PUBLIC NOTICE
To be known to all that Mr. HIMMAT SINGH KHURANA, died on 16.11.2004 (and his wife namely SMT. GIAN KAJAR also deceased him) having died on 12.02.1999), leaving behind following Class-I legal heirs, viz. Smt. VIKAL SINGH (Son), MRS. RAJINDER KAJAR (Daughter), MRS. BALBIR KAJAR (Daughter), S. PARAN JEEET SINGH KHURANA (Son) & S. MOHAN JEEET SINGH KHURANA (Son) as per the provision of the Hindu Succession Act, 1956.
Any person/s claiming any right, interest, objections with respect to above can personally inform or write within ten (10) days of this notice to RAJIA VINAY SINGH AND PRIYANSHU SINGH, Plot No. D-955, Parvayan Colony, GINOI Road, Sadijalajab, New Delhi-110030
The person claiming any right, interest, objections with respect to above can personally inform or write within ten (10) days of this notice to RAJIA VINAY SINGH AND PRIYANSHU SINGH, Plot No. D-955, Parvayan Colony, GINOI Road, Sadijalajab, New Delhi-110030.
The person claiming any right, interest, objections with respect to above can personally inform or write within ten (10) days of this notice to RAJIA VINAY SINGH AND PRIYANSHU SINGH, Plot No. D-955, Parvayan Colony, GINOI Road, Sadijalajab, New Delhi-110030.

Sd/-
Gopal Bihari (Advocate)
SP-51, Pandav Nagar,
Delhi-110092

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform to the public at large that my clientess Ms. Duranah Sharma D/o late Shri Mahabir Singh Sharma R/o Flat No.163, Sector-D-6, Kaveri, Vasant Kunj, Delhi-110070 has disowned, debarred and disinherited her real sisters Ms. Rashmi Sharma and Smt. Sandhya Ch. Shreya Dhanu Sharma D/o late Shri Mahabir Singh Sharma R/o Flat No.163, Sector-D-6, Kaveri, Vasant Kunj, Delhi-110070 has disowned, debarred and disinherited her real sisters Ms. Rashmi Sharma and Smt. Sandhya Ch. Shreya Dhanu Sharma and their entire families and families of father's side as well as all movable and immovable properties. My clientess has severed all her relations with them and will not be responsible for the acts, commissions or omissions of Ms. Rashmi Sharma and Smt. Jaishree Ch. Shreya Dhanu Sharma and their entire families and families of father's side as well as all movable and immovable properties. My clientess has severed all her relations with them and will not be responsible for the acts, commissions or omissions of Ms. Rashmi Sharma and Smt. Jaishree Ch. Shreya Dhanu Sharma and their entire families and families of father's side as well as all movable and immovable properties. My clientess has severed all her relations with them and will not be responsible for the acts, commissions or omissions of Ms. Rashmi Sharma and Smt. Jaishree Ch. Shreya Dhanu Sharma and their entire families and families of father's side as well as all movable and immovable properties. My clientess has severed all her relations with them and will not be responsible for the acts, commissions or omissions of Ms. Rashmi Sharma and Smt. Jaishree Ch. Shreya Dhanu Sharma and their entire families and families of father's side as well as all movable and immovable properties. 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My clientess has severed all her relations with them and will not be responsible for the acts, commissions or omissions of Ms. Rashmi Sharma and

CROSSWORD 5579



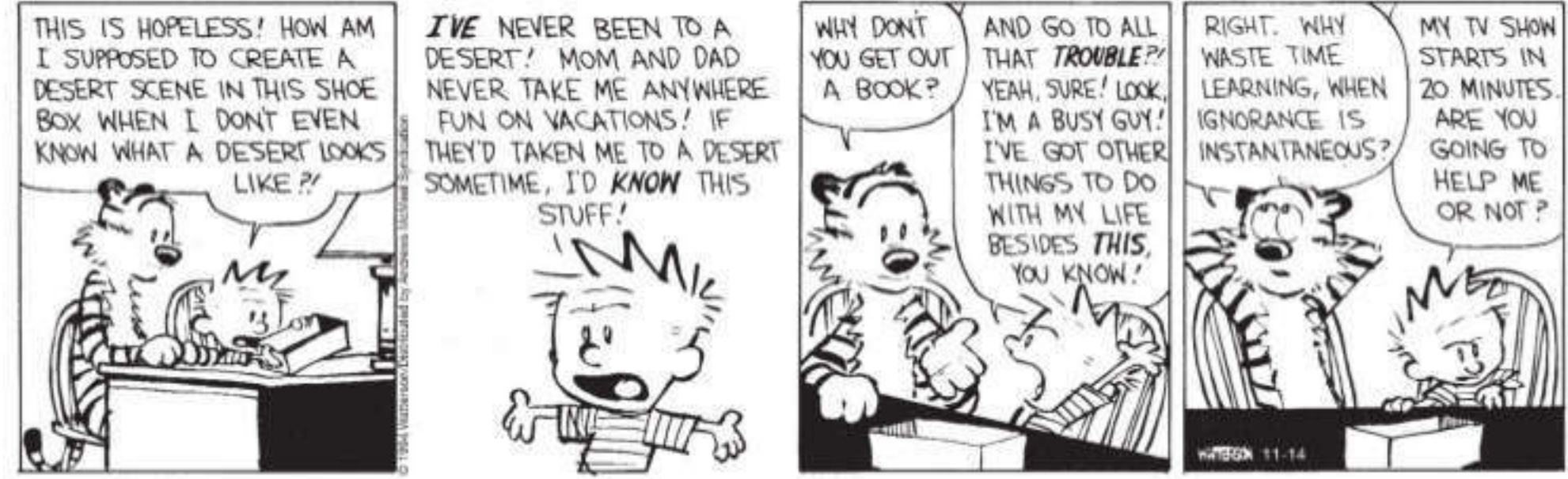
- ACROSS**
- 1 Phoney admission of poverty takes in a good man (8)
 - 5 Friends back strike (4)
 - 9 Describing a boom in the travel industry (5)
 - 10 Support for a poor settler (7)
 - 11 Their job is to keep down correspondence (12)
 - 13 Owns permits (6)
 - 14 Leader of a press gang (6)
 - 17 Successor clearly seen (4,8)
 - 20 Sweet courses prepared (7)
 - 21 This sort of room calls for ample space (5)
 - 22 They enable backward-looking people to progress (4)
 - 23 Unusual tint seen in conscious condition (8)
- DOWN**
- 1 Cut down this month in a way (4)
 - 2 A duck that comes to a pointed conclusion (7)
 - 3 The arm kept up one's sleeve? (6,6)
 - 4 Capital piece of terra cotta wanted (6)
 - 6 Locking device made in at Charleston (5)
 - 7 Compelling influence of cunning rep's ruse (8)
 - 8 Wager about more fractious hands causing confusion (12)
 - 12 Scotsman going to his doctor is just showing off (8)
 - 15 Decimal base equal to being rationally defensible (7)
 - 16 Field a ball perhaps (6)
 - 18 Imprisoned dog to suffer (5)
 - 19 A heavy blow during the midshipman's watch (4)

Solutions Crossword 5578 Across: 1 Parallels, 8 Tutor, 9 Comment, 10 Eponym, 11 Dearth, 12 Elephant, 15 Martinet, 18 Income, 20 Tallow, 21 Failure, 22 Sense, 23 Dependant **Down:** 2 Arose, 3 Admire, 4 Luncheon, 5 Stop up, 6 Etonian, 7 Brimstone, 11 Dramatist, 13 Estimate, 14 Ireland, 16 Ironed, 17 Scaled, 19 Moron

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

The only time a woman really succeeds in ____ a man is when he is a ____ - Natalie Wood (8,__,4)

NVA AI AERC GH

EPNN Y RUYBBG

Solution: AVIAN, PENNY, CHARGE, GRUBBY
Answer: The only time a woman really succeeds in **changing** a man is when he is a **baby** - Natalie Wood

Difficulty Level 2s
Instructions
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

SUDOKU 5842

7			4					9
4								2
	9	6			4	3		
	8		7	4		2		
		7	1		9	5		
	5		6		8		1	
	2	8				3	9	
1								8
3				1				7

SOLUTION SUDOKU 5841

5	1	7	8	3	6	2	9	4
3	8	4	2	1	9	7	5	6
9	2	6	5	7	4	1	8	3
7	9	5	3	4	8	6	2	1
4	3	8	1	6	2	5	7	9
1	6	2	9	5	7	3	4	8
8	7	9	6	2	3	4	1	5
2	5	3	4	8	1	9	6	7
6	4	1	7	9	5	8	3	2

CSR INITIATIVE—HUDCO

Tohkan Sahu, the Union Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), distributed assistive devices such as motorized tricycles, tricycles, wheelchairs, walking sticks, behind-the-ear hearing aids, Sugamya canes, and other essential aids to senior citizens and divyangjan at Tirfa, Bilaspur. This initiative was carried out under HUDCO's CSR programme.



MOA—REC

REC Limited, signed an Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the District Health Society (DHS) Raipur under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative. REC has committed financial assistance of Rs 2.01 crores for the procurement of health equipment for three Community Health Centres and the District Hospital of Raipur District, Chhattisgarh.

LAUNCH—MRPL

The Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri, launched MRPL's product, Toluene, during his visit to the refinery recently. He also engaged in discussions with MRPL's senior officials. With an annual production capacity of 40 TMT, MRPL's Toluene facility exemplifies India's progress toward self-reliance and global competitiveness in the petrochemical sector.



CEREMONY—INDIAN COAST GUARD

The keel-laying ceremony of 01 Training Ship (Yard 16101) was held at M/s Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL), Mumbai recently. The ceremony was presided over by IG H K Sharma, TM, Dy Director General (M&M), in the presence of the Director (Shipbuilding), MDL & other senior officials from the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and M/s MDL.

MOU—BHEL

BHEL & ONGC signed an MoU for exploring joint projects in the area of New and Renewable Energy business, including Fuel Cell, Electrolyser and Battery Energy Storage System based Projects. This MoU will contribute to India's National Green Hydrogen Mission and leverage the strengths of both organizations in emerging areas within the clean energy ecosystem.



MOA—REC

REC Limited signed an MoA with the Gandhigram Rural Institute & committed financial assistance for establishing a 1MW multi-technology ground-mounted, grid-connected solar photovoltaic power plant for the benefit of students & research scholars at the Gandhigram Rural Institute, Dindigul, Tamil Nadu. The agreement was signed between Thara Ramesh, CPM REC RO Chennai and Dr. L. Rathakrishnan, GRI.

EVENT—NCC

COAS General Upendra Dwivedi visited the NCC Republic Day Parade Camp at Delhi Cantt. recently. In his address, he encouraged the cadets to continue striving for excellence & emphasized that serving the nation goes beyond the Armed Forces. He also stated that the foundation laid by NCC prepares them for leadership roles in every field.



MOU—NBCC

NBCC signed an Memorandum of Understanding with Sahakari Awas Nirman Evam Vitt Nigam Ltd. for the execution of mixed land use development of Poorvi Vihar, Lucknow. The Memorandum of Understanding was signed in the presence of Dr. Suman Kumar, Director (Commercial), NBCC by the authorized representatives of both organizations.



CORPORATE BRIEFS

LAUNCH—INDIAN BANK

UP CM Yogi Adityanath launched Indian Bank's exclusive Mahakumbh Mela Special Edition ATM Debit Cards at Prayagraj recently in the presence of Indian Bank CGM Lucknow Sudhir Kumar Gupta, FGM Prayagraj Navin Kumar Shrivastava, ZM Lucknow Pranesh Kumar and ZM Prayagraj PN Upadhyay along with Senior Govt. Officials.



AWARD—WAPCOS

WAPCOS received CEAI National Award 2024 in the category of "Excellence in Project Engineering". The Award is instituted by the Consulting Engineers Association of India. This recognition reaffirms the company's commitment to delivering exceptional engineering consultancy excellence under the leadership of R.K. Agrawal, CMD, WAPCOS. Amit Gupta, Sr. General Manager & Rahul Israni, Deputy Chief Engineer received the award on behalf of WAPCOS.



CSR—GAIL

S Dattatrey Tatkar, MP (Lok Sabha), Raigad & Chairman, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Petroleum & NG, launched a series of developmental initiatives aimed at improving the educational infrastructure in Raigad district of Maharashtra. These initiatives, part of GAIL's CSR programme, were launched in the presence of Ms. Aditi VS Tatkar, Minister of Women & Child Development, Government of Maharashtra, at an event held in Raigad. The initiatives, part of GAIL's flagship CSR programme 'Project Ujjwal' for underprivileged children, include critical infrastructure & logistical support to various schools in the district. The key projects will do the construction of additional classrooms to enhance the schools' capacity, provision of computers with complete setups to facilitate digital education & installation of smart boards & establishment of a well-equipped science laboratory to promote interactive learning.



IREDA announced its financial results, approved by its Board of Directors, for the third quarter of FY 2024-25, showcasing significant growth across key financial metrics. IREDA is the only corporate to publish Audited Financial Results within a 9-day period. It attained Rs 1,698.99 crs in revenue from operations – a 35.57% increase compared to Rs.1,253.20 cr in Q3 FY 2023-24. Profit after Tax stood at Rs 425.37 crs, reflecting a 26.77% rise from Rs 335.54 crs in Q3 FY 2023-24.

BANK OF BARODA has introduced a unique alternative to the traditional fixed deposit (FD) —bob Liquid Fixed Deposits. bob Liquid FD combines the benefits of earning higher returns from Fixed Deposits with the convenience of easy liquidity associated with a Savings Account. It gives depositors the flexibility of a partial withdrawal facility without having to close the entire FD, which ensures that depositors can address their urgent financial needs as and when required, while the balance funds continue to earn interest at the contracted rate in the same FD. This ensures that depositors get the benefits of higher returns, lower prepayment penalty and quick access to funds when needed.

PRATEEK GROUP a Noida-based leading luxury real estate developer has announced the launch of its highly-anticipated luxury project, Prateek Grand Begonia in Siddharth Vihar, Ghaziabad. The ambitious development, with an estimated worth of 5,000 to 6,000 crs, will have a total of 2400 units in the configuration of 2,3 & 4 BHK. It is a meticulously designed project set to redefine the benchmarks of opulent living in NCR and adding to its USP is its strategic location which is NH24 connecting Ghaziabad to Delhi & Meerut. Strategically located along the thriving NH24 corridor, the project is located in Siddharth Vihar, Ghaziabad which has been the prime focus of real estate development in the last 4 to 5 yrs. Prateek Group has already delivered a township project called Prateek Grand City in Siddharth Vihar (Ghaziabad). The project received an overwhelming response on its launch & has seen more than 2X appreciation in its initial selling prices. In its constant endeavor to create benchmarks, the company has launched one-of-a-kind developments boasting world-class architecture, high-end amenities, and thoughtfully designed spaces in its new offerings, Prateek Grand Begonia.

DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL



ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
Discussions should be lively, not to say animated in the extreme. Also, for some reason which is not entirely clear, work develops an emotional dimension. It's almost as if colleagues function as a sort of surrogate family, with all that this implies.



TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
I know that many of you have been through an emotional mangle, but I hope that you see now that it was all worth it. You are not one to bear grudges, in spite of your stubborn reputation, so I hope that all sorry episodes and upsets will soon be forgotten.



GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Some astrologers will be forecasting personal tiffs this week, and I'd agree that these are very likely. However, I want to take your horoscope one stage further and suggest that you bide your time, bite your tongue and maintain a discreet, diplomatic silence.



CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
A number of revelations should have crept up on you over the past few weeks, and you may have a clearer realisation of who you are and where you're going. However, your new understanding is instinctive and therefore extremely difficult to put into words.



LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
Do you now realise that you must stand up and be counted for who you are, not for the person others want you to be? Take a spot of astrological advice and be bold, creative and colourful. Why not take more pleasure in all that life has to offer?



VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)
When you stop thinking you know all the answers, you will begin to learn. Mercury, the planet of the mind, is now occupying a very strong position in your solar chart, urging you to think again. It will also raise certain emotional questions, especially in matters relating to your security.



LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)
Travel plans and communications are to the fore, but it won't be the end of the world if a few plans have to be delayed. In two weeks' time, and again in four weeks' time, you'll be able to bring your intentions to fruition, so don't expect the earth to move this week.



SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)
Somehow, your best efforts may begin to come adrift. You may hold things together by realising that you and you alone are responsible, and also by checking up on all financial angles and implications. But can you really afford it? That is the question.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)
There's still a great deal of optimism around, but you must take care of first things first. This means dealing with money, making essential purchases, arranging vital investments or taking steps to raise your earnings. Take a look around yourself, there's someone who deserves to benefit from your generosity.



CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)
Symbolically speaking, the Moon is under your control. In plain language this means that family members and people you live with, must be at your beck and call. Play your cards right and you'll get almost anything you want out of almost anybody.



AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
There will be fiddly loose ends to be tied up, mainly at work, but also in certain private affairs. It's time to consider other people, and a self-centred attitude may cost you support and sympathy. Romantic liaisons require an old-fashioned and self-controlled approach.



PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
Hopefully you haven't been too off-hand with people in authority, such as employers. Verve and enthusiasm are required if you are to make the most of your very considerable advantages. Above all, make sure that every gain you've made is here to stay.

CAMP—NCC

CM Delhi Ms Atishi visited the NCC Republic Day Camp at Delhi Cantt on Jan 15, 2025. She emphasised that the cadets, through their participation in the NCC, are not only developing their individual skills but also contributing to national & social development with selfless service. The CM highlighted the significance of the Republic Day celebrations, reminding the cadets of the rich history & sacrifices made during the national freedom struggle.



APPOINTMENT

SAIL

Manish Raj Gupta has taken charge as Director (Technical, Projects & Raw Materials) of SAIL. A graduate in Mechanical Engineering from MANIT Bhopal, he began his career with SAIL in 1991 as a Management Trainee (Technical) at Durgapur Steel Plant. An accomplished professional with over three decades of experience in the steel industry, he has worked in various plants & units of SAIL while consistently demonstrating excellent technical expertise, operational excellence and leadership.



SONALIKA TRACTORS

In a moment of immense pride, India's No. 1 tractor export brand Sonalika Tractors has made history by earning a coveted spot in the Fortune 500 India 2024 list among the nation's largest companies. Simultaneously, Sonalika has also become the top 10 Auto brands in India in the prestigious Fortune India listing. From humble beginnings in the non-industrial town of Hoshiarpur, Punjab in 1996, Sonalika has grown to proudly stand tall among India's 500 largest companies, with an estimated turnover of US\$1.1 billion.



AWARD

Additional Chief Secretary of the Namami Gange & Rural Water Supply Deptt. A Srivastava has been selected for the PM's Award for Excellence in Public Administration, 2023. He will be honoured by the GOI in the Innovation State category for his pioneering use of solar power in Jal Jeevan Mission projects. A 1992 batch IAS officer, Srivastava initiated the innovative use of solar power in Jal Jeevan Mission projects in UP. The Union Ministry of Personnel's Secretary, V. Srinivas, has communicated this recognition to UP Chief Secretary Manoj Kumar Singh. Srinivas said in his official communique. The Award will be conferred on Srivastava on April 10th at a ceremony in New Delhi.



CSR—POWERGRID NR-1

Powergrid gifts Advanced Life Support Ambulance under CSR. At present, three lines (765 kv Bhadla to Sikar (Line I, II & III) are being constructed by Powergrid for the renewable energy system through the districts of Didwana, Sikar, Phalodi, Bikaner in Rajasthan. In this context, 2 ambulances have been given by the Powergrid at the district headquarters of Didwana Kuchaman district to the Govt. Bagar District Hospital & the Sub-District Hospital of Ladnun on the request of the District Collector. This ambulance is equipped with full facilities, in which Advanced Life Support System is inside these ambulances.



CELEBRATION

Raikuni RWA & residents celebrated the Jhri festival with full enthusiasm. The RWA executive members & all the residents of VRKRWa organised few events & dancing programmes to celebrate this tradition & festival of farmers.



Kohli to play Ranji Trophy game for Delhi vs Railways

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JANUARY 20

JUST DAYS after the BCCI issued new guidelines for its contracted players, which made participation in domestic tournaments a must, Virat Kohli has made himself available for Delhi's last Ranji Trophy league match against Railways. Delhi & District Cricket Association (DDCA) President Rohan Jaitley said that Kohli has confirmed his availability for the match to be played in the Capital from January 30. If the former India skipper plays the match, it will be his first Ranji Trophy appearance since November 2012.

After back-to-back Test series defeats at the hands of New Zealand at home and away in Australia, there have been questions from several quarters over the continued reluctance of India regulars to feature in domestic first-class matches. Ahead of the Test season, the likes of Kohli, Rohit Sharma and Ravindra Jadeja chose to skip the Duleep Trophy. And in the review meeting held last Thursday, requiring players featuring in domestic tournaments was the top recommendation. Subsequently, Rohit, Jadeja, Rishabh Pant and Shubman Gill made themselves available for the sixth round of Ranji fixtures that begin on Thursday.

However, there was no clarity as to whether Kohli will play against Saurashtra in Rajkot this week, a must-win fixture for Delhi. However, the 36-year-old is a certainty to play the seventh and final match against Railways at the Arun Jaitley Stadium. "As far as I know, Kohli is available for the game against Railways," Delhi coach Sarandeep Singh said.

Since becoming a regular in the Test side, Kohli hasn't featured in a single Ranji fixture for Delhi. His last appearance came in the 2012/13 season – against Uttar Pradesh at Ghaziabad – just before the Test series against England, which was the last time India had lost a Test series at home before New Zealand humbled them 0-3 in November. That match in which Kohli scored 14 & 43 in a defeat remains his only Ranji appearance since his Test debut in 2011.

Last Thursday, in a note sent to all contracted players, the BCCI had stated: "Participation in domestic matches is mandatory for players to remain eligible for selection in the national team and for central contracts. Any exceptions to this mandate will be considered only under extraordinary circumstances and will require formal notification and approval from the Chairman of the Selection Committee, ensuring fairness and transparency in the process."

For Delhi, the availability of Pant and Kohli will be a huge boost as the race for knockout spots heats up. After five rounds which ended mid-November, Delhi are fourth in Group D with Tamil Nadu, Chandigarh and Railways above them. With Tamil Nadu playing Chandigarh in the sixth round, if Delhi manage to get three points or a win against Saurashtra, their match against Railways will become all the more important as a win will take them to the quarterfinals.



Virat Kohli last played in the Ranji Trophy in November 2012. *Sportspics*

SAYAK DUTTA
JANUARY 20

ON SUNDAY, Mohammed Shami's strapped left knee was the centre of attention at the Eden Gardens. He was enveloped with a big hug by the bowling coach Morne Morkel, and before long was showing to Morkel how he backspins the seam with his fingers at release. It wasn't clear if Morkel was the coach or the one being coached as he stood in rapt attention, arms across his chest, watching the modern-day seam master at work. By the end of the nets session, the focus had shifted back to that beautiful seam, and as Shami sauntered back to the change room, he stopped and signed autographs on t-shirts that were squeezed through the tiny gaps in the fence by the fans.

On Monday, a couple of days before the 5-match T20 series, England's Jofra Archer was the focus. The importance of the two seamers for both teams can't be overstated. In some ways, both have similar issues: their bodies, more than skills which no one doubts, will be the focus over the next couple of weeks. England sweated a lot over whether they should allow Archer to enter the IPL auction before yielding to market forces. India have fretted about Shami enough in the recent times – even in Australia the Indian management was repeatedly quizzed about the chances of him playing at least one Test there.

It's not often that a T20I bilateral series between India and England feels more like a tune-up but with the Champions Trophy coming up in less than a month's time, all eyes are on the ODI leg of the tour, set to begin on February 6.

However, the T20I series will be crucial for both sides to gauge the match fitness of two Shami and Archer, both of whom are expected to play a key part in the upcoming 50-over ICC event.

With India's star pacer Jasprit Bumrah's availability in the Champions Trophy subject to fitness, the responsibility to lead the country's pace battery will fall on the shoulders of Shami, making a return to the national setup for the first time since the 2023 World Cup.

The 34-year-old though had returned to action in the domestic circuit last November, representing Bengal in the Ranji Trophy, the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy and the Vijay Hazare Trophy, showcasing his speed and seam movement that makes him almost unplayable on his best days. Before his injury, Shami had set the 2023 World Cup on fire, snapping up 24 wickets to become the leading wicket-taker of the tournament despite being benched for the first 4 matches, his best being a complete obliteration of New Zealand in the semifinal where he took 7 scalps.

Even vice-captain Axar Patel backed Shami to replicate his World Cup form in the 1st T20I vs England in Kolkata on Monday, saying "We all know what Shami bhai brings to the table, whether it's with the new ball or in the death overs. His presence, especially with the new ball, is a huge advantage for the team. Hopefully, he continues the same form he showcased in the World Cup."

However, Shami's national team return is in a format that is his least successful with the pacer bagging just 24 wickets in 23 matches at an average of 29.62 since his 2014 debut. His last T20I encounter in national colours was 2 years ago in the semifinal of the 2022 T20 World Cup, incidentally also against England who thrashed India by 10 wickets.

It's not often that a T20I bilateral series between India and England feels more like a tune-up but with the Champions Trophy coming up in less than a month's time, all eyes are on the ODI leg of the tour, set to begin on February 6.

So, it bodes well for the Bengal pacer as he'll be making his return in his home ground of Eden Gardens on Wednesday with the crowd set to welcome their hometown hero back in all his glory.

Now, if you look at Archer, expected to lead England's bowling lineup in the Champions Trophy, the Barbadian-English has had a rather stop-start career blighted by injuries. After bursting on to the scene as a part of England's 2019 World Cup winning team, the last few years of Archer's career have been spent more on the shelf than on the field. He had limited appearances for his country in 2021 after two operations on his right elbow before a back injury in 2022 ruled him out for the entire year, missing out on England's T20 World Cup winning campaign.

The pacer would make his comeback in the England squad in 2023 for the South Africa series before getting injured again. He was then selected for the 2024 T20 World Cup squad and played in all the matches, taking 10 wickets in the tournament before England were eliminated by eventual champions India. The 29-year-old has managed to remain injury-free since then, last participating in the white-ball series against the West Indies in November.

Archer, who has played 27 ODIs for England and has snapped up 47 wickets, will be a force to be reckoned with in the Champions Trophy in Pakistan but before that, England will look to the lanky pacer to get the job done against India in the upcoming white-ball series. But workload management will be pretty important for the Three Lions in order to keep players like Archer healthy.

Brendon McCullum, England's coach, had talked about the situation. "You always sort of just make sure that you know how the guys

are feeling. And if they're feeling a little bit off at any stage, then you're not afraid to back guys off and then give someone else an opportunity. You know, when you bowl in excess of 90 miles an hour, I think we've seen that can sometimes have its own demands. We're going to make sure that those guys are fresh. But it's the same for all our bowlers, to be honest. Like, just making sure that you're healthy."

It might be a possible hint that England are going to wrap Archer in cotton wool and use him sparingly if needed in the India series to have him fresh for the Champions Trophy. Incidentally, the India series also marks the first time that McCullum is in control as coach for the white-ball team as well. He had spoken about his excitement for the new role when he was appointed: "I've thoroughly enjoyed my time with the Test team, and I'm excited to extend my role to include the white-ball sides. This new challenge is something I'm ready to embrace, and I'm eager to work closely with [white-ball captain] Jos [Buttler] and the team to build on the strong foundations that are already in place."



Coach Gautam Gambhir with Mohammed Shami at India's net practice ahead of the 1st T20I against England. *Sportspics*

Can Jaiswal get into India's CT XI?

PRATYUSH RAJ
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 20

INDIA CAPTAIN Rohit Sharma and chief selector Ajit Agarkar are confident that they have picked a well-balanced team for the ICC Champions Trophy, which begins next month in Pakistan and Dubai.

India have made a couple of changes from their core which helped them reach the final of the 2023 ODI World Cup, where they won 10 games in a row before losing the final against Australia in Ahmedabad.

However, the 15-member squad picked has raised more questions than answers. The selection calls look quite conservative, and there were also a few debatable decisions.

Will Jaiswal be a tourist again?

Given his recent form, Yashasvi Jaiswal's selection makes total sense. The 23-year-old can break India's all-right-handed top-six batting line-up. But the question is whether he will get a chance in the playing XI. During the T20 World Cup in the USA and the Caribbean, the youngster warmed the bench throughout as the team management opted to go with Virat Kohli as Sharma's opening partner. In an ideal world, it should have been Jaiswal.

In the Champions Trophy, Jaiswal is again likely to sit out with captain Sharma and vice-captain Shubman Gill, who has been a key component for India in this format, set to open. Jaiswal has forced his way into the squad, exactly how he got picked for the T20 World Cup, but he can only play if India decides to drop the captain or his deputy. There is no question over Jaiswal's place in the squad, but whether he will make it into the playing XI or not is a big question.

Why no back-up for Pandya?

Hardik Pandya is the engine on which the Indian white-ball teams function. He played three games for Baroda in the Vijay Hazare



Yashasvi Jaiswal. *Sportspics*

Trophy and bowled 20 overs in total. But he has been injury-prone throughout his career, and in the last ODI he played – the World Cup game against Bangladesh in Pune – he hobbled off after twisting his left ankle on his follow-through. His injury didn't cost India much, thanks to Mohammed Shami, who was at his menacing best when he came into the side.

Pandya's presence is massive for the balance of the team. He is not only India's sixth bowling option but also someone who can provide the final flourish with the bat. India has picked four all-rounders for the Champions Trophy. Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel and Washington Sundar are spin-bowling all-rounders, basically like-for-like replacements for each other. Pandya is the lone seam-bowling all-rounder.

With him being the fulcrum of the team, a back-up in Nitish Kumar Reddy would have been helpful. Reddy, who had an excellent debut Test series in Australia and has shown his potential in the IPL and the T20I series against Bangladesh, is more than ready.

Not to forget, Pandya will play a five-match T20I series against England before the ODIs and the Champions Trophy. Reddy's selection could have made more sense than that of Jaiswal, who is unlikely to get a game. Reddy can certainly contribute with the bat. With

Pandya at 6 and Reddy at 7, India would have had more firepower down the order.

Mohammed Siraj's omission

With uncertainty over Jasprit Bumrah's fitness and Mohammed Shami making a comeback after a long injury lay-off, the omission of Mohammed Siraj seems to be a risk.

In his ODI career, Siraj has picked up 71 wickets in only 44 matches, and has been one of India's main pace workhorses in the format over the last three years. Siraj starred when India won the 2023 Asia Cup when he registered his career-best figures of 6/21 against Sri Lanka in the final. He followed it with 14 wickets in the World Cup at home.

Siraj was snubbed for left-armers Arshdeep, who has only played eight ODIs. Siraj has also not been picked as Bumrah's back-up for the ODI series against England. For the three-match series, Harshit Rana is Bumrah's cover. "We are not sure if Jasprit Bumrah will play or not. Hence, we wanted someone who can bowl with the new ball and the old one. That is why we have picked Arshdeep Singh, because of his abilities at the back-end. Siraj's effectiveness comes down if he doesn't use the new ball. It's unfortunate that he misses out," Rohit said at the press conference.

The Varun Chakravarthy puzzle

There is no doubt that a fit Kuldeep Yadav is a better spinner than Varun Chakravarthy, but is he match-ready? The left-arm wrist-spinner is making a comeback from sports hernia, and his fitness will be tested in the England series. Apart from Kuldeep, India has picked Jadeja, Axar, and Washington purely on the basis of the extra batting cushion they provide in the lower-middle order. With the bat, Varun is nowhere near the trio, but as a bowler, he has evolved into more than just a mystery spinner. Conditions in Dubai would have also suited him, and he is also in red hot form. With 18 wickets in the Vijay Hazare Trophy, he finished in joint-second spot in the wicket-takers' list.

CONSISTENT PERFORMER

Hazare hero Smaran is keeping Karnataka's batting legacy burning

VENKATA KRISHNA B
CHENNAI, JANUARY 20

THIS WAS a moment not only Karnataka cricket but also Ravichandran Smaran had been waiting for. A consistent performer in age-group cricket, he had been knocking on the doors of the senior setup for at least a couple of years before the selectors chose to reward him this season. Since joining the team in September, Smaran has only been hearing one particular piece of advice – to carry Karnataka's rich legacy forward. If anything, he has listened to numerous BTS stories of Karnataka's treble-winning squads from Mayank Agarwal and Shreyas Gopal.

So when he walked in with Karnataka placed at 64/2, which soon became 67/3, he didn't need to search for inspiration. With Agarwal who scored 651 runs this Vijay Hazare Trophy back, it looked as if Karnataka's title drought since 2019 would extend. It was in search of that elusive title that Karnataka had decided to move on from old-guards living on reputation. Hence, the 21-year-old found the spot. So did KV Aneesh (23) and Krishnan Shrijith, who at 28 has just

got his career up and running. The three formed the backbone, batting at No 3, 4 & 5 and by delivering the title, have ignited hopes of Karnataka's revival.

"Everyone wanted this trophy badly," Smaran who scored 101 in the final tells *The Indian Express*. "So, it feels great, to be honest. I didn't expect to win a title in the first year in the senior side, but it feels great to contribute to the team's success," he says.

If not for Smaran's timely hundred, which propelled Karnataka to 348/6 against Vidarbha before their bowlers completed the job, questions would have been raised. Of course, Smaran, Aneesh and Shrijith had made notable contributions, but Agarwal did the bulk of the scoring. Smaran's career had not yet taken off in Ranji and Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy either. A lot, thus, rode on Vijay Hazare Trophy.

"Everyone was hungry. You need to show that. Talking to Mayank and Shreyas about their title winning seasons they spoke about how as a batting group they scored 12-15 centuries... so this is what we want to do going forward. When you are going through transition, we needed some confidence as well, which the wins against Mumbai and



Ravichandran Smaran scored two tons and two fifties this season for Karnataka in the Vijay Hazare Trophy. *Special arrangement*

Punjab (two of the strongest batting units) gave us. Those were important because we were not just competing, but became contenders," Smaran says.

So with Agarwal being the rock at the top,

Aneesh stepped in and contributed with four fifties and a tally of 385 runs, Smaran with two centuries and as many fifties scored 432 while Shrijith with a century and a fifty ended up with 303.

India to host 2025 FIDE World Cup

AMIT KAMATH
MUMBAI, JANUARY 20

INDIA WILL host the prestigious FIDE World Cup 2025 chess tournament this year. While FIDE initially named India as the host for the event on its website on Monday, later it changed the event's details to state that the host will be announced soon.

However, an official of the All India Chess Federation, who requested anonymity, confirmed to The Indian Express that India will host the tournament later this year. FIDE's website states that the event will be held from October 31 to November 27.

The FIDE World Cup offers the top three finishers a spot at the prestigious Candidates tournament, which is the pathway to become a challenger to Gukesh at the next World Championship. This is why for many of India's top players like Arjun Erigaisi, Vidit Gujrathi and R Praggnanandhaa, the FIDE World Cup will be an event to circle on their calendars.

While the World Cup offers three spots in the eight-player Candidates tournament, it must be noted that 206 players compete for those three spots. The tournament is so notoriously tough to win that Magnus Carlsen only won his first World Cup in 2023.

The World Cup happens over eight rounds in a knockout format. The top 50 seeded players play from the second round onwards. Each one-on-one match at the FIDE World Cup is played as a set of two classical games, with colours exchanged between game 1 and 2. If the two games cannot decide a winner, there are tiebreaks.

It must be noted that at the last FIDE World Cup in 2023, Praggnanandhaa had reached the final to qualify for the 2024 Candidates. He had defeated the likes of Arjun Erigaisi, Hikaru Nakamura and Fabiano Caruana before running into Magnus Carlsen in the final and losing that game. It was at that World Cup that the world had seen India's might on the board — before the all-conquering year of 2024 — as four Indian players had breached the quarter-final stage in the 2023 World Cup.

The FIDE World Cup will mark the biggest event that India will host after missing out on the World Chess Championship, where two cities from India — Chennai and New Delhi — were in the fray but FIDE awarded the event to Singapore. India had been chasing hosting rights for last year's World Championship because 18-year-old Gukesh was eyeing the chance to make history as the youngest world champion in the sport's history. The FIDE World Cup 2025 thus becomes the most high-profile event that the country will host after the Chennai Chess Olympiad in 2022.

India has previously hosted a FIDE World Cup — that was way back in 2002 in Hyderabad. Five-time world champion Viswanathan Anand had won that event.

2025 will see a separate FIDE Women's World Cup also being hosted. FIDE has officially announced that the Women's World Cup will be hosted in Batumi, Georgia from July 5-29. Like every year, capping 2025 off will be the FIDE World Rapid and Blitz Championship. This year, the year-ending blitz event will take place in Doha from December 25-31.

Pragg wins, Gukesh draws

PTI adds: Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa defeated compatriot P Harikrishna, while Arjun Erigaisi settled for a draw in the second round of 87th Tata Steel Chess Tournament here.

This was after world champion D Gukesh played out a draw with Russian-turned-Slovenian Vladimir Fedoseev while Leon Luke Mendonca lost another game, this time to Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan.

Titan meets young knight

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Alcaraz's new service motion and a flatter, sharper forehand will challenge Djokovic in their quarterfinal

NAMIT KUMAR
JANUARY 20

ACROSS SEVEN meetings that have hardly ever disappointed, there has been enough proof to suggest that the uniquely-placed inter-generational rivalry between Novak Djokovic and Carlos Alcaraz has been the biggest event of tennis in recent years. Their next clash may come earlier in a tournament than ever before — in the quarter-finals of the Australian Open on Tuesday — but the glint of watching men's tennis's greatest-ever take on its next best thing can only be diminished so much.

Djokovic, record 10-time champion at Melbourne Park, leads the head-to-head 4-3. While Alcaraz has the edge 2-1 at Majors, he is yet to beat the Serb on a hard court.

But it will be the 21-year-old Spaniard, already an owner of four Major titles seeking to become only the sixth man in the Open Era to complete the career Grand Slam in Melbourne, who comes into this match as the favourite.

Djokovic has been imperfect but steady so far, but dealing with the might of Alcaraz from the baseline, coupled with the Spaniard's latest improvements, may prove to be an altogether different, and more daunting challenge.

Serve and return prowess

After suffering a straight-sets beatdown at the Wimbledon final last year, Djokovic had been taken aback by Alcaraz's serving performance.

He may not be keen to find out that is the very area Alcaraz spent most of the off season improving. He has introduced a new service motion, and even added an extra 5g of lead to his racquet. Results have been there to see.

Alcaraz has been broken only thrice in four matches. He has won 81% of the points behind his first serve (the joint fourth-highest for players that made it to the second week). He is significantly outperforming his tour average numbers — on both first and second serve — throughout 2024. In his second-round demolition of Yoshito Nishioka, he hit 14 aces, his highest ever in a single match.

The Spaniard's second most impressive area has been his return — tennis's flashy highlight-reel shotmaker has refocused his energy on the controllables.

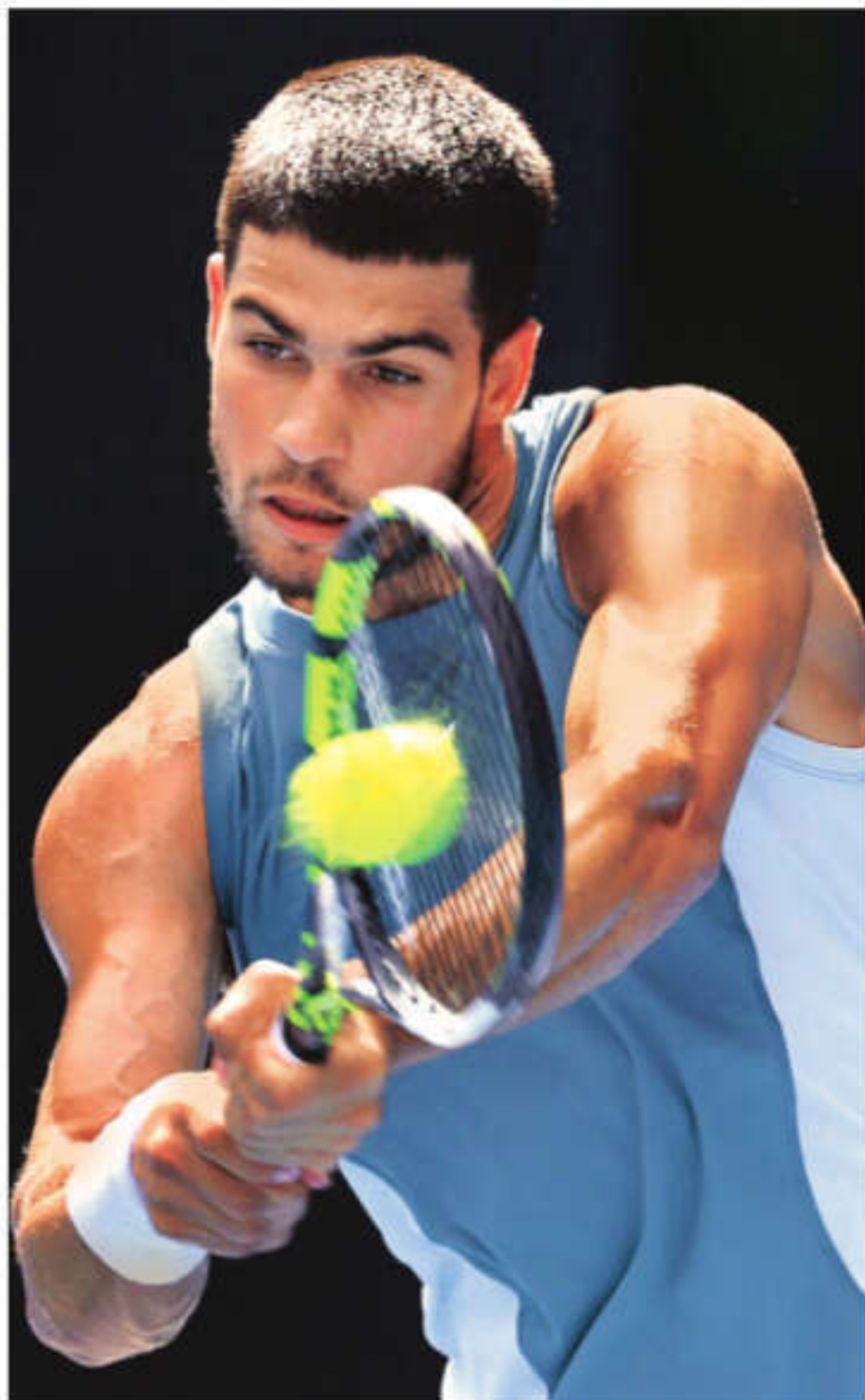
His 23 breaks of serve are the second-best in the men's draw in Melbourne, and he has won 41% of the points on his opponents' first serve, by far the best at the Australian Open this year.

Time for Murray to step up

Alcaraz's glaring weakness though, is his tendency to allow his level to fall seemingly at random. Despite how well he has been serving, he has hit 15 double faults and only made 62% of his first serves, both



Novak Djokovic (L) leads their head-to-head 4-3 but Carlos Alcaraz holds the edge 2-1 at Majors.



Reuters

being plenty of good news for an all-time great returner like Djokovic.

But for the Serb, the key area may be baseline strategy, which is where the input from his rival-turned-coach Andy Murray, may come in.

The sheer power that Alcaraz is able to produce, even from dead, neutral balls, allows him to dictate proceedings from the baseline and bring his crafty drop shots and net play into focus. It has felt even more lethal thanks to a subtle change he has made to adapt his clay-friendly game to the quicker hard courts in Melbourne.

According to tournament data pulled out by ESPN, Alcaraz is hitting his forehand slightly flatter and quicker, sacrificing 4% average topspin for about an extra 3kmph speed on that shot, a marginal tweak that's coming up with big gains.

Per ATP data, he has won 58% of his baseline points (206/358) and hit 104 winners, making him the tournament-leader in both categories.

Much of Djokovic's potential success against him will depend on how he disrupts his rhythm from the baseline.

It's the choices, not possibilities, for the player with the widest arsenal in men's tennis history.

He will have to make the accurate choice in either using slices and drop shots to bring Alcaraz to the forecourt, or spraying him wide with precise, angled ground-strokes, or finishing points early at the net.

Endless speculation has raged into how Djokovic and Murray have turned rivalry into partnership at this tournament, but it is now that the three-time Major winner's job really starts — in advising Djokovic on the minutiae of dealing with Alcaraz from the back of the court.

Sinner overcomes physical distress to roll into quarters

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JANUARY 20

DEFENDING CHAMPION Jannik Sinner suffered acute distress but remarkably managed to return to court to win 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 6-2 against Holger Rune on Monday. At one point, his hand could be seen trembling wrapped inside a towel. Channel Nine reported that Sinner 'struggled to breathe and his hands were trembling in between points as Rune threatened his Australian Open throne on Monday.'

"This morning was a very strange morning because I didn't even warm up today, so just tried to go on court as fit as I could. I knew in my mind already before the match that I would struggle today," he said after the match.

The World No.1 Sinner had taken the opening set 6-3, as the Dane struck back to win the second 6-3. In the third, the Italian seemed to be coming apart physically and looked almost spent on Rod Laver Arena. "There are worrying signs for the defending champ," commentator Brenton Speed said on Nine, as Sinner's hands shook uncontrollably in between points.

Sinner went on to win the third set but the distress was prolonged as he took a medical timeout at 3-2. Todd Woodbridge, talking on Channel Nine said, "Have a look at him - he looks distressed, he doesn't take water, there is no towel... he looks ill."

"It looks like that Rune is the one with the



Jannik Sinner was seen struggling physically during his match.

AP

more energy - no question about that," Jim Courier added.

Before heading out of court to get checked, he had his blood oxygen levels tested as the medical timeout lasted nearly 12 minutes. He looked legitimately confused about which direction to head out in, and Courier called him a "zombie walking across the court," according to 7news.com.au. Courier insisted that the player hadn't been particularly thinking straight as he failed to carry a shirt for a change that could've given him 10 more minutes.

When Rune called for a trainer before Sinner served out the set, it gave the Italian more time. The whole court seemed to be in strife as the net broke causing a delay and both players went inside. Sinner would serve out the match re-energized thereafter.

SLAM SNIPPETS



Swiatek crushes lucky loser Lys to reach quarters

A RUTHLESS Iga Swiatek slammed the door shut on German lucky loser Eva Lys with a 6-0 6-1 win on Monday to breeze into the quarter-finals of the year's opening Grand Slam for the second time. Five-times Grand Slam champion Swiatek came into the match having lost only 10 games in the tournament and the Pole sent out another warning to her title rivals by dismantling Lys in 59 minutes on Rod Laver Arena. "Great, that was my first night session and I'm glad I have the chance to play on Rod Laver Arena," Swiatek said. "I enjoyed it, which is the most important thing ... I'm still 23, so there's a lot to improve. I don't feel I'm at my peak. But these matches give me a lot of confidence. We don't know what's going to happen in the future, maybe I'll be better. I'm so glad I was able to play my game... I'm feeling really comfortable and we're going well."

One of several searing forehand winners helped 2022 semi-finalist Swiatek break Lys for the first time and the 23-year-old did not take her foot of the gas pedal as she closed out the first set in 24 minutes. World number 128 Lys had enjoyed a historic run after she replaced Anna Kalinskaya in the main draw following a loss in the qualifying event but there was only more suffering in store for the Kyiv-born player.

REUTERS

Broadcaster apologises to Djokovic, Serbians

AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTER Tony Jones has apologised to Novak Djokovic and fans of the Serbian for comments he made on TV on Friday night that the 10-times Australian Open champion considered "insulting and offensive".

Djokovic declined to do the customary on-court interview after his fourth-round victory over Jiri Lehecka on Sunday pending a public apology from Jones and Australian broadcast rights holders Channel Nine. Jones had mocked Djokovic and the Serbian fans who had gathered outside Channel Nine's broadcast booth at Melbourne Park on Friday, saying the 24-times Grand Slam champion was "over-rated" and a "has been". In an interview on the channel on Monday, Jones said he thought the comments had been "banter" and he had immediately made a private apology to the "Djokovic camp" once he realised they had not been taken in humour. "I can stand by that apology to Novak," he said. "I should also say the disrespect was extended, in many ways, to the Serbian fans. "We have built up a nice rapport with the Serbian fans... there was banter, and I thought what I was doing was an extension of that banter. I feel as though I've let down the Serbian fans." AP

Arun is latest coach to quit for financial reasons

SHIVANI NAIK
JANUARY 20

DAYS AFTER he said that it wasn't necessary to make any public declarations before he decided to marry, India's greatest living Olympian Neeraj Chopra announced his wedding to tennis player Himani Mor in an intimate ceremony.

Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand were on the brink of entering the Top 10, and coach Arun Vishnu had poured his entire effort and mindscape into getting the duo to click, bringing them till there, when he decided to bow out. "I wish they were World No.9 a few weeks ago," he said in mock-rueing, but laughing as the women's doubles pair cracked the Top 10 this week. "But it's a good feeling to have helped them, starting from scratch," the silent worker who supervised every training session till the 2023-end World Tour Finals, said.

But financial and family commitments dictated that he move away from the final stage of their ascent to the Top 10. "I will miss coaching at the top level but then again, we have to take care of our families," he would say, speaking from Nagpur, where he has relocated to restart batches for beginners, intermediate and advanced, at a soon-to-be-opened academy.

The 36-year-old former doubles specialist from Calicut, one of the home-grown coaching success stories, has taken a step back, more forced than a tactical one. But with his new academy, the first big formal set-up in the Vidarbha region for badminton, he hopes to put to use everything he learnt at Hyderabad. By February end, the facility will be up in



Arun Vishnu with Treesa Jolly (L) and Gayatri Gopichand.

Instagram/rarunvishnu

Nagpur, and from March, Arun will start coaching on the five courts, with a gym and a sponsor equipment shop attached. A lot happened at the same time. Married to Nagpur shuttler Arundhati Pantwane, the couple is expecting their second child. "Arundhati's dad is ageing and was alone in Nagpur. Travelling full-time wasn't possible. I had been thinking of moving since August. Indian coaches don't get paid much, and my permitted leave for coaching at the national camp from the PSU was exhausted. I didn't want to go to any other place (academy) other than Gopi sir, so I decided on starting an academy in Nagpur," he explained.

Former internationals - Arun played mixed and men's doubles on the circuit till a few years

ago - are allowed a year's leave without pay, to set up academies. And Arun reckoned he was ready for the plunge, though the facility had to be rented and kitted out.

"Vidarbha has a lot of talent, but there isn't a structured academy here. I will encourage youngsters to play both singles and doubles till 17."

Money matters

Arun had watched plenty of coaches seek well-paying jobs, mostly in the US, and explained the difficulties in being a home-grown coach in India, with a package of just Rs 50,000, paid by the Sports Authority of India and PSUs for coaching even elite players.

Known foreign names get paid \$8000-10000, according to PTI, and Arun told the news agency, "Indian coaches are not paid even one-fourth." Another Indian player-turned-coach had told The Indian Express that salary hold-ups were common and permissions from employers could take time, which offered no confidence to Indians to focus exclusively on professional coaching, even if the results desired were the same as those from foreign names. Arun had substantial backing from P Gopichand while bringing Treesa-Gayatri to a certain level, but not everyone could micro-manage elite careers, while managing to take care of the family too. "If we have to retain and nurture Indian coaches, they must be backed financially," the outgoing coach would say, adding that a move was underway to raise salaries. With Tan Kim Her coming in, Treesa-Gayatri will be well looked after, though Arun says his start from scratch should throw out talent from the untapped central Indian region.

"Nagpur has always had talent like Mumbai, Thane and Pune. Just the structure was missing. The city is nice, it just gets too hot in summer," he joked, saying he has ribbed Arundhati often over the baking summers.

He was hopeful his old charges would begin to toss up good results, though they already boast of 9 wins over Top 10 pairs in various competitions with Arun sitting for their matches. "The Asian Team Championship gold was very good for Gayatri and Treesa. They just have to keep working hard. They are capable of being in the Top 5 soon, and win Super 500 upwards tournaments. The best thing about Treesa is her aggression and Gayatri is very cool on court," he ended.

Nigeria stun NZ in U19 Women's T20 World Cup

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JANUARY 20

DEBUTANTS NIGERIA scripted the unimaginable as they stunned a formidable New Zealand by two runs for a historic win in a rain-interrupted low-scoring thriller of the ICC Women's U-19 T20 World Cup in which both sides were restricted for under-70 totals here on Monday.

Nigeria scored 65-6 batting first, before producing an energetic display on the field derailed New Zealand's run chase.

The Kiwis were 57-5, needing nine runs with one over to go in the 13-over contest. However, tight bowling from pacer Lilian Udeh got them over the line with the Kiwis falling short by just two runs.

Udeh (19) and skipper Lucky Piety (18) were the only ones to hit double figures in the game for Nigeria, while Anika Todd top-scored for New Zealand with a 19-run effort.

Football and athletics are popular sports in Nigeria, unlike in the south of the continent (South Africa, Zimbabwe) where cricket has a big fan following.

But the Nigerian girls placed the spotlight on their country's cricketing growth by becoming the first West African country to qualify for a global tournament and then producing the biggest shock by upsetting an ICC full member nation in a Group C match.



Nigeria defeated New Zealand by two runs on Monday.

ICC Media Zone

The Nigerians were left to wait for an opportunity after their contest with Samoa on Saturday was abandoned due to rain.

Wet weather again threatened the proceedings in Sarawak, but the African nation made the most of their chances once it was confirmed there would be play, albeit a reduced contest of 13 overs each.

In another match of the day, Australia beat Bangladesh by two wickets in a tense Group D match and all but secured their progression to the next stage.

Brief Scores: Nigeria U-19: 65/6 in 13 overs (Piety Lucky 18, Lilian Ude 19) beat New Zealand U-19: 63/6 in 13 overs (Anika Todd 19, Tash Wakelin 18) by two runs.