



## BEATING RETREAT

The Army, Air Force, Navy and Central Armed Police Forces bands performed at the Beating Retreat ceremony, marking the end of Republic Day celebrations, in New Delhi on Monday. *Amit Mehra*

## Consultant Raj: 1,500, including from Big 4, in 44 govt depts; annual spend Rs 302 crore

SHYAMLAL YADAV  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

AS MANY as 44 departments in the Government of India have 1,499 consultants from external agencies, including the Big Four (Ernst & Young, PwC, Deloitte and KPMG), working with them. Together, these departments incur an annual expenditure of Rs 302 crore on these consultants, according to data obtained

by *The Indian Express* under the Right To Information Act.

This is in addition to 1,037 Young Professionals, 539 independent consultants, 354 domain experts, 1,481 retired government officers, and 20,376 other low-paid staff hired on contract by 76 departments, either directly or through outsourcing agencies. The expenditure on these is, however, not available.

Responding to an RTI application, the Department of Expen-

### YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW AN EXPRESS RTI APPLICATION

diture under the Union Ministry of Finance, said 76 departments provided information about those taken on contract — these could be consultants working with external agencies, Young

Professionals, independent consultants, domain experts, personnel taken through outsourcing agencies, executives from PSUs, state-owned banks and regulatory bodies on loan, retired government employees, and those hired for housekeeping, multi-tasking, and data entry functions.

On October 4, in the run-up to Budget 2024-25, as *The Indian Express* had reported, the Department of Expenditure had

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## 'Like Putin in Russia': Kharge says this will be last polls if Modi wins

SUJIT BISOI  
BHUBANESWAR, JANUARY 29

CONGRESS PRESIDENT Mallikarjun Kharge Monday targeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying he would bring "dictatorship" and end the electoral process if voted back to power in this year's Lok Sabha elections.

Addressing a rally in Bhubaneswar, Kharge appealed to people to "save democracy", and added, "Modi agar firse aaye, toh na hi chunav honge, na hi karne dega (If Modi comes back to power, neither will there be

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Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge at a public meeting in Bhubaneswar, Monday. *PTI*

### GOVT & POLITICS

CONG TARGETS TMC, SAYS TRIED TO DISRUPT YATRA **PAGE 8**

## 'REVIEW' AHEAD OF BUDGET Finance Ministry: GDP to grow at 7%-plus, touch \$5 tn in 3 years

CEA flags risk of geopolitical conflicts

AANCHAL MAGAZINE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

THE INDIAN economy is likely to grow at over 7 per cent in the coming years and is expected to become the world's third-largest economy in the next three years, with a GDP of \$5 trillion, driven by domestic demand along with supply-side measures such as investment in infrastructure and measures to boost manufacturing, the Ministry of Finance said in a report on Monday.

The report, titled "The Indian Economy - A Review", has been prepared by the office of the Chief Economic Adviser.

"It now appears very likely that the Indian economy will achieve a growth rate at or above 7% for FY24, and some predict it will achieve another year of 7% real growth in FY25 as well. If the prognosis for FY25 turns out to be right, that will mark the fourth year post-pandemic that the Indian economy will have grown at or over 7 per cent. That would be an impressive achievement, testifying to the resilience and potential of the Indian economy. It augurs well for the future," Chief Economic Adviser V Anantha Nageswaran said in the preface.

He, however, clarified that this was not the Economic

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### EXPLAINED Challenges ahead

WHILE FLAGGING the three future trends — end of hyperglobalisation in global manufacturing, energy transition challenge, and advent of Artificial Intelligence — the Finance Ministry has said the Indian economy is better placed to take on these challenges because of the policies adopted over the last decade.

### BUSINESS AS USUAL By UNNY



## Rajasthan BJP MLA objects to hijab in school, minister says will talk to CM

HAMZA KHAN  
JAIPUR, JANUARY 29

THE BJP MLA from Rajasthan's Hawa Mahal, Balmukund Acharya, has objected to girls wearing the hijab at a government school, prompting Cabinet minister Kirodi Lal Meena to say he will talk to Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma about enforcing a ban on the head covering in all government and private schools in the state.

On Monday morning, Acharya visited the Government Girls Secondary School in Jaipur's Gangapol locality. In a video that surfaced afterwards, he can be seen pulling up a school administrator over some students wearing the hijab. In another video, he is seen asking school authorities to stop students from wearing the hijab in school, which has a mix of Hindu and Muslim children.

In another video, he is seen on stage, leading the students in chants of "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" and "Saraswati Mata Ki Jai". He can also be heard saying, "Kuch bachhiyan nahin bol rahin, kya baat hai, mana kiya kya? (Some girls are not saying it. Have you been asked not to?)" He is also seen walking through the school and leading students in chanting "Jai Shri Ram".

Later, Muslim students gheraoed the Subhash Chowk police station, demanding that the MLA stop "vitiating the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Govt brings non-urea fertilisers under price control, fixes profit margins

HARISH DAMODARAN  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

THE NARENDRA Modi government has brought di-ammonium phosphate (DAP), muriate of potash (MOP) and all other such fertilisers that receive nutrient-based subsidy (NBS) support un-

der "reasonable pricing" controls. NBS fertilisers — unlike urea, whose maximum retail price (MRP) is fixed by the government — are technically decontrolled. Under the NBS scheme, introduced in April 2010, their MRPs are supposed to be market-determined and set by the individual companies selling them. The gov-

ernment merely pays a fixed per-tonne subsidy on each of these fertilisers, linked to their nutrient content or specific percentage of nitrogen (N), phosphorous (P), potassium (K) and sulphur (S).

But the Department of Fertilisers (DoF) has now, in an office memorandum dated

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PM Narendra Modi at the Pariksha Pe Charcha event. *ANI*

## Parents should not treat child's report card as visiting card, says PM

RADHIKA  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

INTERACTING WITH students at the seventh edition of Pariksha Pe Charcha, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday motivated them to "compete with yourself and not with peers" and urged parents not to treat their children's report cards as their own visiting card.

"Sometimes parents compare their children and the seeds of competitiveness are sowed early in [student's] life. I urge all parents not to compare two children and compare their own child's achievement with others," the Prime Minister said. "We have also seen that those parents who have not been very successful in their lives have nothing to say or want to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## 'Mummy, papa, I can't do JEE': Teen kills self in Kota

HAMZA KHAN  
JAIPUR, JANUARY 29

AN 18-YEAR-OLD girl died by suicide in Rajasthan's Kota in the early hours of Monday, leaving behind a note that said she was taking the extreme step as a last resort because she "can't do JEE".

Deputy Superintendent of Police, Kota, Dharamveer Singh said the teenager, Niharika Solanki, was living with her parents and preparing for the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE), scheduled for January 31.

A purported note left behind by her reads, "Mummy papa, I can't do JEE so I (commit) suicide. I am a loser. Worst daughter. Sorry mummy papa. *Yahi last option he* (This is the last option)."

According to the police, her father works as a security guard at a bank, and she was the eldest of three daughters. The incident took place under Borkhera police station limits in Kota, infamous

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## Long before Oscar nomination, a father's fight for justice in a Jharkhand village

PAGE 1  
ANCHOR

ABHISHEK ANGAD  
RANCHI, JANUARY 29

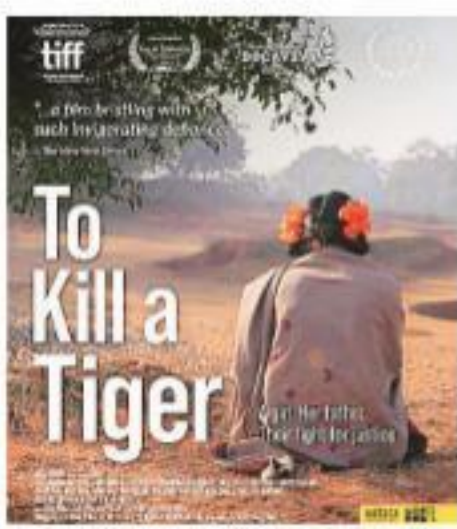
"ISN'T IT just a five-minute video?" asks one villager.

"No. It is a movie, more than one hour long," replies another. A crumbling *akhra* (raised platform) built around a massive fig tree in a Jharkhand village is the last place one would expect to overhear a discussion on *To Kill A Tiger*, an Oscar-nominated doc-

umentary made by Indian-origin filmmaker Nisha Pahuja.

Though the locals have only seen clips from the documentary, either online or on WhatsApp, they cannot fathom why the story of a 13-year-old's gangrape by three of her relatives in their tiny village in May 2017 would interest an international audience.

Besides casual discussions on sunny weekdays, the *akhra* also doubles as the spot for all important village-level meetings. But for the father of the victim, now 20, it is a grim reminder of the marathon meetings held to "ne-



*To Kill A Tiger* is directed by Indian-origin documentary filmmaker Nisha Pahuja

gotiate the problem" of his daughter's gangrape at a relative's wedding late on May 9, 2017, in the village.

Breaking down while speaking to *The Indian Express*, the victim's father, 45, recalled, "My daughter said she would prefer dying over settling the matter."

The father, who is a daily-wage mason, said the accused were related to them — two of them were his daughter's cousins and one nephew, all in their early 20s then.

He adds, "All those relationships died that day. I remember

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# SC: Shun practice of mentioning caste, religion of litigants

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

THE PRACTICE of mentioning caste or religion of litigants in court cases must be shunned, the Supreme Court has said while directing its registry and all other courts to stop it immediately.

A bench of Justices Hima Kohli and Ahsanuddin Amanullah directed all high courts to ensure that the caste or religion of a litigant does not appear in the memo of parties in any petition filed before HCs or subordinate courts under their jurisdiction.

"We see no reason for mentioning the caste/religion of any litigant either before this Court or the courts below. Such a practice is to be shunned and must be ceased forthwith. It is therefore deemed appropriate to pass a general order directing that henceforth the caste or religion of parties shall not be mentioned in the memo of parties of a petition/proceeding filed before this Court, irrespective of whether any such details have been furnished before the courts below," the bench said.

nished before the courts below," the bench said.

The top court passed the order while allowing a transfer petition in a marital dispute pending before a family court in Rajasthan.

The apex court expressed surprise that the caste of both the husband and wife was mentioned in the memo of the parties.

The counsel for the petitioner informed the court that if the memo of parties as filed before the courts below is changed in any manner, the Registry raises an objection, and in the present case, as the caste of both the parties was mentioned before the court below, he had no option but to mention their caste in the transfer petition.

The top court directed that its order shall be brought to the notice of the members of the Bar as well as the Registry for immediate compliance.

"A copy of this order shall be placed before the Registrar concerned for perusal and for circulation to the Registrar Generals of all the High Courts for strict compliance," the bench said.

# Tripartite custody battle: High Court rules in favour of Agra woman who fostered 9-year-old girl

**DHEERAJ MISHRA**  
NOIDA, JANUARY 29

THE ALLAHABAD High Court on Monday directed to hand over the custody of a nine-year-old girl child, who was caught in a complicated tripartite custody battle and has been living in a government shelter home for nearly one-and-a-half years, to the Agra-based petitioner who fostered her since her birth after she was found abandoned by a eunuch in Farrukhabad in November 2014.

The eunuch, Anjali, gave the child to Meena after her community told her that she was not allowed the raise a girl child, it is learnt. But nearly eight years later, Anjali demanded the child back, citing their "old deal" and when Meena refused to do so, she filed a complaint with the Child Welfare Committee (CWC).

Initially, the CWC found Meena fit to foster the child but later did a U-turn, citing a social assessment report of the District Probation Officer (DPO).

The custody battle was further complicated when Nitin Garg, an Agra-based businessman, filed an application on the advice of CWC, claiming that the child could be his daughter "who went missing in November 2015". To clear the air, the High Court on November 24, 2023, ordered to conduct DNA test on the child but the report came out as negative. The court in its order came down heavily on the law enforcement agencies, saying the child had to go through a "psychological trauma" all this while. The child's custody be given to Meena within an hour when she reaches the CWC with

a copy of the order, the bench ruled.

The court also directed the District Probation Officer to submit "periodical reports" on the child's development on a monthly basis for six months and thereafter as required by law. "Ignorance would have been bliss for the child. However, that umbrella is now destroyed and it stands exposed prematurely to hard realities of life, at a tender age of 9," said the division bench of Justices Saumitra Dayal Singh and Manjive Shukla.

"In ideal conditions, all children may grow up in the care and love of their biological parents. However, from times immemorial, foster care and adoption are established practices in all human societies. Taking a child by way of adoption or by way of foster care is neither contrary to practices prevailing in societies nor it is a behavioral practice to be looked down upon. In fact, it is consistent to the goodness of human nature," the court added.

"It reflects that X (the child) had grown up in the knowledge that the petitioner was her mother. In the absence of any adverse circumstance or report, that fact may have been enough to allow for foster care to have been allowed in favour of the petitioner. Considering the trauma being faced by X (at that stage) CWC had rightly restored the custody over X to the petitioner," it observed.

The District Probation Officer's report dated October 20, 2022, is "wholly vague and extraneous", the High Court bench ruled, adding that "only generalised observations have been made to consider the petitioner's eligibility".

# FROM PAGE ONE FULL REPORTSON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM GDP to grow 7%-plus: Finance Ministry

Survey of India prepared by the Department of Economic Affairs, and that would come before the full Budget after the general elections. Usually, the Economic

Survey for the ongoing financial year is presented in Parliament a day before the presentation of the Budget for the next financial year on February 1.

Only the elevated risk of geopolitical conflicts is an area of concern, the review said. Noting that the global economy is struggling to maintain its recovery post-Covid because successive shocks have buffeted it, the review said some of these shocks, such as supply chain disruptions, have returned in 2024. "If they persist, they will impact trade flows, transportation costs, economic output and inflation worldwide," it said.

Nageswaran listed three trends for the coming years: the end of the era of hyper-globalisation in global manufacturing, the advent of Artificial Intelligence (AI), and the energy transition challenge.

There is a need to lower logistics costs and invest in product quality to hold on to and expand market share in areas where India has an advantage, he said. "The era of hyper-globalisation in global manufacturing is over. It does not mean that de-globalisation will be upon us any time soon, as countries are only now discovering the enormous integration of global supply chains that have taken

place in the last few decades. So, an alternative to the globalisation of supply chains will take much longer to emerge, if it ever does. However, that will not deter governments from pursuing on-shoring and friend-shoring of production with a consequent impact on transportation, logistics costs, and, hence, the final prices of products," he said.

With the emerging use of AI, it poses profound and troubling questions for growth in services trade and employment since technology may remove the advantage of cost competitiveness that countries exporting digital services enjoy, he said.

For energy transition challenge, he said concerns over rising temperatures have led to a single-minded focus on reducing carbon emissions, which has led to persistent demands from international organisations and advanced nations on developing nations to wean themselves off fossil fuels and switch to greener energy even as technological and resource obstacles remain and are not on offer from developed countries.

"It is a reality that, in the short run, there is a trade-off between economic growth and energy transition. In a growth-challenged post-Covid global economy, countries can ill afford to sacrifice the former for the latter. India is walking the fine line between the two more skillfully than other nations, with installed non-fossil fuel-

based power generation capacity running ahead of targets," he said. With the policies adopted and implemented in the last decade, the Indian economy is better placed than ever to take on these three key challenges. There is, however, considerable scope for the growth rate to rise well above 7 per cent by 2030, the review said, adding that India can aspire to become a \$7 trillion economy in the next six to seven years (by 2030).

"The Union government has built infrastructure at a historically unprecedented rate, and it has taken the overall public sector capital investment from Rs 5.6 lakh crore in FY15 to Rs 18.6 lakh crore in FY24, as per Budget estimates. That is a rise of 3.3X. Whether the total length of highways, freight corridors, number of airports, metro rail networks or the trans-sea link, the ramp-up of physical and digital infrastructure in the last ten years is real, tangible and transformative," Nageswaran said.

The financial sector is healthy. Its balance sheet is stronger, he said, adding that it is willing to lend and is lending. Non-food credit growth, excluding personal loans, is growing at double-digit rates.

The pursuit of inclusive development finds Indian households in good financial health. "Fifty-one crore bank accounts under Jan Dhan Yojana now have total deposits of over ₹2.1 lakh crore. Over

55 per cent of them are women. In Dec 2019, household financial assets were 86.2 per cent of GDP; liabilities were 33.4 per cent of GDP. In March 2023, these numbers were 103.1 per cent and 37.6 per cent, respectively. So, Net Financial Assets of households were 52.8 per cent of GDP in Dec 2019, and by March 2023, it had improved to 65.5 per cent of GDP," he said.

He singled out two things — the government's Covid management and the vaccination record — for being instrumental in the quick recovery by the economy. "Similarly, the deft management of the crude oil supply at reasonable prices in the last two years is noteworthy. Humans are not capable of appreciating the unseen — the mistakes not made and the risks avoided — but the counterfactuals are all around us. They cannot be missed," he said.

As the government resolves longstanding problems such as deficient infrastructure and financial exclusion, aspirations rise, and expectations shift higher, he said. "Today, many young Indians not only aspire to a better life but are also confident that it will happen in their lifetime. They feel that they have a better life than their previous generations and that succeeding generations will do better than them. Nations and people have to believe in themselves for important changes to happen. Now, India does, and Indians do," he said.

## • Kota suicide

for the large number of suicides by those preparing for competitive exams.

Her cousin Vikram Singh, who lives nearby, told The Indian Express that at the time of the incident, her father was at work. "She, one of her sisters, their mother and grandmother were at home," he said.

Vikram's brother, Hemant, said that sometime between 9-10 am, "Her mother called out for her, but she didn't respond." When her sister went to check on her, the door was locked from the inside.

The family feared the worst on seeing a cloth on the other side of the roshandaan window (transom window), above the door.

Eventually, other family members and neighbours gathered outside her door. "We broke a glass on the roshandaan above the door... and broke the door open," said her cousin.

He said the teenager had scored 70 per cent marks in the RBSE Board but needed 75 per cent to be eligible for JEE, so she was studying for Class 12 exam again.

As per the National Testing Agency, candidates who qualify for admission in the NITs, IITs and other CFTIs whose admissions are based on the JEE Main ranks should have secured at least 75 per cent marks in Class 12 exams or be in the top 20 percentile in the Class 12 exams conducted by the respective boards.

"She used to spend most of her time — about 8-9 hours daily — studying, which included about six hours of coaching. Just last night, we played badminton," Hemant said.

The DSP said the body was handed over to the family after post-mortem.

This is the second death by suicide in Kota this year. Last week, a resident of Moradabad in Uttar Pradesh, allegedly killed himself. Like Nihanika, he too was preparing for JEE. Last year, about 30 students died by suicide in the city.

Just three days ago, Kota Collector Dr Ravindra Goswami had launched a new initiative, 'Kamyab Kota', under which he will have dinner every Friday with coaching students at their hostels. The aim of the initiative is to discuss issues the aspirants may be facing.

Last year, following a spike in cases, an 11-member special cell was created in June to help students.

## • Don't treat child's report card as visiting card: PM

tell the world about their successes and achievements, make the report card of their children their visiting card. Whenever they meet someone, they will tell them the story of their children," he said, urging parents not to do it.

Addressing a query from a student from a school in Andaman & Nicobar Islands on peer pressure and competition, the Prime Minister said that there is a need for competition in life for inspiration. The idea, he said, is to have a healthy competition. He said, "A student can score 100 marks in an exam. You and your friend both have the opportunity to score 100 marks, then how can you say he is your competition?"

Pariksha Pe Charcha, an annual interaction with students, aims to help students deal with exam stress, especially for those in Class 10 and 12. In its latest chapter, the Prime Minister interacted with nearly 3,000 participants at the newly inaugurated Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. The event saw registration of 2.26 crore participants on the MyGov portal this year.

Motivating students to have a positive competitive attitude, the Prime Minister said: "Instead of competing with your friends, compete with yourself. Do not let jealousy get the better of you."

## • Rajasthan BJP MLA objects to hijab in school

atmosphere in schools" and apologise for his actions. "He goes to the Assembly wearing a saffron robe," said a protesting student. "So why this discrimination against the hijab?"

Later, in another video, Acharya said he asked the principal and others whether there was a provision for two different dresses in government schools and was told there was not.

After the incident, Muslim and Hindu students submitted different complaints to police. DCP (Jaipur North) Rashi Dogra said the complaints had been forwarded to the District Collector. "Both groups are alleging that they are not being allowed to follow their religious practices in school," she said.

Afterwards, Rajasthan minister Meena, who holds the agriculture portfolio, said, "Because of the fanaticism (*dharm ki kattarta*) in the Muslim community, and because of the appeasement politics by the Congress, the community

On the role of teachers in helping students deal with exam stress, Modi emphasised on building and further developing mutual trust with students. "Teachers must ensure that they do not take their responsibilities as not just jobs but an opportunity to help shape students' lives. From day one, teachers should try to build a relationship with students and by the end of the year, this relationship should deepen," he said.

Responding to questions on dealing with external pressure, Modi gave tips to manage expectations of parents and teachers and deal with stress. "Stress is something that you should deal with by strengthening your own mind when dealing with challenges. We should deal with them head-on. However, I will not ask you to stretch your strength to a level that it eventually weakens your will power," he said.

"When parents do not trust children, it causes them depression. It is important that mutual trust is built between members of a family so that they know that you are working hard," he said.

Speaking on the importance of sleep and maintaining a healthy lifestyle, the Prime Minister asked students to set aside ample time for sleep and exercise in the preparation schedule. "I, too, have a lot of

work but not as much as you [students]. But when I sleep, I am in deep sleep within 30 seconds. When I am awake, I am fully present. Do not think of sleep as an interference in your studies, rather look at it as an opportunity to recharge yourself," he said. "Like you recharge your phone which cannot work after its battery drains, you must recharge yourself."

Responding to a question on how he handles pressure and stress as the Prime Minister, Modi said: "I am glad you are aware how much pressure a PM has to handle. It is in my nature that I challenge every challenge that comes my way. I learn with every challenge and try to evolve new strategies to deal with a problem."

"I do not consider myself alone. I believe my country's 140 crore population is with me. If there are 100 million problems then there are billions of solutions as well," he said. "I try to take all mistakes as lessons in life. I do not mope in regret."

Concluding the interaction, he said: "When you are not driven by self-interest, then there are no hurdles in taking decisions. I only work for this country and you students so that you don't see the difficult days your parents saw back in their days."

Adarsh Nagar Rafeek Khan said, "Acharya is doing all this for cheap publicity and to remain in the limelight... He should understand that he is not an MLA of a single political party but of all the castes, religions and all the constituents."

"Rajasthan is known for *Ganga Jamuni tehzeeb* (communal harmony) and such things won't work here and will not be tolerated," he said.

A controversy around hijab in educational institutions had erupted in 2021 in Karnataka too, when six college students in Udupi district were denied entry because of it. The then BJP government issued a circular that pre-university colleges must adhere to the dress code. The six students approached the HC, which upheld the state order. The case is now being challenged in the Supreme Court. Last December, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said he had instructed officials that there will be no restrictions on wearing the hijab.

Responding to the controversy, Congress MLA from Jaipur's

tween the families of the victim and the accused, and the village council members nearly seven years ago. While victim blaming was a common refrain among the locals, some others, perhaps emboldened by the fact that the accused are in jail, remarked, "*Galat to hua tha* (What happened was wrong)." During the trial, when the defence submitted that there was no eyewitness, the court had said that "...it is known to every one that such offences are usually committed under secrecy and thus asking for corroboration from testimony of eye witnesses will be an act of insult towards the victim..."

For the father, the trial process was a "punishment" not just for

## • Consultant Raj: 1,500 in 44 depts

written to all departments and ministries seeking this information stating this was "required for meaningful discussion for allocation of Budget under the Professional/ Office expenses/ Salary head".

The top six departments which have most consultants from external agencies working with them are: Health and Family Welfare (203), Rural Development (166), Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (149), Ministry of Housing and Urban Administration (147), Women and Child Development (112) and Road Transport and Highway (99). Together, they account for 87% or 58 per cent of the total 1,499. The total expenditure of these departments/ministries (barring Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, which has not provided the information) on consultants from external agencies is Rs 130 crore or 43 per cent of the total Rs 302 crore.

Among Young Professionals (YPs) hired on contract, NITI Aayog tops the list with 95 such YPs, followed by Commerce — 87 YPs and Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade — 78 YPs. Among independent consultants hired on contract, the top three are: Agriculture and Farmers Welfare — 86, NITI — 52, and Road Transport and Highways — 41. Among Domain Experts hired

on contract, the top three are: Agriculture and Farmers Welfare — 92, Civil Aviation — 70, and Rural Development — 45.

While departments and ministries, barring Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, provided information on remuneration paid to consultants from external agencies working with them, it is not clear about other positions. RTI data shows Young Professionals are mostly being paid around Rs 50,000 to Rs 75,000.

Independent consultants and domain experts appointed by ministries and department could be paid in the range of Rs lakh to Rs 4 lakh a month. The Ministry of Labour, for instance, said it paid Rs 7.5 lakh a month jointly to two consultants. Those hired by the Department of Commerce get between Rs 1.45 lakh and Rs 3.30 lakh per month; those hired by NITI Aayog get up to Rs 3.30 lakh a month.

After the government abolished Group D (peons, data entry, housekeeping, etc) recruitment, the personnel for such jobs are hired through outsourcing agencies, mostly through government-run GEM portal. There are 20,376 such personnel working in 76 departments — these include 3,877 housekeeping staff, 5,136 data entry operators, 6,478 multi-tasking staff and 4,885 others.

## • Fertilisers under price control

January 18, issued detailed guidelines for the evaluation of "reasonableness" of the MRPs for all non-urea fertilisers covered under NBS.

The guidelines, to be effective retrospectively from April 1, 2023, have prescribed maximum profit margins that will be allowed for fertiliser firms — 8% for importers, 10% for manufacturers and 12% for integrated manufacturers (those producing finished fertilisers as well as intermediates such as phosphoric acid and ammonia).

Companies earning "unreasonable profit", i.e. over and above the stipulated percentages, in a particular financial year (April-March) will have to refund the same to the DoF by October 10 of the following fiscal. If they don't return the money within the said time limit, "an interest @12% per annum on pro-rata basis would be charged on the refund amount from the next day of end of financial year (i.e. in case of FY 2023-24, the interest would be charged from April 1, 2024)," the memorandum has said. The unreasonable profits would also get adjusted against subsequent fertiliser subsidy payments by the government.

Simply put, the new guidelines impose indirect MRP controls on non-urea fertilisers by capping the profits that companies can earn from their sales. These will be based on their "total cost of sales", which would cover cost of production/ import, administrative overheads, selling and distribution overheads, and net interest and financing charges. Deduction for dealer's margin will

be allowed to the extent of 2% of the MRP for DAP and MOP, and 4% for all other NBS fertilisers.

The guidelines have mandated fertiliser companies to "self-assess" unreasonable profits, based on the cost auditor's report along with audited cost data approved by their board of directors. This report and data has to be furnished to the DoF by October 10 of the following fiscal year. The DoF will then scrutinise the "reasonability of MRPs", as submitted by the companies, "by 28th February for each completed previous financial year (i.e. for FY 2023-24 by 28th February 2025)".

Following that, it will finalise a report on unreasonable profits earned, if any, to be recovered from the companies. An industry source told The Indian Express that the new guidelines basically extend the regime of detailed cost monitoring and price control currently applicable on urea to other fertilisers. The MRP of urea has remained at Rs 5,360 per tonne since November 1, 2012. The only change that has taken place is companies being permitted to charge 5% extra (Rs 268) for neem-coating of urea, made mandatory from May 25, 2015.

"Non-urea fertilisers are already under informal price control, which will definitely continue till the Lok Sabha elections are over. We have been advised to fix the MRPs at Rs 27,000 per tonne for DAP, Rs 33,100 for MOP, Rs 29,400 for 12:32:16 and 10:26:26 NPK, and Rs 25,000 for 20:20:0:13 NPKS fertilisers," the source said.

## • Last polls if Modi wins: Kharge

elections, nor will he allow it to be held."

"Russian Putin ka jo presidential election hota hai na, waise hi hote chale jayega (Like Putin's presidential election in Russia, the same will happen in India). There will be no election. They will use their might to rule the country. They will get elected and get 200, 300, 400 and 500 (seats). They will even take the number to 600," said Kharge, who is on his first visit to Odisha — which will hold Assembly elections alongside the Lok Sabha polls — after becoming Congress president.

"You can save democracy if you want... But if you want to be a slave like under the British regime, it's up to you," Kharge said.

Referring to Nitish Kumar joining hands with the BJP, but without naming him, Kharge said, "You are seeing, they have taken away an INDIA alliance leader. People are leaving out of fear — some are leaving friendships, some the party, some the alliance."

"Like the country can't be weakened by the departure of one person, the alliance has also not been weakened by the exit of one or two leaders. We will emerge stronger and work unitedly... We will work together to defeat the BJP and (Odisha Chief Minister Naveen) Patnaik," Kharge said.

Many senior party leaders took part in the rally as the Congress eyes a revival ahead of the elections.

Kharge also hit back at criticism regarding the Congress's contribution to the country in the past 70 years. "If Congress

has not done anything in 70 years, Modi would not have even become chief minister. We saved the Constitution and democracy, because of which you (Modi) became what you are today. You are now finishing democracy and the Constitution," he said.

He accused the BJP and RSS of trying to rule by creating division, and said Congress leaders like Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi made supreme sacrifices to keep the country united.

"The RSS and BJP are like poison... They are snatching our rights, one after another... The rights of women, STs and SCs are being finished. What has happened in Manipur? People are being killed... women are being raped... hundreds of vehicles and houses have been burnt. Where is Modi? Go and show your face in Manipur and Nagaland," said Kharge.

Targeting the CM, Kharge said Patnaik cannot be like his father, Biju Patnaik, who, he said, helped the state prosper during his chief ministership. He also accused the CM of running the government through officers and took a dig at Patnaik for inducting an officer from Tamil Nadu into the party — an apparent reference to former IAS officer VK Pandian.

"Are the people in Odisha not capable enough or are they not alive? Officers of Odisha and leaders of Odisha can become 'margdarshak' (path finder) for the country, but you need outsiders for margdarshan?" Kharge asked.

## WRITEBACK

SANJAY KUMAR, Second-In-Command (Training), Sashastra Seema Bal, has written that a news item, published in *The Indian Express* and *indianexpress.com* (SSB's jungle warfare school sought shifting of training venue due to winter, denied nod/ November 18, 2023) had attributed quotes to him. He has written that he was not contacted by *The Indian Express*, and that he had not given any statement, nor was he authorised to speak on the issue.

**Our correspondent replies:** The report was based on, and quoted from, a document *The Indian Express* had seen.

## • Long before Oscar nomination, a father's fight for justice in Jharkhand

how shocked she was when she returned home that night. It was our turn to get shocked when she told us what they had done to her." Though the three were sentenced to 25 years of rigorous imprisonment on July 18, 2018, the family's trials — which started with filing of the FIR and refusing to "settle" the matter at the *akhra* — took longer.

According to court records, one of the accused and the teenager were dancing together at the wedding, after which he dragged her to a secluded spot and raped her. Before the two other accused took turns to rape her, court records state, they

helped him hold her down. The records add that the victim's shouts for help were drowned out by the loud music playing at the wedding.

A village-level meeting was convened the next morning, on May 10, 2017, at the *akhra*, her father recalls. "I was told to marry my daughter to one of the accused during that meeting. Even if I had agreed to this unreasonable demand, what about the other two accused? Would they have treated my daughter with respect? What made me really angry was that no one cared about the crime itself," he says.

Incensed, he went to the local

Police Station, where it took him five hours to lodge an FIR under Section 376D (gang-rape) of the IPC and the POCSO Act. A medical examination was done the following day. As per court records, it confirmed that "this seems to be a case of sexual assault".

Over seven days that followed, the father said, the accused and some villagers tried every trick in the book to make the case go away. "I remember them telling me that they could walk three steps, while I could walk just one — implying that they were thrice as strong as me. But I refused to give up."

Shrijan Foundation, an NGO,

happened to be working in the village around that time.

Puja, the NGO's secretary, says, "We were working on gender sensitivity issues in the village. The director (documentary filmmaker Pahuja) was shooting our programme when we heard about the incident. She ended up shooting the documentary after that."

One of the villagers claimed that *To Kill A Tiger*, which has been nominated under the 'best documentary feature' category, includes scenes from the "settlement" meetings too.

Back at the *akhra*, locals claim to have a "faint" recollection of the negotiations that took place be-



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**66 AIR KRITIKA MISHRA** लक्ष्य, ऑन इंडिया टेस्ट सीरीज, पर्सनलिटी डेवलपमेंट

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<b>21 AIR</b> SHIVAM YADAV PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT	<b>22 AIR</b> GVS PAVANDATTA ABHYAAS, MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS CLASSES, PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT	<b>23 AIR</b> VAISHALI PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT	<b>25 AIR</b> SANKHE KASHMIRA KISHOR ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ESSAY TEST SERIES	<b>26 AIR</b> GUNJITA AGRAWAL LAKSHYA, ABHYAAS, PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT	<b>27 AIR</b> YADAV SURYABHAN ACHCHELAL ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ABHYAAS, ETHICS CASE STUDIES	<b>28 AIR</b> ANKITA PUWAR ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ABHYAAS	<b>29 AIR</b> POURUSH SOOD ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT	<b>30 AIR</b> PREKSHA AGRAWAL ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT	<b>31 AIR</b> PRIYANSHA GARG ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ABHYAAS, PT 365, PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT	<b>32 AIR</b> NITTIN SINGH ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ABHYAAS, PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT	<b>33 AIR</b> THARUN PATNAIK MADALA ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ABHYAAS, ESSAY TEST SERIES
<b>34 AIR</b> ANUBHAV SINGH ALL INDIA TEST SERIES	<b>37 AIR</b> CHAITANYA AWASTHI ABHYAAS	<b>38 AIR</b> ANUP DAS ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT	<b>39 AIR</b> GARIMA NARULA FOUNDATION COURSE, CLASSROOM, LAKSHYA, ABHYAAS	<b>40 AIR</b> SRI SAI ASHRITH SHAKHAMURI ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ABHYAAS	<b>41 AIR</b> SHUBHAM ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ABHYAAS	<b>42 AIR</b> PRANITA DASH ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ABHYAAS, PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT	<b>43 AIR</b> ARCHITA GOYAL LAKSHYA, ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ABHYAAS, PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT	<b>44 AIR</b> TUSHAR KUMAR ALL INDIA TEST SERIES	<b>46 AIR</b> MANAN AGARWAL FOUNDATION COURSE, CLASSROOM, LAKSHYA, ABHYAAS	<b>48 AIR</b> AADITYA PANDEY PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT	<b>49 AIR</b> SANSKRITI SOMANI ALL INDIA TEST SERIES, ABHYAAS

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EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER CONDITION OF GOVT HOSPITALS

# 'The equipment must work, what kind of a hospital is this?': HC

MALAVIKA PRASAD  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

THE DELHI High Court Monday asked the Delhi government to ensure equipment in its hospitals are working, while expressing its concern about the condition of government hospitals in the national capital.

A division bench comprising Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Manmeet Pritam Singh Arora — while hearing a 2017 suo motu plea concerning a news report in which a newborn died as an ICU bed was not made available to him in any government hospital in the Capital — orally said to Delhi government's counsel, "In GTB hospital, the CT scan machine should start working. The equipment must work. What kind of a hospital is this?"

Earlier this month, the bench had asked the government to state the amount spent on the health sector in the last five years, after taking note of a report by *The Indian Express* about a man, injured after jumping out

a PCR van, who was denied admission in four government hospitals in the city and later died.

Advocate Ashok Aggarwal, appointed as amicus curiae in the matter, mentioned on Monday that "nine Delhi government hospitals do not have ICU beds".

The bench asked the government's counsel to "seek instructions", while indicating it intends to pass an order, and asked the Secretary of Health GNCTD to ensure all equipment is functional in a month.

In the previous hearing, Aggarwal had said the man was first taken to Jag Pravesh Chandra (JPC) hospital and then to the Guru Teg Bahadur hospital (GTB) in an ambulance. GTB hospital, however, did not admit him on the grounds of "non-availability of CT scan", and Lok Nayak hospital on the grounds of "non-availability of ICU or ventilator bed". Thereafter, RML hospital refused to admit the man "without any justification", and then, on being brought to the JPC hospital, he was "declared dead on arrival" at 5.45 am on January 3.

Apart from RML hospital, the other three hospitals fall under the jurisdiction of the Delhi gov-

ernment.

"Please speak to your secretary. March 31 is approaching... Please ensure money spent on this is in the budget," the bench orally said, adding that in case the officer concerned had any suggestion, it could also be incorporated.

Noting that the Delhi government's inquiry was underway, the bench asked the Centre's counsel to state whether any inquiry is being conducted with respect to the RML Hospital — a Central government-run health-care facility.

It also asked Aggarwal, the counsel appearing for Delhi government and Centre to submit their suggestions on the matter by Tuesday. Listing the matter for Wednesday, the bench directed the Secretary of Health GNCTD to join the proceedings through virtual conferencing.

The Delhi government, in its short affidavit, had said that between April 1, 2017, and January 24 this year, the total Budget expenditure for all its hospitals was Rs 21436.80 crore. The Centre in its note has submitted that it has "no objection, in principle" to the establishment of a Central portal to provide information on real-time bed availability.

# Not paid in 10 months, OT staff on contract at Lok Nayak go on strike

ANKITA UPADHYAY  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

NOT PAID his salary for the last 10 months, Pradeep, who works as an OT technician at Lok Nayak Hospital, has been surviving on his father's pension and loans from friends and relatives. "I applied here after a friend told me there was a vacancy; I worked during the most crucial time of the Covid pandemic. Now we are not being paid despite working," said the 36-year-old, who is married with two children.

On Monday, the employees went on strike, affecting services at three out of the nine operation theatres at the biggest Delhi government hospital. A senior doctor from the surgery department, on condition of anonymity, said a single OT sees 3 to 4 surgeries a day. Due to the strike, almost 10 had to be rescheduled.

Hired in 2021 during the pandemic, the 47 contractual technicians part of the strike, including OT and lab technicians, claimed they had not received their payment for the last 10 months despite writing to Medical Director Dr Suresh Kumar several times. "We



Employees stood outside the Medical Director's office with placards to protest against the salary delay. Express

haven't been paid since April last year," said Harsh Madhukar, an OT technician working with the hospital for close to three years.

The staff are deployed to assist doctors with surgeries in OTs and ventilators in ICU wards, and look after patients administered anesthesia before surgery. The hospital has a total of 120 permanent OT technicians.

Pradeep said in December 2022, a termination circular was issued by the state health department. "We moved the Central Administrative Tribunal against the termination order

and it put a stay on it in January. However, despite that, our salaries are on hold," Pradeep said, alleging that the termination order came despite vacancies at the hospital.

He has been working with the hospital for almost three years. He added that almost all technicians have taken personal loans to sustain themselves.

The technicians later said they met the medical director who sought 10-15 days to resolve the issue, adding that they will resume work Tuesday.

A senior doctor at the hospi-

tal said the hiring of these technicians was done as per the requirement and against the vacancies in 2021. "In fact, there is a shortage of technicians and paramedical staff at the hospital," he added.

When contacted, Dr Kumar said he is looking into the matter and a decision will be taken soon. "As the matter is being heard in court, I cannot say much," he added.

A Delhi government spokesperson, meanwhile, said salaries of technicians have not been paid as the finance department has been stopping funds to various departments for the last few months.

"It has been raising multiple objections to files and this, in turn, has led to stoppage of salaries, payments to contractors, and many other problems. The file for their (OT technicians) salaries is also with the finance department. With control over all officers now in the hands of the central government, there is no action against officers who are wilfully causing hurdles in the working of departments of the Delhi government. This is causing pain and suffering to the people of Delhi," the spokesperson added.

# Delhi's AQI set to turn severe today



Tuesday morning is expected to be foggy. The sky is expected to clear up during the day. Tashi Tobgyal

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

DELHI'S AIR quality is set to deteriorate to the 'severe' category on Tuesday, the Commission for Air Quality Management said. On Monday, the air quality index was 356, in the very poor range.

"As per the air quality forecasts by IMD/IITM, Delhi's average AQI is likely to move to 'Severe' category tomorrow...the CAQM Sub-Committee on graded response action plan (GRAP) called a meeting today to take stock of the current air quality scenario and forecast for meteorological conditions as well as the air quality index made available by IMD/IITM. The Sub-Committee noted that spurt in Delhi's average AQI projected for tomorrow is likely for a short duration before returning to 'Very Poor' category owing to improved meteorological conditions, including gusty winds with a probability of rain. The Sub-Committee decided not to invoke Stage III of GRAP at this stage," the commission said.

The city, meanwhile, saw a warm day, with the maximum temperature being recorded as 22.6 degrees Celsius, a degree above normal. The morning, however, remained cold with the mercury touching 6.8 degrees Celsius, two degrees below normal.

According to IMD officials, Tuesday morning is expected to be foggy. The sky is expected to clear up during the day, and the maximum temperature is expected to be around 22 degrees Celsius. The minimum will be around 8 degrees Celsius.

Light rain is expected on Wednesday and Thursday.

# Major bureaucratic reshuffle in Delhi; 17 IAS, 13 IPS officers transferred by MHA

JATIN ANAND  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

IN A major bureaucratic reshuffle, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Monday transferred 30 officers across the AGMUT cadre. This includes 17 IAS and 13 IPS officers. While four IAS and seven IPS officers have been transferred out, three IAS and five IPS officers transferred to the Capital.

Among the officers trans-

ferred is the 2009-batch officer Amanath Talwade against whom an FIR has been registered by the Delhi Anti-Corruption Branch on charges of allegedly demanding money from the Capital's liquor vendors. Delhi L-GVK Saxena had ordered the registration of the FIR and recommended disciplinary action to the MHA against Talwade who has denied the allegations against him.

In another development three senior AGMUT cadre IAS of-

ficers were posted to senior positions in three Union Territories, including the national capital.

One of the transfers will finally give Chandigarh an Advisor to the Administrator — a post equivalent to Chief Secretary in states — which was lying vacant since the retirement of Dharampal, a 1988-batch IAS officer, in October last year.

According to an order issued by the MHA Monday, Rajeev Verma, a 1992-batch IAS officer who had been serving as Chief Secretary of Puducherry since May 2022, was transferred as Advisor to the Administrator, Chandigarh. Verma will be replaced by 1994-batch IAS officer Sharat Chauhan, who was so far Principal Secretary, Finance, Planning and Investment in Arunachal Pradesh, as CS of Puducherry.

Navin Kumar Choudhary, a

1994-batch officer serving as the Principal Secretary of the General Administration Department in the Mizoram government, has been transferred to Delhi. Sources said he is likely to be appointed "in a senior position" either in the Delhi government, Municipal Corporation of Delhi or New Delhi Municipal Council with senior bureaucrats posted in all three due for empanelment at the Centre.

They said Choudhary's appointment was likely to have a ripple effect on postings in the Government of India, which currently has more than one vacancy including that of Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The rejig is part of a larger exercise necessitated by the recent retirement of several senior IAS officers across the cadre which presides over appointments in Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram, and the UTs.

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02	(A) Bisfi (128200) (B) Surendra Yadav S/o Kameshwar Yadav (C) Shri Surendra Yadav S/o Kameshwar Yadav	Land and Building Situated at Mauza- Jagatpur, Anchal-Rahika, Dist- Madhubani, Thana No. 27, Tazui No. 6424, Khata No 345, Khesra No. 5901(O), 8803(N), Sale Deed No. 8639 Date- 30.12.2015 in the Name of Sri Surendra Yadav S/o Kameshwar Yadav, Area- 19 Dhur. Boundaries- North- Sanjay Kumar Prasad, South- Sanjay Kumar, East- Road, West- Md Kasim	(A) 14.11.2023 (B) 25.01.2024 (C) Rs. 2450638.44 (Rupees Twenty Four Lakh Fifty Thousand Six Hundred Thirty Eight and Forty Four Paise Only) with further interest w.e.f. 01.10.2023 and other charges.	Vishnu Kumar Verma
03	(A) RK College (474300) (B) M/S Apsa Jal Nal Traders, Prop Sh. Surendra Yadav (C) Arti Devi W/o Sh. Surendra Yadav	Land and Building Situated at Mauza-Jagatpur, Anchal-Rahika, Dist- Madhubani, Thana No. 27, Tazui No. 6424, Khata No 345, Khesra no 5901(O), 8803(N), Sale Deed No. 3212 Dt- 26.05.2017 in the Name of Smt. Arti Devi W/o Sri Surendra Yadav, Area- 1 Katha, Boundaries- North- Suraj Kumar & Dhiraj Kumar, South- Surendra Yadav, East- Road, West- Md Kasim	(A) 14.11.2023 (B) 25.01.2024 (C) Rs. 1072789.81 (Rupees Ten Lakh Seventy Two Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty Nine and Eighty One Paise Only) with further interest w.e.f. 01.11.2023 and other charges.	Vishnu Kumar Verma

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CGM/Mechanical  
C-4, District Centre, Saket, New Delhi-110017

**इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank**  
Zonal Office, Gaya(e-AB), South Bisar Talab Road, Gaya, Bihar-823001

**(Rule-8(1)) POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property)**

Where as  
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Indian Bank under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with rule 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice u/s 13(2) on the date noted against the account as mentioned hereinafter calling upon the borrower(S) to repay the amount mentioning in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.  
The Borrower(S) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower(S) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 and 9 of the said rules.  
The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Indian Bank (e-Allahabad Bank) for an amount and interest thereon. Along with legal expenses and other expenses already incurred/to be incurred by the bank

Name of the branch:	GAYA MAIN
Name of the accounts	Sri Pappu Yadav, S/o-KapilDeo Yadav & Mrs Birani Devi, W/o- Sri Pappu Yadav both resident of Mohalla-Bageswari ,Near Kali mandir, Thana-Delha, Dist-Gaya-823002
Name of the Proprietor / Guarantor / Mortgagor:	Sri Pappu Yadav, S/o-KapilDeo Yadav, Mohalla-Bageswari ,Near Kali mandir, Thana-Delha, Dist-Gaya-823002
Date of Demand Notice:	19.10.2023
Date of Possession Notice:	25.01.2024
Amount Outstanding as on the demand notice:	Rs. 10,40,123/- (Rupees Ten Lakhs Forty Thousand One Hundred Twenty Three Only) as on 19-10-2023 along with legal and other expenses incurred & to be incurred by the bank.
Detailed description of the Property:	Equitable mortgage of land and building along with present and future construction thereon in the name of Sri Pappu Yadav , S/o-KapilDeo , located at Mouza-Kandi Nawada, Mohalla- Chotki Nawada, Thana No-189, Thana-Delha, Survey Ward No-1, Anchal- Chandauti, Gaya-Bihar,Khata No-147(O),Plot No-933(O),Area-1.567 Decimal (i.e 682 sqft) . Bounded by (as per deed): North: 4 Feet Proposed Gali, South: Rameswar Prasad, East: Rashmi Devi, West: Parti Land of Sonar
Date: 30.01.2024 Place: GAYA	Sd/- Authorised Officer (Indian Bank)

**VISAKHAPATNAM METROPOLITAN REGION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
PUBLIC NOTICE

VMRDA, Visakhapatnam has submitted the Bid Documents for "Development of Convention Centre & 5 Star Category Hotel / Resort with other Waterfront Entertainment Facilities on prime land along Beach Road at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India on Public Private Partnership (PPP) Basis" to the Judicial Preview Committee. All Stakeholders, including aspirant bidders and the general public are requested to provide their advice, comments, remarks and objections, if any, to the Judicial Preview Committee through the following online website or email on or before 06-02-2024, upto 5 PM. The public can view the Bid documents at https://judicialpreview.gov.in and http://vmrda.gov.in, Email ID : apjudicialpreview@gmail.com  
Sd/-Metropolitan Commissioner, VMRDA

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR,  
NORTHERN RAILWAY CENTRAL HOSPITAL,  
BASANT LANE, NEW DELHI-110055

**ENGAGEMENT OF SENIOR RESIDENTS**  
File No. E/Med/SR/74/CH/2024 Advt No. NRCH/SR/2024/01  
Applications are invited from eligible candidates for engagement to the post of Senior Resident under Senior Residency Scheme at Northern Railway Central Hospital, New Delhi.  
Detailed advertisement with VACANCY STATUS, Terms & Conditions, Format of Application form is available on Northern Railway website www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in under head News & Recruitment Info.  
MEDICAL DIRECTOR  
NORTHERN RAILWAY CENTRAL HOSPITAL,  
BASANT LANE, NEW DELHI  
305/24 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

**इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank**  
Zonal Office, Gaya(e-AB), South Bisar Talab Road, Gaya, Bihar-823001

**(Rule-8(1)) POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property)**

Where as  
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Indian Bank under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with rule 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice u/s 13(2) on the date noted against the account as mentioned hereinafter calling upon the borrower(S) to repay the amount mentioning in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.  
The Borrower(S) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower(S) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 and 9 of the said rules.  
The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Indian Bank (e-Allahabad Bank) for an amount and interest thereon. Along with legal expenses and other expenses already incurred/to be incurred by the bank

Name of the branch:	BHABHUA
Name of the accounts	M/s Guru Kripa Rice Mill, Prop. Sri Chandan Kumar, At Khenithi PS - Sonhan, Dist - Kaimur, Bihar
Name of the Proprietor / Guarantor / Mortgagor:	1.Sri Chandan Kumar S/o Sri Rajendra Prasad Singh, Vill- Kanethi, P.O-SonhanDist-Kaimur,Bhabhua Bihar-821109 2.Sri Yamuna Singh S/o Shiv Bachan Singh, Vill- Sonvarsha ,p.o-GhighatDist-Kaimur ,Bihar -821109
Date of Demand Notice:	12.10.2023
Date of Possession Notice:	25.01.2024
Amount Outstanding as on the demand notice:	Rs. 33,36,267/- (Rupees Thirty Three Lakh Thirty Six Thousand Two Hundred Sixty Seven Only) as on 12-10-2023 along with legal and other expenses incurred & to be incurred by the bank.
Detailed description of the Property:	Equitable mortgage of commercial land measuring 1.23 Acres and building along with present and future construction thereon, belonging to Sri Chandan Kumar S/o Rajendra Prasad Singh, located at Knanethi Gudulas , PS No.-581, PS- Kaimur, District-Kaimur , Bhabhua, Bihar,Khata No-54,Plot No-389,Area-40.00 Decimals & Khata No-54,Plot No-390,Area-83.00 Decimal, Bounded by (as per deed): North: Uma Singh, South: Lath, East: Ram Bikrisha Singh, West: Niz
Name of the branch:	BHABHUA
Name of the accounts	M/s Bajarang Ply and Glass Centre, Prop. Sri Sanjay Singh, Patel Chowk ,Chainpur Road, Dist-Kaimur Bhabhua Bihar-821101
Name of the Proprietor / Guarantor / Mortgagor:	1. Sri Sanjay Singh, Vill+Post-Kudasan, Dist-KaimurBhabhua Bihar-821101 2. Sri Ravi Shankar Singh S/o Ram Vijay Singh, Vill- Akhalashpur Pokhara ,P.o-BhabhuaDist-Kaimur ,Bihar -821101 3. Sri Narendra Kumar Singh Alias Narendra Kumar Dev S/o Lallu Singh, Ward No-23 Kudra Bypass Road, P.o-Bhabhua Dist-Kaimur, Bihar -821101
Date of Demand Notice:	07.06.2022
Date of Possession Notice:	25.01.2024
Amount Outstanding as on the demand notice:	Rs. 19,96,906.06 (Rupees Nineteen Lacs Ninety Six Thousand Nine Hundred Six and Six Paise Only) as on 27-09-2021 along with legal and other expenses incurred & to be incurred by the bank.
Detailed description of the Property:	All that part and parcel of Land belonging to Sri Narendra Kumar Singh Alias Narendra Kumar Dev S/o Lallu Singh, located at Bhabhua Ward No-9 , PS No.-491, PS- Kaimur, District-Kaimur, Bhabhua, Bihar, Khata no 15, Plot no 733, Gift deed no 14092 (Mortgage Deed no - 2031 dated 28-03-2018), Total area of 10 ¼ Decimal. Boundary: North: Lath Rasta, South: Khet, East: Lath, West: Khet Rasta
Date: 30.01.2024 Place: GAYA	Sd/- Authorised Officer (Indian Bank)

**पंजाब नैशनल बैंक Punjab National Bank**  
...मरसे का प्रतीक ! ...the name you can BANK upon !

**CIRCLE SASTRNA PATNA (8297), Patna**  
R-Block, 2nd Floor, Chanakya Place, Patna-800001

**POSSESSION NOTICE (For Movable/ Immoveable property)**

Whereas  
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Punjab National Bank under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued demand notice/s on the dates mentioned against each account calling upon the respective borrower/s to repay the amount as mentioned against each account within 60 days from the date of notice/s/date of receipt of the said notice/s). The borrower/s having failed to repay the amount, notice(s) is hereby given to the borrower/s and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property/ies described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on the date mentioned each against account.  
The Borrower's /Guarantor/Mortgagor's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.  
The borrower/s in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealing with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of Punjab National Bank for the amount and interest thereon.

Sl. No.	Name of the Account/ Borrower/Branch / Account No.	Owner of the property	Description of the property mortgaged	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession Notice Affixed	Amount outstanding as on date of Demand Notice
1.	M/s Mohan General Stores Prop: Sri Mohan Kumar alias Mohan Sah (A/C No-1556210000277, BO: Bir Chandra Patel Marg, Patna)	Smt. Rekha Devi w/o Sri Mohan Sah	EM Of Land and building situated at Mauza-Jakariyapur, PS-Alamganj, A/P, PS-Agamikuan, Sadar Registry office Patna City, DSR Office & Dist- Patna bearing Thana No-15, Tazui Bihar Sarkar, Khata No-36, Plot No-197 (P), Ward No-57, Circle No-103, Holding No-1515/NH Old, measuring area of 3.5 decimal under jurisdiction of patna Municipal corporation pertaining to Smt.Rekha Devi, W/o Sri Mohan Sah Vide deed No-2455 dated 26.05.2008. Boundary-North-Smt Meena Devi, South-Niz Vendor, East-Rasta, West-Sri Chakradhar Mahto	13.10.2023	23.01.2024	Rs. 641326.74 (Rs. Six Lakh Forty One Thousand Three Hundred Twenty Six and Seventy Four Paise Only) and interest thereon.

Date : 23.01.2024  
Place : Patna  
(Authorised Officer)  
Punjab National Bank

**CORRIGENDUM**  
With reference to the E-auction Notice of NPA Account-Royal Manufacturing & Technologies PVT LTD Pertaining to Bank of India (Gaya) Published on dated 25.01.2024, page no. -5 In The Indian Express, Area Published 31.00 Decimal to be read as 46.00 Decimal, rest remain unchanged.  
Authorised officer  
Bank of India

**NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY**  
Open Tender through E-Tendering 2023-24

CWM/Carriage & Wagon workshop North Western Railway Bikaner acting for and on behalf of the president of India invites E-Tender No. 10-MECH-BKNW-TP-23R Closing dated 20.02.2024 1. Name of work and its location : Retrofitment of Twin Pipe Air Brake System in wagons at Carriage & wagon Workshop, NWR, Bikaner 2. Estimated cost of work : Rs. 2,50,68,483.00 3. Earnest Money : Rs. 2,75,400.00 4. Last Date and time for submission and opening of E-tender : 20.02.2024 up to 14:30 Hrs. E-Tender will be opened at 15:00 Hrs. on same day 5. Website particular where complete details of e-tender can be seen : www.irops.gov.in  
Please job us on NWR Railways



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# Modi Sarkar ki Guarantee

## Unprecedented boost to entrepreneurship

More than 45 crore collateral-free loans of ₹26 lakh crore given under MUDRA Yojana



# 'Who is answerable for my mother's death?': Son of lone victim killed in Kalkaji Mandir stage collapse

ARNABJIT SUR  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

"MY BROTHERS and I told her not to stay so late at the jagran... I kept calling her around midnight, but her voice kept breaking so I thought it must be due to the crowd," recalled Vikas (24), the eldest son of 45-year-old Tina who was killed after a makeshift stage at a jagran collapsed in Southeast Delhi's Kalkaji Mandir on the intervening night of Saturday and Sunday.

Tina was a resident of Tughlakabad Extension. She is survived by four family members — husband Ved Prakash, who is a vegetable seller, Vikas, Barun, an e-rickshaw driver,

and Sunny.

According to police, 17 people were injured in the incident.

A day after the incident, Vikas, who works with a private firm, told *The Indian Express*, "My mother, who was a housewife, was a very religious person and used to attend jagrans at the Kalkaji Mandir regularly. Most event organisers and priests knew her... In the days preceding the event, she was very excited and told us that this time, B Praak will perform at the jagran... We told her not to attend the jagran so late, but she along with a few neighbours went to the temple on Saturday."

According to Barun, Tina's youngest son, he had called his mother at least twice — at 12



Tina was a resident of Tughlakabad Extension. She is survived by her husband and three sons

am on Saturday and then 30 minutes later — but he could

not hear her because of the loud background music. "Her voice kept breaking, so I called up a few of our neighbours attending the event, but none of them picked up my calls... Whenever she used to go to jagrans, she would return after midnight, so I thought this time too, she would return early. So, I fell asleep," he said.

On Sunday morning, when Barun, his father and his brothers could not contact Tina who had not returned home after the jagran, they started panicking.

"We received a call around noon from a person, who said that my mother had met with an accident after a stage collapsed inside the temple during the jagran..." said Vikas.

According to police, Tina's

postmortem was carried out at the AIIMS Trauma Centre on Monday.

Vikas also said, "This is negligence on the part of the temple authorities... How could they hold such a big event without safety measures in place? Who is answerable for my mother's death? She was simply a devotee who wanted to be part of the jagran, like she used to every week."

On Monday, the Delhi Police said that they had received an application from one Satish Kumar on behalf of the organ-

isers — Sri Kalkaji Sajja Sevdar Mitr Mandal — to organise the jagran at the Kalkaji Mandir.

"There are several other members of the Mitr Mandal. The jagran was held in the area called Mahant Parishar, thus, the land owner of Mahant Parishar, tent house owner, promoters, and performers among others are being examined, to identify the main organisers for fixing the liability," said DCP (Southeast) Rajesh Deo.

Police had filed an FIR under the charge of negligence against unknown persons.

# 44-yr-old advocate jumps off Saket court building

New Delhi: A 44-year-old advocate allegedly committed suicide by jumping from the Saket Court building Monday night. Police said the deceased, Om Kumar Sharma, was suffering from a liver ailment and left a suicide note at the spot.

As per the police, they received a call around 8 pm about the incident. Staffers at the Saket court said they saw an advocate

jump from the lawyer's chambers and had died.

Ankit Chauhan, DCP (South) said, "We rushed to the spot... he was lying near the parking area."

"On Monday evening, he went to a hospital with his wife and later came to court. He left his wife at the main gate and went inside. Around 20-30 minutes later, his wife found out about the incident," said the DCP. ENS

**HSBC**  
POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property) Rule 8 (1)

WHEREAS The undersigned being the authorized officer of The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited (HSBC) having its Registered Office at 52/60, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Mumbai 400001, and one of its offices at 25, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated 10.07.2023 (published in newspapers on 28.07.2023) u/s 13(2) of the captioned Act, calling upon M/s Milky Fashion Clothes Pvt. Ltd. (Borrower) having office at B-68, Chanakya Place, Janakpuri, New Delhi - 110058 and Mr. Rakesh Kumar (Guarantor/Mortgagor) and Mrs. Manish Kumar (Guarantor); to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice being Rs. 8,91,22,002.17/- (Rupees Eight Core Ninety One Lakh Twenty Two Thousand Two and Paise Seventeen Only) as on 30.06.2023 together with interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt and/or publication of the said Notice.

The borrower, guarantor(s)/mortgagor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower, guarantor(s)/mortgagor and the public in general that the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of HSBC has taken physical possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the captioned Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this 23rd day of January of the year 2024.

The borrower, guarantor(s)/mortgagor 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 HSBC for an amount of Rs. 8,91,22,002.17/- (Rupees Eight Core Ninety One Lakh Twenty Two Thousand Two and Paise Seventeen Only) as on 30.06.2023 along with interest thereon.

The borrower, guarantor(s)/mortgagor 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.

DESCRIPTION OF THE MORTGAGED IMMOVABLE PROPERTY	
All that part and parcel of the Residential Property bearing Plot No. 122, Pocket-B3, Sector 17, Dwarka, New Delhi 110075, bounded:	
On the North by — Road,	On the South by — Plot No. 128,
On the East by — Plot No. 121,	On the West by — Plot No. 123.

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2024  
Place: New Delhi

Sd/-  
Authorized Officer  
The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corp. Ltd.

# In discussion for MCD Budget: Councillor fund for parks, medical scheme for workers

SAMAN HUSAIN  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

COUNCILLOR FUND for park maintenance, scheme for workers to help with medical expenses: With the Budget session of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi set to begin this week, these are some of the proposals that will be highlighted by Leader of Opposition, BJP's Raja Iqbal Singh, who will be initiating the general discussion on Tuesday.

"I will be proposing the accommodation of a councillor's development fund of Rs 2 crore that can be used by the elected councillors to deal with the issues in their respective wards," Singh told *The Indian Express*.

Singh also said he would push for a councillor fund for park maintenance. "Most MCD parks currently lack horticulture equipment, lights and proper pathways," he said.

Additionally, Singh plans to urge for a cashless scheme for MCD workers, which will help them with their medical expenses. "MCD employees are not being entertained by the civic body's hospitals as the corporation takes too much time to clear their medical expenses. I will propose a cashless scheme under which MCD employees can easily avail free health checkups at the hospitals maintained by the civic body," he said.

Singh also plans to push for schemes that provide tax relief to citizens.

The budget discussions will take place February 5, 6 and 7.

Leader of the House Mukesh Goel will then present the final budget in the House after amendments on February 8. Corporation Commissioner Gyanesh Bhatt had earlier presented the budget in the House for approval in December.

"There will be a detailed discussion on the budget," the Mayor's office said in its statement to the press.

Meanwhile, Tuesday's monthly house meeting ended within 20 minutes after a ruckus broke out as soon as the session started. This resulted in agendas being passed without any discussion.

BJP councillors burst into slogans, even as Mayor Shelly Oberoi urged them to take their seats and to respect the dignity of the house. As the BJP councillors continued to raise slogans, the mayor passed the agendas and adjourned the house.

Out of the 25 proposals put forward in the meeting, 7 proposals have been postponed, one rejected while one proposal has been referred back.

# Pushpa Singh appointed Delhi Mahila Cong head

New Delhi: The All India Congress Committee (AICC) has appointed Pushpa Singh as the president of Delhi Mahila Congress Monday.

A resident of Mehrauli, Singh had earlier served as an MCD councillor and had also received the 5th best councillor award in 2016. According to party sources, DPCC President Arvinder Lovely was in favour of Singh's appointment.

"As Rahul Gandhi's soldiers, we are going to work hard and strengthen the Mahila Congress in Delhi... the upcoming Congress Workers' convention on February 3 will be the first big event under my leadership, for which the Mahila wing will provide full support to make the event bigger and better. I hope that I can strengthen the women's wing further," Singh told *The Indian Express*. ENS

**भारतीय कंटेनर निगम लिमिटेड**  
Container Corporation of India Ltd.  
A Navratna Undertaking of Govt. of India  
Regd. Office & Investors Relation Centre: CONCOR Bhawan, C-3, Mathura Road, Opp. Apollo Hospital, New Delhi - 110076.  
CIN : L63011DL1988GO30915, e-mail : investorrelations@concorindia.com, Tel. Nos. : 41673093-96, 4122500/600700 website : https://www.concorindia.co.in

**NOTICE OF RECORD DATE FOR 3<sup>rd</sup> INTERIM DIVIDEND FOR FY 2023-24**

Notice is hereby given that 07<sup>th</sup> February, 2024 (Wednesday) has been fixed as the Record Date for the purpose of determining the entitlement of members to Interim Dividend @80% (Rs.4.00 per share on equity share of Rs. 5/- each), declared by the Board in its meeting held on 24.01.2024 for the financial year 2023-24. Further, Interim dividend will be paid:

(i) to those Members whose names will appear in the Register of Members of the Company, after giving effect to all valid Share Transfers in physical form lodged with the Company and its Registrar on or before 07<sup>th</sup> February, 2024; or

(ii) in respect of Shares held in electronic form, to those "deemed members" whose names appear on the Statements of beneficial ownership furnished by National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) and Central Depository Services (India) Limited (CDSL), at the end of business hours on 07<sup>th</sup> February, 2024.

In order to avail the facility of payment of dividend through Electronic Clearing Service (ECS), members of the Company, holding their shares in Demat mode are requested to submit the duly filled in ECS mandate form to their Depository Participant and those holding physical shares to Company's Share Transfer Agent and Registrar: M/s Beetal Financial & Computer Services (P) Ltd., BEETAL HOUSE, 3rd Floor, 99, Madangiri, Behind Local Shopping Centre, Near Dada Harsukhdas Mandir, New Delhi - 110062. ECS instructions once furnished by the member will supersede all his/her previous bank mandates/details. ECS mandate form is available on Company's website: [www.concorindia.co.in](http://www.concorindia.co.in)

For Container Corporation of India Ltd. Sd/-  
Place: New Delhi (Harish Chandra)  
Date : 24.01.2024 ED (Finance) & Company Secretary

**Model Hospital Bapunagar**  
Employees' State Insurance Corporation  
(Ministry of Labour & Employment, Govt. of India)  
Near Hardsanagar Police Chowky, Rajiv Nagar, Bapunagar, Ahmedabad-380024 (ISO 9001-2015 Certified) Phone: 079-22772587  
Email: ms-bapunagar@esic.nic.in Website: www.esic.nic.in

**ADVERTISEMENT NO. 01/2024**

**WALK-IN-INTERVIEW FOR RECRUITMENT OF DOCTORS ON CONTRACT BASIS**

Walk-in-interview will be held at ESIC Model Hospital Bapunagar, Ahmedabad in the chamber of Medical Superintendent on 15.02.2024, 16.02.2024 and 20.02.2024 from 09:30 AM onwards for following posts:

Post	Speciality / No. of Posts
Senior Residents (Under 3 Years Residency Scheme) extendable every year	General Surgery-02, Paediatrics-03, ICU-02 and Orthopedics-02
Senior Residents against GDMO (01 years)	General Medicine-01, Obs & Gynae-01 and Microbiology -01
Full Time Specialists	Orthopedics-02, Pathology-01 and Radiology-01
Full Time/Part Time Super Specialists	Cardiology-01 & Gastroenterology-01
Part Time Physician	Homeopathy Physician-01

Interested candidates may visit ESIC Website: [www.esic.nic.in](http://www.esic.nic.in) under tab 'Recruitment' for schedule, detailed vacancy position and terms & conditions.

-Sd/-  
MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT

**यूको बैंक UCO BANK**  
Honours your trust  
Zonal Office : 75/4, Siddhi Sadan, Halsey Road Near Badshahi Naka Police Station, Kanpur - 208001  
e-mail : zokanpur.rec@ucobank.co.in

**POSSESSION NOTICE (For immovable property) APPENDIX-IV [Rule - 8(C)]**

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized officer of the UCO Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice dated (details mentioned here in below) calling upon the borrower(s)/guarantor(s) (details mentioned herein below) to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being (details mentioned herein below) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower(s)/guarantor(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower(s)/guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on this (details mentioned here in below) of the year (details mentioned here in below). The borrower(s)/guarantor(s) 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 UCO Bank for an amount of (details mentioned herein below). The borrower's, legal heir's and/or guarantor'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.

S. No.	Name & Address of Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) and Name of Related Branch	Description of Property & Possession Date	Balance O/S (Rs.) & Demand Notice Date
1.	<b>Borrower(s):</b> M/s. Maa Adishakti Saree (Prop. Shri Sonal Nagariya) R/o 26, Jawahar Chowk, Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh 284002, Prop. Shri Sonal Nagariya S/o Sh. Santosh Nagariya R/o L-42, Lahar Gird Road, Lahar Gird, Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh - 284003 <b>Guarantor(s):</b> Late Shri Santosh Nagariya S/o Sh. Motilal Nagariya through legal heir(s) 1. Smt. Awadhesh Nagariya W/o Late Shri Santosh Nagariya, 2. Shri Sonal Nagariya S/o Late Shri Santosh Kumar Nagariya 3. Ms. Surbhi Nagariya D/o Late Shri Santosh Kumar Nagariya <b>Branch Name:</b> Bada Bazar, Jhansi (0310)	All that part and parcel of the property consists of Land & Building measuring (712 sq. ft.) 86.14 sq Mtr as per Bahi No. 1, Zild No. 232, Page No. 377-384/419-420, Sl. No. 2547 registered on 19.07.1999 at Sub- Registrar Jhansi situated at Mauza Lahar Gird, Nagar Nigam Allotment No. 42, Jhansi standing in the name of Late Shri Santosh Nagariya S/o Shri Motilal Nagariya resident of 868, Hewat Ganj, Gwal Toli, Hansari, Jhansi <b>Details of Boundaries (As per Deed)</b> East: Plot of Har Prasad, West: Kachcha Rasta 15 ft., North: Plot of Seller, South: Plot of Smt. Prem Lata	Rs. 21,17,653.89/- (Rupees Twenty-One Lakhs Seventeen Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Three and Paise Eighty Nine Only) inclusive of interest up to 12.07.2023) as on 30.10.2023 which includes Cash Credit Limit (A/c No: 03100510000953) having Outstanding Balance of Rs. 21,17,653.89/- (Rupees Twenty One Lakhs Seventeen Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Three and Paise Eighty-Nine Only) Inclusive of interest up to 12.07.2023), plus further interest thereon at the contractual rate, costs, charges and expenses etc. till date of payment.

Date : 30.01.2024 Place : Jhansi Authorized Officer (UCO Bank)

**KAMDHENU STEEL**

**Into Orbit. Gaining Momentum.**

As India strides forward on its path of modernisation, expansion, and the realisation of the aspirations of its growing population through urbanisation and industrialisation, our dedication to enhancing and perfecting our products remains firm. The demand for steel TMT bars in India has experienced substantial growth, driven by the nation's robust infrastructure development and construction activities. Kamdhenu proudly stands as the foremost TMT-selling brand in India's retail sector. We take pride in consistently delivering exceptional performance, establishing our brand as a symbol of reliability and excellence in the industry. Our commitment to maintaining rigorous quality standards underscores our devotion to customer satisfaction, solidifying our position as one of the trusted and leading brands in the TMT bars segment.

**KAMDHENU LIMITED**  
CIN: L27101HR1994PLC092205  
Regd. Office: 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Tower - A, Building No.9, DLF Cyber City, Phase - III, Gurugram - 122002  
Phone - 0124-4604500, Email - kamdhenu@kamdhenulimited.com, Website - www.kamdhenu.com

**EXTRACT OF UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND NINE MONTHS ENDED ON 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER, 2023**

(₹ in Lakhs except earning per share)

S. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended			Nine Months Ended		
		31.12.2023	30.09.2023	31.12.2022	31.12.2023	31.12.2022	31.03.2023
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
1	Total Income from Operation	15,744.69	18,659.71	18,316.61	55,449.72	56,604.13	73,367.00
2	Net Profit before Tax for the Period	1,501.89	1,350.61	1,609.97	4,471.66	4,047.64	5,488.36
3	Net Profit after Tax for the Period	1,113.78	1,018.47	1,201.82	3,338.32	3,026.79	4,102.38
4	Total Comprehensive Income for the Period [Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the Period (After Tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (After Tax)]	1,131.40	1,030.26	1,180.87	3,367.73	2,958.47	4,073.18
5	Paid-up Equity Share Capital (Face Value of ₹ 10 Each)	2,693.55	2,693.55	2,693.55	2,693.55	2,693.55	2,693.55
6	Earnings per Share in ₹ (Quarterly, not Annualised)						
	- Basic (in ₹)	4.13	3.78	4.46	12.39	11.24	15.23
	- Diluted (in ₹)	4.13	3.78	4.46	12.39	11.24	15.23

Notes:

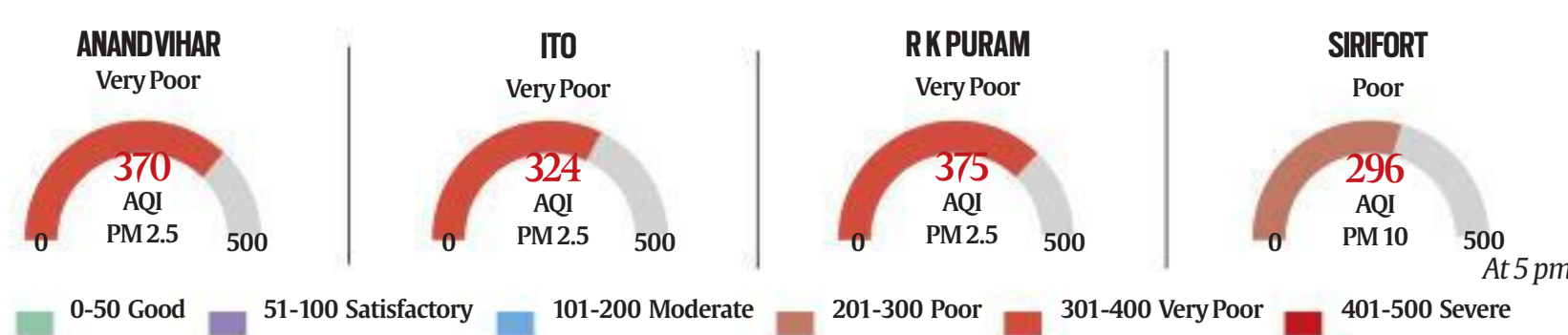
- The above financial results were reviewed and recommended by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors of Kamdhenu Limited at their respective meetings held on 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2024. The unaudited financial results for the quarter and nine months ended on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2023, have been limited and reviewed by the Statutory Auditors of the Company.
- The above is an extract of the detailed format of unaudited quarterly and nine-months results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the unaudited financial results are available on the Stock Exchange websites, [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com), [www.nseindia.com](http://www.nseindia.com) and on the Company website, [www.kamdhenu.com](http://www.kamdhenu.com).

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors of  
**Kamdhenu Limited**  
Sd/-  
**Satish Kumar Agarwal**  
Chairman & Managing Director  
DIN: 00005981

Place: Gurugram  
Date: 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2024



# 6 THE CITY



**SKY WATCH**  
**FORECAST: January 30**  
 Mainly clear sky becoming partly cloudy towards evening. Shallow/moderate fog in the morning.  
**MAX: 22** | **MIN: 8**  
 0.1°C below normal | 4°C below normal

## Three minors 'sexually assault' boy over petty fight, post video online

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

A TEENAGER was allegedly sexually assaulted and harassed in South Delhi on Saturday evening by a group of minor boys, who also recorded a video of the incident and threatened to post it on social media platforms if the victim narrated the ordeal to anyone.

The purported video showed the complainant licking the shoes of the boys, who then allegedly sexually assaulted him and beat him up. In the video, the boy was seen crying and begging for help.

Based on a complaint filed by the boy's mother, who watched the video posted on Instagram as a "story", an FIR was registered and police launched an investigation on Sunday.

DCP (South) Ankit Chauhan said that the victim has been sent for counselling and medical examination. "The victim said that around 6.30 pm on Saturday, he was returning home after playing... when three boys stopped him."

The juveniles allegedly took the victim to a spot and one of them pointed a vegetable knife at the latter. All the boys know each other and live in the same locality. Police said the boys had some petty fight a few days ago and wanted revenge.

"The complainant said that the boys... recorded the incident on his cellphone, and threat-

**In the purported video, the three accused could be seen pointing a knife at the victim and kicking him**

ened him not to tell anyone... The accused, however, posted the video on Instagram as a story. Another friend of the victim (also a minor) watched the story and sent it to the victim's mother. She then approached the police," said DCP Chauhan.

In the video, the boys could be seen pointing a knife at the victim and asking him to do "murga", and also kicking him.

A case under unnatural sex and criminal intimidation sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act has been registered, and all three boys have been apprehended and questioned, said police.

"We will contact Meta and ask about the video for more details", said police, adding that they have also approached the forensic science lab to examine the said video to confirm the details of the juveniles and the complainant.

"We have questioned them (three accused). They are all young boys... This is just ego-tussle over a petty issue. We do not know why they took such a drastic step. Both parties have known each other for years," said an officer.



Party leaders having 'prasad' on Monday. X/@PandaJay

## BJP meets local leaders to 'gauge mood' of its seven Delhi MPs

JATIN ANAND  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

THE BJP is one step closer to appointing a senior leader to oversee the party's preparations for the Lok Sabha elections in the national capital, days after several "important" party units from Gujarat, Telangana, and northeast states among others failed to be on a list of election in-charges and co-incharges, said sources on Monday.

According to sources, the process to appoint a senior leader gathered steam following a get-together at a city temple on Sunday evening. This senior leader will act as the link between the party's state unit in the national capital and its national leadership for the general elections 2024, and among other functions, preside over the meeting of the State Election Committee which will suggest names of potential candidates to be fielded.

At the get-together, organised at the Jagannath Temple in Hauz Khas by BJP national vice-presi-

dent Baijayant Panda — who was appointed the election in-charge for Uttar Pradesh on Saturday — traditional prasad was served to around 100 senior leaders from the Delhi BJP unit and the city chapter of the RSS.

While several leaders in attendance said it was a "farewell" for Panda, given his new responsibility; others mentioned it was intended to "gauge the mood" regarding the performance of Delhi's seven incumbent MPs. "The event was pre-scheduled as Panda ji has family ties with the temple. The aim was to honour his association with it... There is nothing between the lines," said a senior Delhi BJP leader who attended the Monday event.

According to a party source, the gathering — unprecedented in the city in the run-up to the elections — however, had assessment at its core. "This was for the first time that so many senior leaders from Delhi had a common interface. Learnings regarding the mood within the party's sitting MPs will lead to several important decisions related to the polls," the source said.

## DELHI SOLAR POLICY 2024

# Install rooftop solar panels and get zero electricity bills: CM announces new policy

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

Installing rooftop solar panels may help you get 'zero' electricity bills, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said Monday. Those who opt for the scheme will also earn around Rs 700-900 a month, the Chief Minister said.

Explaining the contours of Delhi Solar policy 2024, a senior Delhi government official said, "The scheme is linked to power production. If, for example, you are using 400 units of power per month and you have installed a 2 kilowatt solar panel, which generates around 220 units of solar power. These 220 units will be adjusted against your consumption through net metering."

"This means that your net consumption will now be 180 units. Those who opt under 200 units don't get a power bill in Delhi in any case. Apart from this, you will also be paid for the 220 units that you are generating at Rs 3 per unit," said the official, requesting anonymity.

Ultimately, your power bill will depend on the consumption as well as the solar power generation. The policy was approved by the Cabinet a few days ago and has received the Lieutenant Governor's go-ahead.

Under the policy, the government will pay Rs 3 per unit if the solar plant is up to 3 kilowatts and Rs 2 per unit for plants between 3 and 5 kilowatts for five years.

One key difference between the 2016 scheme and the new scheme is the generation-based incentive (GBI). In the 2016 scheme, one had to produce at least 1,000 units to get paid.

"There is no conditionality of minimum generation to receive

### CAPITAL'S POWER PUSH

**2016 SOLAR POLICY**  
 1,500mw Total power generation | 250mw of rooftop solar plants

**NEW SOLAR POLICY**  
**GENERATION-BASED INCENTIVE OF ROOFTOP PLANTS**  
 ₹3 per unit for small plants (up to 3 kW) | ₹2 for larger plants (3 to 10kW)

**CAPITAL SUBSIDY TO RESIDENTIAL CONSUMERS:**  
 Rs 2,000 per kW of installation, up to Rs 10,000 per consumer

**AN EXAMPLE**  
 360 units The power consumption of a user | ₹90,000 The consumer installs a 2kW rooftop solar plant

**HOW CAN ONE GET SOLAR PANELS INSTALLED AND HOW WILL IT WORK?**

- Delhi govt will soon upload a list of authorised vendors on its website
- Download the list, select any vendor, call them and get your rooftops solar panels installed
- Once panels are installed, discoms will install a 'net meter', which will keep a tab on units generated, units used by consumer, and units unused
- Following this, electricity bills will be sent to the consumer. Units they generate will be adjusted against their consumption; if extra power is produced, money will be credited to the user's account
- No need to submit any documents

**7.2%** of Delhi's annual electricity demand met

**Consumer to get zero bill as power units produced by solar power will be adjusted against bill and bring consumption under 200 units, which is free**

the incentive... The amount under GBI will be adjusted against the monthly electricity bill of the consumer. Any excess amount will be deposited into the consumer's bank account by the dis-

com every month. Earlier, this amount was transferred only twice a year," Kejriwal said. Those who opt for the scheme will also be given a capital subsidy of Rs 2,000 per kW

of installation up to a maximum of Rs 10,000 per consumer. This will be in addition to the subsidy given by the Centre, which is around Rs 16,000-18,000 per kW.

## No-detention policy out this year, teachers flag concerns

ABHINAYA HARIGOVIND  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

WITH STUDENTS of classes V and VIII set to be held back if they don't clear all subjects in the current academic year, teachers have concerns about some students and hope extra support might help them make the cut.

Starting this academic year, the no-detention policy comes to an end. This means students of classes V and VIII can be held back if they are unable to secure at least 33% marks in each subject studied, and at least 25% marks in the mid-term and annual exams in each subject. They can sit for a re-exam in subjects they couldn't clear; if they don't pass this, they will be held back.

As per guidelines issued by the Delhi government in 2022, out of 100 marks for the final assessment, the break-up will be 5 for student attendance; 5 for subject enrichment; 5 for project-based activities; 5 for portfolio of co-curricular activities; 5 for multiple assessments; 5 for unit tests; 20 for mid-term exams; and 50 for annual exams.

Anand, who teaches classes III to V at Sarvodaya Bal Vidyalaya in Jhandewalan, said, "For students in class V, maybe two-three out of a class of 40, who are absent for a while or are not able to take exams as they



Now, students of classes V and VIII can be held back if they are unable to secure at least 33 per cent marks in each subject, and at least 25 per cent marks in the mid-term and annual exams in each subject. File

are from outside Delhi and may be out of town for a few weeks, might lose out. Students have been made aware they can be detained, so they are not casual about it anymore."

On interventions being made to prevent detention, Murari Jha, mentor teacher, said, "Interventions are made not keeping in mind that the policy has been revoked... it is already going on in terms of preparing students to read grade-appropriate texts as part of 'Mission Buniyaad'. This is the first year, so we will know how it has impacted students in April." He added, "I am worried and wish the policy could have con-

tinued. Even if a small percentage of students are affected, their families may not be able to deal with an extra year of education... for girls, it is even more disastrous since there is a threat of being withdrawn from school or forced into marriage."

Sudha Acharya, Principal, IITL Public School, said, "The purpose (of doing away with the policy) is that before the child enters senior school, we should know if they are equipped with the skills and knowledge they need... The first term gave us some impression of which children need support... Parents have been oriented (about the change)."

## EWS seats not filled? Schools can carry it forward to next yr: HC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

THE DELHI High Court on Monday held that the principle of carrying forward unfilled vacancies in the Economically Weaker Section/Disadvantaged Group (EWS/DG) category in a particular class in one year to the next class in the next year in the same school is "legal and valid".

A single-judge bench of Justice C Hari Shankar observed that carrying forward unfilled EWS/DG vacancies to the next class in the subsequent year does not violate the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act or any other legal provision.

"Admitting EWS/DG students to the extent of at least 25% of the strength of its entry-level class is the statutory obligation of every school, which falls within Section 2(n)(iv) of the RTE Act. If a school defaults, there is nothing illegal in directing it to make up the deficit in the next higher class in the next year," the High Court underscored.

The High Court was hearing a plea by the mother of a five-year-old girl who was denied admission in KG (pre-primary class) under the EWS/DG category thrice for the academic sessions

2021-2022, 2022-2023 and 2023-2024.

Justice Shankar said that it is a "matter of considerable regret that, almost daily", the High Court is encountering cases in which schools and the Directorate of Education (DoE) are at odds on the aspect of a mission of students belonging to the EWS category.

The High Court said in most of these cases, the school is unwilling to admit EWS students against "carry forward vacancies" of previous years which remained unfilled.

It thereafter said the student shall continue to study as an EWS student in Class 1 in the school till the end of the present academic year.

It also said the DoE will ensure she is admitted to Class 2 in a neighbourhood school in 2024-2025 as an EWS/DG candidate, and will continue to receive an education there till she turns 14 years old as per the RTE Act. It further said the DoE shall bear the student's fees as per the Act.

In case no school in the immediate neighbourhood has a vacancy, the DoE will ensure the student is admitted to Class 2 in a school as close to her residence after concurring with the petitioner, the High Court said.

## BRIEFLY

### Gurgaon: Man killed in fight in subway; 3 held

**Gurgaon:** A 21-year-old youth was stabbed to death in a subway on the Delhi-Jaipur Highway during a clash between two groups of friends over "a love affair", said police on Monday. The victim, Aakash, was a native of Bihar's Begusarai and lived in a rented accommodation in Naharpur Rupa village with his cousin Suraj. Aakash, who was preparing for competitive exams, was stabbed by one Krishna, a school friend, on Sunday. The victim's cousin, Suraj, said in his complaint, "...Krishna and his friends (Around 10) were pelting us with stones, some of which hit us... Then, two of the friends caught my brother, and Krishna stabbed him with a knife several times and then fled." Aakash was taken to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared him dead, said police. **PTI**

### 200+ vehicles destroyed in 'malkhana' fire

**New Delhi:** Nearly 200 two-wheelers and 45 four-wheelers — all case properties — were damaged on Monday after a fire swept through a vehicle pit (malkhana) in Delhi's Wazirabad Police Training School (PTS), Joy Tirkey, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Northeast) said that the fire was reported at 12.35 am in the vehicle pit. "The fire was extinguished by 2.30 am on Monday. A large number of vehicles, part of case property of Outer district, were damaged..." said Tirkey, adding that the cause of the fire is being ascertained. "A case under relevant sections has been registered at the Sonia Vihar police station," said Tirkey. **ENS**

## FOR 'BETTER IDENTIFICATION' OF COLOUR Silver to Gold: Delhi Metro changes colour code of much-awaited line

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

THE DELHI Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) on Monday announced a change to the colour scheme of its upcoming Delhi Aerocity — Tughlakabad Metro corridor.

The Phase 4 corridor, originally designated with a 'silver' code, will now sport a 'golden' colour instead. The decision to shift from 'silver' to 'golden'

comes as a measure to ensure better identification of the colour on the Metro trains.

DMRC officials said the silver colour tended to blend with the stainless steel body of the trains, which could potentially cause confusion for passengers. By opting for a golden shade, the corporation aims to enhance visibility for commuters.

Usually each corridor features a prominently displayed coloured strip indicating its designated colour code.



For instance, trains operating on the magenta line are distinguished by a prominent and bright magenta strip below the windows. This quick identification technique comes especially handy on interchange stations

'Silver tended to blend with stainless steel body of the trains', said officials, adding that the new golden line is likely to begin operations by March 2026. File

that have over one line merging and diverging at a single station.

The Aerocity — Tughlakabad Metro corridor, spanning 23.62 kilometres with 15 stations, holds strategic significance in expanding connectivity across Delhi. Scheduled to link the Kashmere Gate — Raja Nahar Singh Violet Line with the Airport Express Line, this corridor promises increased accessibility to locales in the southern region of the national capital. Officials said the new golden

line is anticipated to commence operations by March 2026.

Notably, the new Tughlakabad station is planned to be built at a depth of 23 metres as a four-level underground structure with the platform being the lowest level, the concourse on top and an entire floor dedicated to parking above that.

The current Tughlakabad station on the violet line is elevated and will be connected to the golden line station through a subway eventually.

# Navy rescues crew of 17 from hijacked Iranian fishing vessel

New Delhi: Responding to a distress call from a hijacked Iranian-flagged fishing vessel, Indian Navy rescued 17 crew members by sending a warship to the area.

As per the Navy, INS Sumitra—a warship on Anti-Piracy Operations along the East coast of Somalia and the Gulf of Aden—responded to a distress message regarding hijacking of an Iranian flagged Fishing Vessel (FV)

Iman. The vessel had been boarded by pirates and the crew has been taken as hostages.

In a statement, the Navy said INS Sumitra intercepted the vessel, acted in accordance with established SOPs to coerce the pirates to safely release the crew along with the boat and ensured successful release of all 17 crew members along with the boat. The vessel was subsequently sanitised. **ENS**

**SHRI LAL BAHADUR SHASTRI NATIONAL SANSKRIT UNIVERSITY**  
(Central University)  
B-4, Qutab Institutional Area, New Delhi-110016  
F. 7(134)/LBNSU/UWD/2023-24 Date: 18.01.2024

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

Scaled percentage rate tenders are invited for the under mentioned work from the approved and eligible CPWD contractors. NIT No. 06/2023-24/LBSU/UWD (T.I.D. No.2024\_SLBS\_742313\_1) Upgradation of electrical facilities in residential & non-residential buildings of the University during 2023-24 (S.H. P/o additional power points and R/o LT cables at SS, SJS, etc. complete). Estimated cost - Rs.23,69,396/-, Earnest Money Rs. 47,388/-, Time Allowed (30) Thirty Days, Tender Fee - Rs. 1180/- (Non- Refundable). Last date & time of receipt of applications: 30/01/2024 up to 4.00 P.M. Last date & time of issue of tenders: 30/01/2024 up to 4.00 P.M. Last date & time of submission of tenders: 01/02/2024 up to 3.00 P.M. Date & time of opening of tenders: 01/02/2024 from 3.30 P.M. For eligibility criteria, other details & corrigendum, if any, please visit websites: [www.sbsrsv.ac.in](http://www.sbsrsv.ac.in) & [www.eprocure.gov.in](http://www.eprocure.gov.in)  
CBC 21371/12/0005/2324 REGISTRAR

# Careers

**SHIVAJI UNIVERSITY, KOLHAPUR**  
ADVERTISEMENT NO. 18/2024

Applications are invited in the prescribed form available online on Shivaji University website [www.unishivaji.ac.in](http://www.unishivaji.ac.in) (URL [www.unishivaji.ac.in/recruitments](http://www.unishivaji.ac.in/recruitments)) for the following Teaching Posts under provisions of Section 102 of Maharashtra Public Universities Act, 2016 to be filled in unaided departments/course conducted from University funds.

Post	Department/Course and Number of Posts
Assistant Professor	Food Science and Technology - 1
	Chemistry- ( For Industrial Chemistry Course) – 1
	Computer Science - 2

The details of Posts, Qualifications, Pay Scale and emoluments, process of online application and instructions therein etc. are available on the university website [www.unishivaji.ac.in](http://www.unishivaji.ac.in) ( URL [www.unishivaji.ac.in/recruitments](http://www.unishivaji.ac.in/recruitments) ).  
Kolhapur Dr. V. N. Shinde  
Date : 24/01/2024 Registrar

**बिहार सरकार**  
**अनुसूचित जाति एवं अनुसूचित जनजाति कल्याण विभाग**  
**आवश्यक सूचना**

बिहार लोक सेवा आयोग द्वारा आयोजित विद्यालय अध्यापक प्रतियोगिता परीक्षा (TRE-2) के परीक्षाफल के आधार पर अनुसूचित अर्थवर्गों का कॉउंसिलिंग, बायोमेट्रिक मिलान एवं औपबन्धिक नियुक्ति पत्र वितरण के संबंध में।

बिहार लोक सेवा आयोग, पटना (विज्ञापन संख्या-27/2023) द्वारा आयोजित विद्यालय अध्यापक प्रतियोगिता परीक्षा के परीक्षाफल के आधार पर अनुसूचित जाति एवं अनुसूचित जनजाति कल्याण विभाग हेतु अनुसूचित विद्यालय अध्यापक एवं प्रधानाध्यापक का दिनांक-27.12.2023 से 02.01.2024 तक कॉउंसिलिंग की गई थी।

ऐसे अर्थवर्गों जो किसी कारणवश निर्धारित अर्थवर्ग में कॉउंसिलिंग नहीं करा सके एवं ऐसे अर्थवर्गों जो दिनांक-23.01.2024 एवं 24.01.2024 को बायोमेट्रिक मिलान तथा औपबन्धिक नियुक्ति पत्र प्राप्त नहीं कर सके, को अन्तिम मौका देते हुए कॉउंसिलिंग, बायोमेट्रिक मिलान एवं औपबन्धिक नियुक्ति पत्र वितरण हेतु बाबू जगजीवन राम संसदीय अध्ययन एवं राजनीतिक शोध संस्थान, सरदार पटेल मार्ग, बिहार, पटना के मुख्य सभागार (बड़ा हॉल) में दिनांक-10.02.2024 को पूर्वाह्न 10:00 बजे से अपराह्न 05:00 बजे तक समय निर्धारित की जाती है:-

➤ अनुसूचित अर्थवर्गों के लिए अनुदेश:-

निर्धारित तिथि एवं समय को **Counseling** हेतु अर्थवर्गों अपने साथ निम्नांकित कागजात / अनिलेख लाना सुनिश्चित करेंगे:-

- बिहार लोक सेवा आयोग की विद्यालय अध्यापक नियुक्ति परीक्षा-2023 का मूल प्रवेश-पत्र एवं उसकी एक स्वअभिप्रेमाणित छायाप्रति।
- मूल आधार कार्ड एवं उसकी स्वअभिप्रेमाणित छायाप्रति।
- सभी शैक्षणिक एवं प्रशैक्षणिक प्रमाण-पत्रों की मूल एवं बिहार लोक सेवा आयोग के वेबसाइट पर अपलोड किए गए प्रमाण पत्रों की डाकनलॉड प्रति, जिसमें बिहार लोक सेवा आयोग का वाटर मार्क परिलक्षित हो, की एक-एक स्वअभिप्रेमाणित छायाप्रति।
- CTET/BTET/STET उत्तीर्णता प्रमाण-पत्र मूल एवं बिहार लोक सेवा आयोग के वेबसाइट से डाकनलॉड वाटरमार्क प्रति की स्वअभिप्रेमाणित छायाप्रति।
- पासपोर्ट साईज का रीन फोटो ग्राफ, जैसा कि आयोग द्वारा आयोजित परीक्षा में शामिल होने हेतु पूर्व में आयोग में ऑनलाईन / ऑफलाईन जमा किया गया था।
- आरक्षण दावा से संबंधित मूल प्रमाण-पत्र एवं उसकी एक बिहार लोक सेवा आयोग के वेबसाइट से डाकनलॉड वाटरमार्क प्रति की स्वअभिप्रेमाणित छायाप्रति।
- जन्मतिथि में छूट (यदि लागू हो) से संबंधित दावा का प्रमाण पत्र एवं बिहार लोक सेवा आयोग के वेबसाइट से डाकनलॉड वाटरमार्क प्रति की स्वअभिप्रेमाणित छायाप्रति।
- अनुसूचित अर्थवर्गों अपने आधार कार्ड एवं इससे लिंकड मोबाईल नम्बर के साथ उपस्थित होंगे।
- पंचायती राज / नगर निकायों के नियुक्त शिक्षक एवं आयोग द्वारा अनुसूचित अर्थवर्गों नियोजन इकाई से अनापत्ति प्रमाण पत्र या विरमन प्रमाण पत्र प्राप्त कर विभाग को समर्पित करेंगे। अगर अर्थवर्गों सरकारी / अर्द्ध-सरकारी सेवा / नियोजन में हों तो नियोजता (Employer) से अनापत्ति प्रमाण पत्र एवं विरमन पत्र।
- अनुसूचित अर्थवर्गों अपने बैंक एकाउन्ट नम्बर के साथ Cancelled Cheque/Pass Book की प्रति।
- सभी अनुसूचित अर्थवर्गों अपना पैन कार्ड भी साथ लेते आएंगे।
- पूर्ण रूप से भरा हुआ चरित्र एवं पूर्व वृत्त सत्यापन प्रपत्र (दो प्रति मूल में) (विहित प्रपत्र विभागीय वेबसाइट <https://state.bihar.gov.in/scstwelfare> पर उपलब्ध हैं)।
- सक्षम प्राधिकार द्वारा निर्गत दिव्यांगता संबंधी प्रमाण पत्र(मूल में) एवं एक स्वअभिप्रेमाणित छायाप्रति।

नोट:- (क) यदि अर्थवर्गों उक्त प्रमाण पत्रों के साथ जाँच हेतु उपर्युक्त निर्धारित कार्यक्रम के अनुसार उपस्थित नहीं होते हैं तो उनकी अर्थवर्गिता (Candidature) रद्द करने का एकाधिकार विभाग का होगा।  
(ख) प्रमाण पत्रों की जाँच हेतु सम्मिलित होने वाले अर्थवर्गों को किसी प्रकार का यात्रा भत्ता देय नहीं होगा।  
(ग) उपरोक्त सूचना विभागीय वेबसाइट <https://state.bihar.gov.in/scstwelfare> पर भी देखी जा सकती है।  
उक्त सूचना [www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar](http://www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar) पर भी देखी जा सकती है।

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PR. No. 016222 (ST & SC welfare) 2023-24

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2. विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता: कार्यपालक अभियंता, तिरहुत नहर प्रमण्डल-2, बेतिया

3. निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना निर्गत करने की तिथि: दिनांक 24.01.2024

4. निविदा कागजात डाउनलोड एवं अपलोड करने की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय: दिनांक 03.02.2024 को 10:00 बजे पूर्वाह्न से दिनांक 06.02.2024 को 3:00 बजे अपराह्न तक। वेबसाइट [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) पर।

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7. वित्तीय बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय: सक्षम प्राधिकारी द्वारा बाद में वेबसाइट [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) पर घोषित की जायेगी।

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कार्यपालक अभियंता,  
तिरहुत नहर प्रमण्डल-2, बेतिया  
PR- 016116 (WRD) 2023-24  
**नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार**

**NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY ODISHA, CUTTACK**  
(Established by Odisha Act IV of 2008)  
Kathajodi Campus, Sector 13, CDA, Cuttack -753015, Odisha

**RECRUITMENT TO ADMINISTRATIVE POSTS**  
Advt No.: NLUO/NT-R-001/25.01.2024

The National Law University Odisha invites applications from Indian Citizens for the post of Counsellor on contract basis and Nurse on regular basis in prescribed format downloaded from NLUO website. Details of the post, pay, category are given below:

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Mode of appointment	No of Posts	Pay Scale in pay matrix as per 7th CPC
01	Counsellor	Contractual for one year*	01	Consolidated pay of Rs. 40,000/- per month
02	Nurse	Regular	01	Entry pay: Rs. 25,500/- (Pre Revised Rs.5200-20200, GP Rs.2400)

\*The post of Counsellor will be initially for a period of one year on contract. After one year it will be renewed on annual basis, depending upon the performance report.  
Other details of the posts and relevant information can be accessed from the Career section of the University website [www.nluo.ac.in](http://www.nluo.ac.in).  
The intending candidates are requested to apply offline by using the prescribed format available on Career section of the University website [www.nluo.ac.in](http://www.nluo.ac.in) latest by 13.02.2024 by 5.00 P.M.  
Note:  
1. The filled-in application form, the Demand Draft along with all self attested proof of qualifications, experiences and last pay slip should be reached to the Registrar, National Law University Odisha, Kathajodi Campus, C.D.A., Sector - 13, Cuttack-753 015 on or before 13.02.2024.  
2. Please refer to the Career section of the NLUO website for other terms, conditions of the service.  
3. The applicants have to pay a non-refundable application fee of Rs. 500/- in the form of Demand Draft in favour of Registrar, National Law University Odisha payable at Cuttack. The Demand Draft needs to be sent along with the filled-in application form.  
4. Only short-listed candidates will be called for Interview.  
5. No TA/DA will be given for attending the Interview.  
6. For any updates please visit University website regularly, no separate communication will be made to the candidates.

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# 8 GOVT & POLITICS



## CARE & CONCERN

AT THE foundation stone laying ceremony of a cancer hospital in Gujarat last week, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said while it was the government's job to make new hospitals, he hoped that no one needed them. The minister said one of the ways that people could stay away from hospitals was to stop using tobacco. Every year tobacco consumption kills around 80-lakh people globally, equivalent to the population of some European countries, he said.

## PREPARING FOR POLLS

AS THE Lok Sabha elections inch closer, BJP MP (North-east Delhi) Manoj Tiwari has organised back-to-back events in his parliamentary constituency to bolster public connect. In addition to inviting religious leader Dharendra Shastri to preside over a three-day event, Tiwari has invited over 30,000 women to be part of a 'kalash yatra' across areas in the segment on January 31, especially in areas hit by the 2020 riots.

# ED questions Lalu, Hooda, team camps at Soren's house in Delhi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, RANCHI, JAN 29

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate (ED) on Monday questioned former Bihar chief minister Lalu Prasad in Patna and former Haryana CM Bhopinder Singh Hooda in New Delhi in separate cases. A team of the central agency also visited the house of Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren in Delhi but the latter was not present there.

The ED questioned Lalu for over nine hours in connection with the agency's money laundering probe into the alleged land-for-jobs scam, officials said. Prasad, accompanied by his daughter Misa Bharti, arrived at the ED office in Patna around 11 am and left at 8.50 pm, sources said.

The investigating officer of the case recorded Lalu's statement under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), they said. A team of ED officials from Delhi reached Patna on Sunday to question the RJD leader in connection with the alleged



RJD chief Lalu Prasad arrives at the ED office in Patna. PTI

scam, the sources said. The central agency had on January 19 issued fresh summons for questioning Lalu and his son Tejashwi Yadav.

The notice was handed over by the ED at Lalu's wife and former Bihar CM Rabri Devi's residence. Both were asked to appear before the ED officials on January 29 and 30, respectively.

Senior Congress leader Bhopinder Singh Hooda was questioned for around seven hours by the ED in connection with a money laundering investigation in connection with the

alleged irregularities in land acquisition at Manesar during 2004-07. Several farmers and landowners had alleged that they had been cheated to the tune of about Rs 1,500 crore in this land acquisition case.

Hooda was first summoned on January 17 and his statement was recorded under the provisions of the PMLA.

Meanwhile, a team of ED visited the South Delhi residence of Soren to question him in connection with a money laundering investigation in an alleged land fraud case. But he was not present

at his home. The ED teams will be at the residence till Soren returns, sources said, adding that authorities are also keeping a vigil at the Delhi airport.

The ED had issued a fresh summons to Soren asking him to confirm his availability for questioning on either January 29 or January 31, the sources said. Soren had sent a communication to them but had not confirmed the date and time for questioning, according to the sources.

JMM's general secretary Supriyo Bhattacharya said: "ED's spontaneous arrival at the official residence of the CM... with hundreds of armed soldiers does not appear to be legal. What was the hurry that ED officials could not wait even for two days for the interrogation and that too when seven hours of interrogation had already taken place a week ago?"

JMM added that it was an insult to the honour and respect of a CM as well as to the 3.5 crore people of the state.

BJP state chief Babul Marandi said Soren went underground due to fear of the ED.

## RAM TEMPLE CONSECRATION CEREMONY

# No order to stop telecast, attempt to portray TN govt as anti-Hindu: DGP

Of 288 applications, 4 cleared before court intervention: Affidavit in SC

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

THE TAMIL Nadu Director General of Police (DGP) told the Supreme Court on Monday that the "allegation" that Chief Minister M K Stalin had "orally instructed not to allow any ceremony or function" on January 22 — to celebrate the consecration of the Ram temple in Ayodhya — was "totally false".

The petitioner challenged a "non-existing order" and "portrayed the Tamil Nadu government as an anti-Hindu government, which is totally false and condemnable," DGP Shankar Jiwaji said in an affidavit filed in response to a notice from the court.

On January 22, the SC had asked authorities in Tamil Nadu to act in accordance with the law and not based on any oral instructions on "banning" special prayers and live telecast of the Ram temple consecration ceremony in temples in the state. It was hearing a plea filed by Vinoj P Selvam, a state BJP functionary, seeking quashing of an alleged "oral order" banning live telecast of the ceremony.

The same day, the Madras High Court and its Madurai bench too intervened in the matter.

On Monday, the DGP said the petitioner approached the court "under an illusion and on false interpretation of reality". Terming the plea as "politically motivated", the DGP said, "he has come with imaginary claims and has challenged a non-existing order".

According to data produced in the affidavit, the TN police received 288 applications for holding various events on January 22. While only four of these were granted permission in the first round, another 248 of these events were "allowed to be conducted" following the intervention of the SC and Madras HC.

"After the orders of the Hon'ble High Court of Madras and its Bench at Madurai, petitions that were rejected and kept pending for verification were reconsidered and petitioners were allowed to conduct the events," the DGP said.

According to the affidavit, while 25 applications were for processions, 22 were for live-streaming in outdoor/public places, 15 for live-streaming in temples and other indoor places, and 226 for bhajans, annadhanams and special pujas in public places.

In the first round, 23 applications for procession were rejected while two were kept "pending for verification"; all 22 applications for live-streaming in public places were rejected; 7 of the 15 applications for live-streaming in temples and other indoor places were rejected while 8 were kept "pending for verification"; 4 of the 226 applications for bhajans, annadhanams and special pujas were permitted, 146 were rejected, and the rest were kept "pending for verification". But later, 15 processions were conducted and live-streaming was allowed in all the 15 indoor places, the affidavit said.

"In all the 252 places where the events were conducted on 22.01.2024, police provided sufficient bandobust..." it said. The DGP cited "prevailing local issues" as the reason for rejecting 146 applications received till January 20. On January 22, the SC bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta had sought data on the number of applications received, and the reasons for rejecting them.

The SC adjourned the matter, giving the TN government two more weeks to file its response.

## Decide by Feb 15 disqualification pleas against Ajit Pawar faction: SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

THE SUPREME Court on Monday gave Maharashtra Assembly Speaker Rahul Narwekar time until February 15 to decide the disqualification petitions against Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar and others arising out of the faction fight in the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP).

In October last year, the SC had given Narwekar time until January 31 to hear and decide the nine disqualification petitions against the Ajit camp.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta informed the bench presided by CJI D Y Chandrachud that Speaker Rahul Narwekar was not dealing with the NCP matter earlier, as he was dealing with disqualification petitions arising out of the rift in the Shiv Sena. He said Narwekar would close the NCP matter for a final order on January 31 and, thereafter, require three more weeks to dictate the order.

Appearing for the Sharad Pawar faction of the NCP, A M Singhvi said the order doesn't take three weeks to dictate. "This is the third time this is happening," he said, urging the court to grant not more than a week.

# Cong: TMC tried to disrupt yatra, but seat-sharing doors still open

Cong made no progress despite reminders since June: TMC

ATRI MITRA & SWEETY KUMARI  
KISHANGANJ-ARARIA, KOLKATA, JANUARY 29

EVEN AS he accused it of attempting to disrupt Rahul Gandhi's yatra, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said Monday his party's doors were "still open" for the TMC to discuss the seat-sharing for Lok Sabha polls in West Bengal.

The TMC on the other hand blamed the failure in sharing of seats on the Congress, with party MP Abhishek Banerjee saying the party made "no progress" despite repeated reminders over the last seven months.

Speaking during Rahul Gandhi's yatra at Toopamari village of Bihar's Kishanganj, Ramesh said: "Our friend Trinamool Congress tried to disrupt the yatra, tore down posters and flex of Rahul Gandhi. But they failed. People came out in huge numbers... We are making it clear that whoever may try to disrupt the yatra, it will be successful."

Referring to seat-sharing in Bengal, he said: "Mamata Banerjee says she is with INDIA. She also says she will fight the BJP and the RSS alone on all 42



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in Kishanganj, Bihar. Partha Paul

seats of West Bengal. We haven't closed any doors. Our door is open, any type of dialogue is welcome."

TMC chief and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee last week announced her party would be fighting the coming Lok Sabha polls alone.

Abhishek accused the Congress of delaying the seat-sharing talks. "We have been repeatedly asking to discuss seat sharing for the last seven months but nothing has happened. In the last meeting in Delhi, our chairperson (Mamata) clearly gave a deadline of December 31st... today is January 29... no progress," he told reporters at Diamond Harbour, his

Lok Sabha constituency.

Abhishek also came down heavily on Congress's Bengal unit chief Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury for his comments against the TMC. "There is a limit to our patience... he is challenging the TMC chairperson, while the Congress claims TMC is their most important ally. How many times have they criticised the BJP or supported us on issues we are fighting against the Centre," he said.

Meanwhile, Rahul's Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra entered Bihar from West Bengal on Monday. All eyes are now on the Mahagathbandhan event in Purnea Tuesday, where INDIA hopes to put up a show of unity.

# Some cheer for Opp: DMK lets Cong have 9 seats

ARUN JANARDHANAN  
CHENNAI, JANUARY 29

THE FIRST of the Congress-DMK seat-sharing talks held at the DMK headquarters in Chennai on Sunday reaffirmed the partnership between the two allies, coming as positive news for the INDIA bloc after blows from the exit of the Janata Dal (United), and issues with the TMC and AAP.

In the negotiations, senior Congress and DMK leaders are learnt to have agreed on 9 seats for the former, which is also the

number of seats the party contested in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

Last time, the Congress had won eight seats and lost only in Theni, which had gone to the AIADMK. Congress ally DMK had won all the 20 seats it had contested from. The Congress had a 12.6% vote share, while the DMK polled 33.5% of the votes.

In all, the alliance led by the DMK in the state, which comprises the Congress, CPM, CPI, Viduthala Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK), Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) and other smaller

parties, had won 38 of the 39 seats in the state.

On Sunday, a team of Congress leaders, headed by Congress general secretary Mukul Wasnik, who is the convener of the National Alliance Committee (NAC), former Union minister Salman Khurshid and Congress Tamil Nadu chief K S Alaigiri, held the talks with the DMK side, which was represented by party MP T R Baalu.

This alliance, Wasnik said, "is crucial to combat divisive forces and safeguard democracy". The Congress demand for

nine seats mirrors its previous election strategy of focusing on constituencies in the southern part of the state, which include Kanyakumari, Tirunelveli, Virudhunagar, Sivaganga, Arani, Tiruvallur or Kanchipuram, Trichy, Karur.

DMK sources said that while nine seats were "guaranteed" for the Congress, "adjustments in the constituencies were possible". The DMK is yet to commence talks with its other alliance partners.

FULL REPORT ON  
www.indianexpress.com

# Elections to 56 RS seats up next in Feb end, no further slide likely for INDIA

MANOJ CG & DAMINI NATH  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

THE BJP'S decisive Assembly election victories in three Hindi heartland states in December and the change in political equations in Bihar on Sunday notwithstanding, the composition of the Rajya Sabha, where the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) is still short of the halfway mark, may not change significantly after the biennial elections next month.

The Election Commission on Monday announced that elections to 56 Rajya Sabha seats from 15 states, which are falling vacant in April, will be held on February 27. While 50 members retire on April 2, six will retire the following day. Of the 238 members of the Upper House at present, 109 are from NDA parties while 89 belong to parties in INDIA alliance.

Among the MPs whose term is ending are BJP president J P Nadda; former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh; Union Ministers Bhupender Yadav, Ashwini Vaishnav, Mansukh Mandaviya, V Muraleedharan, and Narayan Rane; BJP chief spokesperson Anil Baluni; and Samajwadi Party MP and actor Jaya Bachchan.

Of the 56 MPs who are retiring, 28 are from the BJP and 10 are from the Congress. The BJP is likely to retain almost the same number of seats while the Congress will win nine seats and can hope to get one more with the help of its allies in Bihar. The Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) will be the biggest loser. Three of its MPs are retiring and the Congress which ousted the BRS in Telangana last month is set to pick up two of the seats.

Uttar Pradesh will have the highest number of vacancies with 10 seats, followed by Maharashtra

and Bihar (six each), Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal (five each), Karnataka and Gujarat (four each), Odisha, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Rajasthan (three), and Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, and Chhattisgarh (one each).

Among the 10 members retiring in UP, nine are from the BJP but it is expected to win seven. The Samajwadi Party (SP), which improved its tally to 111 in 2022 from 47 in 2017, will pick the remaining three. But the BJP will gain a seat in Bihar. Of the six retiring, two each are from the JD(U) and the RJD and one each from the BJP and the Congress. Given the present strength of the Assembly, the BJP and the RJD will get two seats each and the JD(U) one. The RJD-led Opposition has the numbers to get the sixth seat, which the Congress is vying for.

The other interesting electoral battle will be in Maharashtra. Based on the current strength, the ruling Mahayuti coalition of the BJP, Shiv Sena led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, and NCP led by Ajit Pawar, is likely to stake claim to five out of the six seats while Congress is eyeing an easy win from the sixth seat.

The outcome will be more or less the same in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Chhattisgarh, the three heartland states which the BJP won in December. Among the five retiring members in Madhya Pradesh, four are from the BJP and one from the Congress. Based on the current strength of the two parties, the outcome is likely to remain the same. In Rajasthan, two BJP members and one from the Congress are retiring. And the parties have the strength to elect the same number of MPs. In Chhattisgarh, a BJP member is retiring and the party will get back the seat.

FULL REPORT ON  
www.indianexpress.com

# Day after Nitish's return with BJP, his Deputy CMs say: Establishing rule of law, good governance now priority

SANTOSH SINGH  
PATNA, JANUARY 29

NEWLY INDUCTED Deputy Chief Ministers Samrat Choudhary and Vijay Kumar Sinha said their government's top priorities would be to establish rule of law and focus on good governance, a comment that came a little after the first cabinet of the NDA government in Bihar decided to defer the Budget Session scheduled to commence from February 5.

Sources said the Budget Session was being rescheduled because of a cabinet expansion. Only eight ministers besides Chief Minister Nitish Kumar

were sworn in on Sunday and a full-fledged government was much needed.

Choudhary told reporters here: "We decided to form a government with Nitish Kumar after instructions from the central leadership of the party... I am a committed worker of the party. I had donned a turban on my head after the death of my mother, and I had later impulsively said that I had donned the turban to remove Nitish Kumar as CM. But now that the central leadership has given me a new responsibility, I am committed to fulfill it with sincerity under Nitish Kumar's leadership. Our priority now is to establish rule



BJP's Samrat Choudhary and Vijay Sinha in Patna. PTI

of law and good governance."

Echoing Choudhary, his fellow Deputy CM Sinha said: "We had been in the government to serve people. Humein ye avsar seva karne ke liye mila hai, na ki

mewa khane ke (We have got this opportunity to serve people, not to make profits)."

Targeting the RJD, Choudhary said: "For the past 17 months, democracy was put to shame as ally (RJD) had been talking of finishing JD(U) after the 2024 polls." He was referring to former Deputy CM Tejashwi Yadav's statement on Saturday where he spoke of "the JD(U) disintegrating after the 2024 polls because of BJP's designs".

Choudhary recalled how he had been part of the Samata Party formed in 1994 to dislodge the RJD's "government of misrule" and it was eventually in 2005 when the NDA brought

down the Lalu Prasad regime and formed the government.

Exerting that the people of Bihar had given a mandate to the NDA in the last Assembly polls in 2020 Choudhary said, "That government is back now. As far as the job promises are concerned, the NDA government has been ready with a proposal to provide 1.75 lakh jobs. We will fulfil our promise of giving 10 lakh jobs."

Sinha said: "The Central leadership of BJP helped Bihar from slipping into another phase of misrule, as the RJD had the mentality to create a rule of anarchy... Now, we have come together with Nitish Kumar, we have to work for all-round development of Bihar."

# Taliban minister discusses regional ties with diplomats of 11 countries

SHUBHAJIT ROY  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

TALIBAN'S FOREIGN minister Amir Khan Muttaqi on Monday held a meeting of diplomats from 11 neighbouring and regional countries, including India, and proposed establishing a "region-centric narrative aimed at developing regional cooperation for a positive and constructive engagement between Afghanistan and regional countries."

According to the Taliban foreign ministry deputy spokesperson Hafiz Zia Ahmad, diplomats of India, Kazakhstan, Turkey, Russia, China, Iran, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan,

Indonesia and Kyrgyzstan took part in the meeting.

This is the first publicised meetings between the Taliban foreign minister and diplomats from India based in Kabul. Since June 2022, India has stationed a technical team, with the stated objective of delivering humanitarian aid and support to Afghanistan.

Afghan news outlet, Ariana News, said that Muttaqi told the participants that "regional cooperation could be focused on exploring region-centric and engagement pathways based on common regional benefits; creating a region-centric narrative for positive and constructive engagement with the Afghan government to tackle existing and poten-

tial threats in the region; exerting efforts directed at soft connectivity and hard connectivity that would lead to regional economic development benefiting peoples; unanimity in calling for the removal of unilateral sanctions on the region and on Afghanistan in particular; and respecting one another's choices of indigenous and traditional development models and governance methods."

According to Ahmad, Indian representative said that India actively takes part in international and regional initiatives regarding Afghanistan and supports every effort leading to the stability and the development of Afghanistan.

FULL REPORT  
www.indianexpress.com



## BRIEFLY

MADHYA PRADESH  
Man smothers  
SDM wife to  
death, arrested

**Bhopal:** A sub-divisional magistrate from Dindori district was allegedly smothered to death by her husband because she didn't name him her nominee in her service book, insurance, and bank account, police said. Manish Sharma (45) allegedly suffocated SDM Nisha Napit (51) with a pillow Sunday, sat near the body for 6 hours, and took it to a community health centre, but doctors there alerted the police. Sharma had also washed her blood-stained clothes and the pillow, police said. Sharma, who was arrested on Monday, is reportedly unemployed. **ENS**

## ODISHA

Govt withdraws  
decision on tribal  
land transfer

**Bhubaneswar:** The Odisha government on Monday decided to withdraw the "controversial" decision to amend a 67-year-old regulation to allow transfer of tribal land to non-tribals in scheduled areas that had triggered state-wide protests. "The decision created confusion among tribals, while the Opposition tried to provoke them with ill-intention..." said a senior officer. **ENS**

## UTTAR PRADESH

J&K student of  
AMU-run school  
found dead

**Meerut:** A Class 12 student of the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU)-run Sir Syed Hamid Senior Secondary School was found dead at his rented room in UP's Aligarh district Sunday. Police said the student, Adnan Altaf Maglu, 17, was from J&K's Baramulla district. "The doctors told us the student had died 6 to 7 hours before his body was brought to medical college. We have recovered a few medicines and an empty bottle from the room," said Deputy SP (3rd) Ashok Kumar Singh. **ENS**

## KARNATAKA

Four students  
killed in accident

**Bengaluru:** Four students were killed and 20 others injured after the school bus they were travelling in collided with a tractor in Bagalkot Sunday. The deceased have been identified as Govind Jambagi (13), Shweta Patil (13), Sagar Kadakol (17) and Basavaraj Kotagi (17). Two were Class 9 students and the others were studying PU at Vardhamana Mahavira School near Alkur. "It seems the driver was speeding and did not notice the tractor as there were no lights," a policeman said. **ENS**

Fingerprints to videos and pictures,  
NIA builds its own terror database

**MAHENDER SINGH  
MANRAL**  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

THE NATIONAL Investigation Agency (NIA) has for the first time collected details of all terrorists - including those from Indian Mujahideen and Lashkar-e-Taiba as well as Khalistani militant groups - and uploaded them in one common server at its headquarters in Delhi.

The National Terrorism Data Fusion & Analysis Centre (NTDFAC), which is modelled along the lines of the Global Terrorism Database of the US, is scheduled to be inaugurated by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday.

According to sources, details of the terrorists and their associates, including their case history, fingerprints, videos, pictures and social media profiles and information on the terror groups they belong to have been compiled.

A source said that at the NTDFAC, the NIA has the National Automated Fingerprint Identification System with over 92 lakh fingerprint records, Integrated Monitoring of Terrorism with data of more than 22,000 terrorist cases along with their case studies, National Integrated Database on Arrested Narco-Offenders with data of more than 5 lakh narco offenders, their source of funding, their involvement along with their cases

registered in India, their latest pictures and social media profiles.

The NTDFAC will also have a face recognition system, which will help them scan pictures of suspects from any CCTV footage.

Last year, Union Home Minister Shah had asked all state police forces and anti-terror agencies to adopt such a ruthless approach that no new terrorist group can be formed. "We need to not only combat terrorism but also dismantle its entire ecosystem... Terrorism has no boundaries and no state can face terrorism alone. We have to come together to root out this evil," he had said at a two-day anti-terror conference organised by the NIA. "The NTDFAC will not only

help the NIA officers but also help state police forces to identify details of their suspect from this server. Currently, they have uploaded videos and photographs of the terrorists and their associates, but in future there are plans to also put voice samples to help identify the terrorists," another source said.

So far, the Ministry of Home Affairs has banned 39 terror organisations and declared 56 people as designated terrorists under the UAPA.

The US's Global Terrorism Database contains information on more than 125,000 domestic and international terrorist attacks that occurred between 1970 and 2013.

Delhi court grants  
'main mastermind'  
bail in Vivo case

**NIRBHAY THAKUR,**  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

A DELHI COURT Monday granted bail to chartered accountant Nitin Garg, one of the four main accused in the 20,000-crore money laundering case linked to Vivo.

Calling Garg the "main mastermind", the ED opposed Garg's bail stating that he was the "first limb" in creating a mesh of 19 companies, which had a key role in the money laundering process.

Additional Sessions Judge Kiran Gupta, while granting the accused bail, ruled that Garg had no involvement in the activities and operations of 19 companies after their incorporation in 2014.

Advocates Aman Sharma, Samarth K Luthra and Ankit Bhatia representing Garg argued that he was not a beneficiary of alleged gains and was merely extending his professional services of incorporating 19 companies for which he was given Rs 19 lakh as fees.

Army on alert as less  
snowfall keeps J&K  
infiltration routes open

**AMRITA NAYAK DUTTA**  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

ARMY HAS continued to deploy its troops on a stronger counter-infiltration grid due to the lack of heavy snowfall in the higher reaches of the Kashmir Valley, officials familiar with the development told *The Indian Express*.

According to sources, due to the lack of heavy snow, all infiltration routes have continued to remain open during the winters and infiltration bids have continued to take place. Intelligence inputs have stated that a large number of militants have continued to remain active in the launchpads across the Line of Control (LoC) to exploit the extended infiltration period.

Usually, winters in the Valley are marked by heavy snowfall making movement difficult, thus reducing infiltration from across the LoC. The conventional threat also goes down as sustained operations over snow are difficult.

The tree cover also gets reduced thereby making it easier to spot the infiltrators using surveillance devices, even during the night.

The Army, as part of its winter strategy, usually pulls back some of the troops deployed

along the LoC fence and employs them in counter-terrorism operations in the hinterland. "However, this has not taken place this year and the counter-infiltration posture continues to be as dense as it is in the summers," an official said.

The winter months also see the militants moving out from their hideouts in the heights and moving closer to the population bases, increasing chances of intelligence-based operations and the possibilities of a contact.

"Additionally, the snow also adversely affects the logistics of the terrorists whose dependence on the local population increases. For any movement, they stick to the standard roads and tracks, thereby increasing chances of an encounter at any mobile check posts," the official said.

The lack of snow has kept trans-Pir Panjal range routes open, thus enhancing the need to keep troops deployed on the mountain range to deny access to the Valley from the Poonch-Rajouri belt.

"Due to the continuing deployment of troops at the higher reaches, the winter operations have been affected," a second official confirmed.

While the higher reaches of

J&K have seen little snowfall, the temperatures have continued to plummet making operations difficult. However, passes like the Zoji La are still open for movement.

A total of 71 militants were killed in J&K in 2023, including 52 in the Valley.

Earlier this month, Army Chief General Manoj Pande had said that the situation in the Valley is getting normal, even as India's adversaries have been active in abetting terrorism, encouraging militant groups to operate in the Rajouri-Poonch belt. The Valley has seen a greater number of militant ambushes, even as the areas south of the Pir Panjal range have seen more high impact terror incidents.

Official data of the past three years also reflects this. While seven soldiers were killed in Kashmir, 20 were killed in ambushes in the Rajouri-Poonch belt in the past three years.

According to officials, there is a significant reduction in the number of militants in the Valley post winters due to lack of infiltration and successful operations by security forces.

The security forces are, however, now preparing to tackle increased levels of terror activities during the summers.

MBBS ADMISSIONS  
IN WEST BENGALSC transfers to  
itself pleas for  
CBI probe after  
opposing orders  
by HC benches

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
LUCKNOW, JANUARY 29

THE SUPREME COURT Monday transferred to itself all proceedings pending before the Calcutta High Court after a single bench and a division bench of the High Court issued opposing orders in a petition alleging irregularities in medical admissions in the state-run medical colleges and hospitals in West Bengal.

A five-judge bench, presided by CJD Y Chandrachud, had stayed all proceedings in the matter on January 27 after Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay overruled an order of a division bench that had quashed his direction for a CBI probe. On January 25, a day after the division bench led by Justice Soumen Sen quashed the single bench order for a CBI probe, Justice Gangopadhyay directed the central agency to continue its probe.

On Monday, the SC bench said: "The proceedings in the writ petition (before the single bench)... under Article 226 of the Constitution and in the Letters Patent Appeal (before the division bench)... are transferred from the Calcutta High Court to this court. All parties shall complete their pleadings within three weeks."

Meanwhile, in written submissions to the SC, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta favoured shifting the proceedings outside Bengal. He said "in the present factual scenario, the factors mandating an immediate transfer outside West Bengal are eminently present".

On Monday, senior Advocate Maninder Singh, representing an SC/ST group trust, said 14 of 52 certificates for medical admissions were found to be fake by the scrutiny committee. Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the West Bengal government, said the state had filed a status report and pointed out 14 certificates have been cancelled and four FIRs filed. The CJ said they want the West Bengal Government to file an affidavit stating all facts. Sibal said in the case of a fake caste certificate, there is a scrutiny committee where principles of natural justice have to be followed. **FULL REPORT**  
[www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

## CITES NON-COMPLIANCE WITH CONVERSION LAW

Allahabad HC rejects  
3 interfaith couples'  
pleas seeking security

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
LUCKNOW, JANUARY 29

THE ALLAHABAD High Court dismissed petitions filed by three interfaith couples seeking directions for security, observing that the marriages were not solemnised according to the law since there was no compliance with the Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act.

In separate orders passed on January 10, 11 and 16, the bench of Justice Saral Srivastava said it, however, is open to the petitioners filing fresh writ petitions if they "solemnise marriage while following the due procedure of law". The three couples had filed separate pleas in the HC praying for protection of their lives while

seeking directions to the parties concerned "not to harass their peaceful matrimonial life".

The court stated it was a case of interfaith marriage as the petitioner number 1 follows Islam whereas the petitioner number 2 is a Hindu. The court further said, "In the instant case, there is no compliance with the Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act, 2021. Therefore, solemnisation of marriage between the petitioner number 1 and 2 is not in accordance with the law."

"The relief prayed for by the petitioners cannot be granted. Consequently, the writ petition is dismissed," it said. The UP Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Ordinance came into effect on November 28, 2020.

Explained Live today to discuss  
the future of India's space plans

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

A STRING of successes in the last one year, including moon-landing by Chandrayaan-3, has firmly established India among the leading space powers of the world. But these successes are supposed to be just the springboard for more ambitious space missions in the coming years, many of which Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has already set its sights on.

The future of India's space programme is likely to be very different from what it has been till now, with more and more missions aimed at scientific research and planetary exploration. This would include exploratory missions to the near planets like Mars or Venus, more missions to Moon, human spaceflight missions, and deployment of space-based observatories like the Aditya-L1 or AstroSat, or the more recent XPoSat. Some of these plans have been unveiled by ISRO, including the setting up of a permanent laboratory in space and sending follow-up



Dr Somak Raychaudhury



DATE: 30 January 2024

TIME: 6 pm

TO REGISTER:  
SMS - IEXP <space> PD  
<space> Your name and  
email ID to 56161.  
Confirmation SMS will be  
your registration

missions to the Moon, but much else remains a work in progress. Simultaneously, the private

space industry is expected to emerge as a significant player in launching satellites, gathering space-related data, and offering space-based solutions for different kinds of needs. Space sector is likely to undergo a major expansion in the coming years.

But how does enhanced space capabilities benefit the common people, and help the country's development? Is greater space ambition the right priority of lower middle income developing country? What are the commercial or strategic implications of exploring deep space? How would the students or the youth gain from increased space activities? To speak about issues like these, and more, *The Indian Express* has invited Dr Somak Raychaudhury, one of India's leading astrophysicists and vice-chancellor of Ashoka University. Raychaudhury, a former director of the Pune-based Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), will be the guest at Expert Explains session, an online event, on Tuesday. He will be in conversation with Deputy Editor, Amitabh Sinha.

## KRISHNA JANMABHOOMI TEMPLE CASE

SC extends stay on survey of  
Mathura Shahi Idgah complex

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

THE SUPREME COURT Monday extended the stay of execution of the Allahabad High Court's December 14, 2023, order allowing an application for inspection of the Shahi Idgah complex in Mathura by a court-appointed commissioner in connection with the Sri Krishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Idgah Masjid dispute.

Adjourning the hearing on the appeal filed by the mosque committee challenging the May 2023 order of the Allahabad High Court transferring to itself all pending petitions in the matter, a bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta said "interim orders, wherever granted, to continue". The court adjourned the hearing on joint request of parties and fixed it for hearing next on the first half of April 2024.

The SC had stayed the HC's December 14 order on January 16.

It said the application filed before the High Court seeking the appointment of a commissioner was "vague" and added "we have reservations about the application... You cannot make an omnibus application like this. You have to be very clear about what you want the local commissioner to do".

The mosque committee had approached the SC saying that its petitions challenging the May 2023 HC order were pending before the top court and the HC should not have given any in-



Court fixed the hearing next in April 2024. File

terim relief to the other side in the meantime.

In May last year, the Allahabad High Court had transferred to itself all the suits on the Sri Krishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Idgah Masjid dispute.

At least a dozen cases have been filed in courts in Mathura by different petitioners. A common thread in all the petitions is a prayer for the removal of the mosque from the 13.37-acre complex, which it shares with the Katra Keshav Dev temple.

The mosque side had brought the High Court order to the notice of the Supreme Court bench headed by Justice Khanna on December 15, 2023, a day after it was passed, through an oral mention.

But the Supreme Court declined to stay the High Court order that day with Justice Khanna saying "at this stage we will not stay anything. Let him continue. If any adverse order is passed, you can come". The bench had also pointed out then that the written order of the High Court was not before it.

Gyanvapi case:  
Hindu side urges  
SC to vacate  
stay on survey

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

HINDU PETITIONERS in the Kashi Viswanath-Gyanvapi mosque dispute have moved the Supreme Court seeking vacation of stay imposed by it on the May 12, 2023 order of the Allahabad HC asking the ASI to conduct a scientific investigation of the object recovered from the water tank in the mosque.

They also urged the SC to direct the ASI to survey the sealed parts of the complex.

While the Hindus claimed that the object, recovered on May 16, 2022, during a survey of the complex by an advocate-commissioner pursuant to orders of a civil judge - is Shivaling, the Muslim side contends it is a fountain. Subsequently the area was sealed as per orders of the Civil Judge and the SC, too, directed it shall continue to remain sealed.

The applicants said post recovery of the "Shivalingam", they had approached the Varanasi District Judge seeking a direction to ASI to conduct scientific survey "so that facts regarding the object may be proved". However, the District Judge rejected the request.

## FOCUS ON MAHARASHTRA, KARNATAKA, BENGAL TO ENSURE NDA MEETS 400-SEAT TARGET IN LOK SABHA POLLS

## Bihar 'settled', BJP zeroes in on other key swing states

**LIZ MATHEW**  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

AS BJP leaders from across India prepare to gather next month to receive the final blueprint for the party's Lok Sabha election strategy, the party is confident that the nation's mood is in its favour.

PM Narendra Modi has solidified his power position by convincing the electorate he is the only champion of development and Hindutva - especially after the Ram Temple consecration - and is the reason for India's heightened position in the global order. Modi has channelled that sentiment into strengthening his bond with the electorate.

But the BJP's top leaders remember the lessons from the party's defeat in 2004 - it lost despite few expecting it to - to not take the overall atmosphere for

granted. Many in the party often cite party's reliance on the goodwill factor and not going deep into the state combinations as the reasons for the failure of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led government to return to power in 2004 despite the "positive atmosphere in favour of the BJP and NDA".

A BJP leader said, "The current leadership does not want to repeat that mistake and does not want to take any chance."

While the developments in Patna last week hinted at the BJP's approach to key states, party leaders said politics in other swing states such as Maharashtra and Karnataka could witness "stunning instances". They said electoral outcomes in Bihar, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and West Bengal were crucial and the leadership was focussing on these

states to ensure NDA gets as close to 400 seats as possible. In 2019, all these states contributed 123 seats to the alliance's tally.

When the JD(U) walked out of the alliance in August 2022, the NDA lost 17 MPs. With ground surveys indicating a huge loss for the BJP - hinting that the party could end up winning only 24, as well as the JD(U) - its assessment is its tally would not have gone beyond five to six while with the Opposition - it made sense for the two parties to get back together. For the BJP, it was of paramount importance to transform Bihar, a key Hindi heartland state, from a swing state to a stable one and it struck at the opportune moment.

BJP leaders argued more than the surveys, done before the Ram Temple consecration, it was the

party's political future in the state that helped Modi decide in favour of the BJP and JD(U) getting back together. BJP sources said Modi took the initiative and spoke to Nitish Kumar, inviting him back to NDA. The BJP leadership assessed that the JD(U) with its around 15% vote base in Bihar could disintegrate post-Nitish and if the BJP did not keep the party close, the RJD could take over at least a large portion of its support base once Kumar's leadership ends. "This is a long-term plan while breaking of the INDIA bloc could be the immediate outcome..." said a senior BJP leader in Bihar.

BJP leaders said the end of the INDIA bloc would percolate into a political situation in other states too, including UP, where the party is now eyeing at least 10-15 seats to its current tally of 62 (the NDA's current position there is 66 in the LS, while the BSP has 10 MPs, the

SP three, and the Congress one).

The BJP is also into hectic parleys in Karnataka, where the party won 25 of 28 seats in 2019 to consolidate its position that has faced disintegration with the spectacular Congress win in last year's Assembly polls. While almost a dozen leaders walked out of the BJP, the party already got the most prominent of them, Jagdish Shekhar, back into its fold last week.

Although the BJP has earned the upper hand in optics in Maharashtra by bringing in Eknath Shinde and breaking the Shiv Sena, and Ajit Pawar of the NCP, there is "hunger" for more. "The continuing disintegration of Congress could throw more opportunities for the BJP in several states and Maharashtra is one of them..." said a BJP leader, adding many prominent faces could join the party in coming days. **FULL REPORT**  
[www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)



Police block protesters in Karnataka's Mandya, Monday. PTI

On Monday, participating in a protest in front of Mandya DC's office, JD(S) leader HD Kumaraswamy said, "Your (Congress) leaders have created this situation", and accused the district officials of instigating the controversy. BJP leader C T Ravi demanded the state government publicly apologise and allow the

flag to be hoisted. CM Siddaramaiah in Tumakuru accused the BJP of resorting to such tactics keeping polls in mind. "If they (the trust) acted as per permission, why would the district administration interfere? The trust had said they would hoist either the national or state flag," he said.



## The Indian EXPRESS

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## INTERIM TAKEAWAYS

Interim budget will provide indications of government's assessment of the economy, and the contours of its fiscal position

**I**N A FEW days from now, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present the interim Union budget for 2024-25. While the final budget will only come once a new government is in place after the national elections, this budget will provide an indication of the government's assessment of India's economy, and the contours of its fiscal position. It will be read closely for what it says on several questions.

First, at what pace does the government expect the economy to grow in the coming financial year? The last budget assumed that the economy would grow at 10.5 per cent (in nominal terms) during 2023-24. However, as per the first advances estimates, growth is expected to be slower at 8.9 per cent. Some indications of the government's thinking can be found in a finance ministry report titled "The Indian Economy: A Review", released on Monday. According to the report, the economy is likely to grow at 7 per cent in the coming year (in real terms), with growth being driven by healthy domestic demand and supply side measures. It restates the expectation of India becoming the third largest economy in the world with a GDP of \$5 trillion in the next three years, and says that it can aspire to become a \$7 trillion economy by 2030. Second, will the government stick to the path of fiscal consolidation? The Centre has managed to bring down its fiscal deficit from 9.2 per cent of GDP in 2020-21 to 6.4 per cent in 2022-23, and considering the trends in revenues and spending so far, most analysts expect it to meet the deficit target of 5.9 per cent this year. In her budget speech of 2021-22, the finance minister had stated her intention of bringing down the deficit to below 4.5 per cent by 2025-26. Staying with this path of consolidation implies a steep reduction in the deficit of 1.4 percentage points over the next two years. Third, over the past few years, the government has ramped up its capital spending, expecting that it would help crowd-in private sector investments. Its capex has risen from Rs 5.9 lakh crore in 2021-22 to Rs 10 lakh crore in 2023-24 (BE). As per the finance ministry report, overall public sector capex has risen from Rs 5.6 lakh crore in 2014-15 to Rs 18.6 lakh crore in 2023-24 — an increase of 3.3 times. The question is whether, or not, public capex will see such a sustained momentum in the coming year.

Considering that national elections are just a few months away, there are expectations in certain quarters of a greater focus on specific constituencies, such as youth, farmers, and women. While political compulsions may well hold sway now, in due course of time the focus must be on pushing through reforms, including in areas such as skilling, learning outcomes and health, as outlined in the finance ministry report, to put the economy on a high growth trajectory that can be sustained.

## NO LOOKING AWAY

ICJ's interim judgment on Israel's actions in Gaza comes with moral heft, urges international community to do the right thing

**T**HE INTERIM JUDGMENT by the UN's International Court of Justice (ICJ) on Israel's actions in Gaza signals a moral victory for Palestine and those demanding an end to Israel's retaliatory violence after Hamas's October 7 attack.

Even though the Court stopped short of calling for a ceasefire in embattled Gaza, its interim ruling, endorsed by a majority of its judges, is a strong censure of Israel in the genocide case brought by South Africa. The ICJ stated that "at least some of the acts and omissions alleged by South Africa to have been committed by Israel in Gaza appear to be capable of falling within the provisions of the [Genocide] Convention", and asked Israel to refrain from, and act against, incitement to genocide and acts of destruction, and ensure distribution of humanitarian aid in Gaza. The ruling also ordered the immediate repatriation of hostages by Hamas. Since the beginning of the Israeli offensive in October, the Palestinian enclave has witnessed over 25,000 deaths, a majority of them women and children. The war has also displaced nearly 85 per cent of Gaza's population.

While Israel's compliance with the interim ruling is not mandatory — the Court's order is legally binding but the ICJ has no enforcement mechanism — it signals an important moment. Over the course of the last three-and-a-half months of war, allies such as the US and the UK have repeatedly upheld Israel's right to self-defence over accountability for its violation of humanitarian laws. Soon after October 7, President Joe Biden had participated in an Israeli war cabinet discussion on Israel's retaliation strategy. The UK's foreign secretary had recently dismissed South Africa's charge of genocide at the ICJ as unhelpful. Both the US and the UK, alongside others, have stopped their funding for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency in Palestine, amid Israel's charges of complicity against 12 of its staff members in Hamas's attack on Israel. Even though the final verdict may take years to come, the interim judgment creates a moral pressure on these nations, making it harder for them to look away.

The ICJ's interim verdict came on the eve of International Holocaust Remembrance Day. In part, the Genocide Convention had come up after World War II as a reaction and possible deterrent to catastrophes such as the Holocaust. It imagined a recalibration of the international community that would uphold human rights and push one another to do the right thing. The ICJ's ruling might lack enforcement authority but it comes with that moral heft.

## THE NEW CHAMPIONS

Jannik Sinner's first Grand Slam title speaks of a sport going through a transitional moment

**F**OLLOWING JANNIK SINNER'S 3-6, 3-6, 6-4, 6-4 comeback win over Daniil Medvedev to win a maiden Grand Slam title at the Australian Open on Sunday, men's tennis players born in the 2000s have now won more majors (three) than those born in the 1990s (two). Sinner, the unassuming 22-year-old World No 4 from Italy, joins 20-year-old Spaniard Carlos Alcaraz — who won two majors over the past year — as members of the generation that has captured tennis fans' imagination and leapfrogged the generation of players above it.

The sport is unquestionably going through a transitional moment. The fading of the Federer-Nadal duopoly — the Spaniard will still be planning one last big push for the French Open where he is a 13-time champion this year — has allowed Novak Djokovic to establish himself as the best player in the world. But now at 36, the Serb is facing physical and technical issues of his own, and while the generation below him, including Sunday's finalist Medvedev, who became the first player in history to fail to win a major final from a two-set lead twice, has failed to take advantage of his lapses, Gen Z are facing no such issue. Sinner defeated Djokovic in the semifinal in Melbourne this week, while Alcaraz defeated him in a memorable Wimbledon final last year. Both have well-rounded attacking games, and both showed the mental resilience to deal with the pressure of playing five sets in a Grand Slam final.

Djokovic remains the leader of this pack. He lost his first Wimbledon match since 2017 against Alcaraz in the final last year, and bounced back to end his year on a record high. As 10-time champion of Melbourne Park, unbeaten there since 2018 until Sinner took him down this year, expect him to return with a similar fury. Also expect the fiery Spaniard and the laid-back Italian to resist.



GIRISH KUBER

**I**N JUNE 2022, when it engineered a split in its longstanding partner, the Shiv Sena, the BJP wouldn't have imagined, even in its wildest dreams, that the man it entrusted with the responsibility of Maharashtra's chief ministership would plan to build his vote bank and extend his use-by-date. For the BJP, Eknath Sambhaji Shinde, when he was handed over the reins of the prized state of Maharashtra, was someone who could be fed its political agenda. But looks are deceptive, especially in politics.

Around two-and-a-half years later, Shinde has not only succeeded in rallying the politically strong Marathas behind him but also challenged the BJP's traditional OBC base. Last week, he announced the inclusion of Marathas in the OBC category.

In June 2022, when the BJP split Shinde and others from the Shiv Sena, the plan was pretty simple: Dethrone Uddhav Thackeray who, according to the party, was a traitor who deprived the BJP of Maharashtra by joining hands with Sharad Pawar-led NCP and Congress, after the 2019 assembly elections. The BJP eyed Shinde for two reasons: One, he was Uddhav's right-hand man and knew the Sena's working inside out. Always an organisation man, Shinde till then had been a low-profile leader and was not seen as being ambitious.

The second reason was Shinde's strong Maratha credentials. Though his "area of operations" has always been Mumbai's suburb of Thane, Shinde hails from Satara in the foot-hills of the popular tourist destination, Mahabaleshwar, in western Maharashtra that has produced several Maratha leaders. Like every other strong Maratha leader, Shinde too likes to portray himself as a son of a poor farmer — and poor he was — never mind the current five-star status of his farmland that produces strawberries and houses a helipad. For the BJP, Shinde had the right pedigree and profile the saffron party lacked.

The Maharashtra BJP stands on two pillars — OBCs and upper castes (read Brahmins). The politically-dominant

By approving OBC reservation for Marathas, Eknath Shinde has upset BJP's calculations

Marathas were historically aligned with Congress and later NCP. The warrior community that boasts of serving Chhatrapati Shivaji has historically stayed away from the Jana Sangh, and later the BJP. To offset the Congress's Maratha-Muslim-minority coalition, the BJP concentrated on OBCs, who are around 33 per cent of the state's population, roughly the same as Marathas. While this resulted in the BJP making major inroads among OBCs, it also exposed its lack of a Maratha face.

In comes Eknath Shinde, a Maratha from the Shiv Sena who was no stranger to the saffron camp and was not averse to wearing saffron robes. A near-perfect candidate to lead the Shiv Sena-BJP combine. A fast learner and astute politician, Shinde was not to be the chief minister BJP wanted. Initially perceived as a mere pawn in the BJP's hands, Shinde soon realised the importance of having his own vote base.

It is far from coincidence that around the same time, Manoj Jarange, an obscure activist from far away Jalana in Marathwada, launched an agitation demanding reservations for Marathas. Interestingly, this wasn't his first fast for the demand. Till then confined to the district, Jarange's stature rose manifold when in September last year, the police, for reasons unknown till now, lathicharged his supporters and bundled their leader to the hospital.

It was intriguing then — less so now — that it wasn't the home ministry led by Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis that ordered the police to act against Jarange. The activist didn't miss the opportunity to blame Fadnis, a Brahmin, for the police action. It is hardly a surprise that Jarange and his fellow Maratha leaders haven't uttered a word against CM Shinde and have been blaming only his deputy. With Shinde in the saddle, it was a perfect opportunity for the till-then novice activist to spread his wings and push for the popular demand for Maratha reservation.

While this is not the first time that

Marathas have sought reservation, Jarange stood out in his brazenness to seek it under the OBC quota. Marathas, with 33 per cent of the population, are among the most influential and politically significant communities in Maharashtra. As many as 11 of the state's 16 chief ministers, including Shinde, are from the community. About half of the current 29-member-strong cabinet are Marathas. Seeking reservations for Marathas under the OBC category disturbs the political equilibrium and poses a challenge to the BJP. Jarange is right to an extent in the claim that Marathas are not a homogenous community state-wide but rather, a loose cluster of communities scattered across the state and involved, historically, mainly in agrarian activities. With dwindling agricultural incomes and the division of farmland with growing families, Marathas, like other agrarian communities, are in distress. It's no wonder that the demand for reservation resonated with the community, which rallied behind Jarange. For Shinde, the agitation presented an opportunity and he is not one to let it slip.

However, Shinde's promise to give Marathas a share of the OBC reservation pie has angered the latter and the BJP leadership. It is certainly easier to make such a commitment than to implement it. Shinde's promise is bound to come up against legal hurdles. There is also the danger of it being scuttled by aggressive OBC protests, who are now planning a state-wide agitation.

In an era when everyone is more focused on managing the battle at hand than thinking of winning a long-term war, Eknath Shinde is unlikely to be very different. And he cannot be faulted for his gambit when the influence of the original Maratha strongman, Sharad Pawar, is being challenged. Shinde dreams of stepping into Pawar's shoes and in the bargain, make himself indispensable to the BJP.

The writer is editor, LokSatta



AAKSHI MAGAZINE

**FIGHTER** IS BOLLYWOOD'S Republic-Day release on a Republic Day that did not feel like one. On the drive to Central Delhi where I saw the Siddharth Anand-directed film on January 26, the tricolour was less visible than the rows and rows of saffron flags. The latter were everywhere, announcing their presence aggressively. Walking around Connaught Place, I looked for the Indian flag and barely found it. For those of us brought up on a healthy dose of scepticism towards overt displays of national symbols, this is perhaps the first time in our adult lives that spotting the Indian flag felt like an assurance.

Eventually, I found a flag — in the film. An extended sequence with a looming tricolour, meant to invite applause and awe. In itself, the moment appeared surprisingly old-fashioned and out-of-touch with the immediate world outside the theatre. Soon, though, conventional jingoism followed. Fictionalising the events around the 2019 Balakot strike by the Indian Air Force, Fighter is set among a bunch of IAF pilots that include the stylish Shamsher Pathania "Patty" (Hrithik Roshan) and Minal Rathore "Minnie" (Deepika Padukone) among others. In contrast, the Pakistani characters look like stereotypes that came to life. Their dialogues, motivation and styling are as unimaginative as they are stale.

## THE MOVIE WE DESERVE

'Fighter' is another war film that builds a case for violence, revenge, aggression

The hyper-masculine action film, with its obsession with fathers and enemies and often traitors, even when professing better politics like Jawan or Anand's previous Pathaan, is an inherently limited genre. It is also a limiting genre colonising our ideas of what an entertaining film looks and feels like. Fighter, which is also a war film, appears more calculative. There is an old-style 'good' Indian Muslim character whose sacrifice seems to be necessary to establish his loyalty. Would he otherwise always be under suspicion?

Not surprisingly perhaps, the tricolour scene is a set-up for a brutal massacre of CRPF jawans that follows, inspired by the 2019 Pulwama attack. That is its use in the film. As the film revealed the scale of the number of deaths, the people sitting behind me in the theatre were very vocal in their expressions of shock. The narrative was building a case for the aggression that is required to put Pakistan "in its place" — show them who the *baap* (father) is, goes one dialogue — and it seemed to be working. The logic is that the memory of the massacre would ensure that no remorse is felt. That we will "enjoy" the brutal bombing of the enemy that is to follow even more. Truly, we get the films we deserve.

The hyper-masculine action film, with its obsession with fathers and enemies and often traitors, even when professing better politics like *Jawan* or Anand's previous *Pathaan*, is an inherently limited genre. It is also a limiting genre colonising our ideas of what an entertaining film looks and feels like. *Fighter*, which is also a war film, appears more calculative. There is an old-style "good" Indian Muslim character whose sacrifice seems to be necessary to establish his loyalty. Would he otherwise always be under suspicion? (the running couplet about the flag being the most beautiful *kafan*/shroud is strategically placed). There

is a sub-plot of gender disparity to remind us that casting Deepika Padukone as a fighter plane pilot is a statement of progressive politics. There are some dialogues about making a distinction between the Pakistani state and its people. None of this can hide the film's hollowness as it builds a case for violence, revenge and aggression. So what if it tries to do it stylishly?

There is one moment though which stood out. The arrogant Patty struggles with reconciling personal ambition with his team's interests. He is now demoted to the role of a trainer in a local Air Force academy. On the first day, he saves the life of a student and guides her to safety. This is the opposite of what he has been doing till then. It is a moment when he is not at the centre of the action but his presence is meaningful. There is a hint of a different kind of purpose and fulfilment. This is a brief, muted, inward-looking moment, but soon the film takes over with its dangerous claims about winning the war being more important than playing by the rules. Earlier, it claimed that revenge and justice are the same thing. Perhaps, the film forgot that the world does not need this lesson. It has enough of it already.

The writer is a film scholar and critic based in Delhi

## JANUARY 30, 1984, FORTY YEARS AGO

### AKALI DAL'S WARNING

AKALI DAL PRESIDENT Harchand Singh Longowal has warned the Centre that the consequences of not accepting the party's demands, including an amendment to Article 25 of the Constitution to "recognise the separate identity of the Sikhs", could be serious. He said if the demands were not met by February 27, the government would be responsible for the consequences.

### FARMERS COURT ARREST

MORE THAN 2,000 farmers courted arrest as the "rail and rasta roko" agitation of the Karnataka Farmers Association entered the

fourth day, taking the total number of arrests since the agitation began on Republic Day to over 21,000. Rail and road traffic between Mysore and Bangalore continued to be paralysed. The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation also suspended its services on the route. Traffic in other parts of the state was near normal.

### INDO-PAK CLASHES

AT LEAST FIVE Pakistanis are known to have been killed in a series of border clashes with Indian security forces in the Mendhar area of Poonch district during recent days according to an official source. There was no casualty on the Indian side. He was obviously denying un-

official reports that two Indian personnel were killed in the incidents. During the past three weeks, Mendhar witnessed intermittent exchange of fire.

### BANGLA FRONT

A NEW NATIONAL alliance of 11 political parties, led by Bangladesh's oldest politician, 80-year-old former chief minister Ataur Rahman Khan, called for an immediate withdrawal of martial law and the lifting of restrictions on open political activities. The group, named National Front, comprises political parties and groups that came together for a dialogue with the military rulers to work out national consensus on the future form of government.



# THE IDEAS PAGE

## A promise fulfilled

Consecration of Ram temple is end of a long journey for the god and his devotees. It's an inspiration to strive for the well-being of all



SRI M

PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA Modi has fulfilled his commitment to reinstate Shri Ram to his rightful place at the sanctum sanctorum of the temple in Ayodhya. Ram Lalla's *pran pratistha* on January 22 was a historic moment. As Lord Ram ascended his throne, Prime Minister Modi broke his 11-day *vrat anushtan* (fast) by receiving *charanamrit* from Swami Govind Giri Devji, the treasurer of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Tirtha Kshetra. Swami Giri Govind Devji has acknowledged that he advised PM Modi to keep a fast for three days. But PM Modi observed the longer fast.

In the run-up to the consecration, the streets of Ayodhya wore a festive look. The residents of the city were celebrating Diwali — after all, Shri Ram was back at his *janmabhoomi*. Devotees from around the world had waited for 500 years for this day, the day when their god returns to his grand *raj mahal* from a tent. The consecration thus marked the end of a journey for both the god and his devotees.

The attention to detail at the site, especially the artistic depiction of Lord Ram as a five-year-old standing on a lotus, resonated deeply with observers. Many hailed the statue as a symbol of cultural and religious pride and appreciated the artistic representation of the revered deity. Reverence for Shri Ram was writ all over Ayodhya.

Righteousness, duty, and devotion are the hallmarks of the Sanatani worldview. In the calendar of every Sanatani, the day when PM Modi fulfilled his promise by establishing the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya is sure to have a prominent place. The Supreme Court's 2019 verdict validated the Hindu claim, leading to the temple's construction. PM Modi's leadership ensured meticulous planning and execution. The prime minister has constantly emphasised inclusivity and talked of uniting India's diverse population. The consecration reflects a significant blend of cultural, religious, and spiritual aspects of the country. Under PM Modi's leadership, Sanatan, the eternal way, also echoes the truths that connect us to our spiritual roots.

In Hindu philosophy, Ram Rajya means an ideal and just rule. PM Modi brought this idea to reality. He has established Ram Rajya by taking everyone into consideration — just like Prabhushri Ram. Not just in India; Ram Rajya has acquired worldwide resonance thanks to PM Modi. The youth of the country and those residing outside it idolise PM Modi for his righteous actions.

On the occasion of the *pran pratistha*, PM Modi said, "Ram Bharat ki aastha hai, Ram Bharat ka aadhar hai, Ram Bharat ka vichar hai, Ram Bharat ka vidhan hai, Ram Bharat ki chetna hai, Ram Bharat ka chintan hai, Ram pratistha hai aur pratap hai Bharat ke" (Ram is the faith of Bharat, Ram is the basis of Bharat, Ram is the thought of Bharat, Ram is the law of Bharat, Ram is the consciousness of Bharat, Ram is the contemplation of Bharat, Ram is the practice and glory of Bharat.) Prime Minister Modi has followed the path of Shri Ram to guide citizens. He connects with all sections of society and



C R Sasikumar

works for the welfare of the remotest part of the country.

In Ram Rajya, there is great emphasis on the ethical and moral aspects of governance. It is believed that the ruler is guided by virtues like righteousness (*dharma*), justice, compassion, and fairness. Harmony, prosperity, and well-being of all citizens are fundamental to such a rule. PM Modi governs in this vein. He has constantly underlined harmony, prosperity and the well-being of all as the fundamental credo of his government. Antyodaya, the well-being of the last person in the line, is a key part of the Modi government's development paradigm. PM Modi has made sure to take care of all the sections of society like Lord Ram — his slogan, *Sabka Saath Sabka Vishwas*, is testimony to this principle.

One hallmark of Ram Rajya is an emphasis on social justice. Unlike systems that perpetuate inequality, this vision of governance seeks to bridge the gap between the privileged and the underprivileged. It strives to create a society where opportunities are not exclusive to a select few but are accessible

In Ram Rajya, there is great emphasis on the ethical and moral aspects of governance. It is believed that the ruler is guided by virtues like righteousness (*dharma*), justice, compassion, and fairness. Harmony, prosperity, and well-being of all citizens are fundamental to such a rule. PM Modi governs in this vein.

to every citizen. This commitment to inclusivity resonates with the essence of democracy, where the voice of the weakest is as significant as that of the strongest. Moreover, Ram Rajya recognises the interconnectedness of various segments of society. It understands that a nation's true strength lies in the well-being of all its citizens. By prioritising the needs of the weakest, it ensures that the entire social fabric is robust and resilient. This approach stands in stark contrast to ideologies that fragment society, create fissures and weaken the nation's collective strength.

The construction of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya is an enduring symbol of a peace-loving community's unwavering commitment to resolving a longstanding religious issue through democratic and constitutional means. Dialogue and reconciliation were the abiding principles that went into the making of the Ram mandir. The consecration on January 22 is a vindication of the democratic process.

The writer is a spiritual guru and thinker

## WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Macron's two-term presidency, which once aspired to take France 'beyond left and right', is instead culminating in a climactic struggle to keep Le Pen's extreme nationalism at bay. A Le Pen victory in June would be a setback." — THE GUARDIAN

## The always CM

BJP and RJD, two poles in Bihar, have tried to make Nitish Kumar irrelevant. But no broad social coalition can be imagined without him



RAHUL VERMA

THAT THE BIHAR Chief Minister Nitish Kumar is a perennial political survivor is a foregone conclusion. With his multiple flip-flops in the past decade, he has become a laughing stock in some circles. There are two ways of analysing Kumar's political adventures. In one version, Kumar is "Palturam" and is not to be taken seriously. He is no longer the "Sushasan Babu" and his schizophrenic behaviour is both a cause and consequence of fast-depleting political capital. In the second, he is a shrewd political operator who is trying to maximise gains against the emerging realities of Bihar and national politics.

The BJP precipitated a crisis for Kumar via Chirag Paswan in the run-up to the 2020 assembly elections. The Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) contested only the seats in which the Janata Dal (United) was a contender. However, for a leader diminished in electoral strength and personal popularity, Kumar has, since then, managed to achieve a fair bit. He extracted sweet revenge by splitting the LJP, and patched up with former colleagues Upendra Kushwaha and Jitan Ram Manjhi. He then joined hands with the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) in 2022 when there were rumours of his one-time lieutenant RCP Singh hobnobbing with the BJP. He hoped for a larger national role, rallied to bring multiple Opposition parties together to form a bloc against the BJP, and managed to conduct the caste survey in the state despite several roadblocks.

No matter which version you choose, one must remember that it is not easy to remain relevant in face of diminishing electoral strength. It is his political position that allows him to keep jumping the fence every few years with such ease. Since 2013, both the BJP and the RJD have tried to make Kumar irrelevant in Bihar politics, yet no electoral majority in the state could have been imagined without him in the past three decades.

What prompted Kumar's U-turn this time? It seems that he was miffed at being pushed to the margins in both national and state politics. Or, given that the BJP is now the front-runner in the Lok Sabha elections, he felt that there no is longer any point in staying with the Opposition alliance. The recent removal of JD(U) president Lalan Singh (rumoured to be getting close to the RJD leadership) signalled the impending changes in state politics.

While it is difficult to pinpoint the reasons, it is important to understand the implications of this move on Bihar and national politics in the run-up to the 2024 elections.

First, the impact largely depends on the negotiations under which Kumar has decided to shift allegiance. The deal will very much depend on how willing both parties are to honour the commitments, which in

power politics is shaped by their assessment of the emerging situation, and each other's strength. As of now, it is clear that the BJP and the RJD are two poles in Bihar politics — no broad social coalition can be imagined without Kumar.

Second, it is true that any challenge to the BJP's ability to form the next national government depends on the party's performance in Uttar Pradesh (and in states where it is in direct contest with the Congress). If the BJP's performance in north and west India remains as it was in 2014 and 2019, then the party would be in striking distance of power. It doesn't matter much what happens in the remaining states then. In that sense, Bihar becomes important, where the chances of the BJP winning more seats than 2019 would have been difficult. It could have actually lost a few seats. With JD(U) joining the NDA, the chances of the BJP increasing its tally in the state have increased.

Third, as the results from 2019 and 2009 confirm, the JD(U), too, has benefitted in Lok Sabha elections by aligning with the BJP. It did very poorly in 2014 when the party contested alone. There is no point speculating about the next assembly elections in Bihar at this point as it is almost 18 months away. But Kumar possibly sensed the odds increasing in favour of the BJP post the assembly election results in December 2023 — even women voters are more likely to vote for the BJP than ever before. After all, he was one of the first movers to nurture this constituency through various policies since 2005. Survey data indicates that Kumar carries the women vote with him only when he contests with the BJP, and not with the RJD. Women voted more for the BJP-JD(U) combine in 2019 and 2020, but not in 2015 when JD(U) contested with the RJD.

Fourth, Kumar's decision to join forces with the BJP further dents the Opposition's hope of using the demand for a nationwide caste census as an issue. Though the chances of this platform yielding electoral benefits to the Congress were slim, it had not stopped the party from campaigning on this issue in the recent round of assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chattisgarh. Furthermore, the data from the Bihar Caste Survey has shown that the EBCs are numerically large and that the Yadavs seem to have benefitted the most from government programmes such as the OBC reservation. In that sense, the survey has given Kumar a better bargaining position. The Modi government's decision to confer the Bharat Ratna to Karpoori Thakur should be seen as part of this emerging politics in which Kumar wants to be the sole claimant of Karpoori's legacy.

Finally, Kumar's politics of the last decade holds an important lesson. Parties that are completely dependent on a single face and do not have a large social base or organisational resources are likely to get squeezed as politics become polarised. The BSP in Uttar Pradesh, and JD(S) in Karnataka are examples of this emerging phenomenon. This politics, perhaps in slow motion, is playing out in Maharashtra, too. As for now, Nitish Kumar remains the median of Bihar politics. He is as much needed by the BJP and the RJD as he needs them to remain in power.

The writer is fellow, Centre for Policy Research (CPR), New Delhi. Views are personal

## To love Ram

For those who do, as Gandhi did, there can be no bitterness, no 'other'



RAJNI BAKSHI

"Hari se badaa hari ka naam, ant mein nikla yeh parinaam." ("The name, the essence, of the Lord is greater than the Lord — that is what we discover in the end.")

IT WAS IN the mid-1960s that my father learnt this *bhajan* from a group of Ramayan devotees in Bangalore. At the age of eight, I did not understand the devotees' recitation of Ramcharitmanas. But the joy, fervour and lyrical beauty seeped in.

The *bhajan* goes on to say that we are lovingly remembering Ram even though we have never seen him. Eventually, one day, bound and pulled by our love, Ram will come. Even as a child, I felt that this was a call for Ram to fill our hearts. The next stanza recalls that Ram could not cross the ocean without a bridge but Hanuman leapt across the same ocean just by the power of *Ram naam*.

To cultivate, be blessed with, such faith is a timeless striving. The difficulty lies in knowing if and how this striving can make us more creative in grappling with the turmoils and conflicts of our time.

My father, Sant Dass, seemed to find his answer by instinct. He grew up in Lahore and lived through the trauma of Partition with not a trace of bitterness. In 1948, when Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi's bullet-riddled body was being carried to the cremation site, my father was in the crowd of two million mourners who lined the streets of

Delhi. He carried the searing grief of Partition and of Gandhi's murder with dignity and a resolve to stand against the darkness that inflicts such pain.

Later, while working as an officer in the Reserve Bank of India, he brought up three children to feel as much joy at a temple or gurudwara as in a mosque or church. Along with my mother, he went on all the major pilgrimages in India — from Kedarnath to Rameshwaram — and visited the Vatican with the same reverence.

In the worldly domain, Sant Dass was known as an international expert in agricultural credit systems and in 1982 became the first managing director of the National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). But to his family and friends, he was the anchor person for the much loved "Hari se badaa hari ka naam," which he sang in his mellifluous voice. No wedding or *puja* in the family was complete without his singing this *bhajan*.

Towards the end of his life, when he was afflicted by Alzheimer's, he remembered this *bhajan* even after he was unable to recognise any family member. Most of the attendants who helped care for him also began humming the *bhajan*.

The *bhajan*'s beauty lies in the simplicity with which it reiterates a truth that reverberates through the ages. Our faith in goodness — in the higher human faculties of

love, compassion, resilience — is more powerful, truer, than any material manifestations of divinity. "Hari se badaa, hari ka naam" is like a compass unerringly focusing our attention on the essence of divinity.

This is why *Ram naam* was the life-breath of Mahatma Gandhi. On the world stage, Gandhi is probably the best-known example of how this frame of mind can empower you to creatively grapple with the energies of darkness. Of course, Gandhi's story also painfully illustrates the grief that can accost a person on this path. Towards the end of his life, Gandhi was getting a deluge of hate mail from those who accused him of being anti-Hindu, who either rejected or failed to understand what *Ram naam* meant to him. Yet, Gandhi remained steadfast, he refused to hate the hater.

This energy, this latent possibility of the light within all of us, is what "hari se badaa" reaffirms. One of the most moving manifestations of this has been how one of my nephews has slightly, and significantly, altered the final stanza. The *bhajan*, as learnt by my father, concluded by saying that those who don't carry *ram naam* in their hearts will drown, while even stones with Ram written on them will float. His grandnephew has tweaked that to say "doob na jayen vo dilwale jin mein nahin hai naam" / "Let it not be that those who lack Ram's name drown." This slight alteration infuses hope that no soul is

fully or irretrievably lost. It expresses concern, rather than condemnation, for those who can't feel the essence.

This may all seem rather esoteric. By contrast, disputes over structures and locations of worship can seem more "real". The fiery storms they unleash do destroy lives as minds and hearts are consumed by hatred. But the forces of darkness are actually not any one group or identity. Darkness is a frame of mind which traps us into feeling that hatred and cynicism can be more effective than goodness.

Yet it is "hari se badaa hari ka naam" that endures. Towards the conclusion of Ramcharitmanas, in verse 112 of Uttarakand, Goswami Tulsidas explains why this is so. To love Ram is to be without desire, pride and anger. One who thus loves Ram sees the whole of creation as Ram. Since there is no "other", how can there be enmity?

Then and now, the question is not how many people are fully able to live this truth. "Hari se badaa hari ka naam" inspires because it reminds us of truths that are above and beyond current disputes and turmoils. Who knows how this might energise our political strivings?

The writer is the founder of the YouTube channel *Ahimsa Conversations* and author of the soon-to-be-released book *Vivekananda and Our Times: The Journey from Fear to Love*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### INDIA'S CHALLENGE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Nitish's nth switch' (IE, January 29). Nitish had initiated the plan to forge unity among Opposition, aspired to become the convener of the alliance and to be declared the prime ministerial candidate. But all his hopes were dashed when TMC and RJD suggested Mallikarjun Kharge's name and the Congress readily accepted the same without consulting all INDIA bloc participants. There seems to be hardly any cohesion, cooperation and coordination among the Opposition bloc. Sidelining Nitish proved to be harmful for INDIA's plans to fight PM Modi. It would be better to stitch a proper integration of all constituents if the Opposition desires to pose a challenge to Modi in the next general election.

Subhash Vaid, New Delhi

### INCLUSIVE POLICIES

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Growth with caveats' (IE, January 29). The question on sustainability of growth arises when there is a marked difference between GDP growth, earnings, and consumption in India. It can be linked to a variety of issues, including unequal wealth distribution, growing inflation, and labour market problems. To overcome this issue, policy should prioritise equitable economic growth, job creation, and social safety nets. MGNREGA

### (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) plays an important role in creating rural employment, but its performance might be improved through better execution, higher budget, and expanding its reach to urban areas. Prioritising inclusive economic policies can help to lift the middle and lower income classes.

Tanisha Chakraborty, Bengaluru

### CASE FOR CENSUS

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'A political ratna' (IE, January 27). The Modi government conferring the Bharat Ratna on ex-Bihar CM Karpoori Thakur just a few months ahead of the Lok Sabha polls is certainly a shrewd move to trump forces of social justice. It is meant to appeal to the percentage of Extremely Backward Castes (EBCs) who represent the biggest social group amongst all castes as per latest Bihar caste survey. This report boosted demand for nationwide OBC caste census, which was virtually condemned by the PM Narendra Modi as divisive. An award can't paper over caste contradictions and inequities particularly when the BJP-led Centre is opposed to the idea of OBC census. Because only the census could provide required information for effective implementation of affirmative welfare schemes for the EBCs, not only in Bihar but all over India.

L R Murmu, Delhi

उ.प्र. पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लि. ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना अनुभवो फर्मा/टेक्रेटर/ कार्यदायी संस्थाओं से विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल मेरठ के अन्तर्गत निम्न कार्यों हेतु मोहर बन्द ई-निविदायें ई-पोर्टल (www.etender.up.nic.in) पर दो भागों में आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।

Kuki-Zomi MLAs write to PM seeking separate administration Guwahati: Referring to the January 24 "meeting" of radical Meitei group Armabai Tenggol and Meitei MLAs and MPs a "total breakdown of the Constitutional machineries",

'ILLEGAL CUSTODY' OF SURAT BUSINESSMAN SC says will ask Gujarat HC to give training to magistrates

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

last year granted anticipatory bail to petitioner Tusharbhaj Rajnikantbhai Shah but he was remanded in police custody from December 13 to 16, 2023 in a cheating case.

and the police officials concerned. "We will have to ask the Gujarat High Court to give proper training to the magistrates and the state government to educate its officers properly," the court observed.

In 2023, US issued 1.4 lakh student visas to Indians

DIVYAA NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

INDIAN STUDENTS have become the largest group of international graduate students in the United States and make up more than a quarter of the over one million foreign students studying in the country, it said.

India on Monday. As a result of these surging numbers, Indian students have become the largest group of international graduate students in the US and make up more than a quarter of the over one million foreign students studying in the country, it said.

Giving an overview of other categories of visas issued to Indian citizens last year, the US Embassy statement said they processed 1.4 million (14 lakh) visas in India during the year 2023. Even as the country saw an unprecedented rise in demand for visas across all classes, appointment wait-time dropped by 75 percent.

Demand across all visa classes was unprecedented, with a 60% increase in applications compared to 2022. Indians now represent one out of every 10 US visa applicants around the world, it said.

NMDC STEEL Limited (A Government of India Enterprise) Nagarnar, Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh - 494001 (CIN) - U27310CT2015G01001618 NOTICE FOR SALE OF PIG IRON FROM NSL, NAGARNAR

TERMING THE police remand of a businessman granted anticipatory bail as the "grossest of contempt", the Supreme Court Monday said it will ask the Gujarat High Court to impart proper training to magistrates.

Voicing extreme displeasure over the police remand of the Gujarat-based businessman, the apex court had on January 10 issued notice to some police officials and a judicial magistrate of Surat on a contempt petition filed by the man. The top court was informed it had on December 8

Centre extends ban on SIMI for five years

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

THE CENTRE Monday extended the ban on terrorist group Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) for five years for its involvement in fomenting terrorism and disturbing peace and communal harmony in the country.

In a post on X, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that SIMI has been declared an "unlawful association" for five years under the UAPA, bolstering PM Narendra Modi's vision of zero tolerance against terrorism. "The SIMI has been found involved in fomenting terrorism, disturbing peace and communal harmony to threaten the sovereignty, security and integrity of Bharat," Shah said.

In a gazette notification, the Ministry of Home Affairs cited about 17 terror cases where SIMI activists were allegedly involved over the last few years and at least 27 SIMI members who were sentenced by courts in different cases.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF, PUBLIC HEALTH ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-PROCUREMENT Invitation For Bids (IFB) Dtd.19.01.2024

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, ANGUL E-mail- sencerwangul@yahoo.co.in, Phone: 06764-236404

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER RURAL WORKS CIRCLE : SUNDARGARH AT/PO- SANKARA, SUNDARGARH-770020, E-mail address- serw\_sundargarh@yahoo.com

ई० - अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना निविदा सं० : DMFT/MIDIV/DHANBAD/ F2-23-2023-24 लघु सिंचाई प्रमण्डल, धनबाद ।

जिला खनिज फाउण्डेशन ट्रस्ट, धनबाद के न्यास परिषद धनबाद की बैठक दिनांक 27.09.2022 में लिये गये निर्णय के आलोक में धनबाद जिला के निरसा प्रखण्ड के अंतर्गत साशनबेडिया मोड से विरसिंधपुर पंचायत के निलकुटी मोड तक कालीकरण पथ निर्माण, नाली निर्माण, पुलिया निर्माण एवं चौकीकरण हेतु पत्रांक 418, दिनांक 18.10.2022 के आलोक में उप विकास आयुक्त सह सचिव DMFT, धनबाद के ज्ञापक 596/DMFT धनबाद, दिनांक 02.11.2023 से प्रशासनीक स्वीकृति प्राप्त है।

Table with 7 columns: Sl. No., Name of Work, Bid Identification No., Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lakh), Class of Contractor, Period of Completion, Availability of Bid Document for Online Bidding (From-To).

निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी : कार्यपालक अभियंता, लघु सिंचाई प्रमण्डल, धनबाद। लुकी सर्कुलर रोड, धनबाद- 826001

ऑन लाईन निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि एवं समय : 16.02.2024 12-30 बजे ऑन लाईन निविदा समर्पित करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय : 22.02.2024 5 बजे तक ऑन लाईन निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय : 26.02.2024 12-30 बजे सम्पर्क सूत्र मोबाईल संख्या : 7903299712

महाराष्ट्र शासन सार्वजनिक बांधकाम (आदिवासी) विभाग, अमरावती. पत्ता:- कार्यकारी अभियंता, सार्वजनिक बांधकाम (आदिवासी) विभाग, तपोवन गेट जवळ, पोस्टल कॉलनीच्या मागे, अमरावती- 444 602. (जा.क्र.184/सा.व.आ.वि./ निलि जाहि/दिनांक 25/01/2024)

Table with 7 columns: S. No., Speciality, Professor, Assoc. Prof., Assistant Prof, SR. Rows include Obs. & Gynae, Blood Bank, Emergency Medicine, Anaesthesiology, General Medicine, General Surgery, Resp. Medicine, Dermatology & Leprosy, Paediatrics, Pharmacology, Physiology, Biochemistry, Radiodiagnosis, Psychiatry, Ophthalmology, Forensic Medicine.

Contractual appointment will be for a period of 6 months or till a regular appointment available, whichever is earlier. Bulandshahr is <=1 hour drive from Meerut, Hapur Aligarh and Greater Noida. In case person with specified category is not available, non-category person may be selected for The pay scale for SR will be Level 11 (67700), and for JR will be Level 10 (56100) along with other allowances.

Kalyan Singh Govt. Medical College, Bulandshahr (Autonomous State Medical College, UP)

Email Id: principalksgmcbshr@gmail.com Website: http://ksasmcbulandshahr.org/ Letter No. KSGMC/Advt./2023-24/ Dated: 29/01/24

Advertisement for Walk in interviews (Contractual posts) KSGMC, Bulandshahr, UP invites applications on prescribed format for positions of Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant professors on contractual basis, and for Senior and junior Residents on tenured basis in various departments.

Table with 10 columns: S. No., Speciality, Professor, Assoc. Prof., Assistant Prof, SR. Rows include Obs. & Gynae, Blood Bank, Emergency Medicine, Anaesthesiology, General Medicine, General Surgery, Resp. Medicine, Dermatology & Leprosy, Paediatrics, Pharmacology, Physiology, Biochemistry, Radiodiagnosis, Psychiatry, Ophthalmology, Forensic Medicine.

Contractual appointment will be for a period of 6 months or till a regular appointment available, whichever is earlier. Bulandshahr is <=1 hour drive from Meerut, Hapur Aligarh and Greater Noida. In case person with specified category is not available, non-category person may be selected for The pay scale for SR will be Level 11 (67700), and for JR will be Level 10 (56100) along with other allowances.

Odisha State Health & Family Welfare Society Deptt. Of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of Odisha Annexure Building of SIH & FW, Nayapalli, Unit-8, Bhubaneswar-751012

OFFICE OF THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER GOVT. OF MADHYA PRADESH, MADHYA PRADESH BHAWAN PLOT NO. 29 C-D, JESUS & MARY MARG, CHANAKYAPURI, NEW DELHI-110021

**EXPLAINED GLOBAL**

**EXPLAINED EDUCATION**

# Why some nations have paused UNRWA funding

**ALIND CHAUHAN**  
 NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

UN OFFICIALS Sunday urged countries to reconsider their decision to suspend the funding for the United Nations agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA), assuring that it would take strict action against any staff member found to be involved in Hamas' October 7 attack on Israel.

The officials said two million Palestinians in Gaza are dependent on UNRWA services that would be scaled back by February if the funding is not restored. The US and eight other countries, which provided more than half of UNRWA's 2022 budget, cut the money after Israel accused some of the agency's staffers of involvement in the October 7 attack.

**What is UNRWA?**

UNRWA stands for UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East. It was founded in 1949 to provide aid to about 700,000 Palestinians who were forced to leave their homes in what is now Israel during the 1948 Arab-Israeli war.

The UN agency operates in Gaza, the Israeli-occupied West Bank, Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan. According to its website, it runs education, health, relief and social services, microfinance and emergency assistance programmes. Currently, around 5.9 million Palestine refugees — most of them are descendants of original refugees — access the agency's services.

UNRWA is funded almost entirely by voluntary contributions by donor states like the US.

**What has Israel accused UNRWA of?**

The details of the accusations are scant. Israel has alleged that 12 staff members of UNRWA were involved in the October 7 attack. It has also claimed that Hamas siphons off funds given to



A Palestinian man holds a flour bag provided by UNRWA in Khan Younis in November 2023. Reuters

UNRWA and fights from in and around the agency's facilities. Israel has alleged that "Hamas tunnels (are) running next to or under UNRWA facilities and accuses the agency of teaching hatred of Israel in its schools," the Associated Press reported.

**How has UNRWA responded?**

The UNRWA has denied all the allegations, saying it has no links to Hamas. In the statement, UN officials said out of 12 staff members who were accused of being involved in the attack, nine have been terminated. One is confirmed dead and the identity of the two others is being clarified.

Chris Gunness, a former UNRWA spokesman, told *Al Jazeera* that the allegations against the agency are a "coordinated political attack" by Israel.

**What happens now?**

UNRWA is crucial for the survival of people living in Gaza, which has plunged into a humanitarian crisis. The agency has been the main supplier of food, water and shelter to civilians of the enclave. UNRWA, however, would run out of money needed for its aid work within weeks if the funding isn't restored, according to Gunness, which would exacerbate the situation in Gaza.

# Quota row in UGC draft norms

After a chapter about dereservation of posts in higher educational institutes in the UGC's draft guidelines sparked outrage, the regulator and the Education Ministry have been quick to issue clarifications

**RITIKA CHOPRA**  
 NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

THE UNION government and the University Grants Commission (UGC) were on Sunday seen issuing clarifications that faculty positions in universities reserved for SC, ST, OBC, and EWS candidates will not be opened to the general category.

This was in response to a controversy surrounding new draft guidelines on the implementation of reservation in higher education, made public by the UGC last month for feedback. A chapter in the draft guidelines suggests that reserved posts could be dereserved in "exceptional cases", leading to a public outcry.

**Why did UGC issue the guidelines?**

The University Grants Commission already has guidelines for implementing reservations, issued in 2006. About a year ago, the higher education regulator assigned a four-member committee the task of working on a new draft that would incorporate all updated government instructions.

The committee was led by HS Rana, Director of the Institute of Public Administration in Bangalore. Professor DK Verma, the Director and Dean of the School of Social Sciences at Dr BR Ambedkar University of Social Sciences in Madhya Pradesh; former government officer OP Shukla; and UGC Joint Secretary GS Chauhan were the other members.

"Since the 2006 guidelines, there have been changes, including new DoPT circulars based on court orders. It was observed that there was considerable confusion regarding the existing rules on implementing reservations. The objective was to develop a fresh set of guidelines that would clarify the latest government position," said one of the committee members on condition of anonymity.

This exercise by the UGC was similar to what the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) undertakes from time to time to ensure that the government's updated instructions are followed regarding the implementation of reservations.

The draft guidelines formulated by the UGC committee were made public on December 27, with public feedback sought by January 28. The document lists all pertinent court cases and subsequent government orders that have tweaked or clarified the process of implementation reservation in higher education. It is organised into chapters covering



The draft guidelines issued by the University Grants Commission were made public in December. Archive



**JAGADESH KUMAR**  
 UGC CHAIRMAN

...There has been no dereservation of reserved positions in central institutions, and there is going to be no dereservation...

the determination of quotas in faculty posts, the preparation of reservation rosters, dereservation, verification of caste claims, and reservation in student admissions.

It was the chapter on de-reservation that sparked controversy on Sunday, after it went viral on social media.

**What does the chapter on dereservation state?**

The chapter states that while there is a general ban on the dereservation of reserved faculty vacancies in the case of direct recruitment, in exceptional circumstances, it can be done if a university can provide adequate justification.

In this context, direct recruitment means the process of appointing teachers by inviting applications after publicly advertising the posts. Dereservation, on the other hand, means opening up faculty positions that were originally reserved for specific categories (SC, ST, OBC, EWS candidates) to applicants belonging to the general category if those positions remain vacant despite efforts to fill them.

The draft guidelines specify that proposals for dereservation of Group A and Group B level jobs should be submitted to the Education Ministry, while proposals for Group C and D level posts should be forwarded to the Executive Council, the highest decision-making body of the university, for special permission.

In a university, all faculty positions (assistant professor, associate professor, and professor) fall under Group A. Section officers in a higher education institution typically hold Group B level positions, clerks and junior assistants fall under Group C, and multitasking staff, such as peons, are classified under Group D.

According to the draft UGC guidelines, the proposal for dereservation would need to include information such as the designation, pay scale, name of the service, responsibilities, required qualifications, efforts made to fill the post, and reasons why it cannot be allowed to remain vacant in the public interest.

**Why did this chapter cause an outcry?**

In current academic practice, reserved faculty positions are not converted to recruit general candidates. Although the DoPT permits dereservation in exceptional circumstances exclusively for Group A posts under the central government, this provision has not been implemented in higher education institutions. According to a former UGC officer who did not wish to be identified, unfilled quota positions in universities are re-advertised and special recruitment drives are carried out till suitable candidates are identified.

In fact, even in replies to questions asked in Parliament, the Education Ministry's official position is that "there is a ban on dereservation of reserved vacancies for SC, ST, and

OBC in direct recruitment." The draft UGC guidelines were basically seen to be paving the way for dereservation in faculty positions, and this caused the outcry.

**So why did the UGC committee include the dereservation provision in the draft guidelines?**

When asked this question, a committee member told *The Indian Express*, "The committee is not empowered to change the law of the land. We can't bring new provisions. We were just reiterating what is already permitted by the DoPT. These (DoPT) circulars are in the public domain."

While it is true that the language of the dereservation chapter in the draft UGC guidelines is nearly identical to that used in the DoPT's compendium of instructions issued in 2022, there's a significant difference as well.

According to the DoPT handbook, dereservation is only permitted for direct recruitment for Group A posts in exceptional circumstances. In contrast, the draft UGC guidelines extend this provision to posts of Grade B, C, and D as well. The reason for this extension by the committee is not clear.

**What was the government's reaction?**

On Sunday, when the dereservation chapter went viral on social media, the government swiftly took action to control the damage. The Ministry of Education issued a clarification stating there is no new instruction permitting dereservation.

The ministry said on X, "Reservation in Central Educational Institutions (CEI) is provided for all posts in direct recruitment in Teacher's cadre as per the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Teachers' Cadre) Act, 2019. After enactment of this Act, no reserved post is to be de-reserved. The Ministry of Education has given directives to all the CEIs to fill up the vacancies strictly as per the 2019 Act."

UGC chairman M Jagadesh Kumar wrote on X (formerly Twitter) Sunday, "This is to clarify that there has been no dereservation of reserved category positions in Central Educational Institutions (CEI) in the past, and there is going to be no such de-reservation. It is important for all HEIs to ensure that all backlog positions in reserved categories are filled through concerted efforts."

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Kumar said that the guidelines were only a draft document and that anything on dereservation would not make it to the final document.

# Rover data confirm ancient lake sediments on red planet

NASA'S ROVER Perseverance has gathered data confirming the existence of ancient lake sediments deposited by water that once filled a giant basin on Mars called Jerezo Crater, according to a study published last week.

The findings from ground-penetrating radar observations conducted by the robotic rover substantiate previous orbital imagery and other data leading scientists to theorise that portions of Mars were once covered in water and may have harboured microbial life.

The study, led by teams from the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) and the University of Oslo, was published in the journal *Science Advances*.

It was based on subsurface scans taken

by the car-sized, six-wheeled rover over several months of 2022 as it made its way across the Martian surface from the crater floor onto an adjacent expanse of braided, sedimentary-like features resembling, from orbit, the river deltas found on Earth.

Soundings from the rover's RIMFAX radar instrument allowed scientists to peer underground to get a cross-sectional view of rock layers 65 feet (20 metres) deep, "almost like looking at a road cut," said UCLA planetary scientist David Paige, the first author of the paper.

Those layers provide unmistakable evidence that soil sediments carried by water were deposited at Jerezo Crater and its delta from a river that fed it, just as they are in lakes on Earth.



# What is IRI, that 'killed US soldiers in Jordan'

**RISHIKA SINGH**  
 NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

THREE US military servicemen were killed in a drone attack on their outpost in Jordan on Sunday night, marking the first time US soldiers have died in the ongoing Middle East conflict. US President Joe Biden said in a statement that "radical Iran-backed militant groups operating in Syria and Iraq" were behind the strikes.

A group known as the Islamic Resistance of Iraq (IRI) has claimed responsibility for the attack.

**Why were US troops stationed in Jordan?**

The strikes targeted Tower 22, a US military outpost in Jordan. The country is bordered by Israel to its west, Saudi Arabia to its southeast, Iraq to its northeast and Syria to its north.

A Reuters report said the outpost has

around 350 US Army and Air Force staffers. "Jordan's army is one of the largest recipients of Washington's foreign military financing. The kingdom has hundreds of US trainers and is one of the few regional allies that hold extensive exercises with US troops throughout the year," the report added.

Tower 22 is near the Al Tanf garrison, located in Syria. US troops used the garrison while fighting against the Islamic State (IS), which emerged amid the Syrian Civil War, between those who supported and opposed the rule of President Bashar al-Assad.

The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) attempted to establish an Islamic caliphate amid the chaos in the region. It also carried out attacks and beheadings of foreigners, raising international concern.

**What is the Islamic Resistance of Iraq?**

According to a recent report in the *Financial Times*, "In Iraq and Syria, US forces have come under repeated assault by a newly



Satellite view of Tower 22 in Jordan on Oct 12, 2023. Planet Labs PBC/via Reuters

created group of Iran-backed militias known as the Islamic Resistance of Iraq."

The thinktank Washington Institute noted in an October 2023 analysis that the IRI refers to "an umbrella term used to describe the operations of all Iran-backed militias in Iraq, including strikes into Syria during the October 2023 conflict between Israel and Hamas."

On October 17, the group said it carried out a drone attack on Harir Air Base in Iraqi Kurdistan.

**What are the concerns here?**

Some Republican politicians in the US criticised the Biden administration. "He left our troops as sitting ducks," said Republican US Senator Tom Cotton. "The only answer to these attacks must be devastating military retaliation against Iran's terrorist forces, both in Iran and across the Middle East."

Former President Donald Trump, who is also the frontrunner Presidential candidate from the Republican party, said the attack was a "consequence of Joe Biden's weakness and surrender."

For months, analysts have raised concerns that the widening ambit of the conflict could risk a bigger war, given the regional, religious and ethnic rivalries in the Middle East and the presence of multiple powerful non-state actors.

# The new public-private partnership to grow seafood outside the sea

**SHAJU PHILIP**  
 THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JANUARY 29

KOCHI-HEADQUARTERED ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) has entered into a collaborative research agreement with a private-sector startup offering cultivated meat technology solutions to grow fish meat in the laboratory.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by the institute, which works under the Union Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, with New Delhi-based Neat Meatt Biotech is the first initiative of its kind in the country.



**What is lab-grown fish?**

It is merely a type of lab-grown — or cultivated/cultured — meat. Seafood without the sea is 'grown' in the same way as other cultivated meats are grown — without the need to raise and kill an animal.

Cultivated fish meat is produced by isolating specific cells from fish and growing them in a laboratory setting using media that is free

of animal components. The final product is expected to replicate the flavour, texture, and nutritional qualities of 'real' fish meat.

**What roles are CMFRI and Neat Meatt playing in this collaboration?**

According to the MoU signed by CMFRI Director Dr A Gopalakrishnan and Neat Meatt Biotech co-founder and CEO Dr Sandeep Sharma in Kochi last week, the institute will focus on the genetic, biochemical, and analytical work related to the project.

In its cell culture lab, CMFRI will carry out research on early cell line development of high-value marine fish species — a process that involves isolating and cultivating fish cells for further research and development. It will initially focus on developing cell-based meat of fish such as pomfret, kingfish, and seerfish.

Neat Meatt, with its expertise in cell culture technology, will lead the optimisation of cell growth media, development of scaffolds or microcarriers for cell attachment, and scaling up production through bioreactors. The company will also provide nec-

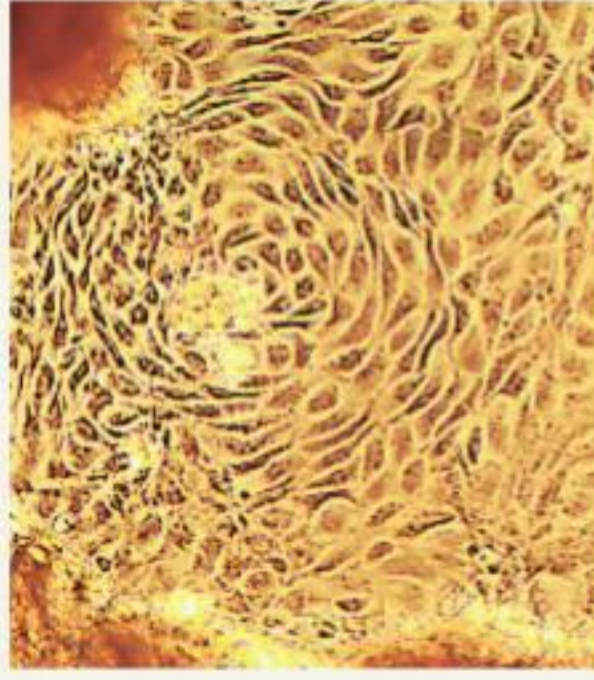
essary consumables, manpower, and any additional equipment needed for the project, says the MoU.

**What is the need to grow fish meat in the laboratory?**

Experiments are ongoing in many countries on developing commercially viable lab-grown fish meat, which is expected to address the ever growing demand for seafood, and reduce excessive pressure on wild resources. Overfishing — the removal of fish faster than the resource can replenish itself — has resulted in dramatic reductions in populations of certain species, which has impacted entire marine ecosystems in many areas.

In theory, lab-grown fish meat has significant potential for ensuring food security and environmental benefits. Besides taking some load off traditional fishing, lab-grown fish meat will be antibiotics- and environmental contamination-free, and will have no contact with microplastics or heavy metals in the polluted seas and oceans.

**Which countries are growing fish meat**



Primary culture of fish cells, seen under a microscope. Courtesy CMFRI

**in the laboratory?**

Large-scale commercial manufacture of lab-grown fish meat is probably still some years away, but a number of countries have made great strides in this pioneering tech-

nology. Israel is the frontrunner, followed by Singapore, the United States and China.

Earlier this month, Israel-based Forsea Foods successfully produced lab-grown freshwater eel meat, and hopes to be able to make this meat available in markets in the next couple of years. Last year, Israel's Steakholder Foods said that in association with Singapore-based Umami Meats, it had 3D printed the first ever ready-to-cook fish fillet using animal cells grown in a laboratory.

"This project aims to accelerate development in this field, ensuring India is not left behind in this emerging industry", Dr Gopalakrishnan said of the CMFRI-Neat Meatt public private partnership.

"It marks a crucial step in bridging the gap between India and other nations like Singapore, Israel, and the USA, who are already advancing cultured seafood research... This collaboration leverages CMFRI's marine research expertise with Neat Meatt's technological know-how in this field, paving the way for a sustainable and secure future for seafood production in India," he said.

Dr Sharma of Neat Meatt expressed confidence that the proof of concept of the proj-

ect could be established within a couple of months.

**What other kinds of meat are being produced in labs?**

The Dutch pharmacologist Mark Post was the first to present a proof of concept for cultured meat in 2013. Several dozens of companies around the world are now reported to be working on developing lab-grown meat from cells, including chicken, pork, lamb, fish and beef.

According to the Good Food Institute, a global nonprofit think tank that also has an India chapter, the industry has "grown to more than 150 companies on 6 continents as of late 2022, backed by \$2.6 billion in investments... (and) dozens more companies have formed to create technology solutions along the value chain".

In June 2023, the US Department of Agriculture cleared the sale of lab grown chicken meat in the country. Two California-based companies, Good Meat and Upside Foods, were granted permission to supply lab-grown chicken meat to restaurants and supermarkets.

# 14 THE WORLD

## TOP OF THE WORLD



Pope Francis

### VATICAN

**Pope: Africans are special case when it comes to LGBT blessings**

Vatican City: Pope Francis said in an interview published Monday that Africans were a "special case" in the opposition of bishops and many other people in the continent to homosexuality. But he said he was confident that, except for Africans, critics of his decision to allow blessings for same-sex couples would eventually understand it. Blessings were allowed last month in a document called *Fiducia Supplicans* (Supplicating Trust), which has caused widespread debate in the Catholic Church, with strong resistance coming from African bishops. "Those who protest belong to small ideological groups," he said. **REUTERS**

### ITALY

**Meloni opens Africa summit to curb migration**

Rome: Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni opened a summit of African leaders on Monday aimed at illustrating Italy's big development plan for the continent that her government hopes will stem migration flows and forge a new relationship between Europe and Africa. Two dozen African leaders, top European Union and United Nations officials and representatives from international lending institutions were in Rome for the summit, the first major event of Italy's Group of Seven presidency. **AP**

### BANGLADESH

**China invites Hasina for official visit**

Dhaka: China has invited Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for an official visit to the country as Beijing is keen to work with the new government in Dhaka to cement bilateral cooperation in all fields. "We (Dhaka) will find a suitable time for the visit," Foreign Minister Hassan Mahmud told reporters after he met with Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Yao Wen on Sunday. Wen met Mahmud after the Hasina-led Awami League was re-elected to power. **PTI**

### UNITED STATES

**Indian pleads guilty to drugs sale on dark web**

Washington: A 40-year-old Indian national extradited from the UK has pleaded guilty to operating a global dark web enterprise to sell "deadly and dangerous drugs to communities across America" and agreed to forfeit approximately USD 150 million in cryptocurrency. According to court documents, Banmeet Singh from Haldwani in Uttarakhand created vendor marketing sites on dark web marketplaces to sell controlled substances, including fentanyl, LSD, ecstasy, Xanax, Ketamine, and Tramadol, the US Department of Justice said in a release. **PTI**

## Biden vows to retaliate after deadly strike at Jordan base, Iran denies role

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
COLUMBIA, JANUARY 29

US PRESIDENT Joe Biden said Sunday that the US "shall respond" after three American troops were killed and dozens more were injured in an overnight drone strike in northeast Jordan near the Syrian border.

Biden blamed Iran-backed militias for the first US fatalities after months of strikes by such groups against American forces across the Middle East since the start of the Israel-Hamas war.

Biden, who was travelling in South Carolina, asked for a moment of silence during an appearance at a Baptist church's banquet hall. "We had a tough day last night in the Middle East. We lost three brave souls in an attack on one of our bases," he said. After the moment of silence, Biden added, "and we shall respond".

"On Monday, Iran's foreign ministry dismissed the US accusation that Tehran was behind the drone strike," according to the official IRNA news agency.

Meanwhile, US officials said preliminary accounts suggest the enemy drone that struck the installation known as Tower 22 may have been mistaken for an American drone that was in the air at the same time.

The officials said that as the enemy drone was flying in at a low altitude, a US drone was returning to the base. As a result, there was no effort to shoot down the enemy drone.



Palestinians flee Khan Younis due to the Israeli ground operation on Monday. **Reuters**

## Israel releases paper against 12 UN staff accused of aiding Hamas raid

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
TEL AVIV, JANUARY 29

An Israeli document obtained Monday spelled out allegations against a dozen UN employees the country says took part in Hamas' Oct 7 assault — claiming seven stormed into Israeli territory, including two who participated in abductions.

The allegations against staffers with the UN agency for Palestinian refugees prompted Western countries to freeze funds vital for

the body, which is a lifeline for desperate Palestinians in Gaza. The UN condemned "the abhorrent alleged acts" and fired nine of the accused workers, who include teachers and a social worker. Two are reportedly dead and the last is still being identified.

Major donors, including the US and Britain, have cut funding. On Monday, Japan and Austria joined them. With the majority of its budget in doubt, and because UNRWA spends donor contributions as they come in throughout the year, the agency says it will be

forced to halt operations within weeks if funding isn't restored. The threat to the UN agency came as Israel said cease-fire talks held Sunday were constructive but that "significant gaps" remained in any potential agreement. The talks are meant to bring about some respite to Gaza and secure the release of over 100 hostages held in Gaza.

Fighting continued, further complicating assistance to people in Gaza. Israel issued an evacuation order to residents in the western part of Gaza City, urging them to head south.

## M.D.P HAS MAJORITY IN PARLIAMENT

# Maldives Opp party set to move impeachment motion against Muizzu

MPs clash in House over approval of 4 of Muizzu's Cabinet

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MALE, JANUARY 29

THE MAIN opposition MDP, which holds a majority in the Maldivian Parliament, Monday said it plans to submit a motion to impeach President Mohamed Muizzu, a day after clashes broke out in the House between pro-government MPs and opposition lawmakers following differences over the approval of four members of his cabinet.

The development comes on a day when the President Muizzu re-appointed three members of his cabinet, who were earlier in the day denied approval during a vote in the Parliament where the Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) has the highest number of members. On Sunday, clashes broke out in Parliament between pro-government MPs and opposition lawmakers over differences over the approval of four members of the pro-China President's



Pro-china Mohamed Muizzu (left) defeated India-friendly Ibrahim Mohamed Solih in polls in September last year

cabinet. Muizzu, 45, defeated India-friendly incumbent Ibrahim Mohamed Solih in the presidential runoff held in September last year. "The MDP, in partnership with the Democrats, have gathered enough signatures for an impeachment motion. However, they have yet to submit it," Sun.com reported. "The Constitution dictates that the president can be impeached with 56 votes," the Sun.com added.

The MDP's plan to impeach President Muizzu was opposed by the government coalition Progressive Party of Maldives (PPM) and People's National Congress (PNC). The coalition leaders said that they would not allow efforts to remove President

Muizzu to proceed through parliament. At a press conference, PPM Parliamentary Group (PG) Leader Eydhafushi constituency MP Ahmed Saleem said that the coalition would stop any efforts from MDP to remove President Muizzu from his office. "They will have to kill us all first before they can even think of removing the President from office," Saleem was quoted as saying by The Edition.mv.

The Maldivian Parliament has a total of 80 members. The MDP has 45, followed by its ally DEM with 13 members. Of the ruling coalition of PPM-PNC, the Progressive Party of the Maldives has 2 while the People's National Congress has 13 members.

The gathering of signatures for an impeachment motion against the President comes a day after the PPM-PNC coalition, submitted no-confidence motions against Speaker Mohamed Aslam and Deputy Speaker Ahmed Saleem — both from MDP.

Earlier in the day, Parliament voted to deny approval to Housing Minister Ali Haidar Ahmed, Islamic Minister Mohamed Shaheem Ali Saeed, and Attorney General Ahmed Usham, while Economic Minister Mohamed Saeed survived the same fate.

## Rise and shine: Japanese Moon probe back to work

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
TOKYO, JANUARY 29

A JAPANESE Moon explorer is up and running Monday after several tense days without the sunlight it needs to generate power. Japan's first lunar mission hit its target in a precision touchdown on Jan. 20, but landed the wrong way up, leaving its solar panels unable to see the sun. But with the dawn of the lunar day, it appears that the probe has power.

The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, or JAXA, said Monday that it successfully established communication with the probe Sunday night, and the craft has resumed its

mission, taking pictures of the Moon's surface and transmitting them to the Earth.

After a last-minute engine failure caused the Smart Lander for Investigating Moon, or SLIM, to make a rougher-than-planned landing, JAXA used battery power to gather as much data as possible about the touchdown and the probe's surroundings. The craft was then turned off to wait the sun to rise higher in the lunar sky in late January. With power, SLIM has continued work to analyze the composition of olivine rocks on the lunar surface with its multi-band spectral camera, seeking clues about the Moon's origin and evolution, the agency said.



## FARMERS BLOCK PARIS HIGHWAYS

Tractors try to reach Paris during a protest over price pressures, taxes and green regulation, in Noailles on Monday. France said it would push to ease European Union environmental regulations on fallow farmland. **Reuters**

## In Pakistan, Iran FM takes jibe at Taliban: Militants along border 'led, backed' by others

SAJJAD HUSSAIN  
ISLAMABAD, JANUARY 29

IN AN apparent reference to Taliban-led Afghanistan, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian Monday said there was "no doubt" that militants located in the border areas of Pakistan and Iran were "led and supported by third countries", days after the two neighbours conducted tit-for-tat military strikes at alleged terrorist bases in both countries.

Abdollahian arrived in Pakistan late Sunday night to de-escalate the tension between the two nations following the military strikes conducted earlier this month.

In a joint press conference along with Pakistan Foreign Minister Jilil Abbas Jilani, Abdollahian said: "There is no doubt that the terrorists located in the common border regions and areas of Iran and Pakistan are led and supported by third countries and they never favour any good action in line with the benefits of the Iranian and Pakistani governments and nations." He, however, did not name any country.

Jilani said Pakistan and Iran have agreed to "establish a high-level constructive mechanism at the level of foreign ministers of the two countries". Both the nations have agreed to "cooperate to fight terrorism in our respective areas". **PTI**



Iran Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian (right) and his Pakistani counterpart Jilil Abbas Jilani in Islamabad on Monday. **AP**

## IMRAN'S PARTY ALLEGES ACTION AGAINST CANDIDATES

Lahore: Jailed former Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan-led Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Monday condemned the brutal crackdown by police and oppression on participants of the party's election campaign ahead of the February 8 general elections. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf vowed that the people will take revenge for these cruelties through the power of their vote. Khan has been incarcerated at the Adiala Jail at Rawalpindi for over six months. **PTI**

## Trump can't bully his way through: Haley



LALIT K JHA  
WASHINGTON, JANUARY 29

DONALD TRUMP cannot "bully" his way through nomination, Indian-American presidential aspirant Nikki Haley has said after her party said that it's time for Republicans to unite around the former US president and frontrunner in the race for the White House in 2024.

Haley is the only remaining Republican after Florida Governor



Nikki Haley takes a selfie with supporters in Conway, South Carolina, on Monday. **Reuters**

Ron DeSantis and Indian-origin entrepreneur turned politician Vivek Ramaswamy withdrew from the 2024 presidential race earlier this month with both endorsing Trump.

After the New Hampshire pri-

mary, where she came in second to Trump, there has been increasing pressure on the 52-year-old politician to withdraw from the race in favour of her former boss. Trump, 77, has also called on her to withdraw.

"This is a democracy. The American people want to have their say in who is going to be their nominee," she said.

Ahead of the South Carolina primary, she said that she is going strong in her home State. **PTI**

## ANC suspends Zuma for backing new party in polls

Cape Town: South Africa's ruling party suspended former President Jacob Zuma on Monday after he gave his backing to a new political party, MK Party, for this year's national elections.

The decision by the African National Congress is another sign of the feud between Zuma and his successor, President Cyril Ramaphosa. The announcement followed weeks of intrigue over whether the ANC would act against Zuma, who led the ANC from 2007-2017 and was president from 2009-2018. **AP**



Jacob Zuma

## POSTPARTUM CARE FACILITIES 'ARE BEST' IN SOUTH KOREA, WHERE NOT MANY WANT CHILDREN BECAUSE OF HIGH COSTS

# Facials, massages & classes: Seoul care centres for new moms have it all

LAURETTA CHARLTON  
SEOUL, JANUARY 29

FOUR MOTHERS sat quietly in the nursing room around midnight, breastfeeding their newborn babies. As one mother nodded off, her eyelids heavy after giving birth less than two weeks earlier, a nurse came in and whisked her baby away. The exhausted new mom returned to her private room to sleep.

Sleep is just one of the luxuries provided by South Korea's postpartum care centers.

The country may have the world's lowest birthrate, but it is also home to perhaps some of its

best postpartum care. At centers like St. Park, a small, boutique postpartum center, or joriwon, in Seoul, new moms are pampered for a few weeks after giving birth and treated to hotel-like accommodations. Fresh meals are delivered three times a day, and there are facials, massages and child-care classes. Nurses watch over the babies around the clock.

New moms are summoned from their rooms only when it is time to breastfeed in the communal nursing room, where they are watched by the nurses. Women who choose not to breastfeed are free to spend their time focused on healing. (The babies are kept in the nursery,



Lee Joo-bae, chief nurse at St. Park, explaining how to hold and make the baby burp. Now eight out of 10 South Korean mothers go to a joriwon after giving birth. **NYT**

though mothers can request their newborns be sent to their rooms at any time.)

Staying at a joriwon can cost from a few thousand to tens of thousands of dollars, depending on the length of stay, which is often 21 days, the amount of time it takes for a woman's body to heal after childbirth, according to Korean custom. But the centers weren't always so luxurious, said Soohyun Sarah Kim, 46, the owner of St. Park.

"When I had my first child, there was no place to go," she said. "Normally in Korea, the grandmother should take care of the new baby, but my mom didn't have the skill, so we decided

to go to a joriwon."

In 2007, when Kim was pregnant with her first child, joriwons were not yet popular. "At that time, there was no nurse to take care of the baby," Kim said.

She opened St. Park in 2008 with a mission of providing exceptional care for new mothers in a Bali-inspired retreat. "We don't want moms to run into trouble at home, that's our approach," she said.

Now eight out of 10 South Korean mothers go to a joriwon after giving birth. Pregnant women clamor to get into their joriwon of choice, and the competition has become so stiff that some moms send in booking re-

quests as soon as they see the double lines on their pregnancy test.

The issue of class, and cost, is highly sensitive in South Korea, where inequality is on the rise. Two weeks at St. Park — not including massages, facials and hair treatments — costs more than \$6,000. Insurance does not cover the fees, but they can be subsidized by the government through a stipend meant to encourage more families to have babies. As pricey as some joriwons can be, their cost is but a blip in the overall expense of raising a child in South Korea, a fact that may help explain the country's birthrate. **NYT**

# 15 ECONOMY

<b>GOLD</b>	<b>USD RATE</b>	<b>OIL</b>	<b>SILVER</b>
₹63,100	₹83.14	\$82.07	₹76,400

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as of January 26

SENSEX: 71,941.57 ▲ 1,240.90 (1.76%) NIFTY: 21,737.60 ▲ 385 (1.8%) NIKKEI: 36,026.94 ▲ 275.87 HANG SENG: 16,077.24 ▲ 125.01 FTSE: 7,638.16 ▲ 3.07 DAX: 16,869.91 ▼ 91.48

International market data till 1900 IST

## OVERHAUL OF CYBERSECURITY FRAMEWORK

# To safeguard cyber infra, Govt may push use of made in India products

National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre is behind the framework

**SOUMYARENDRA BARIK**  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

ASSERTING THAT there has been significant progress over the last few years in the development of indigenous cybersecurity products and solutions, the Centre is expected to recommend enterprises – especially those in critical sectors like banking, telecom, and energy – to use only security products and services developed in India, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

The government has drawn up a guiding policy called the National Cybersecurity Reference Framework (NCRF) in an attempt to provide an implementable measure – with clear articulation of roles and responsibilities for cybersecurity – based on existing legislations, policies and guidelines.

The action comes as India faces a barrage of cybersecurity-related incidents – most recently a high-profile attack on the systems of AIIMS Delhi in 2022 – which pose a major challenge to New Delhi's national security imperatives. At least three union ministers told *The Indian Express* that they feel hamstrung by the lack of an overarching framework on cybersecurity when

they are formulating sector-specific legislations. This is what the NCRF is expected to solve.

"In recent years many threat actors backed by nation-states and organised cyber-criminal groups have attempted to target Critical Information Infrastructure (CII) of the government and enterprises. In addition, availability of 'cyber-attacks-as-a-service' has reduced the entry threshold for new cyber criminals, thus increasing the exposure to individuals and organisations," the NCRF is learnt to say.

The framework has been drawn up by the National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC) – which reports to the Prime Minister's Office – with support from the National Cybersecurity Coordinator (NCSC).

The NCRF was shared privately with companies and other government departments for consultation in May last year, but is yet to be made public. Apart from the main policy document, at least three supporting compendiums detailing global cybersecurity standards, products and solutions have also been formulated.

This paper has also learnt that the NCRF could recommend

that enterprises allocate at least 10 per cent of their total IT budget towards cybersecurity.

"Adequate resources must be allocated for cybersecurity, and these should be distinct from IT resources... Based on global best practice, it is recommended that at least 10 per cent of the total IT budget should be allocated to cybersecurity. Such allocation should be mentioned under a separate budget head for monitoring by the top-level management / board of directors," the NCRF is learnt to recommend.

Last June, former National CyberSecurity Coordinator Lt. General Rajesh Pant had said that the NCRF will be released for the public soon. The current guiding framework on cybersecurity for critical infrastructure in India comes from an UPA-era measure, the National Cybersecurity Policy of 2013.

"It (NCRF) is an important document that supersedes the 2013 policy. From 2013 till 2023, the world has changed as new threats and new cyber organisations have emerged calling for new strategies. The document will be put in public domain after a final check by the committee to ensure that nothing confidential is released," he said.

However, the NCRF is a guideline, meaning that its recommendations will not be binding – although, organisations can use the NCRF to improve their cybersecurity posture, reduce their risk of data breaches or any cybersecurity incidents, ensure compliance with regulations, increase confidence with customers and enhance operational efficiency.

Queries sent to the NCSC's office remained unanswered until publication.

The NCRF could also recommend that along with the directions to regulate the operations in the critical sector, regulators overseeing and auditing them must also define information security requirements.

"The regulators may also need to access sensitive data and deficiencies related to the operations in the critical sector, and therefore they also need to have an effective Information Security Management System (ISMS) instance," the policy may recommend.

It could also prescribe that national nodal agencies evolve platforms and processes for machine-processing of data from different entities to carry out sectoral and cross-sectoral analysis of audit compliance, audit effectiveness and grading of auditors.

# Markets rally on global cues, upbeat Budget sentiment; RIL, ONGC see huge gains

RIL shares jump 6.8%, m-cap stands at ₹19.59 lakh crore

**ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU**  
MUMBAI, JANUARY 29

LED BY Reliance Industries (RIL) and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) shares, domestic stock markets on Monday rallied by 1.8 per cent amid the optimistic environment surrounding the interim Budget and expectations of a rate cut in the US Federal Reserve meeting. While the BSE Sensex jumped 1,241 points to close at 71,941.57, the NSE Nifty Index soared 385 points, or 1.8 per cent, to end the day at 21,737.60 in the buying euphoria.

RIL shares spurred by 6.86 per cent to ₹2,896.15 after hitting the 52-week high of ₹2,905. Its market capitalisation crossed the ₹19.59 lakh crore mark to ₹19.59 lakh crore. While some sectors like IT, FMCG and Pharma underperformed, it was overshadowed by the gains in other sectors, especially the oil and gas sector. ONGC surged by 8 per cent.

Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial, said the sentiment got a boost following stimulus announcement from China and hope of a favourable Union Budget. Also, US data raised hopes of an early interest rate cuts, he said. According to analysts, the surge in benchmark indices can



Some sectors like IT, FMCG and Pharma underperformed. File

be largely attributed to investor optimism in anticipation of the upcoming interim budget on February 1, where significant allocations are expected in key sectors like infrastructure and energy. "This optimism is not unfounded, as government spending in these areas typically signals robust growth prospects, thereby attracting investor interest. Additionally, specific sectors such as defence and railways are experiencing a surge, likely due to expectations of targeted fiscal stimulus. This sector-specific rally is a strong contributor to the overall index performance, as these sectors form a substantial part of the Nifty 50," said an analyst.

"The collective sentiment seems to be tilting towards opti-

mism, driven by expectations from the interim Budget and the consequent potential growth in key sectors," he said. Domestic institutions were buyers and accumulated stocks worth over ₹3,000 crore during the day.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said, "the domestic market underwent an uptick as the recent sell-off and positive Asian peers provided an opportunity to accumulate quality stocks. Despite premium valuations, confidence is upheld among investors due to the optimistic environment surrounding the interim budget and recent set of results aligning with forecasts."

**FULL REPORT ON**  
[www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

## BYJU'S to raise \$200 million via equity rights issue

New Delhi: Edtech major BYJU'S is looking to raise USD 200 million through equity rights issue.

Sources aware of the development said that the company will issue equity at low valuation only for this tranche of issue.

BYJU'S valuation peaked at USD 22 billion when it raised funds in March 2022.

"The board of Think and Learn Private Limited (TLPL) today launched the raising of funds USD 200 million by way of a rights issue to all its equity shareholders to support its ongoing efforts to drive growth and achieve operational sustainability," the company said in a statement.

Sources said that the issue will close by the end of February. "BYJU'S will raise USD 200 million at enterprise valuation of USD 220-250 million. While the valuation of the firm is significantly higher, the valuation of USD 220-250 million is for this rights issue only," a source said.

The company said that the proposed rights issuance by TLPL aims to fund the ongoing capital expenditure and support general corporate purposes.

"As the largest shareholders, the founders of BYJU'S have already demonstrated their commitment to the company by personally investing more than USD 1.1 billion in the last 18 months," the statement said.

The firm has written a letter to shareholders informing them about the rights issue, in which founders expressed the challenges BYJU'S has faced in recent months and their unflinching belief in the company's mission. **PTI**

## 'Intimidating and coercing': Air India union flag concerns over duty timings

New Delhi: Air India pilots' groupings have alleged that the airline management is "intimidating and coercing" some of their members to extend flight duty timings beyond the prescribed limits.

The Indian Commercial Pilots Association (ICPA) and Indian Pilots' Guild (IPG) have written to Air India Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Campbell Wilson flagging the issues.

In their joint letter, dated January 28, the unions also claimed the airline's approach to extend the Flight Duty Time Limitation (FDTL) for pilots amounts to "compromising" with safety of the pilots besides violating established regulations.

ICPA represents the narrow body pilots while IPG has members from the wide body fleet of Air India.

It has come to the notice that some pilots are facing intimidation and coercion to extend their FDTL beyond the prescribed limits, including threats of jeopardising their career progression, the letter said.

The unions' allegations also assume significance against the backdrop of aviation regulator DGCA, earlier this month, coming out with revised FDTL norms for pilots that provide for increased weekly rest period, extension in night hours by an hour and just two night landings as against six earlier. **PTI**

## 'Sony scrapped \$10-billion merger as Zee failed to meet financial terms'

**ARPAN CHATURVEDI & ADITYA KALRA**  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

SONY SCRAPPED the \$10 billion merger of its Indian arm with Zee Entertainment in part because Zee failed to meet some financial terms of the deal and come up with a plan to address them, according to a termination notice reviewed by *Reuters*.

Zee denied the allegations in a letter to Sony, also reviewed by *Reuters*, and accused the Japanese company of "bad faith" in calling off the merger.

A Zee-Sony merger would have created a media powerhouse in India with 90-plus channels across sports, entertainment and news.

But Sony terminated the plans on January 22, saying in a statement it was doing so because

"closing conditions" were not satisfied after two years of negotiations. Neither Sony nor Zee made the contents of the termination notice public.

Sony's notice said Zee had "failed to take commercially reasonable" efforts to meet some financial thresholds, including with regards to cash availability, while a "lack of commercial prudence" by the network contributed to its decision. In the 62-page notice, Sony said several breaches of the merger agreement were "not remediable and any further attempts to mutually discuss would be an empty formality, especially given ... plain denial (by Zee) and failure to provide a proposal to protect" Sony's interests.

"The breaches committed by Zee are not 'procedural or technical' in nature and will have a substantive impact on the transactions," Sony said. **REUTERS**

## RESULTS CORNER

### GAIL net jumps 10-fold as key businesses fire on all cylinders

New Delhi: State-owned gas utility GAIL (India) Ltd on Monday reported a 10-fold jump in its third quarter net profit as all engines of its business – from gas transportation to marketing and petrochemicals – fired on all cylinders.

Standalone net profit of the nation's largest gas transmission and marketing firm came at ₹2,842.62 crore in October-December – the third quarter of the current fiscal year that started in April 2023 – as compared to ₹245.73 crore earning a year back, the company said in a statement.

The net profit was better than ₹2,404.89 crore earning in the preceding quarter.

This came on the back of pre-tax earnings from the gas transportation business jumping nearly three-fold to ₹1,215.07 crore. **PTI**

### BPCL net profit jumps 82% on higher refining, market margins

New Delhi: State-owned Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) on Monday reported an 82 per cent jump in its December quarter net profit on the back of higher-than-expected refining margins and a rise in margins on fuel sales.

Its consolidated net profit of ₹3,181.42 crore in October-December – the third quarter of the current fiscal year, stated on April 1, 2023 – compares to ₹1,747.01 crore earnings in the same period of the previous financial year, according to a company statement.

Its profit was, however, lower than ₹8,243.55 crore earnings in the preceding quarter (July-September 2023).

The continuing freeze in fuel prices, which is now 21 months old, despite a fall in input raw material (crude oil) prices helped raise marketing margins. **PTI**

## To curb misuse, considering segregating prop, retail trades settlement: Sebi chief

**ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU**  
MUMBAI, JANUARY 29

WITH AN aim to curb misuse of proprietary trading, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) may look at segregating settlement of proprietary and retail trades, its Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch said on Monday.

Proprietary trading, also called prop trading, is when a financial firm trades on stock exchanges using its own funds with an aim to gain profits. Trading members who are doing prop trading are advised to specify the nature of the order – client or proprietary.

"...should there be segregation of settlement of proprietary trades and retail trades? Right now, it is segregation of the collateral and so on. We can also look at the segregation of settlement (of proprietary, retail trades) so that there is no netting between client and proprietor," Buch told reporters when asked if Sebi was looking

into the misuse of prop trading. Buch said the stock broking industry has made a representation to the capital markets regulator, in which it has mentioned that brokers do have different revenue models and some of those may look like it is a misuse but it is not.

"We will analyse all of that in a very balanced way to separate the wheat from the chaff, and will find a way to make a win-win out of it," she said at an event organised by Brokers Industry Standards Forum (ISF), which is tasked with setting standards of implementation of many regulatory initiatives.

To a query on the progress made on the extension of trading hours, Buch said there are very diverse views among various stakeholders and deliberations are still on. Last year, the National Stock Exchange (NSE) proposed to extend trading hours for index derivatives by three hours in the evening, as per the media reports.

She said Sebi will take into consideration views from market

infrastructure institutions in the first stage, feedback from brokers in the second stage, and lastly from investors, on the issue before deciding the next step.

"At the moment, the broking community itself is divided and there are a lot of discussions and deliberations going on, and they would be reaching some conclusion one day or another in some reasonable timeline," she said.

The regulator has not reached the stage where it has sought feedback from investors, which requires a different level of consultation, Buch said.

When asked about the recent decision by Sebi to close markets on January 22, to mark Lord Ram's Pran Pratishtha celebrations, which has led to some criticism, the Sebi chairperson said the regulator had kept the market open on January 20 (Saturday) to square off their trading positions.

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# Court orders realty giant Evergrande to liquidate

The decision comes as restructuring \$300 bn debt fails



Evergrande Group is one of the biggest of a series of Chinese developers that have collapsed since 2020. AP

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**  
HONG KONG, JANUARY 29

A HONG Kong court ordered China Evergrande, the world's most heavily indebted real estate developer, to undergo liquidation following a failed effort to restructure \$300 billion owed to banks and bondholders that fuelled fears about China's rising debt burden.

Judge Linda Chan said Monday it was appropriate for the court to order Evergrande to wind up its business given a "lack of progress on the part of the company putting forward a viable restructuring proposal" as

well as Evergrande's insolvency. China Evergrande Group is one of the biggest of a series of Chinese developers that have collapsed since 2020 under official pressure to rein in surging debt the ruling Communist Party views as a threat to China's slowing economic growth.

But a crackdown on excess borrowing has tipped the property industry into crisis, making it a drag on the economy, as scores of other developers ran into trouble, their predicaments rippling through financial systems in and outside China.

Global financial markets were rattled earlier by fears an

Evergrande liquidation could cause global shockwaves. But Chinese regulators said risks could be contained. Only a few billion dollars of Evergrande's debt was owed to foreign creditors.

It's unclear how the liquidation order will affect China's financial system.

Evergrande's Hong Kong-traded shares plunged nearly 21 per cent early Monday before they were suspended from trading. But Hong Kong's benchmark Hang Seng index was up 0.8 per cent and other property developers saw gains in their share prices.

China's largest real estate developer, Country Garden, gained 2.9 per cent and Sunac China Holdings jumped 4 per cent. Some other property companies logged moderate declines.

The Shanghai Composite index dropped 0.6 per cent while Shenzhen's A-share index fell more than 2 per cent.

Evergrande gained a reprieve from the Hong Kong court in December after it said it was attempting to "refine" a new debt restructuring plan of more than \$300 billion in liabilities. It could appeal the ruling.

Fergus Saurin, a lawyer representing an ad hoc group of creditors, said Monday he was not surprised by the outcome.

## CGST Act enacted in public interest, is consumer centric: Delhi HC

**MALAVIKA PRASAD**  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

WHILE UPHOLDING the constitutional validity of the Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) Act, the Delhi High Court Monday observed that the law not only "simplifies and harmonises the indirect tax regime" in the country, but also marks a "paradigm shift" in the

manner in which it is enacted.

The verdict came in a batch of over 100 petitions moved by firms running businesses ranging from hospitality, fast-moving consumer goods and real estate, challenging the constitutional validity of certain provisions of the Act, the CGST rules and the legality of the notices proposing imposition or penalty orders by the National Anti-Profiteering Authority (NAA).

The NAA had passed final orders directing the petitioners to pass on the commensurate benefit of reduction in the rate of tax or the input tax credit to its consumers along with interest as per Section 171 of the Act.

A division bench of Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Dinesh Kumar Sharma observed that the Act "primarily intends" to provide a common na-

tional market for goods and services as reflected in its motto 'One Nation One Tax'. Terming it a "consumer-centric Act", the Bench said it eliminates the levy of multiple taxes, streamlines the credit mechanism by removing distortions in the supply chains, and ensures a smooth pass-through and transparent mechanism for levying tax. **FULL REPORT ON**  
[www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

## BRIEFLY

### Jio consolidates market lead, adds 34.5L cell phone subscribers in Nov

New Delhi: Reliance Jio moved to a higher gear adding 34.5 lakh mobile subscribers in November, as rival Bharti Airtel garnered about 17.5 lakh new wireless users, TRAI data showed on Monday. **PTI**

### Rolls-Royce signs pact to make defence parts in India

New Delhi: Power and propulsion solutions provider Rolls-Royce on Monday said it has signed an agreement with Azad Engineering for making complex defence aero-engine components in India. **PTI**

**RAJASTHAN STATE HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY, JAIPUR**  
**Notice Inviting Bid (36/2023-24)**  
Bids for collection of user fee on "Bhawi-Pipar-Khinwar Road section of SH-86C Length Km. 83.225" are invited from interested bidders upto 11:30 AM on 19.02.2024. Other particulars of bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> / <http://sppp.raj.nic.in>) of the state. The estimated value of Annual Remittance is 3.09 Cr.  
UBN: PWD2024SLOB18109 Member (W,C & O)  
Raj Samwad/C/23/12380 RSHA, JAIPUR

**कार्यालय नगर निगम जोधपुर उत्तर**  
(नगर निगम भवन, पोलोटेक्निक कॉलेज परिसर के अन्दर मोरव पथ जोधपुर)  
(nnjnorth@gmail.com) Tel: 0291-2651403

क्रमांक- 4335 दिनांक- 25.01.2024

**ई-निविदा सूचना**  
U. B. No. DLB2324WSOB29833

नगर निगम जोधपुर उत्तर में नगर निगम के कार्य हेतु आवश्यकता होने पर मांग अनुसार संस्था में सेन टाईप हाइड्रोलिक एक्सकैवटर उपलब्ध करवाने के कार्य हेतु निविदा शर्त अनुसार दो वर्ष के लिए अनुभवी एवं योग्य प्रतिभागियों से ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा की निस्तृत शर्तें [www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in) [www.urban.rajasthan.gov.in/mcnj](http://www.urban.rajasthan.gov.in/mcnj) एवं [www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in) से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

राज संवाद / सी / 23 / 12390 आयुक्त

**KMML The Kerala Minerals & Metals Ltd**  
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking) Sankaramangalam, Kollam 691583  
Phone: 0476-2651215 to 217 e-mail: [md@kmml.com](mailto:md@kmml.com)

**TENDER NOTICE**

For more details please visit E-Tenders Portal, <https://etenders.kerala.gov.in> or [www.kmml.com](http://www.kmml.com)

Sl.No.	Tender ID	Item
1.	2024_KMML_648345_1	For the supply of 2x10 KVA Parallel Redundant Industrial Type UPS
2.	2024_KMML_644468_1	For the supply of FRP Bisphenol Pipe and Fittings
3.	2024_KMML_646916_1	For supply of 70 MT Potassium Chloride

Chavara 29.01.2024 Sd/- Managing Director for The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd.

**KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice**

Tender No : 1st Re E Tender No. WRD/KWA-CE(SR)/TR/17025/2022\_12\_1\_1/1  
Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)-CWSS to Mundakayam, Koruthode Panchayaths Construction of Check dam at Manimala river, the pipe line works & other related works- reg: General Civil Work. EMD : Rs. 5,00,000/-, Tender fee : Rs. 16540 + (2978) GST, Last Date for submitting Tender : 12-02-2024 03:00:pm Phone : 0481 2562745 Website : [www.kwa.kerala.gov.in](http://www.kwa.kerala.gov.in), [www.etenders.kerala.gov.in](http://www.etenders.kerala.gov.in)

Superintending Engineer  
PH Circle  
Kottayam

KWA-JB-GL-6-2206-2023-24

**BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED**  
(Wholly Owned by Government of Karnataka Undertaking)  
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)

**CORRIGENDUM**

Please refer to the BESCOM advertisement on Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) for "Preventive and Breakdown maintenance of all makes of DAS and Non DAS RMUs of all configurations in South Circle area of BESCOM for a period of two years on Total Turnkey percentage quoting basis" published in The Indian Express and Vijayavani on 24.01.2024.

Tender enquiry no. as per paper notification	To be read as
BESCOM/2023-24/EL/WORK_INDENT97	BESCOM/2023-24/EL/WORK_INDENT102

Availability of Bid Document on or after 30.01.2024  
Last date for Receipt of Bid Document: 19.02.2024 upto 15:00 Hrs  
The detailed notification can be obtained from the Website: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>. Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/-  
General Manager (Ele.)  
Procurement, BESCOM

For electricity related complaints Call: 1912  
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP

## Classifieds

### PERSONAL

**I, Renu Devi W/o Chandesar Paswan R/o 4/1/h/14, Mathur Babu Lane, Kulia Tangra 3rd Lane, Tangra, Kolkata-700015, have changed my name to Jayanti Debi 0070885737-1**

**I, Pawan Kumar S/o Laxmi Ram Semwal R/o E-143 Top floor, Gali.No.11 East Vinod nagar Delhi 91. Have changed my name to Pawan Kumar semwal. Both names are of one same person. 0070885535-1**

**I, Manoj Singh Yadav S/o Gulab Singh Yadav R/o Fahimpur, Gangauli, Mohammadabad Ghaziapur, Uttar Pradesh-23222, have changed my name to Shivam Singh Yadav 0070885754-1**

**I, Harshit Kumar S/o Sh. Rakesh Kumar R/o H.No. B-75/201, Gali No.3, Khazani Nagar, Johri Pur, North East Delhi-110094 have changed my name to Harshit Dayal for all purposes. 0040710621-3**

**I, Ayush Diwan Khurana S/o Anil Diwan R/o House No. - A-144, Defence Colony, First Floor, Defence Colony, Lajpat Nagar, District - Defence Colony, District - South Delhi, Delhi-110024, have changed my name to Ayush Dewan Khurana 0070885514-1**

**I, Anshul Grover D/o Sh. Ravinder Lal Grover W/o Sh. Ashish Rohatgi R/o D-2, Ganpati Apartment, 6, Shamnathi Marg, Civil Lines, Delhi-110054 have changed my name to Anshul Rohatgi w/o Sh. Ashish Rohatgi for all intends & purposes. 0040710621-1**

**I, Amit Gupta S/o Late Sh. Ved Prakash Gupta R/o House No.43/1, Rajpur Road, Civil Lines S.O., North Delhi, Delhi-110054 have changed the name of my minor daughter from Savya Gupta to Samaira Gupta for all purposes. 0040710621-2**

**I, Abhishek Khandelwal S/o Sh. Roop Narayan Khandelwal R/o A-305, Grand Ajnara Heritage Sector-74, Noida Gautam Buddha Nagar, have changed my minor daughter's name Dhvani to Dhvani Khandelwal for all future purposes. 0070885537-1**

**I, Soma Nandi D/o Sh. Balie Raj R/o E-2/241, Sultampur, Delhi-110086 declare that my name wrongly mentioned in my Passport as Soma Nandi. But my actual and Correct name is Soma Nandi for all purpose. 0040710636-1**

**I, MAKARAND RANADE, S/O BHASKAR PURUSHOTTAM RANADE, R/O-79, KK BIRLA LANE, LODHI-ESTATE, LODHI ROAD, NEW DELHI-110003, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM MAKARAND RANADE TO MAKARAND BHASKAR RANADE, VIDE AFFIDAVIT. NO. IN-DL34557523285447 W/ DATED-29/01/2024, AT NEW DELHI. 0040710715-7**

**I, RAKESH GULATI, S/O SURAJ PAKSHAR, R/O B-107, RISHI NAGAR, RANI BAGH DELHI-110034, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RAKESH KUMAR. 0040710721-7**

**I, RAJ KUMAR, S/O RAM PARSHAD, HOUSE, NO.31, U.G.F, PANCHSHEEL ENCLAVE, POCKET-11-A, SECTOR-23, ROHINI, NEW DELHI 110085, CHANGED MY NAME TO RAJ KUMAR SHARMA. 0040710658-4**

**I, Pulkit Shailani S/o Shripal Singh, R/o F3, Type-IV, Tower-12, Kidwai Nagar East Dilli Haat South, Delhi-110023, have changed my name to Pulkit Singh 0040710733-6**

**I, Poonam Sankla, D/o Sh. Ram Vilas, W/o Sh. Sanjay Mahamma, R/O B-748, Near Vayusnabad, J.J. Colony, Tigri, South Delhi, Delhi-110062, That Poonam Sankla and Poonam Mahamma are the name of one and same person i.e. deponent. 0040710658-7**

**I, Parveen Kumar, S/o Prakash Chand Jain R/o 211, Guru Apartment, Sector-14, Rohini, Delhi-110085, changed my name to Parveen Kumar Jain 0040710733-8**

**I, Nagender Singh Rawat S/o Manmohan Singh Rawat, R/o H.No-17D/132, Konark Enclave, Sector-17, Block-D, Vasundhara Ghaziabad, U.P-201012, have changed my name to Nagender Singh. 0040710658-2**

**I, NAVEEN MITTAL, S/O MADAN LAL MITTAL R/O ED-67C, MADHUBAN CHOWK, PITAMPURA, DELHI-110088, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO NAVEEN KUMAR MITTAL. 0040710715-3**

**I, Mohit S/o Chandar Mohan R/o 1-B-145 NH 1 FARIADAB NIT HARYANA 12100 Have changed my name to Mohit Chopra. 0040710658-6**

**I, MOHAMMAD ANSFAQ KHAN, S/O MOHD ASHFAQ KHAN, HOUSE, NO-A-197, GALLI, NO-13, JAFRABAD, NORTH EAST, DELHI-110053, changed my name to MOHD ANAS KHAN, for all, future purposes. 0040710721-3**

**I, Seema Khandwal, W/o Arun Kumar, R/o F-1004, Pearl Court, Ramprastha Greens, Sec-7, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, U.P-201010, have changed my name to Seema now for all purposes. 0040710735-1**

**I, Savir Khan alias Shabir Saifi alias Sabir Khan S/o Babu Khan R/o 645, Deepak Vihar, Khora-Colony Ghaziabad (U.P) have changed my name to Shabir Khan Saifi for all future purposes 0040710682-1**

**I, Rashmi Lohia D/o Ramesh Lohia R/o 160, Gali No 15, Sangam Vihar, Najafgarh, New Delhi, have changed my name to Rashmi Singhal. 0070885720-1**

**I, Sardana Priya Vinod, w/o Puneet R/o-1801, sector-12, sonipat have changed my name to Priya Sardana, for all purposes. 0040710738-3**

**I, Sant Raj, S/o Pancha Nand Thakur, R/o-642, Third Floor, T-1 Chirag Delhi, New Delhi-110017, have changed my name, from Sant Raj, to Sant Raj Thakur, for all purposes. 0040710745-2**

**I, Manisha, W/o, Vivek Malik, R/o, A-14, 3rd Floor, Kibithu Villas, opposite Baani Square, Sector-47, Gurgaon (Haryana), have changed my name to Manisha Malik. 0040710733-3**

**I, Sanjay Kumar, S/o Durga Prasad, R/o 3/824 Vasundhara Ghaziabad U.P-20112, have changed my name to Sanjay Sharma. 0040710658-1**

**I, Safiya Khan, D/O, Moinuddin, R/O K-2, Block-K Batla House Jamia-Nagar, New Delhi-110025, have changed my name to Safiya Begum, for all, future purpose. 0040710738-4**

**I, SUDHA GULATI, W/O RAKESH KUMAR, R/O B-107, RISHI NAGAR RANI BAGH, DELHI-110034, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SUDHA. 0040710721-8**

**I, SHUBH RATTAN, father of, AADITYA Presently, residing at, 164, Defence-Officers Enclave, Dhauka Kuan Part-2, Vande Matram Road, New Delhi-110010, have changed my minor son's name, from AADITYA to AADITYA RATTAN, Vide-affidavit dated-29.01.2024. 0040710715-10**

**I, SHRUTI A MALHOTRA, D/O ASHWANI KUMAR MALHOTRA, R/O A-2/3, SHIVAJI APARTMENT, SECTOR-14, ROHINI, DELHI-110085, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SHRUTI KHANNA. 0040710658-5**

**I, SAMRITI D/O AJAY NARANG, R/O HNO.12, 3RD-FLOOR, ROADNO.27, EAST PUNJABI-BAGH, DELHI-110026, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SAMRITI NARANG. 0040710715-5**

**I, Somya D/O, Durgesh Kumar R/o H. No-153, A-139 G/F Hari Nagar Harsh Vihar Badapur South Delhi Delhi 110044 have changed my name to Somya Singh. 0040710696-1**

**I, Ravinder Pal, S/o Hansraj, R/O, A-3/176, First-Floor, Sector-5, Rohini, North West Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Ravinder Pal Sareen. 0040710733-2**

**I, Rajbala W/o Dairaj Singh R/o, A-14/4, Kibithu Homes, Mayfield Gurgling, Sector-47, Gurgaon (Haryana), have changed my name to Rajbala Singh. 0040710733-4**

**I, CHANPREET KAUR KALRA, W/O Eshmeet Singh R/o-WZ-16, 3rd-Floor, Ram Nagar Extn. Tilak Nagar Delhi-110018, Have Changed My Name To Chanpreet Kaur. 0040710745-1**

**I, Bhupinder Singh, S/o Charanjit Singh Bawa R/O House, No.G-3, Naraina Vihar, New Delhi-110028, have changed my Name to Bhupinder Singh Bawa. 0040710721-4**

**I, Bhole Khan S/o Mohammad Jaan, R/o H. No.525, Rajeev Garden, Loni, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201102, have changed my name to Bholea, permanently. 0040710721-2**

**I, BABLI W/O SUBHASH R/O A-822-A, Near Shiv Mandir, DEOLI, NEW DELHI-110062, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO BABLI LODHI, FOR ALL, FUTURE PURPOSE. 0040710721-6**

**I, Ashvani Kumar S/o Krishan Kumar Gupta R/o E-246, Shastrri Nagar Delhi-110052, have changed my name to Ashwani Kumar Gupta 0040710733-7**

**I, hitherto known as LAKSHYA BHAMBRI S/O SANDEEP KUMAR R/O E-39, Sector-23, Near Millian Sweets, Sanjay Nagar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201002, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as LAKSHYA SHARMA. 0070885756-1**

**I, Vikas Kumar Arya S/o Ved Parkash R/o 24 Sainik Vihar Pitampura Delhi-110034 have changed my name from Vikas Kumar Arya to Vikas Kumar permanently 0040710728-1**

**I, VINAY BHARDWAJ S/O SH. ASHOK KUMAR R/O B-9 POLICE COLONY, PITAMPURA DELHI-110034 declare that VINAY BHARDWAJ and VINAY, both are same person. 0040710629-1**

**I, Umesh Chandra Sharma S/o Satyanarayan Sharma R/o B-805, Nimbus Express Park View Apartment, Sector-Chi-5, Greater Noida, U.P. have changed my name to Umesh Pandit for all future purposes. 0070885763-1**

**I, Munni Pathak W/o Punit Sagar Pathak R/o 148, Pathak Pura, Ora, UP have changed my name to Munni Devi. 0070885762-1**

**I, Sandeep Kumar Kanyan S/O Sh. Dharampal Singh, R/O Vill. Khiri Matarwa District-Kaithal, Haryana 136021. I have changed my minor Son's name from Kinsukh to Kinsukh Kanyan and he shall hereafter be Known As Kinsukh Kanyan for all future purposes. 0070885711-1**

**I, Manoj Tyagi S/o Jaidev Singh Tyagi R/o 1038, Prgya kunj, sector-4c, Vasundhara Ghaziabad, U.P-201012 have changed my name to Manoj Kumar Tyagi for all future purposes. 0070885758-1**

**I, Kuldeep Kaur Viridi, W/o Kawaljeet Singh Chawla R/o-WZ-641, near Aggarwal Sweet Sri, Nagar Saraswati, Vihar Delhi-110034, chaged my name to Kuldeep Kaur 0040710733-5**

**I, KASHIF S/O Zameer AHMED, R/O D-535, Gali No-16, Near Chand Masjid, Shri Ram-Colony, Rajeev Nagar, Delhi-110094, have changed my name to KASHIF AHMED, Permanently. 0040710715-4**

**I, KM. ALITA RANI, W/O, SANDEEP KUMAR R/O, HAIDER NAGAR JALALPUR MUZAFFARPUR-NAGAR, U.P-251306, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ALITA RANI, AND MY-FATHER NAME SPELLING MISTAKE SHRIPALSSINGH TO SHRI PAL SINGH. 0040710721-10**

**I, Rajender Kumar Singh, S/O Shambhu Singh, House Number, D-21/B-25, Street Number-6/Vijay Colony 3-Pusta, New Usmanpur, Garhi-Mendu, North-East Delhi, Delhi-110063, have changed my name to Rajender Kumar, for all, future purposes. 0040710658-3**

**I, Jitinder Kaur W/O, Davinder Singh R/O, 89, Chand Nagar, New Delhi-110018, have changed my name to Jatinder Kaur, for all Purposes. 0040710715-1**

**I, Jasvinder Kaur W/o Sh. Wazir Singh, R/o B-73A, Tilak Vihar, Tilak Nagar, New Delhi-110018, have changed my name to Anita Kaur. 0040710721-5**

**I, JASMEEN KAUJ/ JASMEEN ALANG, W/O JANMEET SINGH NARANG-R/O-House No.26, Road No.69, West Punjabi Bagh, Delhi-110026, have changed my name to JASMEEN KAUJ NARANG. 0040710735-2**

**I, Ilyash Ali, S/o Bhole Khan, R/O H.No.525, Rajeev Garden, Loni, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh -201102, have changed my name to Aliyas, permanently 0040710721-1**

**I, Eshmeet Singh Kalra, S/o Kuldeep Singh R/o Pocket-5 H.No-122, Mayur Vihar-1, Delhi-110091, Have Changed My Name To Eshmeet Singh. 0040710738-5**

**I, Devinder Singh S/O, Harbans Singh, R/O, 89, Chand Nagar, New Delhi-110018, have changed my name to Davinder Singh for all Purposes. 0040710715-2**

**I, Chet Ram S/o Navab Singh, R/O House, No. -101, Sutahari, Pinahat, Bah, Agra, Uttar Pradesh-283123, Have Changed My Name to Chetram Singh, for all, future Purposes. 0040710738-1**

**I, Ranvir Singh, S/o Ranvir Singh, R/O House, No. -101, Sutahari, Pinahat, Bah, Agra, Uttar Pradesh-283123, Have Changed My Name to Chetram Singh, for all, future Purposes. 0040710738-1**

**I, Bhupinder Singh, S/o Charanjit Singh Bawa R/O House, No.G-3, Naraina Vihar, New Delhi-110028, have changed my Name to Bhupinder Singh Bawa. 0040710721-4**

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**I, Sandeep Kumar Kanyan S/O Sh. Dharampal Singh, R/O Vill. Khiri Matarwa District-Kaithal, Haryana 136021. I have changed my minor Son's name from Kinsukh to Kinsukh Kanyan and he shall hereafter be Known As Kinsukh Kanyan for all future purposes. 0070885711-1**

**I, Manoj Tyagi S/o Jaidev Singh Tyagi R/o 1038, Prgya kunj, sector-4c, Vasundhara Ghaziabad, U.P-201012 have changed my name to Manoj Kumar Tyagi for all future purposes. 0070885758-1**

**I, Palak Sharma W/o Ripan Singh, R/o-198/418, Ramesh-Market, East Of Kailash, Delhi-110065, have changed my name to Palak Kaur, Permanently 0040710639-1**

**I, Lalit Kumar Sharma S/o Umesh Pandit R/O B-805, Nimbus Express Park View Apartment, Sector-Chi-5, Greater Noida, U.P. have changed my name to Lalit Pandit for all future purposes. 0070885764-1**

**I, Dupinder Singh Grover S/O Uttam Singh Grover, R/O G-86, GF, Mansarovar Garden, New Delhi-15, declares that my another name is DUPINDER SINGH GROVER henceforth I will be known as DUPINDER SINGH GROVER for all purpose. 0040710624-1**

**I, Balie Raj S/o Sh. Khudi Ram R/O E-2/241, Sultampur, Delhi-110086 declare that my name wrongly mentioned in my Daughter's Passport as Bali Raj Nandi insted of Balie Raj, But my actual and Correct name is Balie Raj for all purpose. 0040710637-1**

**I, Aqeel Sher Mohammad S/o Sher Mohammad R/o Plot No.01, Gali No.02, Vatika Kunj, phase-1, Bhondsi, Gurgaon Haryana-122102, have changed the name of my minor son Aged 9 years from Mohammed Arhaan Ansari to Mohammed Arhaan 0070885741-1**

**I, Aqeel Sher Mohammad S/o Sher Mohammad R/o Plot No.01, Gali No.02, Vatika Kunj, phase-1, Bhondsi, Gurgaon Haryana-122102, have changed the name of my minor son Aged 15 years from Aymaan Ahmed Ansari to Aymaan Ahmed 0070885743-1**

**I, Ansari Ehteesham Alias Ansari Ehteesham Aqueel S/o Aqeel sher mohammad R/o Plot No.01, Gali No-02, Vatika Kunj Phase-1, Bhondsi, Gurgaon Haryana-122102, have changed my name to Ansari Ehteesham Aqueel 0070885745-1**

**I, Afreen Aqeel Ansari W/o Aqeel Sher Mohammad R/o Plot No.01, Gali No.02, Vatika kunj phase-1, Bhondsi, Gurgaon Haryana-122102, have changed my name to Afreen Ansari 0070885746-1**

**I, hitherto known as RIZWANA D/O MOHD ILIYAS W/O ABDUL QADIR, R/O A-52, B-Block, Babarpur, Kabir Nagar, Gali no-5, North East Delhi-110094, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RIZWANA QADIR. It is certified that I have complied with all legal requirements in this connection. 0040710676-1**

**I, Surinder Kumar Kannoja S/O Shri Hari Lal R/O C-1/312, Second Floor, Sector-11, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have Changed my name to Surrender Kumar. 0040710247-1**

## LOST & FOUND

**I, Arun Matta & Anju Arun Matta, R/O-House, No.398, Sector-14, Gurgaon. Have lost Increase Aare Letter, and two Payments Receipts of my, property Flat No.204, Tower-D, The Residency, Arde City, Sector-52, Gurgaon. Founder please inform at: 96502621414. 0040710733-10**

**I, Ashish Arora S/o Sh. Mahender Arora R/o DP-107, Pitampura, Delhi-110034 have lost my Original Sale Deed of Property No. DU-44, S.F., Pitampura Delhi executed by Smt. Surinder Kaur and Others in favour of Jitendra Motiram Wadhvani and Others, bearing Regn. No. 6960, in Book No.1, Vol.No. 8359 on Pages 191 to 200 dt. 08.05.2019. Finders may contact at above address. 0040710621-4**

**I, GIRINDRA MOHAN S/O SRIKANT MANDAL A-DHARAMPUR UJAN POST OFFICE-LOHNA ROAD DISTRICT-DARBHANGA BIHAR-847407, LOST MY DDA ISSUED POSSESSION LETTER FOR MY DDA ALLOTTED LIG FLAT NO. 41 BLOCK B4 POCKET-2 SECTOR 3A ROHINI DELHI SOMEWHERE IN INA VIKAS SADAN NEW DELHI ON DATE 05 JANUARY 2024 PHONE:- 9934205960, Email:- gmlicdbg@gmail.com 0040710680-1**

**I, Diya Singh, daughter of Ram Kishan and resident of Flat No. 516, Vrindavan Green, Sector-5, Rajendra Nagar, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, hereby declare that I have lost my passport bearing number B8022362, which was issued on 01/12/2023. A police report regarding the loss was filed on 04/01/2024 at the Sahibabad Police Station. 0040710699-1**

**WE, Laddi Ji Associates Pvt Ltd, alias Laddi Ji Associates LLP inform that our original ownership paper vide Registered Sale Deed Registration No.1313 Book No.1 Vol No.1182 on pages 140 to 148 on dated 28-03-2012 registered in the office of Sub Registrar-3/A, Shalimar, New Delhi, executed by Dhan Pal Singh S/o Shri Datta Ram in favour of Laddi Ji Associates Pvt Ltd regarding the Property No.1/7431, (built on Plot No-4) measuring area 105.35 Sq. Mtrs., i.e. 126 Sq. Yds., out of the area of Village Sikdar Park, in the abadi of East Gorakh Park, now known as Shivaji Park, Ilaqa, Shahdara, Delhi-110029, has been lost, if found contact me +91-9871511326. 0070885762-1**

**I, Muni Pathak W/o Punit Sagar Pathak R/o 148, Pathak Pura, Ora, UP have changed my name to Muni Devi. 0070885762-1**

**I, Sandeep Kumar Kanyan S/O Sh. Dharampal Singh, R/O Vill. Khiri Matarwa District-Kaithal, Haryana 136021. I have changed my minor Son's name from Kinsukh to Kinsukh Kanyan and he shall hereafter be Known As Kinsukh Kanyan for all future purposes. 0070885711-1**

**I, Manoj Tyagi S/o Jaidev Singh Tyagi R/o 1038, Prgya kunj, sector-4c, Vasundhara Ghaziabad, U.P-201012 have changed my name to Manoj Kumar Tyagi for all future purposes. 0070885758-1**

**WE, Laddi Ji Associates Pvt Ltd, alias Laddi Ji Associates LLP inform that our original ownership paper vide Registered Sale Deed Registration No.1313 Book No.1 Vol No.1182 on pages 140 to 148 on dated 28-03-2012 registered in the office of Sub Registrar-3/A, Shalimar, New Delhi, executed by Dhan Pal Singh S/o Shri Datta Ram in favour of Laddi Ji Associates Pvt Ltd regarding the Property No.1/7431, (built on Plot No-4) measuring area 105.35 Sq. Mtrs., i.e. 126 Sq. Yds., out of the area of Village Sikdar Park, in the abadi of East Gorakh Park, now known as Shivaji Park, Ilaqa, Shahdara, Delhi-110029, has been lost, if found contact me +91-9871511326. 0070885762-1**

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**"IMPORTANT"** Whilst care is taken prior to entering any information on this copy, it is not possible to verify the contents, nor for any of the information (if) Limited cannot be held responsible for such contents, nor for any of the information incurred as a result of transactions with companies, associations or individuals advertising in their newspapers or Publications. We therefore recommend that you make necessary inquiries before sending any monies or entering into any agreements with advertisers or otherwise acting on an advertisement in any manner whatsoever.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given that share certificate(s) no.206353 for equity shares of Rs. 1/- (rupees one only each bearing distinctive nos 115244052 to 115248051 total 4000 shares of Ashai India Glass Limited registered in the name of Krishnanwarup, Shareholder Late Vasudev have been lost and Uma Gandhi has applied to the company to issue duplicate certificate(s). Any person who has/have any claim in respect of the said shares certificate(s) should lodge such claim with the company within 15 days of the publication of this notice, after which no claim will be entertained and the company will proceed to issue duplicate share certificate(s).

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given that the share certificate for the under mentioned Shares of Calcom Vision Limited have been lost. Any person to have a claim in respect of the said certificates should report to Ashwini RTA Division, A-387, Dilkhush Ind Area, G.T.K Road, Azadpur, Delhi-110033 undersigned within 15 days else the company will proceed with issuance of duplicate certificate on my request of Folio No. 009294, Certificate No. 3883, 3884, Distinctive No. 378471-378570 & 378571-378670 No. of Shares 100 each

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Share Holder: Chand Bihari Patodia D-395, Defence Colony, New Delhi

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
It is hereby informed to the general public that Mr. Yashwant Kumar S/o Late Sohan Lal & Rangita Devi W/o Late Yashwant Kumar R/o 242, Block-18, Trikolapeer East Delhi-91, Owner's of Plot N.1/465, Ground Floor, Niti Khand-1, Indrapuram, Gzb, which is registered in GDA, Owner of Mr Yashwant Kumar died on 21.01.2023 and his death was registered with the Registrar of Smt. Ranjana Devi & his three son's 1.Mr Salendra, 2.Narendra & 3.Prasanth legal heir of his property. Now Smt Ranjana Devi & his three son's want to sell this property to Mr Pramod Kumar s/o Sh Ram Dulare Sharma & jointly with Anjali Sharma w/o Sh. Pramod Kumar. If any objection to anybody kindly submit your objection along with the relevant documents within 7 days to from the publication of this notice.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
General Public is hereby informed that under instructions from and on behalf of my client UMA KHANNA, W/o Rajan Khanna, R/o, A-4/156, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-110063, have discovered and been notified by the Registrar of Smt. Ranjana Devi & his wife SMT. GOMTI KHANNA and their children, from all her immovable properties and moveable assets, and severed all relations with him due to their dis-obedience and mis-behaviour. Any body dealing with them, will do at his/her/their own risks, costs and responsibility and my client and all her other family members shall not be responsible for any acts done by them themselves. J.C. Tripathi (Advocate) Ch.No.M-4, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-54

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PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (Regd Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala) Tender Enquiry No. 32/AHP-143(N)/MM-IO&M Dated: 25.01.2024

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL, SHANKAR VIHAR (NEAR MAHPALPUR) DELHI CANTT-10 TELE NO - 011-26153559 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (Regd Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala - 147001) Tender Enquiry No. 309/SS(D)-361/Spares Dated: 29.01.2024

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (Regd Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala) 147001 Short Term E-Tender Enq. No: 7515/P-1/EMCP-12556 dated 25.01.24

INDIAN RAILWAYS "PUBLIC NOTIFICATION" Notice is hereby given to all users of Railway lines and premises situated on the completed section of the under noted section of the Northern Railway that the 25000 Volt 50 Hz. AC overhead traction wires will be energized on or after the date specified against the section.

उपरोक्त राज्य औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण कार्यालय उप महाप्रबन्धक (सिविल), निर्माण खण्ड-सूचीय 3090 राज्य औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण

Tripura Tourism Development Corporation Ltd. (A Government of Tripura undertaking) Head Office - Swetmahal, Palace Compound, Agartala-799001, Tripura (W)

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED General public is hereby informed that this Girl (depicted in the photo) namely Shivani R/o E-3/262, Shiv Ram Park, Delhi-41 has been missing/kidnapped from her house since 18.01.2024.

INDIAN RAILWAYS "PUBLIC NOTIFICATION" Notice is hereby given to all users of Railway lines and premises situated on the completed section of the under noted section of the Northern Railway that the 25000 Volt 50 Hz. AC overhead traction wires will be energized on or after the date specified against the section.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION General public is hereby informed that an unidentified newborn baby whose name, residence and family is unknown, was found abandoned near Bathroom of Coach no. A-2, Train no. 15910, Avadh Assam Express, Platform no. 16, ODRS, Delhi on 16.01.2024 at 10:46 AM.

Notice Inviting e-Tender The Managing Director, (TTDCL) invites online item rate e-tender in Single Stage Two Bid system for Upgradation of Visitor Amenities / Facilities, enhancement of built and natural features at Chaturdash Devta Temple and Kasba Kalibari Temple and Reconstruction of Yatri Niwas at Chaturdash Devta Temple (2nd Call) vide Tender ID No:-2024\_ADBTT\_46153\_1, dated 20-01-2024 and Tender Ref. No.F.2(323)-P/TT/2023, dated 20-01-2024.

कार्यालय परियोजना प्रबन्धक, युनिट-31 कन्दूरखान एम्प्लॉयमेंट सर्विसेज उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम (नगरीय) एसओ-90, शास्त्री नगर गाजियाबाद - 201002 ई-मेल: cdsupmunit31@gmail.com

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON (SEE SECTION 82 Cr.P.C.) Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person(s) Subhash Sharma S/o Uday R/o E-2/9, Shastri Nagar, Delhi has committed (or are suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 57/2020 Dated 20.03.2020 U/s 420/467/468/471/34 IPC, PS Civil Lines, Delhi and it has been returned to a Warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused person(s) Subhash Sharma can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused person(s) Subhash Sharma has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON (SECTION 82 Cr.P.C.) Whereas complaint has been made before me that the accused Nirmala, R/o Pole no. 74-A, Jharoda Kalan, Najafgarh, Delhi-43, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in Ct. Cases/943/2017, U/s 135 Indian Electricity Act, registered at P.S. Baba Haridas Nagar, Delhi, and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused Nirmala, cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Nirmala, has absconded (or is concealing herself to avoid the service of said warrant).

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT Telephone No. 01893-220098, E-mail - hp-kan2@nic.in INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) The Superintending Engineer HPPWD 9th Circle Nurpur H.P. on behalf of Governor of H.P. invites the percentage rate bids, in the electronic tendering system from the eligible class of contractors registered with HPPWD for the works as detailed in the table.

कार्यालय परियोजना प्रबन्धक, युनिट-31 कन्दूरखान एम्प्लॉयमेंट सर्विसेज उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम (नगरीय) एसओ-90, शास्त्री नगर गाजियाबाद - 201002 ई-मेल: cdsupmunit31@gmail.com

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON (See Section 82 Cr.PC) Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Harmeet Singh @ Gurjeet Singh @ Hunny, S/o Lt. Sh. Deedar Singh R/o H.No.WZ-102, Gali No.10, Shapura, New Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No.35243/2018 u/s 411 IPC, P.S. Hari Nagar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Harmeet Singh @ Gurjeet Singh @ Hunny cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Harmeet Singh @ Gurjeet Singh @ Hunny has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON (SECTION 82 Cr.P.C.) Whereas complaint has been made before me that the accused Nirmala, R/o Pole no. 74-A, Jharoda Kalan, Najafgarh, Delhi-43, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in Ct. Cases/943/2017, U/s 135 Indian Electricity Act, registered at P.S. Baba Haridas Nagar, Delhi, and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused Nirmala, cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Nirmala, has absconded (or is concealing herself to avoid the service of said warrant).

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, PWD (ROADS) ASSAM, CHANDMARI, GUWAHATI-03 No. CE/Commn/Asom Mala 2.0/15/2023-24/14 PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER The Chief Engineer, P.W.D (Roads), Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-03 invites bid on behalf of the Governor of Assam from approved and eligible contractors registered with PWRD, Assam for Improvement and upgradation of 2 Nos projects under Asom Mala 2.0 for the year 2023-24 amounting to Rs. 18558.213 Lakhs (approx.) in Darrang and Sonitpur districts of Assam.

कार्यालय परियोजना प्रबन्धक, युनिट-31 कन्दूरखान एम्प्लॉयमेंट सर्विसेज उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम (नगरीय) एसओ-90, शास्त्री नगर गाजियाबाद - 201002 ई-मेल: cdsupmunit31@gmail.com

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON See Section 82 Cr. P.C. Where as complaint has been made before me that accused Dharmender Singh @ Titu S/o Sh. Mahesh Singh, R/o- H. No. 181, MLA wali Gali, Village- Bawana, Delhi has committed (or suspected to have committed) the offence in case registered vide FIR No. 362/2023 U/s 394/397/34 IPC & 25/27 of Arms Act P.S. Rani Bagh, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused Dharmender Singh @ Titu can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Dharmender Singh @ Titu has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike Office of the Executive Engineer, SWD, Bommanahalli Zone BBMP, 9th Floor, Jayanagara Shopping Complex, 4th Block Jayanagar, Bengaluru-560 011 No. EE/SWD/BH/TEND/01/2023-24 Date: 29-01-2024 INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT) (THROUGH KPP PORTAL ONLY) TWO COVER SYSTEM (KW-4) The Executive Engineer, BBMP, SWD-Bommanahalli Zone, Bangalore, invites tenders from eligible contractors registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/BWSSB/Railways/MES/National Highway or any State Government Organisations for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

ताज महोत्सव-2024 दिनांक : 17 से 27 फरवरी, 2024 कार्यालय : सचिव, ताज महोत्सव समिति स्थान : 64- ताज रोड, आगरा ई-निविदा सूचना ताज महल पूर्वी गेट रोड स्थित शिल्पग्राम परिसर, आगरा एवं अन्य स्थलों पर आयोजित होने वाले ताज महोत्सव-2024 (17-27 फरवरी) के आयोजन हेतु कराये जाने वाले विभिन्न कार्यों के लिए ई-टेंडरिंग पोर्टल http://etender.up.nic.in के माध्यम से दिनांक 05.02.2024 को सायं 5:00 बजे तक निम्न कार्य हेतु निविदायें आमन्त्रित की जाती हैं:-

कार्यालय परियोजना प्रबन्धक, युनिट-31 कन्दूरखान एम्प्लॉयमेंट सर्विसेज उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम (नगरीय) एसओ-90, शास्त्री नगर गाजियाबाद - 201002 ई-मेल: cdsupmunit31@gmail.com

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE Sr. No. NAME OF BOARD/COMP./AUTH. NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER. 1. THE BALLABGARH COOP MILK PRODUCERS UNION LTD. OPERATION & PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE OF EFFLUENT TREATMENT PLANT OF CAP-500 HL/DAY ON ANNUAL BATE CONTRACT BASIS AT MBK PLANT BALLABGARH-HARYANA + 1 OTHER WORKS.

U.P. Power Corporation Limited Power Management Cell, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow -226010 e-mail : cepmc@uppl.org/cepmpcuppl@gmail.com PROCUREMENT OF POWER ON SHORT-TERM BASIS THROUGH TARIFF BASED COMPETITIVE BIDDING PROCESS Tender Specification No. 27/DEEP/PMC/SUMMER 2024 Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Limited (UPPCL), intends to buy Firm Power, for the month of April-2024 to September-2024 under Short Term basis. Trading licensees/ Generators/ State utilities/ CPPS/ Distribution licensees/ SEBs, across the country may offer power, from one or more than one source subject to condition that offers from each source shall not be less than 25 MW, as per the details given below:-

ताज महोत्सव-2024 दिनांक : 17 से 27 फरवरी, 2024 कार्यालय : सचिव, ताज महोत्सव समिति स्थान : 64- ताज रोड, आगरा ई-निविदा सूचना ताज महल पूर्वी गेट रोड स्थित शिल्पग्राम परिसर, आगरा एवं अन्य स्थलों पर आयोजित होने वाले ताज महोत्सव-2024 (17-27 फरवरी) के आयोजन हेतु कराये जाने वाले विभिन्न कार्यों के लिए ई-टेंडरिंग पोर्टल http://etender.up.nic.in के माध्यम से दिनांक 05.02.2024 को सायं 5:00 बजे तक निम्न कार्य हेतु निविदायें आमन्त्रित की जाती हैं:-

U.P. Power Corporation Limited Power Management Cell, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226010 e-mail: cepmc@uppl.org/cepmpcuppl@gmail.com PROCUREMENT OF POWER ON SHORT-TERM BASIS THROUGH LONG DURATION CONTRACTS (LDC) IN EX/P/HPX BASED COMPETITIVE BIDDING PROCESS Long Duration Contract Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Limited (UPPCL), intends to buy Firm Power, for the period of 01 April-2024 to 30 April-2024 under Short Term basis. Trading licensees/ Generators/State utilities / CPPS/ Distribution licensees/SEBs, across the country may offer power, from one or more than one source subject to condition that offers from each source shall not be less than 25 MW as per the details given below:-

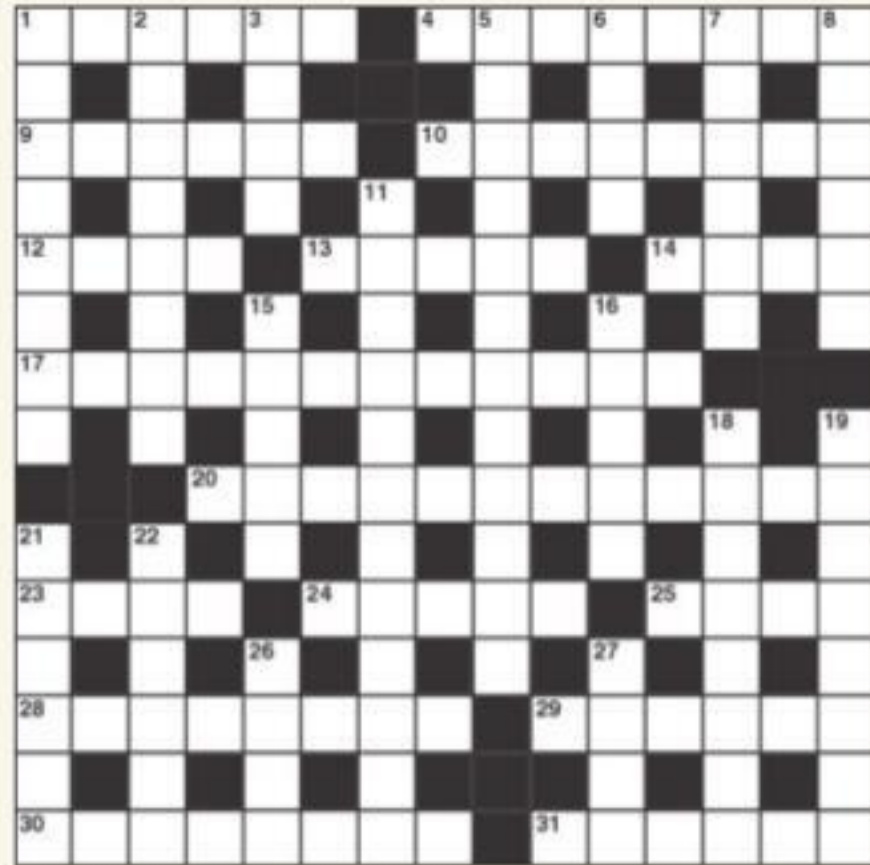
HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT Telephone No. 01893-220098, E-mail - hp-kan2@nic.in INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) The Superintending Engineer HPPWD 9th Circle Nurpur H.P. on behalf of Governor of H.P. invites the percentage rate bids, in the electronic tendering system from the eligible class of contractors registered with HPPWD for the works as detailed in the table.

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## CROSSWORD 5274



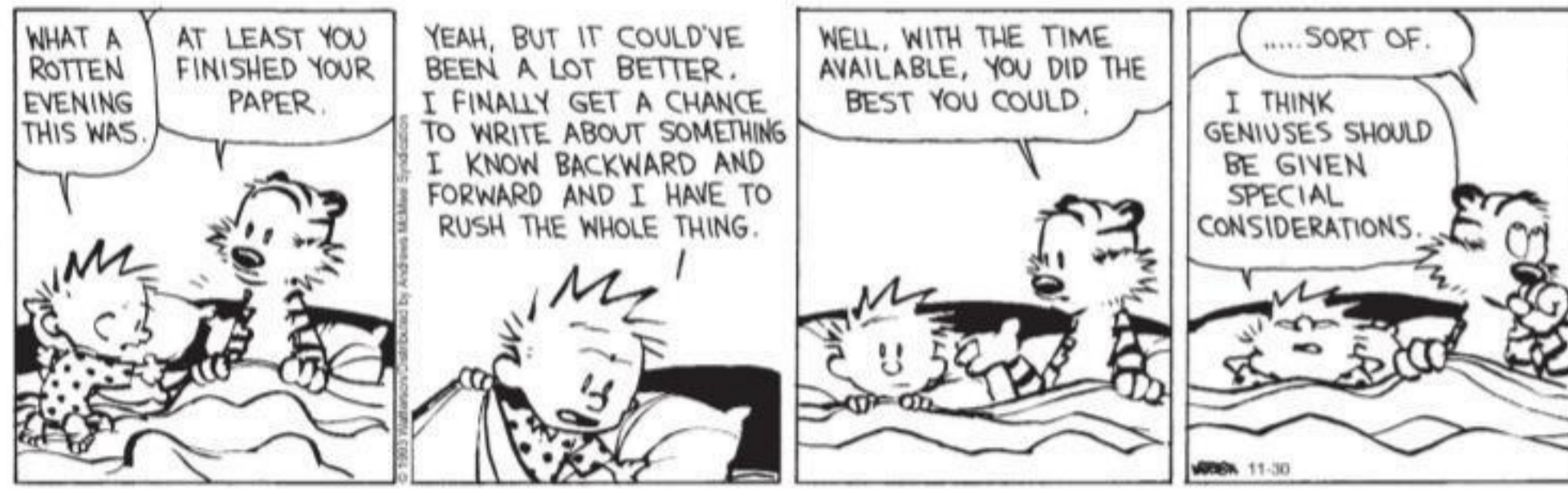
- ACROSS**
- A way man gets lost (6)
  - Important person seen at the fair (3,5)
  - A nut is loose in Texas (6)
  - Start to note (8)
  - A dollar for it sounds dear (4)
  - An average sort of shirt is indicated (5)
  - Country lacking a prominent feature (4)
  - It is mainly uninhabited (6,6)
  - He gives assistance in need for a sculptor (6,6)
  - The song told a story (4)
  - Climb the range (5)
  - Father to the French and mother to the Germans (4)
  - Not trying hard with a point deficit (8)
  - Superior Spanish gentleman I accommodated (6)
  - Had plenty from State Aid (8)
  - It can give one a breath of sweetness (6)
- DOWN**
- A bed made badly by George Eliot (4,4)
  - Two trials setting a precedent (4,4)
  - Fruitless sort of raid (4)
  - Where to find data on unmarried people of one rank (2,6,4)
  - Whisky drinkers may say it is just a question of time (4)
  - Sheila gets converted by a prophet (6)
  - Enjoying favour (6)
  - It may help in crime scene reconstruction (12)
  - What the conscientious judge did (5)
  - In any case a refusal will not please (5)
  - Small party conflict (8)
  - Four repeatedly out rustling (4-4)
  - Their function is to secure quiet in class (6)
  - The quibbler gets Dan in a temper (6)
  - Bird seen when others rise (4)
  - Girl upsets a clergyman (4)

Solutions Crossword 5273 Across: 1 Quill, 4 Cyclops, 8 Aid, 9 Certainty, 10 Tigris, 11 Imply, 13 Reacts, 15 States, 18 Lathe, 19 Authors, 21 Depressed, 23 Awe, 24 Emerald, 25 Speed Down: 1 Quarter, 2 Indignant, 3 Lucie, 4 Caress, 5 Chariot, 6 Own, 7 Shyly, 12 Patronage, 14 Theresa, 16 Suspend, 17 Paused, 18 Lodge, 20 Tides, 22 Pie

## 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 clue.

**BXAOR** **MIDDEN**  
**FYLOT** **ILNOFW**

SOLUTION: BORN, ROAST, MINDFUL, JET  
Answer: You can't drink yourself in drink. I've tried, you float.

## Difficulty Level 3s

**SUDOKU 5457**  
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

8			4	2		1		
7								9
5	2				4			
			7	2				6
				6				
7				1	5			
	9						7	3
6								8
8	3	5						9

## SOLUTION SUDOKU 5456

4	3	5	1	7	8	2	6	9
1	7	2	4	6	9	5	8	3
9	6	8	5	2	3	7	1	4
2	5	6	8	1	4	9	3	7
3	9	4	7	5	6	1	2	8
7	8	1	3	9	2	4	5	6
6	4	9	2	3	1	8	7	5
8	1	7	6	4	5	3	9	2
5	2	3	9	8	7	6	4	1

**बिहार सरकार**  
**जल संसाधन विभाग**  
**प्रेस विज्ञप्ति**

विभागीय पत्रांक-228 दिनांक 18.01.2024 के द्वारा जल संसाधन विभाग, बिहार, पटना के प्रशासनिक नियंत्रणाधीन बिहार अवर अभियंत्रण सेवा के मूल कोटि के कनीय अभियंता (असैनिक) की पारस्परिक औपबधिक वरीयता सूची प्रकाशित किया गया है, जिसे विभागीय वेबसाइट <https://wr.d.bihar.gov.in> तथा विभागान्तर्गत विभिन्न कार्यालयों में देखा जा सकता है।

इस प्रेस विज्ञप्ति के माध्यम से संबंधित सभी कनीय अभियंताओं को सूचित किया जाता है कि "यदि उक्त वरीयता सूची में कोई त्रुटि परिलक्षित हो, तो अपना दावा/आपत्ति औपबधिक वरीयता सूची के प्रकाशन की तिथि से 01 (एक) माह के अंदर अपने नियंत्री पदाधिकारी के माध्यम से आवश्यक अभिलेखों/साक्ष्यों के साथ अधोहस्ताक्षरी को उपलब्ध कराया जाए। निर्धारित समय सीमा के बाद प्राप्त दावा/आपत्ति पर विचार नहीं किया जाएगा।"

उक्त सूचना [www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar](http://www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar) पर भी देखी जा सकती है।

PR- 16064 (WRD) 2023-24 (गुंजन कुमार) अवर सचिव (प्रबंधन)

**बिहार राज्य शैक्षणिक आधारभूत संरचना विकास निगम लिमिटेड**  
**BIHAR STATE EDUCATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.**

(A Govt. of Bihar Undertaking)  
ISO 9001:14001;OHSAS 18001

Shiksha Bhawan, Bihar Rashtrabhasa, Parishad Campus, Acharya Shivpujan Sahay Path, Saidpur, Patna-800004  
Tel. No : 0612 - 2660850 \* Fax No : 0612 - 2660256

E-mail: bseidc@gmail.com \* Website : <http://www.bseidc.in> \* CIN: U80301BR2010SGC015859

**Short Notice Invitation Of Bids For DEMOLITION Of Buildings Under BIHAR STATE TEXTBOOK PUBLISHING CORPORATION LIMITED**

Bihar State Text Book Publishing Corporation Limited (BSTPCL) intends to construct three multi-storied buildings on the plot in its premises of Buddha Marg (Near Intermediate Council) Patna.

In preparation for clear and encumbrance free site for the same, it intends to invite Bids from experienced contractors/agencies to demolish some of the existing buildings currently standing on the site as per the time schedule given by BSTPCL or its agencies, in a phased manner.

The selected bidder shall be responsible for the safe and secured demolition of selected buildings, following all the safeguards, while taking all necessary safety and environmental precautionary steps for the same. All other guidelines as per National Building Code for the same shall be strictly followed. Protection from dust/debris during the demolition shall be of paramount importance.

The demolition shall be done right up to the foundation level unless otherwise instructed. While demolition of the foundation is done and necessary excavation done to the bottom of the foundation, protective measures shall be taken by the bidder to avoid any damage to the adjoining buildings / structures which have to be retained / demolished at a later date. There shall be no claim by the contractor for the same.

The bidder shall take all measures to protect all the buildings / boundary walls / remaining structures to be retained, in the phases as required by BSTPCL or its agencies. If there is any damage to the same, the contractor shall be liable.

The bidder shall have to remove all materials resulting from the demolition, including serviceable and unserviceable material on daily basis. Under no circumstances shall these be allowed to be collected at the project site.

Interested parties may quote the amount as a whole they want to offer to BSTPCL and submit the same (with PAN Card, Adhar Card, GST Registration Number & Previous experience if any) to the office of BSEIDC Ltd., Shiksha Bhawan, Bihar Rashtrabhasa Parishad Campus, Patna up to 09-02-2024 (Friday), 3:30 PM. The final selection of the bidder shall be done on H1 basis - i.e., the bidder who quotes the highest amount to be paid to BSTPCL in exchange to the serviceable material obtained from demolition of the buildings including taking the serviceable /unserviceable material away from the site using safe and environmentally conducive methods shall be selected for the job subject to final decision by concerned authorities based on basic minimum assessed value of the same.

It may be noted that some of the buildings/structures which have to be demolished are joined with/in close proximity to buildings which are to be retained. In such case, extraordinary precautions have to be taken, and sophisticated demolition tools, including but not limited to concrete cutters, etc. have to be used. A full safety plan has to be submitted and followed by the successful bidder.

A Pre Bid meeting for the same shall be held on 02/02/2024, 3:30 PM in the office of MD, Bihar State Text Book Publishing Corporation Limited, Buddha Marg (Near Intermediate Council) Patna.

BSTPCL reserves the right to cancel/amend /retender the same at any point in the tender process without assigning any reason.

For any clarification you may contact on Mob No-9789498060 during office hours except Sundays & Holidays.

उक्त सूचना [state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar](http://www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar) पर भी देखी जा सकती है।  
PR- 016052 (B & C) 2023-24

मुख्य अभियंता  
BSEIDC, पटना  
नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार

**झारखण्ड सरकार, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय**  
**तृतीय तल्ला, नया समाहरणालय भवन, पपरवाटांड, गिरिडीह, झारखण्ड - 815301**

**ई-अल्पकालीन पुनर्निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना**  
ई-निविदा सं 0-14/RI/2023-24/RWD/EE/GIRIDIH दिनांक :- 25.01.2024 ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, गिरिडीह द्वारा निम्नविवरण के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

- कार्य का नाम :-

क्र. सं.	आई-टेन्डरिंग संख्या / केके संख्या	कार्य का नाम	प्राकालितराशि (रुपया में)		कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि	टेंडर कॉल संख्या
			अंक में	अक्षर में		
1	RWD/GIRIDIH/TPKG/10/2023-24	(i) T01 से गुण्डाडीह तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य। (लं-5.780 कि०मी०) (ii) T04 से मण्डाडीह तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य। (लं-4.500 कि०मी०) (iii) T05 से महगाडीह तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य। (लं-6.000 कि०मी०) (iv) T01 से टिकलाटी तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य। (लं-0.880 कि०मी०) (v) T04 से विधरियाकला तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य। (लं-2.350 कि०मी०) (vi) L061 रंगमाटी से डोमनगहाडी तक पथ का सुदृढीकरण कार्य। (लं-6.700 कि०मी०)	14,85,30,300.00	चौदह करोड़ पचासी लाख तीस हजार तीन सौ रूप्य मात्र	09 माह	तृतीय

- वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि:- 30.01.2024
- ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय:- 06.02.2024 अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक।
- निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय:- 08.02.2024 अपराह्न 3.30 बजे।
- निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का पदनाम एवं पता:- कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, गिरिडीह, तृतीय तल्ला, नया समाहरणालय भवन, पपरवाटांड, गिरिडीह, झारखण्ड - 815301
- ई-निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं- 06532-225381

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाइट [www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in](http://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in) में देखा जा सकता है।

80/- कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग कार्य प्रमण्डल, गिरिडीह

PR 317199 REO (23-24)\_D

**JHARKHAND BIJLI VITRAN NIGAM LTD**  
(CIN: U40108JH2013SGC001702)  
(Civil Engineering Department)

Regd. Office: Engineering Building, H.E.C., Dhurwa, Ranchi -834004  
Telephone No. 0651- 2400912, e-mail- [ceciviljvnl@gmail.com](mailto:ceciviljvnl@gmail.com)

**e- TENDER NOTICE**

e-Tenders in two parts Part-I (Technical and Commercial) and Part-II (price part) are invited from the reputed tenderers having good experience of following similar nature of Civil works and having sound financial status:

SL. No.	NIT No.	Name of the works	Estimated cost in Rs.-/-	Earnest money to be deposited in Rs.-/-	Cost of BOQ (Non-Refundable) in Rs.-/-	Time of completion of work.
I	365 /PR/JBVNL /23-24	Construction of Transformer Repair Workshop, Scrap Shed, Boundary wall, Pathway and Area Development work at proposed TRW Chakradharpur.	1,56,03,200=00	3,12,100=00	10,000.00 + 18% Extra GST =11800	365 days

**Availability of tender documents on website**

Last date and time for uploading of e-tender	From 30.01.2024 at 02.00 PM to 20.02.2024 up to 6.00 PM
Last date and time for physical submission of original Affidavit.	Up to 20.02.2024 up to 6.00 PM
Date and time for opening of Tender Part-I (Technical and Commercial)	Up to 21.02.2024 up to 6.00 PM
Date and time for opening of Tender Part-II (Price Part)	At 3.30 PM on 22.02.2024
Tendering Officer and address for communication	Will be Communicated later on General Manager (CIVIL), JBVNL, Engineering Building, H.E.C., Dhurwa, Ranchi - 834 004

Any query towards this tender can also be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours or may contact on Mob No. 9431722552

- e-Tender documents and BOQ including terms & conditions, specification etc. can be downloaded and submitted online on website <https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>. Any details required in this regard can also be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours. NIC helpline no. 0651-2400178.
- Bidder shall deposit online tender fee as mentioned above (amounting to Rs 3,12,100=00 for EMD and Rs 10,000=00 + GST @18%, Total : Rs 11,800=00) for Cost of BOQ as per rules of e-tendering portal ([jharkhandtenders.gov.in](http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in)).
- The tenders will be received through electronic tendering mode only.

स्वीकृत एवं सन्तुष्टि में ऊर्जा बचाव। कृपया अपनी शिकायतों को टॉल फ्री नं० 1800 345 6570 पर दर्ज करायें।

Sd/-  
General Manager (Civil)  
PR 317273 (Jharkhand Bijlee Vitran Nigam Ltd) 23-24 (D)

**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**

General public is hereby informed that one male was found Unconscious condition at Near Gazipur Crossing Bus Stand, Delhi on 27.01.2024 and admitted in LBS Hospital Wheare doctor declared him dead vide MLC No.984/24. In this regard a DD No.39-A Dated 27.01.2024 has been lodged at P.S. Patparganj Industrial Area Delhi. Dead body has been preserved in LBS Hospital Mortuary, Delhi for 72 Hours. The description of the dead body is given as under:

**Name:** Unknown, **D/O:** Unknown, **R/O:** Unknown, **Age:** About 35 years, **Height:** 170 Cm, **Complexion:** Shallow, **ID Mark:** Black mole on right side of face, **Wearing:** Gray Jacket & Blue Colour Pyjama.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the information about the dead male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one is having any information about this dead male please inform the undersigned.

S.H.O  
P.S. Patparganj Industrial Area Delhi.  
Ph : 8750870626, 7011283154

DP/1089/ED/2024

**fincare**  
Small Finance Bank

Registered Office: 301-306, 3rd Floor, ABHIJEET -V, Opp. Mayor's Bungalow, Law Garden Road, Mitkhahall, Ahmedabad - 380006, Gujarat. [www.fincarebank.com](http://www.fincarebank.com)

**LOAN AGAINST GOLD - AUCTION NOTICE ON "AS IS WHERE IS" BASIS**

The below mentioned borrower/s have been issued notices to pay their outstanding amounts towards the loan against gold facilities availed from Fincare Small Finance Bank Ltd ("Bank"). Since the borrower/s has/have failed to repay his/their dues, we are constrained to conduct an auction of pledged gold items/articles on 05 February 2024 between 11:00 AM - 03:00 PM (Time) at below mentioned branches according to the mode specified therein. In case of deceased borrowers, all conditions will be applicable to legal heirs. Please note that in the event of failure of the above auction, the bank reserves its right to conduct another auction without prior intimation.

**E-Auction Branch Details (E-auction will be conducted by using Weblink <https://gold.samil.in>)**

DEHRA DUN	23660000549246	23660000768653
	23660000808390	23660000911485
	23660000911495	23660001546994
	23660001619468	

Note: The auction is subject to certain terms and conditions mentioned in the bid form, which is made available before the commencement of auction.

Sd/-  
Manager  
Fincare Small Finance Bank

**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 Dheeraj, S/o Sh. Satyanarayan, R/o H.No.257, Gali No.04, Ibrahimpur, Sushant Vihar, Delhi, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in FIR No.797/2015 U/s 376 Delhi Ex.Act.R/w 408/411/420/468/471/120B IPC, P.S. I.P Estate, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused Dheeraj cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Dheeraj has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Dheeraj of FIR No.797/2015 U/s 376 Delhi Ex.Act.R/w 408/411/420/468/471/120B IPC, P.S. I.P Estate, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 01.03.2024.

By Order  
Sh. Vinod Kumar  
Metropolitan Magistrate-03  
Central District, Room No-150  
Tis Hazari, Courts, Delhi

DP/969/CD/2024

# 19 SPORT

## JORDAN ADVANCES TO QUARTERS

*Al Rayyan:* Jordan scored two goals in stoppage time to advance to the quarterfinals of the Asian Cup on Monday after a 3-2 comeback win against 10-man Iraq. **AP**

### INTERVIEW: SANJAY SINGH, PRESIDENT OF SUSPENDED WFI

# 'Efforts are on, we will be returning to power in 10 days'

**SHIVANI NAIK**  
PUNE, JANUARY 29

SANJAY SINGH leads the suspended Wrestling Federation of India and is viewed as a front for Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, accused of sexual harassment by leading female wrestlers. The Varanasi loyalist has gone ahead to conduct a Senior Nationals at Pune by gathering lesser-known wrestlers from 24 state units, defying the Sports Ministry orders and calling the ad hoc committee's Jaipur Nationals a mistake.

He is confident he will convince the government to revoke their suspension and will be back calling the shots in "10 days."

The WFI though was chastised enough to set up a sexual harassment committee, and Singh says he will engage with wrestlers Vinesh Phogat, and Sakshi Malik while maintaining that they will find redressal to their complaints only in courts. He insists Brij Bhushan Singh Sharan has not even a paisa invested in wrestling anymore, but is free to run his academy in UP.

**Excepts**  
**How did your association with wrestling start?**

It started as a district official in Benaras in 2008. Wrestling was a hobby. In 2009, I became a vice president of UP wrestling. And after 2011 I was joint secretary of WFI. I wasn't a wrestler myself, but my father used to organise mud dangals.

**Your federation is suspended by the Ministry. How do you propose to move ahead?**

We are talking to the government and will convince them their ad hoc committee decision is wrong. Our efforts are on to end this and in 10 days we will be back in power.

**What do you plan to do about the Olympics, given much is expected out of wrestling?**

There are two Olympic qualifying events left. The winners of the Pune Nationals will be called to a camp. Then we'll conduct trials and send them to the qualifiers. I'm confident 4-5 more wrestlers will qualify. Antim Panghal has already qualified.

**4-5 more in men and women?**

Yes, women also.

**What about the winners of the Jaipur Nationals?**

Our winners come from 25 state units, and there are wrestlers who need jobs and our certificates will help them. Those who are already employed with Railways and Services already have jobs and didn't need to compete here so they didn't care. In all this, the ones suffering are wrestlers competing in Pune. But I promise that those who go for the Olympics will be from the Pune Nationals only.

**But the ad hoc committee is mandated by**



Sanjay Singh.

**the Ministry and government?**

The ad hoc committee decisions are all wrong. Their existence is against the rules and they exist without permission of the federation. We will happily welcome good wrestlers, even those from Jaipur once we resume the reins.

Global wrestling has moved ahead scientifically. Indian wrestling is still stuck in backward times. Also, last Olympics under Brij Bhushan, the support staff for female wrestlers was neglected and inadequate.

We will appoint physios for chet-chapet (niggles). There will be adequate female phys-

ios for women wrestlers. We are also in talks with foreign coaches. And we will send wrestlers abroad for four months. Wrestling won't stop no matter what. We are confident of resolving this without going the legal route. We are in contact with the government. We won't disappoint at the Olympics.

**Do you wish to say anything to the aggrieved wrestlers fighting the battle against Brij Bhushan?**

I wish to tell them you can't achieve everything by becoming adhyaksh (leader). They should join us, and guide the youngsters, in an advisory capacity. We'll welcome them.

**But what if they want to compete and play? Quality-wise they are still better than most wrestlers here.**

Well, they can also practice. But come into the camp giving trials. Follow the rules, and don't steal someone else's rights and fair spot.

**What will be your preferred mode of Olympic qualification?**

Since there's no time left for trials, those who win quotas only will be sent to the Olympics. But we'll discuss it again at our Executive Committee.

**There are serious concerns about Brij Bhushan still being involved with wrestling. Can't you distance yourself from him completely to allay fears?**

He is just an ex-president. There's no interference from him. No involvement of even one paisa. He's taken Sanyaas from wrestling. He of course runs his private wrestling academy in Uttar Pradesh and we can't stop him. There's no involvement as an office bearer.

**After he was accused of serious sexual harassment by genuine champions like Sakshi and Vinesh, do you think there are concerns from girls and their parents about getting into wrestling?**

Yes, there are safety concerns. But that's why we've appointed a sexual harassment committee at WFI. It also has Monicaji from an NGO who's the chairperson. Five women wrestlers have competed internationally in World wrestling. We are trying to ensure that girls can trust us again. If they can regain their old form, we will welcome all past women wrestlers and ensure no one is treated unjustly.

**How do you look back at the time since your election as president?**

We've lost 1.5 months, but 25 state units are with me. And all the wrestling kids trust me and have hopes for me. The likes of Vinesh, Sakshi and Bajrang can fight their battles in the court. If they want to do politics, they can fight elections. But if their heart is really in wrestling, they can come back to us. You can ask anyone - or they can tell me if I've ever misbehaved with anyone. If they accuse me of being close

to the former president, it's because I was office bearer for 12 years, and he for 15. I can say, if I'm considered close to him, weren't they also close? And on Brij Bhushan's happy birthday, hundreds of people wished him with bouquets. Does it mean they are all his kareebi (close to him)? I will make sure I put an end to this confusion.

**Besides being interested in wrestling, do you have a proper profession?**

I'm originally a farmer, and to feed my family, a small-time businessman.

**Do you plan to expand wrestling to cities and encourage it in colleges like in the USA so this sport is not stuck?**

SAI is there to take care of city centres. I want to revive the old village akhadhas.

**But that's again going back and nothing new?**

I want to restore rural akhadhas to its former glory.

**What's your view on personal coaches appointed by NGOs who brought Olympics success to India but were opposed by the last dispensation?**

We'll set up a committee to look into that.

**How many Olympic medals can India win in Paris?**

If I'm given a free rein, we will win 4 at least.

## Indian Davis Cup team 'well looked after' in Pakistan

**NAMIT KUMAR**  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

FOR THE first time in 60 years, an Indian tennis team has travelled to Pakistan to play a Davis Cup tie. The 10-member contingent, including the five players, support staff and coaches, landed in Islamabad for the World Group 1 playoff tie, to be held between February 3-4, on Sunday to a warm reception despite the All India Tennis Association's (AITA) attempts to have the tie moved to a neutral venue.

"I can say we are all well looked after," Anil Dhupar, secretary general of AITA, told *The Indian Express* over the phone from Islamabad. "Having been here 24 hours, I can say all is well. From the reception at the airport from the Pakistan Tennis Federation (PTF) to the three-hour-long practice the players had today, the hospitality has been great."

The Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) and PTF have ensured to follow the security arrangements approved by the IITF and have granted the team the security cover usually reserved for heads of state.

"Since an Indian team has come to Pakistan after 60 years, we are taking extra precaution. There are four to five layers of security around the Indian team. I, as event security manager, am with them during travel," Col Gul Rehman, secretary general of the PTF, told *PTI*.

Sporting ties continue to remain frosty between India and Pakistan. In recent times, however, a Pakistan team traveled to India for the cricket World Cup, and an Indian bridge team had travelled to Lahore for the Bridge Federation of Asia and Middle-East Championships (BFAME) where they won four gold medals, ensuring qualification for the World Championships.

Unlike in 2019, when India were slated to play in Pakistan but geopolitical tensions between the countries meant the tie was shifted to a neutral venue in Nur Sultan, Kazakhstan, this time around, the International Tennis Federation (ITF) rejected AITA's appeals for the same. The national federation first saw its appeal rejected by the Davis Cup Committee, and then by an independent ITF tribunal. Once no more options were left at their disposal, AITA approached the Sports Ministry seeking permission for the team to go to Pakistan, which was approved without much resistance.

If India were to forego the tie, they would be immediately relegated back to World Group 2 and could potentially suffer sanctions from the ITF. Forfeiting the tie had never been a consideration, the authorities say. "There was no question," Dhupar says. "We did what we could to get a neutral venue, but since we could not, we are here. All that is behind us now. What matters is the boys are charged up for this one now."

With India's top-ranked singles players Sumit Nagal - fresh off a run to the second round of the Australian Open - and Sasikumar Mukund pulling out of the tie last month itself, the World No. 463 Ramkumar Ramanathan will spearhead an Indian contingent full of doubles specialists. Nagal had won both of his singles rubbers and spearheaded India's home win over Morocco in the World Group 2 tie in Lucknow in September alongside Rohan Bopanna, who has now retired from Davis Cup duty.

Yuki Bhambri, who is now a full-time doubles player, may be roped in to play a singles rubber if needed. Saketh Myneni, N Sriram Balaji, and Niki Poonacha are the other players in the squad.

Pakistan's contingent will be led by their veterans. 43-year-old Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi, ranked World No. 127 in doubles and having reached a US Open final alongside Bopanna back in 2010, is their highest-profile player.

### LONG READ

# From free-flowing hockey to a freefall

Unpaid coaches, a federation in debt, players reduced to driving taxis, lack of hockey balls to train and an archaic playing system without midfielders, Pakistan hockey has been in the absolute doldrums the last dozen years

**MIHIR VASAVDA**  
MUMBAI, JANUARY 29

TONGUE FIRMLY in his cheek, a television presenter harks back to the time when hockey was 'sone ka phuwara', golden fountain. Another anchor, less sarcastic but more dramatic, sheds 'khood ke aansu'.

There's a sombre recollection of the days when they were the 'shahenshah'. And venting of pent-up feelings. "Dynamite lagi imaarate itni tezi se nahi giri jiti tezi se Pakistan hockey giri hai (Buildings fitted with dynamites don't fall as fast as Pakistan hockey)," screams a host.

The Paris Olympics hockey tournament will begin in six months. But Pakistan won't be there. Like in Tokyo three years ago. And at Rio before that. Last weekend, they finished fourth at a qualification tournament in Muscat. Only top three qualified.

It means the fabled Green Shirts, the most successful team at the Games after India, have now missed the Olympics the same number of times as they have won the golds - three.

Outside the studios, few waste their precious tears. For most, it was a fall foretold.



"We all need to understand," asserts Dutch coach Roelant Oltmans, "that hockey in Pakistan isn't a priority anymore."

Few, inside Pakistan or outside, have had a better first-hand view of the collapse than Oltmans. The 69-year-old world traveller has been the coach of the Netherlands, India and Malaysia. But Pakistan is where he's been the most - three times in the last 20 years.

During his first stint, in 2003-04, the country's national sport was treated as one. There was ambition. And that was backed by money.

"There was clearly a lot more money," Oltmans tells *The Indian Express*. That meant more staff. "In 2004, at the Athens Olympics, I had three Dutch coaches and a video operator in my staff." A video analyst back then was rare. In that sense, Pakistan were ahead of the curve, at least in Asia.

In 2009, the Pakistani government gave its country's hockey federation a whopping 1.2 billion Pakistan rupees. Around that time, players in India were going on a strike for unpaid wages and the federation was suspended.

When Oltmans returned in 2018, Pakistan had just enough cash reserves to hire an Australian trainer. And last December, after he took over the reins for the third time, they barely had money to pay him. In December, the Pakistan Hockey Federation asked him to take charge of the Qualifiers-bound team, and the under-21s coach agreed. But a dodge that would have made the country's past masters proud caught Oltmans and the hockey administration wrong-footed. Pakistan's caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar ordered a change of regime in the federation.

In came a new president and out went Oltmans, just days before the qualifiers. "That," Oltmans says, "was a wrong decision in a series of wrong decisions taken in the country. Look at what happened with Sigfried Aikman!"

Aikman - the Dutch coach with Surinamese and Indian heritage - came to Pakistan a couple of years ago with his reputation preceding him.

He'd turned Japan, a virtual nobody in world hockey, into Asian Games champions and then at Tokyo, they looked the likes of



For the third consecutive Olympic Games, Pakistan's hockey team will not be in Paris 2024 after finishing fourth in a qualification tournament in Muscat.

Australia in the eye fearlessly challenging them. In the nostalgic world of Pakistani hockey, it was hoped he'd restore their glory days.

From the hi-tech world of Japanese hockey, which had pumped in millions of dollars ahead of the home Olympics, Pakistan was a return to the 'stone age', he says. Tactically, technologically and financially.

His troubles began with the most basic thing - a hockey ball. "We had 18 kookaburras, which are used in international competitions, to train with," Aikman adds. To add context, India is estimated to use 200.

One kookaburra, the company's website shows, costs around Rs 2,000. "We started with 40. But then some of them broke or got lost but you can't replace them. If you want to train at high intensity, you want to have more balls, else you waste time collecting them every time you play and there's a break," Aikman says.

Given the fight for standard equipment, there isn't a hint of surprise in Aikman's voice when he says those in charge 'didn't have a clue about sports science'. The GPS trackers, which monitor players' fitness and have become as integral as a hockey stick, haven't reached that part of the world yet. The players run rounds of the pitch to improve stamina. Tactically, he adds, Pakistan still play the same brand of hockey that won them the World Cup in 1994. "The concept of midfielders doesn't exist in Pakistan," he begins. They'll play a 5-0-5 formation - right-out, right-in, centre-forward, left-in and left-out in attack. Two side-halves, one centre-mid and two full-backs in defence. "That system is very old-fashioned. It doesn't work anymore." The players' attacking skills, he vouches, are as exceptional as they were in their heyday. But when they lose the ball, the attackers wouldn't track down to help the defence. In a modern sporting world where even Messi is chastised for not falling back enough to help out the defence, this was sacrilege.

So, if the deep defenders won back possession, they'd run the length of the field to play the right pass and when the opponents stole

### FROM PODIUM TO PITS

Pakistan, who have won 3 Olympic gold and been crowned world champions four times, have qualified for just one major event in the last 10 years

2014 World Cup	2020 Olympics
Did not qualify	Did not qualify
2016 Olympics	2023 World Cup
Did not qualify	Did not qualify
2018 World Cup	2024 Olympics
12th out of 16 teams	Did not qualify



the ball, they were left open to counterattacks. "Their mindset was, 'win the ball and aage jao. But by the time they make it to the opponent's 'D', they have run 50-60m at a high pace and get tired. They don't score because they make unforced errors as they are tired." A decade ago, all this would have been true for Indian hockey as well. But while strong administrative interventions turned the tide, Pakistan is stuck in a seemingly irrevocable downward spiral. No balls, no technology, no gym, no protein and no money.

Aikman says after he wasn't paid his salary for the first few months, the government released funds enough to pay his six month's wages. "They paid me for two months while the rest of the money was distributed among the players. They, too, weren't paid for months and were driven merely by passion."

After a point, though, the federation's coffers dried up again and they stopped paying the Dutchman, he claims. "I haven't been paid 10 months' salary. I probably will never get it. That's why I couldn't continue. I have a family to take care of."

A disconnected telephone connection, cut-

off internet and debt of approximately 8 crore Pakistani rupees: That's what Tariq Hussain Bugti, the new Pakistan hockey chief, claims he inherited from the previous regime. "The old management," Bugti says in a video posted by the Balochistan hockey federation, which he heads, "had *shaahi kharche*. The money that was to be spent on the players was used for themselves and their families. The players haven't got their dues for almost a year."

A government policy, Pakistan's vice-captain Abu Bakr Mahmood points out, in 2021 made a bad situation worse. In 2021, former Prime Minister and arguably the nation's biggest sporting hero Imran Khan's government asked all public departments, corporations and autonomous bodies to stop funding sports teams in 30 disciplines, the *Express Tribune* reported. For a country in a deep economic crisis, sport seemed a luxury that could be avoided.

Thousands of athletes, multiple reports say, lost their jobs. Along with it, the financial security to focus solely on sports without having to worry about basic needs was also gone. "I didn't want to say but I shall," Mahmood says in the video, "that some international players, who have made the country proud are now driving taxis to run their house."

One such player is Ali Butt. Butt spent most of his adult life doing what he loved the most - play hockey. It earned him a job, a stable income and a purpose. Until all of it was suddenly snatched away.

"The current situation, coupled with Covid, have made things worse," Butt, who was employed by a government unit, told National Point in 2021. "So, if we go to the ground where will we earn our income from? My department disbanded the team and I got unemployed. I do not have any other experience other than playing hockey. So, I drive a taxi for 12 hours and one or two hours in the evening. I fulfil my hobby. It's no longer a profession."

The policy and the financial stress in the country also led to a talent drain. Players began taking premature retirement and moved out of Pakistan to play in professional foreign leagues.

Drag-flicker Mubashir Ali, hero of Pakistan's previous Olympic qualifying campaign, in 2019 when they gave the Netherlands an almighty scare, turned his back on the national team and moved to England, where he plays professionally. "He doesn't want to come back because of what's happening in the country," Oltmans says.

Those who have stayed back are often blamed for the rut.

The great Samiullah 'The Flying Horse' Khan expresses 'afsoos' - regret - and grieves on air. But for him, it's also a 'told-you-so' moment. "Akhtar Rasool, Qasim Zia, Shahbaz Senior, Asif Bajwa... they were (PHF) secretaries. All very good Olympians but their motives weren't great," Samiullah told Geo Super.

"They still think they are the second best country in the world after India because of the gold medals won at the Olympics. That's not how it is," Oltmans says. "If you miss out on three Olympics in a row, it shows already that the decline began a long time ago."

## Why Sarfaraz could play ahead of Patidar in 2nd Test at Vizag

TUSHAR BHADURI  
JANUARY 29

A RARE Test defeat at home has already put India under pressure, and the team, that will be without their talisman Virat Kohli for the second game as well, suffered a twin blow on Monday as middle-order mainstay KL Rahul and all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja were ruled out of the contest in Visakhapatnam starting on Friday.

Jadeja sustained a hamstring injury during play on Day 4 of the Hyderabad Test while Rahul complained of pain in his right quadriceps, a BCCI release said.

For a team trying to come to terms with the challenge and positivity of Ben Stokes' England, losing two senior players for such a crucial game sends them back to the drawing board. These selectors have added Sarfaraz Khan, left-arm spinner Sourabh Kumar and off-spinning all-rounder Washington Sundar to the squad.

In Kohli's absence, Rahul was the most experienced batsman in the middle order and scored 87 in the first innings as India took a 190-run lead. His dismissal on the fourth afternoon was part of a dramatic collapse that paved the way for England's 28-run win.

Rajat Patidar is already part of the squad and has shown good temperament in white-ball cricket. In normal circumstances, he should be the next cab off the rank but with questions being raised over Indian batsmen's proficiency in facing spin and their reluctance to employ the various versions of the sweep shot, Sarfaraz could get a look in.

Sarfaraz has been shown to have some issues while facing genuine pace and bounce, but with the pitch at Visakhapatnam expected to be spin-friendly, his prowess in that department could be deemed useful.

As far as a replacement for Jadeja is concerned, left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav is already in the squad. The Uttar Pradesh twerker has an impressive Test record and has the ability to confound batsmen with his variations. But his inclusion wouldn't do much for India's batting depth. His statemate Sourabh is an experienced performer at the first-class level and could be a like-for-like replacement for Jadeja, who has been one of the foremost all-rounders in Test cricket over the last several years.

On the batting front, it remains to be seen whether the selectors go for the weight of domestic runs that Sarfaraz brings to the table or the impression that Patidar has made in his small sample size, even though he averages much less in first-class cricket.

**India's squad for 2nd Test:** Rohit Sharma (C), Shubman Gill, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shreyas Iyer, KS Bharat (WK), Dhruv Jurel (WK), Ravichandran Ashwin, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohd. Siraj, Mukesh Kumar, Jasprit Bumrah (VC), Avesh Khan, Rajat Patidar, Sarfaraz Khan, Washington Sundar, Sourabh Kumar

# How Pope and England's other Bazballers systematically humbled Indian spinners

## Blow-by-blow account of how the hosts' much-touted spin attack was demystified

SRIRAM VEERA  
JANUARY 29

ON A wearing pitch, England amassed 420 in the second innings against R Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja and Axar Patel, deploying the reverse sweep, conventional sweeps, and down-the-track charges in a tactically-done Bazball way. Here is how Ollie Pope and co. systematically targeted the Indian spinners, forcing them to alter their plans.

### 6th over: Reverse sweep is out

A plan emerges with Zak Crawley reverse-sweeping R Ashwin's length ball on the middle and off from round the stumps square to the point boundary. It was his second reverse sweep, after already reverse-sweeping Ashwin for a four in the second over.

### 7th over: Crawley hits a six

Moments after Crawley paddles a Axar delivery around the corner, Rohit Sharma moves midwicket to short-fine. Immediately, Crawley jumps down the track to crash-land the ball over long-on. The cat-and-mouse game has begun. Same over, the left-handed Ben Duckett reverse-slaps a four.

### 8th over: Pope's entry

A couple more sweeps makes Ashwin switch to over the wicket and have just one man in front on the off side at covers, and Crawley pings the cover boundary. Ashwin gets Crawley next over with a slider from round the stumps. Enter Ollie Pope, who reverse-sweeps his second ball but doesn't connect properly. England's plan is clear but it's not apparent yet to the onlookers as Kevin Pietersen says on air that "Pope needs to calm down, not manufacture something".

### Duckett forces Axar to change

There is rough outside Duckett's off stump but Axar Patel is bowling from round the stumps and keeps pinging middle and leg, as the left-hander wallops a couple of fierce reverse sweeps to the square boundary. "With that angle, he isn't hitting the rough. Has to go over the wicket," Ravi Shastri sighs on air. Axar tries to bring the ball towards middle stump, and Duckett reverse-slaps him again. Axar signals in the 11th over to Rohit to have a man at point region to intercept but is denied.

### Duckett negates Ashwin, Axar

Ashwin, who has been bowling early



Ollie Pope plays a reverse sweep on the third day of the first Test against India in Hyderabad.

PTI

90kmph tries a 77kmph slower dipping full toss to see if it upsets Duckett's bat-speed. Nope. Duckett adjusts cleverly, waits to reverse-lap to third man boundary. In the 13th over, Axar goes over the wicket finally, but Duckett takes an off-stump guard and blasts a conventional sweep to the boundary.

### Post lunch: Tactical bashing

As he would do throughout his knock, Pope hardly stays quiet for any length of period. Just three balls of pushing Ashwin to covers in the first over, he reverse sweeps; it's just a single but Ashwin's plans are upset. He goes over the wicket, gets real close to the stumps, but Pope sashays down the track to ease the in-drifter to straight boundary. Next ball, he glances Ashwin to fine-leg boundary. The over-the-wicket attack is

quickly abandoned again by Ashwin.

### Pope targets Jadeja

Jadeja is brought back into attack in the 25th over after a few overs of seam and immediately Pope reverse-sweeps him for a four. Silly point moves out to short point. "Koi nahi jaar (it's all right)" screams KS Bharat, whose exhortations through the day keep changing, reflecting England's domination. He had started with "one brings in two (one wicket would trigger a collapse) at start of Pope's knock. In the afternoon, he would talk about "patience rakhenge Jaddu, bowl in the right areas", and by evening, it would reduce to just "keep bowling". India just kept bowling by the end. In the 33rd over, Pope slogsweeps a Jadeja length ball from outside off to midwicket boundary. Correcting length

by dragging it back, as was the case with Jadeja after sweeps, hasn't worked.

### Ashwin, over the wicket but ...

After being reverse-swept and carted to cow corner by an advancing Pope, Ashwin goes over the wicket in the 37th over. Pope sweeps upishly to the deep and Ashwin course-corrects by dragging it short and its easily tapped away.

In his 60's, Ashwin tries to keep a straight fielder behind him almost at the deep, but Pope isn't bothered, dancing down the track and targeting wide long-on boundary.

### Post Tea: Plans go pear shaped

By now, Rohit Sharma had given up attacking. A short point, a backward point, and just a slip in place and he starts this session

not with Bumrah and Ashwin but with the two left-arm spinners. Pope sweeps Jadeja a few times.

### Ashwin comes over the stumps

In the 54th over, Ashwin had another brief attempt from this angle. He slips in a beauty that loops, dips, and breaks back from outside off and through the intended Pope drives past the leg stump. "That's the length I am talking about," announces Sunil Gavaskar, who has been exasperated with the lengths and line of attack the whole day. But on the very next ball, perhaps anticipating a reverse sweep, Ashwin goes fuller and Pope pulls out the conventional sweep. Back round the stumps, and Pope reverse-sweeps off the length to square boundary.

### Jadeja does beat Pope

Interestingly, in this phase, Jadeja had quite a few balls that went past Pope; nearly all of them landing around off stump and turning away and Pope, who likes to feel the ball on bat as they say, kept poking and missing. But the length and line wasn't maintained consistently. And when Pope brought up his hundred with an on drive, a stat flashed on the telly: backfoot 30%, front foot 50% and stepping down 20%.

A silly point appears for Jadeja and Pope reverse-sweeps a boundary and nearly holes out next ball with another reverse-sweep on 110 but Axar Patel clangs it at backward point. Jadeja sinks to the ground, holding his head; Rohit throws his head skywards. Next ball, though, is short but this time Pope isn't sweeping, but punching it through covers for a four.

### Pope lap-scoops Axar

With Axar homing in on the off stump from a length, Pope doesn't reverse sweep him, but on 120, pulls out the reverse-lap-scoop over slip. Then plays out a couple of dot balls before reverse-scooping over his own head.

### 2nd new ball: Pope thrives

He pushes three full-length balls quietly before lap-scooping Jadeja over slips to boundary in the first over (89th of the innings) of the new ball. "Keep bowling, Jaad" cries Bharat.

### Tom Hartley joins in

Hartley charges down the track to spinners and also sweeps them, and at 406 for 7, he reverse-sweeps Ashwin for a four. That's when Kevin Pietersen announces to the world: "Not often you see Ashwin and Jadeja rattled, but they are rattled. It's a shot clearly been practiced, practiced, and practiced. There are no consequences for these English batsmen. They are encouraged to be unorthodox and encouraged to be free spirited".

## Day after win, Hartley gets a Whitney Houston-inspired chant

VENKATA KRISHNA B  
HYDERABAD, JANUARY 29

BARMY ARMY'S lead trumpeter Simon Finch had a task on hand for the day after, what he and other travelling England fans are calling, "the best away win ever". Having flown to India without a chant for Hyderabad's unexpected hero, the left-arm debutant spinner Tom Hartley, he was busy composing the background score.

With figures of 7/69 in the first game of the tour, there was an urgency in the Barmy Army rank and file to come up with a special song for Hartley. By evening it was ready. "The chant is ready, it is inspired by the Whitney Houston song 'I wanna dance with somebody,'" he tells The Indian Express.

Late into the night on Sunday, the 1,000-odd strong Army of England fans in Hyderabad didn't the Houston-kind of complain. Gathered at the city's '10 Downing Street' watering hole, they sang and danced through the night. Finch would come up with an apt song in the alien hand - "Everywhere we go, the people want to know who we are". The in-house DJ would soon cut off his music and play his own. The Army was in no mood to complain or even to leave the place.

"We went on well into midnight for sure. They first switched off the music systems, but we still kept going. Then they switched off a few lights. We responded by getting even louder. And then they switched off all the lights, but we still carried on in complete darkness. We can't wait to be in Vizag," chuckles Finch.

At the stadium all through the first Test, the English fans had made their presence felt. "It was just an unbelievable atmosphere, definitely better than what we get back home," Chuck Adolphy, who is Barmy Army's tour manager, tells The Indian Express. "We were interestingly placed in between the school children. Back home, we are the ones who usually keep the mood going. But these kids were louder than what we have seen. So it was a real challenge to build one atmosphere of our own. But it made for some lovely moments."

### Fanfare in Dharamshala

Despite not having won a Test series in India since 2012, according to Adolphy a record number of fans are expected to turn up in India through the course of the series. While

Dharamshala - the venue which is hosting the final Test, is set to be the biggest attraction, according to Adolphy, there is no better crowd-puller than Bazball.

"They have shown us there is a new way to play Test cricket and they have imprinted their style. Even if they step down tomorrow, there is no way, we can go back to that traditional way of playing Test cricket. The travelling fans tell you how even they are brought into this approach and it is what you come to pay and watch. Since the Bazball came on we are witnessing more membership requests and with every Test, the ticket demand has only been increasing," says Adolphy who is making all the arrangements including hotel stay, commute to the ground and travel within India.

When the schedule was announced with Tests being played in the non-traditional centres, there were concerns if England fans would turn up. But according to Adolphy, it turned into an unexpected game changer. "A lot of them have been coming here for years. And since the venues were scattered all across, in a vast country like India, it is tough to manage the logistics. But apart from getting to watch Bazball, most of them also wanted to explore Hyderabad, Vizag, Rajkot, Ranchi and Dharamshala as they have never been before," Adolphy says.

Meanwhile, Finch gives a low down of the chants that they have been ready with. The one for Mark Wood is inspired by the Beatles' track Twist and Shout. But there is a problem too. "He takes way too long to finish an over! Since he is putting in too much energy, it goes for seven-eight minutes and then you have Stokes changing the field almost every ball. So to keep blowing the trumpet and the chant going for that long is really tiring. We are just hoping he gets a wicket every now and then so we get a break!" Finch says.

When Ollie Pope was changing the course of the match, the Barmy Army was there to lend him their voice. Chants of "Hot, hot, hot...Ollie Pope" hung in the air for several minutes as Pope completed the most enterprising century ever made by a visiting batsman on Indian soil.

During their pre-tour preparation camp in Abu Dhabi, one of the standing instructions from former Test star Graeme Swann, who coached the team's spinners, was to silence the local crowd. Once that is done, the English can expect the Barmy Army to make them feel at home.

## टीएचडीसी इंडिया लिमिटेड THDC INDIA LIMITED

(श्रेणी-क, मिनी रत्न उपक्रम)  
(Schedule-A, Mini Ratna PSU)  
CIN : U45203UR1988GOI009822

**[Regulation 52 (8), read with Regulation 52 (4) of the Listing Regulations]** (₹ in Crore)

S. No.	Particulars	Standalone						Consolidated			
		Quarter ended		Nine Months ended		Year ended	Quarter ended		Nine Months ended	Year ended	
		31.12.2023	31.12.2022	31.12.2023	31.12.2022	31.03.2023	31.12.2023	31.12.2022	31.03.2023	31.03.2023	
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	Total Income from Operations	495.04	636.70	1,563.88	1,559.91	2,003.65	495.15	636.70	1,564.39	1,559.97	2,004.05
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	166.00	309.16	612.73	630.37	783.44	165.74	309.16	611.63	629.94	783.06
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	166.00	309.16	612.73	630.37	783.44	165.74	309.16	611.63	629.94	783.06
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	137.72	230.81	516.29	551.51	673.09	137.56	230.73	515.31	551.22	672.85
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/ (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	137.05	232.44	514.28	556.39	670.57	136.89	232.36	513.30	556.10	670.33
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital	3,665.88	3,665.88	3,665.88	3,665.88	3,665.88	3,665.88	3,665.88	3,665.88	3,665.88	3,665.88
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	7,105.74	6,998.72	7,105.74	6,998.72	8,762.90	7,103.87	6,997.55	7,103.87	6,997.55	8,761.77
8	Securities Premium Account	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9	Net worth	10,771.62	10,664.60	10,771.62	10,664.60	10,428.78	10,769.75	10,663.43	10,769.75	10,663.43	10,427.65
10	Paid up Debt Capital/ Outstanding Debt	13,569.40	9,980.12	13,569.40	9,980.12	10,675.24	13,598.40	9,980.12	13,598.40	9,980.12	10,675.24
11	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12	Debt Equity Ratio	1.45	0.99	1.45	0.99	1.11	1.45	0.99	1.45	0.99	1.11
13	Earnings Per Share (of ₹1000/-each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) -										
	1. Basic:	37.57	62.96	140.84	150.44	183.61	37.54	62.94	140.64	150.38	183.55
	2. Diluted:	37.57	62.96	140.84	150.44	183.61	37.54	62.94	140.64	150.38	183.55
14	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	Debt Redemption Reserve	239.10	170.88	239.10	170.88	186.50	239.10	170.88	239.10	170.88	186.50
16	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	1.81	2.30	2.10	1.90	1.84	1.76	2.23	2.06	1.88	1.83
17	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	5.54	7.64	7.53	5.33	6.22	5.54	7.64	7.53	5.33	6.22

# - Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items adjusted in the Statement of Profit and Loss in accordance with Ind AS Rules / AS Rules, whichever is applicable.

**Notes:**

- The above results have been approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting held on 28.01.2024.
- The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly financial Results filed with the Stock Exchange(s) under Regulation 52 of the Listing Regulations. The full format of the quarterly Financial Results is available on the websites of the stock exchange(s) and THDCIL (<https://www.bseindia.com/xml-data/corpfiling/AttachLive/9cc6e6c2-4efb-45a1-97ef-9f053a7f9549.pdf> and [https://nsearchives.nseindia.com/content/debt/WDM/Debt\\_28012024202940\\_FinancialStatementFinal.pdf](https://nsearchives.nseindia.com/content/debt/WDM/Debt_28012024202940_FinancialStatementFinal.pdf))
- For the other line items referred in regulation 52(4) of the Listing Regulations, pertinent disclosures have been made to the stock exchange(s) (NSE and BSE) and can be accessed on the URL (<https://www.bseindia.com/xml-data/corpfiling/AttachLive/9cc6e6c2-4efb-45a1-97ef-9f053a7f9549.pdf> and [https://nsearchives.nseindia.com/content/debt/WDM/Debt\\_28012024202940\\_FinancialStatementFinal.pdf](https://nsearchives.nseindia.com/content/debt/WDM/Debt_28012024202940_FinancialStatementFinal.pdf))

For and on Behalf of Board of Directors  
**(J. Behera)**  
Director (Finance)/CFO  
DIN: 08536589

**Place : Rishikesh  
Date : 28.01.2024**

**Generating Power... Transmitting Prosperity...**

Vol XCII- 68 Regd.No. DL-21046/03-05 R.N.I. No.506/57 Printed and Published by R.C.Malhotra on behalf of The Indian Express (P) Limited and Printed at The Indian Express (P) Limited Press, A-8, Sector-7, Noida -201301 and Hindustan Media Ventures Ltd., Mauza-Daryapur, Police Station-Shahpur, Danapur District-Patna, Bihar-801503 and Published at The Indian Express (P) Limited, Mezzanine Floor, Express Building, 9 & 10, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi 110002. Editorial office: The Indian Express (P) Limited, Mezzanine Floor, Express Building, 9&10, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110002. Phone: 0120-6651500. Advertising office: The Indian Express (P) Ltd., Express Building, B1/B, Ramnath Goenka Marg, Sector 10, Noida-201301. Phone: 01206651291. Chairman of the Board: Viveck Goenka, Chief Editor: Raj Kamal Jha, Editor: Unni Rajen Shanker, Editor (Delhi): Rakesh Sinha \*\*\* Responsible for selection of News under the PRB Act. Copyright: The Indian Express (P) Limited. All rights reserved. Reproduction in any manner, electronic or otherwise, in whole or in part, without prior written permission is prohibited. The Indian Express®

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