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# Keep Taxing Your Brains For Higher IQ In 70s

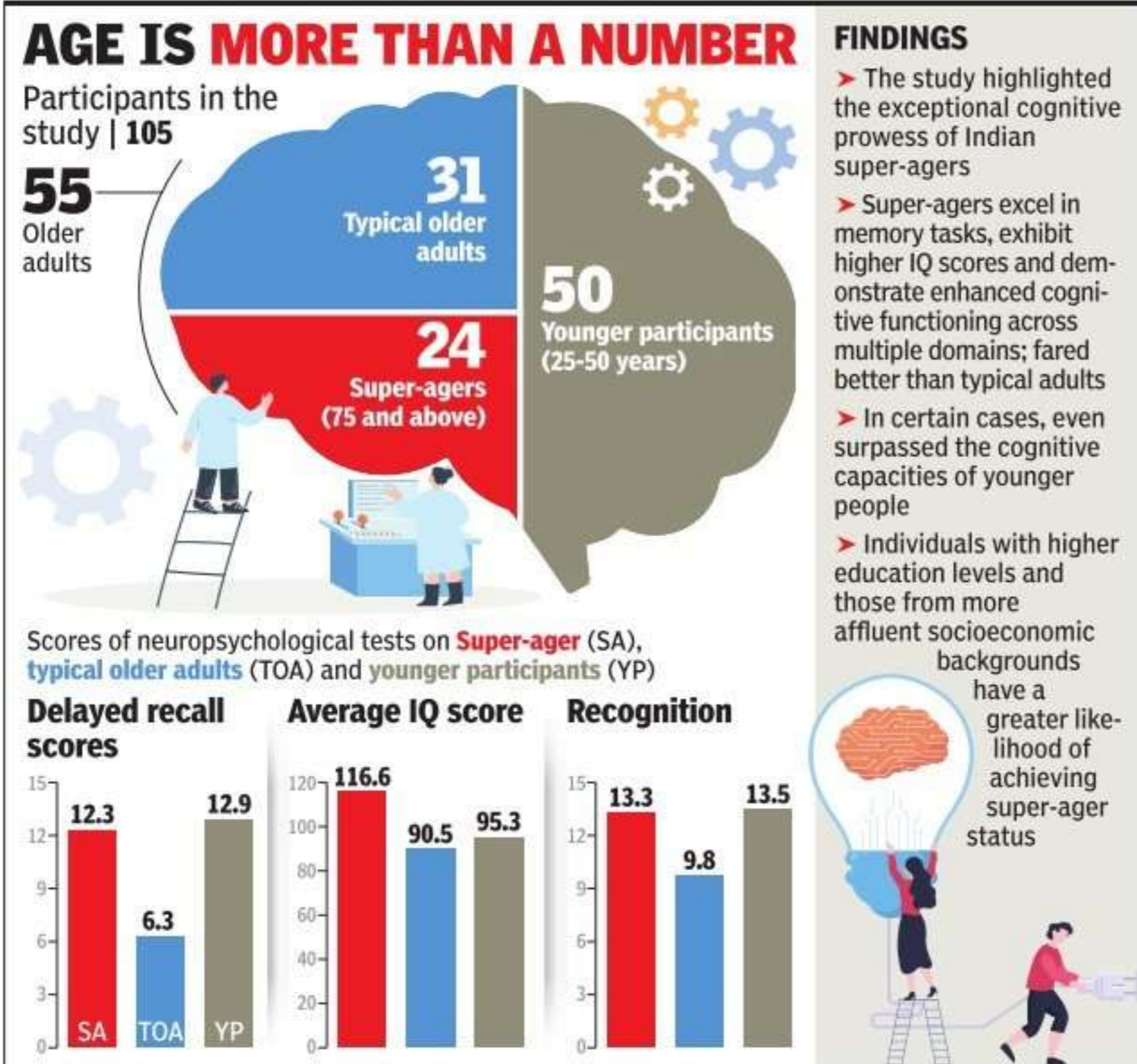
## Brain Stimulating Job Linked To Better Memory During Old Age, Finds Study By AIIMS-ICMR

Anuja.Jaiswal@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** If you are 75 years old, have spent a life with a brain stimulating job and still engage in a purposeful retirement, then you surely have a better memory and intelligence quotient (IQ) than your peers who did routine work and lived monotonous lives. And, you could be better off than even some people who are decades younger.

The startling fact was revealed in a study conducted by the department of geriatric medicine, AIIMS, and funded by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). The study, "Clinical and Neuropsychological Characterisation of SuperAgers Residing in Delhi-NCR", was published in the journal 'Wiley Aging Medicine' this month.

The study's findings indicated that SuperAgers (above the age of 75) excelled in memory tasks, exhibited higher IQ scores, demonstrated enhanced cognitive functioning across multiple domains and fared better than typical adults of the same age groups. In certain cases, they even surpassed the cognitive capacities



# AAP: Centre's stepmotherly treatment to Delhi continues

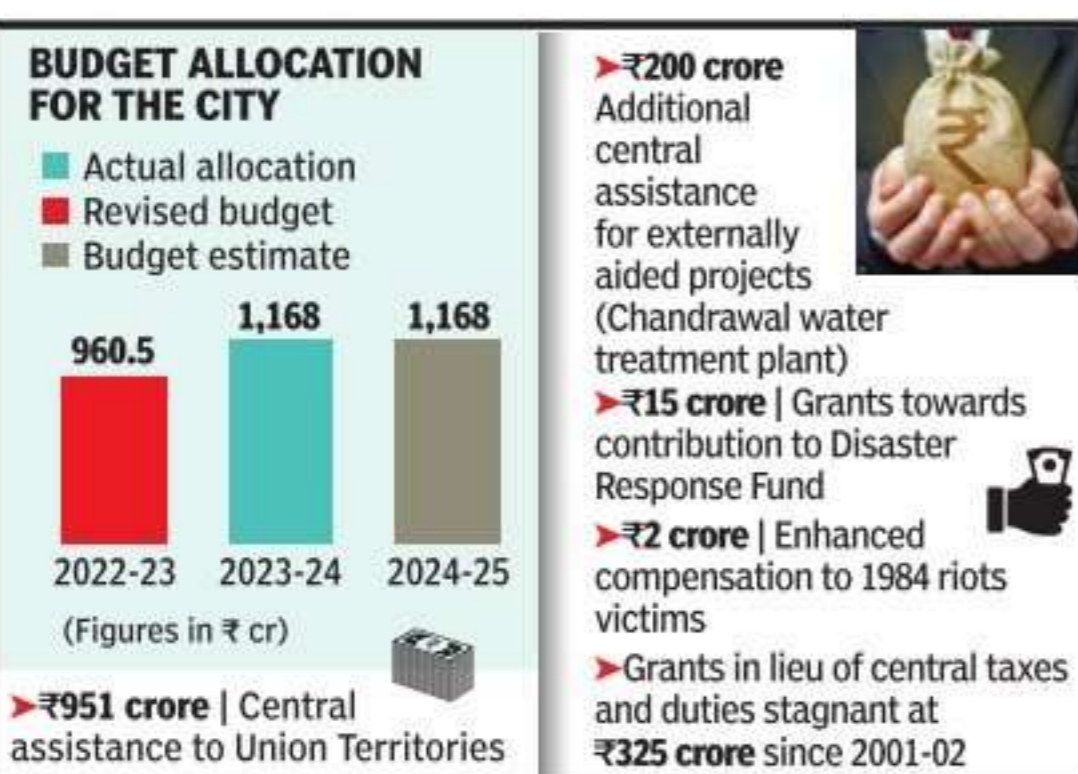
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Aam Aadmi Party govt on Thursday accused BJP-led central govt of meeting out "stepmotherly" treatment to Delhi by allocating only Rs 1,168 crore in the 2024-25 interim budget, which is the same as the outlay in 2023-24.

The amount includes Rs 951 crore as central assistance, given to the Union territories, Rs 200 crore for Chandrawal water treatment plant, a grant of Rs 15 crore towards contribution to disaster response fund and Rs 2 crore to meet enhanced compensation for the 1984 riot victims.

According to officials, the Centre, like the previous year, clubbed grants that Delhi used to get till 2022-23 in return of the city's share in the pool of central taxes and duties — the "central assistance to Union territories" — this year too.

Delhi finance minister Atishi said the budget had again proved that the central dispensation was a govt of "hollow promises". "Delhi has a share of Rs 15,000 crore in central taxes but it has only been allocated Rs 1,000 crore. Like every time, we have been given a stepmotherly treat-



ment," she said. Calling it a govt of "jumlias" (empty promises), Atishi said the Centre failed to provide any tangible solution to unemployment. "Modi govt had promised 2 crore jobs every year when it assumed office in 2014, and in 10 years, 20 crore jobs should have been provided," Atishi said, adding that the govt admitted in Parliament last year that only 1.25 crore jobs were created in India since 2014. "Govt has initiated a new jumla now that will provide 55 lakh new jobs," she said. The minister said the budget mentioned nothing on how to tackle inflation. Atishi

# BJP: Interim budget roadmap for growth

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, leader of opposition in the Delhi Assembly, on Thursday said the interim budget was a roadmap for the development of the country.

The budget gave a picture of the way in which the country was moving under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he said.

Bidhuri highlighted the Mudra Yojana, under which, he said, loans worth Rs 30 crore were distributed to women in 10 years, 1 crore youth were given training, free ration was provided to 80 crore poor people and 4 crore farmers benefited through crop insurance.

He said that people were coming under the ambit of income tax voluntarily. "The number of people filing income tax returns has increased two-and-a-half times, which is the result of the right intention and policies of the govt," Bidhuri said.

"Foreign investment in India has also doubled," he said. Delhi BJP president Vinendra Sachdeva said the budget reflects the Amrit Kaal vision of Prime Minister Modi. "Most importantly, the interim budget shows that the eco-

nomics of younger people in the 25-50 age bracket.

The researchers also observed that individuals with higher education levels and those from more affluent socioeconomic backgrounds have a greater likelihood of achieving SuperAger status.

Talking to TOI, Dr Prasad Chatterjee, department of geriatric medicine, said, "Conventional thought is that with ageing, people start forgetting recent things and their important cognitive functions like attention, concentration and episodic memory get reduced significantly. But ageing does not necessarily have to be associated with cognitive decline, which has been proven by SuperAgers. Even after the age of 75 or 80 years, people can still be mentally as agile as the three-decade younger population. Hence, SuperAgers is definitely a ray of hope in an era when dementia is highly prevalent, with a dramatic increase in the ageing population, especially in developing countries like India."

The aim of the study was to identify the characteristics of Indian SuperAgers (SA). For this, 55 older adults were cate-

gorised into SA and 'typical older adults (TOA)' and their performance compared with a group of 50 younger participants (YP), aged between 25 and 50 years.

A total of 105 individuals took part in the study. Out of the 55 older adults, 31 were typical older adults and 24 were SuperAgers. They were differentiated based on memory recall and IQ scores, said the study's lead author, psychologist Ritika Batra from geriatric medicine department.

Gender-wise, out of the 55 older adults, 40 (72%) were men and 15 (28%) women whereas the gender distribution among the younger group was 26 (52%) men and 24 (48%) women. Minimum qualification of all participants was graduation.

Batra said cognitive abilities, particularly those linked to processing speed and memory, deteriorate steadily as people age. However, in the present study, as per neuropsychological assessment, the SA group outperformed the TOA group in all cognitive domains and the YP group on the overall IQ score, displaying resilience to age-related cognitive deterioration.

# Allocation for police dips 4.4% from last year

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Delhi Police has been allocated Rs 11,398 crore in the Union Budget, a decrease of 4.47% from last fiscal.

In the 2023-24 budget, the force was allocated Rs 11,932 crore which was an increase of 15% from 2022-23.

In a statement Delhi Police said they are responsible for maintaining and enforcing law and order in the National Capital Territory of Delhi. The responsibility also includes traffic management in the city. "The provision is for routine expenses as well as for various schemes to be implemented by Delhi Police such as developing a traffic and communication network in NCR mega cities and a model traffic system, upgradation or expansion of communication infrastructure, upgradation of training, induction of latest technology and installation of traffic signals, etc," the statement read.

Fifteen forensic vans were inducted by Delhi Police in Feb last year. Forensic experts were able to perform on-the-spot forensic tests in the vans before sending them for further analyses to the forensic science laboratory. Last year, the police also procured equipment in connection with the G20 Summit in the city. "Two mobile command rooms were inducted in 2023.

# Father convicted of raping 17-yr-old girl

Vineet.Upadhyay@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** A Delhi court has convicted a man on charges of raping his own minor daughter. It has been established that the accused committed penetrative sexual assault on the survivor more than once as a result of which she became pregnant and gave birth to a child, the court said.

"Rape has always remained under-reported in our country. Most hidden rapes are those which are committed within the families by fathers, brothers or other men whom they had trusted. Sexual violence victims often experience a profound sense of shame and stigma. These factors are compounded by attempts by their family members or the accused to influence the victims not to report the crime or, if crime has been reported, not to disclose the true and correct facts before the court. This is one such case," additional sessions judge Babita Puniya stated.

The special fast track court, which was set up to deal with PcoSo cases, convicted the man under section 5 (j)(ii), (l) & (n) read with section 6 of the PcoSo Act, section 376 (2) (f) (k) & (n) IPC, section 354-A IPC

and section 12 PcoSo Act. Special public prosecutor Shrawan Kumar Bishnoi submitted before the court that the prosecution has successfully established the foundational facts through the ocular and documentary evidence.

The matter dates back to Dec 2022 when the 17-year-old girl complained of severe abdominal pain followed by which she was taken to a hospital. The ultrasound revealed that she was 28-week pregnant. Further tests exposed the father's crime. The survivor was produced before the child welfare committee and was sent to Nari Niketan as she did not want to go home. An application requesting abortion was moved by police, but it was dismissed by the court considering the stage of pregnancy. In Feb 2023, the girl gave birth to a male child.

"Despite her young age, the victim's evidence was consistent and clear. Her evidence was supported by independent medical and forensic evidence," the court noted.

It rejected the accused's defence that whatever happened was consensual, stating that the girl was below the statutory age and her consent was irrelevant.

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# Can't Put A Number To Solar Needs? Govt To Do It For You

## Satellite Imaging Of Rooftops To Give An Idea Of Potential

Abhinav Rajput  
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Delhi govt will conduct a rooftop assessment through satellite imagery to calculate solar power generation under its new policy. This will help the govt carry out an analysis of the shadow and sun rays at different times of the year for better calculation of power generation.

The state govt will also create a portal that will have details of empanelled agencies installing solar panels and information that consumers would find useful.

Power minister Atishi said, "We will tie up with organisations that can assess the potential of the city's rooftops through satellite imaging. This will assist the consumer, who has difficulty determining how much solar panel space he needs to install on his roof."

The Delhi Solar Policy 2024, recently passed by the Delhi cabinet, allows residents to install solar panels on their rooftops and get generation-based incentives, a capital subsidy and the eligibility to sell excess electricity generated to other consumers in the capital in real time.

A govt official said that the electricity production depends not just on the size of the rooftop but also on areas that remain shadow free for an adequate period.

The state solar power portal will "act as a one-stop-shop for all information on the solar policy, benefits of solar systems, installation related guidelines and the technically qualified vendors, etc.", said an official. People can also learn about the policy at camps. "Many people are not showing an interest in this for lack of awareness. But once they hear about the details, they will certainly show more interest," the official said. "All RWAs of the area will be invited to the camps."

Under the Delhi Solar Policy 2016, the consumers got Rs 2 per unit for solar generation provide they generated 1,100 units per kw per annum. The

### HOW TO GET A SOLAR PANEL INSTALLED

**STEP 1** | Govt to make a solar portal that will have list of technically qualified empanelled vendors

**STEP 2** | Consumer can contact any of these vendors

**STEP 3** | Selected vendor will conduct a feasibility study on your premises, present an option to enter into an agreement for installation

**STEP 4** | Discoms will then receive an application form from customer, who will get an acknowledgement and a unique service number. A site visit report is prepared after checking voltage level, renewable penetration on existing network

**STEP 5** | On receiving an approval letter from the discom, the selected vendor will install the solar plant

**GENERATION AND BILLING**

- After net metering, which happens every month, the excess solar units will be taken forward into subsequent billing cycles for up to 12 months (until the end of financial year)
- At the end of the year, if the solar power generated is more than the consumer's annual electricity demand, the consumer will earn money from the discom
- For every unit of solar power generated, Delhi govt will offer a generation-based incentive (GBI) of ₹3 for small rooftop plants (upto 3 kW) and ₹2 for larger plants (3 to 10kW)
- Capital subsidy to consumers of ₹2,000 per kW of installation up to a maximum of ₹10,000 per consumer
- 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 discom every month

**WHAT NEXT**

- A net metering connection agreement is done between the customer and discom. Net metering is a mechanism that allows users who generate their own electricity to export their surplus energy back to the grid
- After installation, site inspection is carried out by a discom engineer for ensuring safety
- Existing meter is replaced with a net meter
- The claim process, subsidy approval and quality parameters have to be checked by the respective discoms

new 2024 policy offers Rs 3 per unit for small rooftop plants and Rs 2 per unit for larger plants. It also has done away with the riders on minimum generation necessary to receive GBI. Delhi govt has also decided to extend GBI to commercial and industrial consumers for the first time — up to the first 200 MW of installations in Delhi. They will receive an incentive of one rupee per unit of solar power generated for five years.

The Delhi Solar Policy 2024 also has innovative deployment models like community solar for consumers who have constraints of funds or rooftop space. For the first time in the country, community solar model will be put in place under the poli-

#### AN OFFICIAL SAYS

**The income generated from solar plants as excess units are compensated by the discom at unit rate of that specific customer segment: residential, commercial or industrial. They can experience a remarkable return on equity within 4-5 years**

cy. It will enable consumers who do not have a suitable roof for installing a solar plant to be part of a community-owned solar system installed at a third-party location yet

still avail of the benefits.

An official of discom Tata Power reacted to the policy saying, "The income generated from solar plants as excess units are compensated by the discom at unit rate of that specific customer segment: residential, commercial or industrial. They can experience a remarkable return on equity within 4-5 years."

A BSES official also responded, "We have been aggressively promoting roof-top solar in south, west, east and central Delhi. We have energised 6,000 roof-top solar installations with a connected solar load of nearly 160 MWp. In 2024-25, we plan to energise over 1,000 roof-top solar connections with a connected load of 17-20 MW."

# BJP claims illegal parking rampant in Chandni Chowk

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi BJP on Thursday alleged that rampant illegal parking had been happening around the Town Hall and Hardayal Library complexes in Chandni Chowk and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) was aware of it.

Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor claimed that illegal parking was a problem from Bankhandi Temple to Town Hall and around Hardayal Library. "After AAP started running MCD in Jan 2023, illegal encroachments have increased in the entire Old Delhi. In the Town Hall-Hardayal Library area in Chandni Chowk, 700-800 vehicles are parked illegally every day," he alleged, claiming that the parking was probably being operated by some people in connivance with MCD officials of the Sadar-Paharganj zone.

"We have brought the issue to the knowledge of commissioner Gyanesh Bharti, DCP (north) Manoj Kumar Meena and the DCP (traffic)," Kapoor added.

At the parking, attendants are charging Rs 200 per vehicle for eight hours and Rs 100 for three hours, said the Delhi BJP spokesperson. "MCD officials as well as the remunerative project cell are aware about the activity, but are silent due to the pressure from the ruling party," he alleged.

Now this illegal parking has become so regular that the people parking their vehicles there leave the keys with the attendants, who even wear the yellow jacket like the staff of parking facilities, Kapoor said. Delhi BJP has urged the MCD commissioner and the DCP (north) to stop the practice, otherwise local party workers will protest against it, he said.

A Delhi Police official said they were checking the situation on the ground and would take action if any illegal activity was found. MCD officials and AAP could not be reached for comment.

"It's high time that MCD should take some corrective measures and action against those carrying out the illegal activity," he demanded.

# LG directs chief secy, other senior officials to stay a night in villages

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Lieutenant governor VK Saxena on Thursday directed the chief secretary, principal secretaries and secretaries, and heads of various departments to visit and stay in the villages overnight in the second week of Feb.

The visits of the top city bureaucrats will be part of the 'Dilli Gramodaya Abhiyan', launched by Saxena for development of Delhi's villages.

In a meeting at his secretariat, LG also took feedback from all district magistrates who made two visits to the identified villages in Jan and stayed there overnight. Saxena asked the DMs to submit a report listing five most important problems plaguing the city's rural and urbanised villages and their workable solutions within two days.

Saxena listened to the experiences gathered by the DMs over their last two visits to the villages and their 'samvaad' (interaction) with the residents on Jan

**The visits of the top bureaucrats of the capital will be part of the Dilli Gramodaya Abhiyan, launched by Saxena for development of Delhi's villages**

7-8 and 27-28 on common problems affecting the villagers.

The DMs' visits were planned to ensure the developmental and welfare projects being implemented by Delhi Development Authority (DDA) were in sync with the actual deficiencies and demands on ground," said a Raj Niwas official.

While DDA has recently got over Rs 800 crore, the gram sabha fund that was earlier in control of the revenue department of Delhi govt, for the rejuvenation of nearly 200 urbanised villages, 49 rural villages would be rejuvenated from Rs 480 crore of the village development fund.

The DMs had visited the villages

along with officials of all stakeholder departments and agencies such as DDA, MCD, public works and irrigation and flood control departments, and Delhi Jal Board, among others.

"The DMs shared their experiences and apprised the LG of the feedback from ground. The major issues that have come to fore include lack of civic infrastructure, connectivity and sanitation," said a Raj Niwas official, adding that the LG has issued clear directions that the work should be started to address the issues within the shortest possible time frame so that people start benefiting from them immediately.

The DMs will also undertake field visits to the villages every Saturday.

The Officials informed LG that the work to provide piped gas to all villages was in advance stages. While 69 villages had already been provided with the gas pipeline, work was expected to be completed in 39 within a month and surveys were being conducted in 142 villages.



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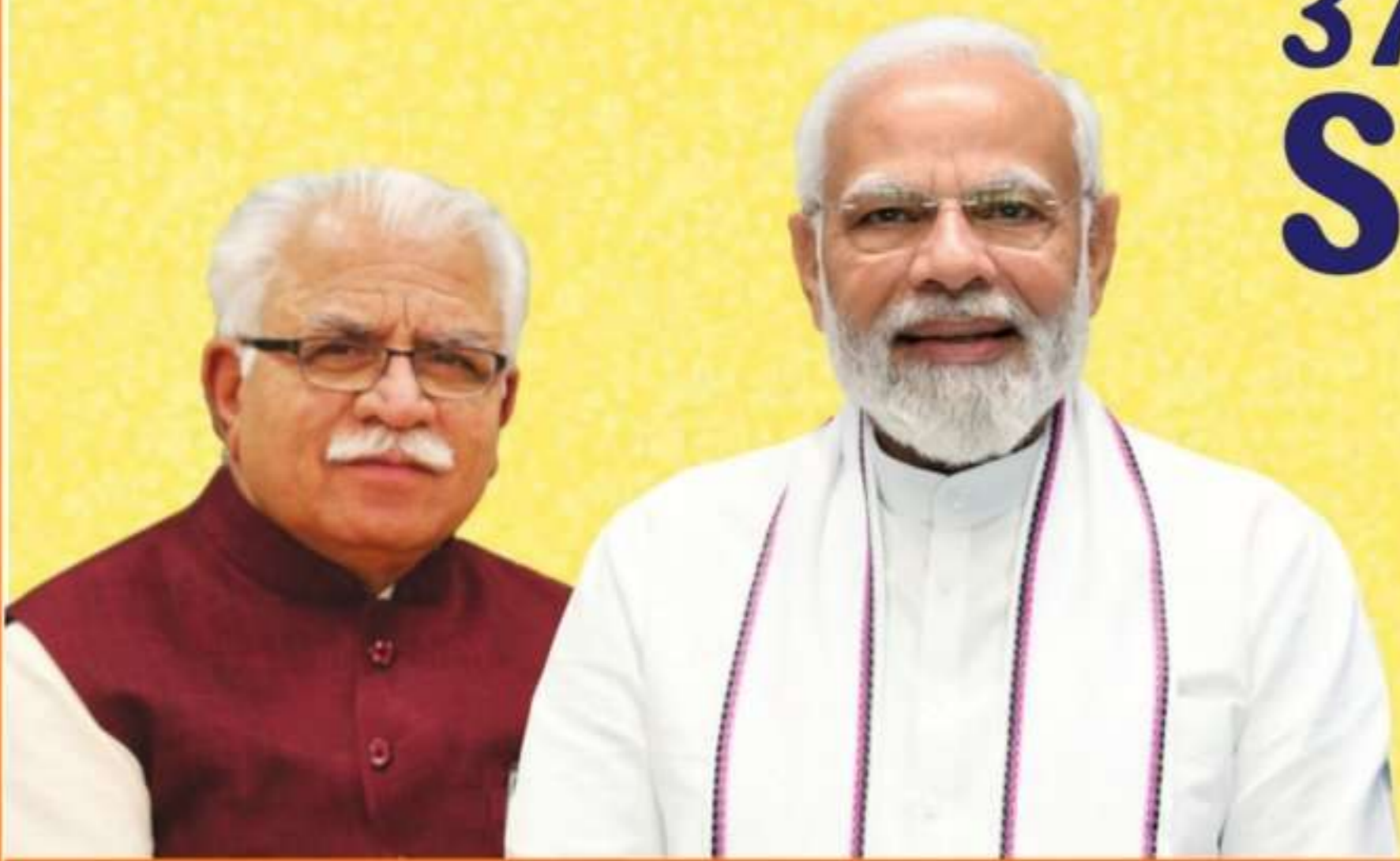
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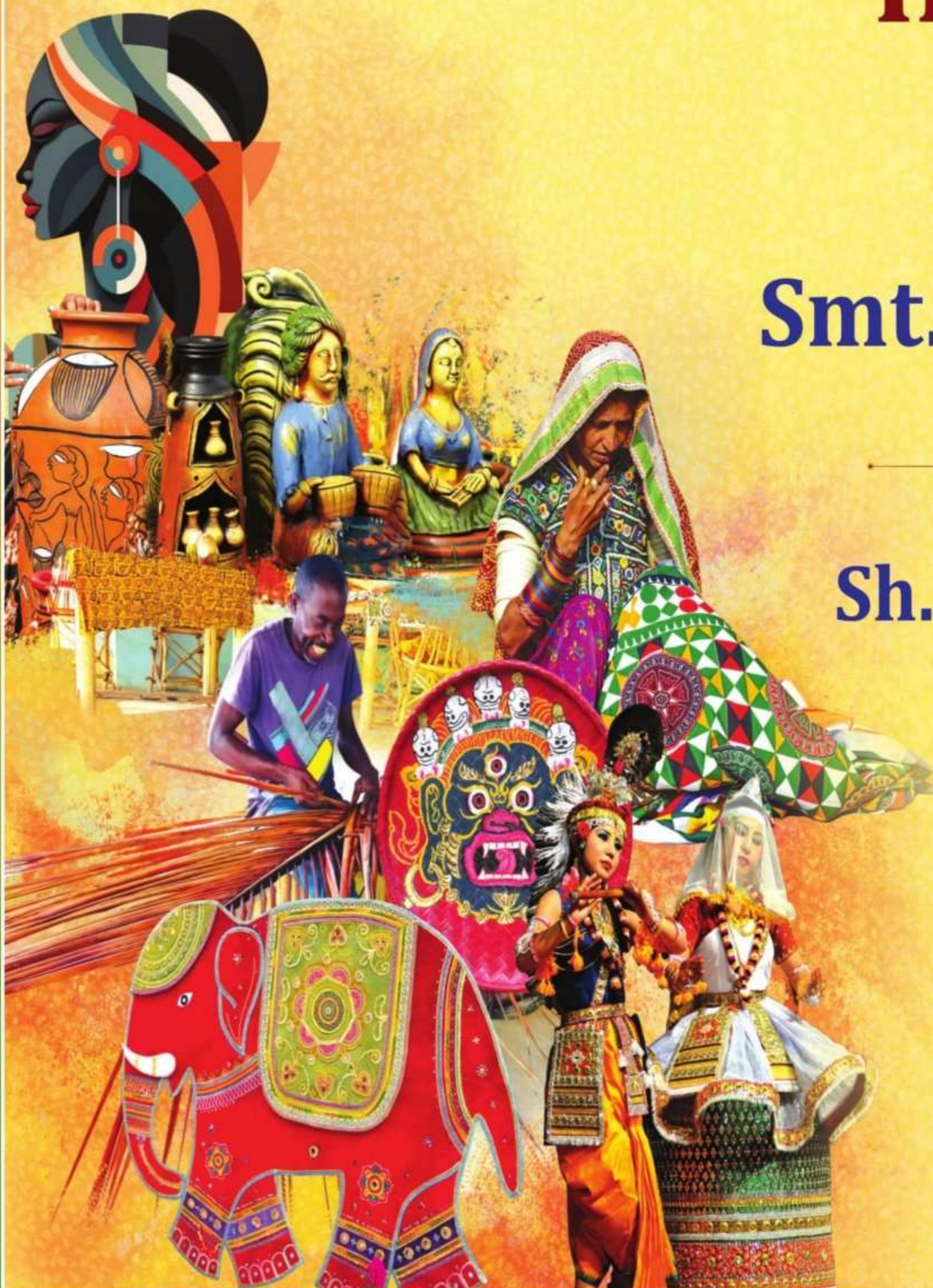
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**FORMER TELANGANA CM KCR TAKES OATH AS MLA, MEETS HYDERABAD BRS MLAs AT HOME**

## US beats token resistance over Pannun issue, approves sale of drones to India

Says India Important Force For Peace & Stability In Indo-Pacific & South Asia

Chidanand Rajghatta & Rajat Pandit | TNN

Washington/New Delhi: US state department on Thursday formally notified US congress of its approval of the sale to India of 31 MQ-9B Drones and associated military equipment worth \$3.99 billion, overcoming token resistance from some lawmakers who, according to reports, wanted New Delhi to carry out a "meaningful investigation" into the alleged plot to kill Khalistani separatist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun before signing off on the sale.

A report that some lawmakers, including some Indian-American legislators, had put a hold on the sale turned out to be exaggerated after the Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) delivered the required certification notifying the congress of the possible sale on Thursday, just a day after the purported wrinkle.

US officials nevertheless acknowledged that members



A report that some lawmakers had put a hex on the sale over the Pannun issue was received sceptically both in Delhi and Washington

of the congress were consulted on the sale "to address questions that they might have" in what they said is a routine process.

Illustrative of the fact that such legislative hurdles seldom derail White House's overarching geo-political goals, DSCA said in a statement that the proposed sale "will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of US by helping to strengthen US-India strategic relationship and to improve the security of a major defence partner which continues to be an important force for political stability, peace, and economic progress

in the Indo-Pacific and South Asia region".

"The proposed sale will improve India's capability to meet current and future threats by enabling unmanned surveillance and reconnaissance patrols in sealanes of operation. India has demonstrated a commitment to modernising its military and will have no difficulty absorbing these articles and services into its armed forces," it added.

A report that some lawmakers had put a hex on the sale over the Pannun issue was received sceptically both in New Delhi and Washington, where support for US-India

defence military and defence relationship outweighs other relatively minor issues and differences. India and the US overcame a much bigger issue between the two sides when New Delhi went ahead with the purchase of S-400 Triumf air defence systems from Russia, under a \$5.43 billion contract inked in 2018, despite reservations in US congress and in the executive.

Despite the report of the sale being put on hold, Indian officials were sanguine about it going through at all times, while saying that New Delhi respects the processes and procedures in Washington. Several strategic objectives underpin such transactions, notably US desire to see India as a counterweight to China and rising tensions in the Gulf, where India is already a significant player and has deployed considerable military resources to ensure safety of international shipping lanes and systems.

Indian defence ministry

had issued the detailed letter of request for the 31 'hunter-killer' remotely-piloted aircraft systems, along with their weapons packages, mobile ground control systems and other equipment, just before the Biden-Modi meeting on Sept 8, on the sidelines of the G-20 summit here. After the notification to US congress on Thursday, Biden administration will now issue letter of acceptance to India within a month or so. The final cost negotiations will then take place before the actual contract is inked after the requisite approval from the Indian cabinet committee on security.

Indian armed forces, on their part, have been demanding such armed high-altitude, long endurance drones for a long time. Defence ministry on June 15 last year had given the initial nod or AoN (acceptance of necessity) for the proposed major acquisition of the 31 MQ-9Bs - 15 Sea Guardians for Navy and 16 Sky Guardians for Army and IAF.

## Gyanvapi steel barricades cut for priest-access corridor

Rajeev Dikshit @timesgroup.com

Varanasi: Between the double-layered steel barricading to isolate Gyanvapi mosque for security purposes, a cut of 7 feet by 7 feet was made to install a steel gate and create a passage late Wednesday for priests to enter the mosque's southern cellar.

Divisional commissioner Kausal Raj Sharma said the arrangements to create the passage were made in compliance with the district judge's order. The passage has been cut on the mosque side, directly opposite the Nandi idol in the Kashi Vishwanath complex.

"The entry to Gyanvapi's southern cellar is located between two vertical pillars installed for barricading. The steel pipes that fixed them were cut to equal height and width. The passage between the barricading and mosque wall was blocked by fixing steel pipes to ensure that no one from the mosque reached the entry point. After this, a two-flap door was fixed with the steel barricading," he said.

After the demolition of the Babri mosque in 1992, the Gyanvapi mosque had been fortified, initially with ordinary barricading but in the late '90s it was covered with iron barricading. The barricading was 25 feet high on the northern and western sides and 15 feet on the southern and eastern. A proposal to increase the iron barricading height on these two sides was made in 2009 under a security modernisation plan.

According to records, Rs 35 lakh was released in 2010 to increase the barricade height for proper fortifica-



Devotees outside the gate that has been installed to create a passage for priests to enter the southern cellar. The arrangement was in compliance with the court order, the administration said

### Only priest, not devotees, allowed into southern cellar: Divisional commissioner

A priest was allowed, but devotees weren't permitted inside the Gyanvapi mosque's southern cellar following a court order, Varanasi divisional commissioner Kausal Raj Sharma said Thursday. He dismissed lawyer Vishnu Shankar Jain's assertion that not only the plaintiffs and the assigned priest but also general devotees could enter the southern cellar to offer prayers.

Advocate Jain represents cases of the Vyas Peeth priest and four women plaintiffs seeking worship rights at the southern cellar and goddess Shringar Gauri inside the mosque complex. However, Sharma clarified that the condition of the cellar was not conducive due to structural concerns. The roof is deteriorating at several points, dampness has affected many areas and pillars, and external electricity lines have been installed for lighting inside the cellar. Considering these safety hazards and the ground realities, Sharma emphasised that the entry of devotees into the cellar was not permissible.

Sharma said that according to the court order, the priest appointed by Shri Kashi Vishwanath Temple Trust (SKVTT) must conduct rituals in the southern cellar, and the plaintiff had been directed to assist in selecting the priest. TNN

tion of Gyanvapi mosque and for installation of other equipment.

As the Ram Janmabhoomi Ayodhya movement intensified, Kashi Vishwanath Gyanvapi complex was declared a highly sensitive site. To monitor its security arrangements, a standing committee under the ADG (security) came into existence after 1992. Following the terror-

ist attack in Varanasi in 2006, the security of this complex was increased further.

At present, the complex is divided into two zones. The red zone (inner area) is in CRPF hands while civil police do the job of frisking visitors and crowd regulation. The outer cordon's security is jointly handled by civil police and the Provincial Armed Constabulary.

## India: Deeply concerned about allegations of UN relief workers' hand in Hamas attack

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Indian govt said Thursday it's deeply concerned about Israel's allegations that UNRWA staff were involved in Hamas attacks on Israel, while welcoming a probe by the UN agency into the issue.

Unlike western countries, India has far not announced any cut in its funding of the UN agency, but it has continued to strongly condemn terrorist attacks by Hamas. India supports Palestine and Palestinian refugees through



**FIGHTING TERROR:** Despite the Israeli claim, India has so far not announced any cut in its funding of the UN agency but slammed terrorism by Hamas

its contributions to what is known as United Nations Relief and Works Agency for

Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and has contributed more than \$36.5 million to the agency in the past 20 years.

"India is an important partner of Palestine. We have been extending assistance to them bilaterally and through the UN," said MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal.

"But at the same time, we have a policy of zero tolerance towards terrorism and in that regard we are deeply concerned about the allegations that the UNRWA staff was involved in the Oct 7 ter-

ror attacks. We also welcome the investigations launched by the UN in this regard," added the official.

The official also said India had taken note of the ruling of the International Court of Justice that asked Israel to prevent death and destruction but stopped short of ordering an end to the military offensive.

The US, UK, Germany and Italy have already suspended funding to the agency which is said to have 13,000 employees in Gaza, most of them Palestinians.

## Final year BArch student of IIT(BHU) found dead

Varanasi: A student of IIT (BHU) in Varanasi was found dead in his hostel room late Wednesday, police said Thursday. Final-year BArch (architecture) student Utkarsh Raj, 23, was reportedly suffering from depression and undergoing counselling sessions. Utkarsh's father Rajendra Prasad is a section officer at BHU and the family is based in Varanasi. IIT-BHU was yet to issue a statement.

Police said some of Utkarsh's friends broke open the door of his room when he didn't respond to their calls. Doctors at BHU hospital declared him dead on arrival.

This follows three suicides in IIT-Kanpur since mid-Dec. PhD scholar Priyanka Jaiswal (29) allegedly died by suicide on Jan 18, MTEch student Vikas Kumar Meena (31) on Jan 10 and researcher Palalvi Chilkra (34) on Dec 19. TNN

## Cops bring runaway groom in UP

Prayagraj: Cops turned matchmakers at a wedding in Prayagraj Tuesday when the groom, upset over "improper welcome", abruptly left the venue, reports Kapil Dixit.

Guests at the wedding in Fatehpur's Radhanagar village also started to leave when they found the groom and his family missing. Worried, the 22-year-old bride and her family reached out to cops at Joniha police outpost where sub-inspector Alok Kumar Tiwari assured them action. He rushed to the groom's house in Dhakauli village.

"The police team convinced the family for the wedding," Tiwari said. The father of the bride has expressed gratitude to the police team for solemnising the wedding.

## After a dozen orders in Gyanvapi case, district judge retires

Rajeev Dikshit @timesgroup.com

Varanasi: The court verdict allowing worship of Shringar Gauri and other Hindu deities to resume inside the southern cellar of Gyanvapi after three decades came on Varanasi district judge Ajaya Krishna Vishvesha's last day at work, capping a stint in which he issued over a dozen orders linked to cases involving the disputed site.

It was Vishvesha who directed ASI in July last year to do a scientific survey of the Gyanvapi compound, which has been embroiled in a title dispute since 1991. The original suit has spawned multiple litigations, including the main Shringar Gauri case that the now-retired district judge had been hearing since 2022.

ASI's report, copies of which were recently handed over to both sides, purportedly states that a Hindu temple existed where Gyanvapi Masjid now stands.

Vishvesha took over as district judge in Aug 2021, less than a year before SC ordered that the Shringar Gauri case be transferred from the senior-division civil judge's court to his. He

## Shops in Muslim areas remain shut

A day after the Varanasi district court allowed puja inside the southern cellar of Gyanvapi mosque, markets in the city's Muslim-dominated neighbourhoods, such as Nai Sadak and Dalm-andi, remained shut Thursday. Varanasi mufti and general secretary of Anjuman Intezamia Masjid, Abdul Batin Noman, appealed to members of the community to observe 'bandh (shut down) on Friday, abstain from work and offer prayer at the nearest mosques. TNN

would subsequently take over and club seven other cases linked to Gyanvapi.

Born in 1964 in Haryana, Vishvesha is a science graduate. Vishvesha's first judicial assignment was in the munsiff court at Kotdwari.

After taking over the Shringar Gauri case, Vishvesha's first order was on June 8, 2022, when he rejected a plea by Jyotish Peeth Shankaracharya Swami Avimuktsharanand, seeking permission to worship the purported Shivaling found in the abutment pond of Gyanvapi during a court-mandated survey.

## Go to HC, SC tells mosque panel, refuses urgent hearing

New Delhi: Allying undue haste on part of the local authority to implement the lower court's order allowing puja in the southern cellar of Gyanvapi mosque, its custodian Anjuman Intezamia Masjid rushed to SC overnight for an urgent hearing but SC registry turned down its plea and asked it to move the Allahabad HC against the lower court order.

The committee approached SC registrar with an application for urgent hearing, alleging that the local administration was in a hurry to cut the grills on the southern side of the mosque.

"There is no reason for the administration to undertake this task in hot haste in the dead of the night as the order passed by the trial court had already given them one week to make the necessary arrangements. The obvious reason for such unseemly haste is that the administration, in collusion with the plaintiffs, is trying to foreclose any attempt by the Mosque Committee to avail of remedies against the said order by presenting them with a fait accompli," the application said.

The registrar, however, informed AIM's advocate-on-record Fuzail Ahmad Ayubi that he had to approach Allahabad HC against trial court order. The committee thereafter rushed to HC with a plea for urgent hearing on its appeal. TNN

**INDIAN RAILWAYS**  
Government of India (Bharat Sarkar)  
Ministry of Railways (Rail Mantralaya)  
(Railway Board)

No. RS/(POL)/58/0507/2023 New Delhi, dt. 01.02.2024

**CORRIGENDUM NO.1**

Attention is drawn to E-Tender Notice No. 2024 SBTOTC for procurement of Suspension Bearing Oil / Turbine oil for Rolling Stock applications of Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) due for opening on 01.02.2024. Following Corrigendum to "date of submission of tender" is hereby authorized:

|  |  |
|--|--|
| FOR  | READ AS  |
| Last date and time for submission of tender 01.02.2024 at 14.30 hrs. | Last date and time for submission of tender 07.02.2024 at 14.30 hrs. |

All other terms and conditions of Tender Notice shall remain unchanged. (S.K. Verma)

346-2024 Director, Rly. Stores (M), Railway Board, New Delhi

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Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment  
Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)  
Pt. Deendayal Antyodaya Bhawan, 5th Floor, CGO Complex,  
Lodhi Road New Delhi-110003

Expression of Interest (EOI)  
EOI No. 4-18/2020-AIC

**INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR EMPANELMENT OF AGENCIES AS ACCESSIBILITY AUDITORS IN BUILT-UP ENVIRONMENT.**

Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India is inviting Expression of Interest for Empanelment of Agencies/NGOs/Trust/registered society etc. as Accessibility Auditors in Built-up Environment. They should send their applications with details of their experience and expertise with documentary support to the following address in separate sealed envelope and via email to the following address by 06.02.2024. The detail EOI can be downloaded from <https://sepdw.gov.in/>

Under Secretary to the Government of India  
Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disability  
Room No 11 A, 5th Floor, Pandit Deendayal Antyodaya Bhawan, CGO Complex,  
Lodhi, Road, New Delhi, 110003, Email: [aic-depdw@gov.in](mailto:aic-depdw@gov.in)

CBC 38117/11/0056/2324

**यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण**  
प्रथम तल, कॉमिंगलिफ कॉम्प्लेक्स, पी-2 सेक्टर-ओमेगा-1,  
ग्रेटर नोएडा, जनपद गोरखपुर-201308 (3030)  
Toll Free No. 1800180296 ईमेल: [www.yamunaeexpresswayauthority.com](mailto:www.yamunaeexpresswayauthority.com)

पत्रांक : YEIDA/RPS07/सम्पत्ति / 207 / 2024 दिनांक : 01.02.2024

**सार्वजनिक सूचना**

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि मुख्य कार्यपालक अधिकारी महोदय द्वारा आवसरीय भूखण्ड योजना RPS07/2023 के सभी आवंटियों को आवंटन घनराशि जमा कराना चाहते हैं, को आवंटन घनराशि 13.00% वार्षिक ब्याज (जिसका अंकलन छमाही चक्रवृद्धि ब्याज के आधार पर किया जायेगा) के साथ जमा कराये जाने हेतु दिनांक 29.02.2024 तक का समय विस्तार प्रदान किया गया है।

अतः उक्त योजना के जो आवंटी अपनी आवंटन घनराशि जमा कराना चाहते हैं, वे सभी दिनांक 29.02.2024 तक आवंटन घनराशि का मुगलान ब्याज सहित प्राधिकरण के पक्ष में करना सुनिश्चित करें। अन्यथा में योजना के ग्राहक की शर्त संख्या 19 (iii) उल्लिखित प्रावधान के अनुसार कार्यवाही की जायेगी।

**विशेष कार्याधिकारी**

**MUNICIPAL CORPORATION CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR**  
Executive Engineer (Drainage)

Address : Municipal Corporation Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, Executive Engineer (Drainage), Head Office : Town Hall Pin 431001, Tel. No. (0240) 2333536-40 Fax No. (0240) 2331213 E-Tender Call CSMC (for Help) : Cell No. 9764999592 No/CSMC/Dy.Eng/Drg./557/2024 Date : 31/01/2024

| Sr. No. | Work Name  | Last Date of Tender Submission |
|---------|--|--------------------------------|
| 1       | Underground Drainage project for no Network area (west Assembly Constituency) in Municipal limits, at Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar. (Tender Amount Rs. 160,64,86,709/-) | 01/03/2024                     |

Note :- 1. Details for above stated work is available on website [www.mahatenders.gov.in](http://www.mahatenders.gov.in)

Sd/-  
City Engineer  
Municipal Corporation Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar.

**Capacity Building Commission (CBC)**

DoPT invites applications through GeM portal for hiring of an Agency to support CBC to analyze learnings and feedback from Capacity Building Plans (CBPs) for selected Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) PAN India. For more information, please check GEM/2024/B/4536640 dated 25.01.2024. Bid end date 09.02.2024 19:00:00

**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person whose name, residence and family is unknown, was found dead in forest land, near High Tension Line, Rajokari Pahari, Rajokari Village, Delhi on 27.01.2024 at 01:29 PM. In this regard DD No. 55A, dated 27.01.2024, U/s 174 CrPC, has been registered at P.S. Vasant Kunj South, Delhi.

The description of the UIDB is as under:  
**Sex:** Male, **Age:** About 50 years, **Height:** 5'7", **Complexion:** Sallow, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Blue sweater, white socks.

If anyone has any information about this UIDB, kindly inform the SHO/Vasant Kunj South, Delhi.

SHO  
P.S. Vasant Kunj South, Delhi  
Ph. No.: 7065036225  
E-mail: [sho-vksouth-dl@nic.in](mailto:sho-vksouth-dl@nic.in)

DP/1236/SW/2024

**OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INDUSTRIES AND COMMERCE GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM**  
Udyog Bhawan, Maniram Dewan Road, Bamunimaidam, Guwahati - 781021; Tel: 0361-2550242  
Website: <https://industriescom.assam.gov.in>  
Email: [apart-industries@assam.gov.in](mailto:apart-industries@assam.gov.in) / [apart.industries.assam@gmail.com](mailto:apart.industries.assam@gmail.com)

No.: CI&C(APART)/B1/CFC/02/2024

**NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING**

Office of the Commissioner of Industries & Commerce, Assam invites online tenders for supply, installation and commissioning of machineries under World Bank Funded Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project (APART) stated as follows:

| Sl. No. | Description  | Publication of Tender | Tender Download Period                             | Last date for seeking clarification | Pre bid Meeting            | Tender Submission Period                               | Tender Opening       |
|---------|--|-----------------------|--|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|--|----------------------|
| 1       | Supply, Installation & Commissioning of 3 TPH Integrated Feed Mill Processing Unit at IID, Dalgao, Rohnikash, Darrang. | 2nd Feb., 2024        | From 3rd Feb., 2024 to 4th March 2024 upto 5.00 PM | 17th Feb., 2024 upto 5.00 PM        | 19th Feb., 2024 at 3.30 PM | From 27th Feb., 2024 at 10.00 AM to 5th March 11.00 AM | 5th March at 3.00 PM |

The complete e-tender documents may be obtained from the website - [www.assamtenders.gov.in](http://www.assamtenders.gov.in), [www.industriescom.assam.gov.in](http://www.industriescom.assam.gov.in) & [www.arias.in](http://www.arias.in)

Sd/-  
Commissioner of Industries and Commerce, Assam  
Udyog Bhawan, Bamunimaidam, Guwahati-21

Janasanyog/CF/5156/23/2-Feb-24

**UTTARAKHAND CIVIL AVIATION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
Doon Helidrome Dehradun, Sahasraadhara Road, P.O. Kulhan, Pincode 248013 Tel. 0135 2688981  
Letter No. 201/UCADA/HM/2024 Date: 01 Feb, 2024

**TENDER FOR SELECTION OF HELICOPTER SHUTTLE SERVICE OPERATORS FOR ROUTE GOVINDGHAT-SHANGARIA**

- Date of downloading tender document : 03/02/2024 Time 17:00 HRS at [uktenders.gov.in](http://uktenders.gov.in)
- Date of Pre-bid meeting : 08/02/2024 Time 11:30 HRS
- Last date for submission of documents : 15/02/2024 Time 16:00 HRS physically at UCADA
- Last Date for submission of Tender : 15/02/2024 Time 15:00 HRS
- Date of opening of Technical Bid : 15/02/2024 Time 16:00 HRS
- Date of opening of financial bids:- Shall be intimated later by email to the technically qualified bidders.

For more details, please visit [uktenders.gov.in](http://uktenders.gov.in) / official website [www.ucada.in/](http://www.ucada.in/) Uttarakhand Civil Aviation Development Authority, Doon Helidrome, Mussoorie by pass P.O.- Kulhan, Dehradun, Uttarakhand 248013 CEO, (UCADA)

**Kalyan Singh Super Specialty Cancer Institute**  
C.G. City, Sultanpur Road, Lucknow-226002  
(An Autonomous Institute of the Govt. of Uttar Pradesh)  
Website: <https://cancerinstitute.edu.in> Email: [jdmm.sscii@gmail.com](mailto:jdmm.sscii@gmail.com)

**Custom GeM Bid Notice**

It is hereby informed that a Custom GeM bid No. GEM/2024/B/4476668 dated 31.01.2024 has been uploaded on GeM Portal for Procurement of Bid for Services— In house BMW Management Services for KSSSCI. All interested service providers/bidders are required to submit their bids on GeM Portal in accordance with the terms and conditions of the GeM bid documents. The Director reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids at any stage without assigning any reason thereof.

Note:  
1. A pre Bid Meeting will be conducted on Zoom Platform on 16.01.2024 at 2:00 Pm hrs, all interested bidders are requested to forward their email ids on above mail for forwarding the Zoom link.  
The Tender documents are available on the website of the Institute [www.cancerinstitute.edu.in](http://www.cancerinstitute.edu.in)

Advt No. : KSSSCI/PRO-41/2023-24 Director

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# 15 get life term for razing Dalit homes, killing infant

## 50% Of ₹73k Fine On Each Convict To Go To Kid's Parents

Deepak.Lavania  
@timesgroup.com



Agra: A special SC/ST court in Mathura has sentenced 15 men from an upper caste community to life imprisonment after over two decades, in one of the worst instances of caste violence in the district. The court also imposed a penalty of Rs 73,000 on each convict.

The case dates back to Jan 23, 2001, when a group of men in Datiya village of Mathura had opened fire on Dalit villagers and burnt down their houses following a dispute over gram panchayat land. A six-month-old child was burnt alive, a man hit by a bullet and several others from the Dalit community injured.

Special public prosecutor Suresh Prasad Sharma said that on the basis of a complaint filed by one of the victims, an FIR was registered at Narholi (now Highway) po-

The case dates back to 2001, when a group of men in Datiya village of Mathura opened fire on Dalit villagers and burnt down their houses following a dispute over gram panchayat land

lice station. "Sixteen men were booked and following state orders, the case was taken up by the crime investigation department. Names of eight others found involved in violence were later added to the FIR," Sharma said.

On Wednesday, the court of additional district judge (SC/ST) convicted 15 of the men under IPC sections 302 (murder), 307 (attempt to murder), 436 (mischief by fire or explosive substance with intent to destroy house) and 148

(rioting, armed with a deadly weapon), and section 3(2)V of the SC/ST Act, he said.

He added: "First chargesheet was filed in Dec 2005, and a supplementary chargesheet the next month. Twenty-four people were held and nine of them died during the trial... Most of the 15 convicts are aged above 60 years. They were out on bail for a while after securing a HC stay order over the local court's hearing. This caused a long delay."

"Fourteen witnesses, including a doctor who conducted the postmortem of the child, testified in court. Two of them turned hostile. Accused got life imprisonment for the infant's murder and atrocities on members of the Dalit community. Also, 50% of the total penalty amount must be paid to the infant's parents and the other half distributed among the violence victims," Sharma said, adding that police and CID conducted a detailed investigation and compiled evidence which the court took into consideration before passing the order.

The grandson of a 70-year-old convict said that they would approach the HC and appeal against the judgment.

# Concerned about deteriorating Myanmar situation: Govt

New Delhi: As the Myanmar junta extended emergency in the country, India Thursday said it's concerned about the deteriorating situation which has "direct implications on us as a neighbouring country and a friend of Myanmar".

"India has been advocating for a complete succession of violence and Myanmar's transition towards inclusive federal democracy. We want an early resolution of the issue and re-



Myanmar soldiers patrol a street during a 'silent strike' to protest the military coup, in Yangon on Thursday

turn of peace and stability in the country," said the EAM spokesperson.

The military rulers had on Wednesday extended a state of emergency in the country that has been in place since the 2021 coup. According to a Reuters report, the junta has deployed heavy artillery and fighter jets to try to suppress militias allied with a shadow government and ethnic minority armies, several of which launched a coordinated

offensive in Oct that stunned the military and has dented its battlefield credibility. "An inclusive solution to this crisis requires conditions that permit the people of Myanmar to exercise their human rights freely and peacefully. The military's campaign of violence targeting civilians and political repression must end, and those responsible be held to account," said the UN spokesperson on the issue. TNN

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**REPLACEMENT OF OLD AGED QUARTERS & PROVISION OF A HIGH LEVEL PLATFORM**

E-Tender Notice No.: TSK/Engg/07 of 2024 Dated: 30-01-2024. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works:

**Item No. 1. Brief Description of Item:** At Mariani Jn.: Replacement of old aged quarters by type-III qtrs = 4 units. **Tender Value:** ₹1,19,71,735/-

**Item No. 2. Brief Description of Item:** Provision of a High Level platform at Bordubi Road station (450m x 8.5m). **Tender Value:** ₹3,44,24,680/-

**Earnest Money:** ₹3,22,100/- **Date & Time of Closing Tender:** 15:00 hrs. on 21-02-2024 & opening at 16:00 hrs. of 21-02-2024. The complete information with tender documents of above e-tender will be available upto 15:00 hrs of 21-02-2024 in website [www.i-reps.gov.in](http://www.i-reps.gov.in)

DRM (W), Tinsukia  
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**Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS)**

Tender Notice

**EOI for "Data Store for New Passenger Reservation Systems (PRS)" for Indian Railways**

Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS) invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from reputed Data store providers for "Data Store for New Passenger Reservation Systems (PRS)" for Indian Railways. The complete details of EOI requirement is available on website [https://www.indianrail.gov.in/StaticContents/EOI/doc/EOI-PRS\\_Datastore.pdf](https://www.indianrail.gov.in/StaticContents/EOI/doc/EOI-PRS_Datastore.pdf)

Interested agencies having relevant work experience may submit their EOI in the specified format by 15:00 Hrs of 15.02.2024 to CRIS through mail at [apossupport@cris.org.in](mailto:apossupport@cris.org.in)

**कार्यालय परियोजना प्रबन्धक, युनिट-7, कन्स्ट्रक्शन एण्ड डिजाइन सर्विसेज, उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम (नगरिय), (उत्प्रा) सरकार का उपक्रम), ए-85, ब्लाक-ए, वेव्यासपुरी मेरठ-250005**

निविदा सूचना सं: 367 / E-Tender / 16 दिनांक 01.02.2024

**ई-निविदा सूचना**

उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम की ओर से जनपद गाजियाबाद के अन्तर्गत नगर पालिका परिषद मोदीनगर में वेगमाबाद बूढ़ाना तालाब के अमृत सरोवर का विकास कार्य हेतु अनुमानित लागत ₹ 352.40 लाख (जीएएसटी0 रहित एवं नेटवर्क सेस सहित) हेतु सी0 एण्ड डी0एस0 में योजित श्रेणी में भवन कार्य हेतु प्रोजेक्ट ठेकेदारों से निविदा 12.02.2024 के अग्रान्द 4:00 बजे तक ई-निविदा आर्मिन्ड की जाती है। उक्त कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा प्रत्र दिनांक 01.02.2024 से दिनांक 12.02.2024 के मध्य उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार की e-procurement वेबसाइट <https://etender.up.nic.in> से डाउनलोड किये जा सकें हैं तथा ई-निविदा दिनांक 12.02.2024 को 4:30 बजे कार्यालय परियोजना प्रबन्धक, युनिट-07, सी0एण्ड डी0 एस0, उत्प्रा जल निगम (नगरिय), मेरठ में निविदा खोली जायेगी। ई-निविदा प्रत्र का मूल्य ₹ 10,000 + GST @ 18% = ₹ 11,800.00 देय होगा।

निविदा से सम्बन्धित विस्तृत विवरण सी0 एण्ड डी0एस0, उत्प्रा जल निगम की वेबसाइट [www.cdsupn.org/www.upjn.org](http://www.cdsupn.org/www.upjn.org) एवं e-procurement पोर्टल <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है। निविदा से सम्बन्धित प्र (Corrigendum) <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर ही उपलब्ध किये जायेंगे, इन्का प्रक से कोई प्रकाशन नहीं किया जायेगा। निविदादाताओं को सलाह दी जाती है कि वे उक्त वेबसाइट का समय-समय पर अवलोकन करते रहें।

# Shiva temple desecration sparks tension in MP town

Bhopal: Priests and devotees were shocked to find a Shiva temple, located on the outskirts of Bamori town in MP's Guna district, desecrated and the Shivaling uprooted, when they arrived for prayers Thursday morning.

The incident triggered tension in the area and the administration had to deploy additional police forces, as angry residents took to the streets, demanding that the vandals be arrested and their houses demolished. Protests and road blockades continued all day in the town, around 150km from Bhopal and close to the Rajasthan border.

The temple was vandalised on Wednesday night and preliminary investigation suggested the involvement of 5-6 men, police said, adding that an FIR had been registered against unidentified persons.

A local resident, Saurabh Kirar, filed a complaint naming seven men. Police said the investigation was on.

Police are scanning footage of CCTV cameras in the temple's vicinity and the roads leading to it, in order to identify the culprits. TNN

# Sibal: It will be a sad day if SC calls AMU non-minority institute

Dhananjay.Mahapatra  
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Senior advocate Kapil Sibal told the Supreme Court on Thursday that every minority community enjoyed the constitutional guarantee to administer educational institutions established by it and said engagement of a large number of non-minority people in the administration would not alter the institution's denominational status.

Wrapping up arguments before a bench of CJI DY Chandrachud and Justices Sanjiv Khanna, Surya Kant, JB Pardiwala, Dipankar Datta, Manoj Misra and Satish C Sharma, Sibal said there was no doubt about Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental College, wholly established and managed by the Muslim community, being the precursor of Aligarh Muslim University.

Once AMU was proven to have been established by Muslims, the community, in keeping with the fundamental right conferred on it under Article 30(1) of the Constitution, had the intrinsic

right to administer it, Sibal said. There was no dilution of the denominational character of the institution merely because Muslims agreed to engage people from other communities in its administration, he added.

Prior to the bench reserving its verdict, Sibal said it would be impossible to have a minority educational institution in the country if SC took the wrong adjudication path and insisted on the twin

**STATUS ROW**

tests of 'establish and administer' of an institution by the minority community to make it eligible for denominational status. "It will be a sad day if the court declares AMU to be a non-minority institution as the Muslim student participation in IITs and IIMs hovers between 1% and 2%," he said. "(AMU) is the only institution of national importance and excellence where Muslim students could get some reservation to alleviate the educationally backward status of the community."

## Enabling Mobility Accelerating Growth

**EXTRACT OF UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER & NINE MONTHS ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER, 2023** | (₹ in crores except EPS)

| S. No. | Particulars  | Standalone    |            |                   |            |            |               | Consolidated |                   |            |            |            |            |
|--------|--|---------------|------------|-------------------|------------|------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
|        |  | Quarter Ended |            | Nine Months Ended |            | Year Ended | Quarter Ended |              | Nine Months Ended |            | Year Ended |            |            |
|        |  | 31.12.2023    | 30.09.2023 | 31.12.2022        | 31.12.2023 | 31.12.2022 | 31.03.2023    | 31.12.2023   | 30.09.2023        | 31.12.2022 | 31.12.2023 | 31.12.2022 | 31.03.2023 |
| 1      | Revenue from Operations  | 652.88        | 549.27     | 650.63            | 1705.82    | 1860.63    | 2519.62       | 682.89       | 582.36            | 677.34     | 1809.60    | 1941.46    | 2,628.27   |
| 2      | Other Income   | 24.85         | 51.40      | 25.36             | 93.94      | 87.99      | 119.16        | 16.96        | 26.45             | 26.04      | 61.69      | 82.93      | 101.75     |
| 3      | Total Income   | 677.73        | 600.67     | 675.99            | 1799.76    | 1948.62    | 2638.78       | 699.85       | 608.81            | 703.38     | 1871.29    | 2024.39    | 2,730.02   |
| 4      | Net Profit/(Loss) Before Tax*  | 154.71        | 149.00     | 177.54            | 432.79     | 524.05     | 708.54        | 170.84       | 150.28            | 199.39     | 483.67     | 582.79     | 773.92     |
| 5      | Net Profit/(Loss) after Tax for the Period/Year*   | 118.57        | 116.59     | 131.52            | 331.04     | 392.17     | 530.54        | 128.78       | 110.17            | 147.18     | 358.53     | 432.08     | 570.97     |
| 6      | Total Comprehensive Income [Comprising Profit/(Loss) (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after Tax)] | 119.97        | 117.92     | 131.39            | 335.22     | 396.52     | 536.33        | 130.26       | 111.49            | 147.23     | 362.64     | 436.38     | 576.62     |
| 7      | Equity Share Capital   | 240.30        | 240.30     | 240.30            | 240.30     | 240.30     | 240.30        | 240.30       | 240.30            | 240.30     | 240.30     | 240.30     | 240.30     |
| 8      | Other Equity (excluding non-controlling interest)  |               |            |                   |            |            |               |              |                   |            |            |            | 2363.48    |
| 9      | Earnings per share (EPS)**   |               |            |                   |            |            |               |              |                   |            |            |            |            |
|        | Basic (₹)  | 4.93          | 4.85       | 5.47              | 13.78      | 16.32      | 22.08         | 5.00         | 4.21              | 5.83       | 13.70      | 17.06      | 22.56      |
|        | Diluted (₹)  | 4.93          | 4.85       | 5.47              | 13.78      | 16.32      | 22.08         | 5.00         | 4.21              | 5.83       | 13.70      | 17.06      | 22.56      |

\* There were no Exceptional items during the period.  
\*\* EPS is not annualized for the quarter ended December 31, 2023, September 30, 2023 & December 31, 2022, and Nine Month Ended December 31, 2023 & December 31, 2022.

**Notes:**

- The above results have been reviewed by Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors in its meeting held on 01<sup>st</sup> February 2024.
- The above is an extract of the detailed format of the financial results for the quarterly and nine months ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 filed with Stock exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full formats of the financial results for the quarterly and nine months ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 are available on the Stock exchange websites [www.nseindia.com](http://www.nseindia.com), [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com) and on company's website [www.rites.com](http://www.rites.com).
- The Financial Results of the company/group have been prepared in accordance with the Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) as prescribed under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015, as amended.
- Ministry of Railway (MoR) vide letter dated 18.10.2021 had decided in principle for closure of Indian Railway Station Development Corporation (IRSDC), in which Company has an investment of ₹ 48 Crore. Closure activities are underway and Board of IRSDC has decided to transfer the assets & liabilities of IRSDC to Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) for consideration not less than book value. Financial statement of IRSDC has been prepared on liquidation basis. As on 31.03.2023, IRSDC reported a net worth of ₹ 225 crores and has reported a consolidated net profit of ₹ 1.44 Crore and ₹ 5.98 Crore during the quarter and nine month ended December 31, 2023 respectively. Therefore, management does not perceive any impairment in the value of investment in IRSDC.
- The Board of Directors of the holding company has declared 3<sup>rd</sup> interim dividend of ₹ 4.75 per share (face value of ₹ 10 per share) for financial year 2023-24.
- The figures for the previous period have been regrouped/reclassified, wherever necessary.

**Registered Office:**  
SCOPE Minar, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi - 110092; India  
**E-mail:** [cs@rites.com](mailto:cs@rites.com); **Ph.:** 0124-2571666

**For & on behalf of the Board of Directors**  
Sd/ (Rahul Mithal)  
Chairman & Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer  
DIN: 07610499

Place: Gurugram  
Dated: 01.02.2024

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# BUDGET 2024

# बचत

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Dwarka: Ganga Petro Indian Oil Retail Outlet, Dwarka | Delhi Automobiles: Delhi Automobiles, Indian Oil Retail Outlet | Mayapuri: Indian Oil Bedi Saxena Filling Station | Singh Service Station, Loni: Loni Road, Main Durga Puri, Kardam Puri | Maujpur: Main Road Shastri Gali-1, Maujpur | Gokulpuri: Ground Floor, Main Road Gokulpuri | Bhajanpura: Chand Bagh, Wazirabad Road | New Seelampur: Shop No.2, G-1, New Seelampur

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9521162626

**PLOT FOR sale**  
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**ASSET AMPLIFIERS**  
9999555874

**SOUTH CITY1:** 1000 sqyd @ 28cr, 500 sqyd @ 12.5 cr, 500 sqyd kothi @ 14cr, 360 sqyd @ 9cr, 240 sqyd crnr @ 5.75cr. # 9999555874

**Contact/ WhatsApp**  
9868863300

**263 SQUARE** yards plot in Sec-51, Gurgaon, prime location, Nr. Parshvnaith Mall, close to Artemis Hospital. Dealers excuse.

**MG ASSOCIATES**  
SALE & LEASE  
Commercial & Residential  
9811282527

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**PROPERTY PLANNER**  
satisfactory real estate solutions  
9811336887

**PLOTS AVAIL.** Dwarka Expressway @ 1 Lacs to 2.10 Lacs per sq yards. Southern Peripheral Road (SPR) @ 1.5 Lacs per sqyds

**SCIA BUILDERS LLP**  
9999127242

**SEC23 GURGAON** New 4BHK Bldr floor 335yd plot 18m road. full building also available 3BHK booking open

**ASSET AMPLIFIERS**  
9999555874

**SL-1** 500 sqyd @ 2.50 Lpsyd 500 sqyd on 60 mtr Rd @ 15.50cr, 500 sqyd on 30 mtr Rd @ 14.50cr, 300 sqyd crnr @ 8cr. # 9999555874

**SABHARWAL ASSOCIATES**  
9810061698  
9810099174

**BUILDER FLOORS** New 3 / 4 / 5 BHK Duplx / Servant Quarter 2150 Sqft. Facing Golf Course and Botanical Garden.

**WANTED** 3 BHK Apartment - 3763 Sq.Ft. in 'EXPERION WINDCHANTS' Sector-112, Gurugram. Brokers Strictly Excuse. Immediate Payment. Contact: # 8860135456.

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Affordable Flats / Shops on Dwarka Expressway Gurugram (HR)  
Ph. 9855461010

**PRE RENTED PROPERTY AVAILABLE FOR SALE**  
BANKS, RETAIL OFFICE SPACES DELHI / GURGAON

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**FOR Sale** 3BR Flat in DLF Primus & 4BR in DLF Regal Garden Gurgaon Excellent location serious buyers. 9810 095730 or W app: 9811022339

**DLF SIGNATURE** Resi, Fully To Move. In 4BHK + Fully Fitted Kitchn, Home Automation & Terrace Garden in DLF Ph-4

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Corner 3 Side Open East Facing  
Vastu Compliant  
2 No. Car Park  
Gated Lane  
Power Back-up  
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**FOR Sale** 3BR Flat in DLF Primus & 4BR in DLF Regal Garden Gurgaon Excellent location serious buyers. 9810 095730 or W app: 9811022339

**MANDATE DEALS** 4 BHK 500 sqyd DLF Independent Floors DLF Ph 1, 3BHK Duplex Exotica, 4 BHK Vatika City & more.

**PROPERTY PLANNER**  
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9811336887

**PLOTS AVAIL.** Dwarka Expressway @ 1 Lacs to 2.10 Lacs per sq yards. Southern Peripheral Road (SPR) @ 1.5 Lacs per sqyds

**SCIA BUILDERS LLP**  
9999127242

**SEC23 GURGAON** New 4BHK Bldr floor 335yd plot 18m road. full building also available 3BHK booking open

**ASSET AMPLIFIERS**  
9999555874

**SL-1** 500 sqyd @ 2.50 Lpsyd 500 sqyd on 60 mtr Rd @ 15.50cr, 500 sqyd on 30 mtr Rd @ 14.50cr, 300 sqyd crnr @ 8cr. # 9999555874

**SABHARWAL ASSOCIATES**  
9810061698  
9810099174

**BUILDER FLOORS** New 3 / 4 / 5 BHK Duplx / Servant Quarter 2150 Sqft. Facing Golf Course and Botanical Garden.

**SQUARE METERS REALTORS**  
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**YEDIA PLOTS** Sale/ Buy, Sector 18 & 20, Yamuna Expressway, Size 300, 500, 1000, 2000 sq.mtr. Call WhatsApp 9717452701

**GHAR SANSAR PROPERTIES**  
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9873731820

**BUY / Sell YEA Resi Plot** Sec-18, 20, GR, Noida Resi Indl. plots alpha, beta, gama Delta, P-3, S. Nagar, Sec-2, 3 # 9818659738, 9873731820

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**YAMUNA PLOT** Auth. Residential & Industrial Sec-18, 20, 22D, 25, 29, 32, 33. Sizes 300, 500, 1000, 2000, 4000 Mtr. Call: 9911714666

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**3 BHK For Sale FARIDABAD** SEC 79, Omare Royal Residency Fully/Rental Furnished. Modular Kitchen, designer wardrobes, Balcones, Sun facing, Parking, Lift. Contact 9810159265/981177900

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9810061698  
9810099174

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9871557851 (OWNER)

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**SABHARWAL ASSOCIATES**  
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**FRIENDS COLONY** 3700 Sq. Feet Ready to Move A-one Construction with Stilt and Power backup  
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**SAHIBABAD SITE IV.** Indl. 1000mtr & Abadi land 800 yds Near RRTS & Highway, Corner. For Industry / Showroom. 9818419919

**CONTACT OWNER**  
9667196643  
farmtechno@outlook.com

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**HIMALAYAS** Looking for a Beautiful House. Park House has the most beautiful and breathtaking view of 180 degree of snow clad mountains located between Mukteshwar and Saharatak at Gajar. Area of the land 13 Nalis Area of the House Apx. 4500 carpet with garage and servants quarter for 5-6 peoples. Contact us for inspection or any further details. Price Rs. 8.35 Crores. Phone Mumbai: 98208 94496 / 98208 88079.

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**GURGAON**

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9810213956

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**DLF**

**RETAIL** space for rent in NTH 90 DLF Garden city Gurgaon Ideal For Bank/Clinic/Supermart/gyrn etc. Huge catchment 9810658518

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**Be** it known to all that the original sale deed dated 24.06.1960 of property no. E-166, GK-1, New Delhi - 110048 registered as Document No.2884, in Additional Book No.1, Volume 562, on Pages 5 to 6, on 30.06.1960 with Sub Registrar, New Delhi has been lost and is not traceable. A report has been filed in this behalf by Sh. Narinder Kumar son of Sh. Madan Mohan Manjoo with the Police Station Crime Branch being LR No. 705454/2019 dated 19.02.2019. Public is informed that the current owners of the above-mentioned property have absolute right to deal with their respective portions of the above-mentioned property in any manner they deem fit at their discretion.

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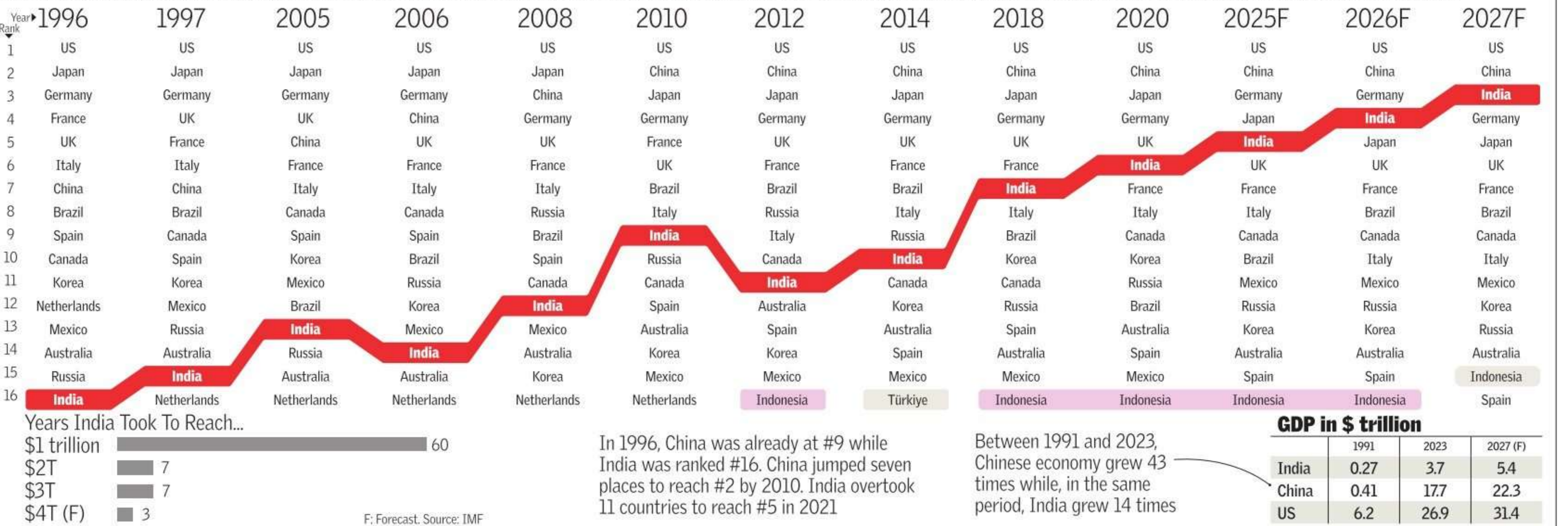
**COURT NOTICE**  
(U/o 5 RULE 20 CPC) IN THE COURT OF Shri Vikrant, Civil Judge, (Junior Division), Gurugram  
M/s. Urban Landpro Infrahatch Private Limited  
Vs.  
M/s. Ridima Overseas Private Limited  
CNR No:HRGR02-003091-2022  
Next Date : 04-03-2024  
PUBLICATION ISSUED TO : M/s. Urban Landpro Infrahatch Private Limited, Office At K-1/105, 2nd Floor, CR Park, New Delhi-110019, Through its Director/Authorized Person  
In above titled case the defendant(s)/respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant(s)/respondent(s) should appear in person or through counsel on 04-03-2024 at 10.00 a.m. For details logon to [https://highcourt.ncd.gov.in/?trs=distcourt\\_notice&district=gurugram](https://highcourt.ncd.gov.in/?trs=distcourt_notice&district=gurugram)  
Dated this day of 30-01-2024  
CIVIL JUDGE, (JUNIOR DIVISION), GURUGRAM

**Proclamation Under Order 5, Rule 20, CPC**  
In the Court of Addl. District Judge-1, Solan, Distt. Solan (H.P.)  
CMA No.31-6/2019 Reg No. 78/2019



## NOW AMONG 'VISHWA GURUS': FROM #16 TO #5 IN 30 YEARS. #5 TO #3 IN 2 YEARS?

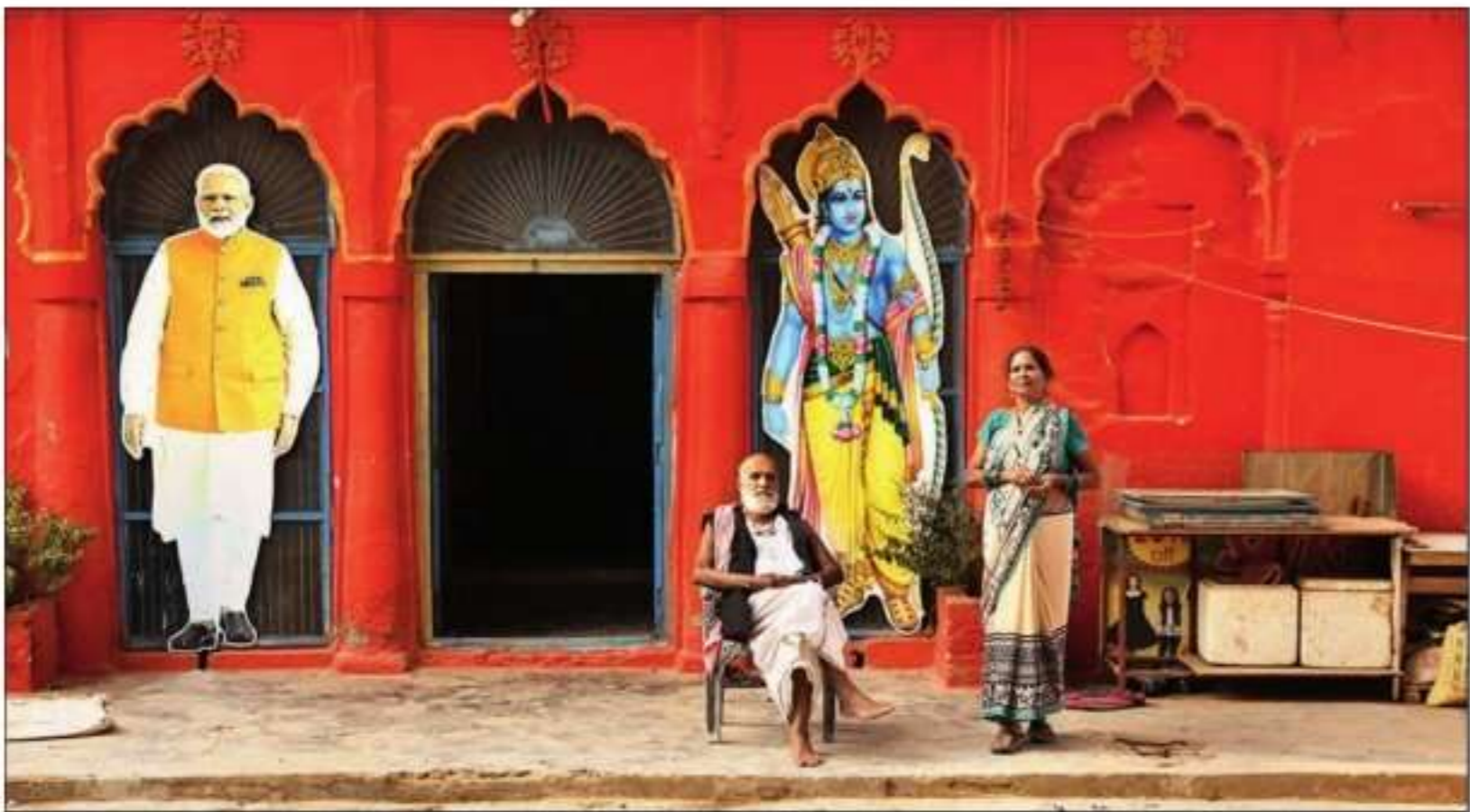
That's the remarkable story of India's growth. We are the fifth largest economy now, but in 1991, we were the 16th largest. It was the last time we occupied that rank. The total size of our economy was \$400 billion then - now, we add more than \$300 billion to our GDP every year. India's economy gathered pace after the liberalisation of 1991, and from 2010 we have been rapidly leaving other countries behind. By 2027, we are poised to overtake Japan and Germany and become the world's third largest economy, behind the US and China



# Nirmala's Vote Of Confidence In Voters

## Budget Reflects Govt's Belief In Bharat Triumphant Over INDIA

TEAM TOI



DOUBLE ENGINE?

The contrast could not have been starker. Exactly five years to the date, the Modi government chose the Interim Budget presented by Piyush Goyal to make important political overtures through the Kisan Samman Nidhi and making income up to Rs 5 lakh tax-exempt. On Thursday, FM Nirmala Sitharaman defied the expectation of a hike in Kisan Samman Nidhi and exemption level to present an Interim Budget that was bereft of grand political gestures expected of a regime seeking renewal of its term.

The silence was still eloquent in a vital sense: it reflected the confidence of PM Modi-led BJP and can serve only to reinforce the already-strong perception of him being the overwhelming favourite for the looming battle. It is not hard to identify the source of confidence. Goyal had presented his budget after BJP's loss to Congress in the state elections of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan, and his task was to prevent a spill-over into the national arena. Sitharaman, on the other hand, had the advantage of a favourable setting, with the groundswell in large parts over the consecration of Ram Lalla in Ayodhya adding to the advantage it gained by besting Congress in those very three states. Opposition's 'INDIA' aspiration lies in shambles after Nitish Kumar's defection and can potentially add many more to the column for whom sta-

bility at the Centre counts. The 'stability' plank is part of a larger platform which has a "strong and developed Bharat" as its other important prong. And even as she resisted the temptation to break free of convention, Sitharaman took care to burnish it well by emphasising India's success in handling the post-pandemic recovery and contrasting it with the ineptitude of erstwhile role models, by pointing to India's growing global heft and by promising that Modi's objective of turning India into a developed country by 2047 was well within the nation's grasp. The Budget does have concrete proposals too; for instance, the promise to construct two crore more houses for the rural poor, something that is sure to sound credible in the light of the impressive success already achieved, and to help slum and

chawl dwellers realise their "apna ghar" aspiration. The focus on east India reflects BJP's hope of a decent haul from the region. Post-rapprochement with Nitish, it already seems better placed in Bihar. In Bengal, implementation of the Citizenship Amendment Act is expected to help it hold on to the surprise gains it made the last time, while in Odisha, Naveen Patnaik's absence of national ambition can be a help. That helps explain why in the post-Budget press conference, Sitharaman chose to term east India as a priority for the Modi government. But the Budget would also be remembered by the new construction it put on what is termed "mud" or free. The rooftop solarisation scheme, with the promise to fetch 300 units of free power every month, is remarkable as much for the green push it

represents as for the attempt to change "mud" and align it with Modi's vision of reforms and fiscal restraint. Also noteworthy is the scheme to expand the constituency for reforms by luring states with interest-free loans if they sign off on the sheet. The relief of the government, which has consistently been ultra-cognisant of the risk potential of inflation, over the success on that front is palpable: so is its jubilation over harnessing the digital infrastructure for reaching schemes directly to beneficiaries. Sitharaman said digital infrastructure had turned into a factor of production, but by stressing that it helped the exchequer save nearly Rs 3 lakh crore which under previous regimes would be pocketed by middlemen, she also showed BJP's intent to turn that into a factor in the electoral discourse as well.

## The Power Of One: 'Lucky' ₹ 11,11,111 cr set aside for capex

TEAM TOI

In the 12 Budgets presented during the 10 years of Narendra Modi's tenure as PM, the one number that leaps out is Nirmala Sitharaman's capital spending allocation of Rs 11,11,111 crore for the next fiscal - an 11.1% increase over the current year's budget estimate. Sitharaman, presenting her sixth Budget, used what is considered an auspicious number - one - to earmark funds that will be used to build roads, railways and other assets.

While the proposed growth rate appeared meagre compared to what Sitharaman has been targeting - 25% in FY23, followed by 35% in FY24 - the minister asserted that the increase comes on a larger base. During her watch, the Centre's capex has risen 3.3 times from Rs 3.4 lakh crore in 2019-20. The FM argued that the rise in capex comes amid signs that private sector investment has begun to flow. "One has to have a clear understanding that when the govt wants to spend through capital investment, it can be the one for triggering the economy so that the private sector comes in. At a time when private sector didn't come in, we fully came in," Sitharaman told reporters.

A high capex is seen to be one of the triggers for a strong recovery of the Indian economy post-Covid, especially at a time when overseas demand has remained muted, first in the wake of high inflation and interest rates in Europe and the US and then due to geopolitical tensions in Ukraine and West Asia. Next year, over 47% of the capex is accounted for by road transport and highways, and railways, the two main transport ministries. While road transport and highways has been allocated over Rs 2.7 lakh crore, funds earmarked for capital spending by railways is pegged at over Rs 2.5 lakh crore. In addition, the govt is also earmarking Rs 1.3 lakh crore as assistance to states for capital expenditure. The initiative was announced post-Covid aimed at boosting productive investment by states.

## Focus was on development & our track record, not revdi: FM

TEAM TOI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman says the Centre did not want any populism to come into the Budget and wanted the govt's 10-year track record of reforms and development to explain its message for the people. In an interview to Doordarshan and at a presser after the Budget, Sitharaman explains the key messages. Excerpts:

**What are the key take-aways from your Budget?**  
The process started after PM Modi's address from Red Fort. We have discussed in great detail the roadmap for making India a developed country by 2047. We are focusing on four castes for development issues. They include women, farmers, the poor and youth. We will fulfil their aspirations. They will progress and because of their progress, the country will also progress. This is what we have tried to say in this Budget and we have announced some schemes and some have been continued.

We have continued public investment but we are seeing scaling up of investments by private sector in infrastructure. For the country to progress on innovation, we have announced the amount and taken steps to achieve that. In the July Budget, we will announce the detailed plans.

**This Budget has little or no populism. What is the thought that went behind taking such a bold move ahead of a general election?**  
The PM said 10 years of substantial systemic reforms, 10 years of taking the route of empowering people and not going by entitlement and that is why when houses reach people, electricity reaches people, you have money coming through direct benefit transfer. You financially empower them, you also make sure that opportunities are given to them. The mantras that we used - whether it was Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas ... you are looking at making sure that you actually don't differentiate between beneficiary on any other score except that he

## THE LONG & SHORT OF BUDGET SPEECHES

Nirmala Sitharaman spoke 5,247 words over 56 minutes in her sixth budget. This was the second shortest of the 29 budget speeches in this millennium. She also holds the record for the longest speech, when measured in minutes - her 2020-21 speech lasted 2 hours 42 minutes. But in terms of word count, that speech ranks 9th in the list of longest speeches since 2000. The record for the longest speech by word count this millennium belongs to Arun Jaitley. His 2014-15 budget was 16,552-words long

Interestingly, since 2000, the five longest speeches by word count were all delivered by BJP FMs. Coming second after Jaitley's 2014-15 speech is Yashwant Sinha's 2002-2003 speech (15,275 words) comes third. Jaswant Singh (2003-2004 speech, 15,160) is the fourth longest. Sinha again figures in the top 5 - his 2000-2001 speech was 14,598 words long

The wordiest budget speech ever? Manmohan Singh's 1991-92 budget speech, ushering in economic liberalisation, was 18,364 words long. And the shortest? For that, you need to go all the way back to the 1952-53 budget. CD Deshmukh, also from the Congress, kept it really pithy - just 4,441 words

### Longest and shortest budget speeches since 2000-01

| Longest     |                |        |            |      |
|-------------|----------------|--------|------------|------|
| Year        | FM             | Words  | Characters | Para |
| 2014 - 2015 | Arun Jaitley   | 16,552 | 1,01,407   | 188  |
| 2002 - 2003 | Yashwant Sinha | 16,120 | 95,393     | 192  |
| 2001 - 2002 | Yashwant Sinha | 15,275 | 90,139     | 183  |
| 2003 - 2004 | Jaswant Singh  | 15,160 | 92,326     | 196  |
| 2000 - 2001 | Yashwant Sinha | 14,598 | 87,958     | 175  |

| Shortest        |                    |       |            |      |
|-----------------|--------------------|-------|------------|------|
| Year            | FM                 | Words | Characters | Para |
| 2019 - 2020 (I) | Piyush Goyal       | 8,139 | 49,340     | 98   |
| 2009 - 2010 (I) | Pranab Mukherjee   | 7,505 | 47,710     | 69   |
| 2014 - 2015 (I) | P. Chidambaram     | 6,607 | 39,517     | 85   |
| 2024-25 (I)     | Nirmala Sitharaman | 5,247 | 34,082     | 97   |
| 2004 - 2005 (I) | Jaswant Singh      | 5,046 | 31,091     | 51   |

deserves to get this service. There is actual development reaching the ground. There is no appeasement of sorts. There is no differentiating between people. As a result, you find in last 10 years, we have actually laid the foundation for people to now think in terms of meeting their aspirations. The Vote on Account Budget was not seen as an instrument to tell people we can do this, we can do that without having performed in the last ten years. So we didn't want any populism coming in here. We knew our track record will explain it.

In the past 10 years, you have given electricity, gas connections, housing and

created 500 million new stakeholders in the economy. How do you see it playing out for the economy and society going forward?  
That will be the trigger point for any consumption in the future. Consumption not just of basic necessities, consumption not just of food products, consumption also of services, consumption of education not as a corporate education but seeking skills, seeking knowledge, seeking opportunity and it is for that the innovation fund has been set up and a large corpus is being given over the five years and also making sure that some of the 'PM Shree' schools are endowed enough to give them opportunities.

## Modest ₹50k cr divestment target for '24-25

TEAM TOI

The govt has set a modest target of Rs 50,000 crore from divestment of state-run public sector units in 2024-25 after trimming the target for the current fiscal year from Rs 51,000 crore to Rs 30,000 crore in the revised estimates. In fact, the Interim Budget steers clear of mentioning divestment or privatisation in the budget documents. The budgetary receipts for 2024-25 puts the figure under miscellaneous capital receipts. This is perhaps the first time that divestment or privatisation has not been mentioned. The Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) which oversees divestment of PSUs has struggled to meet the target for the current fiscal raising only Rs 12,504 crore from divestment. It has also raised Rs 44,060 crore as dividend from PSUs. Several big ticket privatisation plans have not happened due to a raft of reasons, including bureaucratic sloth and the impending general elections. DIPAM had termed 2023-24 as a year of consolidation and asserted that it would try and complete some of the big ticket sales such as IDBI Bank, logistics firm Concor, BEML and Shipping Corporation of India.

## Govt plans White Paper on UPA's eco mismanagement

TEAM TOI

When the NDA govt swept into office in 2014, there was considerable pressure to release a White Paper on the state of the economy and track record of UPA. But the govt resisted the demand, the restraint prompted by concern that an official document saying the state of the economy was precarious, as symbolised by public sector banks groaning under the burden of bad loans, would deepen international pessimism. Many were unhappy over what they saw as Congress being let off the hook. Congress, not surprisingly, denied that it had left the economy in a poor shape. The long-pending demand may finally be met by a decision, announced by finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman, to come out with a White Paper on "mismanagement of the economy" prior to 2014. She didn't specify any timeline for the release of the White Paper, but it is likely to be out before the announcement of the Lok Sabha poll schedule. "The crisis of those years has been overcome and the economy put firmly



TIME TO SPEAK OUT

penditure on infrastructure compared to the UPA years to boost growth and shown its commitment to fiscal consolidation. From being termed one of the 'fragile five' economies, India has emerged as one of the fastest growing major economies in the world. The health of the banking sector is robust and credit growth has increased while there has been widespread improvement in infrastructure across the country. Use of technology has helped spread benefits to a large section of the population and 24.5 crore people have been lifted out of multidimensional poverty. Against the backdrop of slowing global growth, India is expected to grow more than 7% in the next few years and aspires to be a \$7 trillion economy by 2030. "The exemplary track record of governance, development and performance, effective delivery and 'jan kalyan' has given the govt trust, confidence and people's blessings to realise, whatever it takes, the goal of 'Viksit Bharat' with good intentions, true dedication and hard work in the coming years," the FM added.

## Govt on 'beti bachao, vaccine lagao' drive

TEAM TOI

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that the govt will encourage vaccination for girls in the age group of 9 to 14 years for the prevention of cervical cancer, the second most prevalent cancer among women in India. Vaccines are available in the market to prevent infection with the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV), a group of more than 200 related viruses, of which some types are known to cause cervical cancer. The uptake of these vaccines has been slow because of lack of awareness and high cost, which makes the announcement in the Budget significant. The Union health ministry is in talks with the Serum Institute of India (SII), which has developed Cervavac India's first quadrivalent HPV vaccine, in partnership with



WHEELS OF WELLNESS

the department of biotechnology, to make its vaccine available at affordable costs. SII CEO Adar Poonawala said in Sept last year that their cervical cancer vaccine would be affordable and be available in the range of Rs 200-400. "Initially, the vaccine will be made available through govt

channels and from next year, some private partners will be involved too," he had said. At present, the country is dependent on foreign manufacturers for the vaccine. They cost anywhere between Rs 2,000 and Rs 3,500 per dose, which is nearly 10 times the expected price of the in-

## Lakhpati Didi target raised

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced that the central govt has decided to enhance the target for making women associated with self help groups into 'Lakhpati Didis' from 2 crore to 3 crore. The scheme was rolled out after the Prime Minister in his Independence Day speech last year said it was his dream to create two crore 'Lakhpati Didis' in the country's villages. The

## HAS SOUTH RACED AHEAD OF NORTH? A REALITY CHECK



So, north is north, and south is south, and never the twain shall meet? An industrialised south, materially much more prosperous, healthier and better educated. And a largely rural north, with its cow belt and its politics, and people with modest incomes who are less educated and have shorter life expectancy? Is that how you look at things? If you thought so, here are three maps that will make you re-evaluate your notions

### HEALTHY STATES

LIFE EXPECTANCY  
In Years (2016-20)

- 70+ years
- 69-70 years
- Below 69 years

| Longest Life Span  |      |
|--------------------|------|
| Delhi              | 75.8 |
| Kerala             | 75.0 |
| J&K                | 74.3 |
| Shortest Life Span |      |
| Chh'garh           | 65.1 |
| UP                 | 66.0 |
| MP                 | 67.4 |

Source: Sample Registration System Bulletin - 2016-20

### WEALTHY STATES

PER CAPITA INCOME  
Rs lakh per year  
2022-23

- Rs 2.3L and above
- Rs 1.5L-Rs 2.3L
- Below Rs 1.5L

| Richest |     |
|---------|-----|
| Sikkim  | 5.2 |
| Goa     | 4.7 |
| Delhi   | 4.4 |
| Poorest |     |
| Manipur | 0.9 |
| UP      | 0.8 |
| Bihar   | 0.5 |

Source: RBI

### WISE STATES

LITERACY RATE (2017-18)

- 80% and above
- 75%-79.9%
- below 75%

| Most Literate  |      |
|----------------|------|
| Kerala         | 96.2 |
| Delhi          | 88.7 |
| U'khand        | 87.6 |
| Least Literate |      |
| Bihar          | 70.9 |
| Raj            | 69.7 |
| Andhra         | 66.4 |

Note: Latest life expectancy and literacy data for some NE states not available

Source: National Statistical Office- 2017-18

# FM Takes Infra Route To Viksit Bharat

Lower Capex And Higher RBI Dividend Helped Govt Manage Fiscal Deficit

Rlys set 5-year path to up capacity & comfort

**TEAM TOI**  
When the finance minister presented the Budget last year, she had based her deficit projections for 2023-24 on the assumption that the nominal GDP would be nearly Rs 302 lakh crore.

Current estimates put that number at under Rs 297 lakh crore. Had the absolute deficit numbers stayed at Budget estimates (BE), they would have been a larger proportion of GDP, given that reduction in the denominator. Yet, the revised estimates (RE) put the fiscal deficit at 5.8% of GDP against the budgeted 5.9%.

Was this achieved through higher receipts? Not quite. If anything, total receipts are a tad lower in the revised estimates than in BE (Rs 44.9 lakh crore against Rs 45 lakh crore). What has helped keep the deficit in check is a reduction in "effective capital expenditure" by about Rs 1 lakh crore with the



RE of Rs 12.7 lakh crore falling about 7% short of the budgeted figure. Effective capital expenditure includes both Centre's own capital spending and the grants in aid it gives for the capex of states.

So, despite a somewhat higher than budgeted revenue expenditure (Rs 35.4 lakh crore against Rs 35 lakh crore), total expenditure was contained

within the budgeted figure. As a result, fiscal deficit - the gap between total expenditure and receipts other than borrowings - is now estimated to end up at Rs 17.3 lakh crore instead of the Rs 17.9 lakh crore originally budgeted for. That is what ensured it remained within the budget target of 5.9% of GDP.

The fact that receipts fell

only very marginally short of the number that the FM had targeted was in turn helped by much higher than expected revenue through dividends from the RBI and public sector banks. The RBI alone gave the govt a dividend of over Rs 87,000 crore. With banks too enjoying a boom in profits in the current year, govt got a windfall it had not budgeted for.

Govt's gross tax revenues are now estimated to be about Rs 34.4 lakh crore, significantly higher than the Rs 33.6 lakh crore originally budgeted for. This was thanks entirely to personal income tax collections being higher than anticipated (Rs 10.2 lakh crore against Rs 9 lakh crore) and more than making up for excise and customs du-

ties not quite meeting the targets. In the process, personal income tax collections have also outstripped revenues from corporation tax contrary to what was projected at the time of the Budget.

The higher gross tax revenues, however, did not really translate into higher net tax revenues for govt. A higher than projected share for the states and a small adjustment for their share from previous years ensured that the Centre's net tax revenues were just a touch lower than the Budget had estimated they would be at Rs 23.2 lakh crore against Rs 23.3 lakh crore.

The budget estimates for the coming year project a sizable increase in both tax and non-tax revenues as also in capital expenditure, and a reduction in subsidies. But given that there will be a final Budget presented for the year around July, those numbers are at best indicative.

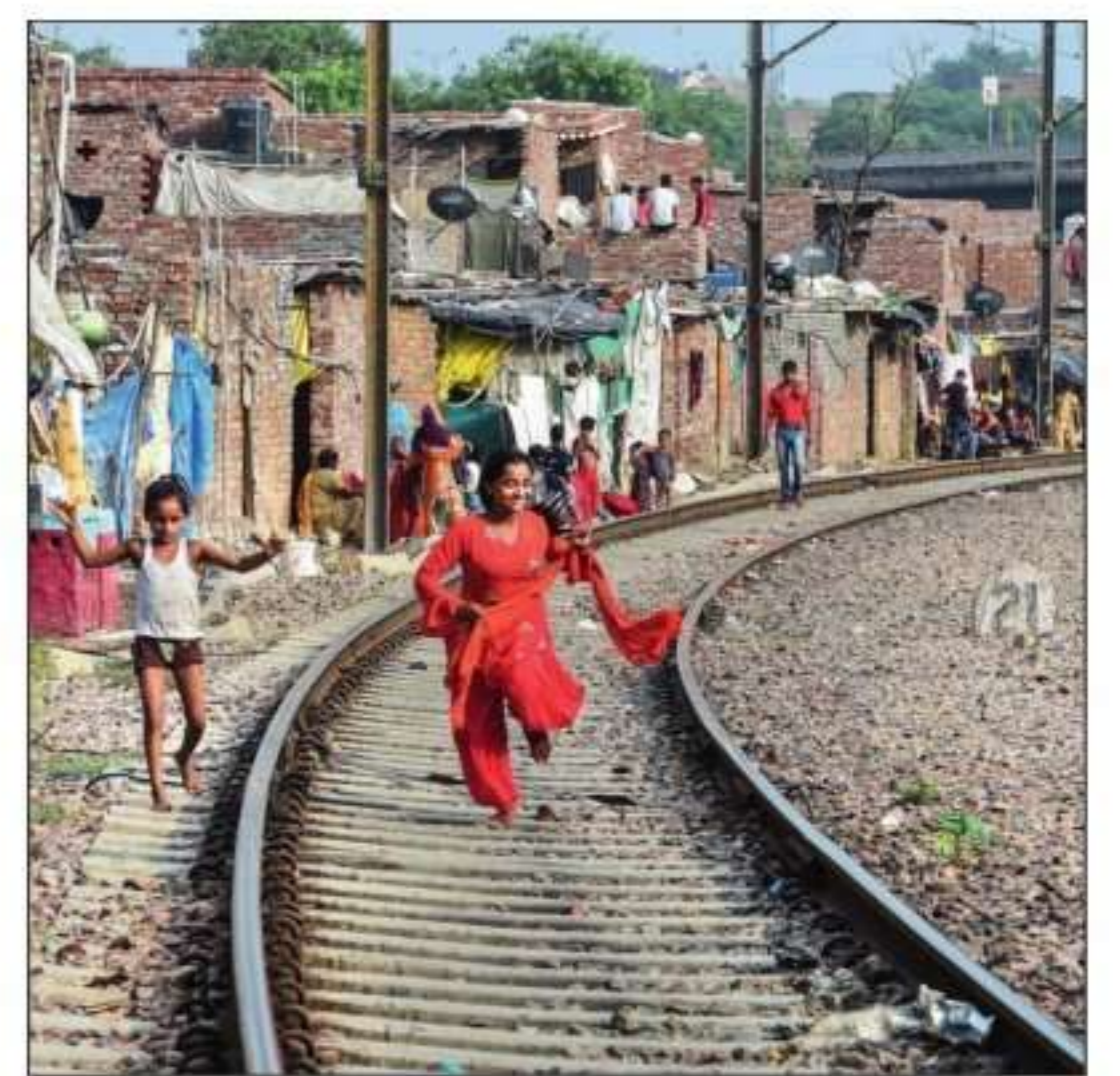
**TEAM TOI**  
Amid high inflation in 2022, govt had announced plans for a logistics strategy for key sectors, including the cement industry, to ease supply-side constraints.

Industry feedback was that in the south, cement producers had excess capacity and could use that provided they got raw material from other parts of the country. But railways' lack of capacity came in the way.

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman's Budget proposals on Thursday mentioned a dedicated cement corridor as part of the Energy Economic Corridor, a Rail Sagar corridor to link ports, and Amrit Chaturbhuj for multi-tracking of the seven busiest corridors. These corridors, with a total length of 40,000km rail track, will require an investment of Rs 11 lakh crore over nine years, railway minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said.

On Oct 23 last year, TOI had first reported the railway ministry's proposal to seek Rs 4.2 lakh crore approval from the Cabinet for Amrit Chaturbhuj to decongest the Delhi-Howrah, Mumbai-Howrah, Delhi-Mumbai, Delhi-Guwahati, Delhi-Chennai, Howrah-Chennai and Mumbai-Chennai routes, and upgrade them for faster passenger trains and quicker movement of goods. Vaishnaw said some of the proposals are at an advanced stage in the process to get Cabinet approval.

Details of the other corridors have not yet been announced.



NEEDED: A GALLOP

Vaishnaw said 434 projects will be implemented under this plan to increase the capacity for running trains and eliminate the problem of wait-listed tickets. "All these corridors will also reduce air pollution and bring down logistics costs. These projects have been finalised after detailed studies and rounds of discussion with stakeholders," he said.

The minister also said the national transporter will roll out the first set of 10 Vande Bharat trains with sleeper facilities for test runs by March-end. On the FM's announcement of the plan to convert 40,000 bogies to Vande Bharat standards to enhance safety, convenience and comfort, Vaishnaw said this will re-

quire around Rs 15,000 crore investment in five years. "The Budget has laid the blueprint for the railway sector. There is a clear roadmap for creating more infrastructure to run more trains and also have better trains..." he said.

With regard to the railways' earnings vis-a-vis operational expenditure, known as operating ratio (OR), the minister said this year it's around 98.7 and for 2024-25, it's projected to be 98. The Budget document shows railways are likely to record its highest-ever revenue from the passenger segment at Rs 73,000 crore by March-end, surpassing the budget estimate (BE). However, revenue from freight transportation may fall short of the BE by Rs 10,000 crore.

### BudWiser

India to stay the course on Mid East, Europe corridor

Indicating that New Delhi has not given up on the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC), finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman described the project as a "strategic and economic game changer". Conceding there was "significant disturbance" in the Red Sea and Middle East, she said that the project "has been announced and we are taking it forward".

Interest-free loans & corpus for R&D

Govt will set up a corpus of Rs 1 lakh crore with 50-year interest-free loan that will provide necessary long-term finance to tech-savvy youth and private sector for research and innovation. "For our tech-savvy youth, this will be a golden era..." the FM said.

3-yr nod to animal husbandry scheme

The central government on Thursday approved continuation of the Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) with an outlay of Rs 29,610 crore for another three years up to 2025-26. Now, cooperatives can also avail benefits for modernisation and upgradation of dairy plants.

## Cooking: 'Atmanirbhar' twist in tel

TEAM TOI

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday announced the Centre will formulate a strategy to make the country self-reliant on edible oils by boosting domestic output of oilseeds as well as draw up a comprehensive programme to support dairy farmers.

Presenting the Interim Budget, she also announced a plan to set up five integrated aqua parks and launch a new climate-resilient scheme for fisheries. In addition, the Centre will step up the central fisheries scheme to enhance aquaculture productivity from the existing 3 tons to 5 tons per hectare, double its export to Rs 1 lakh crore, and guarantee 55 lakh employment opportunities. Aqua parks will facilitate various fisheries activities at



SEEDING A NEW STRATEGY

one place. India currently imports a large quantity of edible oils to meet its domestic demand. During the 2022-23 marketing year (November-October), the country imported nearly 165 lakh tonnes of cooking oil worth Rs 1.38 lakh crore.

To make India self-reliant on oil seeds such as mustard,

groundnut, sesame, soybean and sunflower, the FM said the new strategy will cover research for high-yielding varieties, adoption of modern farming techniques, market linkages, procurement, value addition and crop insurance.

Noting that India is the world's largest milk producer but with low productivity of

milch animals, she said, "The programme will be built on the success of existing schemes such as Rashtriya Gokul Mission, National Livestock Mission, and Infrastructure Development Funds for dairy processing and animal husbandry."

Sitharaman also spoke about stepping up efforts for value addition and boosting farmers' income through schemes that include Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME), robotics and cyberwarefare. She said the govt will further promote private and public investment in "post-harvest activities", including aggregation, modern storage, efficient supply chains, processing, marketing and branding.

## Budget artillery for deep tech, LAC roads

TEAM TOI

The defence budget saw only a modest hike despite the continuing confrontation along the frontier with China, though the govt announced an ambitious new scheme to bolster "deep-tech" technologies for the armed forces.

The overall defence outlay for the next fiscal has been pegged at Rs 6.2 lakh crore (\$75 billion), which marks just a 4.7% hike over the 2023-24's budgetary estimates and actually goes into negative if revised estimates are taken into account. Capital expenditure of Rs 1.7 lakh crore for military modernisation, however, registered a 5.8% hike over last year's budgetary estimates and 9.4% over the revised ones. The revenue allocation meant for operational sustenance and commitments, in turn, stood at Rs 92,088 crore.

The defence budget works out to just 1.9% of the projected GDP for 2024-25 if the huge defence pension allocation of Rs 1.4



MARCH FAST ON MODERN TACTICS

lakh crore for the 32 lakh ex-servicemen and retired defence civilians is considered. It drops to less than 1.5% if the pension bill is excluded.

The FM said a scheme will be launched for "strengthening deep-tech technologies for defence purposes and expediting 'atmanirbharta' (self-reliance)". With deep-tech areas like artificial intelligence

(AI), machine learning (ML), quantum computing, blockchain and advanced materials becoming increasingly critical for wars of the future, India certainly needs to go the whole hog in this arena. AI-driven surveillance and warfare, for instance, will enable much faster decision-making. Cohesive integration of soldiers with niche technologies becomes all the more crucial given that China has been assiduously focusing on areas like AI, ML, lethal autonomous weapon systems (LAWS), robotics and cyberwarefare.

On the land frontier with China, the "jump" in the capital budget allocation to the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) will continue in the coming fiscal due to the "continued threat perception" all along the 3,488-km Line of Actual Control. "The allocation for 2024-25 is Rs 6,500 crore, which is 30% higher than the allocation in 2023-24. This indicates the govt's commitment to improve border infrastructure," an official said.

## Maldives ties choppy, India doubles aid

TEAM TOI

Despite the turbulence in bilateral ties with the Maldives, Delhi will continue to prioritise development projects in the Indian Ocean archipelago.

In terms of assistance to foreign governments, India revised its budget allocation for the Maldives in 2023-24 from Rs 400 crore to Rs 770 crore. And for 2024-25, it has earmarked Rs 600 crore for the Maldives, which is next only to Bhutan and Nepal.

India has not allowed differences with Male, most notably in defence and security cooperation, to affect work on the \$500 million Greater Male Connectivity Project, the largest infrastructure project in the country. All allocation for the Maldives is in the form of grant and not loan.

Like last year, Bhutan again topped the list of budgetary allocation, with India earmarking Rs 2,068 crore for Thimphu. The allocation for Nepal is Rs 700 crore.

India's overall estimate for assistance to foreign governments, including both grant and loan, for the year 2024-25 is Rs 5,667 crore, out of which Rs 4,677 crore is in the form of grant assistance and the remaining in the form of loan to Bhutan. This is about 874 crore less than the revised estimate for the previous year.

India's allocation for strife-torn Myanmar went down considerably from Rs 370 crore last year to Rs 250 crore for 2024-25.

## FM's lakshya: Going deep on 'dweep'

TEAM TOI

Govt will take up projects to boost port connectivity, infrastructure and amenities on India's islands, including in Lakshadweep, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Thursday, doubling down on the government's campaign to promote Lakshadweep and other unexplored islands through Prime Minister Modi's maiden visit to the island cluster in January.

The FM pointed to an increasingly aspirational Indian middle class that is looking to travel and explore and said the government will encourage states to identify and develop iconic tourist centres, including spiritual destinations. "The aim is to brand and market them globally, and set up a framework to rate them based on the quality of facilities and services they offer."

She also said promotion of domestic tourism would boost opportunities for local entrepreneurship and provide employment, and that the govt would provide long-term interest-free loans to states to finance such development on a matching basis. The finance minister said that the decision to host G20 meetings across 60 cities helped showcase the country's diversity.

In line with the FM's push for tourism infrastructure development, the tourism ministry's allocation for Integrated Development



ISLAND OF DREAMS

of Tourist Circuits, functioning under the Swadesh Darshan scheme, saw an allocation of Rs 1,750 crore in the 2024-25 budget estimate (BE), an increase of Rs 338 crore as compared to Rs 1,412 crore in BE 2023-24. The objective of the Swadesh Darshan scheme is to develop theme-based tourist circuits on the principles of high tourist value, competitiveness and sustainability in an integrated manner. At present, the ministry has sanctioned 76 projects under the scheme, covering 13 thematic circuits.

Allocation for domestic promotion and publicity, including for its 'market development assistance' scheme, is up from Rs 75 crore in BE 2023-24 to Rs 177 crore in BE 2024-25, which has focused heavily on promoting the North-East, and Jammu and Kashmir as tourist destinations.

"The special focus on domestic tourism, which represents a vibrant growth driver via the govt's (various measures) are aimed at development of India's hidden gems," said Thomas Cook India chairman Madhavan Menon.

## Nirmala hits a six, pads up for next innings

TEAM TOI

If Nirmala Sitharaman's push for 'Viksit Bharat' in the Interim Budget served as a launch pad for the Modi govt's Lok Sabha campaign, it also stood out for the near absence of protests and disruptions from the opposition, a usual sight so close to polls.

Draped in a 'Ramar Blue' Kantha silk saree that reflected the blue-black hues associated with Lord Ram, the FM delivered a crisp 56-minute speech shorn of all customary references to poets and spiritual leaders, and focused

instead on PM Narendra Modi's commitment to 'FDI - First, Develop India - and a more comprehensive 'GDP - governance, development and performance'.

Sitharaman's bid to underscore that macro economic stability, living conditions and incomes had each improved under the Modi regime drew table-thumping appreciation from the treasury benches. The applause grew louder still when she remarked that "our government" will present the next full Budget in July. The assertion, which would have otherwise drawn angry protests



THE COLOUR, 'RAMAR BLUE'

and sloganeering from the opposition benches, was met with nothing more than a few murmurs of disapproval.

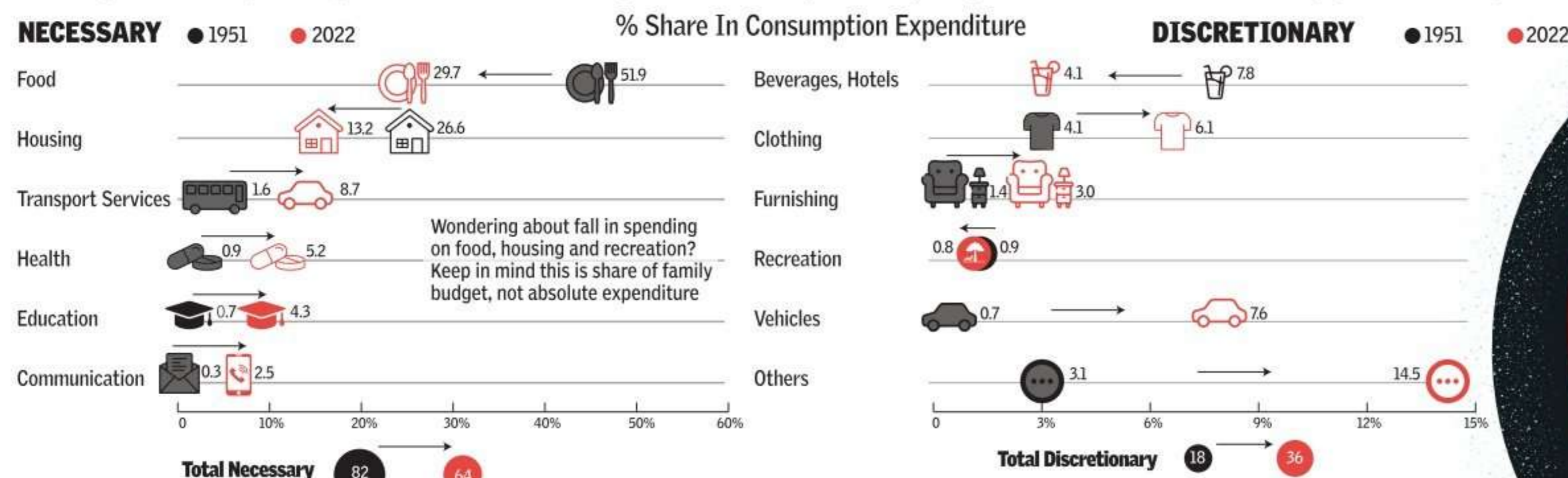
The FM's sixth Budget speech in the 17th Lok Sabha accounted not only for the achievements of the Modi government in last ten years, but also saw her refer to the PM - sitting four seats away - eight times and quoting him repeatedly. "Prime Minister (Lal Bahadur) Shastri gave the slogan of 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisan'. Prime Minister (Atal Bihari) Vajpayee made that 'Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan, Jai Vighan'. Prime Minister Modi has fur-

thered that to 'Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan, Jai Vighan, and Jai Anusandhan', as innovation is the foundation of development," Sitharaman said.

The FM's reference to India having more than 80 chess grandmasters in 2023 in comparison to just over 20 in 2010 led to some mirth in the opposition benches over the government's attempt to take credit even for India's performance in chess. The presentation saw a thin turnout in the public galleries. But Sitharaman's relatives were seated in the Speaker's Gallery through the speech.

## ROTI, KAPDA, MAKAN, GAADI, PHONE... INDIA'S CONSUMPTION GETTING BIGGER, BETTER

A little after Independence, we were so poor that an average Indian spent more than half of his income on food alone. And more than a quarter of his income on housing. Now, if someone needs to spend more than 75% of his income on basic necessities, how much money does he have left to buy the things he desires? That India has prospered is evident in how this changed in the 70 years between 1952 and 2022, according to a Barclays report. While in 1952, the average Indian was spending 79% of his income on food and housing, in 2022, this was down to 43%, leaving him with much more to spend on discretionary stuff like clothing and eating out. It's true that food and housing have become more expensive, but spending on these necessities has come down as a proportion of an average Indian's income



**5TH LARGEST GLOBALLY**  
Annual household consumption in \$ trillion

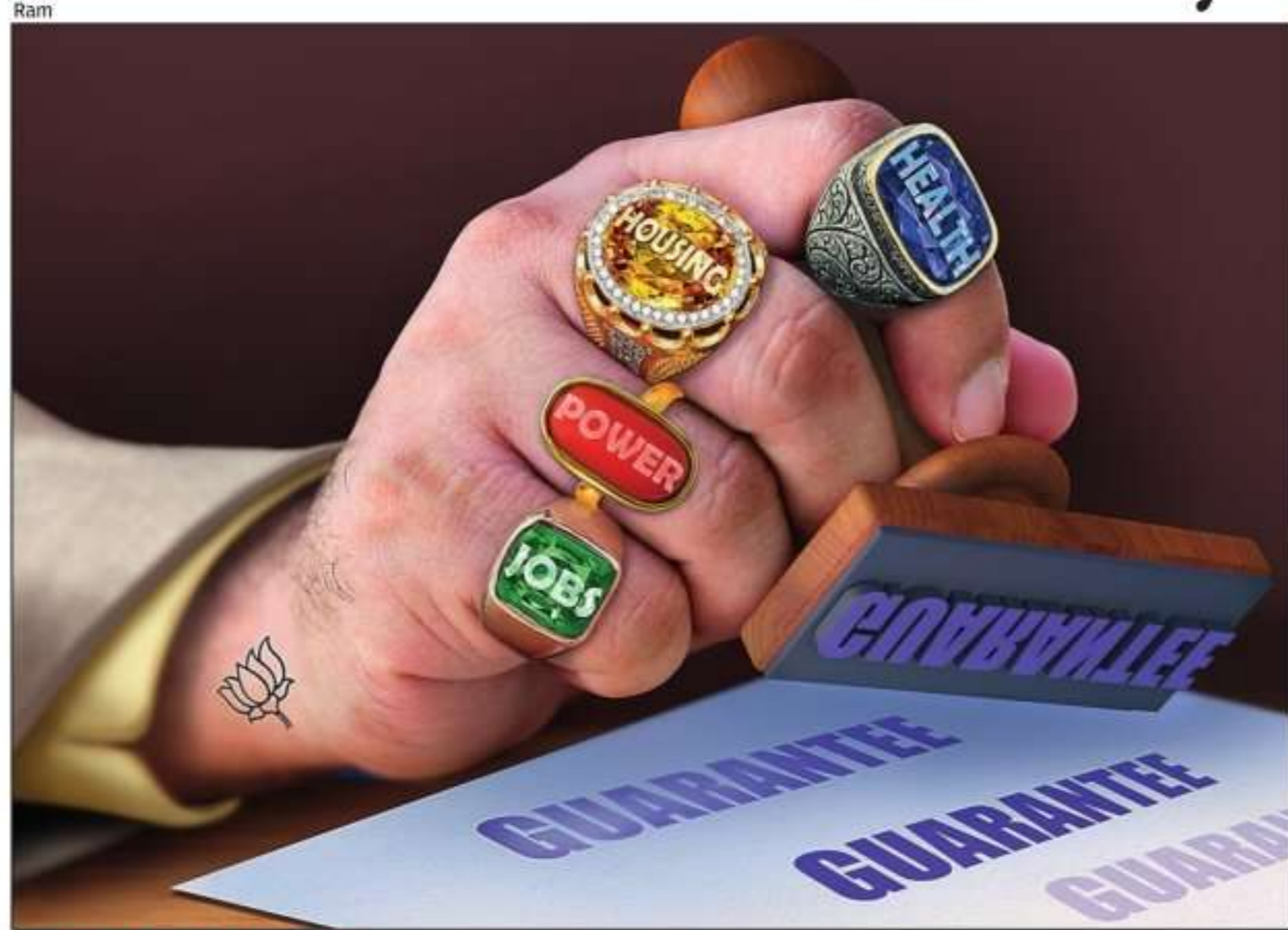
|         |     |
|---------|-----|
| US      | 159 |
| China   | 6.8 |
| Japan   | 2.7 |
| Germany | 2.1 |
| India   | 1.9 |

# Bullish On May, Modi Says See You In July

## PM: Innovative & Inclusive Budget Carries Confidence Of Continuity

**TEAM TOI**  
New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday made it plain that the Interim Budget represented the confidence of his policies being continued after the Lok Sabha elections in May. "This Budget carries the confidence of continuity and will empower all pillars of developed India — youth, poor, women and farmers," the PM said, his remarks reflecting the optimism about BJP's prospects that he had expressed on Wednesday by asserting that his govt would soon present a full Budget.

He also said the Budget had pointers to the trajectory he intends to follow to realise the goal of turning India into a developed country by 2047. Terming it inclusive and innovative, as well as reflective of the aspirations of "young India", he said the Budget was a guarantee to strengthen foundations of a "Viksit Bharat". The PM flagged creation of a fund of Rs 1 lakh crore for research and innovation, extension of tax exemptions for startups as well as record capital expenditure of Rs 11,11,111 crore while keeping fiscal deficit under control. "In economists' parlance, this is a kind of sweet spot," Modi said, adding that it would create millions of new



PUTTING HIS STAMP ON IT

employment opportunities for the youth along with creation of modern infrastructure for the 21st century. He said the announcement to manufacture 40,000 modern bogies of Vande Bharat standards and install them in passenger trains would heighten comfort and the travel experience of crores of passengers. Asserting that his govt sets a big goal, achieves it, and then sets an even bigger goal for it-

self, he said, "We have built more than 4 crore houses for the poor in villages and cities and now we have set a target of building 2 crore more houses. We had set a target of creating 2 crore 'Lakshpati Didis', now we have increased it to 3 crore." Modi praised the Ayushman Bharat for its significant aid to the poor, and hailed extending its benefits to Anganwadi and ASHA workers. He said there was an empha-

sis on empowering the poor and middle class by creating new opportunities for them in this Budget. He mentioned the rooftop solar campaign where 1 crore families will avail free electricity, while also earning an income of Rs 15,000 to Rs 18,000 per year by selling excess power to the govt. He said the income tax remission scheme would provide relief to about 1 crore citizens belonging to the middle class.

## 1 cr taxpayers to get big relief from small & old tax disputes

**TEAM TOI**  
In keeping with the convention of an Interim Budget, the finance minister refrained from making any tax-related changes. However, she provided big relief to taxpayers grappling with old direct tax demands. The FM pointed out that there are a large number of petty, non-verified, non-reconciled or disputed direct tax demands, many of them dating as far back as 1962, which "continue to remain on the books, causing anxiety to honest taxpayers and hindering refunds of subsequent years."

The Interim Budget proposes to withdraw such outstanding direct tax demands up to Rs 25,000 pertaining to the period up to the financial year 2009-10; and up to Rs 10,000 for financial years 2010-11 to 2014-15. The FM mentioned that this would benefit about one crore taxpayers. Revenue secretary Sanjay Malhotra said the Rs 25,000 and Rs 10,000 cut-offs to clear petty or disputed tax demands includes interest on the original amount. Citing a cumulative outstanding of around Rs 3,500 crore,



MUSIC TO THEIR EARS

he said that a lot of the money was tough to recover and existed "only on paper". Gautam Nayak, tax partner at CNK & Associates, explained how a certain portion of this problem had been created. "When the online tax portal was implemented nearly ten odd years ago, tax officers had uploaded a large number of outstanding tax demands, many of which were incorrect, as they had been deleted due to subsequent rectification, appeal order or payment. The uploading of these incorrect outstanding tax demands had been a significant irritant for many. Every year that a refund was due to them, they would get a notice asking why the refund should not be adjusted against outstanding

tax demands. They would have to respond each time, explaining how there was really no valid demand outstanding and file evidence in support of that. This harassment will be reduced now by this one-time cleansing of the system announced by Nirmala Sitharaman," said Gautam Nayak, tax partner at CNK & Associates. "The magnitude of the problem can be judged by her stating that one crore taxpayers would benefit by this. For taxpayers with larger demands, the problem will still continue, and to prevent such future recurrence as well, a system needs to be put in place to ensure that officers delete such incorrect demands promptly, and taxpayers are not unnecessarily harassed repeatedly due to inaction," added Nayak. Amarpal Singh-Chadha, tax partner and India mobility leader at EY-India, noted that there had been a significant increase in the number of taxpayers in the last few years. "In order to improve taxpayer services, the FM has addressed issues created by long-pending demands which are small, non-verified and very old. The proposal is a welcome move."

## TOP TEN TAX PROPOSALS IN INTERIM BUDGET

- 1 Outstanding income tax demands of up to Rs 25,000 for the period ending in 2009-10 and demands up to Rs 10,000 for the 2010-11 to 2014-15 period will be 'withdrawn' (not collected). This will benefit close to a crore taxpayers
- 2 A startup incorporated post April 1, 2016, but before March 31, 2025, will be eligible for a tax holiday (for three consecutive years in a block of ten years). The sunset clause is extended by a year. Earlier only startups incorporated before March 31, 2024 were eligible
- 3 Exemption to certain income (such as dividend, interest and long-term capital gains) of Sovereign Wealth Funds and Pension Funds was set to expire on March 31, 2024. This is extended by a year, with the cut off being March 31, 2025
- 4 Certain exemptions for income derived on the transfer of capital assets on a recognised stock exchange in an IFSC will be extended by one year, to March 31, 2025
- 5 The sunset clause for new manufacturing units has not been extended. The concessional tax rate of 15% (plus surcharge and education cess) will be available only to new manufacturing companies that commence manufacturing on or after Oct 1, 2019 but by March 31, 2024
- 6 Exemption to continue for a non-resident by way of royalty or interest on account of the lease of an aircraft or a ship, paid by a unit in IFSC, if the unit has commenced its operation on or before March 31, 2025 (earlier sunset date was March 31, 2024)
- 7 The time limit for the govt to notify a scheme for faceless transfer pricing assessment proceedings, faceless proceedings before the Dispute Resolution Panel has been extended by a year up to March 31, 2025
- 8 The time limit for govt to notify a scheme for faceless appeals before the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal has been extended by one more year up to March 31, 2025
- 9 Announcements made through an earlier circular for TCS on foreign remittances including for tour operators, have been incorporated through amendments in the existing language of the section. The 5% TCS on tour and travel under Rs 7 lakh continues, with TCS being 20% if it is above Rs 7 lakh
- 10 The cross-charge mechanism will no longer be available for sharing of input tax credit by a head office with its branches in respect of common input services procured from third parties. Interim Budget has made the mechanism of an Input Service Distributor (ISD) mandatory, from a date to be notified

## Nirmala lights up rooftop solar scheme with free power pledge

**TEAM TOI**  
New Delhi: Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday put people at the centre stage of energy transition by packing the Interim Budget with financial booster shots and policy outlines to promote unconventional energy sources. Building on PM Modi's announcement of rooftop solar for one crore households, the Budget put Rs 10,000 crore on the table as seed money and promised 300 units/month of free power as well as hope for annual savings of Rs 15,000-18,000 in energy bill for each beneficiary household of the Pradhanmantri Suryodaya Yojana. Additionally, the scheme opened additional income avenues for households from sale of surplus power and charging electric vehicles (EVs) as well as employment opportunities in the solar and EV charging ecosystems.



PLUG IN, INDIA

Neeraj Kuldeep of CEEW-EF said solarisation of demand from these households will save about Rs 2 lakh crore for discoms over the 25-year life of solar plant. Deleite India's Anujesh Dwivedi saw the scheme boosting renewable energy capacity addition and fostering a more resilient and decentralised power infrastructure. Indian Solar Manufacturers Association president Ashwani Sehgal saw a 30-gigawatt (GW) opportunity for domestic manufacturing, as demand rises.

For Mayuresh Raut of Seafund meant a boost for rapid EV charging infrastructure expansion, which will address a key roadblock in faster adoption due to range anxiety. For Saral Talwar of BikeWo, expansion of charging stations will instil confidence in potential buyers. The Budget also unveiled booster shots for unconventional energy sources such as offshore wind energy, biogas/biofuels and coal-to-gas projects. Viability gap funding for 1GW offshore wind energy projects, according to ICRA Rating's Girishkumar Kadam, will improve cost competitiveness as auctions kick off and encourage investors. Indian Biogas Association chairman Gaurav Kedia saw financial assistance for machinery for the procurement of biomass improving feedstock for compressed biogas plants (CBG) and improving domestic availability as demand rises.

## Recycle & reuse of resources is new mantra

**TEAM TOI**  
New Delhi: Seeking to push utilisation of recycled resources, government will launch a scheme of 'bio-manufacturing and bio-foundry' that will provide environment-friendly alternatives such as biodegradable polymers, bioplastics, bio-pharmaceuticals and bio-agri products to consumers and industry. Details of the plan will be released later. "This scheme will help in transforming today's consumptive manufacturing paradigm to one based on regenerative principles," the FM said. The 'bio-manufacturing and bio-foundry' concept is broadly based on circularity in which recycling and reuse of resources will be key for manufacturing. It will also use bio-agri inputs for various uses, including production of ethanol, as a source of bioenergy and bio-degradable items. Similarly, bio-based feedstock will be used in bio-refineries.

## Input tax credit mechanism for multi-centre firms tweaked

**TEAM TOI**  
Large corporations are typically spread across cities, with branches in several states. Under GST, branches are considered as separate legal entities. However, certain input services could be procured by the head-office and used by it as well as branches. Say, payroll services, or software maintenance services, to name a few. The input tax credit available against the service procured cannot be used by the head-office alone but has to be appropriately attributed to its branches too. Until now, the head office could either cross charge and bill the branches or adopt the Input Service Distributor (ISD) mechanism to transfer the appropriate input tax credit. The Interim Budget bars sharing of input tax credit by a head office with its branches in respect of common input services procured from third parties. It has made the mechanism of an ISD mandatory. While the Goods and Ser-

VICES Tax Council meeting on 11 July 2023, had clarified that the ISD mechanism is not mandatory for distribution of such input tax credit, it had recommended that an amendment be made in the GST law to make the ISD mechanism mandatory prospectively. "The flexibility of choosing between a cross charge or ISD mechanism has been taken away, which could impact working capital for certain taxpayers and invoke change in their existing business processes. Also, all offices including Head office or Branches which are availing the common services from a third-party, have to obtain separate ISD registrations, over and above their existing GST registrations and ensure compliance - such as filing of the returns," states Uday Pimprikar, Partner and National Indirect Tax Leader, EY India. When services are imported, the GST is payable under reverse charge mechanism - the liability is not on the exporter, but the recip-

ient in India. Deepak Joshi, advocate, Supreme Court, points out that, "Earlier, the head-office acting as an ISD could not have distributed input tax credit of tax paid under reverse charge under the ISD mechanism. The Budget proposal allows distribution of such credit on which tax has been paid under reverse charge. As an example, on import of HR consultancy by a head office for its branch offices, the tax paid on import of such services under reverse charge would now be eligible to be distributed to the concerned branch offices through the ISD head office." "The proposed amendment to make the ISD route mandatory, will necessitate a review of inter-branch transactions and potential changes in business processes and compliance. This change may also trigger new disputes between taxpayers and GST authorities, underscoring the need for clarifications before implementation," states Sudipta Bhattacharjee, Partner, Khaitan and Co.

## Accountability missing from vote on account, says oppn

**TEAM TOI**  
New Delhi: Calling the Modi govt a "govt of the rich, by the rich, for the rich", Congress said the BJP regime had forgotten the bottom 50% of the population which was the reason why the finance minister did not speak about per capita income and food inflation in her Budget speech. Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge said the govt should give an account of the promises it has fulfilled in the last 10 years. "Both accountability and vision are missing from this Budget. We expected some new schemes to ease

the suffering of the poor and middle class," he said. P Chidambaram said the FM failed to mention that food inflation was currently at 7.7%. "The fundamental flaw in the NDA's approach to the governance is that it is biased in favour of the rich," he said. CPM chief Sitaram Yechury said despite the "tall claims" made by the FM about the state of India's economy, the Budget revealed the "grim economic situation" confronting India's working people and the "vicious face of the Modi govt's conception of development" which was designed to make the rich richer

and the poor poorer. Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray claimed the Budget was the "last" Budget of the Modi government, asserting that it won't return to office after the Lok Sabha polls. Senior TMC leader Derek O'Brien said there was not a word on funds to states in the Budget and accused the govt of "cheating" federalism and committing "financial terrorism". "The Budget is only giving 'gyan'. There is no action on the ground," he added. Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin said, "the FM has presented an empty Budget that has nothing to weigh upon," he added.

## House pucca: Scheme for middle class

**TEAM TOI**  
The Interim Budget has announced a housing scheme for lower and middle-income people living in rented houses, slums, chawls and unauthorised colonies to help them buy or build their own houses. In her speech, the FM said that despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, the implementation of PM Awas Yojana (Gramin) continued. "We are close to achieving the target of three crore houses... Two crore more houses will be taken up in the next five years to meet the requirement arising from increase in the number of families." Govt also enhanced the



BRICK BY BRICK: It will help slum dwellers get a roof of their own

outlay for Prime Minister Awas Yojana. Budget estimates for FY25 for PMAY stand at Rs 80,671 crore, as compared with FY24 Budget estimates of Rs 79,590 crore for the 'housing for all' initiative of govt. Extension of the scheme with enhanced outlays is expected to give a fillip to ancillary industries like cement, steel, paint etc while creating jobs in the construction sector. Anuj Puri, chairman, Anarock property consultants,

said the scheme would reduce slums in cities, and clear the way for redevelopment. PMAY-Gramin program aims at providing a pucca house with basic amenities for those without homes and those living in kuccha and dilapidated houses in rural areas. The govt gives Rs 1.2 lakh as financial assistance to qualified beneficiaries in the lower and middle-income groups in the plains and Rs 1.3 lakh in hilly or other difficult areas. Under PMAY (Urban), govt had sanctioned 1.19 crore houses of which 80 lakh are already completed. Under PMAY (U), govt had committed Rs 2 lakh crore. It has already spent 1.48 lakh crore.

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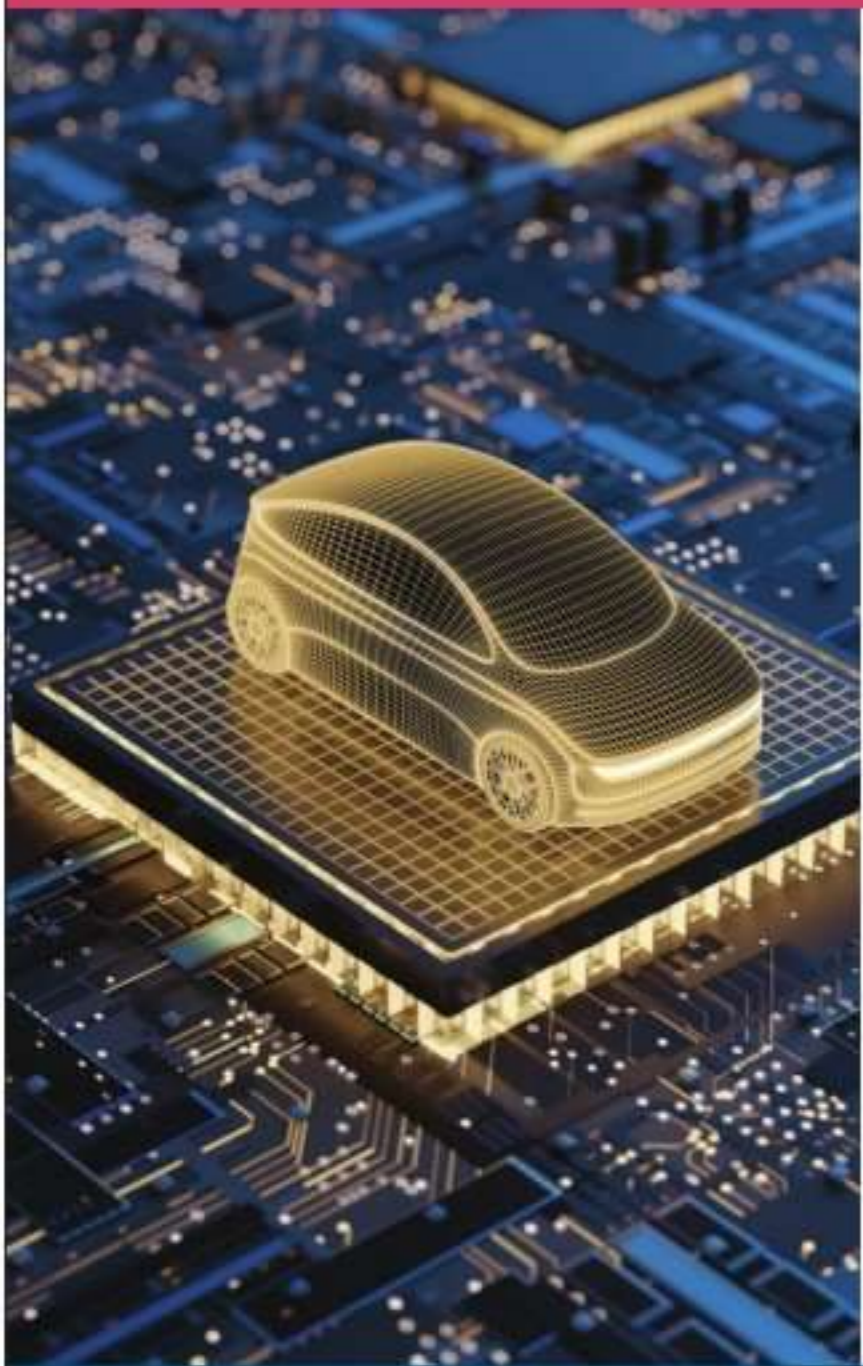
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**CAREER LADDER FOR WOMEN**

**Breaking stereotypes: Grit, perseverance & self-belief**

Shivangi Boghani

As a young girl growing up in a tier 2/3 city in India, one is constantly subjected to stereotypes. Every time I outperformed in my school, nay-sayers questioned the need as I'd be married off anyway. My relatives were worried that if I earned more, it would be challenging to find the right match for me.

I thought the world of startups would be different, but my first startup experience was an eye-opener. Despite being a founding member, everyone would look to my male counterparts for validation of my ideas. Customers would ask for the presence of someone who called the shots. I broke down in one such meeting but did not give up. I stood up and declared, "I am the decision maker, and if you intend to make a purchase, I am the only person who can make that happen." I did not let this incident define me in my long career of working for startups. My experiences have taught me to grow beyond the stereotypes and believe in myself – consistently, consciously, and ruthlessly. Because if you don't, nobody else will!

**HERE ARE SOME OF THE LEARNINGS I HAVE PICKED UP FROM MY STINT AS A WOMAN LEADER:**

**Negotiate for what you deserve |** In sales, numbers say it all; you either hit your targets or don't. And when you do hit the milestones, don't settle. Push the boundaries of what's possible, and accelerate your career growth by asking the firm about their plans to get you there.

**Surround yourself with an objective and unbiased leadership environment |** I moved and left behind any toxic work environment I found myself in. This pattern persisted until I joined MoEngage, where I couldn't believe the support and reinforcement I felt in my surroundings, which was refreshing and helped me unlock my full potential as a leader.

**Recruit and elevate talented women professionals |** Even in 2023, unfortunately, not every woman was lucky enough to have the privilege of opportunities to grow and be encouraged to achieve remarkable milestones. Give back to your sisterhood, one at a time.

**Ask for a seat at the table, not on the side |** If you want to make it, do not shy away from being seated at the table, sharing your ideas confidently, and leading from the front. Real change begins by taking small steps in the right direction.

**Use the EQ-superiority to your advantage |** Women have been proven to have a relatively higher EQ than their male counterparts and are more empathetic in the workplace. It enables us to have significantly transformational leadership styles. In a society where leadership is still heavily male-dominated, this helps bring a whole other perspective to what it means to be a "leader."

Shivangi Boghani is associate vice president of sales at MoEngage India



Around 40% of the French company's global R&D is being done from India by 4,000 engineers; they design and test signalling solutions for rail systems

**Alstom's India engrs ensure trains globally run on time**

Akhil.George@timesgroup.com

Situated in a tech park like any of the countless others dotted around India's Silicon Valley is an office housing a few thousand engineers of the French company Alstom. What is remarkable is that these engineers, along with a few hundred counterparts in Gurgaon and Hyderabad, totalling 4,000, are responsible for the efficient functioning of around 80 railway transit systems (like urban metro lines and mainline trains) around the world.



From the United States and Europe to Israel and Australia, Alstom's India engineers are deeply involved in making sure the brains of the rail system – called signalling solutions – are designed and run properly.

Thameem Kamaldeen, MD for signalling and infrastructure at Alstom India, says the company started its India operations ten years ago with just over 100 engineers. "We were more into verification and validation kind of activities. Then we made a conscious effort to start delivering for the world from India."

That journey began with the Kochi metro project (which started operations in 2017), which Thameem says was Alstom's first CBTC signalling system project in India.

"We call it CBTC – communication based train control – because the train is always communicating, via equipment on the track and around the track, with the central control."

The team then started participating in international projects, and in no time, they were even leading them. "We are now doing turnkey design from India. Starting right from Sydney, all the way to Canada, we are leading projects from here."



Alstom team

10 years back, we started with 100 plus engineers who were more into verification and validation kind of work. Today we participate in upwards of 80 projects around the world from our India offices, 40 of those projects are even led from here. No other OEM has that kind of footprint in India. Starting from Sydney, all the way to Canada, we are leading projects from here.

**Thameem Kamaldeen |**  
MD, SIGNALLING AND INFRASTRUCTURE, ALSTOM INDIA

In the last few months, the team has even designed and helped launch one of the first projects with a cybersecurity CBTC. "This was for a metro project in Tel Aviv, Israel," says Thameem.

**Software runs trains**

Signalling solutions for rail systems are composed of several subsystems. Designing and testing each of these systems, Thameem says, involves a lot of software work. "We don't have too much metal here. It's pretty much software driven. We use algorithms to determine at what speed the train should run, how to achieve optimal energy savings, etc. All of these are determined by model-based algorithms."

I joined Alstom in May 2020 and within months of joining, I was assigned to lead a Singapore project as project engineering manager. It is one of the most complex projects with fully driverless operations, more than 90 trains running at very close proximity of 85 sec headway on a line stretching for 32 stations.

**Mayursing Hajare |**  
PROJECT ENGINEERING MANAGER

One of the most basic subsystems the team works on is called interlocking. "It is the first level of safety. It basically ensures that two trains don't come too close to each other. This is the least level of safety that can be provided in a signalling system. Interlocking is what is predominantly present in Indian Railways today."

Another subsystem, called automatic train control, provides even more safety features.

"This system has two portions. The first is automatic train protection, which makes sure two trains don't catch up with each other. The second is automatic train operations, which determines where the train can accelerate and where it can decelerate, and it can even take control from

I am a member of the technology group responsible for the development and management of the core platform utilised in railway signalling products for train control and interlocking. Our products have been deployed successfully in many projects worldwide, including NCRTC, Tel in Singapore, Tel Aviv in Israel. My team and I are responsible for end-to-end product management and development.

**Abneesh Singla |**  
SYSTEM ENGINEERING MANAGER

My team played a crucial role in delivering an advanced signalling and train control solution for a large size light rail project in Israel, which consisted of tram-metro context and sophisticated cybersecurity. The team here were fully involved in the project's complete system engineering life cycle management including its design, development, and validation. The experience of collaborating with diverse teams and stakeholders across France and Israel was an incredible journey.

**Kiran Srinivasan |**  
PROJECT ENGINEERING MANAGER

the driver if rules are disobeyed." Thameem says they follow two industries to stay ahead of the competition. "We follow the airline industry to understand safety levels, and we follow the automobile industry to understand innovation and how to provide a great experience."

India, he says, stands out when it comes to innovating for new age technological solutions. "When it comes to innovating mechanical elements, Europe has a bit of an edge because they've been doing it for a longer period of time. But when we are moving our products and our technologies to new-age technologies, India is seen as a good hub. Today, around 40% of Alstom's global R&D is being done from India."

**AROUND THE WORLD THIS WEEK**

**Samsung works on new AI features**

In a recent interview with journalists, TM Roh, CEO of Samsung Southeast Asia, announced the development of advanced AI features for Galaxy devices, expected to be accessible to consumers from 2025 onwards. He also mentioned that the AI functionalities introduced with the Galaxy S24 series would be available at no cost until at least 2025. However, details about the additional AI capabilities in development remain undisclosed. Roh emphasized that future AI features on Galaxy products will be significantly more sophisticated, catering to users willing to invest in premium experiences. This strategy mirrors the approach taken by OpenAI and Microsoft.

**Japan lets go of floppy disks**

Japan is renowned for its pioneering role in technology, yet its administrative processes can be remarkably sluggish. This is evident in the government's insistence on using floppy disks and CD-ROMs for the submission of certain official documents by businesses. However, a shift is underway. In 2022, Taro Kono, the minister of digital affairs, called on government agencies to abandon the demand for outdated physical media formats. Leading the change, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) has announced that, following the current year, it will eliminate the requirement for businesses to provide data on floppy disks for 34 specific regulations.



**GLOSSARY OF IN-GROUP TERMS USED ON THIS PAGE**

**Signalling software**

Signalling software in railways refers to the digital systems used to control the safe movement of trains by managing rail traffic signals and track switches. This software plays a crucial role in ensuring safety, efficiency, and coordination across the rail network. It operates by processing real-time data related to train positions, speeds, and routes, and uses this information to control signals and track configurations. This helps prevent collisions, allows for the smooth flow of train traffic, and optimizes train scheduling and route planning. The signalling software is part of a larger railway signalling system, which includes hardware components like signals, track circuits, and point machines. Together, these elements work to provide a safe and efficient way to manage the railway by communicating vital information to train operators and automatically enforcing rules and protocols.

**Analog computer**

An analog computer is a type of computing device that uses the continuously variable aspects of physical phenomena to represent and solve problems. Unlike digital computers, which process data in binary form (discrete values of 0s and 1s), analog computers manipulate data represented in continuous forms. This means they use physical quantities such as electrical voltage, mechanical motion, or hydraulic pressure to model the problem being solved.

**Dhanbad basement to \$4 billion**

Sujit.John@timesgroup.com

Bipul Sinha's story might remind you of Manoj Kumar's in 12th Fail, Vidhu Vinod Chopra's inspiring and endearing film that's topping most Bollywood rating charts.

Bipul was born and brought up in Bihar. His father started his professional life as a sales manager for pharma company Alembic in Mumbai. But then he left that to try his hand at entrepreneurship back home in Bihar, in Darbhanga and Madhepura. He tried a venture. Didn't succeed. He tried another. That too failed. "It was economically very, very hard for us," Bipul recalls. "We (he and his brother) studied in Bihar government schools, which are really no schools. So we didn't have any proper education."

His father then took up a job in Dhanbad. The family stayed in a place near Dhanbad called Govindpur, in a basement without a bathroom or water. Bipul did Plus-2 from PK Roy Memorial College in Dhanbad. His marks weren't good. His father told him that, given his marks, he is unlikely to get admission to a BSc programme. So instead of trying for that, he suggested that Bipul stay at home and prepare for IIT-JEE. "Everybody thought that was crazy, because I hadn't had any good education, any good marks," Bipul says. Still, he followed his father's suggestion. He studied, sat for JEE. But he didn't qualify. He did not even qualify for the local Bihar engineering colleges. His father did not give up,



Bipul Sinha (fourth from left) with Rubrik execs. Almost 1k of Rubrik's 3k employees are in India

and told him to try for IIT again. "He was very ambitious. He actually told me that it's good I had not got into Bihar engineering, because if I had, I would not have tried again for IIT. My uncles and aunts and everyone around thought that this father-son duo had totally lost it."

Bipul got back to preparing again. "When you sit at home and nobody is telling you what to study, then ignorance becomes bliss. In that environment, you sometimes over-prepare on things, sometimes you go deeper into things that interest you," he says.

Whatever be the reason, the effort actually paid off. Bipul got into the electrical engineering programme at IIT Kharagpur. He'd achieved what most thought was impossible.

Once he graduated, he was clear he needed to earn money fast – his family's economic condition made it imperative. He saw the US as the answer to that. So, after a brief stint with Tata Informa-

tion Systems (a Tata-IBM joint venture), Bipul moved to Atlanta, US, to take up a software engineering job with American Megatrends, a company specialising in PC hardware and firmware. About two years later, he joined Oracle in Silicon Valley, where he spent nine years and rose to be a director.

"I had more than 30 patents in distributed computing. I had risen through management. During this period, I got the confidence that I'm not going to slip back into poverty," he says.

With that confidence, he decided to switch from software engineering to venture capital – first in Blumberg Capital and then Lightspeed Venture Partners. He backed a number of successful companies, including Nutanix, Pulse, Bromium, and Braze.

That experience helped him learn about how to identify market gaps, how to create demand for a product. That evoked a desire to do something of his own. So, in

2014, together with three friends – Arvind Nithrakashyap, Arvind Jain, Soham Mazumdar – Bipul founded a company called Rubrik, with the idea of helping companies recover from a cyberattack quickly. Rubrik's platform combines cybersecurity principles with backup & recovery principles – it keeps versions of a customer's data securely, it understands how far attacks have gone, what data has been attacked, whether there's malware that could reinfect upon recovery, and thus solves for the entire recovery process.

Bipul's was a pioneering solution in the cybersecurity industry, and won clients across industries, including large banks like Goldman Sachs and Citibank. He also won the financial backing of Microsoft, Bain Capital Ventures, Lightspeed Ventures, Greylock Partners, and Khosla Ventures. Rubrik was last valued at \$4 billion.

And to think this story started in a Dhanbad basement!

**INSPIRATION**

**OnePlus to operate with approximately 50,000 mainline retail stores in 2024**

TIMES TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE

ONEPLUS WILL CONTINUE TO INVEST, INTRODUCE HIGH-QUALITY TECHNOLOGIES, AND DIVERSIFY ITS PRODUCT PORTFOLIO IN INDIA, SAYS RANJEET SINGH, DIRECTOR OF SALES, ONEPLUS INDIA



**>>What are the key strategies of OnePlus for 2024 especially for the Indian market?**

India has always been an important market for us, and it will continue to remain so in 2024. This year, we are excited to bring in a renewed focus on our retail strategy. We are looking to increase investments across the mainline channel by twofold in 2024. We are excited to share that we will be expanding our mainline presence by opening 200+ new OnePlus experience stores across India this year. We look forward to opening these stores across 150+ cities in India along with boosting our service centre network coverage. In line with this and staying true to our earlier commitment, we are also looking forward to increasing our market penetration into Tier 2 and Tier 3 markets.

With our retail expansion plans, we want to give our growing community across India a chance to personally connect to the brand by gaining first-hand premium experience of our products as well as the OnePlus connected ecosystem.

**>> Beyond mobile phones, OnePlus offers a diverse range of products such as watches, earphones, and various IoT devices. Is the company currently planning to broaden its product portfolio, and if so, what specific areas or categories is OnePlus considering for expansion?**

We continue to launch an array of innovative products as part of our OnePlus connected ecosystem offerings and have successfully done so in 2023 as well. We ventured into the tablets segment in 2023 with our OnePlus Pad and Pad Go and witnessed an overwhelmingly positive response. Similarly, our Keyboard 81 Pro also saw an exceptional response from

our community as did our new audio products, alongside our already existing audio and wearables range. We have created products catering to the diverse needs of our growing India user base while making them an integral part of the OnePlus connected ecosystem.

Similarly, we broadened our product offerings with an exciting first stint in the foldable segment, bringing in the OnePlus Open. The OnePlus Open also emerged as the highest sold foldable smartphone on Amazon.in on its open sale day in > INR 1Lakh price segment in 2023 (Period: Jan 2023-27th Oct 2023).

As a user-centric brand, we will continue to invest in bringing the best of high-quality technology to our consumers in India. And we will continue diversifying our product portfolio across price points to meet the diverse needs of our wide user community.

**>> What strategies has OnePlus employed to distinguish itself from competitors and establish a superior position in the market, and what measures does the company take to maintain its leading position in that specific category? How would you assess the overall product supremacy of OnePlus, and in which product category do they excel the most?**

As a brand, OnePlus has always listened to its community and their feedback on our products. This year will be no different as we will continue to keep our community's interest at the heart of our efforts. We will continue to deliver on our promise to provide high-quality products with superior performance and a burdenless user experience. Our overall product performance has been nothing short of remarkable in 2023. In fact, we are thrilled to share that OnePlus emerged as the no.1 brand in India within the price segment of \$400-\$600 (mid to high-end range) (Source: IDC India Monthly tracker Nov'23, for the period of Jan-Nov 2023). Additionally, our flagship devices, OnePlus 11/11R, led the mid to high-end price segment (\$400-\$600) in Jan-Nov '23 period in terms of shipments (Source: IDC India Monthly tracker Nov 23).

Furthermore, we emerged as the fastest-growing brand among the top ten smartphone brands in Jan-Nov 2023 with YoY growth of over 50% (Source: IDC). Additionally, a recent CMR survey on the current state of smartphone OS user experience highlighted that OxygenOS secured the top spot in terms of user satisfaction and stands out as the preferred choice for smartphone users seeking a performance-driven, and user-centric operating system that enhances their overall digital well-being.

Now with the launch of the OnePlus 12 Series, we are thrilled to embrace our "Never Settle" mantra once again, redefining flagship technology. And we are confident that our community is going to love what's in store for them.

**>> What features of the highly anticipated OnePlus 12 do you believe will make it particularly appealing to tech enthusiasts?**

We have had a wonderful start to 2024 with the launch of our OnePlus 12 series. The OnePlus 12 5G marks a significant advancement and is an improvement from its predecessor, the OnePlus 11 5G, across performance, display innovation, charging capabilities, camera technology, and design aesthetics is something that we're extremely excited for our community to try. At its core is the powerful Snapdragon® 8 Gen 3 Mobile Platform, supported by our proprietary Trinity Engine, and up to 16GB of LPDDR5X RAM with 512GB UFS 4.0 ROM. The design, inspired by luxurious timepieces and the beauty of nature that surrounds us, reflects a harmonious blend of technology and aesthetic appeal. The 4th Gen Hasselblad camera system has something for just about everyone; we have also enhanced our Pro Mode to create Master Mode for our users who want to pursue their creative ambitions in photography.





**ALEC BALDWIN PLEADS NOT GUILTY TO INVOLUNTARY MANSLAUGHTER CHARGE OVER 2021 DEATH OF CINEMATOGRAPHER ON 'RUST' FILM SET**

**MARGOT ROBBIE SAYS NOT SAD ABOUT HER OSCAR SNUB: 'BARRIE'S MISSION WAS TO AFFECT CULTURE & THAT IS THE BIGGEST REWARD'**

## US approves strikes against Iran targets in Iraq and Syria: Report

**Blames Tehran-Backed Militias For Jordan Base Hit, Drone Said To Be 'Iran-Made'**

Washington: US plans have been approved for multi-day strikes in Iraq and Syria against multiple targets, including Iranian personnel and facilities, CBS News reported on Thursday, citing US officials.



A protester in Tel Aviv demands that Israel strike a hostage deal with Hamas

The report follows days of conjecture about how Washington plans to retaliate after three US service members were killed on Saturday by a drone strike in Jordan, the first US deaths in an escalation of violence across West Asia flashpoints since Israel's war in Gaza began in Oct. President Joe Biden, under pressure to take firm action, has said he has decided how to respond, but has not publicly revealed the plans.

### 'Iran's Guards pull officers from Syria amid Israeli strikes and spectre of a broader war'

Iran's Revolutionary Guards have scaled back deployment of their senior officers in Syria due to a spate of deadly Israeli strikes and will rely more on allied Shia militia to preserve their sway there, five sources said. The Guards have suffered one of their most bruising spells in Syria since arriving a decade ago to aid President al-Assad in the Syrian war. Since Dec, Israeli strikes have killed more than half a dozen of their members, among them a top intelligence general. Iran's decision to pull out senior officers is driven partly by its aversion to being sucked directly into a conflict bubbling across West Asia, three of the sources said. They, however, said Iran has no intention of quitting Syria — a key part of its sphere of influence. One of the sources — a senior regional security official — said senior commanders had left Syria along with dozens of mid-ranking officers, describing it as a downsizing of the presence. The source did not say how many had left. The sources said the Guards would manage Syrian operations remotely, with help from ally Hezbollah. REUTERS

In its report, CBS did not provide details on what a US approval meant in terms of a timeline for the strikes. But it quoted US officials as saying weather was a factor in the timing of the planned strikes, as Washington prefers to carry out strikes when visibility is good over its targets to safeguard against hitting civilians.

Four US officials told Reuters the drone used in the attack on Jordan base was believed to have been made in Iran.

They did not disclose details of the model of the drone. While the initial indications

was made recently after recovering fragments of the drone.

On Wednesday, US national security council spokesman John Kirby said the US believes the attack was planned, resourced and facilitated by the Iran-backed Islamic Resistance in Iraq, an umbrella group that includes the militia Kataib Hezbollah. He said Biden "believes it is important to respond in an appropriate way".

Kirby dismissed the statement by Kataib Hezbollah announcing "the suspension of military and security operations against the occupation forces in bid to prevent embarrassment to the Iraqi government." He said the group can't be taken at face value, and added "they're not the only group".

As of Wednesday, Kataib Hezbollah and other Iran-aligned militias have launched 166 attacks on US military installations since Oct 18, including 67 in Iraq, 98 in Syria and the one in Jordan, according to the US military. The US has already retaliated in Iraq, Syria and Yemen. Experts have cautioned that any strikes against Iranian forces inside Iraq could force Tehran to respond, escalating the situation in a way that could drag the US into a major West Asia war. REUTERS & AP

## Indian-American student dies in Ohio, probe on

New York: Police is investigating the death of an Indian-American student in Ohio, the Consulate General of India in New York said as it noted that foul play is not suspected in the case at this stage.

"Deeply saddened by the unfortunate demise of Shreyas Reddy Benigeri, a student of Indian origin in Ohio. Police investigation is under way. At this stage, foul play is not suspected," the consulate said in a post on X Thursday.

Benigeri was a student of the Lindner School of Business, Cincinnati. The consulate continues to remain in touch with the family and is extending all possible assistance to them, it said. The incident comes just days after an Indian student, Vivek Saini, was fatally attacked in Georgia. Also, over the weekend, Neel Acharya, an Indian-origin student of Purdue University, was found dead inside the Indiana-based campus. No foul play is being suspected in the case after a forensic test found no trauma on his body. PTI

## EU agrees to \$54bn in new aid for Ukraine as Hungary falls in line

Brussels: European Union leaders unanimously agreed on Thursday to extend €50 billion (\$54 billion) in new aid to Ukraine, overcoming weeks of resistance from Hungary and winning praise from Kyiv.



EU leaders piled pressure on Hungary to lift its block, telling PM Viktor Orban to pick sides in what

several saw as an existential challenge posed by Russia's war in Ukraine, the biggest conflict in Europe since WWII. "We have a deal. Unity," said European Council President Charles Michel in a post on X. "All 27 leaders agreed on an additional 50-billion-euro support package for Ukraine within the EU budget."

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky welcomed the agreement, saying the aid would strengthen long-term economic and financial stability of his country. The agreement comes after weeks of wrangling with Orban, who vetoed the aid package last December. There was no comment from Hungary. Diplomats said in exchange for the green light from Hungary, the bloc did not commit to releasing any of the billions of euros of EU funds intended for Hunga-

ry but frozen by Brussels over widespread concerns about human rights and the rule of law in the country. With an agreement on budget support done, the leaders were next discussing military aid for Kyiv. The bloc is seen falling short of its target of sending artillery shells to Ukraine. REUTERS

Have proof Kyiv used US missiles to down jet with 'PoWs': Russia

Russian investigators said on Thursday they have evidence showing that Ukraine's military shot down a Russian Il-76 military transport plane last week with US-made Patriot surface-to-air missiles. Russia said all 74 people on board, including 65 captured Ukrainian soldiers en route to be swapped for Russian prisoners of war, were killed. Russia's State Investigative Committee said in a statement that Ukrainian soldiers in the area of Lyptsi in the Kharkiv region had fired two missiles at the plane. "The fragments seized from the scene, according to their design features, geometric characteristics and available markings, are structural elements of the MIM-104A anti-aircraft guided missile of the Patriot complex of the US," the committee said. REUTERS

Law minister Anisul Huq rejected allegations of harassing Yunus, saying the government did not fabricate any false cases against him. "Yunus was warned and advised to prevent these violations, but he ignored them. So, the labour department filed a lawsuit," Huq said. Yunus won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006 for his anti-poverty campaign. PTI

## Muhammad Yunus charge-sheeted in fresh corruption case days after bail

Dhaka: Bangladesh's anti-graft agency on Thursday submitted a charge sheet against Nobel laureate economist Muhammad Yunus on a fresh corruption charge, days after a court granted him bail in a case for violating labour laws. The Anti-Corruption Commission accused the 83-year-old economist and 13 others of misappropriating around Tk 25.22 crore (\$2.29m) of Grameen Telecom Workers' Profit Participation Fund.



Yunus is the chairman of Grameen Telecom — which he founded as a non-profit organisation — while the co-defendants include its directors, managing director and employees' trade union leaders. "We have filed the charge sheet against him (Yunus) and 13 others before the Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court of Dhaka," an ACC spokesman told reporters. The court has set March 3 for an indictment hearing of the case.

Law minister Anisul Huq rejected allegations of harassing Yunus, saying the government did not fabricate any false cases against him. "Yunus was warned and advised to prevent these violations, but he ignored them. So, the labour department filed a lawsuit," Huq said. Yunus won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006 for his anti-poverty campaign. PTI

## Biden sanctions 4 Israeli settlers over West Bank violence

Washington: President Biden issued an executive order on Thursday that aims to punish Jewish settlers who attack Palestinians in the occupied West Bank following the Oct 7 Hamas attack on southern Israel.

Biden's order establishes a system for imposing financial sanctions and visa restrictions against individuals who are found to have attacked or intimidated Palestinians or seized their property, national security

adviser Jake Sullivan said. US officials said four people are being sanctioned under the order, which cuts them off from the American financial system along with any assets or property in the US, and prevents them from travelling to the US. They said more people would be sanctioned in the future. Violence by Israeli settlers against Palestinians "pose a grave threat



President Biden

to peace, security, stability in the Middle East region, and they also obstruct the realisation of ultimately an independent Palestinian state," an official said.

In response to the order, Israeli finance minister Bezalel Smotrich, head of the far-right pro-settlement party Religious Zionism, said: "The 'settler violence' campaign is an antisemitic lie that enemies of Israel disseminate with the goal of smearing the pioneering settlers and settlement enterprise, and to harm them and thus smear the State of Israel."

The announcement of the sanctions came just hours before Biden was set to hold a campaign event in Michigan, a key battleground state that has a large Arab American population and has been the site of numerous protests about the president's actions. REUTERS & NYT

## US def secy sorry for concealing hospitalisation

Washington: US secretary of defence Lloyd Austin on Thursday apologised for concealing his prostate cancer diagnosis and hospitalisation from President Biden and the rest of the government.

"I should have told the president about my cancer diagnosis," he told a presser. "I have apologised directly to President Biden." Austin said that he did not direct his "staff to conceal my hospitalisation" and that he had not considered resigning. However, he admitted: "We did not get this right." He revealed he is still recovering and has limited use of one leg, using a golf cart to get around the Pentagon building. AFP

## Musk seeks Tesla shareholder vote on shifting incorporation to Texas

Tesla CEO Elon Musk said Thursday the company will hold a shareholder vote to transfer its state of incorporation to Texas from Delaware, days after a judge invalidated his \$56 billion pay package.

On Tuesday, Delaware judge Kathleen McCormick called the 2018 share-based pay package "an unfathomable sum" that was unfair to shareholders and found it was negotiated by directors who appeared beholden to Musk. "Never incorporate your company in the state of Delaware," Musk posted on X shortly after.

Musk's idea, should he actually go through with the vote, is not without risk. Experts said Musk would likely be sued by investors if he tried to move the state of incorporation to Texas, particularly if it

was seen as a move to secure his pay. The ruling is not the first time that Musk has suffered a setback in Delaware. McCormick was the same judge who also oversaw Twitter's July 2022 lawsuit against Musk after he tried to back out of his contract to buy the online platform for \$44 billion.

The judge rejected his delaying tactics and Musk finally went through with the deal to buy the company. REUTERS

**KARNATAKA STATE MEDICAL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED**  
No. 1, Dr. Siddaiyah Puranik Road, KHB Colony, Magadi Road, Bengaluru - 560079, Phone: +91-80-29619801 Email: md.kmscsl@gmail.com  
No: KMSMCL/DRUGS/TND/CH/ORS&ZINC/195/2023-24 Dated: 31.01.2024

**TENDER NOTIFICATION**  
Ref: 1. Tender Notification No: KMSMCL/DRUGS/TND/CH/ORS&ZINC/195/2023-24, Dated: 31.01.2024. (IND-0087).  
Nationwide Tender is invited through e-Tendering system under KTPP Act 1999 and Rules 2000 for the following tender:  
1. Tender for the supply of ORS & Zinc tablets under Child Health Programme 2023-24 (IND-0087).  
Details regarding EMD, Terms and Conditions and other information are available in the Tender Document, which can be downloaded from the website <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> from 31.01.2024. The eligible tenderers shall submit their e-tenders under e-procurement platform for above mentioned tenders. Further information if any may be obtained from this office.  
Sd/- Managing Director, KMSMCL, Bengaluru.

**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
Tender Notice No. - 13620232024 Date: 30.01.2024

**TENDER NOTICE**  
Divisional Railway Manager (Engineering) / North Central Railway / Prayagraj, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites the following E-Tenders on prescribed form for the following works up to 13:30 hrs. on 23.02.2024. The details of the tenders are as under:  
S.N.: 1. Tender No.: 347, Name of Work: Muck disposal, cess repair and drain work under ADEN/ETW.  
Approx Cost of Work (Rs): 23083665.72 Bid security (Rs): 265400.00  
Completion Period: 08 months, Similar work for Eligibility Criteria: P.Way work.  
S.N.: 2. Tender No.: 348, Name of Work: Provision of overrun at Pata, Bairai, Sarai Bhopat, Firozabad and Jalesar Road stations.  
Approx Cost of Work (Rs): 24046044.05 Bid security (Rs): 270200.00  
Completion Period: 10 months, Similar work for Eligibility Criteria: P.Way work.  
S.N.: 3. Tender No.: 349, Name of Work: Upgradation of goods shed at Nibkaroni (NBUE) station under ADEN/FZD.  
Approx Cost of Work (Rs): 55342236.79 Bid security (Rs): 426700.00  
Completion Period: 10 months, Similar work for Eligibility Criteria: Any Civil Engineering work.  
S.N.: 4. Tender No.: 350, Name of Work: Combined Tender: (A) Turnout Sleeper renewal in RRR-TDL section under Sr.DEN/III/PRYJ. (B) NI work at ETW under ADEN/ETW. (C) CTR (S) under ADEN/FZD.  
Approx Cost of Work (Rs): 18297958.08 Bid security (Rs): 241500.00  
Completion Period: 12 months, Similar work for Eligibility Criteria: P.Way work.  
Date of Opening of Tender: 23.02.2024. Note:-(1) The complete information along with tender document of above E-Tenders is available on website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) up to 13:30 hrs on the due date of tender opening i.e. 23.02.2024. The tender shall be opened at or after 15:00 hrs on due date. (2) Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificates issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. (3) Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall be considered Rates and any other financial entity in any other form/letter head if attached by vendors shall be straightaway ignored and shall not be considered. (4) Tender No. 347 to 350 is having advertised value more than 50 Lakhs, therefore, Annexure-V & V (A) (Document Verification Certificate) are required. The supplier/contractor of goods and/or services would be subject to GST Act and Rules as applicable from time to time. (5) Document being attached should be signed by the tenderer on its body. (6) This tender notice has also been uploaded on [www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in). (7) Cost of Tender document and Bid Security can be deposited online through Internet Banking or Payment Gateway or Bank Guarantee Bond as detailed in para 12 of tender document. (8) In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. (9) Tender on line can be submitted up to 13:30 hrs. on 23.02.2024. (10) Along with other instructions given to Tenderers, Tenderers are required to Pay special attention on Para 12.0 of Tender Document for Bid Security Deposit. (11) E-Tender Forms shall be issued free of cost to all Tenderers. (12) For tender no. 347 to 350: The tenderer has to submit necessary documents in compliance of clause 10 to 18 (Part-1) of IRGCC, 2022 (Works matter) mandatorily, otherwise their offer will be considered as incomplete Offer and accordingly shall not be considered. 188/24 (P)

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**  
(See Section 82 Cr. P.C.)  
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused persons namely (1) Yuvraj @ Raj S/o Ishwar R/o 2338, Transit Camp, Anand Parbat, Delhi and (2) Naveen S/o Ganesh R/o 2610, Transit Camp, Anand Parbat, Delhi have committed (or are suspected to have committed) the offence in a case vide FIR No. 17/2021 U/s 308/323/34 IPC Dated 29.01.2021 registered at P.S. Anand Parbat, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued stating that the said (1) Yuvraj @ Raj and (2) Naveen could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused (1) Yuvraj @ Raj and (2) Naveen have absconded (or are concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused (1) Yuvraj @ Raj and (2) Naveen are required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 05.03.2024.  
By Order  
Sh. Shubham Devadiya,  
Metropolitan Magistrate,  
Room No. 336A, 3rd Floor,  
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED**  
(See Section 82 Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 India)  
RC-DST/2017A/0016 P.S. CBI/SB/N.D.  
U/s. 120B IPC R/w 420/468/471 IPC & S. 13(2) r/w 13(1)(d) of PC ACT CBI v/s Sahib Singh & Ors.  
WHEREAS complaint has been made before me that Sh. Surinder Singh R/o F 73, Rajouri Garden, New Delhi, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence punishable u/s 120B IPC R/w 420/468/471 IPC & Sec. 13(2) r/w 13(1)(d) of PC ACT and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Sh. Surinder Singh cannot be found, and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Sh. Surinder Singh has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).  
Proclamation is hereby made that the said Sh. Surinder Singh is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on the day of 05.02.2024.  
Dated this 23rd day of November 2023  
Name of the Court  
Naresh Kumar Laka  
Special Judge (PC Act), CBI, -20,  
Rouse Avenue Court Complex, New Delhi

**SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED**  
General public is hereby informed that this girl (depicted in the photo) namely KIRAN D/o Kare Lal R/o H. No. C/22, Sector-20, Rohini, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped from her residence since 19.01.2024 at 4:00 PM. In this regard a FIR No. 95-A, Dated 19.01.2024 has been lodged at PS Aman Vihar, Distt. Rohini, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out this girl but no clue has come to light so far.  
Her physical description is as under:-  
Sex: Female, Age: 20 years, Height: 5' 2" ft., Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Build: Medium, Wearing: Maroon Suit & Salwar and Chappal in feet.  
Any person is having information or clue about this missing girl may kindly inform to the following address:-  
SHO  
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> PS: Aman Vihar, Delhi  
E-mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) Ph: 011-27581223, 25961600  
Tel. No.: 011-24368638/24368641 Mob. No: 8750870321  
Fax No.: 011-24368639 DP/928/RD/2024

Government of Kerala  
Published Tenders from 29-01-2024 to 31-01-2024  
Department of Electrical Inspectorate  
Tender ID: 2023\_CEI\_613082\_2 \* Chief Electrical Inspector \*  
20-point Energy meter test bench with 0.02 accuracy or better \*  
Closing Date: 13-Feb-2024 \* PAC: Rs15572131  
Visit <https://tenders.kerala.gov.in> for more details.  
Ro.No:29-31/Jan/2024/PRD(N)13

**TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAM, TIRUPATI OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, TTD, TIRUPATI DIST. A.P.**  
TENDER NOTICE  
ADV No.93/DICE/TTD/2023-24 & NIT No.381/SE/ITTD/2023-24, Dt: 01/02/2024  
Name of Works: (1) Facility Management Services for housekeeping, sanitation and maintenance of PAC-I, PAC-II, Sudarshan Choultry, Govardhan Choultry & Kalyan Choultry at Tirumala for the years 2024-27 (3 years), Open Tender Type. Time for completion 36 months.  
Note: For full details log on to the website <https://www.tirumala.org>.  
ROC No. PR4/13963/Adv. No. 380/PRD/2024, Dated: 01.02.2024  
Sd/- Executive Officer

**MAHAGENCO**  
E-TENDER NOTICE  
Chandrapur Super Thermal Power Station MAHAGENCO, invites Proposals from reputed and experienced Companies to Participate in the Competitive bidding process to following Tenders.  
S.N. Tender No. (Rfx No.) Description / Estimated Cost in Rs.  
1. 3000045110 / Design, Supply, Erection, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of New Lifts in place of the Existing Old Lifts installed at Unit#5, 6&7, 3X500 MW, Stage-III, CSTPS, Chandrapur/Rs.82127708.56  
Above floated tender published in MAHAGENCO online Portal. For the detailed Tender document, interested bidders should visit SRM Website <https://eprocurement.mahagenco.in> for (Sr.No. 01)  
For any query Contact No.8554991818.  
Sd/-  
CHIEF ENGINEER (O&M)  
CSTPS, CHANDRAPUR

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
India Meteorological Department  
(Ministry of Earth Sciences)  
Office of the Director General of Meteorology  
Mausam Bhawan, Lodi Road, New Delhi - 110 003  
Advertisement No. 01/2024-AMD Dated: 31st January, 2024.  
Online applications are invited from eligible Indian Nationals for filling up the following temporary post on contractual basis:  
S. No. Name of Post No. of posts Emoluments Upper age limit  
1. Project Scientist-I 38 ₹ 56,000/- + HRA 35 years  
2. Project Scientist-II 34 ₹ 67,000/- + HRA 40 years  
Details regarding qualification, experience, job responsibilities, other general conditions are available in IMD Website <https://mausam.imd.gov.in> Last date for submission of online application is 21 days from publication of advertisement in Employment Newspaper.  
Sd/- (M I ANSARI)  
Scientist-E (Establishment)  
for Director General of Meteorology  
CBC 12102/12/0001/2324

**UJVN LIMITED**  
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharanji Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006,  
Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax- 0135- 2763508,  
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC028866, Website: www.ujvn.com  
पत्र क्र. 150 Short Term Tender Inviting Notice Rtr: 31.01.2024  
Office of the Executive Engineer, PCM(GV), Mayapur, Haridwar invites sealed & separate tender from interested bidders. Brief summary of tender is given below:-  
1. Tender Notice Reference:  
NIT No.- 16/2023-24/EE/PCM(GV)/Mayapur- Leakage Treatment work of Machine No. 2 & Water Cooling Line Duct at Mohammadpur Power House.  
2. Estimated Value of Tender :- Rs. 14,99,957.23 only, excluding GST.  
3. Date of availability of bid document on website:- 31.01.2024 from 17:00 Hrs.  
4. Last Date for Submission of Tender :- 07.02.2024 upto 17:00 Hrs.  
For eligibility criteria and full and further details kindly visit our website. The tender can be downloaded from our website i.e. <http://ujvn.com> and tender cost shall be paid at the time of submission of the tender.  
Executive Engineer, PCM (GV), Mayapur, Haridwar  
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
E-Tender Notice No.: Sr.DEE/RS/ELS/CNB/2023-24/RRRET-04, Dated: 31.01.2024  
E-Tender Notice  
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/RS/N.C. Rly. Kanpur, for and on behalf of the President of India, invite the following open E-Tender for the following work up to Tender Opening Date & Time. The details of the tenders are as under:-  
Tender No.: ELS-CNB-2023-24-RRRET-04 Approximate Value (In Rs.)  
Name of work: Repair/Reconditioning/Overhauling of M/s ELGI make 1750 LPM oil lubricated Compressors of Model no. RR20100 CG(M) of WAG-9/WAP-7 locomotives at Electric Loco shed, N.C. Railway, Kanpur Qty. 120 Nos.-  
Ninety Three Lakh Ninety One Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Five and Seventy Seven Paise Only.  
Bid Security (In Rs.) 2,47,000.00 (Rs. Two Lakh Forty Seven Thousand Only) Completion period of Work 12 Months  
Tender Document Cost (In Rs.) NIL Tender Opening Date & Time 23.02.2024 & 15:30 hrs.  
Note:-1. The complete information along with tender document of above E-Tenders is available on website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) up to due date & time of tender opening. 2. Bids, other than in the form of E-Bids, shall not be accepted against above Tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificates issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. 3. Offer rates quoted in the form of e-tender schedule & duly signed digitally shall be final. No other documents related to offer rates shall be entertained. Tenderers are advised not to attach any document related to offer rates (except undertaking(s) asked). These documents shall be treated as NULL and void and shall not be considered for evaluation of offer. 4. Documents being attached should be signed by the tenderer on its body. 5. This tender notice has also been uploaded on [www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in). 6. In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. 200/24 (ADM)  
North central railways @CPRONCR @northcentralrailway www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

**DR. BABA SAHEB AMBEDKAR MEDICAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL**  
GOVERNMENT OF NCT DELHI  
SECTOR-6, ROHINI - 110085  
Phone No. 011-27058778 Email: [bsamchdelhi@gmail.com](mailto:bsamchdelhi@gmail.com)  
VACANCY NOTICE: 01/2024  
Applications are invited for recruitment of teaching faculty i.e. Assistant Professor in Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar Medical College & Hospital on purely contract basis. For Complete Details of the posts, eligibility, terms & Conditions and Application form please visit official website of Dr. BSA medical College at <http://bsamch.ac.in>. The last date for the receipt of application 16/02/2024 at 4:00 PM.  
Sd/-  
DIRECTOR PRINCIPAL  
DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0327/23-24

**Central Electricity Regulatory Commission**  
3rd & 4th Floor, Chandernagore Building, 36 Janpath, New Delhi-110001  
Tele No.: 011-23353503/23753918, Fax: 011-23753923  
PUBLIC NOTICE  
(For Public Hearing on 15th February, 2024)  
Draft notification of Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulations, 2024 for the tariff period commencing from 01.04.2024 was published on the website of the Commission, [www.cercind.gov.in](http://www.cercind.gov.in), inviting comments/suggestions/objections from the stakeholders. The public hearing on the above draft Notification will be held on 15th February, 2024 at Auditorium, SCOPE Complex, Core 8, 7, Lodhi Road, New Delhi 110003 from 10:00 AM onwards (registration from 9:00 AM onwards). All interested person and stakeholders who wish to participate and/or submit their objections/suggestions/views before the Commission, may attend the hearing on above said date and venue. Details of Public hearing is also available on the website, [www.cercind.gov.in](http://www.cercind.gov.in).  
Secretary, CERC



**ITALY STRIKER ANDREA BELOTTI JOINS FIORENTINA ON LOAN FROM AS ROMA**

**BASKETBALL STAR MARC GASOL RETIRES AFTER A CAREER SPANNING 20 PROFESSIONAL SEASONS**



## UP IN THE AIR!

**Fate Of India's Long-Held Reputation As Home Favourites Hangs In The Balance As 2nd Test Begins Today**



**CATCH THE DRIFT:** Yashasvi Jaiswal takes a catch during a practice session in Vizag on Thursday

JAC.Gladson@timesgroup.com

**Vizag:** In a sense, the real test begins now. Rohit Sharma's India are under the cosh after their below-par show in the first Test and will need to do something special to upstage England here. In the four days between the 28-run capitulation in Hyderabad and the second Test at the ACA-VDCA Stadium, there's been much talk about India's ability to counter England's strategy of playing an attacking style of cricket.

That strategy will be under scrutiny once again on what is expected to be a slow turner, which the spinners — there could be nearly eight combined from both sides — and batters should equally relish. The way England succeeded with the conventional and reverse sweeps in Hyderabad is no guarantee of sustained success.

It will also be interesting to see if India play to their strengths and trust the game plan that has fetched them so much success over the years. If Shubman Gill practising

**“The pitch might play a little bit better initially than it did last week in Hyderabad, but we don't like to go in with too many preconceived ideas. We like to have some kind of idea because obviously that's how we pick the team, then we just play what's in front of us. It might be a good wicket for maybe a day or two.”**

—Ben Stokes | ENG CAPTAIN

**“WE PLAY A LOT OF CRICKET ON THESE TRACKS. IT'S NOT THAT WE DON'T KNOW HOW TO SWEEP OR REVERSE SWEEP. DEPENDING ON THE SITUATION, WE AS BATTERS TAKE OUR CALL. IT IS VERY CLEAR TO US... BAT WITH FREEDOM. IF THE TEAM DEMANDS US TO PLAY IN A CERTAIN WAY, THEN WE ARE UP TO IT.”**

—KS Bharat | INDIA 'KEEPER

lofted shots in the optional nets session on Thursday is any indication, the conventional methodology of countering spin in Indian conditions should hold the hosts in good stead. India will be under pressure in the absence of Virat Kohli, KL Rahul and Ravindra Jadeja and must trust their instincts.

Madhya Pradesh batter Rajat Patidar had joined the squad ahead of the first Test and with Sarfaraz Khan also available, Friday should see one of them getting their India cap.

The two centuries he scored for India 'A' in his last three innings against England Lions gives Patidar

an edge over Sarfaraz. An India cap will be a step forward for the Madhya Pradesh right-hander after his ODI debut in South Africa last year.

With 4,000 runs under his belt for Madhya Pradesh in the Ranji Trophy and for India 'A', Patidar, who also had a long stint in the nets on Thursday, will face stiff competition from Sarfaraz, who scored nearly a thousand runs each in 2019-20 and 2020-21 and 556 in nine innings in 2023.

The predicament of losing the first match of the series is not a first for India — they also surrendered the first Test to England three years back. But skipper Rohit Sharma will

have fond memories of his two centuries against South Africa at this venue in a match that saw him in a new avatar as opener. Rohit will have a lot riding on his shoulders, as will Gill and Shreyas Iyer. Ace spinner R Ashwin too will look to better his performance.

### Bashir To Debut, Anderson In

It remains to be seen if India go the way England have in naming four spinners in the XI. England have replaced the lone pacer in Hyderabad — Mark Wood — with the 41-year-old legend James Anderson. Off-spinner Shoab Bashir will make his Test debut in place of left-arm spinner Jack Leach, who suffered a knee injury and has not recovered enough.

To succeed against Indian batters in their home conditions is any spinner's delight and Tom Hartley has raised expectations. A certain Steve O'Keefe had done something similar in Pune when Australia toured India for the four-Test series in 2017. The 'brain fade' series, as it is remembered, saw the hosts triumph 2-1, despite the left-arm spinner's 12/70 in the first Test.

LIVE ON SPORTS18, JIOCINEMA 9.30AM

IND ENG

ICC TEST RANKINGS

2 3

HEAD TO HEAD

IND ENG DRAW

31 51 50

PITCH: VIZAG

Initially good to bat on before it takes turn and brings the spinners into the mix. India have won both Tests here.

WEATHER

Temperatures across all five days will be between 30 and 32 degrees. Not much chance of rain this time of the year.

ODDS: INDIA 7/0; ENG 5/4; DRAW 5/1



**UNDER THE COSH:** Shubman Gill has been working hard in the nets to get over his rough patch in Tests



**ONE FOR THE OLD BOYS' CLUB!** Pace great James Anderson (right) with England captain Ben Stokes

## Stokes hopes 'Jimmy's skillset' will help Eng exploit conditions

### Captain Explains Why 41-Year-Old Anderson Is Preferred Choice Over Wood In 2nd Test

JAC.Gladson@timesgroup.com

**Vizag:** It's hard to match 41-year-old James Anderson's enthusiasm for the game. For the second Test, the pace great will return to the England fold at the expense of Mark Wood. Skipper Ben Stokes said on Thursday that though England will miss the express speed of Wood, Anderson's versatility and ability to reverse swing can come in handy. For the record, Anderson has taken 34 wickets in 13 Tests in India.

"Bringing Jimmy's experience, the class that he has, is great. I think it also goes under the radar how good his record in India is. Considering what Jimmy is known as — 'the swing king' and all that — it just proves how good a bowler he is. He has different skillsets that I will be able to exploit in Indian conditions," said Stokes.

"It's not just picking Jimmy for the new ball, it's the other stuff he possesses as well. It's great that Jimmy is doing good things for the old boys out there. It's huge credit and lots of people should look up to Jimmy considering he is where he is at 41."

Former captain Joe Root bowled 48 overs in Hyderabad and picked

up five wickets. Stokes said the former captain under-bowled himself as captain. With left-arm spinner Jack Leach out, England will again bank of Root for his off-spin.

"To also have the benefit of Joe's bowling is massive. I'm surprised he's not actually mentioned he's nipped above me (in the all-rounders' list), but I think we're just two people who don't really care about stuff like that," said Stokes.

### 'Bashir enjoyed dressing room, hasn't forgotten how to bowl!'

It's been a hectic week for England's Shoab Bashir, who is set for his Test debut on Friday. The 20-year-old off-spinner from Somerset had to go back home from the UAE, where England had their training camp before the tour of India.

A British Muslim of Pakistani heritage, Bashir was the only member of the England team to face visa issues. While the team arrived in Hyderabad for the first Test, Bashir had to return to London before he was cleared to travel. He arrived in time to see England go 1-0 up in the series.

"He was just taking it all in," Stokes said when asked how Bashir coped with his visa woes. "Landing that early (in Hyderabad), then seeing what had gone on, he really enjoyed being in that dressing room. There are no issues for me that he's been away for a period of time. It's not like he's forgotten how to bowl!"

## For Sarfaraz, watching the greats is a learning curve

**Vizag:** The mountain of runs that he scored in domestic circuit might have opened the doors of Indian cricket to him, but for Sarfaraz Khan, the learning never stops. The Mumbai batter has been drafted into the India squad for the second Test against England but it is not clear whether he will get the nod ahead of Rajat Patidar.

The prolific Mumbai batter, however, turned into a fan boy while discussing his learning process. "I like to watch Virat Kohli, AB de Villiers, Vivian Richards, and even Javed Miandad because my dad has told me I play like him. I watch Joe Root's batting also. Anyone who is succeeding,

I am watching them to see how they are doing it, so I can learn and apply it. I want to continue doing this, whether it's in the Ranji Trophy or playing for India in the future," Sarfaraz told JIOCinema.

"My strength is that I am not easily satisfied. I play 500-600 balls every day. If I don't play at least 200-300 balls in a match, I feel like I haven't done much. It's a habit now. If you want to play five-day cricket, you have to stay patient and practice every day," Sarfaraz said. But then there is a real-life hero for Sarfaraz — his father Nausad Ahmed — who dedicated countless hours to make his son a cricketer:



"My father introduced me to cricket, and I always wondered why I'm even playing. I'm an attacking batsman and I used to get out sooner than others and scoring big runs was getting difficult. It was disheartening to see others succeed while I wouldn't

be among the runs. But my dad always believed in hard work. Everything I have is a result of that work," said Sarfaraz. In the 2015-2016 domestic season, Sarfaraz opted to play for Uttar Pradesh after he ran into trouble with Mumbai selectors during an under-19 game. Sarfaraz said his dad would travel to UP or wherever the team played to watch him bat.

"Even when I moved from Mumbai to UP, he would take flights to come and see me. He would start bowling to me on the terrace or the road itself before selection trials. Now I realise the impact and importance of those efforts," he added.

## India hope to seal semis berth today vs Nepal

**Bloemfontein:** India's under-19 team will be eager to make its semifinal entry in the World Cup by beating a struggling Nepal in their final Group 1 Super Six match here on Friday. The top two sides from the two Super Six groups will progress to the semifinals.

Pakistan (+1.06) are close on India's heels with six points but India (+3.32) occupy the top slot because of better net run rate. The tournament favourites under Uday Saharan are yet to taste defeat and Nepal are unlikely to stretch this side. India's dominance is visible in the stats as well. They are on top of Group 1 with an all-win record and six points, while Nepal are yet to win.

Musheer Khan, younger brother of Sarfaraz, leads the batting chart with 325 runs averaging over 81, with two hundreds. Musheer's 131 off 126 balls was instrumental in India's thumping 214-run win over the Kiwis in their first Super Six match. Saumy Kumar Pandey then wreaked havoc on the NZ lineup with a four-wicket haul. The left-arm spinner (12 wickets) now shares the top spot in the bowling charts with Pakistan's Ubaid Shah and South Africa's Kwena Maphaka.

India have more depth in their squad beyond those two stars. Captain Saharan, wicket-keeper-batter Aravalli Avnish and allrounder Arshin Kulkarni too have made their presence felt. The young stars will be eager to finish off their

Super Six engagements on a high and travel to Benoni for the last-four match high on confidence. However, writing off Nepal, who scored a thrilling win over Afghanistan in the preliminary stages, will be naive. **Thursday's match:** Scotland U-19 251/6 beat Namibia U-19 248/6 by 3 runs.

### GALLERY

#### Hamilton may move from Mercedes to Ferrari in 2025: Reports

**London:** Seven-time F1 champion Lewis Hamilton has been linked with a shock move from Mercedes to Ferrari next year, according to reports on Thursday. Sky Sports News said Hamilton would leave Mercedes after the 2024 season and replace Carlos Sainz Jr. at Ferrari. It didn't cite any sources. The Daily Mail also said the deal would go through while motorsport.com said it wasn't a done deal yet but negotiations were at an advanced stage and could be concluded this week.

When contacted, Mercedes and Ferrari declined to comment on if he will join Ferrari. The move would surprise many F1 observers because the 39-year-old British driver signed a new two-year deal last summer until 2025, although it remains unclear whether the deal contained an escape clause. After signing the new contract, Hamilton spoke of having "unfinished business" at the team and having faith that Mercedes could get back to the front.

Hamilton won six titles with Mercedes in seven years from 2014-20 and lost the 2021 championship to Red Bull's Max Verstappen on the final lap of the last race. He has not won a race since 2021 and remains stuck on a record 103 wins. AGENCIES

### ACTION TODAY

**BASKETBALL:** NBA, 6 am (Jiocinema)  
**CRICKET:** India vs England, 2nd Test, Day 1, 9.30 am (Jiocinema); Ranji Trophy, 9.30 am (Jiocinema); U-19 WC, India vs Nepal, 1.30 pm (Star Sports); Australia v WI, 1st ODI, 9 am (Star Sports); Sri Lanka vs Afghanistan, Only Test, Day 1, 10 am (Sony Sports)  
**FOOTBALL:** ISL, Odisha FC vs Kerala Blasters FC, 7.30 pm (Jiocinema); Asian Cup, QFs, 5 pm & 9 pm (Jiocinema)  
**TENNIS:** Davis Cup 2024 (Qualifying Round), Day 2, 10.30 am (Sony Sports)

## Ishant back, Delhi eye KO berth

Arani.Basu@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** All of a sudden, there's optimism in the Delhi camp, ahead of their Ranji Trophy match against table-toppers Baroda which begins on Friday. The dramatic win against Uttarakhand in their last match has instilled belief in the setup that they could still have a shot at qualification even though they got off to a horrendous start in the tournament.

Going into the match, the first thing that they want to fix is their playing XI. After all the criticism around dropping star batter Ayush Badoni for the last game, it will be interesting to see if the management goes in with him.

The spotlight will also be on Yash Dhull who has not managed to score a single half century across formats this season even as the team has decided to back the young-



ster to the hilt. Captain Himmat Singh has won back the trust of the management with a match-winning 194 in the last match. However, Badoni, Dhull and Himmat must be thinking about their careers getting unravelled if they implode in the remainder of the tournament.

"The association realizes that the team is positioned very delicately in the group. The coach has been given his preferred players.

Ishant Sharma will be back and so will seam-bowling allrounder Pranshu Vijayran," a DCCA official told TOI on Thursday.

There's been much criticism about playing Kshitiz Sharma, someone who has looked completely out of place at this level, ahead of Badoni who has been Delhi's highest scorer in the white-ball phase. This was because the Delhi and District Cricket Association didn't like how Badoni was 'losing focus.' Sources told TOI that coach Devang Gandhi has been given a free hand to pick the strongest possible XI for the match to be played at the Air Force ground at Palam.

Sitting at just seven points from four matches, coach Gandhi insists that his team can still qualify for the knockout stage if they manage to win their two remaining home matches and one away game in Himachal.

## 'Now administrators take decisions, not captains'

Mandakini.Shalya@timesgroup.com

**Jaipur:** A large coaching setup is restricting the role of the captain, feels former India batsman and commentator Ajay Jadeja.

"I think it's unfortunate. Because when we grew up the captain was the one who led the side and he was responsible, he was the guide, he was the one who thought how you are going to play, how you will approach the game. Unfortunately now it's not the boys, it's the administrators who are running the game," said Jadeja, who was one of the speakers at 'Cricket: Spirit of the game'

session at the Jaipur Literature Festival on Thursday.

"At Under-15, you have these rules that the boys can't go and see the pitch, you have five coaches that you have been given — batting, bowling, fielding and a head coach. And when you have people employed, you know how it is. They do what they are supposed to do. So a kid at 15 when he starts playing at school, he has never made a decision, never looked at the pitch and said whether we should bat first or bowl first."



AJAY JADEJA

## DRAG-FLICKER HARMAN TO LEAD TEAM AT HOME

**New Delhi:** Drag-flicker Harmanpreet Singh will lead the Indian men's hockey team at the upcoming FIH Pro League matches in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela, which are key to the side's preparation for this year's Paris Olympics.

Hockey India on Thursday named a 24-member squad for the double-leg fixtures. The Bhubaneswar-leg will begin on Feb 10 and end on Feb 15 while the Rourkela leg will start on Feb 19 and conclude on Feb 25.

### FIH PRO LEAGUE

India will play against Ireland, the Netherlands, Spain, and Australia twice each across both legs.

The hosts will begin their campaign against Spain on Feb 10. The squad was on the expected lines with striker Bobby Dhani and goalkeeper Pawan missing out from the 26-member Indian team that toured South Africa last month.

**SQUAD:** Goalkeepers: PR Sreejesh, Krishan Bahadur Pathak. **Defenders:** Jarnanpreet Singh, Sumit, Jugraj Singh, Amit Rohidas, Harmanpreet Singh (C), Varun Kumar, Sanjay, Vishnukant Singh. **Midfielders:** Hardik Singh (VC), Vivek Sagar Prasad, Manpreet Singh, Nilakanta Sharma, Shamsher Singh, Rajkumar Pal, Rabichandra Singh Moirangthem. **Forwards:** Lalit Kumar Upadhyay, Mandeep Singh, Gurjant Singh, Sukhjeet Singh, Abhishek, Akashdeep Singh, Arajeet Singh Hundal.

## AITA gags Team India players

Kumaraswamy.K@timesgroup.com

**Pune:** It might be touted as a historical tie, but for the All India Tennis Association, gagging its players from speaking to the media is the best way to celebrate the team's first visit in 60 years to Pakistan. "Not possible. No players (sic) is allowed to speak with press," AITA secretary general Anil Dhupar responded via text message when TOI reached out to him in Islamabad on Thursday.

Player-media interaction ahead of Davis Cup ties is customary and had been facilitated by the Indian team managers in the past. Dhupar did not explain the reason for barring the players from interacting with the media. However, it is understood that the AITA had introduced a code of conduct for players in November following a controversy during the tie against Morocco in Lucknow in Sep-

## Hockey legend Uthaiah no more

Manuja.Veerappa@timesgroup.com

**Indian hockey** is replete with stories of unfulfilled dreams and underutilised potential. The journey of Karnataka's Ammanda Vasu Uthaiah is one such allegory. The former India half-back passed away in Bengaluru on Thursday following a brief illness. He was 82.

Born in Kadanga Marur, a hamlet in Virajpet taluk in Kodagu, the genial craftsman of classic Indian hockey was known for his skill and discipline. The left-half spent 16 years with Madras Engineer Group & Centre, during which time he donned the Indian colours against teams like Pakistan, Kenya, Britain

and Singapore. Uthaiah was a key member of the Indian team which won a silver medal at the 1970 Asian Games in Bangkok. Although he was touted as an Olympic prospect, the rise of his contemporary Harmik Singh, ended his dreams.

Former India skipper MP Ganesh, who shared a special bond with Uthaiah for almost six decades, paid tribute to his senior and said, "When BP Govinda and I were picked for the Indian camp, Uthaiah was already there. He was a huge inspiration for us. Apart from being a hockey genius, what stood out about Uthaiah was his simplicity and discipline. As a player who played in the right-out position, I know how difficult it was to get through him. His strength was his agility and reflexes."

After his retirement from the sport, Uthaiah chose a quiet life first in his hometown and later in Bengaluru.

# THE NEXT HURDLE

South Korea Must Play Through Pain To Beat Australia, Says Coach Klinsmann

Doha: South Korea may have had two fewer rest days than Australia before their titanic clash in the Asian Cup quarter-finals but going through such "pain" is necessary if the team is to win a major tournament, coach Jurgen Klinsmann said on Thursday. Australia beat Indonesia 4-0 in their last-16 tie on Sunday while South Korea played 120 minutes against Saudi Arabia before prevailing on penalties late on Tuesday, giving Klinsmann's side only two days to recover before their quarter-final.

"Rest days are what it is, you accept it and move on. Now we are ready for this huge game and we're very hungry," Klinsmann told reporters.

"If you want to go through in a knockout phase of a big tournament, you have to be ready to suffer. You have to deal with pain because we got banged up in the last game and that's normal.

"It's normal and the players play this way in their club teams. Many of them play in Europe every three or four days."

South Korea striker Cho Gueung said the lack of adequate rest could be a factor, but experience and mentality would be key.

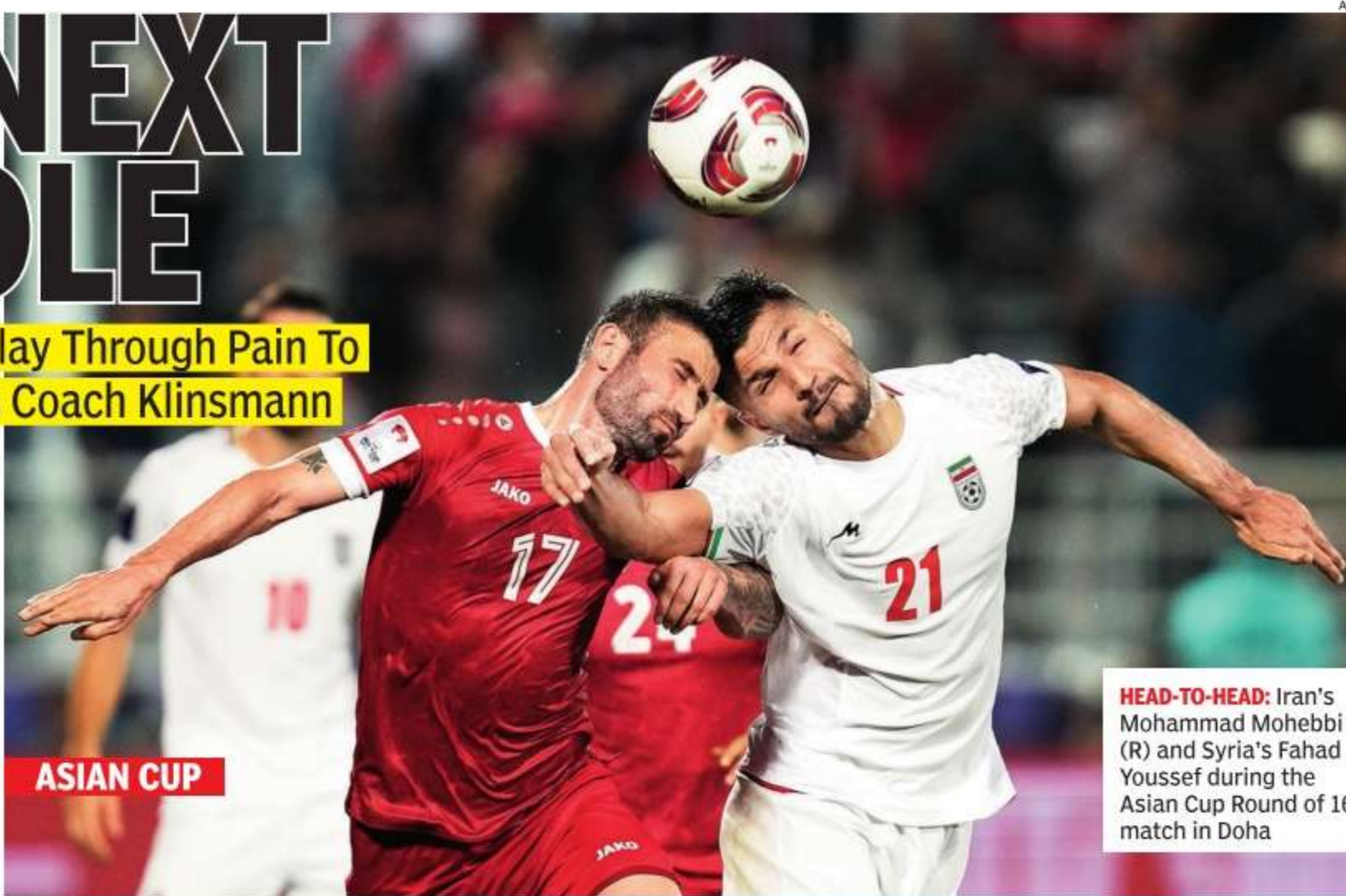
"A lot of my team mates have plenty of experience... But I think at this moment in the tournament, it's more about mentality than physicality," said Cho, who scored a late equaliser to take the game against Saudi Arabia to penalties.

"The reality is I think mentality plays a bigger role now."

"Australia is a very strong team, very solid in defence.

## NOBODY LAUGHING AT TAJIKISTAN NOW, SAYS COACH SEGRT

Doha: Tajikistan feel like they have already won the Asian Cup twice by qualifying for the last 16 and the quarter-finals on their tournament debut, and they will continue to dream about advancing further, coach Peter Segrt said on Thursday. Tajikistan qualified for the last 16 with a late win over Lebanon in



ASIAN CUP

HEAD-TO-HEAD: Iran's Mohammad Mohebbi (R) and Syria's Fahad Youssef during the Asian Cup Round of 16 match in Doha

### QF LINEUP

Tajikistan vs Jordan  
Australia vs South Korea  
Iran vs Japan  
Qatar vs Uzbekistan

They're very physical and they're big, but we have our strengths. We have speed up front with very quick players."

On the other hand, Australia coach Graham Arnold said the four-day rest period allowed him the luxury of giving his players some time off. "I think one of the most important things in tournaments is downtime and making sure that the players keep their brain fresh and their mind clear," Arnold said.

Australia striker Mitchell Duke has great memories of playing in Al Janoub Stadium, where his header in a 1-0 win over Tunisia in November 2022 gave the side their first World Cup victory in 12 years. REUTERS

## IRAN 'MORE UNITED' AFTER REACHING LAST 8

Doha: Iran say they will be "more united" in the quarterfinals after surviving extra time with 10 men before defeating Syria on penalties. After the match ended 1-1 after 120 minutes, Iran held their nerve to win 5-3 in the

shootout and face Japan on Saturday. Iran played the last 30 minutes with 10 men after Porto striker Mehdi Taremi was sent off. Goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand was the hero.

Midfielder Saied Ezzatollahi said he saw being dragged through extra time and penalties as "a positive". "It is going to make us more united for Japan," he added.

## Nigeria, S. Africa among quarterfinals favourites

### CRAZY AFCON: More Shocks Could Be On The Cards

Abidjan: Many fancied contenders have tumbled out of the Africa Cup of Nations early and there is every chance of further upsets in the weekend's quarterfinals, where hosts Ivory Coast will hope to continue their unlikely redemption.

The Ivorians suffered the heaviest defeat ever inflicted on a host team in finals history when Equatorial Guinea beat them 4-0 in Abidjan in their last group game and they had to wait three days before knowing they would advance as the last of the best third-placed finishers.

But they bounced back to edge past holders Senegal on penalties in a dramatic last-16 tie and now go up against neighbours Mali in a derby clash in Bouake on Saturday.

The Ivory Coast are one of four previous winners left in the tournament, along with the Democratic Republic of Congo, who were still known as Zaïre when they last won 50 years ago, while South Africa had their sole success in 1996. Nigeria, with three past triumphs, are now the

### QF LINEUP

Nigeria vs Angola; DR Congo vs Guinea; Mali vs Ivory Coast; Cape Verde vs South Africa

**105** The record number of goals scored in a 24-team Cup of Nations is 102 at the 2019 tournament in Egypt. That mark has already been overtaken in the Ivory Coast, where there have been 105 goals in 44 matches. Another 8 KO games left.

favourites, having beaten the Ivorians in the group phase and knocked out Cameroon in the second round, but to progress further they must get past tricky Angola in Abidjan on Friday.

DR Congo will also be far from confident of success when they meet Guinea in Abidjan later the same day and South Africa will be wary of the Cape Verde Islanders, who have already been giant-killers at the tournament, beating Ghana in the group phase. Cape Verde are the smallest country in the 24-team field. REUTERS

## JAPAN'S ITO LEAVES ASIAN CUP AFTER SEXUAL ASSAULT ALLEGATION

Doha: Japan's FA said that 30-year-old winger Junya Ito has left the Asian Cup in Qatar following media reports that two women had accused him of sexual assault, a claim he denies. The JFA said Ito, who has played 54 games for Japan, scoring 13 goals, was leaving "out of consideration for his mental and physical wellbeing", adding that there were differing accounts of the alleged incident in Osaka last year. AFP

## XAVI HAPPY WITH BARCA'S REACTION IN OSASUNA WIN

Barcelona: With coach Xavi still in charge, Barcelona got back on track with a 1-0 win over Osasuna in La Liga. Atletico Madrid stay third, ahead of the fourth-place Catalans with a 2-1 win over Rayo Vallecano. Young Brazil forward Vitor Roque scored his first goal since joining Barca. "I made my decision to get the team to react," Xavi said. "I knew if the players could give an extra 1 percent, they would win."

## INJURED RONALDO TO MISS REUNION WITH MESSI

Riyadh: Cristiano Ronaldo will miss the chance of a much anticipated reunion with Lionel Messi because of an injury. Al-Nassr's Ronaldo is recovering from a reported calf injury and will not be fit in time to play in the exhibition match with Inter Miami in Riyadh on Thursday.

## Young Bradley gives Chelsea the blues

### League Cup Final Rehearsal: Liverpool Youngster Scores One, Sets Up Two In 4-1 Win

Liverpool: Jurgen Klopp seems to have unearthed another gem in his final season at Liverpool after 20-year-old right back Conor Bradley scored one goal and set up two more in a 4-1 win over Chelsea in the Premier League.

Bradley, an academy product, has been filling in for Trent Alexander-Arnold during the England international's recent injury layoff. He did his best impression

EPL of Liverpool's first-choice right back in the way he took his goal and assisted on others for Diogo Jota and Dominik Szoboszlai at Anfield on Wednesday.

"It just feels like I'm in a dream," said Bradley, a Northern Ireland international who joined Liverpool's youth academy in 2019. "Trent should take care of his position," Szoboszlai said in a cheeky warning to Alexander-Arnold. "What a wonderful kid he is. Outstanding finish, the contribution, involvement," said Klopp.

Luis Diaz grabbed Liverpool's fourth goal in a relentless, dominant display by the

hosts that included a missed penalty by Darwin Nunez, who struck the post with his attempt and hit the goal frame three times in total in the match. Christopher Nkunku netted for Chelsea in the 71st after coming on as a substitute.

By securing the 200th Premier League win of Klopp's tenure, Liverpool maintained their five-point lead over Manchester City, who also won by beating Burnley 3-1. City have a game in hand.

Liverpool meet Chelsea in the League Cup final on Feb. 25. "It's so clear they were much better than us," Chelsea manager Mauricio Pochettino said.

### Happy birthday for Alvarez as he scores brace in City win

On the day he turned 24, Julian Alvarez scored twice in the first 22 minutes to set Manchester City on their way to an easy win over Burnley. Rodri extended the lead 30 seconds after the second-half restart. Alvarez now has six goals in his last five games. City have won six straight since coming home from Jeddah and also now has Erling Haaland back in action.

Tottenham scored three goals in eight second-half minutes to beat Brentford 3-2 and rise to fourth, trailing Liverpool by eight points. AP

### BEST POINTS-PER-MATCH RECORDS (PREMIERSHIP)

| Manager                | P   | W   | D   | L   | Pts/match |
|------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------|
| Pep Guardiola (City)   | 287 | 211 | 38  | 38  | 2.34      |
| Alex Ferguson (United) | 810 | 528 | 168 | 114 | 2.16      |
| Jurgen Klopp (Liv)     | 318 | 200 | 74  | 44  | 2.12      |



IMPRESSIVE: Liverpool's Conor Bradley (C) is challenged by Chelsea's Mykhailo Mudryk

## TIMES NATION

## Navy to induct survey vessel Sandhayak tomorrow

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Navy will commission its latest survey vessel Sandhayak at the naval dockyard in Visakhapatnam on Saturday, with defence minister Rajnath Singh as the chief guest.

The primary role of Sandhayak, which was delivered after comprehensive trials to the Navy last Dec, will be to conduct full-scale hydrographic surveys of ports, harbours, navigational channels, coastal areas, and deep seas towards enabling safe marine navigation. In its secondary role, the ship will be capable of undertaking a range of naval operations.

Sandhayak is the first of the four survey vessel (large) ships being constructed at M/s Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers in Kolkata. "A significant addition to the naval fleet, Sandhayak is equipped with state-of-the-art hydrographic equipment," an officer said.

"They include deep and shallow water multibeam echo-sounders, autonomous underwater vehicles, remotely-operated vehicles, side-scan sonars, data acquisition and processing system, satellite-based positioning systems and terrestrial survey equipment," he said.

The 110-metre-long ship, with a displacement of 3,400-tonne, is propelled by two diesel engines and is capable of achieving speeds in excess of 18 knots. "With 80% indigenous content, Sandhayak is a true testament of India's growing ship-building prowess," he added.

## 2 held for smuggling exotic birds & animals

Two wildlife smugglers were arrested and exotic birds and animals worth Rs 68.4 lakh were seized in Champai district bordering Myanmar in a joint operation by Assam Rifles personnel and officials of Mizoram forest department on Wednesday, reports HC Vanlalruata.

## Ex-BJP MP Chinmayanand acquitted in '11 rape case

### Court: Didn't Find Enough Evidence

Kanwardeep Singh @timesgroup.com

Bareilly: A special MP/MLA court in Shahjahanpur on Thursday acquitted former Union minister of state Chinmayanand in a 2011 rape case, observing that it didn't find enough evidence against the accused and the main complainant had also turned hostile.

The court has ordered initiation of proceedings against the survivor the under CrPC section 344 (trial for giving false evidence).

A disciple of Chinmayanand had filed a complaint at Shahjahanpur Kotwali police station accusing him of raping her in 2011. A chargesheet was subsequently filed in the court in Oct 2012 in which sections 376 (rape) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian



Former Union minister of state Swami Chinmayanand after his acquittal on Thursday. He was accused of rape by a disciple

Penal Code were slapped against him.

In 2018, UP govt decided to withdraw the case against Chinmayanand and filed an application before the court of chief judicial magistrate (CJM) under section 321 of the CrPC which was rejected by the CJM after the rape survivor filed an "objection".

The trial proceedings in this case started in 2022. Later, the survivor moved an application in the high court mentioning that "she doesn't have any objection, if the case is withdrawn".

The court of special additional district and sessions

judge (ADJ) Ahasan Husain in UP's Shahjahanpur acquitted the former minister. It stated that there was a lack of evidence against Chinmayanand, besides the main complainant had also turned hostile and given a statement in his favour which led to his acquittal.

Om Singh, Chinmayanand's counsel told TOI, "We are happy with the judgment as justice has been served. He was innocent. The complainant had clearly mentioned in her application that she had lodged a fake complaint after she being pressured by her family."

## Parents held at gunpoint, tribal girl gang-raped

Bhopal: A 15-year-old girl from the vulnerable Sahariya tribe was gang-raped by four men while her parents were held at gunpoint in MP's Gwalior Monday night. Among the accused is a member of the notorious dacoit Gudda Gurjar gang.

Two suspects have been arrested while cops are on the lookout for the other two, ASP Rishikesh Meena said.

During interrogation, one of the accused said they had gone into the village intent on raping someone when they saw the minor outside her home with her 10-year-old brother, police said. The four men accosted the siblings and began thrashing them. On hearing their screams, their parents rushed out. The accused assaulted the couple before holding them at gunpoint while they took turns to rape the minor girl. TNN

## Lt Gen Sahai named AMC's first woman commandant

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Lucknow: Lieutenant general Kavita Sahai has been appointed the first woman commandant of Army Medical Corps Centre and College, Lucknow. She has succeeded Lt Gen V Sabid Syed, who retired from service on Jan 29.

Lt Gen Sahai took the charge Thursday. A recipient of Sena Medal and Vishisht Seva Medal, Lt Gen Sahai was posted as additional DGAFMS (HR) at the office of the Director General Armed Forces Medical Services (DGAFMS), Delhi.

An alumna of the Armed Forces Medical College, Pune, she was commissioned in

AMC in 1986. Lt Gen Sahai did MD (pathology) and DNB (pathology) from AFMC. The general officer also did a fellowship in oncopathology from AIIMS Delhi and holds a diploma in health professional education from FAIMER-Keele University, UK.

In her 37-year-long career, Lt Gen Sahai has held various important administrative and staff appointments such as HOD and professor; lab medicine at Base Hospital, Delhi; professor in department of pathology at AFMC; HOD and professor; lab medicine at Army Hospital (research and referral) Delhi.

Lt Gen Sahai has written more than 100 research papers which have been published in national and international journals. She also received Chief of Army Staff Commendation in 2008 and 2012 for her meritorious services.

She is married to Maj Gen (retd) Rajesh Sahai.

## Ram temple gets ₹1 cr donations since Jan 22

Arshad Afzaal Khan | TNN

Ayodhya: After the consecration ceremony at the Ayodhya Ram temple on Jan 22, around 25 lakh devotees visited the shrine in the past 11 days. An amount of Rs 11 crore has been received in offerings and donations since then.

According to Prakash Gupta, office in-charge of the temple trust, in the past 11 days, about Rs 8 crore was deposited in the donation boxes, while the amount received through cheque and online is around Rs 3.5 crore.

He said that in the temple's sanctum sanctorum, where the deity is seated, four big-size donation boxes have been kept near the 'darshan path', in which devotees do-

nate the amount.

Besides, people also donate at 10 computerised counters. Gupta said that the temple trust employees are appointed at the donation counters, and they submit the account of the donation amount received in trust of office after the counter is closed in the evening.

### 'DARSHAN PATH'

A team of 14 people — 11 bank employees and three from the temple trust — counts the offerings in the four donation boxes.

Gupta said from depositing the donation amount to counting it, everything is done under the surveillance of CCTV cameras.

## Devotees allowed to proceed till new gate to cellar for 'jharokha darshan'

Continued from P 1

In compliance with the district judge's order, a gate has been installed after creating a passage in the steel barricading of the Gyanvapi mosque, said Varanasi district magistrate S Rajalingam, appointed receiver of the southern cellar.

Police commissioner Ashok Mutha Jain and divisional commissioner Kaushal Raj Sharma were among the official witnesses to the court-ordered resumption of worship inside the cellar a little after Wednesday midnight. On Vedic scholar Ganeshwar



A temple sticker is put up at Gyanvapi complex in Varanasi on Thursday

Shastri Dravid's presence at the inaugural puja, the DM said he was requested to supervise the rituals since the cellar had been opened after

three decades. The Vedic scholar oversaw Ram Lala's consecration in Ayodhya on Jan 22.

District judge Vishvesha had given the administration seven days to make arrangements for regular worship of Shringar Gauri and other "visible and invisible" deities in the southern cellar. Officials got cracking around 11pm on Wednesday, shutting gate No 4 of Kashi Vishwanath Dham and deploying a large police contingent there.

Remnants of purported Hindu idols and sculptures found during ASI's survey of Gyanvapi, all of which were

in the DM's custody, were transferred to the cellar.

Jitendra Nath Vyas, a member of the plaintiff's family, said, "After cleaning the cellar and its pillars, a yellow cloth was hung along a wall. The idols of Ganesh, Vishnu, Hanuman, Yonipata Makara (crocodile) and others were placed on a platform to begin the rituals of Ganesh Puja and Shayan aarti. All rituals took place between 12.30am and 1.15am."

After bhog aarti on Thursday afternoon, the administration allowed devotees to proceed till the new gate to the cellar for a "jharokha darshan".

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# THE TIMES OF INDIA

INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

Down 0-1 in Test series against England, Rohit-led India need to find their best form in the 2nd Test in Vizag starting today, P 27

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