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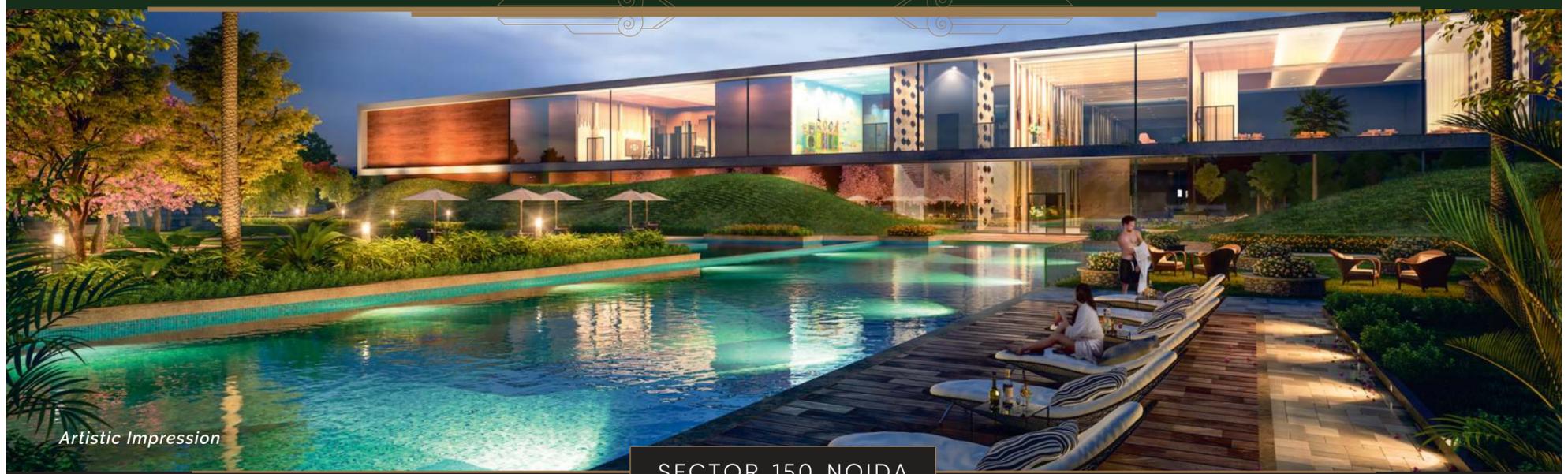


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# THE WORLD

## TOP OF THE WORLD



Ryan O'Neal

### UNITED STATES Ryan O'Neal, star of 'Love Story', dies

Los Angeles: Ryan O'Neal, the heartthrob actor who went from a TV soap opera to an Oscar-nominated role in *Love Story* and delivered a wry performance opposite his charismatic 9-year-old daughter Tatum in *Paper Moon*, died Friday, his son said. "My dad passed away peacefully today, with his loving team by his side supporting him and loving him as he would us," Patrick O'Neal, a Los Angeles sportscaster, posted on Instagram. No cause of death was given. O'Neal was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2012, a decade after he was diagnosed with chronic leukemia. He was 82. **AP**

### SOUTH CHINA SEA US, Philippines condemn water cannon blasts

Manila: The Philippines and its treaty ally, the US, separately condemned a high-seas assault on Saturday by the Chinese coast guard together with suspected militia ships that repeatedly blasted water cannons to block three Philippine fisheries vessels from a disputed shoal in the South China Sea. The noon-time assault by China's ships off the Scarborough Shoal caused "significant damage" to the communication and navigation equipment of one of the three Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources ships of the Philippines, officials said. **AP**

### SOUTH KOREA US, S Korea, Japan slam N Korea nuke plan

Seoul: The national security advisers of the United States, South Korea and Japan called on Saturday for a stronger international push to suppress North Korea's development of nuclear weapons and missiles and its military cooperation with other countries amid concerns about its alleged arms transfers to Russia. The meeting came as tensions on the Korean Peninsula are at their highest in years. **AP**

### PAKISTAN Dissidents had links with terror groups: Official

Islamabad: Pakistan has acknowledged that some of the political dissidents, who have sought asylum in the United Kingdom and other countries, had links with terrorist entities inside the country. Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zehra Baloch made the statement during her weekly media briefing here on Thursday while responding to a question on the alleged acid attack on jailed former PM Imran Khan's aide. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader and former special assistant to the prime minister, Mirza Shahzad Akbar, last week claimed that he was attacked at his home in the UK. **PTI**

## 13 MEMBERS BACK U.A.E-MOVED RESOLUTION, U.K. ABSTAINS

# US vetoes UNSC draft for Gaza truce: 'Did not condemn Hamas'

Israel thanks ally as Palestine Authority President says U.S. is complicit in war crimes in the Strip

AGENCIES  
UNITED NATIONS, DEC 9

THE US has vetoed a draft resolution on the raging Israel-Hamas conflict in the UN Security Council that would have demanded an immediate humanitarian ceasefire in war-ravaged Gaza and the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages taken by the Hamas militant group.

The 15-nation Council met on Friday to vote on the resolution tabled by the United Arab Emirates and backed by over 90 member states. The resolution got the backing of 13 Council members who voted in its favour while the UK abstained.

The voting on the resolution came after UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, in a rare move, had invoked Article 99 of the UN Charter to appeal to the Security Council for a humanitarian ceasefire. In the Explanation of Vote, US Ambassador Robert Wood said it is incomprehensible why the resolution's authors have "declined to include language condemning Hamas' horrific terrorist attack" on Israel on October 7.

UAE's Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative Mohamed Abushahab expressed deep disappointment with the outcome of the vote. He questioned what message the Council is sending "Palestinians if we cannot unite behind a call to halt the relentless bombardment of Gaza? Indeed, what is the message we are sending civilians across the world who may find themselves in similar situations?" UK's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Barbara Woodward said her country cannot vote in favour of a resolution which does not condemn the "atrocities" Hamas committed against innocent Israeli civilians on Oct 7.

Israel's Ambassador to the UN



Palestinians flee Israel air strikes in Southern Gaza on Saturday. **AP**

Gilad Erdan thanked the US for its veto decision, but some rights groups like Human Rights Watch, Oxfam and Amnesty International criticised the move.

### 'America now alone'

Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh and Palestinian Ambassador to the UN Riyad Mansour also condemned the US veto, with Mansour calling it a "sad day." Hamas, also condemning the veto, described it as an "immoral and inhumane position." Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas said the veto made the US complicit in what he described as war crimes against Palestinians.

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan called for the United Nations Security Council to be reformed. "The UNSC demand for ceasefire is rejected only by US veto. Is this justice?" Erdogan said in Istanbul. "Our friends once again expressed that America is now alone on this issue," Turkey Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan said.

## Israeli images showing Palestinian detainees in underwear spark outrage

REUTERS  
CAIRO, DECEMBER 9

PALESTINIAN, ARAB and Muslim officials condemned Israel on Friday after images of detained Palestinian men stripped to their underwear in Gaza circulated on social media.

Senior official of the Palestinian Islamist Hamas group, Izzat El-Reshiq, accused Israel of "carrying a 'heinous crime against innocent civilians'."

Reshiq, who is in exile abroad, urged international human rights organisations to intervene to show what happened to the men and help secure their release.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said it was concerned by the images and that

all detainees must be treated with humanity and dignity in accordance with international humanitarian law.

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian, whose country backs Hamas, also criticised Israel, accusing it on X of "barbarity in the treatment of innocent captives and citizens".

Israeli TV on Thursday showed footage, which Reuters has verified, of what it said were captured Hamas fighters, stripped to their underwear with heads bowed sitting in a Gaza City street.

"We are talking about individuals who are apprehended in Jabalia and Shejaia (in Gaza city), Hamas strongholds and centres of gravity," Israeli government spokesperson Eylon Levy told a briefing.

## Israel pounds Gaza Strip from North to South

Gaza: Israel pounded the Gaza Strip from north to south on Saturday in an expanded phase of its two-month-old war against Hamas. Since a truce collapsed last week, Israel has expanded its ground campaign into the southern half of the Gaza Strip by launching the storming of the main southern city Khan Younis. Simultaneously, both sides have reported a surge in fighting in the north.

Residents of Khan Younis said on Saturday that Israeli forces were ordering people out of another district just west of positions the Israelis stormed earlier this week, suggesting a further assault could be imminent. Israel has blocked Gazans from fleeing along the main north-south route down the spine of the narrow strip, and is shunting them instead towards Mediterranean coast. **REUTERS**

## Nawaz Sharif says he was ousted in 1999 for opposing Kargil plan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
LAHORE, DECEMBER 9

PAKISTAN'S former prime minister Nawaz Sharif on Saturday said he was ousted from the government in 1999 by (late) Gen Pervez Musharraf for opposing the Kargil misadventure, as he underlined the importance of having good relations with India and other neighbours.

The three-time prime minister questioned why he was ousted from the office of the prime minister prematurely.

"I should be told why I was ousted in 1993 and 1999. When I opposed the Kargil plan saying it should not happen... I was



We will have to improve our relations with India, Iran and Afghanistan, the ex-PM says

ousted (by Gen Pervez Musharraf). And later what I said proved right," Sharif said.

The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supreme leader said that on all three occasions being the premier he was delivering but he was sent packing and that he did not know why.

"During my tenure as PM, two Indian prime ministers visited Pakistan. Modi sahab and

Vajpayee sahab had come to Lahore," the former PM said.

"We will have to improve our relations with India, Afghanistan, and Iran. We need to make more stronger relations with China," Sharif said. He regretted that Pakistan lagged behind its neighbours in economic growth development.

Lashing out at Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party's jailed former chairman Imran Khan, Sharif said he did not know why an inexperienced man was given the reins of the country.

"The economy witnessed a downfall during Imran Khan's government (2018-2202)," he said.

## 6 French teens convicted in 2020 beheading of teacher

REUTERS  
PARIS, DECEMBER 9

A FRENCH court on Friday convicted six teenagers in connection with the 2020 beheading of history teacher Samuel Paty, whose murder shocked the country.

The teacher had shown his pupils caricatures of the Prophet Mohammad in a class on freedom of expression, angering some Muslim parents. Among those on trial was a teenage girl who had allegedly told her parents that Paty had asked Muslim pupils to leave the room before showing the caricatures. The court found her guilty of having made false accusation charges.

Paty, 47, was killed outside his

school in a Paris suburb by an 18-year-old assailant of Chechen origin, who was shot dead by police soon after the attack. The court found those adolescents as guilty of having pointed out Paty to the murderer.

Louis Cailliez, lawyer for Paty's sister Mickaëlle, told reporters his client was "satisfied with the full conviction", but less so with the sentences, that she found "too lenient". The girl who was found guilty of making false accusations and slanderous comments was given an 18-month suspended sentence and put on probation measures for two years. All six teenagers' suspended sentences are tied to them following a strict set of probation measures for two to three years.

## In world's first, Europe reaches deal on AI rules

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
LONDON, DECEMBER 9

EUROPEAN UNION negotiators clinched a deal Friday on the world's first comprehensive artificial intelligence rules, paving the way for legal oversight of technology used in popular generative AI services like ChatGPT that has promised to transform everyday life and spurred warnings of existential dangers to humanity.

Negotiators from the European Parliament and the bloc's 27 member countries overcame big differences on controversial points including generative AI and police use of facial recognition surveillance to sign a tentative political agreement for the Artificial Intelligence Act.

"Deal!" tweeted European Commissioner Thierry Breton, just before midnight. "The EU becomes the very first continent to set clear rules for the use of AI." The result came after marathon closed-door talks this week, with the initial session lasting 22 hours before a second round kicked off Friday morning.

Officials were under the gun to secure a political victory for the flagship legislation but were

## EXPLAINED AI risk and regulation

GENERATIVE AI systems like OpenAI's ChatGPT have exploded into the world's consciousness, dazzling users with the ability to produce human-like text, photos and songs but raising fears about the risks the rapidly developing technology poses to jobs, privacy and copyright protection and even human life itself. Now, the US, UK, China and global coalitions like the Group of 7 major democracies have jumped in with their own proposals to regulate AI, though they're still catching up to Europe.

expected to leave the door open to further talks to work out the fine print, likely to bring more backroom lobbying.

The European Parliament will still need to vote on it early next year, but with the deal done that's a formality. Brando Benifei, an Italian lawmaker co-leading the body's negotiating efforts, told AP. "It's very very good."

## In the West, fears of NATO withdrawal rise as Trump seeks return to power

THE NEW YORK TIMES  
DECEMBER 9

FOR 74 YEARS, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has been America's most important military alliance. Presidents of both parties have seen NATO as a force multiplier enhancing the influence of the United States by uniting countries on both sides of the Atlantic in a vow to defend one another.

Donald Trump has made it clear that he sees NATO as a drain on American resources by free-loaders. He has held that view for at least a quarter of a century.

In his 2000 book, *The America We Deserve*, Trump wrote that "pulling back from Europe would save this country millions of dollars annually." As president, he repeatedly threatened a US withdrawal from the alliance.

Yet as he runs to regain the White House, Trump has said precious little about his intentions. His campaign website contains a single cryptic sentence: "We have to finish the process we began under my administration of fundamentally re-evaluating NATO's purpose and NATO's mission." He and his team refuse to elaborate.

That vague line has generated enormous uncertainty and anxiety among European allies. European ambassadors and think tank officials have been making pilgrimages to associates of Trump to inquire about his intentions. At least one ambassador, Finland's Mikko



Donald Trump

Hautala, has reached out directly to Trump and sought to persuade him of his country's value to NATO as a new member.

In interviews over the past several months, more than a half-dozen current and former European diplomats — speaking on condition of anonymity for fear of retribution from Trump should he win — said alarm was rising on Embassy Row and among their home governments that Trump's return could mean not just the abandonment of Ukraine, but a broader American retreat from the continent and a gutting of the Atlantic alliance.

"There is great fear in Europe that a second Trump presidency would result in an actual pullout of the United States from NATO," said James G Stavridis, a retired four-star Navy admiral who was NATO's supreme allied commander from 2009 to 2013. "That would be an enormous strategic and historic failure on the part of our nation."

## FIRST TYRANNOSAUR SKELETON WITH DISMEMBERED DINOSAUR PRESERVED INSIDE ITS STOMACH

# T-Rex ate plant-eating cousins, show fossils with prey intact in belly

WILL DUNHAM  
DECEMBER 9

THE YOUNG Gorgosaurus knew what it liked for dinner. About 75 million years ago in what is now Canada's Alberta province, this fearsome Tyrannosaurus rex cousin set about hunting turkey-sized yearlings of a feathered plant-eating dinosaur called Citipes. The Gorgosaurus dismembered the Citipes and swallowed its meaty legs whole, ignoring the rest of the carcass.

Scientists said they have unearthed fossilized remains of a juvenile Gorgosaurus that was 5 to 7 years old and about 15 feet (4.5

meters) long. Amazingly, it included the animal's stomach contents, revealing its last meals.

Gorgosaurus and the more famous Tyrannosaurus, which lived several million years later, are members of a meat-eating dinosaur group called tyrannosaurs. This fossil has provided insight into the ecology of this group, showing that the feeding strategy and diet of tyrannosaurs changed dramatically during their lifespan. This is the first tyrannosaur skeleton with prey items preserved inside its stomach.

Based on tooth marks left on bones, adults are known to have hunted big plant-eating dinosaurs. "Adult tyrannosaurs



An illustration of a juvenile Gorgosaurus, a dinosaur that lived 75 million years ago in what is now Canada's Alberta province, eating a small dinosaur. **Reuters**

were well-equipped for seizing and killing large prey, like duck-billed dinosaurs and horned dinosaurs. Their skulls and teeth were capable of withstanding the major torsional stresses associated with biting and holding onto large prey," said François Therrien, dinosaur palaeoecology curator at the Royal Tyrrell Museum in Alberta and co-leader of the study published in the journal *Science Advances*.

"In contrast, the weaker bites and teeth of young tyrannosaurs were ideal for slashing bites, not holding onto prey. They would have been well-equipped for hunting smaller dinosaur species and young dinosaurs," Therrien

added. The study indicates that tyrannosaurs occupied different ecological niches during their lifespan: "mesopredators" — mid-size predators — while young, becoming apex predators as adolescents and adults. That means juvenile tyrannosaurs did not compete with their elders for the same prey.

"Young tyrannosaurs had blade-like teeth, lightly built skulls, relatively weak bites, long legs and appeared more 'athletic' than adult tyrannosaurs, which were very robustly built, had massive skulls, thicker teeth — often described as 'killer bananas' because of their shape — and powerful bites that allowed them to crush

bones," Therrien said.

Gorgosaurus, a bit smaller than Tyrannosaurus, ruled its ecosystem. It walked on two legs, had short arms with two-fingered hands, a massive skull three feet (one meter) long, reached 30-33 feet (9-10 meters) in length and weighed 2-3 tons. This juvenile Gorgosaurus weighed about 730 pounds (330 kg), with a skull around 20 inches (50 cm) long.

The fossil was unearthed at Dinosaur Provincial Park in southern Alberta. The region during the Cretaceous Period was a forested coastal plain near the western shore of a vast inland sea that split North America into two halves.

REUTERS



## Navy plans to get undersea chariots, made in India, for special operations

Will add to capabilities of marine commandos, increase op range

**AMRITANAYAK DUTTA**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 9

**EXPLAINED**  
**E** **Shallow water ops**

THE INDIAN Navy is planning to acquire indigenously-made swimmer delivery vehicles — also known as underwater chariots and midget submarines — as part of efforts to modernise and strengthen the capabilities of its Marine Commandos (MARCOS) for special undersea operations.

Defence sources told *The Sunday Express* that these chariots, which will be able to carry a crew of at least six, will be powered by lithium-ion batteries.

The sources said there are plans to procure a few dozen chariots for the Navy after the initial prototype is cleared.

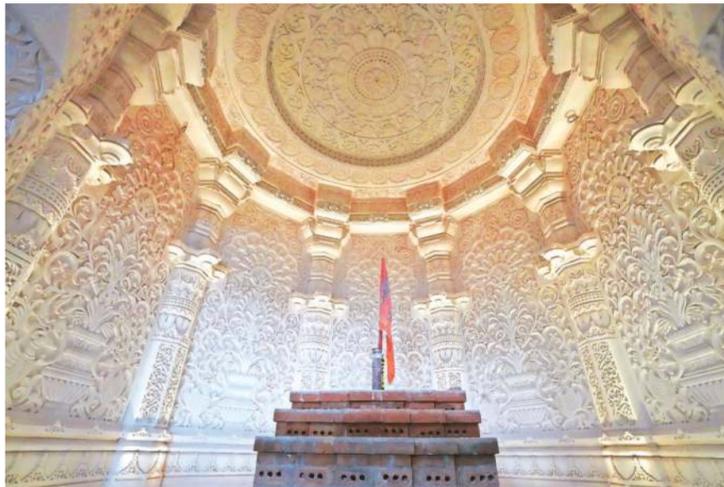
The size of these delivery vehicles will enable divers to carry bigger cylinders in the chariots — letting them stay underwater for longer hours — and thereby enhancing the overall operational

range in shallow waters. THESE CHARIOTS are undersea vessels, and are used by almost all advanced navies. These come in very handy if the Navy has to operate in shallow waters, carry out surveillance or target the adversary's coastal installations, its ships in harbour.

The size of the chariots will also permit carriage of additional weapons for various operations.

Defence sources said the Navy is designing the vehicles in consultation with the industry, based on which the prototype will be made.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



## FIRST GLIMPSE WITHIN

The under-construction sanctum sanctorum of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya. @ChampatRaiVHP/IX

## Convicted twice for terror, Saquib Nachan among 15 arrested by NIA

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 9



**Nachan accused of heading ISIS Maharashtra module**

IN A MAJOR crackdown on banned terror outfit Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) in India, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) Saturday carried out raids at 44 locations in Maharashtra and Karnataka and arrested 15 people, all from Thane district.

Among those arrested is Saquib Nachan, 63, who the NIA claimed is the main accused and head of the ISIS module. He is said to be the one who administered 'bayath' or 'oath of alle-

giance to the Khalifa of ISIS' to the youth joining the terror organisation. His module, it claimed, was planning to carry out destructive and violent activities in the country.

"The investigations have revealed that the accused, all members of ISIS Maharashtra module, were operating from Padgha-Borivali, where they had

hatched the conspiracy to spread terror and carry out acts of violence across India. Pursuing the path of violent jihad, Khilafat, ISIS etc, the accused had aimed to disturb the peace and communal harmony of the country and wage a war against the Government of India," NIA said in a statement on Saturday.

The arrested accused, NIA claimed, had self-declared Padgha village in rural Thane as a 'liberated zone' and as 'Al Sham'. They

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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**PAGE 10**

FROM 3.7% OF GDP IN FY16

## India's current spend on adaptation to climate change: 5.6% of GDP

2019 emissions were 3.13 bn tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent: Less than half of US, less than one-fourth of China



**EXPRESS AT COP28**

**AMITABH SINHA**  
DUBAI, DECEMBER 9

INDIA SPENT about Rs 13.35 lakh crore in 2021-22, just over 5.5% of its GDP, on climate adaptation and expects to incur another about Rs 57 lakh crore over the next seven years for this purpose, New Delhi told the UN



**Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav at COP28 on Saturday. AP**

Framework for Climate Change Convention (UNFCCC).

This is India's latest submission filed Saturday that includes

its first assessment of adaptation requirements.

But this is only in the business-as-usual scenario, that is only if climate vulnerability does not deteriorate during this period. Climate-induced damage could escalate this amount by another Rs 15.5 lakh crore.

Adaptation efforts are meant to reduce the impacts of climate change. Along with mitigation, or reduction of greenhouse gas

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**REJECT FOSSIL FUEL PHASE-OUT, SAYS OPEC SECY-GEN P 10**

## Day after rap from Ethics Committee in Moitra matter, BSP suspends Danish Ali

**LALMANI VERMA**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 9

KUNWAR DANISH ALI, BSP MP from Amroha in Uttar Pradesh, was suspended Saturday by party president Mayawati for "anti-party activities".

The BSP moved against Ali a



**BSP MP Danish Ali and TMC's Mahua Moitra. PTI/File**

day after the Lok Sabha Ethics Committee, while calling for the expulsion of TMC MP Mahua Moitra after finding her "guilty of unethical conduct" during its probe into the cash-for-query allegations against her, said Ali should be admonished "for twisting/moulding the intent of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Akbaruddin as Protem Speaker, all 8 Telangana BJP MLAs boycott oath



**Telangana CM Revanth Reddy with Protem Speaker Akbaruddin Owaisi at Raj Bhavan on Saturday. PTI**

**SREENIVAS JANYALA**  
HYDERABAD, DECEMBER 9

ALL EIGHT BJP members who won in the recent Telangana state elections refused to take oath on Saturday protesting the appointment of AIMIM leader Akbaruddin Owaisi as Protem Speaker to conduct the Assembly proceedings till a Speaker is elected.

Describing the boycott of the oath-taking event by the BJP as an "insult to the Constitution", both the ruling Congress party and the Bharat Rashtra Samithi criticised the BJP for acting "against the spirit of democracy".

Akbaruddin was administered the oath as the Protem

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## SEIZURE COULD TOUCH RS 290 CR, RAIDS ON AT SAHU-LINKED FIRM

### More machines got to count cash; Cong says its MP should explain

**SUJIT BISOYI & ABHISHEK ANGAD**  
BHUBANESWAR, RANCHI, DECEMBER 9

WITH THE Income Tax Department continuing its raids on properties in Odisha linked to Baldeo Sahu and Group of Companies Ltd, a country liquor company run by Congress Rajya Sabha MP Dhiraj Sahu's family members, the State Bank of India (SBI) has deployed additional machines and manpower to expedite the counting of seized bank notes.

The Congress, meanwhile, broke its silence on the issue, distancing itself from the Jharkhand



At MP Dhiraj Sahu's residence in Ranchi on Saturday. PTI

MP: "The Indian National Congress is in no way connected with the businesses of Dheeraj Sahu, MP. Only he can explain, and should

explain, how huge amounts of cash have been reportedly unearthed by the income-tax

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Before anti-conversion law got nod, Karnataka Law Dept raised concern

**DHEERAJ MISHRA**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 9

BEFORE THE Karnataka Protection of Right to Freedom of Religion Bill, 2021 became a reality, the Law department under the then BJP government in the state had raised apprehensions about it — from legal challenges to similar laws in other states to the lack of such a law at the national level —

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documents accessed by *The Indian Express* under the Right to Information Act show.

The law prohibits conversion from one religion to another by

misrepresentation, force, fraud, allurements or marriage.

In its opinion dated December 10, 2021, the Law department said legal aspects should be looked into, and the Home department ought to take a "proper decision" before seeking their approval.

However, six days later, in a meeting of the scrutinising committee of Karnataka's Department

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## WPL sets moneyball rolling for women's game: Crore-plus for 2 uncapped players

**PAGE 1 ANCHOR**

**PRATYUSH RAJ**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 9

WHEN PACE bowling all-rounder Kashvee Gautam, 20, finished her training in Chandigarh and picked her phone, she saw at least 100 missed calls. Sensing she had been picked up in the Women's Premier League (WPL)



(Left) Kashvee Gautam with coach Nagesh Gupta; Vrinda Dinesh with her coach Kiran Upooor. Express



auction, she dialled her father Dinesh who told her that she was bagged by Gujarat Giants for Rs 2 crore — the highest a women cricketer who is yet to represent the country has ever got.

Kashvee's earnings are more than that of the present India captain Harmanpreet Kaur, who was roped in by Mumbai Indians for Rs 1.80 crore in the first season last year. Senior Indian player Smriti Mandhana, with Rs 3.40 crore, is the WPL's highest earner.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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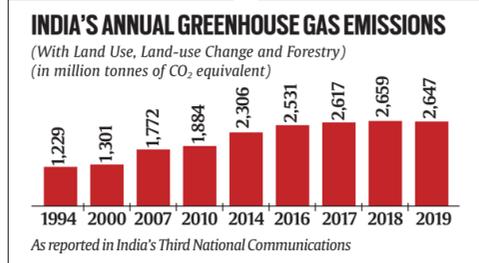
Coriander seeds, Black Pepper, Green and Black Cardamom, Chaat Masala, Pav Bhaji Masala, Fenugreek Seeds, Black Mustard, and Fennel etc. are also available besides above-mentioned spices.

FROM PAGE ONE

FULL REPORTS ON  
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Spending 5.6% of GDP: India to COP28

emissions, adaptation is a central pillar of global climate action. Adaptation activities span a sweeping range and include actions like creating sea-walls to protect against rising sea levels; development of temperature-resilient crops; heat-action plans; early warning systems, creation of disaster-resilient infrastructure are all examples of adaptation activities.



billions tonnes. This is less than half of United States and less than one-fourth of that of China.

The inventory shows that energy sector, comprising, among others, electricity production and road transport, accounted for over 75 per cent of India's total emissions, followed by agriculture which contributed about 13 per cent and industry whose share was about 8 per cent.

The Paris Agreement also asked countries to submit and, periodically, update, an adaptation communication, detailing their priorities on this front, and the actions they were taking along with, in the case of developing countries, the technological and financial support they needed to carry out their efforts.

India's first Adaptation Communication was submitted along with the third NATCOM Saturday.

The Adaptation Communication provides a detailed description of India's vulnerability to climate change, its adaptation requirements, and actions being taken or envisaged.

Some government plans and policies, like the Jal Jeevan Mission, PM Awas Yojana, Swachhta Mission, Ganga cleaning exercise, heat action plans, or cyclone warning

system have important adaptation co-benefits.

In an assessment of the risks it faced on account of climate change, India said total economic value of crop loss (food as well as non-food) due to climate impacts were projected to range between \$28.6 and \$5.8 billion between 2030 and 2050 (2015 prices). Over the next 50 years, these losses could shoot up to \$612 to \$1,014 billion.

State-wise, it said, "Uttar Pradesh would suffer the highest economic loss due to impacts of climate change on state agriculture. This is because the state is the largest contributor to India's food crop and sugarcane production... Uttar Pradesh will account for 20-22 per cent of the economic value of cumulative crop loss between 2030 and 2050, and 25-28 per cent between 2050 and 2100... After Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra will face the most significant economic losses due to climate impacts on agriculture".

India said its expenditure on adaptation-relevant activities, both in absolute amount as well as in proportion to the GDP, had been rising, up from about Rs 5 lakh crore and 3.7 per cent of GDP in 2015-16 to Rs 13.35 lakh

core and 5.6 per cent of GDP in 2021-22. It said it would benefit from international financial support in this regard.

"It is evident that India's financial requirements for adaptation will only increase, given the vulnerabilities, and increased spending on adaptation is essential for India's economy and to protect developmental gains. International climate finance holds the key to the effective implementation of adaptation plans in India," the 668-page submission says.

The international climate change regime mandates developed countries to provide finance to the developing countries for carrying out mitigation, adaptation and several other climate-related activities.

Speaking at COP28 in Dubai Saturday, Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav said the latest submissions underscored the country's "consistent contribution towards climate action while also prioritising the development and well-being of our people".

With negotiations at COP28 poised at crucial stage, Yadav reiterated that a new amount for annual climate finance flows, that has to be decided by next year, would be finalised in keeping with the requirements of the developing countries.

"As we gather here in Dubai for COP28, India looks forward to the Global Stocktake's outcomes and hope that they will provide meaningful and relevant inputs for deciding on enhanced climate action. The resource mobilisation under the New Collective Quantified Goal (new climate finance amount) must be guided by the needs and requirements of the developing countries," Yadav said.

Convicted twice for terror, Saquib Nachan among 15 arrested by NIA

were motivating impressionable Muslim youth to relocate here from their place of residence to strengthen the Padgha base.

The current case was initially probed by the Special Cell of Delhi Police, after the arrest of three alleged ISIS terrorists, Rizwan Alam, Mohammad Rizwan Ashraf and Mohammad Arshad Warsi. Upon the directions of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, the NIA took over the case in November 2023 under various sections of the IPC, Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and Explosive Substances Act.

The others arrested are identified as Hasib Zuber Mulla, Kashif Abdul Sattar Balere, Saif Ateeque Nachan, Rehan Ashfaq Suse, Shagaf Safiq Divkar, Firoz Dastagir Kuwari, Adil Ilyias Khot, Musab Haseeb Mulla, Rafil Abdul Latif Nachan, Yahya Ravish Khot, Razil Abdul Latif Nachan, Farhan Ansar Suse, Mukhlis Maqbool Nachan and Munzir Abubakar Kunnathpedikal.

Key accused Nachan, who the NIA said was the head of the ISIS module, has been under the radar of the security agencies since the 1990s. He was booked in over a dozen terror cases and convicted twice. In 1997, he was

convicted by the Supreme Court for planning terror attacks in India in the early 1990s along with Khalistani terrorists. After being booked in the 2002-03 terror blasts in Mumbai, he was convicted in 2016 again for 10 years by a court in Mumbai under the Arms Act. He served both the sentences and was released in 2017. Earlier, his son Shamil Nachan was arrested by the NIA in the Maharashtra ISIS module related terror case.

Multiple teams of NIA Delhi, Maharashtra and Karnataka comprising dozens of officials simultaneously raided 44 locations in Padgha-Borivali, Kalyan,

Bhiwandi, Thane city, Mira Road and Pune in Maharashtra, and Bengaluru in Karnataka. The agency seized one pistol, two air guns, eight swords/knives, two laptops, six hard disks, three CDs, 38 mobile phones, 10 magazine books, Rs 68,03,800 in cash and 51 Hamas flags.

Investigations have revealed that the arrested accused were operating on the directions of their foreign handlers. They had been actively involved in various terrorist activities, including fabrication of Improvised Explosive Device (IEDs), for furthering the violent and destructive agenda of ISIS.

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Akbaruddin as Protem Speaker, all 8 Telangana BJP MLAs boycott oath

Speaker by Governor Tamilisai Soundararjan at Raj Bhavan on Saturday. It has been a protocol in the state to let a senior legislator in the House be the Protem Speaker. Akbaruddin is the senior-most legislator, having won the Chandrayangutta constituency six times.

A Protem Speaker is appointed to administer the oath of office to the newly-elected MLAs in the first post-poll sitting of the Assembly. He presides over the voting and election of the new Speaker.

Elections to the Speaker's post are scheduled on December 14. The Congress in Telangana has nominated Gaddam Prasad Kumar for the post of Speaker.

BJP MLA T Raja Singh said, "Why would one take oath in front of someone who threatens and abuses Hindus and makes anti-Hindu comments? When the Speaker is elected, we will go to his chamber and take oath. In 2018, I did not take oath because an AIMIM leader was appointed Protem Speaker. Why do the BRS and Congress want to appease the AIMIM? There are so many senior MLAs who could have been appointed," Raja Singh said.

The first to announce he will not take oath with Akbaruddin as Protem Speaker, Singh had told The Indian Express on Friday

"I am not going to take the oath if he is sitting in the Speaker's chair. Akbar is the product of Qasim Razvi, the head of the Nizam's Razakar army, which massacred Telangana people."

Two other BJP MLAs D Suryanarayana from Nizamabad (Urban) and P Rakesh Reddy from Armar refused to comment.

Technically, members who could not take an oath on the first day can do so in the chamber of the Speaker after he is elected.

Bharat Rashtra Samiti (BRS) Spokesperson Dr D Sravan said Raja Singh and other BJP MLAs were setting a bad precedent. "Once you become an elected member and enter the Legislature, you should not be guided by your religious feelings. The BJP MLAs are insulting the Constitution and dishonouring the House. It is absurd and uncalled for. This is nothing but an attempt to whip up communal sentiments. Haven't BJP MPs taken oath when M Hamid Ansari was Chairman of Rajya Sabha?" he said.

Congress leaders also criticised the BJP MLAs for insulting the Constitution and bringing religion into the House. "Speaker or Protem Speaker is a constitutional post. It was not given to the AIMIM party, it was given to a senior MLA. This opposition

shows they are against democracy and the Constitution," said C Kiran Kumar Reddy, Chief Spokesperson, TPC.

BRS chief K Chandrashekar Rao, who is recovering from a hip surgery, and his son, working president K T Rama Rao, did not attend the Assembly session and are yet to be sworn in.

In the Assembly elections held on November 30, T Raja Singh won for a third time from Goshalm; Dr P Harish Babu from Sirpur; P Shanker from Adilabad; A Maheshwar Reddy from Nirmal, Ram Rao Pawar from Mudhole, P Rakesh Reddy from Armar, K Venkata Ramana from Kamareddy; and D Suryanarayana from Nizamabad Urban.

Besides Singh who lives in Hyderabad, the other seven MLAs came to Hyderabad but decided to boycott the oath-taking. They submitted a representation to the Governor today stating their objection. "... It is unfortunate that, in the very beginning of the newly elected Assembly, there is a blatant violation of procedures, protocols and precedents. As per the constitution, Article 188, a senior most member in terms of number of years in the Assembly be nominated as the Protem Speaker. Although there are senior

to Akbaruddin Owaisi, the Government chose to appoint him as the Protem Speaker, which is a clear violation of the set norms," it read.

The BJP tally in the Telangana Assembly jumped from just one in 2018 (Raja Singh was the sole winner five years ago) to eight now, and its vote share also doubled from 6.90 per cent to 14 per cent.

Raja Singh, 45, had spent 76 days in prison in 2022 after police invoked the Preventive Detention Act against him for repeated offences, particularly for allegedly stoking communal tensions in the city. Police cited 104 criminal cases against him, including 18 communal cases.

In November 2022, the High Court revoked his preventive detention. In January, the police issued a fresh show-cause notice to Raja Singh over a speech he made in Mumbai, calling it a violation of the conditions set by the court in its order freeing him.

The BJP fielded him from Goshamahar after reinstating him more than a year after it suspended him in August 2022 over alleged remarks against the Prophet. He was in the party's first list of 52 candidates. The BJP's decision came after he threatened to contest as an independent if the party did not lift his suspension and let him contest the polls.

Undersea chariots

The chariots are highly specialised platforms used by almost all advanced navies in the world. These are self-propelled vehicles which can be launched from ships or submarines, depending on their size and the roles they are to perform. In World War II, manned human torpedoes were referred to as chariots.

They can be used for a range of missions which include shallow-water surveillance, attacking the adversary's coastal installations, and even their ships in harbour.

According to a Forbes article, the Pakistan Navy has a small submarine - a fraction of the size of a regular submarine - which is

in use by the SSG (N), its Special Service Group.

The chariots allow marine commandos to access areas close to the adversary's harbour - which submarines are not able to reach due to shallow waters - and aid transportation of weapons and equipment to areas of operations.

Not much information is publicly available on the swimmer delivery vehicles currently used by the Navy.

Some sources point to the use of Italian-made chariots by the Navy for several years now. Around 2012, the Ministry of Defence had asked Hindustan Shipyard Limited to build two of these submarines.

Anti-conversion law

of Parliamentary Affairs and Legislation, it was decided that the Bill can be placed before the cabinet for clearance, and that the law is not in conflict with existing laws.

The meeting was headed by J C Madhu Swamy, the then Minister of Law, Parliamentary Affairs and Legislation. The Bill received cabinet approval in a meeting held on December 21, 2021 and was passed by the Legislative Assembly on December 23, 2021, but got stuck in Legislative Council because it was adjourned sine die. Swamy did not respond to calls and messages seeking a comment.

Afterwards, the then BJP government introduced an ordinance citing "utmost urgency" to curb "religious conversion", which was approved by the Governor on May 17, 2022. According to records, the draft ordinance was discussed with the department of Parliamentary Affairs and Legislation, which approved it on May 5, 2022, and noted that no further scrutinising committee meeting is required on the issue.

It was passed by the Karnataka Legislative Council on September 15, 2022 and by the Legislative Assembly on September 21, 2022.

After it came to power, the current Congress government in Karnataka decided to repeal the law. The Congress had opposed the law on the grounds that it was "unconstitutional" and "against the right to freedom of religion" enshrined in the Constitution. On June 15, state Law Minister H K Patil said after a Cabinet meeting that a decision had been taken to repeal the Act in the monsoon session of the legislature in July. However, that was not done, and the law continues to be in place.

What did Law Dept under then BJP government say? "The Draft Cabinet note is to be seen in the light of Article 25(1) of the Constitution of India, which reads thus - '... all persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right freely to profess, practice and propagate religion'. The Supreme Court in the case of Ratilal Panachand Gandhi V. State of Bombay has made provision of Article 25 clearer by confirming that every person has a fundamental right under our Constitution, not merely to entertain such religious belief... but to exhibit his belief... and further to propagate his religious views for the edification of others," reads its letter to the Home department dated December 10, 2021.

The Law department noted that some states - Odisha in 1967, Madhya Pradesh in 1968, Arunachal Pradesh in 1978, Chhattisgarh in 2000, Gujarat in 2003, Himachal Pradesh in 2006, Jharkhand in 2017 and

Uttarakhand in 2018 - have enacted anti-conversion laws.

"The Orissa Act was challenged in the case of Yulitha Hyde V. The State of Orissa on two grounds, namely (a) The state legislature has no legislative competence to legislate on matters covered by the Act, and (b) The Act infringes the fundamental right guaranteed under Article 25 of the Constitution. The Supreme Court - observing that Article 25(1) guarantees conversion as part of the Christian religion; the definition of inducement is too vague; and the state has no power to enact the legislation since the Act deals with religion and not public order - declared the said Act unconstitutional," wrote the department.

It further wrote, "As with the Orissa Act 1967, Madhya Pradesh Act was also challenged two years later." In this case, however, the court found the law to be within the competence of the state government.

"In addition to this, Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Ordinance, 2020; Uttarakhand Freedom of Religion Act, 2018; Himachal Pradesh Freedom of Religion Act, 2019; and Madhya Pradesh Freedom of Religion Bill, 2020 are challenged before the Supreme Court and petitioners have prayed to declare the said legislations/Bills as unconstitutional and the same is pending," it stated.

"It is to be noted that at the central level, India does not have a law which provides any sanction in case of forcible conversions. In view of the above, the administrative department is advised to take a proper decision before placing the draft cabinet note for its (Law department's) approval," added the department.

Home department rationale

In the Cabinet note, the Home department said that the state has notified many instances of conversion by means of allurement, coercion, force, fraudulent means as well as "mass conversion".

"In order to ensure public order in the state, it is essential to prevent such incidents from recurring. Such conversions/mass conversions occurring by taking advantage of the innocence, helplessness and financial inevitability of the people of the state must be immediately curbed," said the ministry in its Cabinet note. It also said the Law Commission of Karnataka, after studying various laws on the subject and considering the situation in the state, has made recommendations to the government to enact a suitable law on the subject in its 30th report.

The ministry also cited a 1977 Supreme Court order, and said that the "right to propagate" religion under Article 25 does not include the right to convert another person.

More machines brought to count cash; Cong says its MP should explain

authorities from his properties," Congress communications head Jairam Ramesh said.

The cash seized during the department's raids at the distillery group and linked entities could amount to Rs 290 crore, making it the highest-ever haul by an agency in a single operation, official sources said Saturday. Sahu, who has been elected to Rajya Sabha thrice, did not respond to calls and messages seeking comment.

While 176 bags filled with cash have been brought to SBI's Balangir branch over the past few days, cash inside roughly 100 bags has been counted so far. "We had deployed nine counting machines. Now, an additional 16 have been arranged to expedite the process. Around 40-50 staffers have been engaged," said Bhagat Behera, the SBI regional manager at Balangir.

Experts from Sambalpur have been called in to repair malfunctioning machines. According to sources in the I-T department, which has raided around 30 places linked to Baldeo Sahu and Group of Companies Ltd since December 6, the highest amount of cash recovered - in 156 bags - was from one of its manufacturing units at Sudapada in Balangir.

I-T personnel first raided BDPL on allegations of tax evasion and later searched the premises of Baldeo Sahu and Group of Companies Ltd. Subsequently, simultaneous raids were conducted in Titlagarh, Sambalpur, Sundargarh and Bhubaneswar in Odisha and in a few places in Jharkhand.

Also, a 20-member analysis team from the department reached Balangir town on Saturday from Hyderabad and visited the liquor manufacturing units in Balangir and Titlagarh for further investigation.

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan raised concerns over the seizures: "Some people from Odisha, West Bengal and Jharkhand are reported to be related to this money. Where is the source of this benami wealth? What is the truth of the matter? Are some people of Odisha related to the seized black money? Why are some people who beat the drums of honesty silent on the raids?" Pradhan wrote on X, formerly Twitter. "Silence of leaders of some political parties who talk about ethics raises doubt in the minds of the people. People of the country including in Odisha now rely on 'Modi Ki Guarantee'. Corruption will not be allowed under the Modi government."

The Odisha unit of the BJP questioned the silence of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. On Thursdays, highlighting the raids, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had taken a dig at Congress leaders: "The countrymen should look at the pile of these notes and then listen to the 'honest' speeches of their leaders... Whatever has been looted from the public, every penny will have to be returned, this is Modi's guarantee."

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Son of industrialist and social worker Baldeo Sahu who, he says, was also involved in the Independence struggle, Dhiraj Sahu (64) started his political innings as a member of the Congress student wing National Students Union of India from 1978 to 1983. He climbed the party ladder, first as an office-bearer in the Lohardaga district and later with the Jharkhand Pradesh Congress Committee.

He was first elected to the Rajya Sabha in a 2009 bypoll, and re-elected for his second term in 2010. He became a Rajya Sabha member for the third time in May 2018. He has also been associated with various parliamentary committees and continues to be a member of the Consultative Committee on Power and New and Renewable Energy, and a member of the Committee on Coal, Mines and Steel.

One of the questions he asked in the Rajya Sabha was on the stoppage of the Ranchi-New Delhi Rajdhani Express at Lohardaga, which affected thousands of passengers in nearby districts. Another question this year was on the welfare of labourers, who were allegedly exploited and forced to work in poor condition in the private sector. Last year, he put forward questions on accidental deaths in the production units of Steel

Authority of India Ltd, mainly at its Bokaro Steel Plant. In 2019, he had asked a question on illegal mining of bauxite in Jharkhand.

A source close to him said Sahu's family has been involved in multiple businesses besides liquor, including hotels, real estate, transportation and fisheries. He does not have any liquor businesses in Jharkhand, which sources say is due to his claims of the state's "unethical business practices".

According to his affidavit filed with the Election Commission in 2018, his annual earnings stood at around Rs 1 crore. He had four personal vehicles, including a BMW and a Range Rover. His wife owned 3.1 kilograms of gold valued then at Rs 94.5 lakh, and Sahu himself owned diamond jewellery valued at Rs 26.16 lakh at the time.

The affidavit also stated that Sahu had capital invested in Baldeo Sahu Shiv Prasad Sahu, a family-owned company, to the tune of Rs 2.5 crore and in Baldeo Sahu and Sons to the tune of Rs 2 crore, among others. He had also paid an advance of Rs 2.32 crore for a villa in Delhi.

The gross total value of his moveable assets stood at Rs 20.4 crore and of immovable assets, such as agricultural land and property, stood at Rs 14.43 crore, taking the total value of his assets to Rs 34.47 crore, at the time of filing his affidavit. His total liabilities, including home and car loans, stood at Rs 2.34 crore. He has no criminal cases against him.

WPL sets moneyball rolling for women's game

Hard-hitting opener Vrinda Dinesh, 22, too, was at the nets with the Karnataka Under-23 team that was participating in a BCCI age-group tournament in Raipur when Indian and foreign players were going under the hammer for next season's WPL at Mumbai. It was about an hour after she raked in a Rs 1.3 crore deal with UP Warriorz that she came to know about the biggest payday of her young career.

The financial windfall at this year's mini-auction, which didn't have top players as they were retained by the five franchises, reflects how the money in women's cricket now is no longer a top-heavy affair, but is trickling to even uncapped players as professional scouting has kicked in. As is the case with the men's T20 franchise leagues around the world, fast bowling all-rounders and hard-hitting openers are the most valued in the women's game.

Chandigarh captain Kashvee is still trying to come to terms with her career's sudden spike. "I was training. I came back and there

were at least 100 missed calls and I don't know how many messages. I got the feeling that I had been picked but it was only after I called my father (Sudesh Sharma) I got to know about the money," she says.

Kashvee is excited to share the dressing room with a legendary Australian all-rounder. "Playing with Tahira McGrath is something I am looking forward to. She is the best all-rounder in the present time and I want to pick her brain."

Vrinda's father, Dinesh, says he sensed his daughter was a "bit overwhelmed" by the development. "We meet only in the evening since she leaves home at 4:45 am every day. My father played hockey and my elder brother played cricket. We are cricket tragiics. She was a natural."

bowler but has the potential to be an all-rounder. "He pushed her, and now she is reaping the rewards," says Sudesh.

Opener Vrinda's father Dinesh Subbappa, who has played league cricket with the current BCCI president Roger Binny, credits coach Kiran Upoor.

Kashvee's coach Nagesh pinpoints how a fascination with speed rarely derailed her career. "She saw a video of a young pacer bowling with a speed machine and suddenly tweaked her action, bowling biomechanics in search of more pace. She lost her strength, which was moving the ball both ways," Nagesh says. "The good thing was she realised it after one season and returned to her basics. She got her swing back with the ball and started working on her swing with the bat. She bats at No. 5 and 6 for Chandigarh, and, in the past year, has evolved into a good all-rounder."

Kashvee rose to fame after she took 10 wickets in an inning in an Under-19 One-Day Trophy game against Arunachal Pradesh in

2020 and a nine-wicket haul in the next match against Sikkim.

"Kashvee is still not a finished product, but she will reach there in a couple of years. She is a natural talent. She was picked for Punjab when she was just 13. Kashvee has a big in-swing, which is why most of her wickets are either leg before or clean bowled," says the coach.

Vrinda's coach Kiran says: "The turning point was when she was not picked for the Under-19 state team. Earlier this year again she was not picked for the Emerging Team Cup held in Hong Kong. Hyderabad seamer S Yashasri got injured and she went as a replacement. In the final, she scored 36 and India A won against Bangladesh. She was picked for the A series against England."

Both Kashvee and Vrinda have seen their best friends - Amanjot Kaur and Shreyanka Patil - playing for the national team. With their record-breaking earnings, they will inspire the next generation of young girls to take up cricket as a career option.

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Last Date and Time of e-bid Submission: 30.12.2023 at 15:00 Hrs.  
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# AI-based parking to tax sops for schools: What's on MCD budget next year

**SAMAN HUSAIN**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 9

AI-BASED parking facilities, libraries and tax incentives for educational institutions were at the core of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi's over Rs 16,600 crore budget for the 2024-25 fiscal presented Saturday.

MCD commissioner Gyanesh Bharti presented an estimated budget of Rs 16,683 crore for the 2024-25 financial year — up Rs 659 crore collared to the last — with an estimated income of Rs 15,686.99 crore. The budget last fiscal was Rs 16,024 crore.

The MCD reported that it recorded a revenue of Rs 2,417 crore in the year 2023-24, an increase of about Rs 400 crore over the previous year and marks the highest revenue in its history through property tax.

This is the first time when the budget was presented in the absence of a standing committee. The 18-member committee has not been formed as the matter is in court after AAP called for a fresh poll to elect six members.

The new proposals pre-



At the budget meeting, Saturday. Praveen Khanna

sented by the commissioner included an AI-based system to enhance civic services in Preet Vihar, East Patel Nagar and Kotla Mubarakpur wards and a waste-to-energy plant with a capacity of 3,600 TDP in Narela-Bawana. It also included libraries in 44 MCD schools, a milk booth at Swami Dayanand Hospital, and 60 new testing labs at primary health centres.

The budget also provides a tax incentive to educational institutions — through a provision in the Sahbhagita scheme which entails providing a 5% additional incentive to educational institutions with land

area exceeding 10 acres. This is subject to institutions depositing 100% of property tax.

Opposition leaders questioned the passing of the budget without a standing committee.

"Due to the AAP's failure to form permanent, ward, and other crucial committees, the commissioner had to present the budget, which is entirely unconstitutional," Leader of Opposition in the MCD, Raja Iqbal Singh, said.

Mayor Shelly Oberoi said the "real" budget is awaited as AAP has announced a public opinion exercise on it. "The real budget of the people of Delhi will come in the first week of February."

## MISSING FOR 2 WEEKS

# Decomposing body of woman found at Malviya Nagar flat

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 9

MISSING FOR two weeks, a 30-year-old woman was found dead, her body decomposing, at her rented accommodation in South Delhi's Malviya Nagar Friday. Police are yet to register a case as they are ascertaining how the victim, Sania Rai, died — if it was of natural causes, suicide or murder. Police are trying to find her family and relatives.

According to police, the woman's landlord and neighbours complained of a foul smell emanating from her apartment, which was locked from the inside. They also said they had not seen Rai in 10-15 days.

A police team met the landlord, who told them that Rai worked for an NGO and had moved into the apartment last year. Officers said she lived alone, with her friends dropping by for a visit sometimes.

DCP (South) Chandan Chowdhary said, "We opened the doors of the flat in the presence of the owner and neighbours and found her body... it was decomposing. Her Aadhaar card details show she was earlier living in Sant

**Police are ascertaining how the victim, Sania Rai, died — if it was of natural causes, suicide or murder**

Nagar, East of Kailash. Her permanent address and that of her family is still not known to us. We are trying to find the family."

"No external injuries were noticed since the body was heavily decomposed. The spot was inspected by a crime team and the body sent to the mortuary at AIIMS," the DCP added.

Initial inquiry revealed that the woman was suffering from a chronic disease, but officers refused to divulge further details.

"We are awaiting the autopsy report. Her neighbours informed us she was unwell. We went through her health records and spoke to her doctors, who shared a few details with us. We don't suspect that was killed as there no forced entry into the house. The door was also locked from the inside. We will contact her friends for more details," said an officer.

# At this biennale, discover many facets of India's art, architecture

First-ever India Art, Architecture and Design Biennale at Red Fort

**SHINY VARGHESE**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 9

ITALIAN WRITER and journalist Italo Calvino in his seminal novel Invisible Cities (1972) says, "You take delight not in a city's seven or seventy wonders but in the answer it gives to your question."

Some of these answers find their questions at the first-ever India Art, Architecture and Design Biennale (IAADB) organised at the Red Fort. It's here that one acknowledges "the invisible edges between reality and fiction, memory and design, and past and the present."

Organised by the Ministry of Culture, IAADB is open to the public from December 9 to 15. The event will host panel discussions, workshops, talks by Indian and international architects and designers, and an art bazaar.

There are seven pavilions, curated by seven experts, which celebrates India's multifaceted ode to architecture and design — Pravesh (on doors and gates); Bagh-e-Bahar (on gardens); Sampravaah (on communities and spaces); Sthapatya (on temples and geometry); Vismaya (post-independence architecture); Deshaj (on design traditions) and Samatva (women architects). Said Diana Kellog, of Diana



A field of poppies from scrap metal as part of the Bagh-e-Bahar pavilion. Photo credit: Anjchita Nair

Kellog Architects, in her keynote address, "Art is an effective tool for communication that cuts across cultural backgrounds. The Biennale is an incredible opportunity to effect change in society."

Among her iconic buildings is Rajkumari Ratnavati Girls High School of Jaisalmer. Sharing her experience of working on the site that was inspired by an ancient stepwell, Kellog spoke of how she saw "beauty as an act of survival."

Talking about Bagh-e-Baha, curator Anjchita Nair, co-founder, Culture, says, "The idea of a garden and its elements have been part of our creative expression for centuries through art, textiles, literature, music, and that's what we are highlighting. We are showcasing about 48 gardens... you get to

spot your favourite one..."

As a salute to one of India's pioneering women architects, in her centenary year, who collaborated closely with Le Corbusier in the planning of Chandigarh, Urmila Eulie Chowdhury is being remembered at the Samatva pavilion. Its lead curator Swati Janu, founder, Social Design Collaborative, invites onlookers to explore the 'Studio' where some of India's well-known women architects' workplaces have been recreated, "showing not just their work but also their process."

Designer Anubhav Nath, curator for Deshaj, salutes the country's indigenous crafts with a life-size painting of folk art by nearly 20 tribal artists from Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, MP and Bihar.

# Bribes were taken on Sanjay Singh's behalf: ED opposes bail plea

**NIRBHAY THAKUR**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 9

THE ED on Saturday opposed AAP MP Sanjay Singh's bail plea in the Delhi excise policy case, citing bribes allegedly collected on his behalf, his influential nature, and approver Dinesh Arora's statements alleging his involvement in the case.

The ED submitted that Alpha (a witness whose identity the agency wishes to protect) revealed he had given Rs 1 crore to Singh after collecting Rs 4 crore from a co-accused, Hyderabad-based businessman Abhishek Boinpally. The agency also alleged that Singh's aide Sarvesh Mishra was demanding bribes for his liquor business in Punjab on behalf of the MP. It also relied on the statements of Arora, who is alleged to have given Rs 2 crore to Singh.

While seeking bail, Singh had asked the court whether Arora's statements could be considered free and voluntary, suggesting that the approver gave his statements owing to fear of the ED.

Arora was earlier arrested by the CBI and turned approver in the case, following which the ED arrested him. After Arora turned approver in the ED case, he was granted a pardon. Shortly after Arora turned approver, Singh was arrested.

However, the ED said inducement was a necessary

concomitant for someone to turn an approver. Special Public Prosecutor Zoheb Hossain, citing a judgment, argued even the Supreme Court had recognised that some degree of inducement was complicit while turning someone an approver.

The ED also alleged that photos of some documents which were part of the ongoing investigation were found with Singh. "A person saying he has nothing to do with the scam is keeping an eye on the documents... This shows the influence of the petitioner," said the special public prosecutor. The agency added that the accused had the power to obtain documents of the ongoing investigation.

On Wednesday, Singh submitted in the court of Special Judge MK Nagpal that the chargesheet filed by the ED against him had no evidence of the transfer of money reaching him.

In its response, the ED said Saturday that it was a "herculean task" to find the money trail in such cases and that it was "nearly impossible" to get any direct evidence. It also stated that Arora had earlier hesitated to give statements against the AAP leader because of threats he had received. It was added that a subsequent disclosure of names by Arora cannot be deemed invalid as he had earlier felt threatened by the party's ministers.

# Rohini's forensic lab gets a new building

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 9

EXPRESSING CONFIDENCE that it would help in strengthening the criminal justice system, Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena Saturday inaugurated the state-of-the-art new annexe of the Delhi Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) at Rohini.

The six-floor new structure, built on approximately 1,00,000 sqm, has new facilities in the lab that will help in faster disposal of samples leading to increasing conviction rates and also providing speedy justice to crime victims. L-G Saxena said, adding it will also reduce pendency of cases.

The facilities in the new wing include a crime laboratory; digital photo lab; cyber forensic lab and unidentified DNA examination facility; units of general chemistry laboratory; narcotics and psychotropic substances unit with more enhanced capacity to examine cases.

The fifth floor has a



The new building of the FSL. X/LtGov/Delhi

"Vasudha Kaksh", designed for women staff while the top floor is equipped with training facilities for national and international forensics professionals.

The L-G said the Delhi FSL and Delhi Police work in tandem to ensure that the Capital is free from crimes; faster delivery of reports by FSL helps police achieve desired results from the courts and entrusts confidence among citizens concerning the criminal justice system.

Established in 1995, the facility, he said, will attract international scientists to get training in forensic science. "There has been consultation to rope in professionals from institutes like the FSL in Gandhinagar, Gujarat..." Saxena said.

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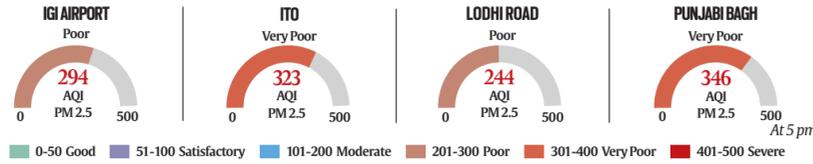
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4 THE CITY



SKYWATCH FORECAST: December 10 Clear sky, Mist in the morning, AQI: Very poor

Noida & Ghaziabad see spike in road accidents this yr: Data

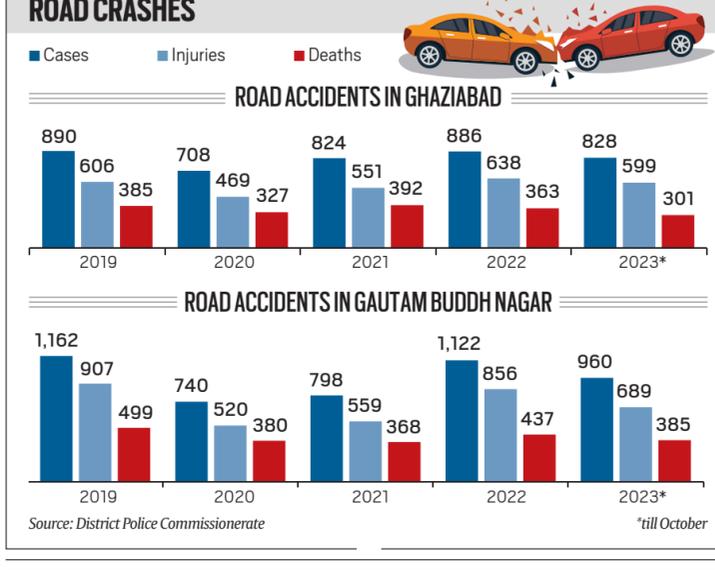
DHEERAJ MISHRA NOIDA, DECEMBER 9 In Gautam Buddh Nagar, till October, 385 people died, an increase of around 9% when compared to last year when 354 died.

SUFFERED FROM DEPRESSION: POLICE Safdarjung hospital doc dies by suicide; friends remember his passion for work

ANKITA UPADHYAY NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 9 ASCUBA diving enthusiast and a chess aficionado, 25-year-old Jay Dipesh Savla was a man of many talents.

DCP (South) Chandan Chowdhary said, "We checked the house and found the man hanging from a ceiling fan with a bed sheet. He was from Kandivali, Mumbai, where his family lives.

Gordhandas Sunderdas Medical College in Mumbai, Jay had a stellar academic record and scored a very good NEET PG rank as well.



19-yr-old held for extorting ex-girlfriend, her father — just to buy protein powder

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 9 A 19-YEAR-OLD student has been arrested for allegedly trying to extort his ex-girlfriend and her father with her private photographs.

The fake ID initially led police to a 22-year-old who worked at a furniture shop. He led police to the main accused. The former allegedly conspired with the 19-year-old to create the fake ID and was arrested as well.

Delhi constable stabbed during raid in Wazirpur New Delhi: A man accused of robbery allegedly stabbed a Delhi Police constable when the latter tried to nab him in Adarsh Nagar, police said Saturday.

झारखण्ड सरकार कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय. ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना. ई-निविदा सं० :- 14/2023-24/RWD/EE/GIRIDIH दिनांक :- 06.12.2023

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केनरा बैंक Canara Bank. [Rule 8 (1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property) [Section 13 (4)]



An IMD forecast said that no significant change in minimum temperature is expected over the next 4-5 days.

Delhi shivers at 8.5°C, lowest so far this winter

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 9 AT 8.5 degrees Celsius, Delhi recorded the lowest minimum temperature for the winter so far on Saturday.

Table with columns: DATE, MIN, MAX. Rows for Dec 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15.

HC: Good Samaritan should not be harassed, law must come to rescue

New Delhi: A person who chooses to help another in distress should not be harassed for showing kindness and if he or she suffers in the process, the law must come to the rescue.



*Launching*

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- Bhagwant Singh Mann  
Chief Minister, Punjab



Chief Guest

**SHRI ARVIND KEJRIWAL**

Chief Minister, Delhi

**December 10, 2023 at 11:00AM**

Venue : Hi Tech Cycle Valley, Dhananasu,  
Ludhiana



# 6 GOVT & POLITICS

## MoS Lekhi questions wrong attribution on LS website, MEA says technical error

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 9

UNION MINISTER Meenakshi Lekhi on Saturday said she did not approve any answer to a question in the Lok Sabha on declaring Hamas a "terrorist organisation".

Calling it a "breach", the minister said she has raised the matter with Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra seeking a probe. Later, the Ministry of External Affairs clarified that the question needed a technical correction in terms of reflecting V Muraleedharan as the Minister of State replying to the Parliament question, and it was being done. Both Lekhi and Muraleedharan are ministers of state in the MEA.

The unstarred question No 980, titled "Declaration of Hamas as Terrorist Organisation", was put by Congress MP Kumbakudi Sudhakaran. "Designation of an organisation as terrorist is covered under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act and declaring any organisation as terrorist is considered as per the provisions of the Act by the relevant government departments," the response uploaded on the Lok Sabha website on Friday said, attributing it to Lekhi, the Minister of State for External Affairs.

However, Lekhi denied the response, saying, "I have not signed any paper with this question and this answer." She tagged PM Narendra Modi and Foreign Minister S Jaishankar in her post. In another post, again tagging the PM and the EAM, she said, "Inquiry will reveal the culprit."

The controversy prompted the Opposition to call for a probe, comparing the matter to the Mahua Moitra episode wherein the TMC MP was expelled on Friday. Shiv Sena (UBT) Rajya Sabha member Priyanka Chaturvedi posted on X, "Is she

EXPLAINED

**E** Correction course

MINISTER Lekhi has asked for her name to be removed from the reply to the unstarred question on the LS website. This process will be time-consuming since an official response, once uploaded on Parliament website, cannot be taken off or changed without the MEA moving an amendment seeking the same.

(Lekhi) then claiming it is a forged response, if yes this is a serious breach and violation of the rules that prevail. Would be grateful for a clarification from MEA."

"Asking questions that were submitted through someone else led to expulsion of an MP yesterday, today a minister denies that reply to a PQ (Parliament Question) was approved by her, shouldn't that be investigated too?" Chaturvedi said. Congress leader Amitabh Dubey said, "Who logged in for you?"

On Saturday, Lekhi maintained that she had not signed any paper pertaining to the question on Hamas. "How can something go up on the Lok Sabha website without the concerned minister's signature," she said. "If it has been uploaded on the Lok Sabha website, it must have come through MEA; I am hopeful the responsibility will be fixed soon."

Replying to media queries, External Affairs Ministry's official spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said: "We have noted that Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 980... needs a technical correction in terms of reflecting V Muraleedharan as the MoS."

## JDS expels Ibrahim, Nanu for opposing party pact with BJP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
BENGALURU, DECEMBER 9

THE JANATA Dal (Secular) national executive held a meeting in Bengaluru Saturday and expelled former Karnataka unit chief C M Ibrahim and national vice-president C K Nanu from Kerala for indulging in "anti-party" activities and opposing the party's alliance with the BJP for the Lok Sabha polls next year.

Former PM and JD(S) patriarch HD Deve Gowda announced the decision which comes ahead of a December 11 meeting of a parallel national executive called by Ibrahim, who claimed to be the head of the "original JD(S)".

Deve Gowda said, "Former party president CM Ibrahim was part of discussions regarding alliance with the BJP for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls along with me and the chairman of the party core committee, G T Deve Gowda." However, Ibrahim, he



C M Ibrahim, C K Nanu

said "gave statements to the press that were damaging to the party and we have decided to expel him from the party."

When on October 16, Ibrahim, who was appointed state unit chief in April 2022, slammed the party leadership to align with the BJP for the Lok Sabha elections, Deve Gowda dissolved the state unit and appointed his son Kumaraswamy as its ad hoc president.

Ibrahim had on December 8 announced that he would be organising a national-level meet of JD(S) leaders who are against the JD(S)-BJP alliance on December 11.

## PM: People trust Modi's guarantee, recent Assembly elections proved it

Says his govt not 'mai-baap sarkar', but one that serves mothers, fathers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 9

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Saturday said "Guarantee Wali Gadi" deployed as part of the nationwide "Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra" to take central welfare schemes to people's doorstep exemplified that the way to winning people's hearts was through outreach on the ground.

Reiterating that the country's poor, women, youth and farmers were the "real VIPs", he said the yatra had become a great medium to reach people who had so far been unable to benefit from them and also to establish a "direct relationship" and an "emotional bond" with them.

"We have established a direct relationship, an emotional bond between the government and the people... Our government is not a mai-baap sarkar but a sarkar that serves mothers and fathers... Modi's VIPs are those who are poor... every mother, sister and daughter of the country is a VIP to me. Every farmer... every youth is a VIP to me," the PM said.



PM Narendra Modi addresses beneficiaries of Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra via videoconferencing in New Delhi. Amit Mehra

The PM via video conferencing interacted with beneficiaries of the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, which seeks to include more beneficiaries under various central government welfare schemes in a time-bound manner.

"The results of the recent elections have proved that there is power in Modi's guarantee... The question is, why doesn't the country trust those who oppose us? Actually, some parties are not being able to understand that they will not be able to achieve anything by making false announcements. Elections are not to be won on social media, but by going among people," the PM said.

Priyanka Devi, a VBSY beneficiary from Darbhanga in Bihar, told the PM that her husband

worked as a daily wager in Mumbai and she has availed the benefits of various central schemes such as "One Nation One Ration Card" and "Jan Dhan Yojana".

The PM urged her to spread awareness about government schemes in her village and expressed satisfaction that the "Modi ki Guarantee" vehicle was reaching every village.

Naziya, a beneficiary from Jammu, said: "I sell milk for a living. Earlier, due to water shortage in my village, we used to carry water from wells in earthen pots. But the government has installed pipelines now and the situation is much better."

People from Bihar, Gujarat and Karnataka had also joined the video conference.



## SRI LANKA GENERAL AT IMA

Chief of Defence Staff of Sri Lanka General Shavendra Silva presents the sword of honour to a cadet at the Indian Military Academy in Dehradun on Saturday. Gen. Silva attended the passing out parade as the reviewing officer. ANI

## PARTY LINES UP TOURS AFTER INDIA BLOC HUDDLE

## JDU steps up push for Nitish as Opp face

SANTOSH SINGH  
PATNA, DECEMBER 9

EVEN AS Bihar Chief Minister and JD (U) supremo Nitish Kumar is all set to take part in the Eastern Zonal Council meet to be held in Patna on Sunday, the party seems to have carefully planned to project Nitish as a key national face of the Opposition irrespective of what transpires in the INDIA bloc meeting, which is likely to be held on December 17.

This is also going to be part of



Bihar CM Nitish Kumar

his tested and tried twin-track politics as he will meet Union Home Minister Amit Shah and all top Opposition leaders within a period of 10 days.

Nitish may be often playing down his prime ministerial ambition, senior JD (U) leaders keep

projecting him as the future PM. This is also being taken as part of political bargaining ahead of INDIA bloc meet to give Nitish a key position.

JD (U) chief spokesman KC Tyagi said: "Let us clarify that we are not putting any condition before INDIA bloc to give any position to Nitish. But what we have planned is a series of interactions outside Bihar. Our UP unit has invited him to travel to Phulpur, Mirzapur and Varanasi. We are scheduling his travel in January."

He said the CM had also received invitation from Jharkhand. "Besides, some caste federations and social groups from Haryana and Maharashtra have invited him. Bihar caste survey report has found national resonance and Nitish Kumar has already been in demand for his socialist and development politics," Tyagi said.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, who leads a three-member team of central observers for Rajasthan, also comprising Rajya Sabha MP Saroj Pandey and party general secretary Vinod Tawde, is unlikely to go to Jaipur even on Sunday, sources said.

The schedule of Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, who leads the team of central observers for MP, also comprising BJP OBC Morcha president K Laxman and party national secretary Asha Lakda, is not clear either. While one

for sustainable finance." He termed GIFT IFSC an efficient channel for the required green capital flow in order to make India a low-carbon economy.

Kotak Mahindra Bank director Uday Kotak also recommended pushing for GIFT City to be the global centre for world's money to be pooled in for climate financing.

Meanwhile, even as industry leaders said that a unified regulator — IFSC — governing GIFT City has been a significant step-up, they highlighted the lack of a separate unified legal and tax structure for the IFSC. Arun Kohli, MD and country head for India, Morgan Stanley, said: "Both legal and tax points are absolutely critical. English law is used in Japan, in Hong Kong, in France, in Germany... so today we need to offer something that is equally competitive, if not better."

Vijay Shekhar Sharma, founder and CEO of Paytm, and Sanjeev Sanyal, member of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council, also spoke at the event.

## 'Want to make GIFT City a global hub for climate finance'

SOHINI GHOSH  
AHMEDABAD, DECEMBER 9

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Saturday indicated that the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) is looking at GIFT City in Gandhinagar to become a global hub for climate financing, apart from its focus on sectors such as fintech.

Modi was delivering the inaugural speech virtually at the Infinity Forum 2.0, organised at GIFT International Financial Services Centre (IFSC), in the run up to the 10th edition of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit, scheduled next month. Infinity Forum is IFSCA's flagship financial technology event, with the last edition held in 2021.

Regarding the country's zero emission target, he said, "According to some estimates, for India to achieve its net zero target by 2070, it will need at least USD 10 trillion. A certain amount of this investment are also required to be financed through global sources. Therefore, we also want to make IFSCA a global hub

## Have sought time with PM to discuss central dues, says Mamata



EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, DECEMBER 9

WEST BENGAL Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday said she had written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking an appointment between December 18 and 20 in New Delhi to discuss the central dues for the state.

"I will meet him with some of my MPs. They are not paying our dues, especially for the 100-day work scheme. If the Prime Minister doesn't give us time, I will see what I can do," the Trinamool Congress chief said in Siliguri during her seven-day tour of north Bengal.

Banerjee also said she would go to New Delhi on December 17, stay there till December 20 and also attend a meeting of the Opposition INDIA bloc.

"They have even stopped giving our share of the funds to the health department. Although they don't pay us, we haven't stopped any of the schemes. The Centre is taking GST, but is not sending our share to us," she said.

## BJP's central team set to reach Raipur today, no clarity yet on Rajasthan and MP

Team led by Union Minister Munda to meet newly elected Chhattisgarh MLAs

VIKAS PATHAK  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 9

UNION MINISTERS Arjun Munda and Sarbananda Sonowal, and BJP general secretary Dushyant Kumar Gautam, the party's central observers for Chhattisgarh to finalise selection of the state's next Chief Minister, will meet newly elected MLAs after reaching Raipur on Sunday, it is learnt.

However, uncertainty prevailed over the schedule of the central observers for Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, with speculation growing over who will lead the governments in the three states where the BJP won resounding victories.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, who leads a three-member team of central observers for Rajasthan, also comprising Rajya Sabha MP Saroj Pandey and party general secretary Vinod Tawde, is unlikely to go to Jaipur even on Sunday, sources said.

The schedule of Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, who leads the team of central observers for MP, also comprising BJP OBC Morcha president K Laxman and party national secretary Asha Lakda, is not clear either. While one

source close to Khattar said he will be travelling to Bhopal on Monday, another said nothing will be clear until the Haryana CM's schedule comes out.

The delay in the announcement of the new CMs, a week after the results were declared, has set off speculation that the BJP's national leadership could be looking for major changes factoring in the imperative to maintain the clean sweep in the Lok Sabha elections barely five months away.

The party went into the elections without announcing a CM candidate and fought the electoral battle citing Prime Minister Modi's leadership. Among the three states, the BJP had a government only in Madhya Pradesh, led by Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

Meanwhile, sources close to former Rajasthan CM and senior BJP leader Vasundhara Raje dismissed concerns among a section of party leaders over a report that her son Dushyant Singh had taken five MLAs to a resort in a "show of strength".

"Who takes five MLAs somewhere as a show of strength? It is illogical," one source said. Raje's recent visit to Delhi to meet party president J P Nadda had also caused some buzz among party leaders.

## A decade and 4 deadlines later, India set to eliminate kala azar this yr

ANONNA DUTT  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 9

AFTER MISSING the deadline thrice, India is poised to achieve the elimination target for visceral leishmaniasis or kala azar this year with no block in the country reporting more than one case per 10,000 people.

In October, Bangladesh became the first country in the world to be officially validated by the World Health Organisation (WHO) for eliminating kala azar as a public health problem. India now needs to sustain its momentum over the next three years in order to receive the WHO certification.

"With the elimination target just a year away, the team started working rigorously after the

pandemic. And, we started to see the results. We haven't seen more than one case per 10,000 population in any of the blocks since January this year," said Rajiv Manjhi, the Joint Secretary overseeing kala azar and other vector-borne infection programmes.

Kala azar is a parasitic infection transmitted by sandflies. It causes fever, weight loss, and spleen and liver enlargement. Left untreated, it can be fatal in 95% of cases.

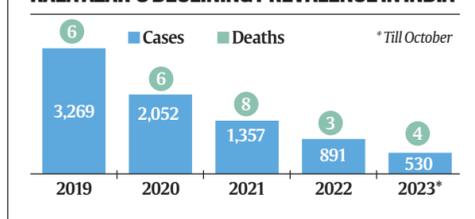
India recorded 530 cases and four deaths due to the infection till October this year, compared to 891 cases and three deaths in 2022. There were 1,357 cases and eight deaths recorded in 2021. There were also 286 reported cases of post-kala azar dermal leishmaniasis (PKDL) till

October 2023. Completely curing the skin condition is essential as it can act as a reservoir for the parasite.

In December last year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in a 'Mann ki Baat' radio broadcast that India was on the brink of eliminating kala azar after diseases such as smallpox, polio and guinea worm. From more than 50 districts across four states, the disease was found to be higher than elimination levels in just four districts in Bihar and Jharkhand. "I am sure the strength and awareness of the people of Bihar and Jharkhand will help the government's efforts to eliminate kala azar from these four districts as well," he had said.

India's first target year for kala azar elimination was 2010.

## KALA AZAR'S DECLINING PREVALENCE IN INDIA



This was later pushed to 2015, 2017 and 2020. There were three key interventions that helped India achieve the elimination targets this year, Manjhi said.

The first was ensuring effective indoor residual spraying. The sandflies that transmit the infection usually breed in the

crevices of mud walls. Effective spraying can prevent breeding and reduce the spread of the disease. "Initially, when central teams checked houses, where indoor residual spraying had already been done, we still kept finding sandflies. This meant there was some deficiency in the

mixing of chemicals or spraying. With Central teams as well as senior district officials monitoring the process, effective spraying was ensured," he said.

The second was reducing crevices in 'kuchcha' walls to reduce breeding areas. "We started using Gerrard soil that is found in Jharkhand and neighbouring areas to plaster the walls and crevices. The soil does not come off easily and ensures that breeding doesn't happen," he said.

Under the third intervention, the ASHA (About Accredited Social Health Activist) network was tasked with ensuring that people with PKDL complete their treatment. While one intravenous dose of the antimicrobial drug amphotericin B is effective in curing kala azar, medicines have to be taken for at least 14

days or more for PKDL.

Dr Kavita Singh, South Asia Director at the not-for-profit research organisation Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDI), explained that compliance is poor because one of the drugs used for the treatment is teratogenic — meaning it results in abnormal development of the foetus during pregnancy. The drug cannot be given to children and pregnant women. In fact, women shouldn't conceive while on the treatment and for three months after, she said.

One of the key challenges now would be to ensure strong surveillance to pick up even the few cases that come up. In addition, said Manjhi, there would be a need to monitor new areas.

"While most of the kala azar cases in the country were re-

ported from four states — Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal — sporadic cases from other states are also reported. We have to monitor states such as Uttarakhand that have a potential to become hotspots," he said.

Dr Singh said there was also a need to ensure availability of drugs such as paromomycin, used to treat those with HIV and kala azar. Kala azar has a tendency to relapse in HIV patients, she said, adding that second-line treatment, such as paromomycin along with amphotericin, is important.

Dr Singh said: "Although it is mentioned in the programme, the medicine is not really available in India. It can be procured from the WHO. But the effort needs to be made."

# Bhujbal targets Patil again: He has become law unto himself

If 'dadagiri' continues, we will hit back with 'dadagiri', says the OBC leader

**MANOJ MORE**  
PUNE, DECEMBER 7



Maharashtra minister Chhagan Bhujbal

STATE MINISTER and OBC leader Chhagan Bhujbal once again targeted Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange-Patil Saturday saying he has become a law unto himself. Bhujbal also raised doubts about the law and order situation in the state, saying he was against the "Jhundshahi" (mobocracy) that is prevailing in Maharashtra.

"If I say anything intellectuals in Maharashtra are accusing me of trying to create rift between two communities...I hold rallies once in a fortnight. Jarange has been holding rallies for last 15 days. The rallies are held at midnight, 1 am or even at 2 am while we have to shut down at 10 pm. We don't know whether he has taken permission or not... Police do not take any action. Whatever he says, no eyebrows are raised. But when I speak, they say I am disturbing peace in the state. There is one law for him and another one for us. He has become a law unto himself," Bhujbal said, addressing an OBC rally at Indapur in Pune district on Saturday afternoon.

doctor from Phaltan met me, he told me his hospital was targeted and patients were made to flee...I want to ask whether law and order exists or not in this state? Whose responsibility it is to look after the law and order?"

Recalling the police lathi-charge at Antarwali-Saraati in September said, Bhujbal said, "Jarange was holding a fast in the village. When the police came to take him to the hospital, stones were thrown at them. Several police personnel were injured. Women cops were also targeted. They were taken to hospital. The police then retaliated in defence. Yesterday in the state legislative assembly, Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis gave written a reply. He said the crowd turned violent in which 79 police personnel were injured. The police then used reasonable force in defence in which 50 agitators were injured. This fact should have come to light at that time itself. But only one side came forward. As a result, he (Jarange) got all the sympathy."

"The question is who is spreading unrest in Maharashtra? Did I say that we will come equipped with swords and other weapons? But he (Jarange) is saying it... He said that in Yeovatlal. He said we have swords and 'kurhads'...He is saying that after December 24, he will settle my account, he will target me...What is this going on?" the Bhujbal asked.

Stating that they were not opposing Maratha reservation, Bhujbal said, "We are opposing the 'Jhundshahi' and the 'dadagiri' which is going on... If this 'dadagiri' continues, we will hit back with 'dadagiri'...Then don't blame us for spreading unrest...I want to tell the government and the police that if they don't control this people (Marathas), then there will be unrest in Maharashtra."

Bhujbal said in Beed, houses and hotels of MLAs were targeted with petrol bombs. "Muslims communities rescued the family members of the MLAs...Attack our own people, attack their women and children. Did Chhatrapati Shivaji teach them to target people like this?," he sought to know.

The minister added that the police personnel were targeted in Nanded and Beed too.

# Argument in favour of UCC, need to create awareness about its benefits: Retd HC judge

**GOPAL KATESHIYA**  
RAJKOT, DECEMBER 9

THE LAW is meant for a large majority and not for individuals and the arguments are in favour of Uniform Civil Code (UCC), retired Gujarat High Court judge A C Joshi said Saturday.

Delivering the keynote address at a symposium organised as part of the 3rd Abhay Bhardwaj Memorial Lecture Series at Dharmendrasinhji Arts College in Rajkot, Justice Joshi said there is a need to create awareness about benefits of such a law.

"...It is certain that arguments are in favour of UCC. Arguments only, because we are not here to give the decision, we are not here to have the final verdict. But arguments are in favour of UCC, right?" Justice Joshi asked the gathering.

He gave a hypothetical example of two daughters of a man married to individuals from different religions. After divorce, while one of them gets alimony for a limited period, the other gets the same for the remainder of her life, as both were married

under different marriage laws. "The father would feel why there should be discrimination. There shouldn't be discrimination. Then UCC comes in picture," Justice Joshi said.

Maintaining that he is in favour of UCC, he added: "The question comes to our mind that (there is) Hindu Marriage Act, Hindu Succession Act, Hindu Minority and Guardian (ship), Hindu Adoptions... there are so many laws. But still diversity is there. Approximately, there are 395 castes and most of them, 80 to 90 per cent, are saying that there should be UCC. Few castes say that there are personal laws and they should be there in future also."

"At the cost of repetition, I would say that law is not meant for a single person. It is not meant for an individual, a couple of them or for five of them. The law is meant for the majority, people at large," he said.

The symposium was being held in the memory of Abhay Bhardwaj, a leading lawyer in Gujarat who had served as a member of the National Law Commission and was also elected to the Rajya Sabha.

# British officials in Delhi to discuss FTA, says report

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
LONDON, DECEMBER 9

SENIOR OFFICIALS from British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's team are in New Delhi this week to add momentum behind the ongoing round of negotiations for an India-UK free trade agreement (FTA), according to a UK

media report on Saturday. The Guardian newspaper reports that while there is no official comment from either side on such a visit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government is keen to finalise the free trade agreement by the end of February before Sunak sets off on an expected general election campaign trail.

## MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF DELHI ASSESSMENT & COLLECTION DEPARTMENT (H.O.)

14<sup>th</sup> Floor, Block E-1, Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, Civic Centre, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, Minto Road, New Delhi-110002

### PUBLIC NOTICE

**Subject: Geo-tagging of all the Residential and Non-Residential Properties of MCD Jurisdiction.**

For a more transparent & responsive property tax regime in Delhi and for a better provisioning of service delivery, MCD launched a mobile app for Geo-tagging of all the residential and non-residential properties under the jurisdictions of MCD. Vide public notice no. TAX/HQ/MCD/2023-24/D-2182 Dated 10.08.2023, Public at large were requested to complete the process of Geo-tagging of their property as soon as possible and contribute for the development of Delhi.

2. For the Geo-tagging of properties, the mobile app [Unified Mobile App (UMA)] can be downloaded on both Android & iOS Phones from Play Store or by visiting the website at <http://mcdonline.nic.in/mcdapp.html>. Steps for Geo-tagging of residential/non-residential properties by Citizen are given below:-

- Open Unified Mobile App (UMA) and select citizen option.
- Login, Select UPIIC for Geo-tagging using registered mobile no., select your Property UPIIC and go to 'Action' button & click 'Geo-tagging' for the map location to Pop-up (Property Owners who do not have UPIIC number of their properties have to first generate UPIIC and then follow the mentioned steps to Geo-tag the same).
- Capture Geo Coordinates: Click on capture 'Geo Coordinates' button.
- Add Property Photographs: Click on 'Add Photos For Property' & add caption against photographs.
- Submit Geo Tags & Photo: Click on 'Yes' button to submit the details.

3. In many cases of non-residential properties, departmental officers are doing Geo-tagging, however, the onus is on the taxpayers to ensure that their properties are Geo-tagged. In case a property has already been Geo-tagged by departmental officers, there is no need to further Geo-tag it.

4. It is mandatory now to Geo-tag your properties (all kind of properties) by 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2024. If any tax payers fail to Geo-tag their properties by the stipulated date, they shall not be able to avail 10% rebate on lump sum advance payment of tax in next financial year (i.e. 2024-25) by 30<sup>th</sup> June.

5. Therefore, it is requested to all the property owners to immediately Geo-tag their properties following steps suggested in Para 2 supra to avoid any inconvenience.

6. It is also made salient that all those property owners who are not registered with MCD property tax portal, must get their properties registered, generate UPIIC and Geo-tag their properties. Public Notice No. AA&C/HQ/MCD/2023-24/D-3333 dated 14.11.2023 is referred to bring attention to the fact that in case of failure to register their properties by 31<sup>st</sup> January, department shall proceed to recover tax and also lodge prosecution against such defaulters.

7. It is re-iterated once again that the last date to Geo-tag all properties (all kind of properties including residential and non-residential in all areas under the jurisdictions of MCD, Delhi i.e. authorised, unauthorised regularised, or even unauthorised) is 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2024.

Sd/-  
(Kunal Kashyap, IRS)  
Assessor & Collector, MCD

# Listening to others allows us to break our echo chambers: CJI

**RAVINA WARKAD**  
PUNE, DECEMBER 9



CJI D.Y. Chandrachud (centre) at Symbiosis International University in Pune on Saturday. Pavan Khengre

CHIEF JUSTICE of India Justice D.Y. Chandrachud Saturday said that the problem with our society is "we are listening only to ourselves" and added that listening to others will help "break our own echo chambers".

The CJI was addressing the graduating batch at the Symbiosis International University in Pune as the chief guest of the 20th convocation ceremony.

"The power of listening to others is important in every sphere of life. It is enormously liberating to yield that space to others. The problem with our society is that we are not listening to others. We are listening only to ourselves. By having the audacity to listen, you concede that you may not have all the right answers, but are willing to explore and find them. It also allows us to break our own echo chambers and reach newer un-

derstandings of the world around us," he said.

During his speech, Justice Chandrachud reflected on a case that came before the Supreme Court earlier this year.

"First, it looked like a death penalty case. But after the lawyer presented his side of the story, acquittal of the accused came as the right decision," he said.

The event felicitated eight faculties, 25 UG degree programmes, 37 PG degree programmes, 22 diploma programmes, 86 PhD awardees, with 8,579 students eligible for award of degree or diploma.

Yassin Adam Abdalla Mohamed got Prof (Dr) SB Mujumdar Award for Outstanding Foreign Student.

**यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Union Bank of India**

**MACHARHATTA BRANCH, G.P. Market, Ashok Rajpath, Phulauri Ganj Chowk, Post - Patna City**

**APPENDIX-IV RULE - 8(1) POSSESSION NOTICE**

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Union Bank of India, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement Security Interest (second) Act, 2002 (Act No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice on below mentioned date calling upon the Borrowers & Guarantors to repay the below mentioned amount together with future interest within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and also the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him/her under section 13(14) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rules on the following date.

The Borrower in particular, and public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Union Bank of India for an amount mentioned below and further interest thereon.

The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section 8 of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured Assets.

Name & Address of Borrower / Guarantor	Demand Notice No. / Date & dues Date of Possession	Description of Immovable Properties
M/s Sri Banni Plastics and Goods, Prop. Sri Prashant Kumar Shukla, Mrs. Sheela Shukla W/o Late Kamaldev Shukla and Sri Santosh Kumar Shukla S/o Late Kamaldev Shukla, All R/o Mohalla Bahari Begumpur, Sidhe Bazar Chhauraha, P.S. - Bypass, Patnacity - 800009	23.06.2023 Rs. 6,06,970.15 as on 26.09.2022 + Interest & Charges thereon 07.12.2023	Land and structure thereon in the name of Smt. Sheela Shukla, Mr. Prashant Kumar Shukla and Mr. Santosh Kumar Shukla situated at Ward No. - 29/33 (O) 52/62 (N) Holding No. - 136 / 128A, M.S. Plot No. - 1440 (P), Sheet No. - 233, Circle No. - 198, Mauza - Bahari Begampur, P.S. - Bypass, SRO - Patna City, Dist. - Patna Having area admeasuring 1 Khata 7 Dhur 4.5 Dhurki and Boundary : North - Road, South - Jalla, East - Purnima Devi, West - Veer Mani Puri
M/s Maa Tara Trading Co., Prop. Sri Krishna Murari Prasad Sinha and Smt. Indrasani Devi W/o Sri Krishna Murari Prasad Sinha R/o Humad Gali, Begumpur, Patna City - 800009	31.05.2023 Rs. 13,42,357.48 as on 31.05.2023 + Interest & Charges thereon 07.12.2023	Land and Building in the name of Smt. Indrasani Devi Situated at Mohalla - Dhawalpura Nehru Tola, P.S. - Chowk Ward No. - 29 (O) and 36 (N), Circle No. - 189 Sheet No. - 257, Holding No. - 52, Municipal Plot No. - 405 Having area Admeasuring 1.20 Katha and Boundary - North - Corporation Gali, South - 5ft Common Rasta, East - Chandrika Prasad, West - Nizamuddin

Place : Patna Date : 07.12.2023 Authorised Officer (Union Bank of India)

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**10 December 2023**  
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**Pulse Polio Immunization facts**

- India has been declared Polio Free. However, Polio Vaccination will continue till global eradication of polio is achieved until danger of Polio virus importation from neighboring countries persists.
- Routine immunization is the key to sustaining polio free status of the country.
- Routine immunization to infants & young children is essential. It protects children from many serious diseases and is available free of cost at all govt. health facilities through out the year.

Directorate of Family Welfare, Delhi Government  
Phone: 011-23813213

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## Classifieds

## PERSONAL

It is for general information that I, Divya, D/o Dayanand, R/o 328, Sultan Pur Dabas, North West Delhi, Delhi-110039, declare that name of my mother has been wrongly-written as Bimala Devi in my 10th and 12th-Class Educational Documents and Passport no V8490448. The actual-name of my mother is Bimla Devi. 0040702764-10

It is for general information that I, Shyam Sunder S/o Navita R/o 130 Balmik mohalla Bharthal Delhi-110077, declare that name of my mother name has been wrongly written as Namita Devi in my passport with no. L9955859. The actual name of my mother is Navita, which may be amended accordingly. 0070877842-1

I, hitherto known as Wafatan Begam, W/o Mohammad Aslam, R/o, H.No-75, N-Block, Street, No-2, Sunder Nagri, North East Delhi-110093, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Mossina Begum. 0040702795-7

I, hitherto known as KM Bimla Choudhan alias KM Vimla Chauhan alias Vimla Tomar, D/O Sh Jag Singh Chouhan, W/O Late Vinod Tomar employed as Sub Inspector (Min) in Border Security Force, R/O near Shiv Mandir Gali No.05, Gayatri-Vihar Colony, Pinto Park-II, Morar, Gwalior (M.P.)-476006, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Vimla Tomar. 0040702764-9

I, Varun Arora S/o Ratish Arora R/o VP-23B, Pitampura, Delhi-110034, have changed my name to Varun Singh Arora. 0040702799-4

I, hitherto known as Ganjender Singh alias Gajendra Singh S/o Sh. Baljeet Singh R/o N-68/271 Aruna Nagar, Majnu Ka Tila, Civil Lines, Delhi-110054, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Gajendra Singh. 0040702726-1

I, Vijay Goyal, S/o Makhan Lal, R/o F-188/5, Mangal-Bazar, Laxmi-Nagar, East-Delhi-110092, have changed my name to Vijay Kumar Goyal. 0040702791-8

I, VARSHA RASTOGI, W/O-LALIT MOHAN RASTOGI, residing at, 158 S.F. STREET R/O-03 LALITA PARK LAXMI-NAGAR, DELHI-110092, have changed my name to VARSHA RANI, for all, future purpose. 0040702764-2

I, TEeka RAM S/O RAM PAYARE R/O A11/38, SECTOR-18, ROHINI NORTH WEST DELHI-110085, CHANGED MY NAME TO TIKA RAM. 0040702766-8

I, Surennder Khatri, S/o Raghuraj Singh, R/o H.No.33, Shahpur Garhi, Narela, Delhi-110040, have changed my name to Surennder Singh Khatri, for all future purposes. 0040702791-1

I, Sunita Rawat D/O Late Mohan Singh Rawat, R/O H.No.40, Upper ground floor, Block-F, Pitampura, Delhi-110034, have changed my name to Sunita to Sunita Rawat and changed my address from DU-6, Ground-Floor, Pitampura, Delhi to H.No.40, Upper Ground-Floor, Block-F1U, Pitampura, Delhi-110034. 0040702795-8

I, Shrinath Mahendra Joshi S/o Mahendra Joshi R/o K-179, Upper Ground Floor, Vijay Vihar Phase-2, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Srinath Joshi. 0040702766-2

I, Sartaj Mian, S/o Khalil Ahmed Ansari, B-188, JI Colony, (25yards) Raghuraj-Nagar, Delhi, have changed my name to Sartaj Miyan Ansari. 0040702764-1

I, SURENDER, S/O RAM SARUP, R/O F-402 AWHO RANJIT-VIHAR-II, PLOT-16, SEC-23 DWARKA, DELHI-110077, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SURENDER SINGH. 0040702764-5

I, SONIA SHARMA, W/O DEEPAK SHARMA, H.NO-X-5/13, X-BLOCK, STREET, NO-8A, BRAHMPURI, NEW SEELAMPUR NORTH EAST DELHI-110053, changed my name to SONIA, for all, future purposes. 0040702791-10

I, SHUBHI JAIN D/o Atul Jain, R/o 2029/158, Ganesh Pura-A, Tri-Nagar, Delhi-110035 have changed my name to SAKSHI JAIN for all future purposes. 0040702795-10

I, SHALU D/O YASH PAL SHARMA, residing at, FLAT, NO-17-D POCKET-F MAYUR-VIHAR-II DELHI-110091, have change my name to SHALU SHARMA, for all, future purpose. 0040702764-4

I, SHAKEEL AHMED S/O SABBIR KHAN R/O T-157, MANGOLPURI, DELHI-110083, have changed my name to SHAKEEL AHMAD. 0040702791-6

I, RANKAJ GULATI, S/O KRISHAN LAL GULATI, R/O V-56, GROUND FLOOR NARAINA VILLAGE, NEW DELHI-110028, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO PANKAJ GULATI. 0040702766-9

I, Kanta Devi w/o Shamsheer Singh R/o H.No.194, Third Floor, New Loyal Pur Colony, Krishna Nagar, Delhi-110051 My Name Wrongly Mentioned in my Daughter 10th Class School Certificate As Javinder Kaur. "Kanta Devi" and Javinder Kaur is the one and same person. 0040702767-1

I, Jharna Mahey D/o Narinder Paul R/o CSA/212A, G/F, Janakpuri, Delhi-110058 have changed my name to Jharna Paul. 0040702758-1

I, Kavita Devi, D/o Jeet Ram, R/o-109 V.P.O. Jharsa-122001, Gurgaon (Haryana), have Changed My Name to Kavita Mehawat. 0040702791-7

I, RANJITA BABBAR W/O. RAMAN KUMAR SINGH, R/O V-807, Amarपाल Silicon-City, Sector-76, NOIDA-201304 have changed my name to RANJEETA SINGH. 0040702764-8

I, Priyanka Agarwal, W/o Deepak Aggarwal R/O F-24/155, Sector-3, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Priyanka Aggarwal. 0040702766-3

I, KHURSHED AKHTAR, W/O AKHTAR ALI, R/O M-70, ABUL FAZAL ENCLAVE, PART-1, JAMIA NAGAR, OKHLA, NEW DELHI-110025, INFORM THAT KHURSHED AKHTAR, BOTH NAMES ARE SAME PERSON, MY CORRECT NAME IS KHURSHED AKHTAR, FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES. 0040702567-6

I, PRIYANSHI, D/O AJAY PAL SINGH, R/O 60/296 R.K. PURAM, GREEN PARK, SASN GATE, KOIL, ALIGARH-202001, have changed my name to PRIYANSHI SINGH. 0040702764-6

I, Pathik Rustagi, S/o Pankaj Rustagi, R/O Z-043, Tatvam-Villas, Sohna-Road, Sector-48, Gurgaon (Haryana)-122018, have Changed My Name to Pathik Rustagi. 0040702766-5

I, Nimish Anand Yedurkar S/o Anand Vasant Yedurkar R/o J-1001 Prateek Laurel Sector-120 Noida (U.P) have changed my name to Nimish Anandrao Yedurkar for all future purposes. 0040702691-1

I, Najnin, W/o Mohammad Alauddin, R/O G-13, Second Floor, Nizamuddin West, New Delhi-110013, have changed my name from Najnin, to Nilofar Sekh, for all purposes. 0040702791-5

I, Mohinder Singh Malhotra alias Mohinder Singh S/o Gorkh Ram, R/o, Plot-No.124, Flat-No.301, Vipin-Garden, Uttam-Nagar, New Delhi-110059, have changed my name to Mohinder Singh. 0040702799-2

I, MOHAMMAD AZEEM S/O MOHAMMAD AZIZ, R/O Y-43A, Masjid Ke Pass DDA Flats New, Ranjeet, Nagar central Delhi-110008, declare that name of mine, my wife and my minor, son has been wrongly written as MD AZEEM, SABAMA PARVEEN and MOHAMMAD TASIM in my minor son namely MOHAMMAD TASHIM, aged 15 years in his, school, records, The actual, name, of mine, my wife, and my minor, son are MOHAMMAD AZEEM, SHABANA PARVEEN and MOHAMMAD TASHIM. 0040702766-6

I, Krishan Kaushik/Krishan Kumar, S/o Sh Balbir Kaushik/Sh. Balbir Singh, R/o H.No.-834, Sector-2, Ballabgarh, Faridabad, Haryana inform that Krishan Kumar, s/o Sh. Balbir Singh and Krishan Kaushik, s/o Sh. Balbir Kaushik are same person. 0040702791-9

I, K.M. Anupam Sharma W/o Gulshan Bhatia R/o, H.No.1007, Ground-Floor, Sector-1, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201012, have changed my name to Anupam Bhatia. 0040702799-3

I, Kapil Kumar Singhal/Kapil Singal, S/o Surendra Kumar Singhal, R/O-A-215, Derawal Nagar Delhi, have changed my name to Kapil Singhal, for all purposes. 0040702791-4

I, Kamal Kanswal, S/o Kali Ram, R/O-149, Pocket-23, sector-24, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Kamal Krishan Kanswal. 0040702791-3

I, KULWINDER KAUR, W/O PARVINDER SINGH, R/O, F-43-B F/F, GURUGER, BAHADUR APPT.D D F ALTA, DURG HARKISHAN PUBLIC SCHOOL, TILAK NAGAR DELHI-110018, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO KULVINDER KAUR. 0040702766-10

I, Hemlata Garg W/o Parveen Kumar R/o, Flat No.27,28, Pocket-E-21, Sector-3, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Hemlata, For all Purposes. 0040702764-7

I, Harvinder Kumar Bamotra, S/o Kundal Inder Bamotra, R/o 378, Gali no-5, Govindpuri, New Delhi-110019, have changed my name Harvinder Kumar, for all purposes. 0040702799-1

I, Devrat S/o Om Prakash R/o Flat No.104, Vikas Sheel Apartment Rohini Sector-13, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Devrat Kumar. 0040702766-7

I, AKHTAR ALI, S/O-MOHAMMAD YUSUF, R/O-M-70, ABUL FAZAL ENCLAVE, PART-1, JAMIA NAGAR, OKHLA, NEW DELHI-110025, inform that AKHTAR ALI and AKHTAR ALI, both names are same person. My correct NAME IS AKHTAR ALI for all, future purposes. 0040702764-3

I, Jagdish Kaur W/o Rajinder Singh R/o D-401, Apex Green Valley Apartment, Vaishali, Sector-9, Ghaziabad, UP-201010, have changed my name Jagdish Kaur Renotra for all future purposes. 0040702789-1

I, Deepak Aggarwal S/o Sita Ram Aggarwal, R/O F-24/155, Sector-3, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my Minor-Daughter's name, from Palak Agarwal to Palak Aggarwal. 0040702766-4

I, LASHISH KUMAR, S/O MAHENDER residing at H NO-8, WARD, NO-9/VPO-JULANA, JIND, HARYANA-126101, have change my name to ASHISH, for all, future purpose. 0040702764-3

I, Jagdish Kaur W/o Rajinder Singh R/o D-401, Apex Green Valley Apartment, Vaishali, Sector-9, Ghaziabad, UP-201010, have changed my name Jagdish Kaur Renotra for all future purposes. 0040702789-1

I, Rajinder Gupta S/o Pohkar Mal Gupta R/o F-227, Prashant Vihar, Sector-14, Rohini, Delhi-85 have changed my name from Rajinder Goel to Rajinder Gupta for all future purposes. 0040702775-1

I, Kusum Beta W/o Sanjay Batra R/o 116, Sector-6, Chiranjiv Vihar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201002, have changed my name to Kusum Sanjay Batra. 0070877928-1

I, Chongpi Chongloi W/o Lalminlun R/o Thangal Bazar Ekou, Kangpokpi, Saikul Senapati, Manipur-795118, have changed my name Lhingneichong. 0040702795-2

I, B.K. Prabha D/O Dina Nath Gulati, R/O-H.No.40, Upper Ground Floor, Block-F1U, Pitampura, Delhi-110034, have changed my name from Prabha to B.K. Prabha and have changed my address from DU-6, Near Income Tax Colony, Pitampura, Delhi-110034 to H.No.40, Upper Ground Floor, Block-F1U, Pitampura, Delhi-110034. 0040702795-9

I, Ashok Kr Jain S/o Radhey Shyam Jain R/o AJ-31B, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi-110088, have changed my name to Ashok Jain. 0040702766-1

I, Annu Bhaskar, D/o-Ex Sub Dharam Pal, Resident of 198, 1st Floor, Pocket-16, Sector-24, Rohini, Delhi-110085 have changed my name to Annu Bhaskar, Vide affidavit dated, 8th Dec-2023. 0040702791-2

I, Ilyas Khan, S/o-fajruddin Address-h no-36, near sos school pala(101) Mewat haryana-122107, changed my name to mohd Ilyas Khan. 0040702795-3

I, hitherto known as RAJ BALA ALIAS RAJO DEVI W/O ARJUN SINGH R/O H NO. 13, AUCHANDI ROAD, VILL. BAWANA DELHI-110039 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RAJO DEVI. 0070877901-1

I, hitherto known as LAVNEESH S/O Harpal SINGH R/O NW-188, F/F, VISHNU GARDEN, WEST DELHI, DELHI-110018 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as LAVNEESH SINGH. 0070877926-1

I, Sunil Kumar, S/o Kundan Lal Nagpal, R/o F-001 Ace City sector 1 Noida Ext, U.P-201306 have changed my name to Sunil Kumar Nagpal for all future purposes. 0070877848-1

I, Shubham Kumar S/o Arvind R/o C-10/109, C-block, Yamuna Vihar, Seelampur, Delhi-110053 have changed my name to SHUBHAM VERMA for all future purposes. 0070877897-1

I, Rajinder Singh S/o Surender Singh R/o D-401, Apex Green Valley Apartment, Vaishali, Sector-9, Ghaziabad, UP-201010, have declare that my minor sonname Sanraj Singh and Sanraj Singh Renotra is one and the same person hereafter my son name is Sanraj Singh Renotra. 0040702794-1

I, Rajinder Singh S/o Surender Singh R/o D-401, Apex Green Valley Apartment, Vaishali, Sector-9, Ghaziabad, UP-201010, have changed my name Rajinder Singh Renotra to Rajinder Singh for all future purposes. 0040702776-1

I, Bhavana W/o Hari Om R/o Village Sorkha Jahidabad Sector-115, Noida Distt Gautam Budh Nagar U.P-201304 have changed my name to Bhavna for all future purposes. 0070877932-1

I, VIKASH JAIN S/o RAM KUMAR JAIN R/o B-243, GALI NO.3, MAJLIS PARK, ADARSH NAGAR, DELHI-33 have changed my name to VIKAS JAIN for all purposes. 0070877951-1

I, Santosh Kumari W/o Ranvir Singh R/o H No-69 Maidan Garhi Village, New Delhi-110068, have changed my name Santosh. 0040702795-1

I, Ramendra Jagdishchandra Bajpai S/o Jagdish Chandra Bajpai R/o B4, 102, Spring Wood Residency, Old Padra Road, Near Aims Oxygen, Baroda, Vadodara, Racecourse, Padra, Vadodara, Gujarat-390007, have changed my name to Ramendra Kumar Bajpai. 0070877952-1

I, Mamta Ramendra Bajpai W/o Ramendra Kumar Bajpai R/o Flat No-102, B-4, Springwood Residency, Near Aims Oxygen, Vadodara, Gujarat-390020, have changed my name to Mamta Bajpai. 0070877953-1

## LOST &amp; FOUND

I, NIDHI ARORA, W/O VICKY ARORA R/O E-129 FIRST NAGAR, DELHI-110015, have Lost my Original SALE DEEP of Prop.No.1346, FIRST-FLOOR, PVT NO.2, GALI NO-20, KHASRA NO-1303/81, WARD NO.XVI, BLOCK-KD, NAIWALA, KAROL-BAGH, DELHI. Finder Please-Contact #9899205787. 0040702799-5

I, SHANTI DEVI, W/O BABU LAL SHARMA R/O E-129 FIRST FLOOR, EAST GURU ANGAD-NAGAR, LAXMI-NAGAR DELHI-110092, HAVE LOST MY-PROPERTY DOCUMENT REGISTERED G.P.A.- POSSESSION LETTER, RECEIPT-AFFIDAVIT, WILL DEED, DATE 22/04/1999, FINDER-PLEASE CONTACT-9873085999. 0040702795-11

## SERVICES

Free Consultation Immediate Solution on phone BUSINESS, Lovemarrriage, Loveproblem, Grukkalesh, Vashikaran, Shatruproblem, Karanibadha, Laxmibandhan AKABAR KHA-9667680453. 0070877719-2

## ASTROLOGY

Free Consultation Immediate Solution on phone BUSINESS, Lovemarrriage, Loveproblem, Grukkalesh, Vashikaran, Shatruproblem, Karanibadha, Laxmibandhan AKABAR KHA-9667680453. 0070877719-2

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## RECRUITMENT

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## MULTIPLE VACANCIES

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Be it known to all that my client DALBIR SINGH S/o Deep Chand & SMT. RAJBAI SINGH D/o Babir Singh R/o 342/1, Gali No. 1, Anand Park, Than Singh Nagar, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005, have deposed their Son ARUN PAWAR their daughter-in-law, grandson or granddaughter AARNA PAWAR from all their movable and immovable estate. My client and their estate shall not be responsible in any manner for any act done by their son, daughter-in-law, grandson or granddaughter any person dealing with them shall deal at his/her own risk & cost thereof and further shall be dealt with as per the law. Amit Bhatia, Advocate. 26-B/1, D.S. Gupta Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005. Mob: 9868086159

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
"PUBLIC NOTICE QUA PROPERTY BEARING NO. 1084, GANDHI GALLI, FATEHPUR, DELHI-110008 AND SHOP BEARING NO. 849 NAMEDLY MS ROOP NARAIN JAGDISH NARAIN, KATRA MAHESH DASS, NAI SARAK, CHANDNI CHOWK, DELHI-110006. The General Public is hereby put to notice that property bearing no. 1084, Gandhi Gali, Fatehpur, Delhi-110008 and shop bearing no. 849 namely MS Rood Narain Jagdish Narain, Katra Mahesh Dass, NAI Sarak, Chandni Chowk, Delhi-110006 which belongs to the nine Legal Heirs of Late Sh. Jagdish Narain Chopra and no Legal Heirs cannot sell or alienate the above-said Properties without taking No Objection from remaining Legal Heirs. If any person is dealing/indeed to deal with the same, without obtaining NOC from all the 9 Legal Heirs they shall be doing so at their sole risk and consequences. Sd/- OBEROI S&R LEGAL CONSULTANTS, Mob: 9810383816"

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
It is hereby informed that my client CHANDERBHAN S/O KHET RAM R/O C-199 PRASHANT VIHAR DELHI is the Owner of said Address and he has Misplaced/Lost the Original Allotment Letter, Handling Over Possession Letter, Possession Slip, and MAP, in respect of above said address & has Lodged a FINRNC VIDE LR No.1216192203 Date: 09/12/2023 with Police Station Crimebranch Delhi if any body Finds Said Document Please inform them at the above Address, P/N No. 9811809889 or any other Channel has any Right in the aforesaid Property he/she Should File an FIR & Give Intimation to the valid documents contact my client 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. Kamal Singh (Advocate) EMail: No. 07482014

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
To be known to all that, I Vimla Rani W/o Lt. Sh. Jagdish Raj R/o C-129, Tents Peera Garhi Relief Camp Delhi on Oct-2015 My Flat No-229, Pkt-1, Sec-23, W/ Daria Delhi Documents Lte DDA Demand Letter, Acknowledgement Slip of Rs. 10000/- & DDA Bank Challans has been lost at Peera Garhi Camp An online FIR to this effect has been 08/12/2023 vide LR No. 1214177/2023.

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## 14 infants die in 3 days, govt sends team to Murshidabad

Kolkata: The West Bengal health department has sent a team to probe the death of 14 infants in three days at the Murshidabad Medical College in Berhampore city, officials said on Saturday. The deaths were reported between Wednesday and Friday. The hospital has said that some of the deaths occurred as

most of the children were referred to the medical college in serious condition and at the "last minute". Officials said the team from Kolkata would be submitting a report based on its findings. "We will be able to identify the cause of the deaths only after getting the report," said a health department official. ENS



Security personnel conduct a search operation in Bemina area of Srinagar on Saturday. PTI

## 3RD ATTACK ON COPS IN OVER A MONTH

## Policeman injured in Srinagar militant attack

BASHARAT MASOOD SRINAGAR, NOVEMBER 9

## UTTARAKHAND GLOBAL INVESTORS' SUMMIT ENDS

## India rapidly developed in last 10 yrs, world's eyes on us today, says Shah

Says state govt has signed MoUs for investment worth Rs 3.5 lakh crore, almost double of target

AVANEESH MISHRA  
DEHRADUN, DECEMBER 9

CALLING IT the beginning of "infinite possibilities" for a "new Uttarakhand", Union Home Minister Amit Shah said Friday that the state had signed MoUs worth over Rs 3.5 lakh crore, almost double the Rs 2 lakh-crore target, as part of its Global Investors' Summit.

Addressing the valedictory session of the two-day Summit at the Forest Research Institute here, Shah said India had rapidly progressed over the past decade and was poised to become a \$5 trillion economy by 2025 end. More than 13 crore people in the country had risen above the poverty line, the per capita income had doubled, and unicorn startups had multiplied, he said.

He credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi with it.

"The way India organised the G-20 was appreciated all over the world. The Delhi Declaration of the G20 will hoist India's flag in the field of diplomacy... By 2047, the Prime Minister has set a target to make the country de-



Union Minister Amit Shah and Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami in Dehradun, Saturday. PTI

veloped and the best in every field. Today the whole world is looking towards India," he said.

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said that of the total MoUs — across sectors including Tourism, AYUSH, pharma sector, food processing and real estate — work had already begun on implementing proposals worth Rs 44,000 crores.

Ahead of the Summit on December 8 and 9, the state government held five domestic and four international road shows to garner investment, including in London, Dubai and Abu Dhabi. According to a statement issued by the state information department, of the total MoUs signed, investment agreements worth Rs 12,500 crore were signed in

the UK, and worth Rs 15,475 crore in UAE.

The Summit was also attended by National Stock Exchange CEO Ashishkumar Chauhan, Mother Dairy MD Manish Bandlish, Rasna MD Piruz Khambatta, and Jubilant Generics Ltd MD Dr Jaidev Rajpal.

Shah also praised the PM, as well as CM Dhami, for the recent

mammoth rescue operation lasting 17 days to free 41 workers trapped in the Silkyara tunnel. Uttarakhand was developing fast under their leadership, he said.

"The objective of making Uttarakhand a separate state (it was carved out of Uttar Pradesh in 2000) was that it should develop rapidly. The state has made remarkable progress under CM Dhami's leadership. Many important initiatives... The Chardham Yatra system, infrastructure and the plan for border areas are commendable," he said, adding that Uttarakhand was now a policy driven state "with about thirty investor friendly policies".

Speaking on the occasion, Uttarakhand Chief Secretary Dr S S Sandhu said investors' enthusiasm towards Uttarakhand was continuously increasing as the state had formed 30 new policies in the last six months. A land bank of 6,000 acres of government land was also prepared, besides providing electricity to industries at affordable rates. Connectivity with NCR is also being made easier, he said.

## After defeat, the review: Fielding sitting MLAs cost Congress dear in Rajasthan

Gehlot insists party waged a good campaign; Rahul disagrees

MANOJ CG  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 9

A MEETING OF the Congress high command — party president Mallikarjun Kharge and senior leader Rahul Gandhi — on Saturday to review the party's poor performance in the Rajasthan Assembly elections saw several leaders blame the decision to repeat most of the sitting MLAs as the primary reason for the defeat in the state.

While nobody directly criticised outgoing CM Ashok Gehlot at the meeting, party leaders have been saying it was he who insisted on fielding MLAs again.

Sources said internal party surveys had shown as many as 50 MLAs faced huge anti-incumbency, but the party did not deny them tickets fearing a rebellion. Of the 25 ministers in the Gehlot government who contested again, 18 lost. Five of the six ad-



Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge with senior party leader Sonia Gandhi on her birthday in New Delhi on Saturday. PTI

visers to Gehlot too bit the dust.

Several leaders said those sitting MLAs, who were seen as facing voter dissatisfaction in surveys, should have been replaced, and wondered why it didn't happen. Some leaders argued the campaign was focused on one person.

Gehlot, meanwhile, insisted that the party had waged a good campaign, unlike in the past. Rahul, sources said, disagreed, pointing out that campaign does not just mean putting up hoardings and posters and holding rallies. He also drew a parallel be-

tween the party's campaign in Rajasthan and Telangana.

AICC in-charge for Rajasthan Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa said the shortcomings which led to the defeat would be identified and addressed.

"Our vote share was a little less than the BJP and it also improved a little bit from the last time... Many of our candidates lost by a narrow margin and we told senior leaders we would start preparing for the Parliamentary elections from today itself. We assured the leadership we would fight the BJP unitedly in the Lok Sabha polls. The Congress unitedly fought Rajasthan elections," Randhawa said after the meeting.

On whether he offered to resign as Rajasthan in-charge, he said, "I told the leadership I was there only till elections as I have to concentrate on Punjab also." "How we were left behind (in Rajasthan), we will look into it," he said.

The Congress high command had a similar introspection Friday with MP and Chhattisgarh leaders, who listed out complacency, lack of coordination and unity, resources, failure to counter the BJP campaign and the inability to take the Congress promises to people as reasons for the defeat.

## Not son or nephew, KCR is leader of BRS Legislature Party

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD, DECEMBER 9

RECOVERING FROM a hip surgery, Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) president K Chandrashekar Rao was elected BRS Legislature Party leader Saturday. With 39 MLAs, he will be the leader of the Opposition in the Telangana Assembly.

The decision scotched speculation that after losing to Congress in the Assembly elections, his son K T Rama Rao or nephew T Harish Rao would be elevated to that position.

KT Rama Rao, who is also BRS working president, skipped the legislative party meet at party headquarters, Telangana Bhavan, as he is attending to his father. However, it is unlikely Chandrashekar Rao will attend the Assembly sessions as the Opposition leader has been advised rest for several months. He has to nominate someone to lead the BRS Opposition and his choice might also become a contentious issue.

The meet was held under the chairmanship of BRS Parliamentary Party leader K Keshav Rao. Former Speaker Pocharam



BRS chief K Chandrashekar Rao at Yashoda Hospital in Hyderabad on Saturday. PTI

Srinivas Reddy proposed Chandrashekar Rao's name, which was supported by former ministers T Srinivas Yadav and Kadiam Srihari, and subsequently an unanimous resolution was passed entrusting the responsibility of selecting the rest of the members of the BRS Legislature Party with Rao.

Rama Rao posted on X: "Unfortunately I couldn't attend BRS Legislature meeting today (Saturday) and swearing-in at the Assembly because of my father's medical condition. Have sought another date from the Assembly secretary..."



## WATER WORK

Labourers build a pontoon bridge for 'Magh Mela' on Ganga in Prayagraj on Saturday. PTI

## Modi main guarantor of steady Russia-India ties: Putin

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MOSCOW, DECEMBER 9

PRAISING HIM for defending India's national interests without being "intimidated", Russian President Vladimir Putin has credited the policy pursued by Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the "main guarantor" of the progressively developing ties between the

two countries.

Putin made the comments at the "Russia Calling! Investment Forum", held on December 7 and 8 in Moscow.

The Russian President said he "cannot imagine that Modi could be frightened, intimidated or forced to take any actions, steps, decisions that would be at variance with the national interests of India and the Indian people". Russia and

India are developing in all areas, he added.

Putin, who on Friday announced his intention to run for the presidency again in 2024, said he can feel pressure on Modi from unfriendly countries. Though, he said, he and Modi never discussed this subject, the Russian News Agency TASS reported.

"I just look at what is happening from the outside, and

sometimes, frankly speaking, I am even surprised at his tough stance on defending the national interests of the Indian state," the Russian president said.

India has been criticised by the Western countries for charting its own course in the face of Western sanctions against Russia for its invasion of Ukraine and continuing its import of discounted Russian crude oil.

## CM Revanth keeps his word, differently abled woman gets 1st govt job

SREENIVAS JANYALA  
HYDERABAD, DECEMBER 9

THUMARI RAJINI (30), a disabled woman, became the first person Saturday to be given a job by the new Telangana government. While campaigning for the Assembly polls, state Congress chief A Revanth Reddy had promised that if voted to power, he would provide government jobs to disabled people.

After taking oath as the state's first Congress CM Thursday, Reddy signed on a file to give the first government job to Rajini. As per a government order by the agriculture department, Rajini has been appointed as a project manager in Telangana State Seed and Organic Certification Agency on a monthly remuneration of Rs 50,000. As government recruitments are pending, she will work on a contract basis with the fixed salary till it is revised or she is absorbed as a regular government employee.

Born with several disabilities, including short height (dwarfism), Rajini has struggled throughout her life even to do the most basic tasks daily, her father T Venkataswamy said. "She has completed



Thumari Rajini with Revanth Reddy. Express

her MCom from Osmania University," he said. Congress leader Hari Prasad told *The Indian Express* Rajini first met Reddy on October 17 at Gandhi Bhavan, the party's state headquarters, in Hyderabad.

"When I came to know he was going to lead the Congress campaign, I told my father I wanted to meet him. I wanted to plead my case to get a government job. Although I suffer from several disabilities, I can do desk jobs and I wanted to seek help from him... He not only kept his promise but also called me to the stage where he took oath," Rajini said.

JATIN ANAND  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 9

IN HER book 'Pranab, My Father — A Daughter Remembers' which mentions the late Congress leader Pranab Mukherjee's strained relationship with the party leadership, Sharmistha Mukherjee also writes about the "strong personal chemistry" he had with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. And says their respect for each other began long before he became the Prime Minister, and developed as they interacted with each other by virtue of the posts they held. According to Sharmistha, her father himself wondered about the "strange soft corner"

Modi had for him despite being "a bitter critic of Congress" and the UPA government.

Saying that Pranab and Modi "famously" got along, Sharmistha, who claims to be "retired" from active politics, writes her father saw in the PM the likeness of his political mentor, former PM Indira Gandhi, despite their "two very different political" ideologies.

Sharmistha's book is scheduled to be launched next week. Sharmistha writes that following the defeat of UPA-II government, Pranab was also worried about what might follow. Even as he swore in Modi as PM, she says, Pranab wrote: "We shall have to see how this new man [Modi] emerges. Stability of the govt. is assured, but what



Sharmistha saw 'a strong personal chemistry between the two leaders'. File

about social cohesion? I am really worried."

As per the diary, Pranab later went on to note many of Modi's qualities. "We had discussions on various issues. He told me that he

valued my advice and I told him that he will get my full cooperation... It is quite clear that... he has clarity in his thoughts and has a professional approach to statecraft... feels the pulse of the people very strongly... He wants to learn and does not pretend that he is 'Mr Know all'... As a hardcore RSS man, he is fiercely patriotic and nationalist," the book quotes Pranab as writing.

In an older diary entry on August 18, 2012, Pranab writes about meeting Modi for the first time when he was Gujarat CM.

"Narendra Modi [CM Gujarat] came to see me. He is a bitter critic of Congress and the govt. but seems to have a strange soft corner for me. In the meetings of CMs/NDC (National Dev-

elopment Council), I sharply reacted to his comments, and he also retorted back sharply. But whenever he meets me personally, he always touches my feet and tells me that it gives him pleasure to do so. I don't know the reason for it," Pranab wrote in the diary, as per the book.

According to Sharmistha, her father and the PM also kept bumping into each other during morning walks in Delhi's VIP enclave going further back.

"... PM Modi personally told me about his practice of touching Pranab's feet. He shared he had known Pranab for a long time... Modi would frequently visit Delhi for organizational duties and would stay in the North/South Avenue area. He would occasion-

ally meet Pranab during his morning walks..." she writes.

Sharmistha says after Pranab stepped down as President too, Modi visited him a few times, and she observed "a strong personal chemistry between the two leaders". "The relaxed body language and the sound of laughter conveyed the same. After each visit, I would ask my father about the nature of their discussions. Each time, his response was the same — 'a political adda (informal discussions)'. This was confirmed by his diaries," she writes.

However, Sharmistha writes, Pranab was dismayed at the "De-Nehrification" of history after the NDA came to power.

FULL REPORT ON  
www.indianexpress.com

## Divorced, remarried, says Hadiya whose conversion had led to furore in Kerala

SHAJU PHILIP  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,  
DECEMBER 9

HADIYA, WHOSE conversion to Islam and marriage to a man from the faith had created a furore in Kerala in 2017, has got separated from Shefin Jahan and remarried.

A homeopathy doctor, Hadiya said in a video Saturday that she has separated from her husband and remarried a person of her choice.

"The Constitution has given the right for every person to enter into marriage and get out of the relationship. I don't understand why society is getting irritated in my case. I am a grown-up and capable of making decisions. When I could not continue the marriage (with Jahan), I got out of it. Now, I have married another person of my choice. I am happy and living as a Muslim. My parents are also aware about the remarriage" she said.

She came out with the video a day after her father K M Ashokan, a native of Vaikom, moved a habeas corpus petition in the Kerala High Court alleging he could not trace his daughter. The High Court will consider the plea next week.

In the video, Hadiya said she doesn't know why her father moved the HC. She refused to share details of her new life partner saying such things need not be made public.

When contacted, her family



In her video, she did not give details about her new life partner

refused to comment on the issue. Hadiya, who was born and brought up as K M Akhila in a Hindu family in Kottayam, was first drawn towards Islam while studying medicine in Tamil Nadu. Later, she embraced the faith and married Jahan, who then worked in the Middle East.

Trouble started when her father moved a habeas corpus plea in Kerala HC challenging their marriage. The court nullified the marriage and allowed parents her custody, triggering a sensational debate in the state. For months, she lived in police protection.

In March, 2018, the Supreme Court allowed her to live with Jahan, setting aside the HC order. The SC had acted upon a petition from Jahan. Ashokan had also implored in the case, alleging that he cannot allow his daughter to go along with "a terrorist".

NIA had also probed the incident to look into if she was forced to convert to Islam. The three-judge SC bench had however allowed NIA to continue its probe.

# Reject fossil fuel phase-out: Leaked OPEC letter



EXPRESS AT COP28 AMITABH SINHA DUBAI, DECEMBER 9

fluent member, at the COP28 negotiations on fossil fuels. "It seems that the undue and disproportionate pressure against fossil fuels may reach a tipping point with irreversible consequences, as the draft decision still contains options on fossil fuels phase-out," the letter said. "It would be unacceptable that politically motivated campaigns put our people's prosperity and future at risk," it said.

Marshall Islands, a Pacific island state, which has been campaigning for fossil fuel phase-out, reacted strongly to the letter. "Nothing puts the prosperity and future of all people on earth, including all citizens of OPEC countries, at greater risk than fossil fuels. This is why the High Ambition Coalition is pushing for a phase out of fossil fuels, which are at the root of this crisis. 1.5 (degrees Celsius target) is not negotiable, and that means an end to fossil fuels," Marshall Islands climate envoy Tina Stege said.

The OPEC countries are not the only ones opposing fossil fuels phase-out. Large and influential players, including the US, China and India, are also not very enthusiastic about its inclusion in the final agreement, though



COP28 president Sultan Al Jaber had landed in a controversy for 'questioning' science behind fossil fuel phase-out. AP

they are mainly focussed on inserting a language that would offer them some manoeuvrability in terms of protecting their interests.

Fossil fuel phase-out is one of the most contentious issues being discussed at COP28. The decisions of earlier COP meetings so far have focussed on cutting down emissions but do not mention the source of these emissions.

But with the climate crisis spiralling out of control, and fossil fuels accounting for nearly 80% of all emissions, this position is becoming increasingly untenable.

COP28 president Sultan Al

Jaber had landed in a controversy at the start of the COP28 meeting when a conversation in which he seemed to question the science linking fossil fuel phase-out to the 1.5 degrees Celsius target was leaked.

The language on a possible fossil fuel phase-out is being negotiated in the meetings on a Global Stocktake (GST), a review exercise of climate actions mandated by the Paris Agreement.

Two draft agreement texts on GST have so far included options on the phase-out of fossil fuels, but there is a 'no text' option as well, maintaining the possibility of this issue being dropped completely.

# Azerbaijan all set to host COP29 as Armenia pulls out

AMITABH SINHA DUBAI, DECEMBER 9

INA breakthrough deal, Armenia has agreed to withdraw its candidature and let its neighbour Azerbaijan host the next edition of the annual climate change conference, COP29, in 2024.

Armenia and Azerbaijan, who have been in a conflict over the status of Nagorno-Karabakh region, had both bid for hosting COP29, which is supposed to be held in eastern Europe according to the rotating schedule. Both had been opposing each other's candidature.

Another east European country, Bulgaria, was also in the fray, despite Russia having made it clear that it would not support the candidature of any country that was a member of European Union. (Bulgaria is an EU mem-

ber). In a surprise joint statement issued on Friday, Armenia and Azerbaijan announced "tangible steps towards building confidence between the two countries", which included a decision on COP29 candidacy as well.

"As a sign of good gesture, the Republic of Armenia supports the bid of the Republic of Azerbaijan to host the 29th Session of the Conference of Parties (COP29) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), by withdrawing its own candidacy. The Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan do hope that the other countries within the Eastern European Group will also support Azerbaijan's bid to host," the joint statement said.

Following the joint statement, Bulgaria too was understood to have withdrawn its candidature, paving the way for Azerbaijan to host the event.

# Arrest following NIA raids Linked to Khalistani terrorists, Nachan wanted since 1991

ZEESHAN SHAIKH MUMBAI, DECEMBER 9



Saquib Nachan in custody.

SIXTYTHREE-YEAR-OLD SAQUIB Nachan, arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday as part of a major crackdown on an Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) module in India, has been linked to Khalistani terrorists, Pakistan's Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) and the Students' Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) in the past — and now the ISIS.

He has been facing terror charges since 1991, long before the demolition of the Babri Masjid caused the gravitation of a section of Muslim youth towards terror activities.

Apart from Syed Abdul Karim alias Tunda and the Bhatkal Brothers, Nachan was accused of having masterminded the maximum number of bombings in the country. He was blamed for organising three bomb blasts in Mumbai during 2002-03, accused of having fought with the Afghan Mujahideen against the Russians in the eighties, faced charges of murdering three persons and sending a slew of Muslims to Pakistan to receive arms training.

Born into a respectable and well-off family, which has large land holdings in Borivali-Padgha, a Konkani Muslim-dominated village 53 km north of Mumbai, Nachan, a little over 5 feet 2 inches, has been associated with SIMI and served as its Maharashtra president and later as its general secretary.

Nachan has faced 11 cases related to terrorism and murder, for which he spent over 15 years in prison. The third son of noted Muslim community leader Abdul Hamid Nachan, he spent his formative years along with his 11 other siblings in Borivali in relative prosperity.

A Commerce graduate, Nachan gradually gravitated from the Jamaat-e-Islami, which had a small cubhole office in Padgha, to its student wing, the SIMI, in the early eighties.

The spunk and leadership qualities that Nachan showed made him rise quickly up the SIMI hierarchy becoming its Maharashtra president and gradually its general secretary. Nachan was also instrumental in organising one of SIMI's biggest rallies in Mumbai, where over 10,000 people turned up. His contemporaries include men like C AM Basheer, former president of SIMI who it is

alleged were instrumental in making SIMI take a violent path. Sometimes in the mid-eighties, Nachan was accused of having turned rogue and gone into Pakistan and from there on to the Afghanistan border.

"During 1990, he visited Pakistan twice. His real purpose was to meet Salahuddin Sudani and Abdur-Rahim-Rasool Sayyef to discuss ways and means to train Muslim youths in arms, ammunition and explosives. Till 1991 he was sending Sikh youths to Pakistan for military training," a Central Bureau of Investigation chargesheet filed against him in 1992 said.

The government had also claimed that Nachan was a part of Operation K2, an ambitious ISI plan to create a common pan-India infrastructure for Khalistan and Muslim radicals in the country. Nachans brief was to hire safe-houses where these radicals could hide and weapons smuggled across the Gujarat border could be stored.

Nachan was subsequently arrested in Ahmedabad in mid-1992 and convicted in 1997 along with Lal Singh, a Khalistani terrorist, for life by a Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) court in Gujarat. The Supreme Court turned the punishment to 10 years in jail which Nachan served in full.

Nachan, however, had claimed that he was framed by authorities. "Yes I did visit Pakistan but I travelled on my own passport and that too legally. I have ancestral property in Pakistan which had to be taken care of," Nachan had told *The Indian Express* earlier.

After serving his sentence in April 2001, Nachan returned to Padgha. He was later made an accused in three murder cases. Hindu lawyers and a Muslim who were alleged to be working against the interest of the Muslim community in the region were shot dead in broad daylight.

FULL REPORT ON [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

# 13 killed in Manipur were new recruits: Meitei militant group

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE GUWAHATI, DECEMBER 9

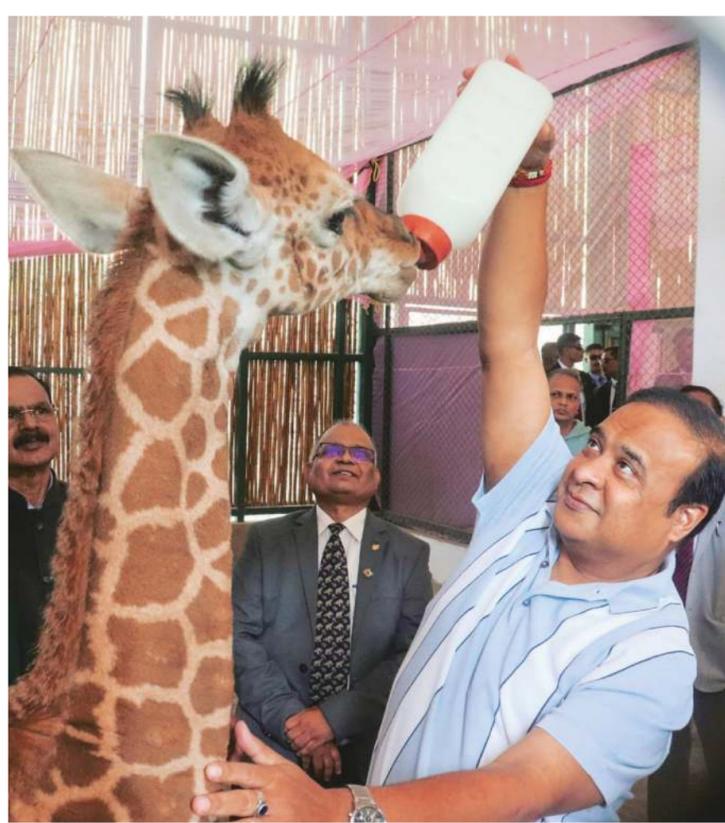
THE REVOLUTIONARY People's Front - the political wing of proscribed Meitei insurgent group People's Liberation Army (PLA) - has claimed that the 13 men, who were found dead after a gunfight in Tengnoupal district earlier this week, were new recruits of the PLA who joined it after the outbreak of the conflict "discontented" with a "communal policy" towards the conflict.

Security forces had found the bullet-riddled bodies of 13 men in Leithu of Tengnoupal district - a forested area not far from the Myanmar border - on December 4 after receiving inputs of a gunfight in the area around 10.30 am. The area in which the bodies were found is one in which Kuki-Zomi people are in majority but all deceased were from the Meitei community, aged between 17 and 47 years.

A statement on the PLA's official website claims that they had joined the organisation after the outbreak of the conflict. "The Revolutionary People's Front (RPF), the political wing of PLA, extends its revolutionary salute to the brave souls who laid down their lives for their mother-

land. The 13 brave souls initially were village volunteers defending their homes after the communal violence, manufactured by the Government of India, erupted. However, the comrades chose to join the PLA discontented by the communal policy and realising that there could not be peace unless Manipur's lost sovereignty is regained. The 13 unarmed comrades were killed mercilessly by a team of Indian security forces and Kuki mercenaries after being tortured," it states.

While the Manipur conflict has been continuing for over seven months now, there have been heightened security concerns about insurgent groups on both sides of the community divide aiding either side of the strife. On November 29, the Union Home Ministry and Manipur government had signed a tripartite peace agreement with a faction of another such valley-based group, United National Liberation Group, which is believed to have trained around 500 new recruits in the past months. Before the outbreak of the conflict, these valley-based groups had waned over the years, lost much public support and had largely been pushed back to camps in Myanmar and Bangladesh.



GUWAHATI ZOO'S 1ST GIRAFFE CALF Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma feeds a newborn giraffe at the state zoo in Guwahati, Saturday. The two-month-old calf 'Parijat' is the first giraffe to be born in the state zoo. PTI

Two days after two men died after consuming "spurious liquor" bought from a government-allotted shop in Unnao district, the police arrested four employees at the store for allegedly mixing an "unidentified" substance with the liquor.

SP Siddharth Shankar Meena suspended four police personnel—Soharamau Station House Officer Avadesh Kumar, Sub-inspector Indra Bahadur Singh and constables Ashish Pandey and Sanjesh Kumar — for negligence. The excise department removed the district excise officer and suspected excise inspector Gaurav Singh for negligence in connection with the incident.

Police identified the deceased as Prithvipal and Holasi, both residents of Mirzapur village. Another person was also taken ill on Thursday after consuming liquor purchased from the government-allotted shop, the police said, adding that the person's condition was now stable.

# In UP, two die after consuming spurious liquor, 4 cops suspended

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW, DECEMBER 9

TWO DAYS after two men died after consuming "spurious liquor" bought from a government-allotted shop in Unnao district, the police arrested four employees at the store for allegedly mixing an "unidentified" substance with the liquor.

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Police identified the deceased as Prithvipal and Holasi, both residents of Mirzapur village. Another person was also taken ill on Thursday after consuming liquor purchased from the government-allotted shop, the police said, adding that the person's condition was now stable.

# US national gets 2-yr jail for bid to enter Nepal via UP border

MANISH SAHU LUCKNOW, DECEMBER 9

A COURT in Maharajganj district Friday awarded two years' imprisonment to an American national who was caught at the India-Nepal border in Sonauli in March this year while trying to enter the neighbouring country using an illegal visa.

Erik Daniel, 40, has been lodged at the Maharajganj district jail since his arrest.

"The court sentenced Daniel to two years' jail and imposed a fine of Rs 20,000 on him," said government counsel Ramesh Chandra. He added that the foreign national has been convicted under Indian Penal Code sections 419 (cheating by impersonation), 420 (cheating and dishonesty), besides the Foreigners' Act.

Chandra added that after the judgment on Friday, the convict moved a bail application which was rejected by the court.

According to the prosecution, an immigration department official caught Daniel at the India-Nepal border in Maharajganj on March 29. "The official found that Daniel had overwritten on his visa after it expired. He was taken into custody for questioning," said Chandra.

During inquiry, it came to light that Daniel came to India on a tourist visa in June 2018 and returned home after staying for a few days. He had also gone to Nepal through the Sonauli border.

# Woman says thrashed for voting for BJP in MP, CM assures help

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE BHOPAL, DECEMBER 9

A 30-YEAR-OLD woman from Sehore in Madhya Pradesh alleged that her relatives beat her up for "voting for the ruling BJP and celebrating its victory".

Following the incident, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan reached out to the woman and invited her to his official residence. On Saturday, the woman, Samina, and her children visited Chouhan in Bhopal, as per the CM's Office. Sehore is the home district of Chouhan. According to the police, Samina in her complaint alleged that she was thrashed by her

brother-in-law on December 4. Speaking to reporters, the woman said, "I said I voted for the BJP that's why they won. He asked me why I voted for the BJP and later beat me up with a stick." Samina said she voted for the BJP because "its policies benefited her".

The police have registered a case against the accused brother-in-law. Chouhan, who was addressing a rally in Bhopal as part of his Mission 29 campaign for 2024 Lok Sabha polls, said, "A sister came to me... she had voted for BJP... There was a little fight... so I said sister, come to CM House. Your brother is alive. No need to worry." Later, Chouhan assured her of financial help in a post on X.

# Siberian tigers' Cyprus-Darjeeling journey ends India's 12-yr drought

RAVIK BHATTACHARYA KOLKATA, DECEMBER 9

INDIAN ZOOS' long wait for Siberian tigers is set to end as two big cats brought from Cyprus as part of an exchange programme will find a home at Darjeeling's Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park.

Officials said the two Siberian Tigers arrived at Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport in Kolkata from Cyprus' Pafos Zoos on Saturday evening. From the airport, they were escorted to the Darjeeling zoo by a team from Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park and will reach their destination by

Sunday. In exchange, the zoological park has sent two Red Pandas to Pafos Zoo.

"The proposal went out about a year-and-half back. We have got two Siberian Tigers from Cyprus and are ready to welcome them. Under the exchange programme, we have sent a pair of Red Pandas," Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park director Basavraj S Holeyachi told The Sunday Express over phone.

According to authorities, the last Siberian Tiger in the country 'Kunal' died in November 2011 at the Nainital Zoo. He died at the age of 18 due to age-related ailments. He was brought to India at the age of three.



A file photo of the two Siberian tigers brought from Pafos Zoo. Courtesy: Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park

Zoological Survey of India's officer in charge (mammals) Mukesh Thakur said, "To my knowledge, there are no Siberian Tigers in captivity in the country."

The last Siberian Tiger at the Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park died in 2007.

"The last Siberian Tiger in this zoo passed away in 2007. We have modified its enclosure, where we will keep the pair for public view. However, for a month after their arrival, the pair will be quarantined in a special enclosure and will undergo health check-ups. The public will be able to see these animals only after a month. I think there are no Siberian Tigers in any Indian zoo right now," said Holeyachi.

The male and female Siberian Tigers are one and a half years old. The Red Pandas sent to Pafos Zoo are six years (male) and two years old (female). The

pandas were bred at the Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park. Currently, the zoo has nine male and 15 female Red Pandas.

Established in August 1958, the Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park is the largest high-altitude zoo in the country. It has been successful in conservation breeding of 10 animals including Red Pandas, Snow Leopards and Blue Sheep.

"As we have a male and a female Siberian Tiger now, we would try captive breeding in the zoo. We are currently running captive breeding programmes for a number of animals including the Red Panda and Snow Leopard," added Holeyachi.

# 4 booked for fire at Pune factory, toll climbs to 8

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE PUNE, DECEMBER 9

PIMPRI CHINCHWAD police booked four people in connection with the fire at a sparkling candle manufacturing unit at Jyotiba Nagar, Talwade which happened on Friday afternoon.

Meanwhile, two of the injured, including a 16 year old girl, who were undergoing treatment at a hospital succumbed to injuries Saturday, taking the death toll in the accident to eight.

Eight others are being treated, out of whom two are critical. Balasaheb Vaidya, 38, a fire offi-

cer at Talwade Fire Station under the Pimpri-Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC), lodged a complaint based on which the FIR in the case was registered at Dehu Road police station Friday night.

The accused have been identified as Sharad Sutar, 40, who ran the sparkling candle manufacturing unit 'Shivraj Enterprises'; Chinchwad resident Nazir Amir Shikalgar, who owns the land on which the unit was set up; and two women. Sutar was among the 10 injured in the fire.

Shikalgar was arrested and produced before a court on Saturday and remanded in police custody till December 12.

## ARMY LAW COLLEGE, PUNE

Old Pune-Mumbai Highway (NH-4), Saibaba Sewadham, Kanhe, Pune-412106  
Phone No: 9168513509, Website: www.alcpune.com  
An Institution of Army Welfare Education Society (AWES)  
Affiliated to SPPU and Approved by BCI & Government of Maharashtra  
(Permanently Non-Aided College)

### LOCAL SELECTION COMMITTEE INTERVIEW

Eligible candidates for below mentioned Full Time Faculty/Academic Staff posts purely on ad hoc basis for the Academic Year 2023-24 can apply for posts at this College (Local Selection Committee Interview) on date and time to be intimated to short listed candidates only:-

S. No.	Post	Preferred Specialisation	No of Vacancies	Qualification
1	Assistant Professor (Law)	International Laws, Taxation Laws, Investment & Securities Law, Labour & Industrial Law, Competition Law, CPC, CrP, Evidence, Bankruptcy & Insolvency Law and Company Law.	01 Post (Open to all)	LLM, NET or SET or PhD
2	Placement Officer	Excellent communication & interpersonal skills with MBA & with minimum 3 years Industry experience as Placement Officer in College/Institute/ University a Professional who has worked in HR/Talent Acquisition firm	01 Post (Open to all)	Post Graduate in Any Discipline or Any Professional Degree
3	College Director Physical Education & Sports	Preferably Ex-serviceman Sportsman awarded medal at National & above level.	01 Post (Open to all)	MPEd, NET or SET or PhD OR An Asian Game or Commonwealth Games medal winner who has a degree at least at Post Graduation level.
4	Adm Officer	Preferably Major/Captain Ex-serviceman in acceptable medical category. Desired qualification MBA/PG Diploma. Person should be willing to relocate to Kanhe/Pune.	01 Post (Open to all)	MBA/PG Diploma.

Eligibility requirements prescribed by UGC, SPPU and BCI shall apply. Candidates shall send applications along with detailed Biodata and scanned copies of documents related to qualification/work experience by email at [armylawcollegepune@gmail.com](mailto:armylawcollegepune@gmail.com) with copy at [principal.alc@awesindia.edu.in](mailto:principal.alc@awesindia.edu.in) by 18 Dec 2023. Only short listed candidates will be sent call up for interview by email. Consolidated pay shall apply on appointment as per AWES norms. No TA/DA shall be admitted for journey to attend interview.

(Mr Ganeshappa Deshmane)  
Principal-in-Charge

## बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Bank of India

1st Floor, Chanakya Place, R-Block, Patna-800001  
(Tel. 2220640-643, Fax: 0612-2223178)

### Possession Notice (for Immovable Property)

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the **BANK OF INDIA, PHULWARISHARIF BRANCH, PATNA** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice as detailed in the table hereunder written calling upon the below mentioned borrowers to repay the amount shown in the respective notices mentioned against their names in the table, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower/s and/or guarantor/s having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/s or guarantor/s and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this 8<sup>th</sup> day of December of the year 2023.

The borrower/s and/or guarantor/s in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the **BANK OF INDIA, PHULWARISHARIF BRANCH, PATNA** for the amount shown in the respective column of the table.

The borrower/s attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act. In respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Name of Borrower & Guarantor	i. Branch, ii. Date & Amount as per Notice u/s 13(2)	Description of the Immovable property	Date of Possession of Assets
Smt. Reena Devi	(i)Phulwarisharif Branch,Patna (ii)DemandNotice Date:09.08.2023, ₹21,88,406.89 andinterestthereon	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Mauza-Saidpur, Pargana- Phulwarisharif, P.S.- Danapur, Sub- Registry office Danapur, Sadar Registry and District- Patna, Thana No. 51, Tazui No.- 5734, Khata No.- 0279, Khasra No. 1125 (P), Patna - 801505 Bihar having Deed No. 31062 Dated 29.12.2010. <b>Boundary:- North: 15 ft. wide Road, South: 15 ft. wide Road, East: 15 ft. wide Road, West: Plot No. 1125 (P) Sri Rajvir Rai.</b>	08.12.2023

\* With further interest at applicable rate till repayment.

Date: 08.12.2023  
Place: Patna

Authorized Officer  
Bank of India

## Zonal Office, Gaya(e-AB), South Bihar Talab Road, Gaya, Bihar-823001

### [ Rule-8(11) ] POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

Where as, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Indian Bank under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with rule 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice u/s 13(2) on the date noted against the account as mentioned hereinafter calling upon the borrower(S) to repay the amount mentioning in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower(S) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower(S) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 and 9 of the said rules.

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **Indian Bank (e-Allahabad Branch)** or an amount and interest thereon. Along with legal expenses and other expenses already incurred/to be incurred by the bank.

Name of the Branch	BANJARI
Name of the Accounts/ Borrower	1.Smt. Sushila Kuwar, /Wo Late Bhola Prasad Mandal & Sri Balakant Mandal, /S/o Late Bhola Prasad Mandal At- Vill - Akbarpur, PS - Rohtas, Dist - Rohtas, Bihar - 821311, 2. Sri Balakant Mandal, /S/o Late Bhola Prasad Mandal, /Vill - Akbarpur, PS - Rohtas, Dist - Rohtas, Bihar - 821311
Name of the Proprietor/ Guarantor/Mortgagor	1. Sri Rama Kant Mandal, /S/o Late Bhola Prasad Mandal, /Vill - Akbarpur, PS - Rohtas, Dist - Rohtas, Bihar - 821311, 2. Sri Ajay Kumar Dev, /S/o Sri Ramdeo Prasad, /Vill- Pankholiya, Post-Rohtas, District-Rohtas, Bihar-821311
Date of Demand Notice	22-09-2023
Date of Possession Notice	05-12-2023
Amount Outstanding as on the demand notice:	Rs. 7,25,800/- (Rupees Seven Lakh Twenty Five Thousand Eight Hundred Only) as on 22-09-2023 along with legal and other expenses incurred & to be incurred by the bank.
Detailed description of the Property	Equitable mortgage of land and building constructed thereon in the name of Smt Sushila Kuwar /W/O- Late Bhola Prasad Mandal, situated at Mouza - Akbarpur, PS - Rohtas, PS no - 687, Dist - Rohtas, Bihar-821311, Khata No-280, Plot No-1208, Area-6 1/2 Decimal, Bounded by : North: Rasta, South: Kailash Singh, East: Lalchand Singh, West: Bigan Singh.

Date :- 08.12.2023  
Place :- Gaya

Sd/-Authorized Officer,  
(Indian Bank)

## E-Tenders Notice

Up-gradation/Augmentation of Electric & Diesel maintenance & production facilities. Open e-tender notice No. TRD-OT-10-DM-PF-23-24

E-tenders are invited from reputed contractors having proven experience, electrical license and sound financial standing supported by the valid documents for the work as per details given below:-

**Name of work with location :** Up-gradation/Augmentation of Electric & Diesel maintenance & production facilities. Approx. cost of the work: Rs. 94.63,249.26, Earnest Money/Bid Security to be deposited: Rs. 189300.00. Last date and time for submission of tender : Upto 29/12/2022 on 15.00 hrs, Website particulars from where the details of e-tender can be obtained. : [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

Sr. Divnl. Elec. Engineer (Tr-D),  
East Central Railway/DDU  
PR/1841/DDU/ETRD/T/23-24/28

## "IMPORTANT"

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

## NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, North Central Railway, Prayagraj in terms of Railway Board letter dated 13.06.2022 invites bids through E-Auction module in IREPS for Commercial Publicity/Advertisements, Rail Coach Restaurants, Catering, water Vending Machine, Multi Purpose Stall, Pay & Use (BOT) and Leasing of SLRS/VP in the following station/locations/Trains of Prayagraj Division.

### COMMERCIAL PUBLICITY/ADVERTISEMENTS

S/N	Details of publicity	E-Auction catalogue No.	E-Auction Start Date & Time
1	Contract for setting up & operation of Rail Coach Restaurant (Restaurant On Wheels)	PRYJ-RCR-03-23	22.12.2023 at 12:00 hrs
for Period of 05 years at Kanpur, Govindpur, Subedarganj Railway station.			
2	Commercial publicity/advertisement right through out of home for a period of 03 years: Etawah, Prayagraj, Fatehpur, Govindpur, Aligarh (Led flange), Fatehpur (Led flange), Prayagraj Chheoki.	PRYJ-ADVT 23-163	27.12.2023 at 11:00 hrs
3	Commercial publicity/advertisement right through RDN Non Digital of following stations for a period of 03 years. Etawah, Subedarganj, Phaphund, Govindpur, Manikpur, Vindhyachal, Prayagraj (Through Vinyl Stecker at Lift and escalator).	PRYJ-ADVT 23-164	28.12.2023 at 11:00 hrs
4	Commercial publicity/advertisement right through RDN Digital (DDIS) of following stations for a period of 05 years. Prayagraj Chhiwki, Mirzapur, Tundla, Kanpur Awarganj, Subedarganj, Firozabad, Fatehpur, Phaphund, Manikpur, Naini, Govindpur.	PRYJ-ADVT 23-165	29.12.2023 at 11:00 hrs

### LEASING OF SLRS/VPs

S. N.	Compartment	Train No.	CC (in tones)	From-To	Frequency (In a week)	E-Auction catalogue No.	E-Auction Start Date & Time
1	FSLR-1	22431	3.9	PRYJ-UHP	02 days	PRYJ-PRCL-23-65	26.12.23, 11:00 Hrs.
2	FSLR-1	22443	3.9	CNB-BDTS	01 days	PRYJ-PRCL-23-65	26.12.23, 11:00 Hrs.
3	FSLR-1	12033	3.9	CNB-NDLS	06 days	PRYJ-PRCL-23-65	26.12.23, 11:00 Hrs.
4	FSLR-1	12275	3.9	PRYJ-NDLS	04 days	PRYJ-PRCL-23-65	26.12.23, 11:00 Hrs.
5	FSLR-1	12451	3.9	CNB-NDLS	07 days	PRYJ-PRCL-23-65	26.12.23, 11:00 Hrs.
6	FSLR-1	12294	3.9	PRYJ-LTT	02 days	PRYJ-PRCL-23-65	26.12.23, 11:00 Hrs.
7	FSLR-1	14163	3.9	PRYJ-MTC	07 days	PRYJ-PRCL-23-65	26.12.23, 11:00 Hrs.
8	FSLR-1	22968	3.9	PRYJ-ADI	01 days	PRYJ-PRCL-23-65	26.12.23, 11:00 Hrs.
9	FSLR-1	12447	3.9	MKP-NZM	07 days	PRYJ-PRCL-23-66	27.12.23, 11:00 Hrs.
10	FSLR-1	12469	3.9	CNB-JAT	06 days	PRYJ-PRCL-23-66	27.12.23, 11:00 Hrs.
11	FSLR-1	14116	3.9	PRYJ-DADN	07 days	PRYJ-PRCL-23-66	27.12.23, 11:00 Hrs.
12	FSLR-1	12944	3.9	CNB-BL	01 days	PRYJ-PRCL-23-66	27.12.23, 11:00 Hrs.
13	FSLR-1	14151	3.9	CNB-ANVT	01 days	PRYJ-PRCL-23-66	27.12.23, 11:00 Hrs.
14	FSLR-1,2 RSLR-1	11904	4.0	ETW-VGLB	07 days	PRYJ-PRCL-23-67	28.12.23, 11:00 Hrs.
15	FSLR-1,2 RSLR-1	11802	4.0	PRYJ-VGLB	07 days	PRYJ-PRCL-23-67	28.12.23, 11:00 Hrs.
16	FSLR-1,2 RSLR-1	14102	4.0	CNB-PYGS	07 days	PRYJ-PRCL-23-67	28.12.23, 11:00 Hrs.
17	FSLR-1,2 RSLR-1	14110	4.0	CNB-CKTD	07 days	PRYJ-PRCL-23-67	28.12.23, 11:00 Hrs.
18	FSLR-1,2 RSLR-1	14124	4.0	CNB-PBH	07 days	PRYJ-PRCL-23-68	29.12.23, 11:00 Hrs.
19	FSLR-1,2 RSLR-1	01888	4.0	ETW-GWL	07 days	PRYJ-PRCL-23-68	29.12.23, 11:00 Hrs.
20	FSLR-1,2 RSLR-1	19812	4.0	ETW-KOTA	07 days	PRYJ-PRCL-23-68	29.12.23, 11:00 Hrs.

### Catering / VVM units

S/N	Details of publicity	E-Auction catalogue No.	E-Auction Start Date & Time
1	Catering units at various Railway stations for the period of 05 years: Danwar(01 location), Sirathu(02 location), Dabhaura(01 location), chola(01 location), Jalesar Road(01 location), Khurja(01 location), Vindhyachal(01 location), Sonbhadra(01 location), Chunar(01 location), Achaldia(01 location), Prayagraj(02 location), Khaga(01 location), Dabri(01 location)	PRYJ-CATG-23-95	11.12.2023 at 11:00 hrs
2	Water Vending Machines at various Railway stations for the period of 05 years: Vindhyachal(02 location), Phaphund(03 location), Etawah(04 location), Fatehpur(03 location)	PRYJ-MSS-23-20	11.12.2023 at 11:00 hrs
3	Catering units at various Railway stations for the period of 05 years: Pankidham(02 location), Fatehpur(01 location), Phaphund(01 location), Khaga(01 location), Shikohabad(01 location), Jalesar Road(01 location)	PRYJ-CATG-23-96	21.12.2023 at 11:00 hrs
4	Catering units at various Railway stations for the period of 05 years: Pankidham(03 location), Khurja(01 location), Sirathu(01 location), Bharathana(01 location), Naini(01 location), Mainpuri(01 location), Sonbhadra(01 location)	PRYJ-CATG-23-97	22.12.2023 at 11:00 hrs
5	Multi Purpose Stall units at various Railway stations for the period of 05 years: Kanpur Central(02 location), Chunar(01 location), Hathras(01 location)	PRYJ-MPS-23-1	22.12.2023 at 11:00 hrs

### Pay & Use (BOT)

S/N	Details of publicity	E-Auction catalogue No.	E-Auction Start Date & Time
1	Pay & Use toilets BOT basis at (1) Prayagraj Chheoki (2) Subedarganj Railway Station for 15 years.	PRYJ-PnU-23-25	21.12.2023 at 12:00 hrs

Interested bidders may please visit official website for e-auctioning i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for further details and participating in e-Auction. **Important note:** 1. Bidders, who wish to participate in the e-auction module should have valid Digital Signing Certificate (DSC) and same may be procured from any of certifying authority of controller of Certifying Authorities (CCA) Government of India, details of same may be obtained from [www.cca.gov.in](http://www.cca.gov.in). 2. Prospective bidders will be required to get themselves registered online at IREPS(Commercial Auction Module) 3. One time registration fee of Rs. 10,000.00/- and applicable GST(non-refundable) will be required to be paid online by the entity before participating in any commercial, auction. 4. For more information, requirement and various aspects regarding this e-Auction, Interested bidders are advised to visit <http://www.ireps.gov.in/epsn/jsp/common/learningCenter.jsp> 5. Earning Money Deposit (EMD): 5% of the total contractual bid value to be deposited online during the auction, EMD of the successful bidder will be retained as Security Deposit. 6. Railway Administration reserves the full and absolute right to these contracts any point of time (or for taking any decision) depending upon the circumstances if any. 7. Railway Administration reserves the full and absolute right to short terminate these contracts any point of time (or for taking any decision) depending upon the continuation/discontinuation of these trains or commencement of new train services. (para pertains to Leasing of SLRS/VP) 8. The successful bidder will also have to pay applicable GST as imposed by Govt. of India from time to time are applicable. Rail administration will not be responsible for this. 1989/23(AN)

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# Master Creation 2023

## Exhibition-Cum-Sale

### OF INDIAN HANDICRAFT AND HANDLOOM PRODUCTS BY AWARDEES

Dilli Haat, INA, New Delhi

1<sup>st</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023  
10:00 am - 9:00 pm

#MyHandloomMyPride  
#MyHandicraftMyPride

CBC-41102/13/0015/2324

# दो बूँद हर बार पोलियो पर जीत रहे बरकरार

## पोलियो दिवस 10 दिसम्बर 2023 रविवार

भारत पोलियो मुक्त है। लेकिन पोलियो कुछ देशों में अभी भी है और फिर लौट सकता है। अपने बच्चे की सुरक्षा में कोई चूक न होने दें। पोलियो की खुराक हर बार दिलाएं। पोलियो पर देश की जीत बनाए रखने में योगदान दें।

अधिक जानकारी के लिए आशा/ए.एन.एम./आंगनवाड़ी कार्यकर्ता से मिलें

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रोज आवश्यक युक्त भोजन है खाना, सभी तो बनेगा अनौमिया मुक्त हरियाणा

नवनिर्मित सरकारी स्वास्थ्य केंद्र व आरंभ युक्त हीरोमोसॉलिन (Hb) की मुक्त जांच करवाएं

Across THE AISLE



PCHIDAMBARAM

Website: pchidambaram.in  
Twitter: @Pchidambaram\_IN

AFTER ANY election, particularly after a clutch of state elections, there will be a lot of noise. The victors will celebrate loudly and there will be noisy recriminations among the followers of the losing parties. The relative calm after the results of elections in four states were announced was unusual. If this is evidence of mature behaviour of rival political parties, we may welcome it. If this means nonchalance on the part of the Congress, it is a matter of worry.

Let me begin with a *mea culpa*. In last week's column, I called the election in Chhattisgarh in favour of the Congress. I was wrong. The BJP was the winner by a handsome margin of 54 seats to 35. The Congress claimed the state from the start and nearly all pollsters accepted the claim. I accepted it too, based on conversations with a number of people. Everyone but the BJP was surprised by the result. It turned out that the Congress' vote share declined in general, SC and ST seats. Congress lost 14 ST seats it had won in 2018 to the BJP. That sealed its fate.

NOT UNEXPECTED

However, you will recall that I did not buy into the claims of the Congress in respect of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. In Rajasthan, the Gehlot government had performed well but anti-incumbency was a millstone around its neck. Eventually, 17 ministers of the Gehlot government and 63 Congress MLAs lost. That is an indication of the huge resentment against the ministers and MLAs. Evidently, internal surveys and inquiries did not reveal the extent of resentment.

At the end of the day, it is not enough that the Indian people can elect a government; it is important to protect the other pillars of a democracy from being blown away

# Caution: Mind the Gap

	BJP		CONGRESS	
	Votes polled	%age	Votes polled	%age
Chhattisgarh	72,34,968	46.27	66,02,586	42.23
Madhya Pradesh	2,11,13,278	48.55	1,75,64,353	40.40
Rajasthan	1,65,23,568	41.69	1,56,66,731	39.53
Telangana*	32,57,511	13.9	92,35,792	39.40

(\*BRS garnered 37.35 per cent)

Ultimately, the habit of the Rajasthan voters, since 1998, to alternate between the BJP and the Congress prevailed.

In Madhya Pradesh, by all accounts, the Shivraj Singh Chouhan government had, amidst notable failures and accusations of corruption, implemented a few schemes under which benefits were directly transferred to the beneficiaries, especially the women.

Observers point to the *Ladli Behana Yojana* and its sister schemes. The state was also a laboratory of Hindutva, and the RSS and its frontal organisations had struck deep roots and were very active. It required a massive *organisation-driven* effort to uproot the BJP government, and the Congress apparently did not mount that kind of effort. The BJP also swamped the state with 'heavy weight' candidates including Union ministers and serving MPs. The large 'investment' of time and resources paid off spectacularly with the BJP winning 163 seats to the Congress' 66.

On Telangana, I had sensed a rural wave against the BRS government and predicted a surprise. Mr K Chandrashekar Rao is credited with securing a separate Telangana and introducing beneficial

schemes, for example, the *Rythu Bandhu* that transferred money to farmers. But power concentrated in four pairs of hands (all of one family), allegations of corruption, Hyderabad-centric development, a self-isolated chief minister and massive unemployment created a wave against the government. The strong anti-incumbency was visible on the day of the Tukuguda Congress rally following the meeting of the CWC on September 16, 2023 at Hyderabad. Mr Revanth Reddy, through an aggressive, no-holds-barred campaign, rode the wave and led the Congress to victory.

NARROW GAP

Despite the defeat in three Hindi-heartland states, the Congress' vote share seems to be intact. The numbers speak for themselves (see box).

The good news is that bi-polar, competitive politics is alive. The Congress' vote share in the four states is 40 per cent (approximately the same as in 2018) which augurs well for electoral democracy. However, the BJP gained in vote share in all four states and won most of the seats in

the four capital cities and urban areas. The other good news is that the difference in vote shares is narrow, except in Madhya Pradesh. The gap in Chhattisgarh of 4.04 per cent was due to the shift of tribal votes. Of the 29 seats reserved for ST, BJP won 17 and Congress 11. The gap in Rajasthan of 2.16 per cent was narrower.

ELECTIONS HAVE CHANGED

The gaps are not unbridgeable but it will require an understanding of the changed nature of elections. Elections are no longer speech vs speech, rally vs rally, policy vs policy or manifesto vs manifesto. Those are necessary but not sufficient. Elections are won or lost based on *last-mile campaigning, booth management* and *bringing the dormant voter to the polling booth*. These require huge investments of *time, energy, and human and financial resources* in each constituency which, by the results, the BJP did successfully.

Going into the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the wind is behind BJP's sail. Besides, the BJP will attempt to push the Hindutva agenda forward polarising the electorate even more, at least in the Hindi-speaking states. The casualties may be federalism, secularism, institutional freedom, freedom of the individual and the media, human rights, religious freedom, privacy and freedom from fear. At the end of the day, it is not enough that the Indian people can elect a government; it is important to protect the other pillars of a democracy from being blown away.

Fifth COLUMN

TAVLEEN SINGH

Twitter: @tavleen\_singh



# Time to end reservations

NO MATTER how gently I say this it will cause controversy, so it's best that I say it plainly. It is time for all reservations to go. In government jobs, universities, schools, in the army and in our paramilitary forces, all reservations must be scrapped. Enough has been enough for a while now, but because our political leaders find it hard to say this, it does not get said. And when columnists and political commentators say reservations should be scrapped, they end up tarred and feathered, so we do not speak up either.

If I dare to raise the subject this week, it is because the shining stars of the INDIA coalition have been raucous in calling for a caste census during the campaign for recent state elections. It may only have been insincere campaign rhetoric but there was something so retrograde about the way this subject was raised that I feel the need to speak up. Before going any further, let me express the fervent hope that whoever becomes Prime Minister next year shows the courage to admit that the whole reservations story has become a farce and it is time to call an end to it all. When powerful ruling castes like the Marathas produce a leader who is willing to fast unto death in the cause of reservations in Maharashtra, it should be clear that it is time to start asking questions.

When reservations were introduced for scheduled castes and tribes in our Constitution, it was a vital gesture of atonement for the evil done to lower caste Indians for centuries. It was not just necessary affirmative action but something that had to be done for people deprived of the right to education and social equality, often in horrendous ways. But at the time that this affirmative action was introduced, Dr. Ambedkar suggested that it should last only for ten years. There should have been re-examination and reform after a decade but by then our political leaders had discovered the power of using caste groups as vote banks, so no change came.

As a tool for bringing social equality for scheduled castes and tribes, reservations have failed. But there is no question that they helped provide a measure of space in politics and education. A voucher system in educational institutions can be created to continue giving a boost to those who have been horribly repressed and shunned because of their supposedly untouchable caste. This should not be available to those who belong to the OBC (other backward caste) category. They do not need it. Anyone who knows rural India slightly knows that these 'backward' castes are not backward at all. In the Hindi heartland, they sit at the top. The Prime Minister himself admits proudly to being OBC.

It was something Modi said during the election campaign that inspired me to write this piece. Rahul Gandhi had promised at more than one election meeting that when 'our government' comes to power the first thing we will order is a caste census. Then, in usual reckless fashion, he took to social media to declare that those whose population was larger should have more rights. Modi correctly pointed out in response that this would mean that Muslims and south Indians would have less rights than those Hindus living in our densely populated northern states.

In saying this, he drew attention to the absurdity of continuing with reservations and reminded me of a conversation I had with students in the Sanskrit department of BHU in 2014. They were very angry, as upper caste students are in most Indian universities, that they had to compete for a tiny number of general category seats because more than half the seats in BHU were reserved for some caste or category. They said they were planning to vote for Modi in the coming general election because they believed he was the only political leader who would have the courage to end the whole reservations business. It is sad that he has not done this yet and sad that other political leaders have not noticed that it is shameful that the great Indian dream remains landing a government job. It is just as shameful that instead of creating more state universities, we force students to fight for the limited seats available on merit.

If there is one section of Indians who has benefited most from reservations, it is our politicians. They have perfected the art of creating vote banks based on caste, creed and tribe, and perfected the art of promising them the moon and the stars when elections come around. They have also learned the skill of using reservations in government schools and colleges to their own benefit by controlling who gets a reserved seat and who does not. Education is such a useful tool for political power that there is almost not a major political leader who is not running a school or college personally.

Among the benefits that accrue is that you can claim vast tracts of valuable public land for this supposedly charitable activity. The whole system is corrupt, outdated and evil, and the people who barely benefit because of it are those deprived and discriminated castes for whom reservations were created in the first place. Before upper caste Hindu men start demanding reserved rights of their own, it is time to scrap all reservations in government jobs, schools, and colleges.

# In Ambedkar's treatise on rupee, a clear-eyed vision

Dalitality

STEFANEICH



He brought the drama of money alive by confronting the reigning imperial monetary views of the India Office and its spokesmen, including those of a youthful John Maynard Keynes whose first book on Indian currency had still presented a fulsome defence of British monetary management in India.

But perhaps the single most stunning feat of *The Problem of the Rupee* is its ability to simultaneously address a broad Indian public by capturing the pain associated with monetary mismanagement. The result was a pathbreaking account of how the rupee had become the financial pivot of the entire British colonial project through a series of brutal monetary reforms in the nineteenth century.

The book's sweeping history culminated in a deft proposal for monetary reform. In a surprising twist, Ambedkar concluded that Indian money could only be effectively shielded against both British and upper caste domination by finally extending to the subcontinent the gold standard, that had accompanied Britain's rise to power and whose possible restoration after WWI animated fierce monetary feuds around the world during the early 1920s.

But *The Problem of the Rupee* was no orthodox defence of the natural virtues of gold or monetary discipline. Instead, it was driven by pragmatic political logic.

Appealing to the aspirational principles of British monetary thought, while pointing to their violation in India, Ambedkar concluded that as long as India was not governing itself it would be far preferable to tie the hands of the colonial state rather than granting it discretionary powers.

In 1947, Ambedkar returned to *The Problem of the Rupee*. In a new preface he even promised a second volume that would bring his account up to the present and offer an updated solution. Within weeks of writing these promissory lines, India gained her independence. Ambedkar was now engulfed, more than ever before, in constitutional law and politics at the highest level. As a result, we never got a second volume and with it an account of how Ambedkar himself would have imagined monetary politics in a democratic constitutional context beyond the gold standard.

The author teaches at Georgetown University and is the author of *The Currency of Politics* (Suraj Yengde, author of *Caste Matters, curates Dalitality*)

history

HEADLINE

PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA



# When Indians left their footprint on Antarctica

FORTY-TWO years ago, on December 6, 1981, a 21-member crew of scientists, technicians and Navy personnel aboard a chartered Norwegian ship *MV Polar Circle*, quietly set sail from Goa's Mormugao harbour.

Part of India's first scientific expedition to Antarctica, code-named 'Operation Gangotri', the crew set foot on the coast of Queen Maud Land on the frozen continent a little over a month later, on January 9, 1982, and hoisted the Indian flag, marking India's first foray into the icy realms of Antarctica. The group returned to Mormugao on February 21, covering over 21,000 km in 77 days.

After the Second World War, as Antarctica witnessed an upsurge in scientific exploration, several nations asserted territorial claims on the continent, based on their discoveries and expeditions.

India's engagement with the 'White Continent' began as early as 1956 when India proposed an item titled 'The Question of Antarctica' on the agenda of the eleventh UN General Assembly, stating that the vast areas and resources of Antarctica be used entirely for peaceful purposes and for general welfare.

Amid concerns over mining and countries setting up military bases, in 1959, 12 countries signed the Antarctic Treaty. India wasn't among the initial signatories. The Treaty prohibited military activity, nuclear testing and disposal of radioactive waste and underlined that Antarctica can only be used for peaceful purposes and for scientific investigation and research. Mineral exploitation, except for scientific research, was prohibited.

In 1960-61, an Indian biologist, Dr Giriraj Singh Sirohi, spent 100 days in sub-zero temperatures of the South Pole at McMurdo Station as part of the United States Antarctic Research Program. The same year, an Indian meteorologist, Lt Ram Charan, went south to the Wilkes Station, as an Indian government observer with Australian National Antarctic Research Expeditions.

But it was another Indian who became the first from the country to circumnavigate Antarctica and winter-over the South Pole. Under a joint Indo-Soviet agreement, Dr Parmjit Singh Sehra, then a young researcher at the Physical Research



On Dec 6, 1981, a 21-member crew set sail from Goa to Antarctica aboard the *MV Polar Circle*

Laboratory (PRL), Ahmedabad, spent 18 months in 1971-1973 as the Project Scientist, "carrying out the upper atmospheric meteorological rocket soundings from the main Soviet station Molodzhnaya (in Antarctica)".

In his diary notes, which he later published as *A visit to the South Pole*, Dr Sehra recounted his odyssey to the most remote station in Antarctica.

On the "harsh winter" and the food shortages the team had to endure, Sehra wrote, "an emergency was declared at our station due to the acute shortage of food and other essential provisions... Our tinned food also got exhausted during the extremely cold and stormy polar night. As a consequence, we had to live on Antarctic seals, penguins and fish. I remember my days in Antarctica when we also had to eat the meat of our favorite huskies [that pulled sledges] in order to survive," he wrote.

While his voyage may have sparked interest in a deeper scientific exploration of Antarctica, the plan to send an expedition only took shape under former prime minister Indira Gandhi, who set up the Department of Ocean Development in May 1981.

Operation Gangotri was kept under wraps, amid uncertainties about the outcome and the possibility of sabotage. Over the next few months in 1981, a chartered vessel from Norway was hired, with backchannel diplomacy with NATO na-

tions ensuring that the news did not leak.

A crew of 21, including oceanographers, meteorologists, biologists, geologists, a geophysicist, a radio communication expert and several navy personnel, were drawn up from seven different institutions across the country. They were led by marine biologist Dr SZ Qasim.

"The entire operation, starting from conception to us finally sailing off from Goa... was accomplished in just over four months. Our initial meetings were held behind closed doors. People like the Cabinet Secretary, Defence Secretary and the Chief of Naval Staff... they were addressing us and we were discussing strategy... and we were not allowed to tell any of this outside. We couldn't tell our wives. We felt like we were in a James Bond movie," Dr Amitava Sengupta, radiophysicist, a member of the first expedition, told *The Indian Express*.

In October, the crew was sent to Gulmarg for acclimatisation training.

"We were also taken around the Bay of Bengal for seven days. There were six-seven of us who had to be trained, and because this was top secret, the trainers were not allowed to know what we were going to be trained for. So, he (the ship's captain) gave us all kinds of training, even how to use a pistol. They thought we were being trained for some secret offensive operation," said Dr Sengupta.

On December 6, 1981, the team set sail. It was 10 days later that the news broke. And when that happened, the operation was seen as India's bid to mark its presence as a growing power, especially under the leadership of Gandhi. The British magazine 'New Scientist', in its February 1982 edition, reported the story under the headline, "Indians quietly invade Antarctica". The foreign press, too, raised political questions regarding India's 'intentions' in Antarctica, amidst tensions over control of the icy continent's resources.

Sengupta said the initial few attempts to find a safe approach to land the vessel were unsuccessful. "We were all getting impatient. We thought they will just take us back. But finally, we landed. I still remember the sun was out and weather had cleared. We were greeted by penguins. We took a photo in front of the ship," he added.

On the LOOSE

LEHER KALA

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# A world full of mistrust

deepfakes and the exhausting banality of social media, it's no surprise that people are done with artifice and leaning towards genuineness. "We see in 2023 a kind of crisis of authenticity," said Peter Sokolowsky of Merriam Webster, quoting the vast number of look up spikes and data searches that led them to choose "authentic".

It's a fact, we can't trust what we see, read or hear anymore. Add to that our own wholly human insecurities and the inherent contradictions we face in daily life, perpetually unsure of our decisions in a madly confusing world. How do we reconcile our dreams with reality? It's hard enough quelling the disturbing suspicion that those very fantasies that seem so alluring in the abstract may be disastrous (in the unlikely probability they even came true). Indeed, second guessing is in our natures

and the truth remains as elusive as ever.

A remote mountain or the seaside was a way to enhance perspective and recharge from drudgery but now, the incessant noise of the Internet age follows us on WhatsApp and Instagram. There's no way to avoid the latest depressing missive befalling some corner of earth, information we can do little with but that clutters mind space all the same. Perhaps, the sudden interest in "authentic" which is certainly not a trendy new word like "Rizz" suggests people are simply tired of manipulation, via the updates and images flooding our phones.

According to common parlance, "authentic" means the somewhat superficial sounding adage, "Be yourself", except, often enough, who "you" is, remains a confounding mystery. Being yourself is utterly meaningless because eking out a living, and

survival, hinges on pleasing others, a boss or a spouse. At its core, teenage rebellion is a cry for authenticity, for establishing an identity distinct from parents, the unconscious first step towards Socratic thought, that the unexamined life is not worth living. It fades quickly because it's possible only when somebody else is paying the bills. By one's 20s, recognition dawns that achievement requires the ability to stick it out while being everything other than "yourself". However, in our era of post truths and fake news, "authenticity" has taken an especially major battering, raising interest in the profound dilemma of "you" which has been an enduring preoccupation of mystics and popular culture, forever.

Shakespeare duly noted in *As You Like It* that we wear different masks and costumes through the journey of life: "All the

world's a stage, the men and women merely players..." Which roughly translates into the philosophical acceptance that there's no avoiding the roles thrust on us by family, society and religion. Authenticity gets submerged along the way and to find a way back takes either a crisis, or age. Getting knocked around doesn't have much to recommend it except when viewed retrospectively: it's the dreadful experiences that build character and set us on the meandering road to discovery. Alas, prevalent online chatter has us believing that "living authentically" is a magic wand for panacea but it would be wise to remember life will be life. Things will be both good and bad, a little like that other, popular, new term, "beige flag", meaning partly odd, blah and boring.

The writer is director, *Hutkay Films*

# 13 ECONOMY

## CRUDE WATCH

### OIL GAINS OVER 2%

Oil prices rose more than 2% on Friday after U.S. data supported expectations of demand growth, but both benchmarks fell for a seventh straight week, their longest streak of weekly declines in half a decade, on lingering oversupply concerns. **REUTERS**

## RBI'S CONSUMER CONFIDENCE SURVEY

# Consumers hopeful about income, employment but inflation a worry

HITESH VYAS

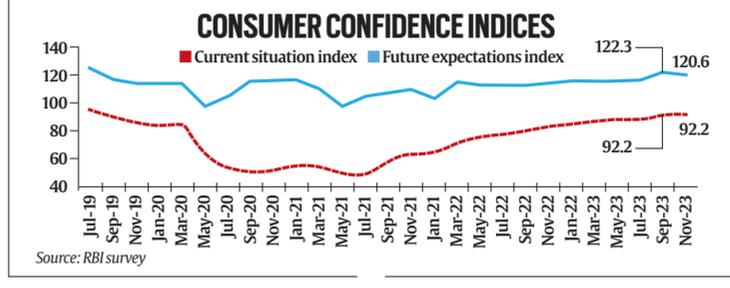
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 9

CONSUMERS ARE fairly optimistic about employment, income, spending and general economic situations, but see higher inflationary pressures across some major products, for the one year ahead, the latest surveys of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) showed.

Consumer confidence for the current period remained stable. The current situation index (CSI) remained unchanged at 92.2 from the previous round as higher pessimism on the current general economic situation and employment was counterbalanced by a positive turnaround in sentiment on current income, it said.

"Respondents remained fairly optimistic on the one year ahead prospects for general economic situation, employment, income and spending," the Consumer Confidence Survey (CCS), released by the RBI, showed.

The confidence on general



Source: RBI survey

economic and employment conditions was, however, a shade lower vis-à-vis the previous survey round, which led to a moderation of the future expectations index (FEI) within the positive terrain.

CSI and FEI are compiled on the basis of net responses on the economic situation, income, spending, employment and the price level for the current period (as compared with one year ago) and a year ahead, respectively.

"Households' assessment of current earnings reached its highest level since July 2019 and

expectations for future income also improved further," it showed.

Consumers retained negative sentiments on both current and future price conditions, the survey showed.

The survey was conducted from November 2-11, 2023, covering 6,082 respondents, with female respondents accounting for 52.8 per cent of the sample.

On inflation, the RBI's survey showed that a larger share of households expects higher inflation for both three months and one year ahead.

"Households expect some

rise in price and inflationary pressures across major product groups for the year ahead," the Households' Inflation Expectations Survey showed. These products include food and non-food products, household durables, cost of housing and services.

Expectations regarding overall prices and inflation over the next three months were more aligned with those of food products and services. For the year ahead, such alignment is more pronounced with the prospects for food products and housing segments, the

Households' Inflation Expectations Survey showed.

Households' perception of current inflation declined by 20 basis points (bps) from the previous survey round to 8.2 per cent in November 2023. One basis point is one-hundredth of a percentage point.

The survey was conducted from November 2-11, 2023 in 19 major cities, with responses from 6,036 urban households. Female respondents accounted for 50.1 per cent of this sample. The consumer price-based inflation (CPI), or retail inflation, eased to 4.9 per cent in October from 7.4 per cent in July. In the monetary policy announced on December 8, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said the near-term outlook on inflation is masked by risks to food inflation which might lead to an inflation uptick in November and December.

For FY '24, the RBI projects CPI inflation to be at 5.4 per cent. The headline inflation for Q1 FY'25 is projected at 5.2 per cent; Q2 at 4 per cent; and Q3 at 4.7 per cent.

## Wage pact: Banks to shell out ₹12,500 cr extra a year; IBA pushed for 5-day week

GEORGE MATHEW  
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 9

PUBLIC SECTOR banks will have to shell out nearly Rs 12,500 crore more a year as part of the new wage settlement agreed between the managements of state-owned banks and their employee unions. Nearly 7.56 lakh public sector banks, including State Bank of India, will now get 17 per cent annual increase in salary and allowances for the next five years.

The agreement was finalised after discussions were held between the Indian Banks' Association representing managements of banks and the authorized representatives of workmen unions and officers' associations on wage revision for officers and workmen in banks, a joint memorandum signed by IBA and unions said. The total wage bill of SBI alone for FY23 was pegged at Rs 57,292 crore.

IBA has already recommended to the Government for declaration of all Saturdays as holidays under the Negotiable Instruments (NI) Act for the banking industry in line with earlier negotiations with unions, according



The total wage bill of SBI alone for FY23 was pegged at Rs 57,292 crore. File

to the memorandum. If the government agrees to this proposal, banks will work only from Monday to Friday every week.

Many countries, including the US, follow the Monday-Friday working days for banks. Currently, bank branches in India are closed on second and fourth Saturdays every month.

Bank unions are also pushing for declaration of all Saturdays as holidays. "The unions' associations urged for implementation of the same before signing of the final bipartite agreement/ joint note," the memorandum signed by the IBA and unions said.

Bank employees got a wage

hike of 15 per cent involving an outgo of Rs 7,900 crore for the banks for the 2017-2022 period. Both the sides agreed to implement the concept of Performance Linked Incentive scheme for the first time from the FY2020 fiscal. PSU banks reported a 57 per cent rise in net profit to Rs one lakh crore in FY2023.

According to the agreement, the new pay scales will be constructed after merging Dearness Allowance corresponding to 8088 points (average Index point as applicable for the quarter of July, August and September 2021) to the basic pay as on October 31, 2022, and adding thereon a loading of 3 per cent amounting to Rs 1795 crore. "The annual increase in salary and allowances is agreed at 17 per cent, of the annual pay slip expenses for FY 2021-22, which works out to Rs 12,449 crore for all public sector banks including SBI," IBA said.

The memorandum says distribution of annual wage increase between workmen and officers will be worked out separately and proportionately based on breakup of establishment expenses for FY 2021-22. **FULL REPORT ON**

[www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

## FTA with Britain, EU will be a game changer for domestic industry: AEPC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 9

THE PROPOSED free trade agreement with the UK and the European Union will be a game changer for the domestic industry and will offer a huge advantage for apparel exporters, AEPC said on Saturday.

Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) Chairman Naren Goenka said that trade pacts with the UAE, Australia and Japan are providing market access for the sector.

"The FTA with the UK will be a game changer for the industry, and the EU will offer a big advantage if we sign an FTA deal," he said. The negotiations with the UK are in the last stage and talks with the EU are moving at a faster pace.

He also said that one of the major issues regarding the poor export competitiveness of Indian apparel is poor economies of scale.

The apparel industry comprises 80 per cent of exporters with around Rs 10 crore turnover

and the average number of machines in Indian apparel manufacturing units is 250-400, whereas competing countries have an average of 800-1000 machines.

"Also, there are hardly any vertically integrated units unlike in Vietnam and other competing countries. Both these factors limit the capacity for the industry to invest in productivity enhancement technologies," he said.

He was speaking at the AEPC exports awards to exporters on December 8.



## FM's VIKSIT BHARAT SANKALP YATRA

FM Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday visited central welfare schemes stalls arranged as part of rural edition of Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra in Rayanapadu Village, NTR District in Andhra Pradesh. [@pibvijayawada](http://pibvijayawada)

## SEBI mulling framework for issuance of subordinate units by REITs, InvITs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 9

CAPITAL MARKETS regulator SEBI is looking to come out with a framework for the issuance of subordinate units by REITs and InvITs to sponsors and their associates.

Additionally, the regulator has proposed a framework for unit-based employee benefits (UBEB) in the context of REITs (real estate investment trusts) and InvITs (infrastructure invest-

ment trusts). The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has sought comments from the public till December 29 on the proposals.

Under the proposed framework, subordinate units can be issued only to the sponsor, its associates and sponsor group, such units should carry only inferior voting as compared to ordinary units and the units can be issued to the eligible entities in the initial offer or in any offering subsequent to the initial offer, SEBI said in its consultation paper.

It further suggested that subordinate units can only be transferred inter-se amongst the sponsor entities. "Any issuance of subordinate units prior initial offer shall require prior approval from 75 per cent of the unitholders by value. Sponsor(s), sponsor group, associates of sponsor(s) and any other parties related to the transaction shall not vote on such matters," SEBI suggested.

The regulator suggested that subordinate units and ordinary units must be issued under separate ISINs and such units should

not be considered for the purpose of mandatory minimum unitholding requirements applicable to sponsors.

It further recommended that the entitlement date including performance benchmark for conversion of subordinate units to ordinary units should be clearly defined and specified in the offer document.

Further, a one-time extension in the entitlement date should be permitted for a maximum period of one year subject to certain conditions.

## BRIEFLY

### IndiGrid raises ₹670 cr via institutional placement

New Delhi: Infrastructure investment trust IndiGrid has raised Rs 670 crore through institutional placement. IndiGrid, India's first publicly listed power sector Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT) has successfully raised Rs 670 crore through an Institutional Placement process as laid out by SEBI, a statement said. **PTI**

## NCLAT stays penalty on NTPC

New Delhi: The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) has stayed a CCI order that imposed a penalty on NTPC for not disclosing the acquisition of 35.47 per cent equity share capital in Ratnagiri Gas & Power Private Ltd. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) on August 22, 2023 imposed a penalty of Rs 40 lakh on NTPC. **PTI**

## COP28 clashes over fossil fuel phase-out after OPEC pushback

REUTERS  
DUBAI, DECEMBER 9

COUNTRIES CLASHED on Saturday over a proposed agreement to phase-out fossil fuels at the COP28 summit in Dubai, jeopardising attempts to deliver a first-ever commitment to eventually end the use of oil and gas in 30 years of global warming talks.

Observers in the negotiations said Saudi Arabia and Russia were among several countries insisting that the conference in Dubai focus only on reducing climate pollution - and not on targeting the fossil fuels causing it.

On the other side, at least 80 countries including the United States, European Union and many poor, climate-vulnerable nations are demanding that a COP28 deal call clearly for an eventual end to fossil fuel use.

"We need realistic approaches to tackle emissions," OPEC Secretary General Haitham Al Ghaiss said in comments read out by an official. "One that enables economic growth, helps eradicate poverty and increases resilience at the same time."

Earlier this week, the oil producer group sent a letter urging its members and allies to reject any mention of fossil fuels in the



India and China have not explicitly endorsed a fossil fuel phase-out at COP28, but have backed a popular call for boosting renewable energy. File

final summit deal, warning that "undue and disproportionate pressure against fossil fuels may reach a tipping point." It was the first time OPEC's Secretariat has intervened in the U.N. climate talks with such a letter, according to Alden Meyer of think-tank E3G.

"It indicates a whiff of panic," he said. Saudi Arabia is the top producer in OPEC and the de facto leader of the organization and Russia is a member of the so-called OPEC+ group.

By insisting on focusing on emissions rather than fossil fuels, the two countries appeared to be leaning on the promise of expensive carbon capture technology,

which the U.N. climate science panel says cannot take the place of reducing fossil fuel use worldwide.

Other countries including India and China have not explicitly endorsed a fossil fuel phase-out at COP28, but have backed a popular call for boosting renewable energy.

China's top climate envoy, Xie Zhenhuan, described this year's climate summit as the hardest in his career. "I have participated in these climate negotiations for 16 years," he told journalists. "The hardest meeting is this year's. There are so many issues to settle."

## KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No: Re-291.292.293 /2023-24/SE/PHC/MVPA  
JJM-1. CWSS to Vattavada-Design and construction of RCC weir across Chilandhiyar river in Vattavada pt. 2. Providing FHCT in Ayyappanovil and Kanchiyar Pts.-Package I- Supply and laying 200mm DI K9 pumping main. Construction of ground level sump and Pump house, Supply and Laying various sizes of distribution pipelines in Zone IX of Ayyappanovil. CWSS to Idukki-Kanjikuzhi, Vazhathope-Construction of 2.5 LL capacity OHT Tank at Pinnaru EMD. Rs. 50000/- to 500000/-  
Tender fee: Rs. 5515/- to 16540/- Last Date for submitting Tender: 18-12-2023 04:00 pm  
Phone: 04852835637 Website: [www.kwa.kerala.gov.in](http://www.kwa.kerala.gov.in) [www.etenders.kerala.gov.in](http://www.etenders.kerala.gov.in)  
Superintending Engineer PH Circle Muvattupuzha  
KWA-JB-GL-6-1794-2023-24

## TATA POWER DELHI DISTRIBUTION LIMITED

A Tata Power and Delhi Government Joint Venture  
TATA POWER-DDL  
Regd. Office: NDPL House, Hudson Lines, Kingsway Camp, Delhi 110 009  
Tel: 66112222, Fax: 27468042, Email: TPDDL@tatapower-ddl.com  
CIN No.: U40109DL2001PLC111526, Website: [www.tatapower-ddl.com](http://www.tatapower-ddl.com)

## NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

TATA Power-DDL invites tenders as per following details:

Tender Enquiry No. / Work Description	Estimated Cost/(Rs.)	Availability of Bid Document	Last Date & Time of Bid Submission/ Date and time of Opening of bids
TPDDL/ENGG/ENQ/200001613/23-24 SITC of 33kV Switching Station (AIS) at Banda Bahadur Marg, Delhi	3.72 Crs/ 7,60,000	11.12.2023	01.01.2024;1600 Hrs/ 01.01.2024;1630 Hrs
TPDDL/ENGG/ENQ/200001615/23-24 RC-Supply of Transformer Oil	2.06 Crs/ 5,10,000	11.12.2023	01.01.2024;1500 Hrs/ 01.01.2024;1530 Hrs
TPDDL/ENGG/ENQ/200001616/23-24 RC - Supply of 3-Ph Meter Box (Polycarbonate)	1.05 Crs/ 1,32,000	11.12.2023	01.01.2024;1600 Hrs/ 01.01.2024;1630 Hrs

## CORRIGENDUM / TENDER DATE EXTENSION

Tender Enquiry No. / Work Description	Previously Published Date	Revised Due Date & Time of Bid Submission/ Date & time of opening of bids
TPDDL/ENGG/ENQ/200001583/23-24 SITC of OT Firewall, Firewall Management System, CTD Sensor and associated Hardware/ Software	14.09.2023	11.12.2023 at 1500 Hrs/ 11.12.2023 at 1530 Hrs

Complete tender and corrigendum document is available on our website [www.tatapower-ddl.com](http://www.tatapower-ddl.com) → Vendor Zone → Tender / Corrigendum Documents  
Contracts - 011-66112222

## GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,  
RWS&S DIVISION, KORAPUT  
e-mail-[eerwss\\_kpt@rediffmail.com](mailto:eerwss_kpt@rediffmail.com),  
Ph. No. 06852-250281 (Off), Ph. No. 06852-250680 (Res.) Fax No. 06852-251098

National Competitive Bidding Through E-Procurement  
Tender Identification No.16/EE/RWS/KPT/2023-24/08.12.2023  
The Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Koraput on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate Bids in Double cover (PI contract) from the eligible class of experienced registered contractors through e-Tendering system for the Piped water supply works as detailed in DTCN. The bid should be submitted on-line in the website [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in) separately for the works.

1 Nature of work	Rural piped water supply Projects under Koraput District
2 Estimated Cost	Varies from 84.44 Lakhs to 365.65 lakhs
3 Total Nos of works	2 nos.
4 Tender cost	Rs. 10,000.00
5 Class of Contractor	"B", "A"
6 Availability of Bid document in the web site	Dt. 18.12.2023 at 17.00 hours to 27.12.2023 up to 17.00 hours.
7 Date of Seeking clarification	During the Office hours of 18.12.2023 to 26.12.2023
8 Date of Opening of Bid	Dt. 28.12.2023 at 11.00 AM

Further details can be seen in the bidding documents which is available in the e-procurement portal <https://www.tendersorissa.gov.in> Subsequent corrigendum if required shall be appeared in the web site Authority reserves the right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer,  
RWS&S, Division, Koraput  
OIPR-25034/11/0028/2324

## National Institute of Technology, Uttarakhand

(An Autonomous Body under the Ministry of Education)  
Srinagar Campus: Srinagar (Garhwal), Dist: Pauri Garhwal, Uttarakhand-246174  
Website: [www.nituk.ac.in](http://www.nituk.ac.in), Email: [nitukrecruitment@gmail.com](mailto:nitukrecruitment@gmail.com)

## NOTIFICATION

National Institute of Technology, Uttarakhand invites online application(s) from the eligible candidates for the filling up the following faculty and non-faculty post(s) in the institute:  
Advt. No. 13/2023 | Professor (Computer Science & Engineering)  
Advt. No. 14/2023 | Associate Professor (Computer Science & Engineering)  
Advt. No. 15/2023 | Assistant Professor (Grade-I & Grade-II)  
Advt. No. 16/2023 | Assistant Professor (Grade-II) - Special Recruitment Drive  
Advt. No. 17/2023 | Assistant Registrar (against Vacancy)

The advertisement for the various contractual faculty & non-faculty positions and admission into the Ph.D. & M.Tech. seats shall be notified every year during the months of November/December and May/June through Institute website only i.e. [www.nituk.ac.in](http://www.nituk.ac.in)

The applicants may refer the Institute website [www.nituk.ac.in](http://www.nituk.ac.in) for the details of educational qualification, experience, age and last date for submission of online/offline application and other terms & conditions for the filling up of application(s) for the above post(s). Any addendum/corrigendum shall be posted only on the Institute website. Applicants are requested to visit the Institute website regularly.

Date : 10/12/2023 I/C, Registrar

## GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES  
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER  
CENTRAL IRRIGATION CIRCLE, BHUBANESWAR

## 'e' Procurement Notice No. ACECIC-24/2023-24

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Name of Work	Cost of Work (Rs. in Lakhs)	Bid Security (Rs.) E.M.D.	Cost of Bid documents (Rs.)	Class of Contractor	Bid documents available online for bidding		Date of opening of Technical Bid	Period of completion of work
							From	To		
ACE, Bhubaneswar	NDI-16/2023-24	Improvement to Astaranga Minor from RD.00 to 5.338 Kmof Kakaputur Branch Canal System	808.69	808700/- (One-Lakh)	10000/- (Ten Thousand)	"A" & "Special" Class	11.12.2023 At 10.00 Hours	25.12.2023 At 11.00 Hours	26.12.2023 At 11.00 Hours	12 (Twelve Calendar Month)

e-mail ID: - [secic\\_dowr@yahoo.com](mailto:secic_dowr@yahoo.com)

Further details conditions can be seen from Govt. website [www.tenderodisha.gov.in](http://www.tenderodisha.gov.in)

Sd/-  
Additional Chief Engineer  
Central Irrigation Circle  
(OIPR-32160/11/0030/2324)

## GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER  
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BOLANGIR  
e-Procurement Notice

1. Name of work	Construction and Maintenance of Karlamal to Kapani road with Bridge over Local nallah at 6th km on Karlamal to Kapani Road (3x10.77m) Open Foundation in the district of Bolangir under MMSY-TRIP for the year 2023-24				
2. No. of works	01 (One) work.				
3. Time for completion	18 (Eighteen) calendar months				
4. Approximate estimated cost varies from	Rs. 698.17 lakhs				
5. Mode of Submission of tender	Tender should be submitted online in <a href="http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in">www.tendersodisha.gov.in</a>				
6. Other details are as follow					

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on line for bidding		Last date and time of seeking tender clarification	Date & time of opening of tender	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Bolangir	BLGR-Online-37/2023-24	14.12.2023 at 11.00 A.M	28.12.2023 upto 5.00 P.M.	27.12.2023 upto 5.00 P.M.	29.12.2023 at 11.00 A.M.	The date will be intimated to the technically qualified bidders later on

Further details can be seen from the website [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in).  
Any Corrigendum/Addendum will be displayed in the above e tender website only.

Sd/-  
Chief Construction Engineer,  
R.W.Circle, Bolangir  
OIPR- 2511

BRIDGE

Dealer: South Vulnerable: None

NORTH		SOUTH	
♠ 10 4 2	♥ Q J 3	♠ A 8 6 3	♥ AK 10 9 8
♦ 8 6 5	♣ 8 6 4 2	♦ AK 7	♣ A

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
pass	2♦	pass	2♥
pass	3♣	pass	3♠
pass	4♥	pass	pass
pass		pass	pass

West's lead of the two of hearts got the defenders off to a good start because it threatened to stop South from ruffing a spade in dummy. Can South combat this lead?

If spades divide 3-3, you can go ahead and draw trump and give up two spades. But if spades are 4-2 or worse? What then?

Lead spades anyway. When you play the ace and another, West wins his jack. Continue with another trump. East follows so you know the hearts divide 3-2. Lead another spade. When you do this, East wins the trick as West shows out. You still have a spade loser but you may be able to ruff it in dummy.

The West hand: S-J5H-542D-Q43C-Q973  
The East hand: S-K97H-76D-J109C-KJ105

East is in and the only way for him to take the trump off the dummy is if East has the last heart. When East is unable to lead it, you are able to ruff your spade loser in dummy and that is ten tricks. This is a funny hand. West, who has the last trump, can get in but only if he can do that to ruff the third spade lead. If he does, however, it's with the last trump. If he uses it to ruff in, he won't have it to lead. West is squeezed in a funny way.

Dealer: North Vulnerable: None

NORTH		SOUTH	
♠ A 9	♥ K Q 8 5	♠ J 6 5 4 3 2	♥ J 9 4 3 2
♦ AK Q 7	♣ K 5 2	♦ 3	♣ 9

West	North	East	South
pass	2NT	pass	3♥
pass	3♠	pass	4♥
pass	pass	pass	pass

North opened with 2NT and South showed both of his major suits by using Jacoby. 3♥ told North to bid spades and 4♥ said that he had hearts too. This sequence is used on game hands only, not hands with interest in slam, so North was content to pass it out. West leads the ace of clubs followed by the queen of clubs, taken by the king in dummy. What now?

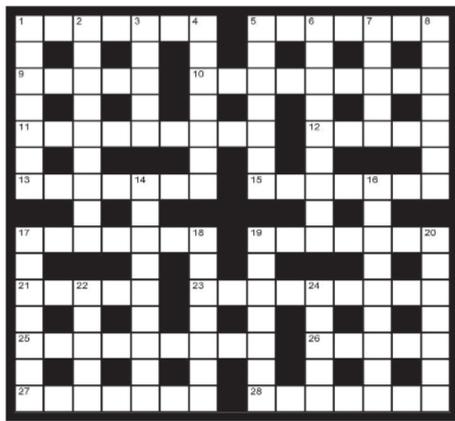
SUNDAY CROSSWORD 2455

QUICK CLUES ACROSS

- Lombardy city; ascribe (anag.) (7)
- Certificate (7)
- \_\_\_ the waters : confuse the issue (5)
- Industrious (9)
- Tactical (9)
- Court - conference (5)
- Means (7)
- Intertwined (7)
- Invokes God's favour on (7)
- Alligator pear (7)
- Tree (5)
- Underscore (9)
- Capital of the Netherlands (9)
- Records (5)
- Braided (7)
- Continuous (7)

DOWN

- Bewildered (7)
- Stamina (9)
- Subterranean vault (5)
- Claims or asserts (7)
- Fiasco (7)
- List of investments (9)
- Smell (5)
- Took on (7)
- Inspired (9)
- An archaic woodwind (9)
- Grandiloquent language (7)
- \_\_\_ off : spoke freely or frankly (7)
- The stomach (7)
- Extend on top of (7)
- Clue (5)
- Black bird (5)



- is backward and banal (7)
- Reset, amended, to be concise (5)
- This could be less of what you say if you sound as if you're ravin' (5,4)
- Moved a deer and colt and put them in different places (9)
- Lets it be known when about to lose the records (5)
- One turn that may possibly go like a bomb (7)
- Sea salt (4-3)
- Appear unkept to view an officers' club (4,4)
- Which organ contains bloodlike fluid? (5)
- Zilpah's son obtains ingenious contrivances (7)
- Alone, poor Noone is planted (2,4,3)
- Going off with a bang (7,9)

Solutions to 2454

QUICK CLUES Across: 1 Hidalgo, 5 Cascade, 9 Upgrade, 10 Ascends, 11 Identical, 12 Silver, 13 Insolvent, 16 Indus, 17 Alamo, 19 Peninsula, 22 Accra, 23 Debauched, 26 Asinine, 27 Soprano, 28 Contest, 29 Airhead, 30 Houdini, 31 Digest, 32 Least, 4 Oleic, 5 Charlatan, 6 Secession, 7 Annexed, 8 Ensures, 14 Lookalike, 15 Expedient, 17 Aramic, 18 Auction, 20 Uplifted, 21 Android, 24 Besra, 25 Upper. CRYPTIC CLUES Across: 1 Distort, 5 Bankers, 9 Sulphur, 10 Inwards, 11 Tom Cruise, 12 Utile, 13 Post-haste, 16 Night, 17 Bloom, 19 Dog eat dog, 22 Crest, 23 Lip-reader, 26 Rattling, 27 Ronaldo, 28 Mr Right, 29 Desists, Down: 1 Desiktan, 2 Salams, 3 Ophir, 4 Tarsi, 5 Balled egg, 6 New Guinea, 7 Earning, 8 Suspect, 14 Hamstring, 15 Sidelight, 17 Buckram, 18 One-star, 20 Diddles, 21 Gorgons, 24 Pared, 25 Ennis

If it's your Birthday

Sunday December 10

Every relationship comes with a price tag. It's an enjoyable and profitable moment, with plenty of interest in your affairs from people close to you. Take care in monetary matters till next week.

Monday December 11

The Moon is on your side, and that's a fine indication that life is now bursting with possibilities. There is nothing you can't achieve with self-discipline.

Tuesday December 12

The secret of success is to plan ahead. Get your priorities clear, tackle every task in the right order, and make sure that every detail is taken care of.

Wednesday December 13

If you do make firm decisions at the moment, do so in a spirit of experimentation, and understand that there is no one right course of action.

Thursday December 14

You'll bring your goals to fruition as soon as you can, or risk losing your advantage. Now is a fine time to start making your travel plans.

Friday December 15

For the third day running your planets look inspired and a little muddled. This is excellent for artists and lovers. Take great care to deal in the details of practical matters.

Saturday December 16

The future is bright - and the choice is yours. Significant celestial alignments always present you with at least two ways of accomplishing all your targets.

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

At work and in all routine tasks you have no choice but to press on, even when the carpet may be pulled from under your feet. You should be ready to have another stab at a particular leisure activity. Monetary matters should do well around the middle of the week, but please avoid all unnecessary risks.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

Feelings could be running high and you can of course go right over the top and let others see just how upset or angry you are. But, in view of rapid changes in mood, I'd advise you to wait and see how the land lies after a few more weeks. As far as romance is concerned, see the world through other people's eyes.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

It's a week of two halves, one that is active, the other that is more restful. Family arrangements and domestic moves may be delayed or postponed, but rest assured that this phase of uncertainty will not last long. Travel prospects gain as the stars become livelier.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

The stars move on, in their silent way, bringing an array of auspicious alignments. Others have had their say and now it's your turn to sparkle. Yet, briefly, the moment for talking may have passed. A financial opportunity will, though, once again be within your grasp.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

Not everything that happens suits you, but much of it does! Loved ones are now prepared to draw a veil over the recent past. This is wise of them, for with Mercury and Venus returning to their former positions, you will again be in undisputed control.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

Although the general tide of events is moving in your favour, a special opportunity may be snatched from your grasp. If so, don't worry about it. Appreciate the fact that you are being given another few weeks to consider your future.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

Emotional stars rise over your personal horizon. Don't allow your feelings to cloud your judgment. Any confusion is purely the result of chaotic celestial movements and there is no reason why you should be concerned. Set yourself up at the beginning of the week by making sure that you have as many friends and allies as you need.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

This is the perfect moment for you to make decisive moves. Employers, partners and people in authority have now dropped their guard and the last thing they are expecting is a return bout. As far as love is concerned, you may begin to make amends for any past mistakes.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 23)

It's an intriguing week in many respects, and you have much to gain. Something that took place on the work front appears to have been beyond the pale, but the fact that various planets are behaving so strangely is sufficient reason to take a second look.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

Everything is thrown into the melting pot - travel plans, legal questions, educational schemes and financial ventures. This doesn't mean that you're facing difficulties, only that you're changing your mind. A financial scheme will be delayed - with helpful results.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

Somebody you thought, or feared, had disappeared for good, is about to hove back into view. It's strange how the past keeps coming back to haunt you, but your planetary cycles do make this inevitable. It's important to understand that everything has a reason.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

The current time climaxes with a brilliant lunar picture, and you may be brought back to the real world with rather a jolt. But, then, the PISCES definition of reality is considerably different from the norm! Go ahead with a financial risk as long as you have obtained the necessary expert support.

JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given clue.

\_\_\_\_\_ is a hobby that will complement any other hobbies you have, beautifully. - Scott Alexander (6,5)

DNAEO	YHUCMM
FYINN	ILNYGK

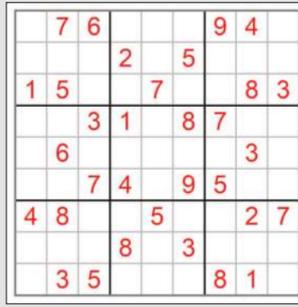
SOLUTION: ANODE, CHUNNY, KINCY, FINNY, CHUNNY, KINCY

Difficulty Level 2s

Instructions To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level

1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius



SOLUTION SUDOKU 5406



**INLAND WATERWAYS AUTHORITY OF INDIA**  
(Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Govt. of India)

Head Office : A-13, Sector-1, Noida-201 301 (U.P.)  
Phone 0120-2474050 & 2544036, Fax 0120-2522969

Notice Inviting Tender No. IWAI/KOL/NW-44(GHAMATIRIVER)/SWARUPNAGARBRIDGE  
Tender for Design & Construction of Single Lane Bridge at Swarupnagar, (WB) across Ichamati River (NW-44) including Approach Road and RE wall on EPC mode.

e-Bids from prospective applicants for the above tender are invited as per the following salient dates. Date of download of Tender documents starts from 08.12.2023 at 1500 Hrs. Last date of online submission of e-tender: 28.12.2023 at 1500 Hrs. Date of opening: 29.12.2023 at 1530 Hrs. Tender criteria & other details are available at IWAI's website i.e., www.iwai.nic.in and https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app. Member (Tech)

**Office of the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, CAMPA, Jharkhand, Ranchi**  
Van Bhawan, Doranda-834002  
e-mail : apccf-campa@gov.in, Phone : 0651-2481466 (0)

**CORRIGENDUM**

Reference- PR 311385 Date: 17.11.2023  
RFP No. 01/2023 Dated: 09.11.2023

This is to inform that by the above reference no. proposal were invited for "Undertaking Research and Studies on Vulnerability Assessment at the Block Level and Preparation of District Level Climate Change Adaptation Strategies for the State Climate Change Centre, at the office of Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, CAMPA, Government of Jharkhand" under budgetary support from Department of Science & Technology Govt. of India under National Mission of Strategic Knowledge of Climate Change (NMSKC).

The last date of submission of proposal and opening of technical proposal was 12.12.2023.

The date is being extended as follows:-  
The last date of submission of technical proposal is 09.01.2024 till 3:00 PM and opening of technical proposal is 09.01.2024 at 3:30 PM.

Other details as uploaded in website forest.jharkhand.gov.in remain the same.

Sd/-  
Additional PCCF, CAMPA, Jharkhand, Ranchi

PR 313100 Forest, Environment and Climate Changes(23-24)D

**NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY**

Tender Notice

Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/Colony, N.E. Railway, Gorakhpur for & behalf of President of India Invites "OPEN" E-Tender through online (e-tendering) for the following work: Tender Notice No. & Description of Work: 21-2023-Colony Name of work: "Electrical work in connection with" (A) Gorakhpur- Provision of One no. 50,000 (Fifty Thousand) gallon Capacity R.C.C. Over Head Tank with 20 Meter high R.C.C. Staging and a Two No. Deep Tubewell with Pump house (B) Gorakhpur- Replacement of water storage tank and Damaged roof of toilet in 300 units Type-III and Type-III Quarters in Jurisdiction of Dy. C.E./G.A. (C) Gorakhpur- Provision of WAG-7 LOCOMOTIVE (True Scale) Trouble Shooting Model in MSTC. Approx Value: ₹ 28,99,678.74, E.M.D. Money: ₹ 58,000.00, Cost of Tender Form: ₹ Zero, Completion time/period from the date of issue of acceptance letter:- 09 Months. Note: • E-tender online will be submitted upto 15.00 Hrs on date 28.12.2023. • Manual offer are not allowed against these tenders and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railway IREPS official website www.ireps.gov.in. Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/Colony CPRO/Elec-224 Gorakhpur "DO NOT TRAVEL WITH INFLAMMABLE ARTICLE IN TRAIN"

**उत्तराखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग**  
हस्ताक्षर  
फोन नं. - 249404

संख्या:- 280 / 01 / डीआरओ (डिप्टी) / सेवा - 2 / 2021-22  
दिनांक : 08 दिसम्बर, 2023

विज्ञापित

असिस्टेंट प्रोफेसर (राजकीय महाविद्यालय) चयन-2021

एतद्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि असिस्टेंट प्रोफेसर (राजकीय महाविद्यालय) चयन-2021 के विज्ञापन दिनांक 04 दिसम्बर, 2021 एव विज्ञापित दिनांक 19 जनवरी, 2022 एवं दिव्यांजन के पदों हेतु सुविधित दिनांक 23.12.2022 द्वारा प्राप्त ऑनलाइन आवेदन पत्रों में अंतिम एपीओआईड नकार के आधार पर शार्टलिस्टिंग परिणाम दिनांक 13 अप्रैल, 2022 को घोषित किया गया, अर्थात् सफल अभ्यर्थियों से दिनांक 04 मई, 2022 तक प्राप्त किये गये अभिलेखों की सन्निवेश के क्रम में असिस्टेंट प्रोफेसर, राजनीति शास्त्र (Political Science) एवं असिस्टेंट प्रोफेसर, संस्कृत (Sanskrit) विषयों के लिए अनर्ह सूची, अर्थात् निरस्त सूची एवं अधिमानी अर्हाता विषयक सूचना से संबंधित सूचियों को आयोग की Website-www.psc.uk.gov.in पर दिनांक 08 दिसम्बर, 2023 को प्रसारित किया गया है। अनर्ह सूची एवं अधिमानी अर्हाता की सूची के संबंध में अभ्यर्थियों को सहाय्यो सहित दिनांक 22 दिसम्बर, 2023 (शुक्रवार) के सांघ 06:00 बजे तक अभिलेख/प्रमाण-पत्र/प्रत्यावेदन आयोग कार्यालय उत्तराखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग, हरिद्वार में प्रस्तुत करने का अंतिम अवसर भी प्रदान किया गया है, अंतिम तिथि 22 दिसम्बर, 2023 के पश्चात अभ्यर्थियों के इस विषय में प्राप्त किसी भी अभिलेख/प्रमाण-पत्र/प्रत्यावेदन पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा। यह भी सूचित किया जाता है कि अभ्यर्थियों को इस संबंध में डाक के माध्यम से पृथक से सूचना प्रदान नहीं की जायेगी।

(गिम्चारी सिंह रावत) सचिव।

**NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY**

E-Tender  
No: WA/SG/2023-24  
Date 07.12.2023

DRM(S&T) NWR, Ajmer on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tender for the following work upto 15.00 Hrs. on the mentioned date. Tender No.: 1. DRM-S&T-28-2023-24. Name of the Work: Ajmer Division - "Development of Infrastructure and complete renovation of Auditorium and Provision of LAN and Wi-Fi Facility at ZRTI udalpur. Approximate cost of work: Rs. 7955864.74. Bid Security: Rs. 147100. Tender No.: 2. DRM-S&T-33-2023-24. Name of Work: Ajmer Division- Replacement of defective patches of Quad cable and patch laying of Quad cable inside railway boundary in lieu of cable laid outside the Railway Boundary over NWR (Ajmer Division). Approximate cost of work: 1268249.03. Bid Security: 203600. Date & Time of Opening E-Tender: 02.01.2024 at 15.30 Hrs. The details of above E-Tender are available on website www.ireps.gov.in AK-1263

**NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE NO. 17 DATE 08.12.23**

Invitation of tenders through e-Procurement system

Website: www.ner.indianrailways.gov.in  
Email: cos@ner.railnet.gov.in

Principal Chief Material Manager, North Eastern Railway, Gorakhpur-273012 and on behalf of The President of India, invites tenders through e-procurement system for the supply of the following items. Complete description of the item and other condition are available on www.ireps.gov.in.

Item No.	Tender Number	Due On	Brief Description of Stores	Reserved to be procured from
1	33230101	01.01.24	150 sq. mm Hard drawn standard copper etc.	CORE
2	33230095A	01.01.24	Lead acid battery consisting of 55 Nos. etc.	--
3	21235002B	29.12.24	Design, Manufacturing, supply, installation etc.	--
4	26235214	27.12.24	Manufacture and supply of 10 mm thick etc.	RDSO

CPRO/S-103 Principal Chief Material Manager/Gorakhpur  
"DO NOT TRAVEL WITH INFLAMMABLE ARTICLE IN TRAIN"

**CENTRAL RAILWAY MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT**

E-procurement Advt. Tender Notice No. E-49/2023, Dt.:07.12.2023

Tender No.	Item Descriptions	Quantity	Due Date
10233124E	Steel cap piston (With Valve Pocket)	48Nos	27-12-23
10231480E	Glass fibre bag filter	508 Nos	28-12-23
38232177	Kit for joints (blpn) consisting of 06 items.	150 Set	29-12-23
43231028B	M.S. Stud [ITEM No. 6]	40431 Nos	02-01-24
43234043C	Set of LED based Aux head light	35 Set	02-01-24
80232237	Shell Gadius S3 V220 C2 (In real pack of 18 Kg in each)	1890 Kgs	02-01-24
81234511	Denotling No. COM T 12/13 B, Description : Excess fare ticket (EFT)	55000 Nos	02-01-24
27233276	Cab Activating Key Switch	195 Nos	03-01-24
27233608	Blower for Traction Motor	12 Nos	03-01-24
90235003	Mild Steel Chequered Plates 6 x 1250 x 2500 mm	100000 Kgs	03-01-24
27231505A	Set of Modified Top Operating	507 Set	04-01-24
81232273	Photocopy paper(Xerox paper) having GSM 80	27550 Ream	04-01-24
38233695	Draw bar and castle nut (for draw gear argt.)	543 Nos	08-01-24
75235113	Copper coated solid MIG / MAG welding filler wire class IV.	13000 Kgs	08-01-24
38233390	Primary Bump Stop for FIAT IR Bogie.	13000Nos	11-01-24
38232582	P.U. Head rest for non-ac coaches, colour code : nac-sc 06, (Blue colour)	9000 Nos	15-01-24
38233436	Injection moulded silent block for centre pivot amdt. no.1 of aug-2016.	600 Nos	16-01-24
38232505A	Hanger for bolster spring suspension.	2418 Nos	17-01-24
38233407	Intercar gangway mounting.	70 Set	19-01-24
38231071A	Slide buffer casing for coaching stock to RDSO	300 Nos	22-01-24
38233057	Push type flushing valve	15391 Nos	22-01-24

Detail notice & Tender Conditions can be seen and downloaded from the website www.ireps.gov.in  
Principal Chief Material Manager/CSMT  
DOWNLOAD UTS APP FOR TICKETS

**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY**

E-Procurement Tender Notice No.: 16/2023 Dated: 07.12.2023

**E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE**

S.N.	Tender No.	Description	Qty.	EMD (Rs.)
1	13235353A	Fire Extinguisher capacity 04 KG. As per attached specification as Annexure A-1	82 Nos	50,710/-
2	13236536A	Lead Acid Secondary Cell 2 volt 300 AH low maintenance conforming to IRS-S-88/2004 with latest Amendments	510 Nos	88,880/-

Tender Opening Date: 04.01.2024. Note: (1) The complete information of above E-Procurement Tender are available on IREPS Website i.e. http://www.ireps.gov.in (2) Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above Tender. For this purpose, Vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Class III Digital Signature certificates issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. (3) Rates entered into financial rate page and duly signed digitally shall only be considered. Rates and any other financial entity in any other form/ letter head if attached by vendor shall be straight away ignored and shall not be considered. (4) Documents being attached should be signed on their body. (5) Allocation for "Cost of Drawing" is Z-650 and for "Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)" is Deposit Misc. Stores-00844517. In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the IREPS website may be approached. 2000/23 (P)

North central railways www.nccr.indianrailways.gov.in @northcentralrailway X@CPRONCR

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**

(SECTION 82 Cr.P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that the accused Pankaj Kumar Singh, S/o Amar Singh, R/o (1) 156, Main Sunday Bazar, Kanjhawla, Delhi, (2) Mahabir Vihar Colony, Sunday Bazar, Kanjhawla, Delhi, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 216/2019, u/s 33/38 Delhi Excise Act, registered at P.S. Moti Nagar, Delhi, and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused Pankaj Kumar Singh, cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Pankaj Kumar Singh, has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Pankaj Kumar Singh, of case FIR No. 216/2019, u/s 33/38 Delhi Excise Act, P.S. Moti Nagar, Delhi, is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 11.01.2024.

By order  
Shagun,  
Metropolitan Magistrate (West Delhi),  
Room no, 268,  
Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

DP/14154/WD/2023  
(Court Matter)

**OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER MAINPURI CIRCLE, P.W.D. MAINPURI**

INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB) {E-Tender}

Letter No. : 5646 /7M-Mainpuri Circle/2023 Dated: 04/12/2023

The Superintending Engineer, Mainpuri Circle, P.W.D., Mainpuri (U.P.) invites for registered in P.W.D. "A" class contractor, item rate bids, online for the construction of work detailed in the table given below. The bidders are advised to examine carefully all instructions including addendum/amendments to ITB, conditions of contract, contract data, forms, terms, technical specifications, bill of quantities etc. in the Bid Document.

Sl. No	District/ Division	Name of Work	Estimated cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Bid Security (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of Document (in Rs.)	Time of Completion
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Firozabad / P.D.	Widening and strengthening work Sirsaganj Abadi Portion of Sirsaganj Aron Road And Construction of divider, Construction of footpath, Construction of RCC drain in District Firozabad.	900.00	18.00	2004/300 +414 = Rs. 2714.00	06 Months

- Bid document with detailed terms and conditions will be available online on website http://etender.up.nic.in from 12.12.2023 to 18.12.2023 upto 12:00 Hours. Bids must be submitted online only at e-tendering portal of http://etender.up.nic.in on or before 12:00 hours on 18.12.2023 Technical Bid received online will be

INDIA TOUR OF SOUTH AFRICA: 1ST T20I

# Shorter format, newer faces, wider net

South Africa and India look to keep piling the positives from ODI World Cup & put in place the plans for the T20 World Cup next year

SRIRAM VEERA  
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 9

INDIA AND South Africa are at a curiously similar place as they start a month-long tour with a three-game T20 series from Sunday. Both teams will view the ODI World Cup with a bittersweetness. Both teams had issues before the big event but South Africa dazzled against Australia in a home series as did India at the Asia Cup. And they forced the world to gape at them later through the ICC event. Now both teams look at fresher faces in the T20 series to take them forward.

Off the field too, both nations are casting their nets in similarly diverse places for unearthing talent. For a while now, South Africa have been social-engineering their teams with black quotas to reflect the larger populace of the country but have been facing criticism for it. One of the less-convincing condemnations has been that the black population isn't interested in the game. Telford Vice, a senior South African journalist, corrects the misconception.

"Claiming black South Africans aren't keen on cricket is like arguing that Indians aren't keen on football. Of course they are, just not as much as they like cricket. Cricket isn't any race of South Africans' favourite sport, but it is a major game for all race groups," Telford says.

"If that's true, people in other countries watching cricket in South Africa might ask, why have the crowds been so white? Because all but one of the major grounds are located in what were, until the 1990s, areas strictly reserved for whites. Those laws have gone, and if you look at our crowds now you will see they are the most diverse in the world."

India's catchment area too has been diverse for a while now; it's the age of the Mofussili cricketer. With data that says that 54 percent of Indians will still be from the hinterland by 2040, it makes eminent sense that the Indian cricket board has been tapping this base for a while now. The advertising brands that pop on television screens during live India games tell a story. Many B2B - Business to Business - products like cement and tiles are seen trying to catch the eyeballs of vendors and dealers.

It's in this exploratory, market-widening, nation-encompassing context that the cricket in both countries are tending towards, and now starting a cricket series that couldn't have come at a financially better time for South Africa. "For the past three financial years CSA have declared financial losses that amounted to \$28.5-million. This tour should put \$68.7 million into CSA's banking accounts. That's more than double their losses. The situation really is that stark. Boards like CSA live hand to mouth from one India tour to another. Without tours by India, professional cricket in South Africa would likely go out of business," Telford says.

Fresh faces in both teams

In cricketer terms, too, apart from the World Cup loopback, there are similarities. Both countries had been a bit slow in adapting to the all-out attack T20 mode that became commonplace elsewhere. India's shyness was particularly egregious as it's the home to the most celebrated T20 league in the world. But of late, they have shown enough signs that they want to inhabit the brave new world. Same with South Africa.

Faf du Plessis highlights the age-old factor that the Indian batsmen have to overcome if they are to succeed in South Africa. "If India can get adapted to the bounce on offer, it is going to be a good white-ball leg. Du Plessis told this newspaper. "Both India and South Africa are



India captain Suryakumar Yadav and his South African counterpart Aiden Markram pose with the trophy on the eve of the first T20I in Durban. X/@BCCI

coming on the back of a very good World Cup. From what I have seen they have the right sort of players. Them coming against each other is going to make for some fantastic cricket."

India have youngsters in Yashasvi Jaiswal, Rituraj Gaikwad, Tilak Varma, Rinku Singh, Jitesh Sharma who can drag them to the current bold T20 template. It's in the bowling, especially in the pace department, that the youth have to step up. They have the youngsters Arshdeep Singh and the slider-specialist Ravi Bishnoi in the T20 squad and the importance of the South Africa series for them cannot be emphasised enough.

South Africa too are looking at new faces to brighten the shortest format, especially in the absence of Quinton de Kock, Kagiso Rabada, and Lungi Ngidi. Their white-ball coach Rob Walter made an interesting statement the other day: "Let me throw it out there to create media hype - there are guys like Faf [du Plessis] and Rilee [Rossouw] as well as Quinny [Quinton de Kock] who could well be considered for the T20 World Cup. The SA20 will be an important competition as far as the World Cup goes. There are three [T20Is] against West Indies prior to the World Cup, at the end of the IPL. So there's plenty of T20 cricket between now and the T20 World Cup." It's up to the youngsters to ensure South Africa don't hark back to the past, and their time starts with the series against India.

Names like Nandre Burger, the left-arm pacer who will feature in all formats against India, Tristan Stubbs will be watched in the T20 series. So will Donovan Ferrier, who had nearly quit cricket after selection disappointments, before Stephen Fleming picked him for the Joburg Super Kings recently, reviving

his career and ambition. Then there is Gerald Coetzee who had an outstanding world cup and will be backing himself to repeat the magic against India on home tracks.

Matthew Breetzke, who is a wicketkeeper batsman, too will get a chance though it will be Heinrich Klaassen who will get the 'keeping gloves. Breetzke played one game in the series against Australia. "I only got one shot at it, in the last game of that series," Breetzke said. "This time, hopefully I will get all the shots. It frees me up to be the best that I can be."

The 'Baby AB' Dewald Brevis hasn't been selected after his failures against Australia in the series that preceded the world cup. "The better the player who is getting left out the better our system. There isn't space for all of the young batters to play all of the time. Dewie will definitely play again and I have communicated that with him. He got his opportunity on the back of Markram, [David] Miller and [Heinrich] Klaassen missing out. That is not the case for this series," was how coach Walters put it recently.

Not just youngsters, but uncapped players with domestic cricket experience are being tried out. The 30-year old seamer Otniel Baartman too finds a place, and it remains to be seen if he finally makes his debut, having been part of squads in the past but without playing. The 33-year old fast bowler Beuran Hendricks too has been named in the T20 series.

India too have the 31-year old Deepak Chahar and the 30-year old Mukesh Kumar in their T20 ranks. Two countries who are trying to take the positives from the World Cup and forget the heartbreak, and investing in widening their talent pool will go at each other from Sunday.

**This tour should put \$68.7 million into CSA's banking accounts. That's more than double their losses. The situation really is that stark. Boards like CSA live hand to mouth from one India tour to another.**

TELFORD VICE  
CRICKET JOURNALIST

## Skipper Surya wants India to play 'fearless cricket'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
DECEMBER 9

SURYAKUMAR YADAV said he was heartened by Indian cricket team's performance in the recently-concluded five-match T20I series against Australia, which they sealed 4-1. The series came just days after India heart-breaking defeat at home to the same opponents (albeit in a different format) in the final of the Cricket World Cup.

While the Australia series saw both teams missing many big names in the side, the series against South Africa will be a real test of their skills, particularly given the challenging conditions on offer.

"The World Cup defeat was a disappointment, and it is tough to move on from it. But the series win against Australia was a big boost even though it came in a different format," Suryakumar told journalists a day before the first T20I encounter against South Africa.

Going into the final of the World Cup at Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium against Australia as the firm favourites, having lost no matches in the group stages or the knockouts, India lost to Australia by six wickets in what was a bruising defeat. But they bounced back with a 4-1 win over Australia in the T20 format.

"The players put their hands up against Australia and came up with fearless cricket, and we need to play the same against South Africa. I just told them (players) to do exactly what they do in franchise cricket," he said.

He added: "The guys whom I am watching right now in the T20s are very expressive, very fearless. I have that attitude. They aren't afraid of failure. Whatever happens if they do

**NUMBER PLATE**

**8**

Number of years since South Africa have beaten India in a T20I series. India have won last four T20I series against their hosts, with the other two ending in a draw.

**25**

Number of wickets fast bowler Arshdeep Singh has taken this year in T20Is, making him the second-highest wicket-taker in 2023.

good or if they don't get runs on that given day, their attitude remains the same. I think that balance is really important and I have just told them just enjoy this format, just be yourself."

Suryakumar is captaining the side in the absence of injured Hardik Pandya for the three-match T20I series. "I am enjoying it (captaincy). It is all about keeping the players together and this is a fine group of players," he said.

The series will be very important for India, particularly the T20 series, considering the T20 World Cup coming in June.

Ahead of the first game, he preferred to keep his cards close to his chest regarding team combinations.

"We have the combination in mind. We know who are going to open tomorrow, and perhaps, will take a final call after the practice session today. Yes, we have enough sixth bowler options in this side to bank upon," he said.

## No decision on Rohit leading in T20 World Cup yet: Jay Shah

DEVENDRA PANDEY  
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 9

HARDIK PANDYA is likely to come back from injury and play in the T20 home series against Afghanistan that starts on January 11, according to the BCCI secretary Jay Shah. There has been much speculation about the possibility of Rohit Sharma leading India in the T20 world cup in June, but Shah said that nothing has been decided yet.

"What is the need to have clarity right now? It (T20 World Cup) is starting in June, we have the IPL before that and the series against Afghanistan," Shahs said on the sidelines of the Women's Premier League auction. Pandya is currently undergoing rehab for his ankle injury, suffered during the ODI world cup, and Shah reckons the comeback could be sooner than previously anticipated.

"We are monitoring it on a day-to-day basis. He is at NCA only, he is working very hard and we will let you know in the due course the moment he is fit. He could be fit before the Afghanistan series also," Shah said. Pandya, who was the face of the television promos for the white-ball series in South Africa this month, was ruled out of that series.

In another update, about the future of Rahul Dravid and his support staff with the Indian team, Shah said that they have been given extension though their contracts are yet to be finalised. "We did not get time at all, they finished (with the World Cup), I had a meeting with them and we agreed mutually that they will continue. We will sit down and decide once they return from South Africa. We have given the extension but we are yet to finalise the contract," Shah added.

There have been some murmurs about why Mumbai has been the lone venue option for hosting women's cricket and Shah explained that it's a result of logistics. Much like the women's series against England and Australia this month, the WPL second season will be held in February in Mumbai.

During the meeting with franchise owners of WPL earlier in the day, the Indian board has informed them that WPL second season is likely to be held in Mumbai again as it has three stadiums: Wankhede Stadium, Brabourne Stadium and DY Patil Stadium.

"Basically it is a joint call between the franchises and the BCCI. We will sit together and we will decide. We will let you know. It will be in one state, that is sure. It will be more successful this time. The biggest thing that you saw today was that two uncapped players have got such big amounts, especially Indian players. The franchises have shown a lot of interest towards the Indian players which is a big thing."

After hosting a successful ICC 50 overs men World Cup, the Indian board is scheduled to host ICC Women's World Cup next year at home. Shah assured that the board will not differentiate in hosting two tournaments. "The way you do not get to see any difference between IPL and WPL, similarly you will not get to see any difference between the men's World Cup and women's World Cup. We will ensure the same treatment is given."

The Indian men's team hasn't played a pink ball Test for a while now, and Shah put it down to the fact that pink-ball Tests tend to finish within 2-3 days.

"We will have to increase the amount of interest in the public for the pink-ball Test. If you recall, the Test ended in 2-3 days. Everyone wants to watch a Test match lasting 4-5 days. Once they get more used to it we will do more pink-ball Tests. Last time it was done in Australia, no one has done it since then. We were in talks with England, but we will do it gradually," he said.

[SPORTS BAR]



### Ashwini-Tanisha in Guwahati Masters final

Guwahati: Tanisha Crasto and Ashwini Ponnappa continued their impressive run and stormed into the women's doubles final of the Guwahati Masters Super 100 badminton tournament here on Saturday. The second seeded Indian pair, which finished runners-up at the Syed Modi International Super 300 tournament last week in Lucknow, beat third seeds Debora Jille and Cheryl Seinen of the Netherlands 21-12 21-12. Tanisha and Ashwini will face the Taiwanese pair of Sung Shuo Yun and Yu Chien Hui in the final on Sunday. However, Malvika Bansod couldn't cross the semifinal hurdle in the women's singles. She found Thailand's Lalinrat Chaiwan too hot to handle, going down 12-21 14-21. PTI

### Wrestling federation elections on Dec 21

New Delhi: The much-delayed Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) elections will be held on December 21 and the results will be announced the same day. A statement issued by the office of the returning officer, Justice (ret'd) MM Kumar said polling, counting of votes and declaration of results will be done on the same day and the result of the elections shall be subject to the outcome of the writ petition pending before the Punjab and Haryana High Court. The elections, to be held during the Special General Body Meeting, will be staged as per the electoral list made on August 7, quelling apprehensions that the entire process might start all over again. PTI

### Kratky new Mumbai City coach, BFC sack Grayson

Mumbai: Indian Super League giants Mumbai City named Czech Republic's Petr Kratky as the new coach. Kratky continues his journey within the City Football Group as he arrives from sister club Melbourne City. The 42-year-old joins Mumbai City in his new role until the end of the 2024-25 season. Meanwhile, amid a modest season, Bengaluru FC on Saturday decided to part ways with head coach Simon Grayson and assistant coach Neil McDonald. Former India player Renedy Singh will be in-charge of the team till the appointment of a new coach. PTI



Liverpool's Harvey Elliott celebrates after scoring the winner in 91st minute. AP

### EPL: Liverpool win, Man Utd humbled at home

London: Mohamed Salah scored his 200th Liverpool goal on Saturday as Jurgen Klopp's team came from behind to beat 10-man Crystal Palace 2-1 in the Premier League. But, it was substitute Harvey Elliott who struck Liverpool's winner with a long-range shot in the 91st minute at Selhurst Park to provisionally move the club to the top of the standings. Manchester United were humiliated 3-0 at home by Bournemouth as the pressure ratcheted up once again on manager Erik Ten Hag. Bournemouth were denied a very late fourth when Dango Ouattara bundled through and netted but his effort was ruled out for handball after a VAR check. The Dutchman looked forlorn as he watched on in the teaming Old Trafford rain as his shambolic side were comprehensively outplayed by in-form Bournemouth. For sixth-placed United it remains one step forward and two steps back as they undid all the good work of their impressive midweek victory over Chelsea. AP & REUTERS

### NZ edge Bangladesh to level Test series

Dhaka: New Zealand beat Bangladesh by four wickets on the fourth day of the second test on Saturday to level the two-match series at 1-1 as Ajaz Patel ripped through the Asian side with six wickets before his batting colleagues secured victory. Chasing 137 to win on a treacherous track at Mirpur's Shere Bangla Stadium after Bangladesh's Zakir Hasan hit a battering 59, the tourists rode on Glenn Phillips' unbeaten 40 and Mitchell Santner's 35 not out to prevail. REUTERS

### Vijay Hazare Trophy: Bengal, Kerala in last 8

Rajkot: Captain Sudip Kumar Gharami and veteran Anustup Majumdar made contrasting hundreds to guide Bengal to an eight-wicket over Gujarat and into the quarter-finals of the Vijay Hazare Trophy here on Saturday. Gharami anchored the chase with a 132-ball 117 and Majumdar cracked an 88-ball 102 as Bengal hunted down Gujarat's 283 for nine, which was built around a century by Priyank Panchal. The winners raced to 286 for two in 46 overs. Bengal will take on Haryana in the last eight clash here on Monday. Meanwhile, hundreds by openers Krishna Prasad (144 off 137 balls) and Rohan Kunnummal (120 off 95 balls) powered Kerala to a 153-run win over Maharashtra. PTI



### Kyrgios won't compete at the Australian Open

Melbourne: Nick Kyrgios has confirmed he won't compete at the Australian Open next month because of injuries. The 28-year-old Australian said on social media he'll miss the Grand Slam for a second straight year because he needs "a little more time" to recover. "Obviously, heartbreaking. I've had so many amazing memories there, and I just want to really get back to playing at the top of my game and doing it right, and I need a little more time," he said. Kyrgios, whose name was absent from the entry list for the tournament, pulled out of last season's Australian Open because he needed knee surgery. He later dealt with a wrist problem. Kyrgios was the runner-up to Novak Djokovic at Wimbledon in 2022 but played in just one official singles match in 2023. AP & REUTERS

# Batting procession hurts India

Harmanpreet Kaur and Co pay for batting lapses on a forgettable night as visitors complete series win

VINAYAKK MOHANARANGAN  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 9

AFTER THE opening match where 356 runs were scored for the fall of 12 wickets, the second T20I between India and England was a complete contrast as 16 wickets fell for 162 runs at the Wankhede Stadium on Saturday. Chasing 81 to win, England had a late wobble but managed to get across the line by four wickets to win the match and seal the series 2-0 in Mumbai.

If the bowling and fielding execution let them down in the first match, it was batting lapses that proved costly in the second as India were bowled out for 80 after being asked to bat first. Renuka Singh Thakur at the start and Deepti Sharma at the backend gave the 25,000+ fans that turned up something to cheer on the night. But the runs on board – combined with the 3.4 overs that India left unused – were never going to be enough to test Heather Knight and Co.

## Procession of batters

The tone was set by Charlie Dean, coming back into the England XI after a stomach bug that laid her low for the opening match. In a trend that we'd see repeatedly through India's batting innings, Shafali Verma played down the wrong line to be trapped plumb in front. Expecting the ball to turn and getting beaten by one that slid on would also be the undoing of Smriti Mandhana, who has struggled against spin in the powerplay in recent times. Dean rocked India with those two early wickets and the hosts never really recovered from there.

Harmanpreet Kaur would soon follow, after hitting Nat Sciver-Brunnt for a couple of boundaries. The Indian captain too fell in a familiar manner, as she tends to plant the front foot while going across and trying to access the leg side. The ball just carried in with the angle and she'd be trapped LBW too.

The only bright spot in India's batting was Jemimah Rodrigues, who saw her teammates come and go. But even the Mumbaier's dismissal eventually followed the same pattern as she missed a straight one from Sarah Glenn. It was one of those freak days where India's top four were all done in by innocuous deliveries that had one thing in common: they were all zoning in on the stumps like heat-seeking missiles.

"Another 30-40 runs could have made a huge difference," Harmanpreet said after the match. "Proud of my team, we fought till the last run which is good to see. We didn't give anything to England easily. We always want to play with a positive approach, but unfortunately, some of us didn't



Harmanpreet Kaur walks back to the pavilion after getting out during the second T20I between India and England. Sportzpics

## NUMBER PLATE

16

A total of 16 wickets fell for 162 runs at the Wankhede on Saturday with England bowling India out for 80 and then suffering a wobble of their own.

n't read the ball well. Credit to England, they also bowled well and didn't allow us to score freely. After losing early wickets we were thinking if we could reach 120 that could have made a difference, but unfortunately we failed while batting."

India's only change on the day was bringing in the fit-again Titas Sadhu to bolster the pace options, but that meant the batting was left a little short without the counterpunching skills of Kanika Ahuja. When the going gets tough, England's mantra has been to hit back and transfer pressure on the bowlers,

but India's lineup didn't manage that. Deepti Sharma fell, throwing her bat at a wide one. Richa Ghosh was at the receiving end of a stunning return catch from Sophie Ecclestone. The only main batter to fall for an aggressive shot was Pooja Vastrakar.

## Something to cheer later on

Defending 81, Renuka had to strike early and after an erratic opening over, she managed to fight back and remove England's openers with a couple of deliveries that swung. That's now four wickets – in two bunches of two in one over – for Renuka, who has made a solid return from a lengthy break.

Alice Capsey and Sciver-Brunnt hit the boundaries regularly to make sure there wasn't any pressure building on a tricky pitch. Another highlight for India was a catch for the ages by substitute fielder Amanjot Kaur to dismiss Capsey off Saika Ishaque's bowling. When India picked up a flurry of late wickets, though, the match was effectively already over.

"I thought it was quite hard for our open-

ers and I thought Renuka bowled really well and the job was to score as many in the powerplay and not lose too many wickets," Knight said after the match, adding a word of praise for the crowd and quipping that they got their entertainment towards the end.

Head coach Amul Muzumdar's stint has now gotten off to a less-than-ideal start. The series might have been lost, but when India return to action on Sunday, he must be hoping to see the fearless cricket that he had advocated for. Every match is a learning experience with the T20 World Cup coming up, and India need to come up with a complete performance – one where the batting and bowling both click – within 24 hours.

**BRIEF SCORES:** India 80 all out in 16.2 overs (Jemimah Rodrigues 30; Sarah Glenn 2/13, Charlotte Dean 2/16, Lauren Bell 2/18, Sophie Ecclestone 2/13) lost to England 82 for 6 in 11.2 overs (Alice Capsey 25, Nat Sciver-Brunnt 16; Renuka Singh 2/26, Deepti Sharma 2/4)

# Sutherland, Kashvee Gautam get Rs 2 crore WPL bids

VINAYAKK MOHANARANGAN  
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 9

WITH 30 SLOTS available and more than 160 players registered, the WPL auction ahead of the second season came to an end on Saturday in Mumbai with all teams completing their maximum 18 slots. Australia's Annabel Sutherland and uncapped Indian player Kashvee Gautam got the highest bids of Rs 2 crore each from Delhi Capitals and Gujarat Giants respectively.

Here is a look at the key takeaways from the auction.

## Vrinda and Kashvee strike big

Young uncapped Indians making it big is one of the consistent feel-good factors surrounding the IPL and WPL auctions. On Saturday, it was the turn of Karnataka's Vrinda Dinesh and Chandigarh's Kashvee Gautam. And both of them got rewarded for their impressive stints in the domestic circuit, and more importantly, the visibility gained from the India 'A' call-ups.

Vrinda, the 23-year-old right-handed batter who plays for Karnataka, has a reputation of being a big hitter at the top. Kashvee, the 20-year seam-bowling allrounder, shot to the limelight in 2020 when she picked up all 10 wickets in a domestic U19 One-Dayer. While both have been around for a while, the chance to make a mark in the India A setup has certainly helped in their big WPL payday. In the three-match series against England A recently, both passed eye tests without setting the stage on fire, and sometimes that is all it takes.

## MI remain Aussie-free

It's early days in the WPL but the defining trend has been teams going big for Australian players. Unsurprisingly too, given how dominant the Aussies have been in the women's game. But Mumbai Indians were the only team who bucked that in the opening season, signing up just Heather Graham who was then released without a game.

This time they have gone one step further by completing their overseas quota without a single Australian as they brought in South African star Shabnim Ismail. The pacer, who is arguably the quickest in the game, didn't feature much for UP last season but should slot into the XI right away and significantly strengthen their bowling depth. They did go hard for Sutherland but in Ismail, have a retired international who will be hungry to show her class. No wonder that paddle went up so fast when her name was being read out.

"The extra pace is something that we wanted. She is one of those players who brings a lot to the group. I'm really excited about having her on board," coach Charlotte Edwards said later. "Shabnim is the fastest bowler cur-



Delhi Capitals coach Jonathan Batty and Gujarat Giants mentor Mithali Raj during the Women's Premier League player auction. @Sportzpics

rently in women's cricket. She has vast amounts of experience, we wanted an out and out pacer. She is also somebody who can mentor our young crop of fast bowlers like Jintimani Kalita and Pooja Vastrakar, who can learn a lot from her," bowling coach Jhulan Goswami added.

## DC's big bid for Sutherland

The day's most expensive overseas bid went to Annabel Sutherland. The Aussie seam-bowling allrounder played for Gujarat Giants in the opening season but didn't quite light up the league and was released. Her quality is undoubted and she has been in better form in recent months but for a side that already has two overseas allrounders in Marizanne Kapp and Jess Jonassen, it seems like a big punt. It is worth noting that Sutherland played for Melbourne Stars in the WBBL where DC coach Jonathan Batty and captain Meg Lanning were in charge and perhaps have seen something in her that could add to the well-rounded DC setup.

## The Chamari puzzle

While the headlines belong to the players who found a bit, for the second consecutive edition WPL will not see the fireworks from Sri Lanka captain Chamari Athapaththu's bat. The left-handed batter has been in fine form recently for Sri Lanka, and also lighting up the WBBL after getting picked up later.

While it was a bigger surprise to see no team going for her in the first WPL auction, perhaps the events on Saturday could be put down to auction dynamics. Athapaththu had entered the auction as an allrounder and the first set was for batters. Of the 9 overseas players who got bids, only two were out-and-out batters in Phoebe Litchfield and Danni Wyatt and both of them got picked up in the first set. Unfortunately, the league will miss someone of her quality but that's sometimes how the paddles go.

# Hockey Jr WC: India trounce Canada, to face Dutch in quarters

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
DECEMBER 9

INDIA TROUNCED Canada 10-1 in their final group game of the Junior Hockey World Cup in Kuala Lumpur to set up a mouthwatering quarterfinal clash against the Netherlands.

The win propelled India to the second position in Pool C, enough to earn them a last-eight berth. For India, Aditya Arjun Lalage (8th, 43rd), Rohit (12th, 55th), Amandeep Lakra (23rd, 52nd), Vishnukant (42nd), Rajinder (42nd), Kushwaha Sourabh Anand (51st) and Uttam Singh (58th) were the goal scorers. Jude Nicholson (20th) scored the consolation goal for Canada.

India finished second in Pool C behind Spain who won all three group-stage games.

It was a remarkable comeback by India after losing to the group leaders in the previous match. Needing a win to assure themselves of a place in the quarterfinals, India were up 3-1 at halftime despite a relatively quiet first two quarters. A field goal in the eighth minute had opened the scoring for India before they converted two of their five first-half penalty corners. Canada found the net for a second time in the tournament, but it served only to snap the Indians into action.

The second half was a devastating onslaught, as three field goals were scored across the 42nd and 43rd minute before the final quarter saw four more fly into the Canadian goal. Two in the 51st minute preceded two final field goals, which closed the game.

Lalage earned the Player of the Match award for his two field goals. As he stepped forward to claim the award, the young attacker said the team "learned from our mistakes against Spain and tried not to repeat those mistakes in this game. We will give our 100 percent in the next game."

India might have to give more than '100 percent' against the Netherlands if they wish to enter the last four. The Dutch were unbeaten in Pool D, the so-called Group of Death as it also comprised Pakistan – who, too, qualified for the quarters – as well as New Zealand and Belgium. The Netherlands defeated New Zealand 3-1 on Saturday to seal the top spot.

# Kremlev snipes back at IOC, says Olympics needs boxing

NAMIT KUMAR  
DUBAI, DECEMBER 9

REINTEGRATION OF different federations from the United States and Switzerland; termination of the membership of German and Dutch federations; and an unequivocal stance hitting out against the International Olympic Committee (IOC) – these were the key takeaways from the Ordinary Congress of the International Boxing Association (IBA) held in Dubai on Saturday, which took place in the background of one of the most turbulent years in amateur boxing history.

For the first time in its 129-year history, the IOC kicked out a sports governing body from the Olympic family when it expelled the IBA in June after a four-year-long dispute over alleged financial instability, poor governance, and corruption in refereeing decisions.

In the aftermath, the IBA did not take charge of hosting the boxing event at the Tokyo Olympics, and will not be doing so in Paris next year either. For Los Angeles 2028, boxing has been left out of the initial programme entirely, and at the IOC session in Mumbai earlier this year, the Committee chief Thomas Bach said: "With the IBA there's no ongoing process, for us the case is closed. There will be no boxing with IBA in the Olympic program. It's done! Full stop!"

But according to IBA president, Russia's Umar Kremlev, any looming existential threats to amateur boxing are overblown. "There is going to be boxing at LA 2028. And that's only because it won't be boxing that misses the Olympic games, it's the Olympic games that will miss the event of boxing. Boxing is one of the most popular sports in the programme. The IOC makes money from boxing, and we want to see that money redistributed among the boxers," he said to the media on the sidelines of the Congress on Saturday.

The IOC's lack of redistribution of revenue to athletes was one of the many attacks made by Kremlev against the body, and its president Bach, during his address to the national federation delegates.

"Boxing is still going to be at the Olympics, there's no reason to worry," Chris Roberts, Secretary General and CEO of the IBA, told The Indian Express. "For us, we're just business as usual. Carry on doing what we're doing."



IBA CEO Chris Roberts (L) along with president Umar Kremlev. IBA

## US return, sort of

As the conflict went on, influential national federations began pulling out of the IBA to form a breakaway group, World Boxing. The first to terminate their membership was from the US, and the likes of Switzerland, UK, Australia, Brazil followed.

While USA Boxing – the official national boxing governing body – continues to commit to breaking away from IBA, a separate federation called US Boxing, led by former Olympic silver medalist and professional world champion Roy Jones Jr, who is a dual American-Russian citizen, has stepped in to represent the US within the world body, allowing American boxers to come under the IBA umbrella.

"What's interesting is – the requests that we've had for athletes to compete neutrally at IBA events recently, a lot of them have been from American boxers. We know it's been difficult for them. Fortunately now, this new federation has grasped this opportunity," Roberts said. Switzerland – where the IBA headquarters are allocated – also resigned from the IBA, a decision that led to a change of president and eventual application to the IBA again and a return as of Saturday.

Meanwhile, German and Dutch federations which joined World Boxing but never left IBA and appealed for a dual membership to make sure their boxers can compete at top events, were terminated with majority by the federations in the Congress.

(This writer is in Dubai on invitation from the International Boxing Association.)

## EXPRESS explained.Live



# War in Gaza: Past, Present, and Future



Navdeep Singh Suri  
Former Indian Ambassador to Egypt and UAE

In conversation with



Shubhajt Roy  
Diplomatic Editor  
The Indian Express

Israel has killed more than 16,000 Palestinians in two months in Gaza – its revenge for the October 7 raids in which Hamas killed 1,200 Israelis and took 230 hostage.

Israel wants to destroy the Palestinian militant group; it is not clear if or when it might succeed.

The war has divided people, campuses, and opinion around the world. It has provoked new waves of both anti-Semitism and Islamophobia. It has raised fears of a wider fallout well beyond the region.

India has been watching with concern, and has tried to walk the tightrope between Israel and Palestine.

What is the genesis of this war, which is both new and old? What might be its repercussions, both for now and the foreseeable future, and for the region and the world?

Listen to Ambassador Navdeep Suri, an old India hand in the Arab world, answer some of these questions. He will be in conversation with Shubhajt Roy, Diplomatic Editor of The Indian Express.

13 December 2023

06:00 PM

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POINT OF VIEW, PAGE 2

'Sculpture is to be felt'

KS Radhakrishnan, 67, on five decades of his artistic career, sculpting Ramkinkar Baij and how art needs to be experienced



ELSEWHERE, PAGE 3

The Call of the Himalayas

Climbing to the top of Friendship Peak in the Pir Panjal range is distilled into a simple task: Placing one foot in front of the other

Devyani Onial

A young girl studying at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA) in London in 1955, writer, cookbook author and actor Madhur Jaffrey would look forward to her mother's letters. Away from home and yearning for the food she grew up with in Delhi, she would ask her mother to write to her with recipes. Her mother's letters would arrive, crammed with news, and in between would be a few lines of a recipe. Indian mothers are notorious for cooking with *andaaz* instead of precise measurements and Jaffrey's mother was no different.

"She always wrote in Hindi. Her letters always started the same way: 'Pyaree (Dear Madhur, Ram Ram)', and then she would write about someone getting married, someone's wedding being fixed. She wrote me three-line recipes, that you take the peas, you *bhuno* (fry) them, then you add this and that and cook till they are done," says Jaffrey. But what came to Jaffrey's rescue was her memory of how the food tasted, like the *heeng jeere ke aloo* that was cooked in her family. "We are a Kayasth family and this was one dish we had all the time... This is the thing, I remembered the taste of the recipe. This is what I learnt much later that if you have a good palate — like my husband is a musician, he has a good ear. So whatever he hears, he remembers. And whatever I eat, I remember, because I have a good palate. Everything is going up to my brain, which is a computer and is remembering it so I can recall it and get it back. This is what I did with my mother's three-line recipes."

From learning how to cook by trial and error to becoming the face of Indian cooking in the West, Jaffrey, who turned 90 this August, has come a fair distance. On completing four decades, her classic cookbook, *Madhur Jaffrey's Indian Cookery*, now has a 40th anniversary edition (Bloomsbury) with 11 new recipes, harking back to the time when she was the original spice girl whose show on Indian cooking on BBC in the '80s made her a household name in Britain. Long before social media arrived with its shiny new stars, Jaffrey could well be called an influencer. Before YouTubers set up their food channels, bringing dishes from their kitchen to ours and aesthetic food documentation on Instagram became a thing, the West turned to Jaffrey for Indian cooking. What avocado toast and Gigi Hadid's vodka pasta is to Instagram feeds, Jaffrey's chicken with coriander was to the audience watching her show.

After watching Jaffrey cook on TV in the evening once a week, people would replicate the recipes the following day. The city of Manchester, it's said, once ran out of coriander because she had cooked a dish with it on her show the previous evening. "When I was asked to do that show, there was nobody I knew who was doing a cookery show who was Indian. In fact, the whole point was that they were looking desperately for somebody to do an Indian cookery show and the idea was not so much teaching people Indian cookery but the idea was for it to be an educational kind of programme so people learnt about Indian culture, about the Indian way of life. Food was going to be used only as a means to convey a cultural programme. I was hired mainly because I was an actress who could do this thing with a certain amount of ease and I could cook a little," says Jaffrey.

Indians living in England were ecstatic that somebody like them was on television while the British found someone from whom they could learn how to cook Indian food. "At that point, they were ready to make Indian food themselves. They had had it outside, some of them had travelled to India, and now they wanted to cook it, but they wanted to cook the real thing. Where would they get it? So here I was on television once a week cooking and everybody would go and cook the same thing the next day, it was quite exciting," she says.

So, she taught them how to make *rogan josh* and chicken with coriander, *qorma* with mint, sweet and sour *bhindi*, cocktail *koftas* and a host of *dals*. The recipes came from Kashmir to Kerala, Uttar Pradesh to Gujarat, in times when Britain was yet to be acquainted with India's regional cuisine.

But cooking was not something that Jaffrey had thought she would take up professionally. She is, what she likes to call herself, an accidental cook. After studying English at Miranda College in Delhi in the early '50s, she acted in plays and worked with All India Radio. Acting was something she always enjoyed since her childhood and she decided to apply to RADA. Her family let her have her way. "My father had six children. The first two were boys and you know, all families want boys and they seemed perfect. Then they had two beautiful girls. Then I came along, a kind of spare odd person and my father just let me do what I wanted. I'm sure he was more careful with the others but he just let me be. It was wonderful



LISA LEVART

MISTRESS OF SPICES

As her classic book on Indian cuisine completes four decades, actor and author Madhur Jaffrey, 90, talks about being an accidental cook, introducing the West to Indian recipes, and the show that made her a star



EXPRESS ARCHIVE



(Clockwise from top) Madhur Jaffrey; her book on Indian cooking; a scene from the rap video *Nani*; with Shashi Kapoor in *Shakespeare Wallah*

for me, because I was allowed to develop into whatever I was," she says. Jaffrey, whose grandfather was a successful barrister, grew up in a joint family in a sprawling house in Delhi where food was a hook around which the days were arranged. "But my father never took my acting seriously though. I remember there was a big gathering and I had just won the best actress award in Berlin for *Shakespeare Wallah* (1965). He was talking to India's Vice President and he was telling him, 'Acting is just her hobby'," laughs Jaffrey.

After graduating from RADA, where she

studied on scholarship, she worked in a few plays and TV dramas in England before moving to America and marrying actor Saeed Jaffrey. The search for acting jobs in the US was tough. "It was impossible because I had by now acquired a British accent and nobody would hire me. And there were no roles for Indians," says Jaffrey, who then started writing for newspapers and magazines.

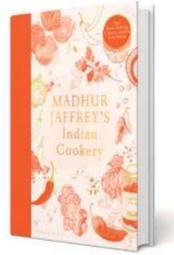
But those were heady days, too. Jaffrey, Saeed, filmmaker James Ivory and producer Ismail Merchant, who was studying business administration in New York then, would hang

out together. Jaffrey or Merchant would cook and they would all go riding together on their bicycles to Central Park. "We were young and all just full of hope that great things would happen, and they did for all of us in some ways," recounts Jaffrey.

Merchant and Ivory went on to set up their production. *The Householder* (1963), starring Shashi Kapoor and Leela Naidu, their first feature, was based on a novel by Ruth Praver Jhabvala, with whom they went on to collaborate on a number of films, including *Shakespeare Wallah*, *Heat and Dust* (1983) and

*A Room with a View* (1985).

Jaffrey's marriage had unravelled by then and it was around this time that Ivory offered her the role of a film actress in *Shakespeare Wallah*. Written by Jhabvala, the film was based on Geoffrey Kendall and his travelling Shakespeareana Company that performed Shakespeare plays in towns across India post-independence. Jhabvala, who knew Jaffrey, wasn't convinced she looked the part but Ivory persisted and so she arrived in India. From Delhi, she took the winding road up to Kasauli in Himachal Pradesh where the film



was being shot. "So I've just come from America, I get straight into this car going up Kasauli on these hairpin bends and I'm throwing up all of the way. I sort of looked like a dead duck, tired and skinny, when I reached. The crew looks at me like, she's going to play a movie star?" she says. But Jaffrey proved the naysayers wrong. "I'm an actress so actresses change themselves and become something else. I was not used to acting without an audience, I was used to the theatre but I used the crew as my audience. I acted for them and they were mesmerised," she says.

Jaffrey, who won the Silver Bear for Best Actress at the 15th Berlin International Film Festival in 1965 for her performance, went on to do a couple of films. But it was *Shakespeare Wallah* incidentally that led her to her other profession as a cookbook author and television host. "When the film came out, Ismail Merchant, who was the producer and who was a real salesman, told Craig Claiborne, who was the chief food writer at *The New York Times*, she's a wonderful cook. I don't know what he said to him, but he called me and said he would love to eat my food and so I made something for him," she says. Claiborne's story, 'Indian Actress is a Star in the Kitchen, Too' (1966), helped her start in the food world. Her first cookbook, *An Invitation to Indian Cooking*, was published in 1983. She went on to write a host of books — *Seasons of Splendour: Tales, Myths, and Legends of India* (1985), a book on vegetarian cooking and her memoir, *Climbing the Mango Trees* (2005), winning many awards along the way.

Bringing up her three children while writing and acting was tough but Jaffrey powered through. "Then I married my present husband, Sanford Allen, who's a musician. We became a family and we tried to do as much as we could do. I wanted to send the kids to the best schools. It was hard, but we did it," she says. The youngest of her daughters is an actress and "is getting the roles that I would never have been offered... The best part is that Indians are writing now, too. Indians writing for Indians never used to happen and that is nice to see," says Jaffrey.

Being Asian at the time Jaffrey was acting and writing came with its limitations. "You could write about anything Asian even though initially I didn't know much about Thai food. I knew nothing about Filipino food but they let me go and interview (Philippine's first lady) Imelda Marcos. But Italian food, French food, no, you are not European and can't write on it," says Jaffrey.

Interviewing Marcos was an unforgettable experience. "In a lavishly furnished room, she was lying back on a comfortable sofa chair and there were tears dripping down her eyes. It was all so beautifully staged. She said, 'I feel so sorry for the people. I'm sorry for the people who are suffering'. So she gives a whole spiel. I don't think she quite understood that a gourmet writer is a food writer. So I explain that I have really come about the food and anything she cooks that she would like to show me how to make. So, she has a quick chat with her maids and she says to me, 'Well, I do love to cook banana flambé for my husband but I'm so sorry, I can only make it with Chiquita bananas and we have no Chiquita bananas in the palace today'. So that was sort of my interview with Mrs Marcos in short," laughs Jaffrey.

Over the years, Jaffrey has travelled a fair bit, making frequent trips to India, exploring its various cuisines. So, does she feel there were fewer food taboos in her growing-up years? "Yes it has changed, it was freer then... I certainly felt no taboos about eating anything. I wanted to try everything. In school we would share our tiffins, we were Jain girls, Sikh girls, Muslim girls, Hindu girls," she says.

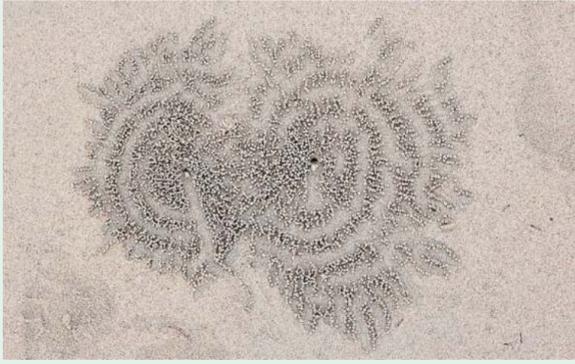
Her travels have taken her to all parts of the country, especially the South. "Over the years, I have been to different parts of the South. I go around with a little begging bowl, learning from people. But I don't take their recipes because people don't know how to tell you how to cook things, they may leave something out from a written recipe. So, I say, show me how you make it," says Jaffrey who has cut down on her cooking. "I cook very simple things now. It just takes too much energy."

But she still finds the energy to do a little bit of everything, like her sassy turn four years ago in rapper Mr Cardamom's expletive-rich music video, *Nani*, a tribute to his grandmother. "It wasn't easy, because I was worried about getting the rhythm right. But I enjoyed it so much. There were all these wonderful young people around me cheering me on and lighting my marijuana and cigarette. I had such a good time," says Jaffrey.



## DOWN IN JUNGLELAND

RANJIT LAL Author, environmentalist and bird watcher



GOING IN CIRCLES

Spiral pattern made by a sand bubbler crab

## The Rangoli Crabs

A look at sand bubbler and soldier crabs, which are responsible for the spiral patterns on beaches

ANYONE WHO has walked on a beach must have noticed them: those neat, spiral patterns on the sand made out of tiny balls of sand, emanating from a central hub or hole, looking for all the world like sand rangoli. And if you've had the patience to stick around, you might have seen the artists responsible: tiny crabs that vanish into the hole or burrow, the second they know their artwork is under scrutiny (can't be too careful these days, you could be from the ED). And you, being a crass human, usually just walk on — and often right over these lovely designs. I did too until (thanks to Sejal Mehta's *Superpowers on the Shore* — 2022, Penguin Viking) I began to look closer and dig deeper. I still have to hunker down and spend quality time in yogic silence, watching these little crabs, but what I did find out about them has whetted my interest in them no end.

Sand bubbler crabs pick up particles of sand and mumble them around in their mouths to extract nutrition

First, is their delightful name: sand bubbler crabs. You imagine this would be because they blow bubbles or something, but not quite. But what they do (literally a doo-doo) is fascinating enough. They're just 1 cm across their carapace, and if you look closely enough, orange and sky blue. They emerge from their burrows at low tide, and with their claws fastidiously begin picking up particles of sand and mumble them around in their mouths, extracting whatever natural goodness and nutrition from the microscopic particles sticking to the particle. In nature, nothing, no matter how minuscule, is wasted. Once done, the particle is rolled into a ball — around 2-3 cm across and cast away. That sand particle has to be dampened and for this, it obtains water from its body. And while it is busy mulling and shaping little sand balls, it breathes through permeable 'gas windows' in its thighs.

The little sand balls ensure that the crabs know what sand they have processed and don't waste time on them. They are arranged in those rangoli patterns with radial spokes in between — which serve as a clear runway in case the crab has to beat a hasty retreat from a

predatory bird or the ED. It will feed until the tide turns and then hunker down in its burrow. This is where the bubble comes into picture. It will arrange blobs of sand around the entrance like an Eskimo arranges blocks of ice while constructing an igloo — and an air bubble is trapped in the top half of this sand igloo — hence the moniker — enabling it to breathe as the tide rushes over it.

Scientists, like the paparazzi, are never satisfied until they've laid bare the sex lives of whatever they are investigating. And with sand bubbler crabs, it seems to be a male-dominated society. Wandering males will pounce on resident ladies: I keep imagining them barging into the burrow, behaving appallingly, exiting and diving down into the burrow next door for a repeat performance, like a serial sex offender! And they will make out both in their burrows and on beaches worldwide out on the sand. Scientists say, 'making love on the hot sands' results in more babies. Around the beaches of the Indo-Pacific region, there are said to be around 59 species of sand bubbleblers.

Soldier crabs, which also make such rangoli patterns, are close cousins of sand bubbleblers, and at 2.5 cm across their carapace, larger. They too are sky blue, hold their front claws vertically and can, unlike other crabs, walk in a straight line. Soldier crabs, too, emerge when the tide goes out and the males accumulate in large 'armies' and head in a straight line towards the tide line to feed. The biggest males lead the troop because they have longer legs and walk faster. I remember noticing a 'moving carpet' phenomenon on Morjim beach in Goa, recently, but the moment I moved, it froze and vanished. It was like a shape-shifting kind of experience and I'm wondering if those were soldier crabs. Soldier crabs have a unique way of digging: They dig with the legs on one side of their body, while the legs on the other walk backwards, causing them to corkscrew their way down. Even the little sand bubbleblers do the vanishing trick effectively.

To check them out, you need to be silent and have patience. Maybe just hunker down and wait until they have the confidence to pop out of their burrows, take a look around and then resume picking up particles of sand. Maybe, like those voyeuristic scientists, you too may see something that makes your eyes pop.



PHOTOS: ABHINAV SAHA

## 'Sculpture is all about tactile experience. It's to be felt'

KS Radhakrishnan, 67, on fifty years of his artistic career, sculpting Ramkinkar Baij and learning from Somnath Hore and Sarbari Roy Choudhury

Vandana Kalra

**Your ongoing retrospective (at Bikaner House, Delhi) marks 50 years of your career. You left your hometown, Kottayam (Kerala), to study art in Santiniketan in 1974. What took you there?**

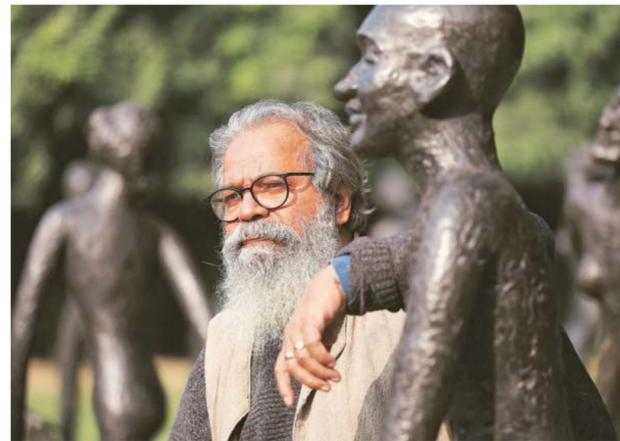
When I left Kerala to study at Santiniketan, it was a big decision for me as most people in Kerala used to go to Madras Art College at the time. We did not have as much exposure as students have now but I had heard about Rabindranath Tagore's Visva-Bharati and its philosophy that encouraged the coming together of arts. Its emphasis on learning from nature appealed to me.

**You began painting when you were eight. If you could recall your early lessons.**

My father's younger brother was a painter and followed the realist style of Raja Ravi Varma, which is what I also pursued during my childhood. I worked there till 18, when I realised there were limitations in terms of where it could take me and decided to study at Santiniketan. I had gone there to become a painter but discovered the sculptor in me. When I started working with clay, I realised how we were building from nothing and there were tremendous possibilities. During one of my earliest attempts with clay, I made a sphere and cut it into two, representing the two hemispheres and built it further — the work, *The Female Torso*, is part of this exhibition. My teachers, such as Somnath Hore and Sarbari Roy Choudhury, were major influences. Ramkinkar Baij, too, was on campus and worked in the Kala Bhawan studios — observing him was a learning.

**One of your earliest sculptures was a Ramkinkar Baij portrait. If you could tell us about that.**

I was just entering my fourth year when



(Top) Radhakrishnan's retrospective in Bikaner House, Delhi; the artist with one of his works

### A WORLD OF POSSIBILITIES

I received the National Scholarship and gathered the courage to approach him. At the time, sculpture students were very few and he was also very happy for me. This was in 1979, a year before he passed away. He had said no to many sculptors earlier, but agreed to sit with me. When I went to his house and started working, I realised the challenges of sculpting this man, who was such a great sculptor and philosopher. I wanted to capture the ruggedness and roughness of his sculptures and also the different sides of his personality, as a serious sculptor and the human expression, his smile. I completed the work in about six sittings.

**In Santiniketan, you also met your protagonist, the young Santhal boy Musui.**

**Do you remember your first interaction with him?**

I was in my third year at Visva-Bharati when I met Musui on the road, and he asked me if I had bread. I was immediately drawn to his smile. I asked him if he would model for me and took him to my studio. He had overgrown hair and I gave him some coins, with which he went to a barbershop and came back with a shaved head. That was when his sculpture was born. He became a model for many others on campus. When I left Santiniketan for Delhi, I decapitated his sculpture and carried his head with me. In the mid-'90s, I turned to it when I was working on a sculpture of a rickshaw puller. Since then, he has assumed various identities, from Jesus to Nataraja. When I felt a need for his

female counterpart, I conceived Maiya. Her figure is a take-off from Musui's head, with feminine features. They are inseparable and one with the other.

**If you could talk about your engagement with migrants, who appear in series such as "Human Boxes" and "My Memories".**

You could have had a different quality of life in your own place but when you are making a big departure you also uproot yourself. You come to a new place where you have no sense of belonging. The series "My Memories" shows the burden of those memories, homes and family left behind, which these migrants carry within. The "Human Box" also responds to the unfolding saga of migrants who come to Delhi and somehow create a life within highly limited spaces and circumstances. The first of these was done in the late '90s. You also encourage viewers to touch your artworks. Sculpture is all about tactile experience. Its presence is to be felt, seen and touched. Even as students, we were asked to feel the material. In 1997, I had an exhibition at Park Street in Kolkata, which continued for six months, and passersby literally celebrated when they came to know they could touch the works. My public works made are also my attempt at reaching out to people.

**If you could talk about juxtaposing bronze with paper pulp in your recent works.**

Last year, I was attending a workshop in Santiniketan where they were making pulp from paper and other materials and during the process, I realised its malleability. I put it with some of my bronze miniatures and the fluidity of paper pulp made them appear as if they were sinking in water while crossing a river, or rising out of clouds. It created human drama. Pulp is soft and bronze gives it a certain hardness. There is no limit to what you can experience and explore.

## A camera inside a dream

Norwegian writer-director Kristoffer Borgli on making *Dream Scenario*, a social satire where a man becomes famous after he appears in dreams of strangers

Alaka Sahani

NORWEGIAN WRITER-DIRECTOR Kristoffer Borgli's wickedly entertaining comedy *Dream Scenario* revolves around an almost-unrecognisable Nicolas Cage as a floundering college professor and his tryst with fifteen minutes of fame. The movie, a twisted take on the collective consciousness of contemporary life, has the professor's life turned upside down when millions of strangers, from across the world, suddenly start seeing him in their dreams. When their dreams take a nightmarish turn, he ends up bearing the brunt of 'cancel culture'.

Borgli, 38, who divides his time between Los Angeles and Oslo, talks about the ideas behind *Dream Scenario*, which releases in theatres on December 15. Excerpts:

**How did the idea of *Dream Scenario* come up and become a feature film?**

There were many elements in the beginning. The first thing was the character Paul Matthews, a middle-aged academic who felt entitled to recognition as an academic for a work that he had not even written.



That I found comedic. I liked the character I had in mind but I didn't have a story. I found Carl Jung's collective unconscious theory interesting. I thought of these high-concept movies such as *A Nightmare on Elm Street* (1984). I thought it would be funny to take a high-concept core idea and place it in a different genre — social satire or character portrait.

**When did Nicolas Cage come on board as the protagonist?**

After I set the movie up with my producers, Lars Knudsen and Ari Aster, they made it possible for A24 (an American production

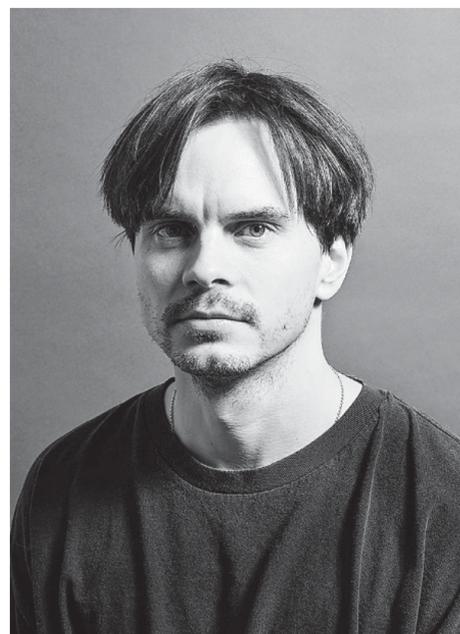
company) to fund it. Later, we considered the names who would be part of it. Once we thought of Nicholas Cage, it was obvious to me that he might be the most suited person to play the part of Paul, not just for his acting talent but because he has become sort of a mythical icon in our culture already.

**You are the writer, editor and director of *Dream Scenario*. How intense was the process of making it?**

The writing and editing parts are not so intense. These are lonely processes when I gather my thoughts. While shooting a movie, you are very social and you are with dozens of people every day, collaborating and discussing under high pressure. It is good for me; a balance between two different worlds. I don't purely want to write or be on the sets. I like to combine them.

**Creating the dream sequences, some of them are quite bizarre, must have been challenging.**

The problem of dreams is that they are uninteresting to other people. The reason is that our language is limited when it comes to communicating what a dream feels like.



BJARNE BARE

### TAPPING INTO THE UNCONSCIOUS

(Left) A still from *Dream Scenario*; Norwegian writer-director Kristoffer Borgli

When you are dreaming, your scepticism is turned off. Everything that you dream of, you take it seriously. When you are awake and reflect on it, it feels ridiculous. While making the film, we were not just using language to explain it, we were taking a camera inside the dream. So, it is no longer a story, it's an experience. I wanted these dreams to feel as serious to the dreamers as to the audience.

**Your previous feature, *Sick of Myself* (2022), too is a commentary on contemporary society. So is *Dream Scenario*, which talks about social media and cancel culture.**

I wanted the movie to be a realistic evolution of a story set in our culture. I was looking at what happens with people who suddenly become famous. I was guided by what is happening in our culture. With the attention and love for something, comes capitalism, marketing and advertising as they want to piggyback on these big phenomena. It was interesting to look at them through a character (Paul) who was not well-equipped to deal with this culture. He is not aware of all the possible mistakes that one can make or how to engage with public consciousness or mass culture.

**Will your future projects too have surrealistic elements?**

I am still unsure what I would do in the future. I just follow my creative instincts and intuition. You will probably recognise a tone or voice in everything that I do.

DECEMBER 10, 2023

# THE CALL OF THE HIMALAYAS

As one steps into icy water, a thousand needles prick your bare feet; you can't believe you signed up to do this for fun

Rohan Banerjee

THERE IS a certain visual aesthetic that you find on Instagram, when researching Himalayan treks. There are the pictures in which nature reigns supreme: wide-lens shots of verdant valleys, frames capturing mountain ranges piercing through the clouds, close-ups of exotic flowers, and so on. There are the meticulously composed photographs with a human subject in the foreground—usually, an arm or a silhouette framed against the hills in the backdrop. Then, there are the group photos. In this category, humanity dominates; a restless, exuberant humanity. There are grins plastered on every face. Everybody seems to be having the time of their lives and you cannot wait to be in their shoes.

It is all, of course, a lie.

The trekking experience Instagram sells you does not exist outside its curated feed. Having been on treks in the past, you know this. And yet, when these images slide onto the screen, you are captivated and before long, you've registered for another trek. It is almost as if a cognitive blindness is at play; as if the pictures trigger a unique form of selective amnesia where all your memories of the previous excursions are radiant and joyful.

This happy forgetfulness continues till the first day of your trek. But the moment you heave your rucksack onto your back and start climbing an uphill trail, you begin to remember. Was your bag this heavy the last time as well? When it begins to rain—and does not stop for the next three days—you recall the whimsies of mountain weather. Blue skies and sunshine can suddenly give way to long, dreary hours of dank mist. On the shores of a crystalline stream fed by glacial melt, you need to remove your shoes. As you gingerly step into the icy water and feel a thousand needles prick your bare feet, you have trouble believing you signed up to do this for fun.

By evening the next day, things get worse. Bad weather has left you stranded at the first campsite and there is no guarantee if you'll be able to proceed. As you sit huddled with the rest of the trekking group in a cramped tent—your clothes damp, feet aching, back sore—you wonder why you have subjected yourself to this ordeal. It is a question that has puzzled many before you.

In 1923, when the world's premier mountaineers were vying to be the first to scale Mount Everest, a journalist had asked George Mallory why he wanted to climb the highest peak on the planet. "Because it's there," he supposedly replied; words made immortal by their simplicity. Are you also, in your own modest way, driven by this inscrutable desire for adventure? As you mull over the decisions that have led to you being trapped inside a leaky tent in the wilderness of Himachal Pradesh, you come close to giving up. You are ready to pack up and go back. Only thing is, you don't want to be the first one to surrender. There is an innate, primal part of you that will not allow it.

Once you have faced the fact that you will not—cannot—quit, it all becomes quite straightforward. The enormity of the task in



ON THE RIGHT FOOT

Friendship Peak that forms a part of the Pir Panjal range offers panoramic views of the Himalayas

front of you—climbing to the top of Friendship Peak, a 5,289 m-tall (roughly 17,350 ft) mountain in the Pir Panjal range of the Himalayas—is distilled into a simple task: placing one foot in front of the other.

You get accustomed to handling basic mountaineering equipment and learn how to wield an ice axe. You trudge through a field of boulders while wearing snow boots that envelop your feet like concrete. You clamber along a glacier and haul yourself up a near-vertical wall of ice. Roped to your companions, you follow the guide, charting a path through crevasses with sheer drops on both sides.

At the end of an 18-hour-long trek on summit day, when you are back at Base Camp, you try to examine your feelings as you nurse a

mug of hot soup. Your motley trekking group of different personalities, some even from different countries, had been brought together by a single, shared purpose. Over the course of a week, you had laughed, danced, grimaced, winced, pulled together and willed each other to achieve that goal. There is exhaustion but also a glow of satisfaction. You can sense the unpleasant, painful memories receding to the back of your mind. You tell your friend you will never do this again and he agrees wholeheartedly. Both of you know this to be a lie.

Later, when people ask you about the trek, you will only have good things to say. The pictures from the trek will be gorgeous but inadequate; unable to convey the stunning vistas from the mountaintop, and the eerie feeling of

being the only living beings in a place of forbidding beauty. And in some bizarre way, this shortcoming of the pictures will make you feel wistful, suffusing your memories of the trek with the honeyed hues of nostalgia.

When enough time has passed, you will try, once again, to investigate the origins of your attraction to the mountains. You will attempt to understand the nature of this desire that makes you seek pain and suffering. You will run through the usual checklist—love for nature, spectacular landscapes, search for solitude—but you will not find an answer that satisfies you. Perhaps, you will say, going on another trek will get you closer to the truth.

Banerjee is a Mumbai-based lawyer and writer



PILGRIMS ALL

Amrit Bhawan has preserved the essence of the old structure while it wears a new look

## A Soul's Place by the River

Haridwar expands its road to the future with novel experiences for the urban youth

Vernika Awal

A STROLL DOWN one of Haridwar's myriad ghats tells you stories as widely varied as Ruskun Bond and Stephen King. At one end, you'd walk past an eager, cheerful family—centred around their youngest member's *mundan* (the ceremonial first haircut). At the other, sombre faces and grim tears grieve the loss of their family's eldest; the contrast couldn't be sharper. Yet, through this cycle of life and death, thrives an ancient city that offers much more than a pilgrimage. Today, through resurrected family bungalows-turned-luxury hotels, the holy city of Haridwar is finding patrons among younger visitors than it ever did.

The city's origins and its association with the river Ganga find mention in ancient scriptures, woven into history and mythology, stretching all the way from Gautama Buddha to the coming of

The all-white facade of the property, with a tinge of cerulean blue and gold in its upholstery, resonates with the city and the river that flows through it. To attract a younger crowd, Pilibhit House offers modern amenities such as a spa, a swimming pool and continental fare at its restaurant. In fact, the Prasads have inspired many more.

Amrit Bhawan is one such. Located in Haridwar's Kankhal area, this 50-year-old Art Deco home belongs to the Bajaj family. Varun Bajaj, the family scion, gave the single-storey building a new lease of life, preserving the building's essence and charm. Old and new touches include old-school mosaic flooring and tiles, ashram-themed rooms, chick curtains on balconies, even a jacuzzi.

It's not just the luxury properties that offer younger urban audiences a connect with the city. It's also the experience. Bajaj brings such niche experiences from his own memories and research. One such is an early-morning heritage walk around Kankhal village, which finds its mention in the Mahabharata.

A quick walk down leads to Gurdwara Dera Baba Dargah Singh, dedicated to the third Sikh Guru—Guru Amar Das. Adjacent to the gurdwara stands a structure in ruins, which belonged to the royal family of Patiala. People also say that during the Mughal period,

this neighbourhood hosted a mint for Akbar's copper coinage. Alongside this is Haridwar's delightful street food, from *surja ki chaat* (boiled and mashed *moong dal* topped with chutney and masalas) to *chole-kulche* served on Maljhan leaves for breakfast and *samosa-kachori* from carts that come by in the evening. From the Bajaj kitchens, is the delectable *Haridwar ki thali*, which comes with *aloo ki subzi*, *meethe kaddu ki subzi*, *lauki raita*, *kachori* and *surja ki chaat*—flavours of western Uttar Pradesh.

As one steps out for a walk, one comes across *pandits* in the narrow lanes of Haridwar, tracing family roots down centuries through red-bound *bahi khatas*. It is an imagery that is seldom seen in old towns today. This rootedness is ultimately what helps Haridwar's new luxury ventures retain their unique identity.

Awal is a Delhi-based food and lifestyle writer

One comes across *pandits* in Haridwar, tracing family roots through red-bound *bahi khatas*

the British. In fact, it is believed that almost every dynasty, princely estate and community have had a presence in this city. It's marked by grand *havelis* and *dharamshalas*, yet despite the obvious disparity in economic strata, Haridwar offers equality—every soul finds their place by the river.

An increasing number of families are currently collaborating with hospitality ventures, converting their erstwhile heritage homes into boutique luxury hotels. Take for instance, Pilibhit House. This boutique property is located on a narrow lane dotted with residences and shops. As it faces the Ganga ghats, the courtyard opens up its serene view. The property was originally built nearly a century ago, between 1925-1930, by a business family from Lahore in pre-independent India. It was called Lahore House, until the Prasad family bought it in 2006 and renamed it Pilibhit House, after their ancestral town of Pilibhit in Uttar Pradesh.

## Vietnam's Storytellers

From running businesses to their war-riddled history of female spies, it's the women who are the face of the country's culture and way of life

Rinku Ghosh

TWENTY-SIX-YEAR-OLD Thuan was up at 4 am and had already read up on guests' preferences before they came in for breakfast. Since I had requested extra tea pouches, she nudged me towards the famed Vietnamese coffee, stirring in a spoonful of condensed milk into the Robusta with notes of dark chocolate, hazelnut and caramel. The condensed milk did it. But then, she saved the best for last—silky smooth Arabica with hints of chocolate, vanilla and caramel. I was sold on it.

French colonialists may have introduced coffee to Vietnam but now that it is the bean's second largest exporter, women have indigenised it, serving up concoctions with yoghurt, coconut milk, eggs, and even fruits. The kick, Thuan told us, was because women roasted the coffee with rice wine, a pinch of salt and butter. The condensed milk was born of scarcity as fresh milk was unavailable during wars in the second half of the 20th century, first with French imperialists and the second with the US. Almost remote-sensing our stress levels, Thuan booked us in for a bamboo massage and a herb-infused wooden tub bath, a tradition in Hoi An, the ancient city in central Vietnam. Usually reserved for women



PHOTOS: RINKU GHOSH

after childbirth, Thuan told us it was good for joint and muscle pain. As was squatting on Lilliputian-sized plastic chairs and tables at street food kiosks. "That helps digestion," she says, serving up logic for every experience. So when she requested we rate her on Google, we readily posted our collective vote of confidence. "Women should be backing each other," she said, promising us more steal deals.

Not for nothing is Vietnam's tourism economy driven by women. They are pleasant, quick-witted, smart-selling and friendly. But they are great storytellers, sharing secrets that don't exist in guidebooks. Most importantly, they are hard-working and have earned equity in a nation that has birthed itself free of the conventions of orientalism. But the stand-out trait has got to be self-belief and pride.

Every woman has a bike, contributes to half the family income and drives small businesses. Women own every food kiosk, cart, cafe, shop and boutique, 18 to 80. Yes, octogenarians. Go for a midnight stroll around the Hoan Kiem lake in Hanoi's tourist district at midnight and you are greeted by these toothless grannies selling the most luscious fruits and hand-made ice-creams in their cycle carts. Their winsome smile is what you get free even when you do not buy. Salon owners stay up till 2 am, doing foot massages themselves.

In fact, we chose all-women midnight bike rides in Ho Chi Minh City and the cyclos in Hanoi, as our pilots knew the city by the gills. That's the best way to feel culture and the people it nurtures, the symphony behind the capophony. That's how we found women, in traditional conical hats, stuffing up their panniers with fresh vegetables and fruits for an early start at the neighbourhood eatery. Sometimes,



THE KEEPER OF TRADITION

(Left) Lady Buddha at Danang; a boatwoman powers through choppy waters of the Mekong

we broke the silence of the past and its glistening mosaic in the doorway of a colonial mansion in the old quarter. Unexpectedly, we bumped into an artist brushing the night away. The lamp streaming through a crack in the alley led us to women inside their family home in Hoi Nan, descendants of once-rich merchants, doing paper-cuts and embroidering napkins for tourist souvenirs. No boat ride on the Mekong or a cruise at Trang An is complete without boatwomen. They know the waters better than mermaids, going around

submerged hills and across limestone caves, the stalactites dangling like swords. But they seem invincible despite their frail bodies.

Much of their feisty spirit has to do with history. Vietnam is one of the few southeast Asian nations to commemorate the Lady Buddha, or the female manifestation of the Buddha. Her statue in Danang bay towers at 67 m is higher than Christ the Redeemer in Rio De Janeiro. Many believe the Vietnamese concept of the female Buddha was to offset the evangelism of the colonialists and their

deification of Mother Mary. This iconography began with the Hindu Cham state, which came up as early as the second century because of the maritime confluence of merchants, scholars and priests from India. Its founder was Lady Po Nagar, a peasant's daughter, who united the coastline against imperial China. The Cham museum in Danang has sculptures of the sacred feminine in all its manifestations, Saraswati claiming as much supremacy as Lakshmi.

But the modern Vietnamese woman had a trial by fire, surviving the war with America and outlasting Agent Orange. At the Cu Chi Tunnel, a war memorial park outside of Ho Chi Minh City, women and teenage girls ran a tiered tunnel city under a thick tropical forest. The resistance, led by Viet Cong and its communist leader Ho Chi Minh, depended on them. Nimble young girls were couriers, even spotted sneaky B52 bombers from treetops. The mothers devised trap doors to disable GIs. They smuggled books to teach their young in underground classrooms, watered rice in the dead of night and devised smokeless kitchens, connected to a horizontal trellis of piped vents that would make smoke curl up like the morning mist, confusing American airplanes. None of the women prisoners of war let out military secrets.

Women made sure Cu Chi never fell to the Americans. And they are the reason that six generations of women at Thang Long restaurant in Hanoi have held on to Cha ca, turmeric fried fish with sautéed scallions and dill and served with rice noodles, chopped peanuts and dipping sauce. Hanoians believe you "have to try this dish once before leaving this world." The Michelin guide and we agree.

## — CAPSULES —

## [0-13 YEARS]

## Smartphone vs depression

IN A new study of more than 50,000 Korean adolescents, those who used a smartphone for more than four hours per day had higher rates of stress, thoughts of suicide and substance use than those with usage below four hours per day. However, adolescents who used a smartphone one to two hours per day encountered fewer problems than those who did not use it at all. The findings can help inform usage guidelines for adolescents, especially if daily usage continues to rise.

## [18-50 YEARS]

## HIV cure in kids

AN UNEXPECTEDLY high percentage of children, who were born with HIV and started treatment within 48 hours of life, exhibited biomarkers by two years of age that may make them eligible to a test for medication-free remission, according to a study. "Moving away from daily antiretroviral therapy (ART) to control HIV would be a huge improvement," say researchers. The three-drug ART regimen was given within 48 hours of birth, the fourth drug added within four weeks.

## [50+ YEARS]

## Some organs age faster

LIKE ANY typical car or house or society, the pace at which parts of our bodies fall apart varies from part to part. A study of 5,678 people, led by Stanford Medicine investigators, has shown that our organs age at different rates — and when an organ's age is especially advanced in comparison with its counterpart in other people of the same age, the person carrying it is at a heightened risk of disease associated with that organ. One in every five healthy adults is likely to have one aged organ.

## The red rose gave her new life

From petitioning the President of India for euthanasia to discovering the healing power of art, this artist defied rheumatoid arthritis to embrace life

Parul

IN 2007, Seema Sood, now 53, petitioned the President of India for euthanasia as years of rheumatoid arthritis had left her bedridden, in extreme pain and completely broke. Though she had a tall frame at 5'9", she lost all muscle mass and at one time weighed just 36 kg, her hands grossly deformed. But her doctor didn't give up on her, trying out innovative therapies. It was on a good day between sessions that he asked Seema, who loved to paint in her younger years, to take it up again. He hoped the creativity would work as a diversion. And things changed the day she drew a red rose. "My friends saw it and encouraged me to do some more works, exhibit and auction them to raise funds for my therapies," says Seema, panning the wall in the reception area of Fortis Mohali, which has dedicated it to her paintings.

Dr Anil Abrol, Consultant, Department of Rheumatology, hand-held Seema while pulling her back from death and helping her reclaim her life. Today as she sits at her home studio in Palampur, painting red poppies as part of her series on flowers in acrylic, she says, "the day I drew the rose, I forgot my pain. It gave me confidence to move my limbs, brought me alive and value myself."

Dr Abrol used painting as therapy and a tool for her empowerment. But it was the main therapy that he had to modify constantly given the complicated nature of her arthritis and years of misdiagnosis.

Rheumatoid arthritis, explains Dr Abrol, is an auto-immune condition in which the body's immune system attacks healthy tissues. The condition causes pain, swelling and stiffness in the joints and may result in low red blood cell counts besides inflammation around the lungs and heart. "Early diagnosis is paramount, particularly in the first four to six weeks. Then deformities do not develop and the drug efficacy is high," explains Dr Abrol. As rheumatoid arthritis is an auto-immune disease, the triggers can be unpredictable, be it changes in weather or viral infections. That's why, he says, we must not ignore signs like early morning stiffness, which increases while resting and persistent joint pain.

"It starts in the 20s and 30s, women being more predisposed to it. A balanced diet, maintaining a healthy weight and avoiding smoking is important in the condition, and the key is not to ignore any symptoms," says Dr Abrol.

Seema complained of pain as early as 1986 and was put on painkillers and steroids as she was misdiagnosed with osteoarthritis. By 1991, her condition worsened and she was taken off steroids after passing out one day. This led to severe contracture of her limbs, so much so that she was on assisted living and bedridden for the next five years. A BITS Pilani engineer, Seema could never reconcile to a life of dependence and felt guilty about draining family resources. She opted for a surgery in 1999, hoping it would give her some mobility and she did manage to walk with a stick for some time. But in 2004, she had a relapse. "By then my family had consulted many specialists and



spent money on therapy and medicines. We had to travel frequently between Palampur and Chandigarh. I was advised joint and hip replacement surgery, costing about Rs 10 lakh," Seema recalls. By then, her father had passed on, and her mother was getting old and frail.

Unable to afford the high cost of treat-

ment, including physiotherapy sessions, staff, and medicines, and sinking deeper into depression, Seema sought euthanasia from the President in 2007. However, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Prem Kumar Dhumal assured her that the state government would incur all her medical expenses. Even though she underwent surgery in 2008, she kept ex-

periencing acute pain and discomfort for seven more years. That's when she chanced upon Dr Abrol at Fortis Mohali at 2014 who diagnosed rheumatoid arthritis and decided to treat her for free. Following extensive treatment, Sood began to show signs of improvement. "When I first met Seema in 2014, such was her pain that we needed three people to make her sit. Mentally, she had given up with no backup, support or financial help. Also her gastrointestinal system was not able to tolerate medicines," says Dr Abrol.

From disease-modifying drugs to targeted biologicals (injections) that are designed for arthritis and reach particular cells to target inflammation, Dr Abrol went all out to give his patient the latest and best treatment for rheumatoid arthritis, with a reputed pharmaceutical company writing off the costs as part of its CSR. As she improved and regained some bit of body confidence, he motivated

her to develop a creative hobby. "She told me how, as a student, she was interested in painting. So I coaxed her into beginning again. With her health improving, she was more positive, had a new zeal and agreed to dabble with colours. The appreciation for her work really did wonders for her confidence. She has now put on some weight, gained some muscle mass and feels more in control," says Dr Abrol.

Seema remembers buying a colouring set for Rs 10 and a drawing book for her first painting. "I remember it was during the silver jubilee celebrations of our batch from BITS and a friend asked if I would be joining them. I shared my condition and not only did my batchmates help me financially, they even organised exhibitions and helped me sell my works to make me feel independent. As winter approaches, the inflammation will increase and it will be tough to sit and numb the pain, but I will keep trying. There's no going back," she says, as she gets the tonality of a petal just right.



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## LIFE POSITIVE



## FACTFILE

Early diagnosis is paramount, particularly in the first four to six weeks. Then deformities do not develop and the drug efficacy is high

## ADVERTORIAL

Where is the Eiffel Tower? We all know the answer to that, it's in Paris, France. It's one of the most iconic landmarks of Paris and every day, thousands of travellers from all around the world stand in line to visit the iconic 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> levels of the Eiffel Tower. And why not? It's such an extraordinary piece of engineering and architecture. It was designed by Gustave Eiffel, whose engineering company specialised in metal frameworks. It took 22 months to complete between 1887 and 1889, which is an incredible feat for a time, when workers had far fewer of the machines and tools we rely on today. And what's even more astonishing is that given how high workers had to climb, no one was killed or hurt during the tower's construction. Today it stands tall in Paris, as one of the most iconic monuments of the city of love.

So with this background, let's get to today's super interesting story about the mighty Eiffel Tower. What if I told you, that there was a strong strong chance that the Eiffel Tower, as it stands today, would not have been in Paris, but all the way west in Montreal, Canada! Imagine... It's true. So today, let's dive into this story.

We all know and have heard of the EXPO that takes place all around the world every 4 years, with the last one being Dubai 2020 (which, thanks to the pandemic extended well into 2021). The World Expo, officially known as the International Registered Exhibition, is a global gathering of nations dedicated to finding solutions to pressing challenges of our time by offering a journey inside a universal theme through engaging and immersive activities. Or this is at least how it is defined on the World Expo website. These Expos, which have been taking place since 1851 (London 1851), welcome tens of millions of visitors through the duration of the Expo, allow countries to build extraordinary pavilions and transform the host city for years to come.

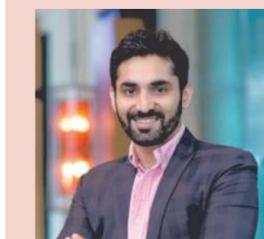
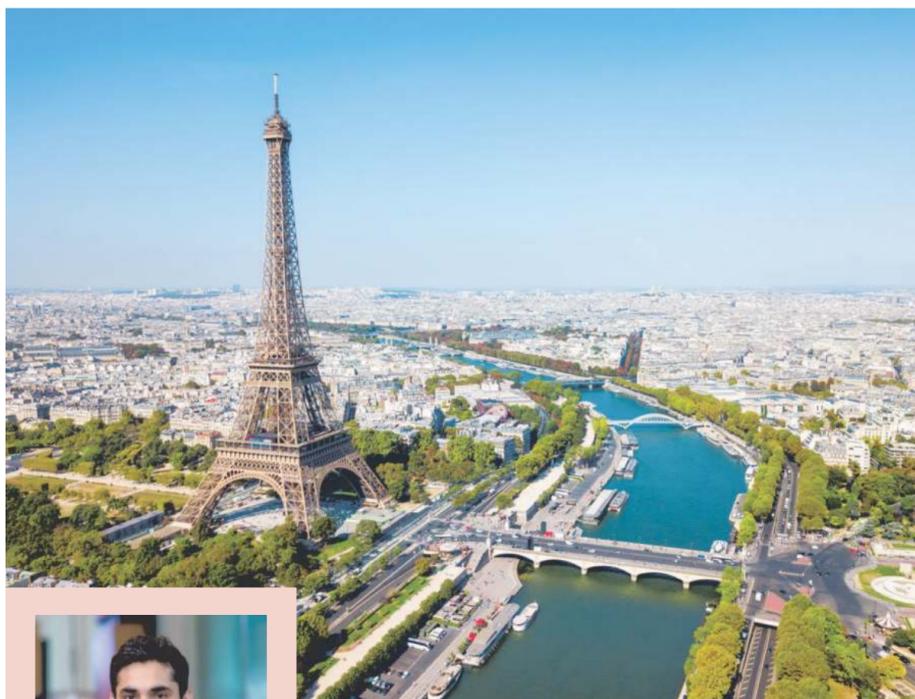
## Who moved the Eiffel Tower?

Studies were established to check the feasibility of dismantling and relocating the steel tower. There were even plans to put up a sign on its old site announcing its return...

So in 1967, the Expo was scheduled to be held in the Canadian city of Montreal. And as the story goes, Montreal actually wanted to borrow the Eiffel Tower from France for Expo 67. Borrow such a huge monument, that's crazy right! Montreal originally wanted to build a large concrete tower in time for Expo 67. However, when the project's expenditures became too exorbitant, it was shelved. When it became clear that the 'Montreal Tower' would not be ready in time for Expo 67, a member of the mayor's cabinet proposed borrowing the Eiffel Tower from France, jokingly of course. But John Drapeau, who was Montreal's Mayor at the time, in fact took this suggestion very seriously indeed. Doing this would ensure that Montreal would still have a monument to show off in time for the fair if this were to happen.

So Drapeau, started carefully considering the difficulties of transporting the tower from Paris, despite the notion being presented just as a joke. Studies were established to check the feasibility of dismantling and relocating the tower. The then president of France, Charles De Gaulle, who happened to be a close friend of the Montreal mayor was also seriously considering the transfer. There were even plans to put up a sign on its old site announcing its return once the Expo ended in October of that year. Both Drapeau and Charles De Gaulle had their teams working round the clock seriously considering this to happen and all plans were drawn out.

But we can say fortunately, the plan was blocked by the company operating the tower and many citizens and citizen groups in



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Canada. There were a couple of reasons for the blocking. Firstly, because as amazing as the Eiffel tower is, it did have its critics in Canada who opposed this move, and secondly, the plan was blocked by the company operating the

tower just out of fear that the French government could refuse permission for the tower to be restored in its original location again because of bureaucracy and red tape in the French Government at the time. And so, the Eiffel Tower stayed in its original place as it stands even today! So that's the story. Imagine, not being able to visit the Eiffel Tower in Paris. I can't, can you?

And now that we are talking about the Eiffel Tower, let me leave you with 3 super-interesting facts that a Veena World tour manager recently told me:

**1. Tallest Man-Made Structure:** When it was completed in 1889, the Eiffel Tower held the title of the tallest man-made structure in the world. It retained this distinction until 1930 when the Chrysler Building in New York City surpassed its height. Today, it pales in comparison to the Burj Khalifa, but back in 1889, it was indeed a remarkable piece of engineering.

**2. Repainting the Tower:** The Eiffel Tower is painted every seven years to protect it from rust and corrosion. It's painted in three different shades of brown, with the darkest shade at the bottom and the lightest at the top to create an

illusion of uniform colour when viewed from a distance. It takes approximately 60 tons of paint to cover the entire structure, and this painting process is a continuous task, involving a team of skilled painters working year-round.

**3. Temporary Structure:** And finally, did you know that initially, it was actually constructed only as a temporary structure? Yes, the Tower was originally constructed as a temporary structure for the 1889 Expo held in Paris to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the French Revolution. Gustave Eiffel's design was meant to stand for just 20 years, but it was so popular and useful (especially for telecommunication purposes) that it was allowed to remain and stands strong even today!

That's all from me today. If you liked reading this, why not check out our podcast 'Travel Explore Celebrate Life' on Spotify, JioSaavn, Amazon Prime Music, Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts or wherever you like listening to your podcasts. We have even done a deep dive into the Eiffel Tower in one of the 100+ episodes that we have released on our podcast 'Travel Explore Celebrate Life' to date! There's a QR Code below which you can scan to jump directly to our Podcast page. Be sure to check it out because we are creating new podcasts every week. So that's it from me today, if you liked reading this, I would love to hear what you thought of the story, so do write to me at neil@veenaworld.com. Have a super week ahead and as we always say at Veena World, keep Celebrating Life!



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