The Editorial Page: Trump is succeeding because of leaders who want to be little Trumps 10

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Delhi court acquits Kejriwal in two ED cases over summons

Not intentional disobedience, says judge; Satyameva Jayate: AAP chief

Sohini Ghosh & Nirbhay Thakur
New Delhi, January 22

A DELHI court Thursday acquitted former Delhi Chief Minister and AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal of the charge of disobeying a public servant's order for skipping six summons from the Enforcement Directorate in connection with its probe into the Delhi excise policy case.

The court of Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Paras Dalal ruled that "mere non-appearance (following the summons) is not intentional disobedience".

AAP leaders hailed the verdict and Kejriwal, in a post on X, said, "Satyameva Jayate".

The ED had filed two criminal cases against Kejriwal –

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NATION P 7

Rs 10-LAKH HEALTH COVER FOR ALL: AAP GOVT IN PUNJAB



Ahead of EU leaders' visit

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with ambassadors from European Union countries in New Delhi on Thursday. "Spoke to them about the current state of the world with volatility and instability as the new normal," Jaishankar said in a post on X. ANI

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U.S. ANNOUNCES 'NEW GAZA' PLAN

As Trump unveils his Board of Peace, Delhi waits, watches

India, China, Russia, much of Europe skip event, Pak there

Shubhajit Roy
New Delhi, January 22

AS US President Donald Trump unveiled his Board of Peace and son-in-law Jared Kushner announced plans for a 'New Gaza' rebuilt from the ruins of the Israel-Hamas war, India stayed away from the ceremony in Davos Thursday, opting to walk the diplomatic tightrope for now by neither declining nor accepting Trump's invitation to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to join the board.

Sources said India has strong reasons for not joining the board immediately, and

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THE WORLD P 14



EVERYONE WANTS TO BE A PART: TRUMP AT DAVOS

THE IDEAS PAGE

SHOULD INDIA JOIN THE BOARD? BEST OF BOTH SIDES PAGE 11

E. EXPLAINED

Why the dilemma

India's dilemma over the Board of Peace has much to do with balancing its long-standing foreign policy principles, especially on multilateralism and the issue of Palestine, against the strategic benefits of joining an elite global platform, and potential diplomatic fallout with the US if it were to decline the invitation.

Happening today

- **PM NARENDRA** Modi will flag off four new train services in Kerala. He will address a rally in Madurathakam, Tamil Nadu.
- **UDDHAV THACKERAY** and Raj Thackeray will address their party workers together in Mumbai to mark Bal Thackeray's 100th birth anniversary.

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Business as Usual
By EP UNNY



INTERNATIONAL SHUTTLERS WRITE TO IOC ON DELHI'S AIR

Sports alarm bells: Toxic outdoors, no weather-proof indoors, IOC takes note

EXPRESS exclusive

Nihal Koshie & Mihir Vasavda
New Delhi, Mumbai, January 22

■ At the India Open last week, international badminton stars questioned Delhi's place on the global calendar, citing health concerns from the toxic air. Some of them even complained to the International Olympic Committee (IOC). "We can confirm that the IOC Athletes' Commission has received the information and is in touch," the IOC told *The Indian Express*.

■ Dronacharya Award-winning hockey coach Pritam Siwach is worried. At the Sports Authority of India's Sonepat centre, dust and toxic air have

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

SPORTING EXODUS

INDIA-SOUTH AFRICA Test moved to Kolkata last year.

ASIAN GAMES medallist Tejaswin Shankar shifted base to South Africa and the US. "The idea was to try and avoid time in Delhi during those months," he said.

SHOOTERS TRAINING at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range in Delhi are travelling to Bhopal. Beyond health, national coach Deepali Deshpande said smog has reduced visibility.

WHEN THE heat peaks, many wrestlers move to hill towns. But Railways coach Kripa Shankar Patel said: "You can't run long training cycles there... The oxygen is lower because of the altitude."

IN 2023, the Cycling Federation of India moved the national camp for road and endurance cyclists from Delhi to Guwahati. In 2024, it was shifted to Patiala.

Bangladesh firm on World Cup: 'Willing to play, but not in India'

Express News Service
Kolkata, January 22

A DAY after the International Cricket Council (ICC) asked the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) to confirm whether their team would play the T20 World Cup in India next month as scheduled, the Bangladesh government responded on Thursday, reiterating that its players are keen to participate but not in India.

The decision sets the stage for the ICC to replace the team with Scotland, as the global governing body had decided during its Board meeting on Wednesday when Bangladesh was given the ultimatum.

Speaking to reporters after holding a "high-level meeting" with BCB president Aminul Islam and the team's cricketers, Bangladesh's Sports Advisor Asif Nazrul said they want to play the tournament in

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Meitei man married to Kuki-Zo woman shot in Manipur, video captures killing — and a message

Sukrita Baruah
Guwahati, January 22

A MAN from the Meitei community was shot dead in Manipur's Churachandpur on Wednesday evening — a killing that was recorded on video and circulated, interrupting months of relative peace in the state.

The man had been living with his wife, who is from the Kuki-Zo community, for the past month in a village in Churachandpur.

In the video, which surfaced late Wednesday night, the man can be seen sitting on the ground outdoors in the dark. The 1-minute, 12-second video carries the text "No peace, no popular government", a reference to attempts to restore a popular government in the state. While it does not have any audio, the man can be seen pleading with folded hands to some people who are not visible

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NATION P 6

ROLE OF KUKI GROUP NOT IN PACT SUSPECTED

Top Maoist with Rs 1-cr bounty among 15 killed in Jharkhand encounter

Shubham Tigga
Ranchi, January 22

A TOP leader of the banned Communist Party of India (Maoist), carrying a Rs 1-crore bounty on his head, was among 15 Maoists killed on Thursday in an encounter with security forces in the Saranda forest area near Chaibasa in Jharkhand's West Singhbhum district, officials said.

The exchange of fire began near Kumbhdih village under the Chotanagra police station limits. Residents of surrounding villages reported hearing

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2





Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi at the book launch event in New Delhi on Thursday. EXPRESS

Gen Dwivedi: Op Sindoor was given to Army week after Pahalgam attack

Divya A
New Delhi, January 22

OPERATION SINDOOR was given to the Army a week after the Pahalgam terrorist attack, even as it was carried out another week later, on May 7, said Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi in New Delhi on Thursday.

"Operation Sindoor was given to me — if I remember — on April 29 or 30, but it was not put out in the media," said General Dwivedi while speaking at the launch of a book on the military action.

"Whenever I stay to stand on the rostrum after April 22, 2025, (when Pahalgam terrorist attack happened), I am always slightly cautious and apprehensive because that day, I was taking the retiring officers' seminar and was into 3/4th of my address and suddenly Rajiv Ghai (then DGMO) walked in and said, 'Sir, chhota sa'.

When the DGMO says 'chhota sa', you can make out there must be something more," recalled General Dwivedi.

That time, the Northern Army Commander was also attending the seminar, he looked at me, I looked at him, and he understood and immediately walked out. By that time, he had also gotten a slip about what had happened, and the rest is history, added the Chief of Army Staff.

Calling Operation Sindoor, which was conducted by India as a response to the Pahalgam terror attack as "one of the most consequential operations in recent history", the Army Chief said, "A joint synergistic approach was the hallmark of Op Sindoor, because at 0147 hours, in the ops room, it was a setting which had Army, Air Force and Naval colleagues, along with diplomatic corps."

Red Lines Redrawn: Operation Sindoor and India's New Normal (Konark Publishers), authored by Maj Gen Bipin Bakshi, Air Mshl Rajesh Kumar, Amb Anil Trigunayat and Brig Akhelesh Bhargava, spotlights the planning rooms and operational environment of the 88-hour operation launched on Pakistan.

"There were actions from both sides, but the winner in the long run was the one whose narrative was based on truth and packed with credible evidence. The world saw on their TV screens, how the nine targets were destroyed in a synergistic manner, that all three forces were involved in it through 22 minutes of precision non-escalatory strikes," he said.

"The old assumption that India requires a long time for decision-making as also a long drawn mobilisation cycle to synchronise force application was quietly thrown out of the window, and one could say that the adversary discovered that India's decision-making loop has become shorter," he added, on the political will behind the operation.

However, speaking about the learnings from Op Sindoor, Dwivedi said that India has to be careful with its supply chains and build resilience through atma nirbharta, which is the only solution for the long run.

IAF fighter jets to fly in Operation Sindoor formation on R-Day

Amrita Nayak Dutta
New Delhi, January 22

FIGHTER JETS of the Indian Air Force will fly in a special Sindoor formation at the Republic Day flypast this year, in a significant display of India's air power. The powerful seven-aircraft formation will comprise two Rafales, two Su-30s, two MiG-29s and Jaguar aircraft, officials said here on Thursday.

Operation Sindoor was launched on May 7 last year by India when the IAF and the Army carried out attacks inside Pakistan to dismantle terror infrastructure following the Pahalgam attack.Speaking to the media on Thursday, Wing Commander Rajesh Deshwal said there will be several formations dedicated to the success of Operation Sindoor. "These include the Prahar Formation, the Garud Formation, and a powerful, dedicated formation known as the Sindoor Formation," he said.

He said that the Prahar Formation will comprise three Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH) — two from the Indian Army and one from the Indian Air Force — of which the lead aircraft will carry the Operation Sindoor flag.

The Garud Formation will follow the Prahar Formation, and both will fly in a battle array format, he added. This would simultaneously be explained during the live commentary along the Kartavya Path.

The Sindoor Formation will comprise two Rafale aircraft, MiG-29 aircraft and Su-30 MKI aircraft each besides one Jaguar aircraft, making it a powerful seven-aircraft formation, he said. Overall, a total of 29 aircraft will participate in the flypast this year, including 16 fighter aircraft, four transport aircraft, and nine helicopters.

This year will mark the first Republic Day after Operation Sindoor, and India will showcase its military might — including its newly-raised Bhairav light commando battalion and a range of indigenous platforms— in a phased battle array format.

This will be the first time that the public will get to see military assets in the sequence they would appear during actual combat.

They will move down Kartavya Path in formations similar to an actual battle scenario, starting with reconnaissance, followed by other military units such as logistics and personnel accompanying these platforms, wearing battle gear.

India takes up embassy vandalism with Croatia

New Delhi: India on Thursday condemned an incident of "trespassing and vandalism" at its embassy in Croatia's capital city of Zagreb. According to sources, some pro-Khalistan activists reportedly brought down the Indian flag at the Indian embassy.

The MEA said it has taken up the matter "strongly" with Croatian authorities, both in New Delhi and in Zagreb and asked them to hold the perpetrators accountable for their "reprehensible" actions.

"We condemn the incident of trespassing and vandalism at our Embassy in Zagreb, Croatia by anti-India elements," it said.

"Accordingly, we have taken up the matter strongly with Croatian authorities, both in New Delhi and in Zagreb and asked them to hold the perpetrators accountable for their reprehensible and illegal actions," it said. ENS

[FROM PAGE 1 | FULL REPORTS ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM]

As Trump unveils his Board of Peace, Delhi waits, watches

will prefer to wait and watch. It's weighing a range of factors – from the cast of countries on the board, its legitimacy and longevity, challenge to the UN framework and multilateralism, the board's scope and mandate, India's own stand of a negotiated two-State solution to the Israel-Palestine question, and consequences from Trump if it does not join or vacillates.

First, Delhi wants to see which countries are on the board – Trump's invitation has been accepted by Argentina, Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belarus, Bulgaria, Egypt, Hungary, Indonesia, Israel, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Morocco, Mongolia, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan and Vietnam.

Last Monday, UAE President Mohamed bin Zayed visited India, and officials in Delhi said Modi and he had held detailed consultations.

The countries that have signed on to the board include West Asia majors Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Israel, UAE, Turkey and Jordan. But Europe has largely stayed away. Trump ally Hungary has accepted his invitation but France, Germany, UK, Sweden and Italy have not joined. Permanent members of the UN Security Council – Russia, China, France and UK – have not joined and there's a view in Delhi that the board, at least for now, lacks both heft and legitimacy.

Second, the longevity of the board is also being assessed. As of now, it is Trump's passion project. The day he leaves office, the board could become infructuous. So, Delhi is considering whether to put its time and energy in an initiative which is time-barred – the Trump term will end after another three years. There is also concern that if he doesn't have his way, he may choose to exit the board. That would mean India being stuck on the board, along with its regional partners.

Third, India's commitment to the United Nations and multilateralism will be on test if the board tends to undermine the UN framework, and positions itself as a parallel body.

It is also unclear who will take the board decisions, whether it will be consultative or according to Trump's whims and fancies. Delhi will watch out for the rules of engagement.

Trump, on his part, has added a role for the UN in the board's functioning, but left the mandate wide open. "Once this board is completely formed, we can do pretty much whatever we want to do. And we'll do it in conjunction with the United Nations," he said, adding that the UN had great potential that had not been fully utilised.

Fourth, Delhi is wary that the Board of Peace might wade into other conflicts, beyond Gaza. And Trump's penchant for getting involved – for instance, taking credit for halting the India-Pakistan conflict last summer – is something that worries Delhi.

Canada's Prime Minister Mark Carney had said, "The UN resolution, Security Council resolution 2803 references a Board of Peace for Gaza. That's where we see it becoming immediately operative, and it needs to be, in our view, it's better to be designed in that way for the immediate needs there."

India would want Carney's template to be adopted, and limited to Gaza. But Trump has said "this is for the world."

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was among the leaders who attended the Davos ceremony. There is a view in Delhi that Pakistan's inclusion makes it difficult for India to stay out of the board. Because if it opts out, India will be cut off from any decision-making by the board in the event of a future conflict with Pakistan.

Delhi court acquits Kejriwal

these were registered in February and March 2024 before the magistrate court – under IPC Section 174 (non-attendance in obedience to an order from public servant). Provisions under the PMLA provide ED with powers for launching criminal proceedings under IPC Section 174 for intentionally disobeying summons for appearance before the agency.

While giving Kejriwal a clean chit in the criminal cases, the court held that ED had failed to prove the emails through which the summons had been sent, and that such a mode of service was not envisaged under the CrPC or PMLA.

The CrPC, it said, mandates physical service of summons with procedure to record that summons have been served. It said when the PMLA does not specifically stipulate the appropriate way of serving summons, the "ED cannot devise its own way" and must adhere to the law laid down under CrPC.

The court also acquitted AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan of a similar charge for skipping three summons in connection with the probe into an alleged money laundering case relating to the Delhi Waqf Board, and discharged him in another case over three other summons. The ED case stemmed from two FIRs: one filed by the CBI concerning alleged irregularities in Waqf Board appointments; and another by the Delhi Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) regarding an alleged case of disproportionate assets.

Kejriwal, while skipping the ED summons, had cited various elections, including those to state assemblies and Rajya Sabha and his obligation to perform his duties as Chief Minister of Delhi. He was arrested on March 21, 2024, by the ED in an alleged money laundering case linked to the now-scrapped excise policy. On June 25, 2024, the Delhi High Court stayed a trial court order granting him bail in the ED case. He was subsequently granted interim bail on July 12, 2024 by the SC which has continued since.

In two orders, one dealing with three summons issued in 2023, and another dealing with three other summons in 2024, all served via email, ACJM Dalal said "the entire process is antithetical to the rule of law". He said "no such mode of service is envisaged under the PMLA or CrPC".

The court ruled that the emails furnished as evidence by the witnesses from the ED's side had not adhered to the requirements under the Evidence Act, such as providing the message ID, creation date, day and time, etc. It said these "were critical to the prosecution's case".

Kejriwal, represented by Senior Advocate Rebecca John, had submitted before the magistrate that there was no wilful disobedience on his part, and all the summons by way of email, which were otherwise invalid, do not adhere to the provisions and rules of PMLA. He had also said that he had given valid and justifiable reasons for non-appearance in response to each of the summons and that these were issued with an intention "to humiliate him politically, only to insist on his personal appearance at the ED office".

It was also pointed out that the summons were leaked to the media before it was emailed to him, and that "hostile political parties sought to draw political mileage from it".

The court said: "It must be understood by the investigating officer that he is summoning a witness, suspect/accused who otherwise is 'innocent until proven guilty'...The accused cannot be convicted on mere probabilities or presumptions."

Meitei man shot in Manipur

in the video, until two shots are fired at him. Then, he is shown motionless on the ground.

Churachandpur Superintendent of Police Gaurav Dogra confirmed that the incident captured in the video took place around 7-7.30 pm on Wednesday, and identified the man as Mayanglambam Rishikanta, who originally hailed from Kakching Khunou in Manipur's Meitei-majority valley. The SP said that the incident took place at a village called Natjang, located a few kilometres away from Tuibong, where the deceased had been living with his wife, Chingnu Haokip. The place of occurrence is a 30-minute drive from Churachandpur town, where the Kuki-Zos are in the majority.

"We got in touch with his wife and found that he had been staying at the village for the past month. The locals, including the village authorities, were aware. He does not normally live in Manipur; he works and lives in Nepal. Then yesterday, some armed miscreants arrived at the village and abducted them and killed him. We have not been able to pinpoint those responsible yet, and no one has taken responsibility either. The investigation is ongoing," said the SP.

According to a security official in Churachandpur, they have learnt that two individuals abducted the couple and took them in an SUV to a spot where there were two more people, all of them masked. Haokip was pushed out of the vehicle around a kilometre before the site at which the killing took place. The body was retrieved and taken to the morgue at the district hospital, and is expected to be handed over to his family in Kakching later on Thursday. The official also stated that multiple parties of the police, Army, CRPF and Assam Rifles conducted combing operations in the area on Thursday.

Another police official said that the deceased had arrived at Churachandpur on December 19 and had been staying with Haokip ever since.

The deceased's cousin, Amarjit Mayanglambam, said the family was unaware Rishikanta was back in Manipur and staying in Churachandpur until they found out about his killing from the video on Wednesday night.

"The girl called us late at night, around 1:30 am, and told us that he had been there since December 19. He last spoke to his father on January 19 to check on him, but didn't mention it then either. He knew that his family would be upset and not support him," he said.

He said that though authorities have referred to Haokip as Rishikanta's wife, the family only knew that they were engaged.

"They met in Guwahati around 2018-2019, where Rishikanta was working at the time. Then he left to work at a private company in Nepal around six years ago, but they continued to be together. They got engaged in early 2023, and when the conflict started in May 2023, the wedding was cancelled. After that, the family was not aware that they were in touch," he claimed.

The ripples of the incident were felt in the Meitei-majority valley, where a Joint Action Committee was formed by locals. It demanded that the case be handed over to the NIA and warned that they will launch an agitation if the culprits are not apprehended within three days.

This killing comes during a period of relative calm in Manipur. President's Rule in the state will complete one year on February 14, and there are ongoing discussions and efforts to build consensus on the formation of a popular government in the state.

A meeting last week was attended by representatives of Kuki-Zo insurgent groups that are signatories to the Suspension of Operation (SoO) agreements, MLAs from the community, and a civil society organisation called the Kuki-Zo Council. A resolution was passed setting conditions for the formation of a new popular government in the state. It included a written "political commitment" by the state and central governments on a separate Union Territory for Kuki-Zo-majority areas of the state, and finalising a settlement before the expiration of the regular tenure of the current Assembly, which ends in 2027.

One of the major SoO groups, the Kuki National Organisation, issued a statement on Thursday stating they were not involved in the incident.

Sports alarm bells

left her players coughing and allergic. "They fall sick, recover and fall sick again. It doesn't end," she said. The doctors are blunt: the air and water are unfit.

■ Decathlete Tejaswin Shankar said winter training in Delhi is no longer about grit, but pollution. Shankar, who hails from Delhi, left in November to train in Bhubaneswar first, South Africa later and the US now. The "extremely difficult" summer brings no relief. "There are real physiological costs for athletes in Delhi," he said.

■ At the premier National Institute of Sport in Patiala, the talk is more about "unbearable summers". "It becomes difficult to even stand outside in the heat for five minutes," former Olympic and world champion Neeraj Chopra had said earlier. Training in such conditions, he had said, was "extremely difficult".

For foreign sportspersons touring India, the risk is occasional -- and one they can choose to avoid, as Denmark shuttler Anders Antonsen did at the India Open. There is no such luxury for Indian athletes. Their exposure is constant, and the cost cumulative.

As the country makes a pitch for the 2036 Olympics, The Indian Express spoke to coaches and athletes from a wide range of sports -- boxing, wrestling, athletics and para-athletics, cycling, shooting and hockey — to understand the impact of the toxic winter air and long summers that push temperatures towards 50 degrees Celsius, on health and training.

The answer was unanimous: these conditions are dismantling their carefully planned training cycles -- not through a sudden collapse but slow, relentless erosion.

Dr Randeep Guleria, the former chief of AIIMS, warned that exercising in polluted air "puts extra strain on the lungs, reduces exercise capacity" and can also affect the heart and brain. His prescription is blunt. "Ideally, they will need a base camp in a region where they can train safely -- possibly outside central India, because the air quality is bad in the Indo-Gangetic belt," he said.

However, some of India's premier elite and grassroots institutions are located in and around this region. There is NIS in Patiala, the apex sports education and training centre. There are the National Centres of Excellence for Olympic disciplines in Sonepat, Rohtak, Chandigarh, Lucknow and New Delhi. Venues in the capital, such as Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range and Indira Gandhi Sports Complex, also host international events.

For decades, these sporting facilities have served as nurseries for champions and hopefuls: nine out of India's 13 medallists at the last two Olympics have trained at these centres.

'Dark clouds make us happy'

The shrinking window for effective outdoor training comes at a time when India is pushing to host the 2036 Olympics. The Sports Ministry has roped in legendary athletes to overhaul coaching systems, professionalise administration and roll out a 10-year roadmap targeting 12-14 gold medals. The vision also includes a Rs 1,500-Rs 2,000 crore makeover of the NIS and establishing an Olympic Training Centre for each sport.

And yet, as coaches and athletes point out, one critical factor is being overlooked.

The number of months in which athletes can train without worrying about the weather has shrunk to just "two or three in a year", says hockey coach Siwach, who is also a former India captain. "Even that is not continuous... 15-20 days in one month, 15-20 days more sometime later. When we see dark clouds over our heads, we are happy because it means rain and fresh air," she said.

In 2024, Delhi and adjoining regions saw their longest spell of extreme heat in 74 years, with temperatures above 40 degrees Celsius for over a month. From June to August, temperatures ranged between 46 degrees Celsius and 50 degrees Celsius, far exceeding the 32 degrees Celsius heat-stress threshold defined for sports such as football and tennis.

According to aqi.in, Delhi did not record a single clean air day in 2025. And, a report by Esri India and IPE Global projects a two-fold rise in heatwave days in Delhi by 2030.

Gajendra Singh, who is the husband and coach of Paris Paralympics bronze medallist and two-time world para champion sprinter Simran Sharma, says the pollution level in Delhi "takes a toll on the body". "When we do repeated sprints (in training), Simran vomits and her cough lasts longer. Our training programme revolves around the AQI (Air Quality Index) levels," he said.

So much so, elite athletes are relocating to the south for relatively cleaner air and milder summers, while those with greater means are moving overseas. Left behind are juniors and grassroots athletes -- the cohort from which many of India's potential 2036 Olympians will emerge.

Guleria agreed that the "window for safe outdoor exercise is shrinking". "Because breathing rates increase during exercise, more polluted air is inhaled, increasing exposure to harmful particles, which over time can cause breathing difficulty, chest tightness, and reduced overall performance," said Guleria, now the chairman of Medanta's Institute of Internal Medicine and Respiratory and Sleep Medicine.

Coaches and athletes have, meanwhile, been advocating for indoor, temperature-controlled arenas. Neeraj Chopra spoke about it in 2021: "I have been saying that there should be an indoor track for athletics at least in Patiala. If you see the smallest of countries, they have indoor tracks."

In his recent report for "restructuring and revitalising of NIS, Patiala", badminton great Pullela Gopichand suggested a "flagship multi-sport indoor complex housing climate-controlled training halls" at the centre.

Hockey coach Siwach says she first encountered an indoor hockey centre "in a rural area near Amsterdam a few years ago". Later, she proposed to the Government that a similar centre be built in India.

Time is running out now, she warns. "Even now, when I go to the ground, the irritation in my eyes and throat is so intense that I feel compelled to finish quickly and go back indoors. If I'm experiencing this, imagine what the players, who run constantly, must be going through. How can coaches develop quality talent under such conditions?"

With inputs from NITIN SHARMA, PRITISH RAJ

Bangladesh

Sri Lanka, which are the co-hosts along with India — a demand that had already been rejected by the ICC.

"While our cricketers have worked hard to qualify for the World Cup, the security risk regarding playing in India remains unchanged. This concern is not based on abstract analysis. It comes from a very real incident in which the Indian board failed to provide security to one of our top players due to pressure from extremists and he was asked to leave India," Nazrul said.

He was referring to the BCCI asking Kolkata Knight Riders earlier this month to eject Bangladesh seamer Mustafizur Rahman from its squad for the next IPL, citing "recent developments", which is believed to be a reference to the domestic turmoil across the border.

"It is crucial to weigh the loss of not playing against the potential catastrophe of pushing players, fans, and journalists into a risky regional political situation. This is a government decision, as the state is responsible for determining whether its citizens face security risks abroad," Nazrul said.

"We are not convinced that they can ensure the safety of our entire team, journalists, and spectators. We are not giving up hope yet; our team is ready. We expect the ICC to provide justice by considering our genuine security risks and allowing us to play in Sri Lanka," he said.

According to the original schedule, Bangladesh was slated to play three matches of Group C in Kolkata, including the opening game against West Indies (February 7), and against Italy (February 9) and England (February 14). Its last group was to be held on February 17 against Nepal in Mumbai.

BCB chief Aminul said they will "try again to convince the ICC and look for other ways to play the tournament". "If ICC fails to accommodate us, it will be a significant loss to world cricket and failure for the host country. We are still trying so that our boys can play in the World Cup. We are ready to play the World Cup but not in India but in Sri Lanka. Our team is ready," he said. Asked about the ICC's ultimatum, Aminul said, "A world organisation can't do that. We'll keep fighting."

On Wednesday, the governing body led by chairman Jay Shah took the opinion of its Board where, apart from Bangladesh and Pakistan, everyone voted in favour of a replacement — Scotland — if the BCB didn't agree to the original itinerary.

Nazrul claimed that the ICC didn't try to convince them. "They didn't call the Mustafizur incident an isolated incident. They didn't say sorry about it or even try to communicate with us. So there's no scope for changing our decision," he said.

Maoist

continuous gunfire from the early morning hours of Thursday. Chaibasa police said security forces were conducting a search operation in the Saranda forests when the Maoists opened fire. The forces retaliated, following which the encounter intensified, officers said.

Among those killed was Pati Ram Majhi, alias Anal Da, who was among Jharkhand's three most wanted Maoist leaders. He was a member of the Central Committee of the CPI (Maoist) and had been active in Saranda.

CRPF IG Saket Kumar Singh said heavy firing began around 6.20–6.30 am, and that it continued intermittently for nearly seven hours till around 1.30 pm, with sporadic exchanges lasting into the evening. "The operation is still continuing as the area is large, heavily forested and laced with IED threats. Search operations are being conducted cautiously," he said.

Officials said 15 bodies have been recovered so far.

IG (Operations) Michael Raj told *The Indian Express* that Saranda continues to be a major operational area for Maoists due to its challenging terrain. "The difficult terrain, dense forests and rugged hills give the CPI (Maoist) a stronghold to continue their activities. A large-scale operation is underway inside the forest," he said, adding that the area has been cordoned off.

Calling the operation a success, Jharkhand DGP Tadasha Mishra said the killing of the Maoists was a major achievement. "Our personnel did a very good job. The operation has been ongoing since morning, and it is one of the biggest successes that we have been looking for," Mishra said.

Police said that apart from Anal, other identified Maoists killed in the encounter included Anmol alias Shushant (Bihar–Jharkhand Special Area Committee member of the Maoists), who carried a reward of Rs 25 lakh in Jharkhand and Rs 65 lakh in Odisha, and Amit Munda (Maost zonal committee member), who carried a reward of Rs 15 lakh in Jharkhand, Rs 43 lakh in Odisha, and Rs 4 lakh by the NIA.

According to the police, Anal was wanted in nearly 149 criminal cases, including the 2005 Belwa Ghati massacre, in which 17 people were killed by Maoists. He was also involved in the loot of 183 rifles from a Home Guards armoury in Giridih and attacks on security camps in Bokaro and other districts of Jharkhand, police said.

Officials said he also played a key role in several IED attacks between 2022 and 2025.

CRPF IG Singh called the operation a "historic achievement" and said this was possibly the highest number of Maoist fatalities recorded in a single operation in Jharkhand.

Officials said Jharkhand earlier had four active Maoist Central Committee members, of whom three have been killed in the last two-three years. "Only Misir Besra remains active," Singh said, adding that intelligence inputs suggest Misir Besra is operating within a 15-km radius of the encounter site with around 40–50 armed cadres.

Singh appealed to the remaining Maoist cadres to surrender. "There are camps everywhere now. Anyone who wishes to surrender will be provided security and rehabilitation under state policy," he said.

11 LAKH AWAITING RATION CARDS

Cabinet nod to new food security policy

•Ration card mathematics

Pending applications: 3,89,883

Needy people awaiting ration cards: 1,165,965

Vacancies created during verification process: 82,27,756

Who is eligibile: Rs 1.2 lakh annual family income cap

Who is not eligibile: Families that owning a house under A to E category, pay income tax, own four-wheelers (exception for one commercial vehicle), has electricity connection above 2 kw.



Gayathri Mani
New Delhi, January 22

WITH OVER 11.65 lakh people in Delhi awaiting food security as per official estimates, the Delhi government is set to bring a new policy to ensure food security for the poor by weeding out ineligible ration card holders.

The policy, 'Delhi Food Security Rules, 2025', which aims at setting up a fair and legally compliant framework for the Public Distribution System (PDS), has been sent to Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena for approval, officials said.

"The Cabinet has approved Delhi Food Security Rules, 2025... It has been sent to the L-G. Following his approval, it will be notified through a gazette notification," a senior government official said on Thursday.

According to a government document, 11,65,965 people in Delhi are awaiting food security — subsidised food grains — with more than 3.89 lakh applications pending for ration cards. Under the new policy, the government aims to create a robust end-to-end framework, built on three pillars – fair identification, need-based prioritisation and accountability.

It also proposes that to prioritise the "poorest of the poor", district-level committees will be constituted that will have the power to scrutinise and approve applications for ration cards. "The committees will prioritise and serialise all approved applications, ensuring that the most needy are at the front of the line, and maintain a 20% waiting list to fill up vacancies as they arise," said an official. The committee will be led by the district magistrate or the additional district magistrate and comprise MLAs, area sub-divisional magistrate and the assistant commissioner of police concerned .

Officials said ration cards will be allocated based on voter population in districts until new Census data is available.

Further, the government plans to set up a multi-tier grievance system and vigilance committee at four levels – minister, MP, MLA and food safety officer – to ensure ground-level accountability, officials said.

They added that the government had in 2024 started a drive to verify ration card holders to weed out duplication, prevent fraud and ensure transparency. The drive, which officials said picked up last year, has so far weeded out 82,27,756 ration card holders. According to documents of the Food and Supplies department, while 95,658 of these ineligible ration card holders were found to be silent beneficiaries, 23,394 were duplicate beneficiaries, 6,185 were found dead, and 6,46,123 did not meet the income cap criteria. Further, 56,372 themselves requested that their ration cards be cancelled.

Officials said that currently, verification is underway for those owning land and vehicles and those possessing a GSTIN (GST Identification Number). "This will potentially create more vacancies," said an official.

Prior to 2024, the last time ration cards holders were examined was in 2013.

Munak Canal to be beautified, readied for Chhath: CM

Express News Service
New Delhi, January 22

CHIEF MINISTER Rekha Gupta Thursday laid the foundation stone for a project which will focus on the rejuvenation of the Munak Canal and announced that the Delhi government is planning to construct an elevated road over the canal at a cost of Rs 5000 crore — from Inderlok Metro station to UER–2 — to decongest Northwest and Outer Delhi.

"Once completed, commuters travelling towards Rohini and Outer Delhi will be able to avoid congested internal roads, ensuring smoother and faster travel," the CM said.



CM Rekha Gupta laid the foundation stone for a project on the canal's rejuvenation, in New Delhi on Thursday. X/@GUPTA_REKHA

She said that the Munak Canal, which has been in a dilapidated state for years, will be cleaned thoroughly, beautified and equipped with dedicated ghats for Chhath Puja.

"The canal, long viewed as a symbol of dirt and disorder, will now become a focal point of faith and culture. This project will be a significant boon for residents of Shalimar Bagh, Pitampura, Keshavpuram, Netaji Subhash Place, Punjabi Bagh and Kohat Enclave. Once completed, over 30,000 people are expected to visit the area daily," the CM added.

Gupta also said that a new road will be constructed alongside the canal for the convenience of public and the Singalpur Bridge in Northwest Delhi will be widened. To improve connectivity, a two-lane bridge near Singalpur Bridge is also in he works, she said. Further, service roads on both sides of the canal will also be re-developed, Gupta also said.

SIKH GURU REMARK ROW

FIR against Kapil Mishra in accordance with law: Punjab DGP

Man Aman Singh Chhina
Chandigarh, January 22

PUNJAB DIRECTOR General of Police Gaurav Yadav in his reply to the Delhi Assembly secretary on the FIR registered in connection with an alleged "doctored" video clip of AAP leader Atishi has said that his force was well within the law to register an FIR for a cognisable offence and that Punjab Police's investigative accountability was towards courts and there was no provision in law for legislative oversight.

The DGP's reply came on a January 10 notice issued to him, special DGP (cybercrime) and Jalandhar police commissioner for "breach of Delhi Assembly's privileges" over an FIR registered against Delhi Minister Kapil Mishra for allegedly uploading on his X handle a video in which Atishi was allegedly seen insulting Guru Tegh Bahadur. Atishi refuted the charge, saying the clip had been tampered with by the BJP.

The Punjab DGP, in his reply, said that the FIR was filed following a complaint from a Jalandhar resident who alleged that on January 7, he noticed video clips on social media in which Atishi was allegedly shown to be making derogatory remarks against Sikh Gurus. It was alleged that the original video of the speech, later uploaded on the official account of Atishi, did not feature any such derogatory remarks, making it clear that the clips were edited to present a manipulated version of the original speech, hurt religious sentiments and provoke communal tension.

The DGP said the widely circulated clip was forwarded to the State Forensic Science Laboratory, SAS Nagar (Mohali) for examination. "Since the matter was sensitive in nature, the forensic examination was conducted on priority. The report said that the word 'Guru' was not uttered by the speaker of the audio extracted from the video file under examination," read the DGP's reply.

"Jalandhar Commissionerate Police has acted in accordance with law, upon receipt of a written complaint by a local resident, which duly disclosed commission of cognisable offences. In terms of the settled law in this regard, it may be appreciated that the jurisdictional Police Officer is duty-bound to register an FIR if the information/allegations furnished before him disclose commission of any cognizable offence," according to the DGP's reply.

The DGP also questioned the issue of legislative privilege of Assembly stating that the privilege afforded by the Constitution is limited to liability in respect of publication "by or under the authority of a house of..a legislature". He clarified that the FIR intends to investigate as to whether any part of the said speech, as originally made, constitutes an offence.

HC overturns bail of accused in Turkman Gate violence case

Sohini Ghosh & Sakshi Chand
New Delhi, January 22

TWO DAYS after a sessions court granted bail to a 25-year-old man, accused of being part of a mob which injured policemen during a demolition drive near Faiz-e-Ilahi mosque near Turkman Gate, the Delhi High Court on Thursday overturned the decision and sent the matter back to the sessions court for reconsideration.

The HC noted that the sessions court granted bail "without even a prima facie or brief analysis of the factors which govern adjudication of bail applications". Justice Prateek Jalan recorded that "while the court is extremely cautious in interfering with liberty granted to an individual, the present case falls within one of the exceptional cases...as the impugned order (of the sessions court) is cryptic and unreasoned."

Md Ubedullah was however in jail despite being granted bail on Tuesday as verification of the bail bonds furnished by him was yet to be verified.

His bail plea will be reconsidered at 10 am on Friday.

Wife held for 'accidentally' killing former Navy officer

Gurgaon: The wife of a retired Navy officer was Wednesday arrested after she "accidentally" killed him in Gurgaon, police said. The incident happened on Sunday at their residence in Nakhrola village, police added.

Sunil (45) had returned home in an inebriated state, police said. He lost his balance while heading to the bathroom, when his wife Mamta (43) — who was cutting vegetables with a knife — rushed to help him, they said. According to the police, the knife, however, accidentally pierced his chest, leading to his death.

Sunil was rushed to a hospital in Gurgaon where he was declared dead on arrival. "A postmortem on Monday revealed that death was caused due to an injury inflicted by a sharp weapon. Sunil's uncle filed a complaint the next day at the Kherki Daula police station," a police spokesperson stated. An FIR was registered for culpable homicide not amounting to murder and Mamta was subsequently arrested, police said.

The accused was produced in court Thursday and remanded in one-day police custody, officers said. ENS

2000 RED FORT ATTACK CASE

SC notice to govt on LeT terrorist's curative plea

Express News Service
New Delhi, January 22

THE SUPREME Court Thursday issued a notice to the Delhi government, seeking its reply to a curative petition filed by Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) terrorist Mohammed Arif alias Ashfaq, who was sentenced to death for his role in an attack on Red Fort on December 12, 2000 that had claimed the lives of three Rajputana Rifles jawans.

A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant, Justices Vikram Nath and J K Maheshwari issued notice on Arif's petition challenging an order of the Supreme Court dated November 3, 2022 that had dismissed his review petition, saying "the fact that there was a direct attack on the unity, integrity and sovereignty of India, completely outweigh the factors which may even remotely be brought into consideration as mitigating circumstances on record".

Arif was sentenced to death on October 31, 2005. The sentence was confirmed by the Delhi High Court in September 2007 and by the apex court in August 2011.

He then filed a review petition, which was rejected by two-judge bench. The SC also dismissed his curative petition challenging the rejection of the review petition.

Arif then filed a fresh writ petition praying that his review petitions should have been heard by a bench of three judges and in open court.

While hearing this petition, a Constitution bench of the top court decided in September 2014 that henceforth, all death sentence cases will be heard by a three-judge bench in open court. Accordingly, his review petition was heard again by a three-judge bench of the Supreme Court that dismissed it on November 3, 2022.

It said his disclosure statement was also proved, and it had led the police to the hideout at G-73, Batla House, New Delhi, and that when the police team arrived with him, they were fired at.

"After the person concerned named Abu Shamal alias Faisal died in the encounter, certain fire arms and ammunition were recovered. The submission that such recovery of ammunition or the encounter of Abu Shamal could not be associated with the disclosure statement of the review petitioner is not quite correct," the bench said.

PANJAB UNIVERSITY, CHANDIGARH

SENATE ELECTION 2026

The Senate Election of the Panjab University of Registered Graduate Constituency will be held on **20.09.2026.** The existing voters and new voters can cast their votes to elected Fifteen (15) members from this Constituency. For details visit Notice: **https://senateelections.puchd.ac.in/show-noticeboard.php?nbid=1**

Registrar-cum-Returning Officer

कार्यालयः–प्रधानाचार्य कल्याण सिंह राजकीय चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, बुलन्दशहर, उ०प्र०।

पत्र संख्याः–**KSGMC/BSR/2026/136** दिनांकः 15.01.2026

कार्यालय आदेश

सर्व साधारण को सूचित करना है कि कार्यालय कल्याण सिंह राजकीय चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, बुलन्दशहर के विज्ञापन संख्या– **KSGMC/BSR/FACULTY ADVT/2025/2175** दिनांक 16.12.2025 के द्वारा नियमित चिकित्सा शिक्षकों की नियुक्ति हेतु आवेदन मांगे गये थे, जिसकी अन्तिम तिथि 15.01.2026 को विस्तारित कर दिनांक 31.01.2026 किया जा रहा है।

हस्ता./– प्रधानाचार्य
कल्याण सिंह राजकीय चिकित्सा
महाविद्यालय बुलन्दशहर

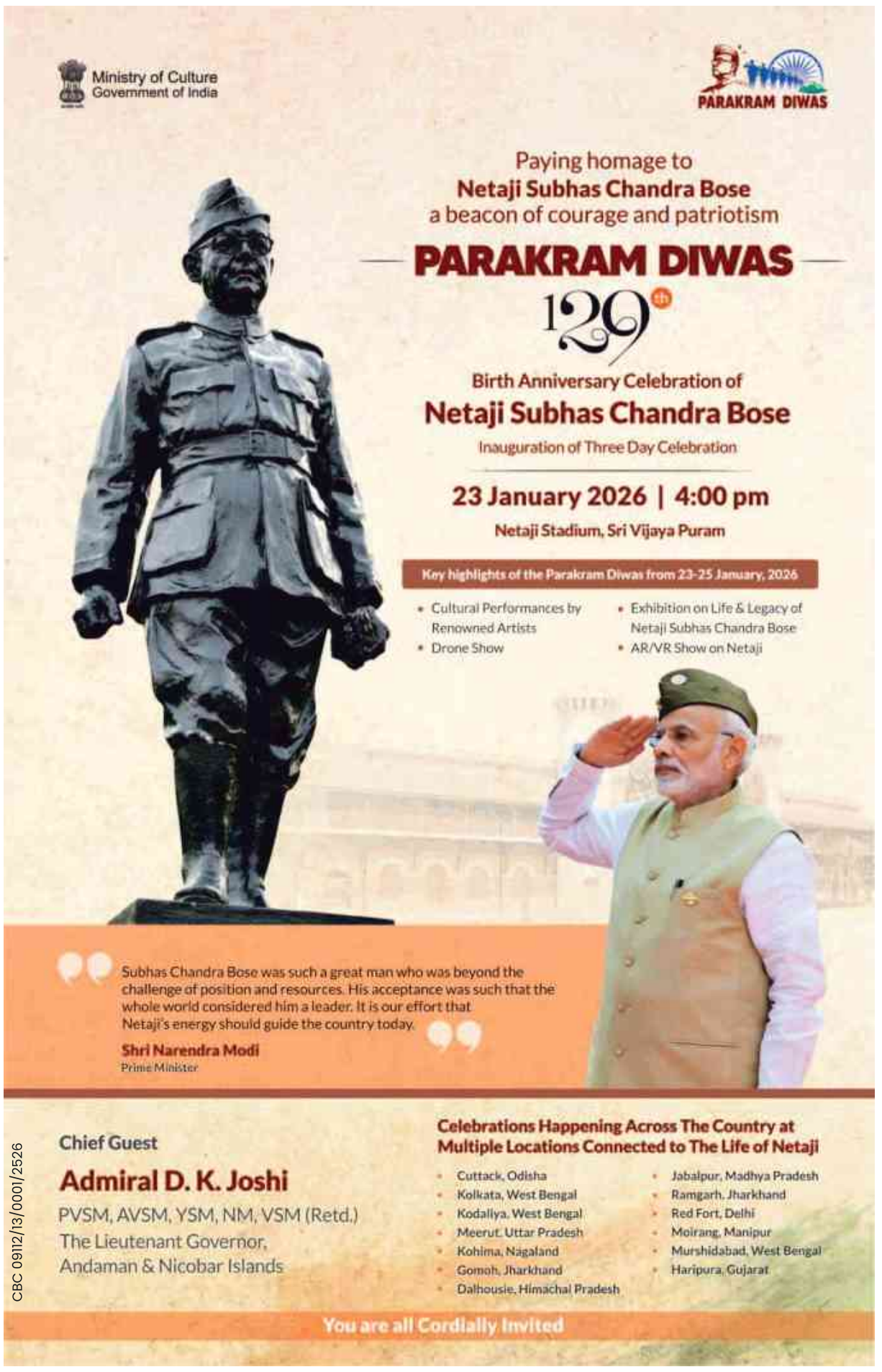
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TEXTILES
OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONER FOR HANDLOOMS
Sant Kabir Handloom Award and National Handloom Award for the year, 2025

Applications duly filled in the prescribed format are invited from the residents of India for the following categories of handloom awards for the year 2025 for their outstanding contribution in the field of Handloom sector. The details are given below:

Sl. No.	Name of awards	Category	Sub-Category	No. of Awards
01	Sant Kabir Handloom Award (SKHA)	Weaving	Weaving	03
			Exclusively for women weavers (Sant Kabir Handloom Award- Kamala Devi Chattopadhyay)	01
			Lanquishing Weaves	01
			Tribal Weaves	01
			Total (A)	**06**
02	National Handloom Award (NHA)	Weaving	Weaving	08
			Exclusively for women weavers (Sant Kabir Handloom Award- Kamala Devi Chattopadhyay)	02
			Young Weavers (age not more than 30 years)	01
			Divyang Weavers	01
			Languishing Weaves	01
			Tribal Weaves	01
		Design Development		02
		Marketing of Handloom products		02
		Start-up ventures/ Producer company		01
			Total (B)	**19**
			Total (A + B)	**25**

2. For more information regarding eligibility criteria, age, experience, application form etc., details can be downloaded from the website of Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms (**www.handlooms.nic.in**) For any information assistance, applicant may contact nearest Weavers Service Centre (WSC)
3. Applications are to be submitted in dual mode, ie, both online and offline. Online applications should be submitted through the My Handlooms portal (**https://myhandlooms.gov.in**). Additionally, offline applications, duly filled and completed in all respects, along with hand-woven samples (wherever applicable), a printout of the online application, and all other required documents, must be submitted to the nearest WSC latest by 23rd March, 2026.

CBC-41102/11/0008/2526



NOIDA SECTOR 150 DROWNING

2 office-bearers of real estate company held; more arrests may follow, say police

Neetika Jha
Greater Noida, January 22

THE GREATER Noida Police on Thursday arrested two office-bearers of the real estate company Lotus Greens Pvt Ltd in connection with the death by drowning of a 27-year-old software professional in Noida's Sector 150 early on January 17.

On Wednesday, police had registered an FIR against five officials of Lotus Greens in the same case. None of them has been arrested, however.

Abhay Kumar, the director of another realty firm, MZ Wiztown Planners, was arrested in the case on Tuesday.

Police identified the two men arrested on Thursday as Ravi Bansal, a resident of Faridabad, and Sachin Karanwal, a resident of Shalimar Garden in Ghaziabad. "...They have a connection with the plot [in which the tragedy happened]," a police officer said.

The deceased Yuvraj Mehta drove his car over a broken boundary wall of the plot into a deep swamp that has been created by the accumulation of water over the years. Police have accused officials of the company in possession of the plot of negligence that allegedly led to the death.

"Four [police] teams are working to nab the suspects, and more arrests may follow soon," the officer said.

Also on Thursday, police filed a separate FIR under Section 15 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, and Sections 24 and 43 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, as well as sections 290, 270, and 125 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) against the five allottees of the plot, including MZ Wiztown promoter Abhay Kumar.

The land of which the plot is part was allotted to Lotus Greens in 2014 for a Sports City project for more than Rs 2,300 crore. The land under Lotus Greens was later subdivided into 24 plots; the now-water-filled plot in which Yuvraj drowned, went to Wiztown.

"I found that near the public road, a very long and wide pit has been dug, which appears to have been excavated using large heavy machines. This pit has been filled with water for several years, and its depth is also very huge," says the FIR, registered on the basis of a complaint filed by Regal Kumar, the Investigating Officer.

Yuvraj was returning from Gurgaon, and was less than a kilometre from home when his car fell into the swamp in dense fog. He managed to climb onto the roof of the partially submerged car and kept calling for help for around two hours before he drowned.

• Skywatch

Forecast:
January 23,2026
Generally cloudy sky, one or two spells of light rain with thunderstorm

MAX: 18-20
0.3 °C below normal

MIN: 11-13
3.5°C above normal

- *Sunrise: 7:13 AM (January 24)*
- *Sunset: 5:53 PM (January 23)*
- *Moonrise: 10:23 AM (January 24)*
- *Moonset: 10:18 PM (January 23)*

• AQI Tracker

Anand Vihar Very Poor **AQI: 379**
Jahangirpuri Very Poor **AQI: 374**
Ashok Vihar Very Poor **AQI: 374**
Wazirpur Very Poor **AQI: 382**

- Good (0-50)
- Satisfactory (51-100)
- Moderate (101-200)
- Poor (201-300)
- Very Poor (301-400)
- Severe (401-500)

Day after report on waterlogged NW Delhi enclave, Govt promises end to all problems in 18 months

Express News Service
New Delhi, January 22

THE DELHI government said on Thursday that it has chalked out a plan for building a "well-laid" sewage system in the colonies of Northwest Delhi's Kirari, where sewage water has been flooding houses and lanes for around nine months.

On Thursday, *The Indian Express* had reported that residents of Sharma Enclave at Mubarakpur, which falls under Kirari Assembly constituency, move around waterlogged streets in gumboots, when they step out to buy essentials or to go to work, with children often missing school.

A few residents have also left their houses.

Delhi Water Minister Parvesh Singh Sahib said the sewage lines will be laid within the next six months and the area will be free from waterlogging in one-and-a-half years.

The sewage discharged from the houses will be diverted for treatment to a 25-MGD sewage treatment plant (STP) in Rohini, the minister said.

He added that three sewage pumping stations will be built in Bhagya Vihar, Prem Nagar and Pratap Vihar to carry the sewage water to the STP.

To divert the flow of rainwater which now gets collected in the area itself, the Irrigation and Flood Control department will spend Rs 220 crore on a 4.5-km-long trunk drain. It will carry rainwater to a supplementary drain.


RAHUL GANDHI DEMANDS ACCOUNTABILITY

Water, sewage, woes and fear flood homes, lanes in Mubarakpur

Drishti Jain
New Delhi, January 21

LANES FILLED with sewage, knee-deep water inside homes, several grocery stores shut, cabs declining bookings. These have been part of the lives of people living in Sharma Enclave in Northwest Delhi's Mubarakpur for the last nine months.

A student of Class 7 — after having skipped school for over three months — now hops on to the terrace of a neighbour's house and climbs down the

The Indian Express reported on the situation in Mubarakpur in its January 22 edition.

"A detailed project report has been prepared and the tenders are in process. It should be completed within one-and-a-half years," Singh said, adding it will cover 1,520 acres of catchment area.

The Delhi Development Authority, which had begun work on a 7.2 km drain from Kiraki to Rithala in 2020 at the cost of Rs 250 crore, will complete it soon, Singh said.

He alleged that the previous government lacked a comprehensive approach to deal with such issues.

He claimed that local MLAs were interested only in commissions.

"Water gets collected in the area as it is low-lying. This is shocking... around 10 lakh people stay in the Kirari constituency and not even a single sewer line was laid until 2020," Singh said, blaming the AAP government for severe waterlogging in the area.

"After the Lieutenant Governor's intervention in 2020, the Delhi Jal Board had issued a tender worth Rs 480 crore for 114 unauthorised colonies, including Sharma Enclave, which falls under Mubarakpur Dabas. This should have been completed in December 2024," he added.

Singh further said that a drain being built by the Public Works department at a cost of Rs 183 crore on the Rohtak Road is nearing completion.

Meanwhile, in Sharma Enclave, a Rs 9.4-crore drain project aimed at local development and outfall connectivity has also been planned, officials said.

1984 ANTI-SIKH RIOTS

Court acquits Sajjan Kumar in case linked to inciting violence in Janakpuri

One can't be found guilty merely because he was involved in similar offences in past, says special judge

Nirbhay Thakur
New Delhi, January 22

A DELHI court on Thursday acquitted former Congress MP Sajjan Kumar in a case related to inciting violence at Janakpuri in Delhi during the 1984 anti-Sikh riots. He was the only accused in the case.

Kumar, who at the time of the riots was a Congress MP, was tried by a special MP/MLA court on charges of rioting, arson, murder and criminal conspiracy, among others.

Kumar is currently in jail after he was sentenced to life imprisonment by the Delhi High Court in 2018 in a case related to the killing of five Sikhs and the burning down of a gurdwara on November 1-2, 1984. His appeal against the conviction is pending before the Supreme Court.

The allegations in the Janakpuri case stemmed from a complaint that accused Kumar of the murders of the father and brother-in-law of Harvinder Singh Kohli, the complainant in the case. The family was allegedly escaping from Vikaspuri towards Janakpuri after rioters started looting and burning properties in the area.

Special Judge Dig Vinay Singh of Rouse Avenue court, in his judgment, primarily ordered for the acquittal owing to the "absence of admissible, reliable evidence" proving Kumar's "presence at the crime scene or his participation in any other manner". Kohli, too, had passed away before he could be examined by the court.

The court reasoned that Kumar was not named as an accused by eight of the 18 prosecution witnesses for over 32 years, including Koli. Some of these eight witnesses in fact named Kumar as an accused only during the course of trial. "Not naming the accused in the affidavit or in the statement of the complainant is an important factor while assessing the reliability of the prosecution witnesses," the court ruled.

"Unfortunately, most of the witnesses examined by the prosecution are hearsay, and/or those witnesses who failed to name the accused for three long decades. Relying on the identification of the accused by such persons would be risky and may lead to a travesty," it concluded.


Family members of victims outside court on Thursday. ANI

Refusing to accept the prosecution's argument that Kumar has already been convicted earlier and has been found guilty of similar offences, the court observed, "A man may be convicted of 100 crimes, but to be held guilty of the 101st crime, proof beyond a reasonable doubt in that crime is required. One cannot be found guilty merely because in the past he was involved in similar offences. Past criminal background or the commission of other offences are separate and can have some value in sentencing a person, but they cannot be considered by a Court of law in holding a person guilty of another crime."

It further said, "...this Court has no hesitation in holding that the prosecution has not met the standard of proof required in a criminal trial to prove the guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. Merely because the accused is an ex-Member of Parliament or that he was involved in similar instances at other locations, this court cannot lower the standard of proof required in this case to hold him guilty."

"The law remains the same for all criminals, whether they are ordinary men or influential people... there is no satisfactory justification for not naming the accused for three long decades..." The court also ruled that testimonies of defence witnesses did not aid Kumar's case.

Special Public Prosecutor Manish Rawat, appearing for the State, told *The Indian Express* that the judgment is likely to be challenged before a higher court. While senior advocate H S Phoolka appeared for the complainant in the case, advocate Anil K Sharma appeared for the accused.

In 1992, an FIR was lodged over the violence in Janakpuri on November 1, 1984. Another FIR was lodged in Vikaspuri on the alleged killing of two men, Sohan Singh and his son-in-law Avtar Singh, the next day.

A common chargesheet was filed in 2022 for both the FIRs. In 2023, Kumar was discharged in the Vikaspuri case, where he was accused of murder. While Kumar was acquitted in the Janakpuri case on Thursday, a review against his discharge in the Vikaspuri case is pending before the Delhi High Court.

Last February, a Delhi court had sentenced Kumar to life imprisonment in a case in which he was accused of leading a mob that burned alive a father and son at Saraswati Vihar on November 1, 1984, while their houses were looted and destroyed.

• ONE VEHICLE STOLEN EVERY 15 MINS IN DELHI

Motor vehicle thefts

2023	40,045
2024	39,976
2025	35,014

House thefts

2023	21,641
2024	20,046
2025	16,246



	2023	2024	2025
Burglaries	6,916	8,965	6,617
Other thefts	1,58,965	1,17,563	1,02,906



- Despite year-wise decline in vehicle thefts, Delhi records 1 vehicle theft every 15 minutes on an average
- Vehicle theft forms nearly 20% of total crimes reported in Delhi
- NCR accounts for over 56% of vehicles thefts reported across India

"The decline in cases of motor vehicle theft can be attributed to CCTV surveillance, automated number plate recognition systems, data-driven policing and frequent interstate coordination to dismantle gangs."
DEVESH CHANDRA SRIVASTAVA,
SPECIAL COMMISSIONER OF POLICE (CRIME)

Two killed after bike collides with truck, driver held

New Delhi: Two friends died after their motorcycle collided with a truck in Northwest Delhi's Bhalswa Dairy, on Wednesday night, police said.

The deceased were identified as Azad Bharti (28), who worked at a medical shop in Mukundpur, and Dipesh (28), a taxi driver. The truck driver, Baljinder Singh (35) — a resident of Khilchian village in Amritsar — has been arrested. "Both were declared brought dead at the hospital," an officer said.

An FIR under sections 281 (rash driving) and 106 (causing death by negligence) of BNS has been lodged at Bhalswa Dairy police station. **ENS**

Court rejects bail plea of shooting coach accused in POCSO case

Abhimanyu Hazarika
Faridabad, January 22

A FAST-TRACK court in Faridabad on Thursday rejected the anticipatory bail plea of shooting coach Ankush Bhardwaj in connection with the sexual assault of a minor at a city hotel.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Abhishek Phutela of the special Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) court dismissed the bail plea filed earlier this week. Bhardwaj, who is absconding, stands accused of aggravated penetrative sexual assault of the girl he was training.

The National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) had suspended Bhardwaj in January after the Faridabad police lodged an FIR against him, its Secretary Rajiv Bhatia had said. The FIR was lodged on January 6.

Bhardwaj (33), a former shooter, runs a shooting academy in Mohali. The police have raided the academy and his residences at Ambala and Chandigarh.

The minor's parents, in a joint statement earlier, had said that they were "deeply traumatised" and "focused on taking care of (their daughter's) health". They also said, "As parents, we do not want anyone else to suffer the same fate."

Police sources had said the FIR recorded the complainant as saying that the alleged incident occurred on December 16, after she participated in a national-level competition.

Bhardwaj allegedly forcibly touched her inappropriately and committed sexual assault despite her resistance.

AKHLAQ LYNCHING CASE

Court rejects plea of accused to transfer trial to another court

Neetika Jha
Noida, January 22

A SESSIONS court at Gautam Buddha Nagar on Thursday rejected an application moved by the six accused in the Mohammad Akhlaq lynching case of 2015, seeking a transfer of their trial to another court.

Dismissing the plea, the trial court relied on judicial precedents set by the Supreme Court to reiterate that trials cannot be transferred "for the convenience of parties" or "merely on the basis of apprehensions or suspicions" of not being tried fairly.

The accused, in their plea moved before a designated fast-track court that is conducting the trial, had complained that they were not being given an opportunity to be heard, that their defence is not being considered and that there is no possibility for them to get justice.


Mohammad Akhlaq

The application had cited the trial court's December 2025 decision, in which it had rejected the Uttar Pradesh government's plea to withdraw the case against the accused.

Citing that this order has been prejudicial against them and caused them harm, the accused have maintained that the trial court is intent on "forcibly" proceeding against them.

Sessions judge Atul Srivastava, while rejecting the plea of the accused on Thursday, reasoned, "On law, there is no basis for transferring the trial proceedings on the basis of any party being harmed or benefited by a judicial order. Judicial orders are passed on the basis of merits of the case."

The court underlined that such apprehension of not being tried fairly should be supported by facts, which is "not the case in the present matter".

Akhlaq (55) was lynched by a mob in Bisada village in Dadri on September 28, 2015, following rumours that his family had stored beef at home.

On December 23, the fast-track court had described the lynching as a "serious crime against society" and observed that no grounds existed for withdrawing the prosecution.

• A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN OVERWORKED *AHLMAD* IN A DELHI COURT

'I have nightmares about files...would have quit if only I had a pension'

26,000 cases are heard by 700 trial court judges in Delhi every day – and keeping track of every file is an *ahlmad*. One of them died by suicide this month, blaming 'work pressure'

Nirbhay Thakur
New Delhi, January 22

THE MIDDLE-AGED *ahlmad's* workday at a Delhi court begins at 9 am — with her carrying out piles of files from her cubby-hole-sized room just so she can sit inside.

Besides the files, the room has a desk with a computer and a printer on it, a chair, and three almirahs, all packed with files. The room is meant for two *ahlmads*, but there isn't space for even one, she says.

The cadre of *ahlmads* – keepers of court records – is the nerve centre of the judiciary at the district level. They keep records of all files, prepare reports of pending cases for the Delhi High Court, and stand in for court readers and stenographers who are on leave.

The burden of cases on India's courts system — and on *ahlmads* — is enormous. Harish Singh Mahar, a 43-year-old *ahlmad*, jumped to his death on January 9 at the courts complex in Saket, leaving behind a note in which he said he was 60% handicapped, and the pressure of work was too much for him.

Mahar was posted at a digital traffic challan court, where about 9,000 cases are pending. Each of the two digital traffic courts in Saket deals with 300 cases daily on average.

The *ahlmad's* suicide was followed by protests by court staff. And on Wednesday, the Delhi High Court said it was "conscious" of filling the large number of vacancies for the posts of clerks in district courts, and that it was waiting for an audited report on the number of vacant positions and the strength of the workforce required in the court.

The woman *ahlmad*, who declined to be identified for this report, said she is traumatised by her workload. "I have nightmares about files... I can't even sleep properly," she said.

On Mahar's death by suicide, she said drily: *"Pehle log government job ke liye marte the, ab government job ko paane ke baad mar rahe hain* (People would die for a government job, but now they're dying literally.)."


Staff of Saket court protest after the suicide. FILE

Almost 34,500 cases are pending in her court, the *ahlmad* said. On the day *The Indian Express* met her, the causelist — list of cases to be heard by her court on that day — contained 311 entries.

Around 200 new cases are registered daily through the e-filing portal, she said. *Ahlmads* have to go through them, and maybe transfer certain cases to other courts. A part of the job is public-facing: litigants and lawyers come with questions relating to their cases. "There are a hundred queries every day," the *ahlmad* said.

"Each one of us is expected to do the work of dozens of people. It's insane. If only I had a pension to fall back on, I'd have left long ago, I am so frustrated," she said.

Around 5 pm, as most day workers across the city prepare to head home, the *ahlmad* embarks on a new set of tasks – preparing for the 300-odd cases that are listed for the next day. *"Kal ke 300 file aaj hi nikalenge,"* she says.

On some days, there is other work as well — she has to file a monthly report on case pendency for the High Court, or she has to prepare replies to questions asked by the public under the Right to Information Act.

By the time she is finally done, it is usually 8 pm — an 11-hour day at work.

Earlier this month, the *ahlmad* submitted a request for a transfer to the Principal District and Sessions Judge. "I had been thinking about it for a long time," she said. "After seeing what Mahar was driven to, I could delay it no longer."

Statistical reports from Delhi's district courts show that the number of pending cases has increased from just 4.7 lakh in January 2005 to almost 16 lakh in January 2026. Over the last seven years specifically, pendency has risen by almost 1.3 lakh cases annually on average. This is despite record numbers of older cases having been disposed of in this period.

But the sanctioned strength of court staff has remained the same. And 733 of the 4,011 sanctioned posts of *ahlmads*, assistant *ahlmads*, and readers remain vacant, according to figures compiled by court staff associations using official data.

In May 2025, the leaves of district court staff had to be cancelled in order to keep the courts functioning. In December 2024, Principal District and Sessions Judges issued circulars on the shortage of stenographers in their courts.

The sanctioned strength of stenographers is 1,600; fewer than 1,200 posts are currently occupied. More than 26,000 cases are heard every day by more than 700 trial court judges across Delhi, according to data on the National Judicial Data Grid. Each stenographer types about 40 orders every day on average.

"The *(ahlmad's)* suicide was deeply unfortunate... This problem can't be solved unless we have more judges and court staff," a Magistrate judge in Delhi told *The Indian Express*.

ADVERTORIAL

Madhya Pradesh Goes Global: CM Dr. Mohan Yadav Showcases Investment and Innovation Opportunities at WEF 2026

UNDER the leadership of Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav, Madhya Pradesh made a strong mark at the World Economic Forum (WEF) 2026 in Davos, presenting itself as a future-ready, investment-friendly, and globally connected state. Aligned with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of a Viksit Bharat, the state is accelerating investment-led growth to drive industrial expansion, job creation, and inclusive development.

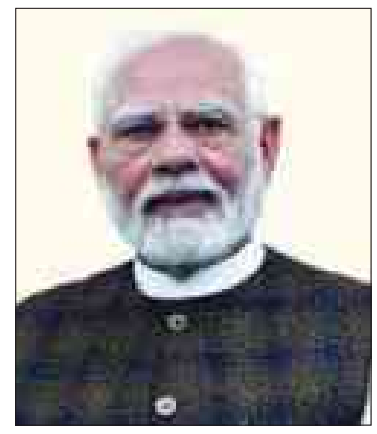
The theme of the World Economic Forum was "A Spirit of Dialogue," emphasizing a development model based on cooperation and partnerships. In line with this spirit, Madhya Pradesh's participation at Davos focussed on investment-centric dialogue, policy presentations and strategic partnerships.

At Davos, the Chief Minister showcased Madhya Pradesh's vast investment potential across key sectors including manufacturing, clean energy, agri-business, tourism, pharmaceuticals, digital innovation and infrastructure. He emphasized the State's investor-friendly policies and strong industrial ecosystem, positioning Madhya Pradesh as a preferred destination for global investments.

Dr. Yadav highlighted Madhya Pradesh's commitment to green energy and inclusive growth, showcasing progress in solar power, energy storage, and clean energy projects. Through the 'Invest in India: Madhya Pradesh' roundtable meet, he engaged global investors, emphasizing the state's ease of doing business, robust logistics, and availability of land, water, and energy, while highlighting opportunities in renewable energy, manufacturing, pharma, textiles, IT-ITES, agriculture, and food processing.

CM also promoted state's strengths in pharma and healthcare, and tourism and hospitality, showcasing heritage, wildlife, spiritual, and cultural assets to global investors. Bilateral meetings with international leaders and companies explored collaboration in tourism, education, clean energy, digital economy, sports, yoga, advanced manufacturing, skills development, and green innovation, strengthening Madhya Pradesh's global partnerships.

CM Dr. Mohan Yadav's Davos visit has firmly positioned Madhya Pradesh as a globally competitive, sustainable and investment-ready state, poised to generate growth, employment, and long-term development opportunities.



NARENDRA MODI, Prime Minister

Roundtable Meet at Davos

"Invest in India: Madhya Pradesh A Strategic Investment Hub"

AT THE roundtable meeting on 'Invest in India: Madhya Pradesh - A Strategic Investment Hub' organised on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav presented Madhya Pradesh as one of the country's leading and emerging investment destinations.

Dr.Yadav stated that the Madhya Pradesh Government is giving fresh momentum to growth through policies focused on creating an investor-friendly business environment (Ease of Doing Business) to promote investment and industry. He described the state's strong infrastructure, improved connectivity, and abundant availability of water, land, labour, and natural resources as major strengths for investors.

Chief Minister Dr.Yadav stated that Madhya Pradesh offers vast investment opportunities in sectors such as automobiles, renewable energy, pharmaceuticals, textiles, IT-ITES, agriculture and food processing, and multi-modal logistics parks. He also shared details of the policy support and various incentives being offered by the state government to international and domestic investors in these sectors.



Emphasising employment generation, he said that the state government would extend special support to industries and businesses that create new employment and livelihood opportunities in Madhya Pradesh. He added that if any investment proposal requires special or customised support, the Cabinet Committee for Investment Promotion would consider such proposals positively.

Investors and industry representatives participating in the roundtable shared their suggestions on further strengthening policies in sectors including tourism, entertainment, design, renewable energy, exports, chemicals, alcohol, textile parks, financial services, IT-ITES, GCCs, and intellectual property. Prominent participants included Nikhil Kamath, Co-founder of Zerodha; Bharat Kaushal, Executive Chairman and Managing Director, Hitachi India; Karen Baert, Co-founder and CEO, Emovia; Andrew Pournik, CEO, Antora Energy; Andres Penate, Global Vice President (Corporate Affairs), AB InBev; IshanPratap Singh, Founder and Chairman, New Delhi Hub; and Kalyan Kumar, Global CTO, HCL Technologies.

Welcoming the suggestions, Chief Minister Dr.Yadav said that the state government remains committed to strengthening Madhya Pradesh's position on the global investment map through progressive and investor-friendly policies.

MoU Signed Between Madhya Pradesh and DP World



Agreement for Logistics Infrastructure and Investment Cooperation

In the presence of Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav, an important Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on Wednesday in Davos between the Government of Madhya Pradesh and DP World, a leading global logistics and supply chain company headquartered in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. On behalf of the Government of Madhya Pradesh, Additional Chief Secretary Shri Neeraj Mandloi signed the MoU. The agreement reflects mutual consensus on industrial development and investment cooperation, with the potential to provide new direction to logistics, infrastructure and trade activities in the state.

Under the MoU, DP World agreed to further explore investment and collaboration opportunities in Madhya Pradesh. This initiative is considered significant in connecting the state to national and global supply chain networks. This agreement is expected to be a key step towards developing Madhya Pradesh as a strong hub for logistics and trade.



Madhya Pradesh Integrates Green Energy into Mainstream of Development

AT THE World Economic Forum 2026 roundtable on 'De-risking the Green Leap: Sub-national Blueprint for Utility-scale Energy Transition', Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav emphasized that renewable energy is central to Madhya Pradesh's inclusive and sustainable development. He noted that, inspired by PM Shri NarendraModi's vision, the state is advancing towards clean, affordable, and reliable energy, integrating green energy into its core development strategy.

Dr.Yadav highlighted inter-state cooperation and improved coordination in power and water supply, benefiting both consumers and industries, and shared progress on solar energy, energy storage projects, and upcoming renewable initiatives.

Union Minister Shri Prahlad Joshi praised Madhya Pradesh as a reform-oriented state and highlighted its solar energy achievements on the global stage. He commended the state's model of reducing risks in clean energy through strategic coordination of land, labour, and energy, while emphasizing technology investments and blended finance.

Discussions Held with Director, Manchester United

Focus on Developing Madhya Pradesh as Global Sports Hub



Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav said that Madhya Pradesh is working towards becoming an emerging sports hub by strengthening sports infrastructure, training systems, academies and international partnerships. He noted that investments in sports, training camps, tournaments and international matches can boost sports tourism, generate employment and support the local economy.

The Chief Minister made these remarks during a meeting with Shri Avram A. Glazer, Executive Co-Chairman and Director of Manchester United, on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum-2026 in Davos. Discussions focused on collaboration in sports development, grassroots football promotion, sports tourism and hosting international sporting events.

Shri Glazer highlighted the role of football in youth development and sports tourism and expressed interest in exploring collaboration opportunities in Madhya Pradesh, including through international expertise and football development programmes.

Madhya Pradesh Showcases Tourism Vision at WEF Davos

AT the World Economic Forum, Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav highlighted Madhya Pradesh's rich cultural heritage and strong investment potential. Speaking at the session "Reimagining Tourism at Scale", he invited global investors and hospitality leaders to partner in developing the "Heart of Incredible India."

Dr.Yadav emphasized the state's progressive policies, conservation of heritage and natural assets, strong connectivity, and modern infrastructure, presenting Madhya Pradesh as a leading global tourism destination blending tradition with innovation.He outlined upcoming tourism projects aimed at integrating natural beauty and archaeological heritage with world-class infrastructure and modern amenities.

AI to Drive Governance Transformation in MP with NVIDIA

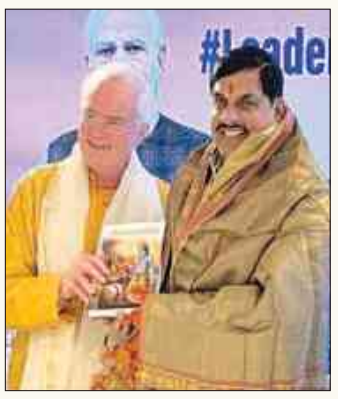
AT the World Economic Forum in Davos, Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav highlighted the transformative role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in enhancing governance and ensuring efficient, transparent delivery of government schemes, especially for farmers and vulnerable communities.



In a meeting with Ms.Calista Redmond, VP, Global AI Initiatives at NVIDIA, discussions focused on expanding AI- and technology-driven initiatives, fostering innovation, and exploring long-term collaboration. Both sides agreed to strengthen partnerships in AI to drive skill development, employment, and technology-led growth in Madhya Pradesh.

MP-United Consciousness Global hold Yoga, Culture Dialogue

ON the sidelines of the World Economic Forum 2026, Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav met a delegation of United Consciousness Global in Davos. The meeting focused on the global promotion of yoga and initiatives related to the establishment of ashrams and yoga centres.



Representatives of United Consciousness Global informed the Chief Minister about their plan to organise the United Consciousness Global conference in Ujjain in 2027. The proposed venue for the conference is the Kalidas Academy, and it is expected to see participation from experts in yoga, meditation, and consciousness from various countries. The organisation also expressed its intention to establish a permanent yoga centre in Ujjain.Taking a positive view of the initiative, Chief Minister Dr.Yadav stated that the state would consider supporting future collaborations that promote yoga, spiritual tourism, and cultural dialogue.

Bilateral Talks with Maldives' Minister on Tourism and Multi Sectoral Cooperation

ON the sidelines of the World Economic Forum 2026 in Davos, CM Dr.Yadav held a one-to-one meeting with Shri Mohamed Saeed, Maldives' Minister for Economic Development and Trade, to explore collaboration across tourism, healthcare, education, wildlife conservation, and cultural exchange.



Dr.Yadav highlighted Madhya Pradesh's rich biodiversity, renowned wildlife sanctuaries, growing medical infrastructure, and vibrant cultural heritage as key areas for partnership, emphasizing tourism-driven cooperation to boost investment, skills, and people-to-people ties. Minister Saeed noted tourism as a natural bridge between the two regions and expressed interest in expanding collaboration.

Both sides agreed to institutionalize regular dialogue, encourage delegation exchanges, and develop a concrete roadmap for sustained cooperation, marking a significant step in strengthening international engagement for Madhya Pradesh.

AI-Based Protein Innovation Partnership with 'Shiru'

ON the sidelines of the World Economic Forum-2026 in Davos, Madhya Pradesh's Principal Secretary, Shri Raghavendra Kumar Singh, held discussions with Dr. Jasmine Hume, Founder & CEO of Shiru, on potential collaboration in AI-driven protein innovation.



The meeting focused on advanced protein solutions, agriculture-based inputs, and applied research. Shiru highlighted its AI platform for high-quality, industrially ready proteins and expressed interest in Madhya Pradesh's strong agricultural ecosystem.

Shiru expressed keen interest in Madhya Pradesh's robust agricultural ecosystem. Discussions covered collaboration with universities and agricultural research institutions, identification of crop-based protein opportunities, and development of the state as a hub for applied research, pilot projects and future production facilities.

Both sides agreed to explore partnerships with universities and research institutions, pilot projects, and future production facilities, reflecting the state's push for innovation-led investments in agri-food and life sciences.

Engagement with Sandoz on Pharma Expansion Opportunities

ON the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav met a Sandoz delegation led by Mr. Carlo Gargiulo to explore investment and expansion opportunities in Madhya Pradesh's pharmaceutical sector.

The discussions highlighted the state's investor-friendly policies, industrial infrastructure, and support for pharma manufacturing, including potential API, formulation, and bulk drug units. Both sides agreed to explore partnerships that could boost investment, strengthen the pharma sector, and generate employment, with Sandoz expressing a positive outlook for future collaboration.

CM Seeks Swiss Cooperation to Advance Tribal Welfare and Sustainable Growth



AT the World Economic Forum in Davos, Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav held discussions with Samuel Guggisberg, Member of the Swiss Parliament, focusing on Madhya Pradesh's tribal welfare, eco-tourism, rural development, and millet production initiatives. The dialogue explored collaboration in clean energy, precision manufacturing, digital solutions, and skill development, leveraging Swiss expertise in industrial automation and sustainability. Both sides also discussed joint innovation with Swiss universities, cultural exchanges, and potential Swiss private sector participation in the state's climate and sustainability initiatives, aiming to strengthen Madhya Pradesh's global partnerships and sustainable development.



Google to Invest in IT, ITES and Data Centres in Madhya Pradesh

OFFICIALS of the Government of Madhya Pradesh held detailed discussions with Shri Sanjay Gupta, President - Asia Pacific, Google, on investment opportunities in the IT and ITES sectors, including existing and proposed data centre projects in the state. Shri Gupta expressed strong interest in exploring investments in IT, ITES and data centre infrastructure in Madhya Pradesh. The meeting was attended by Minister for New and Renewable Energy Shri Rakesh Shukla, along with senior officials.

The discussions also covered the potential application of Google's Gemini AI to drive innovation and digital solutions in the agriculture and education sectors. The State Government outlined its plans to introduce a green energy-based policy to ensure reliable and sustainable power supply for IT and data centre projects, while highlighting Madhya Pradesh's investor-friendly policies, robust infrastructure and collaborative approach.

Shri Sanjay Gupta conveyed Google's willingness to extend cooperation in developing Madhya Pradesh as an emerging technology hub through strengthened IT infrastructure, digital innovation and skill development initiatives.

Official social media handles of the Chief Minister – please follow

D16151

DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



R-Day Pride

FOR THE officials of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, led by Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan', this year's Republic Day will be special. The ministry's tableau has been selected for display at Kartavya Path after almost a decade. The tableau highlights the SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas) Scheme, a flagship initiative aimed at property mapping. It features a rural house resting on a palm, with a traditional toran adorning the entrance. The last time the ministry's tableau participated in the R-Day parade was in 2016.

Movie Time

AFTER A busy fortnight of organisational restructuring and marathon meetings, the BJP has planned a special screening of the movie *Border 2* over the weekend. According to party sources, "some senior leaders", including the party's new national president, Nitin Nabin, are expected to watch the morning screening at Delite Diamond Cinema. The show is being organised by the party's Delhi unit and several of the potential attendees are hoping that they get to informally interact with senior party leaders, including their new party president, on the sidelines of the show.

In or Out?

EVEN AS the United States withdrew from the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, an intergovernmental organisation based in Stockholm, two weeks ago, a representative of the US — Election Assistance Commission Commissioner Christy A McCormick — attended the Election Commission's international conference in the Capital on Wednesday. The conference was organised in partnership with International IDEA, whose secretary-general in his address flagged the increasing "election denialism", including by US politicians.

ECI launches new app, CEC offers other countries help to develop similar platform

New Delhi: As the Election Commission on Thursday launched ECINet, a website and app that brings over 40 of its existing apps for voters and election officials on one platform, Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar said the ECI can help other election management bodies in the world to develop a similar platform.

The CEC launched the app on day two of the EC's ongoing three-day international conference for election management bodies and experts here. Addressing the foreign delegates, he extended the offer - that ECI could work with their election management bodies to develop a similar app as per their election laws and language.

"With the advent of technology and the accelerated information that passes through citizens through various media interfaces, all election management bodies in the plenary [session of conference] yesterday were worried about misinformation. How do we address it? ECINet is one tool," Kumar said. **ENS**

3 COLLEGES IN KASHMIR VALLEY, FOUR IN JAMMU PROVINCE

Vaishno Devi students to join 7 J&K medical colleges

Basharat Masood
Srinagar, January 22

FIFTY MBBS students whose fates were left in limbo after the medical course was scrapped at Jammu's Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Institute of Medical Excellence (SMVDIME) will be adjusted in seven newly established government medical colleges in the Union Territory – three in the Kashmir valley, where 22 students will be admitted, and four in Jammu province, where the rest will be adjusted.

The announcement came after 24 hours of twists and turns. On Wednesday night, the Jammu and Kashmir Board of Professional Entrance Examination (BOPEE) said it cannot conduct fresh counselling for the 2025-26 session for the students, but on Thursday morning, a fresh notice stated that the students have been called for counselling and allotment of colleges on January 24.

The National Medical Commission (NMC) had earlier this month withdrawn the permission it had earlier granted to SMVDIME to conduct an MBBS course in the current academic year. While the NMC cited deficiencies in the college infrastructure and operations, its decision had come against the backdrop of right-wing groups protesting against the course's demography – of the 50 students, 44 were Muslim, and most were from Kashmir.

"That the Board shall conduct the physical round of counselling to accommodate MBBS students of SMVDIME Katra to the Govt. Medical Colleges within the UT of J&K against the supernumerary seats so created," the BOPEE said in a fresh notification on Thursday.



National Medical Commission had recently withdrawn the nod it had earlier granted to SMVDIME to conduct an MBBS course this academic year

The notification said that the Health and Medical Education department has conveyed the seat matrix of the 50 supernumerary seats. Seven additional seats each have been allotted in four government medical colleges in Jammu province – GMC Udhampur, GMC Kathua, GMC Rajouri and GMC Doda – and seven additional seats each have been allotted in GMC Baramulla and GMC Handwara. Eight have been allotted in GMC Anantnag.

All seven government medical colleges have been set up in the past seven years – GMC Anantnag, Baramulla, Handwara, Rajouri and Kathua in 2018; GMC Doda in 2020; and GMC Udhampur two years ago.

The government has not allotted any supernumerary seats in premier institutes such as GMC Srinagar, GMC Jammu or the SKIMS Medical College.

In its communication to the J-K's Health and Medical Education department just hours earlier, on Wednesday evening, BOPEE had said it cannot conduct fresh counselling for the 2025-26 session and asked the government to admit students to supernumerary seats in other medical colleges "at its own level".

Sources said this was issued because officials failed to fully grasp the import of the notification issued by the National Medical Commission seeking adjustment of the students "under supernumerary seats".

According to sources, while the Health and Medical Education department had written to the BOPEE in this regard on January 11, the Board said it received the communication on January 20 and responded that the "creation and allotment of supernumerary seats doesn't fall within its ambit".

After the communication started being circulated, senior officers intervened.

Mumbai, Pune, Nagpur set to have woman mayors

Alok Deshpande
Mumbai, January 22

MUMBAI WILL have a woman mayor for the second consecutive term after the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) was placed in the Open (Women) category in the lottery draw for mayoral reservations held on Thursday. The previous mayor of the BMC was Kishori Pednekar of the undivided Shiv Sena.

The reservation lottery, conducted for 29 municipal corporations that went to polls last week, triggered a row with objections from the Opposition Shiv Sena (UBT), which questioned the exclusion of Mumbai from the Other Backward Classes (OBC) reservation list. The Congress also raised concerns over the reservation draw for Parbhani. Of the 29 municipal corporations, one mayoral post has been reserved for the Scheduled Tribes (ST) category. However, as per regulatory provisions, no post has been allotted to the ST (Women) category. Three posts have been reserved for the Scheduled Castes (SC), of which two are reserved for SC (Women). Eight posts have been reserved for the OBC category, including four for OBC (Women). From the remaining 17 corporations, nine mayoral posts have been reserved for the General Category (Women), while the remaining eight posts fall under the Open (General) category.

Kalyan-Dombivli Municipal Corporation (KDMC), where the MNS has joined hands with the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena, breaking away from the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT), will have the only ST mayor in the state. Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's home turf of Thane will have a mayor from the Scheduled Caste category.

All major cities in Maharashtra including Mumbai, Pune and Nagpur will have woman mayors. The BJP is likely to have its mayor in all three cities.

Minister of State for Urban Development Madhuri Misal, who oversaw the lottery process, said objections raised by Opposition parties had been noted but maintained that the draw was conducted strictly as per the law, in a transparent manner.

The Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT) questioned why Mumbai was excluded from the OBC reservation draw. Former Mumbai mayor and party leader Kishori Pednekar pointed out that in 2017 and 2019, the mayoral post in Mumbai was reserved under the Open category. "As per the rotational system, the post should have been included in the OBC draw this time. The government has insulted OBCs by deliberately denying them this opportunity," she said. She also accused the government of bringing a new rule to prevent an ST candidate from becoming mayor.

RESERVATION IN MAYORAL POSTS

Scheduled Tribes (STs): Kalyan-Dombivli

Scheduled Castes (SCs): Thane (General), Jalna (Women), Latur (Women)

OBC (Women): Jalgaon, Chandrapur, Ahilyanagar, Akola

OBC (General): Panvel, Ichalkaranji, Kolhapur, Ulhasnagar

General Category (Women): Pune, Dhule, Brihanmumbai BMC, Navi Mumbai, Nanded-Waghala, Malegaon, Mira-Bhayandar, Nagpur, Nashik

General Category (Open): Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, Parbhani, Sangli-Miraj-Kupwad, Amravati, Vasai-Virar, Solapur, Pimpri-Chinchwad, Bhiwandi-Nizampur

Previous Mumbai women mayors

NIRMALA SAMANT-PRABHAVALKAR (Congress), 1994–95
VISHAKHA RAUT (Shiv Sena), 1997–98
SHUBHA RAUL (Shiv Sena), Mar 2007–Nov '09
SHRADDHA JADHAV (Shiv Sena), Dec 2009–Mar '12
SNEHAL AMBEKAR (Shiv Sena), Sept 2014–Mar '17
KISHORI PEDNEKAR (Shiv Sena), Nov 2019–Mar '22

Looking at social media ban for under-16 users, Andhra sets up ministers' panel

Govt will study data from cases in which children are victims or accused

Pushkar Banakar
New Delhi, January 22

A DAY after Andhra Pradesh's IT and Education Minister Nara Lokesh said the Telugu Desam Party (TDP)-led government was mulling over bringing an Australia-like law on banning social media for children under the age of 16, a Group of Ministers (GoM) headed by him has been set up study the proposal, *The Indian Express* has learnt. Andhra Pradesh is the first state where such a proposal has been mooted.

"The GoM will have Home Minister Anita Vangalapudi, Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav, and I&PR Minister Kolusu Parthasarathi," a government source said on Thursday, adding that the government will study and collate data from cases across the state where children under 16 are either the victims of social media abuse or the accused.

On the sidelines of the World Economic Forum summit in Davos, Switzerland, Lokesh told Bloomberg, "The government is studying Australia's decision to ban children under the age of 16 from accessing social media. Youngsters below a certain age should not be on such platforms, as they do not fully understand the content they are exposed to. A strong legal framework may be required to implement the proposal."

First mover



ANDHRA PRADESH is the first state in the country where such a proposal has been mooted.

THE STATE'S Education Minister Nara Lokesh has said the government is studying Australia's decision to implement such a ban

A SENIOR TDP LEADER said implementation of such a proposal would be complex and would require the support of ally BJP

"A meeting is likely to be held after Lokesh returns from Davos to chart out a roadmap to implement the proposal," said a senior government official.

TDP national spokesperson Deepak Reddy told *The Indian Express* that the idea came up during Lokesh's five-day trip to Australia last October, adding that while "the modalities of the proposal will be worked out after he returns," he had put serious thought into it.

"Children cannot be exposed to the ills of social media in their formative years. Also, in recent times, we have seen a lot of social media abuse. The proposal is a way to prevent people from being attacked on social media," Reddy said.

"We have not zeroed in only on the social media ban from the Australians. We saw how they are successfully skilling their population and spoke to the Australians to set up shop in Andhra and help skill our population," he said, adding the Andhra government would build on global good governance practices.

A senior TDP leader, however, said the implementation of such a proposal would be complex and would require the support of ally BJP. "Regulating Information Technology requires the Centre's approval as it pertains to the IT Act. But before we approach them, we need to finalise the structure of the proposal at the state level. Once that is done, we will approach the Centre," the leader said, adding that convincing the Centre was not likely to be difficult as the TDP is a BJP ally.

While there is no law yet on regulating the use of social media platforms by children, under the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, tech companies are required to implement a mechanism for collecting "verifiable" parental consent before processing the personal data of children, even though it does not prescribe a particular technical measure to collect such consent. As per the law, a child is defined as an individual below the age of 18.

The law also directs companies not to process personal data of children in cases where it could cause any detrimental effect on their well-being.

Usage of LPG, smartphones among details to be sought during census

New Delhi: The Registrar General of India (RGI) on Thursday issued a notification regarding the details to be collected during the house-listing process, which include information on usage of PNG, LPG, smartphones, among others.

"In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 8 of the Census Act, 1948 (37 of 1948), the central government hereby instructs that all the census officers may, within the limits of the local areas for which they have been respectively appointed, ask all such questions from all persons on the items enumerated below for collecting information through the houselisting and housing census schedule in connection with the Census of India 2027," said, Mritunjay Kumar Narayan, Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India in a notification.

The notification includes a list of 33 items such as building number, census house number, predominant material of floor of the census house, predominant material of walland roof of the census house, ascertain use of census house, availability of kitchen and LPG/PNG connection, access to internet, laptop/computer, telephone/mobile phone/smartphone, bicycle/scooter/motorcycle/moped, car/jeep/van, and mobile number (for census communications only).

The census questionnaire is finalised on the basis of inputs and suggestions from different ministries, departments, organisations and census data users before each exercise. **ENS**

Workers must unite to bring back MGNREGA, says Rahul

Express News Service
New Delhi, January 22

LEADER OF Opposition Rahul Gandhi on Thursday said the Narendra Modi government's objectives in repealing MGNREGA is the same as they were in bringing the "three black farm laws", and urged workers to take a cue from farmers and stand united to demand the rollback of VB-G RAM G Act.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said the repeal of MGNREGA was part of a "conspiracy to erase" Mahatma Gandhi's name from public memory and asserted that his party will strongly raise the issue during the upcoming Budget session of Parliament.

Addressing the national MGNREGA workers' convention organised by Rachnatmak Congress at Jawahar Bhawan, Gandhi said, "The MGNREGA movement is a big opportunity for the poor people who believe in the Constitution, democracy and the idea of India... if they stand together, Modi ji will back off and MGNREGA would be reinstated."

"The idea behind it (MGNREGA) was that anyone in need of work could demand it with dignity. MGNREGA was run through the third tier system — the Panchayati Raj system. MGNREGA had the voice of the people, their rights... a concept which Narendra Modi and the BJP want to finish off," Gandhi said.



Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and LoP Rahul Gandhi at the National MGNREGA workers' convention on Thursday. ANIL SHARMA

"The Modi government had brought in black laws against farmers, which the farmers managed to stop. I remember, in Parliament and on streets, along with the farmers, we put pressure on the government and got those laws repealed," he said.

Gandhi claimed that the same concept that the government tried on farmers it is now trying on workers. The idea is that the Central government in Delhi will decide how much money to send to which state, Gandhi said, adding that more money will go to BJP-ruled states.

"Farm laws were an attack on the Constitution, so was demonetisation, flawed GST. What is the name of this new law ....I don't know," he said with some in the audience responding with the VB-G RAM G acronym.

"These people want to bring back the India of pre-Independence where one king used to decide everything, had all the assets and did as he pleased. Their intention is not to stop because they want to change the structure of modern India," Gandhi said.

"There is only one way to stop them, workers have been shown the way by farmers. If we stand together unitedly, they are cowardly people... you can decide the name of the scheme and its modalities," he said.

Around 400 MGNREGA workers and activists from over two dozen states took part in the convention on Thursday.

Agencies suspect Kuki body behind Meitei man's murder in Manipur

Deeptiman Tiwary
New Delhi, January 22

THE WEDNESDAY killing of a Meitei man married to a Kuki woman in Churachandpur is being suspected to have been carried out by a Kuki militant organisation not in ceasefire agreement with the government. The execution, which was filmed and then the video circulated online, has now cast a shadow on the Centre's attempt at forming a popular government in the state by early February.

"This is a deliberate attempt to vitiate the atmosphere in the state and an effort to spark a fresh cycle of violence. The message superimposed on the video, 'No Peace, No Popular Government', makes it clear what it is aimed at. This is a political killing," a senior security establishment officer said.

A Meitei man, identified as Mayanglambam, was on Wednesday abducted along with his wife, Chingnu Haokip, from Nathjang village in Kuki-dominated Churachandpur by unidentified militants. While the wife was let go after some time, the man was shot dead.

While no organisation has taken responsibility, sources in the security establishment suspect it to be the handiwork of operatives belonging to United Kuki National Army (UKNA). It is, however, not yet clear whether the killing was carried out on the orders of UKNA leadership or it was a decision taken by the cadres on their own.

"It is also possible that the killing has been carried out as a contract. There are elements on either side of the ethnic divide in the state that do not want a popular government to be formed. UKNA cadres may be just the medium with someone else calling the shots," another officer said.

The execution, which was filmed and then the video circulated online, has now cast a shadow on the Centre's attempt at forming a popular govt in the state

UKNA operates as a non-signatory to Suspension of Operations (SoO) agreements, unlike other Kuki groups under truces since 2008. It has around 450 cadres armed with over 300 sophisticated weapons, maintaining camps in Manipur's hills and Myanmar. The group emerged amid ethnic tensions, focusing on Kuki tribal interests without formal political wings like some counterparts.

Sources said the suspicion of a larger conspiracy is also informed by the fact that the victim, said to be originally from Meitei-dominated Kakching Khunou area in the state, had been staying in the village since December 19 and everyone was aware of the mixed ethnicity of the couple.

Sources said Mayanglambam got married to Haokip in 2022, before the ethnic violence started in the state. The couple was subsequently disowned by their respective families. Leaving his wife behind, Mayanglambam then went to Nepal to earn a livelihood. He came back this December after taking due permission from the Kuki National Organisation (KNO), the key SoO group which is in talks with the government and one which virtually controls the affairs in the hills.

While Haokip's brother is also said to be part of the KNO, sources ruled out honour killing or execution inspired by ethnic hatred. "There are more than 100 such couples living in Churachandpur... living with full knowledge of society there. The couple got married in 2022. A lot of time has passed by since. The woman's parents also do not live here, but in Guwahati," an officer said.

The killing comes on the back of a sudden spurt of violence in the state following reports of attempts by the Centre to form a popular government in Manipur.

On January 5, an IED exploded inside an abandoned house in Saiton Ngaukon village under Phougakchao Ikhai police station in Bishnupur district. As a mob gathered at the site, another bomb went off, injuring two people. Sources in the security establishment have ruled out the involvement of Kuki groups in the incident.

On January 8, a grenade was hurled at a fuel station, following which police apprehended two members of the Meitei insurgent group KYKL.

These incidents have come in addition to the political hurdles that the Centre is facing in the formation of a popular government.

On the hills, Kuki groups have dug in their heels over their demand for separate administration. At a meeting of Kuki-Zo insurgent groups and MLAs from the community held in Guwahati on Tuesday, participants resolved that participation in a new popular government would require the Centre to give a written "political commitment" on a separate Union Territory for Kuki-Zo-majority areas. They underlined that the demand "must be finalised and signed before the expiration of the normal tenure of the current Legislative Assembly", which ends in 2027.

This hardline position has put the Centre in a bind. Forming a government without Kuki MLAs would deprive it of legitimacy, but committing to separate administration materialising before the polls is also not considered feasible.

In the Valley, the BJP does not have its house in order with multiple factions within the party. Sources said there is a faction within the state unit that is not in favour of government formation since its leader does not see himself becoming the CM. Among the rest, there are more than one claimants to the CM's post, they said.

Stronger ties between India, EU can de-risk world economy: EAM

Shubhajit Roy
New Delhi, January 22



Spoke to them about the current state of the world with volatility and instability as the new normal, says Jaishankar after meeting envoys of 27 EU member states

A STRONGER relationship between India and the European Union can de-risk the world economy, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Thursday as he met the envoys of 27 EU member states, led by the EU envoy to India, in New Delhi.

This comes ahead of the India-EU leaders' summit and the visit of the EU leaders to India for the Republic Day celebrations.

Jaishankar posted on X, "Spoke to them about the current state of the world with volatility and instability as the new normal." The meeting is significant at a time when the US administration led by President Donald Trump is being seen as unpredictable by New Delhi.

Jaishankar said a stronger India-EU relationship can stabilise the global order through stronger trade, mobility and security partnership. He also underlined the need for cooperation between the two sides to ensure resilient supply chains.

President of the European Council Antonio Costa and President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen will be on a state visit to India from January 25-27.

The two European leaders will attend India's 77th Republic Day celebrations as the chief guests. Costa and von der Leyen will hold summit talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 27.

"Look forward to the visit of @eucopresident Antonio Costa and European Commission President @vonderleyen to India for Republic Day celebrations," Jaishankar said.

EU Ambassador to India Herve Delphin described the interaction with Jaishankar as "excellent".

"Excellent exchange with EAM @DrSJaishankar with Team EU/27 Ambassadors reflecting the high convergence of interests & the strategic value of our growing EU / bilateral partnerships with India: benefits are mutual & global. All eyes on next week's EU-India Summit & its deliverables," he wrote on X.

ON BASANT PANCHAMI

SC permits Hindu puja, Muslim prayers at disputed MP site

Express News Service
New Delhi, January 22



The ASI-protected complex is situated in Dhar district. EXPRESS

AFTER THE Madhya Pradesh Government agreed to make arrangements for separate entry and exit for Hindus and Muslims and maintain law and order, the Supreme Court Thursday issued directions for simultaneous holding of Basant Panchami puja and namaz at the Archaeological Survey of India-protected Bhojshala Temple/Kamal Maula Mosque complex in the state's Dhar district Friday.

A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi also directed the High Court to supply copies of a scientific survey of the disputed site carried out by ASI to the opposing parties. The court allowed Friday prayers on a plea by an organisation, the Hindu Front for Justice, seeking permission for day-long rituals there on Basant Panchami, which will be observed on Friday.

Appearing for the applicant, Advocate Vishnu Shankar Jain said while ASI has allowed puja and namaz at the site on separate days, Basant Panchami this year falls on a Friday, when Muslims have been permitted to offer namaz. The court initially asked whether Hindus could hold the rituals until about 12 pm, and then continue after 3 pm, by which time the Muslim worshippers would have completed namaz.

Senior Advocate Salman Khurshid, appearing for the Muslim side, said only 2 hours would be necessary for the namaz. However, Jain pointed out that Basant Panchami rituals continue the whole day and wondered if the namaz can be shifted after 5 pm, but Khurshid expressed an inability to do this.

Additional Solicitor General K M Nataraj, appearing for the state, said that if the number of people attending can be provided, the administration is ready to create separate entry and exit for the two communities so that they can continue their worship simultaneously without disturbing each other. Both sides agreed to the suggestion, following which the court issued the directions.

In its order, the bench said, "A fair suggestion was given that in the afternoon, for namaz within 1 and 3 pm, an exclusive and separate area within the same compound, including separate ingress and egress within the same compound, shall be made available so that namaz can be performed. Similarly, a separate space shall be made available to the Hindu community to hold traditional ceremonies on the occasion of Basant Panchami".

"Salman Khurshid, senior counsel for the petitioner, states that the approximate number of persons belonging to the Muslim community coming for namaz tomorrow between 1 and 3 pm will be furnished to the district magistrate, preferably today itself."

The court also directed that the "district administration may, with a view to ensuring the maintenance of law and order, issue passes for the visitors or may adopt any other fair means to ensure that no untoward incident takes place." It also appealed to both sides to observe mutual respect, and cooperate with the administration.

In a pre-poll move, Kerala's Twenty20 party joins NDA

Shaju Philip
Thiruvananthapuram, January 22



Twenty20 is led by Sabu M Jacob, who is also the MD of garment major KITEX group

TWENTY20 PARTY, floated by garment major KITEX group, will become part of the NDA in Kerala, giving a boost to the electoral prospects of the BJP-led alliance in the next Assembly elections.

The decision was announced jointly by BJP state president Rajeev Chandrasekhar and Twenty20 president Sabu M Jacob, also MD of KITEX. Sabu will share the stage with Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to the state capital to unveil the development plan of the BJP-ruled city corporation, a promise made by the BJP during the local body elections.

Twenty20, which hit headlines in 2015 by winning the panchayat of its hometown Kizhakkambalam, has managed to retain the local body for the third time in the elections in 2025. At Kizhakkambalam, the Congress, CPI(M) and BJP had fielded common independent candidates in several wards with the sole aim of defeating Twenty20. However, the party weathered the collective attack from the leading fronts. The arm of the business group highlighted development and welfare schemes implemented at the party-ruled panchayats, where it claimed to have eliminated corruption.

Apart from Kizhakkambalam, the party now rules another panchayat and has emerged as the single largest party in another local body, which are part of the Kunnathunad Assembly constituency now represented by the CPI(M).

The presence of Twenty20 in the last Assembly elections at Kunnathunad worked in favour of the CPI(M), as the party floated by the garment group split the Congress' traditional votes. The BJP is not a key player in Kunnathunad. With Twenty20 in its fold, the BJP can now open a new battleground in Ernakulam district. Twenty20 had contested the Assembly elections in 2021 in a few seats in Ernakulam, but the party could not repeat its performance in the local body elections of 2020.

Sabu formed Twenty20 and fought elections at Kizhakkambalam panchayat in 2015 as a culmination of the long standing fight with local Congress, which had ruled the panchayat over years. Twenty20's strength has been people who are fed up with mainstream political parties. It remains to be be seen how workers, and various Christian denominations that have significant presence in Kizhakkambalam and nearby panchayats, would react to the decision of a so-called apolitical party to align with the BJP.

Odisha imposes total ban on sale of gutkha, food with tobacco and nicotine

Sujit Bisoyi
Bhubaneswar, January 22

IN A modification to the existing gutkha ban in force since 2013, the Odisha government has ordered a complete ban on the manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and consumption of gutkha and all food products containing tobacco and nicotine.

The latest order will apply to all tobacco- and nicotine-containing products such as gutkha, pan masala, zarda, khaini and others.

The modified gutkha ban seeks to remove ambiguities, ensure legal clarity, and enable uniform implementation across the state. It reiterates that tobacco and nicotine cannot be used as ingredients in any food product and that violations will attract strict penal action under applicable laws, said an order issued by the state health and family welfare department. The prohibition extends to all food products in the form of gutkha, pan masala, flavoured or scented food products or chewable food products by whatever name called, whether packaged or unpackaged. The ban also covers products sold as one item but packaged and sold separately in a manner that allows consumers to mix them easily.

Odisha's director of public health, Nilakantha Mishra, said traders used to bypass the earlier 2013 order, prompting the issuance of the new regulation to prevent the sale of tobacco- and nicotine-containing products.

Rs 10-lakh medical cover for all 65 lakh families in Punjab

Express News Service
Chandigarh, January 22

THE AAM Aadmi Party government in Punjab Thursday formally rolled out the Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojana (MMSY) to provide free cashless medical treatment of up to Rs 10 lakh to every family in the state, even as Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and party national convener Arvind Kejriwal sounded the bugle for the 2027 Assembly polls by asking voters not to make the mistake of electing "power hungry politicians."

The universal healthcare cover will be provided to all 65 lakh families in the state granting them access to free treatment for over 2,500 medical procedures at both state-run and some private hospitals. Any resident of Punjab, carrying an Aadhaar card or a voter card, will be eligible to avail the benefits of the scheme.

Addressing a gathering in Mohali after launching the scheme, Kejriwal said, "No one (in Punjab) is excluded. All 65 lakh families are covered. We had given this guarantee before the elections. This was called Kejriwal's guarantee".

He said, in the past 75 years, several governments came, but they did not take care of people despite making tall claims. "Beware of these traditional parties. Do not commit the mistake of giving them your vote again. It was the nature that helped formation of AAP. Otherwise, neither I nor Manish Sisodia and Satyendar Jain had the money. Waheguru helped this party."

Mann said it was a historic day for Punjab in the healthcare sector. "With the launch of this scheme today, Punjab has set a new benchmark for the entire country," Mann said.

LOST & FOUND

NOTICE GE Vernova T&D India Ltd. Registered office. A-18, First Floor, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase - II, New Delhi, Delhi - 110020. Notice is hereby given that certificates for the undermentioned securities of the company has been lost/Misplaced and the holders of the said securities/applicants have applied to the company to issue duplicate certificate Any person who has a claim in respect of the said securities should lodge such claim with the company at its Registered office within 15 days from this date else the company will proceed to issue duplicate certificate without further intimation. Name of the holder Jayanti Aravind Divekar and it holder Ashwini Vivek Modak kind of Securities Share Certificate & Face Value of Rs. 2/- No. of securities Five Hundred (500) Distinctive numbers from 5455316-5455815, Certificate No. 247780 Under Folio No. 03044620 Vashi, Navi Mumbai.

Jayanti Aravind Divekar & Ashwini Vivek Modak

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Website : www.ircon.org, CIN - L45203DL1976GOI008171

EOI Notice Updated

EOI NO.: IRCON/S&T/General/EOI/2026 Dtd. 21.01.2026

Ircon International Limited, A Navratna PSU Under Ministry of Railways, invites open Expression of Interest (EOI) from Reputed Indian firms with experience in Railway Signaling & Telecommunication works to associate with IRCON for empanelment as Pre-bid Partners/ Associate Agencies/Sub-contractors/Execution Partners/JV Partner for upcoming projects in the Railway and Metro sectors.

Last Date and Time of e-Bid Submission of EOI	17.02.2026 up to 15:00 hrs (IST)

For further details and updates, please visit tender section on e-tender website https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app. Amendment / Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted only on the website.

Chief General Manager/S&T,
C-4, District Centre, Saket, New Delhi-110017

भारत सरकार / Government of India
वित्त मंत्रालय / Ministry of Finance
राजस्व विभाग / Department of Revenue

Applications are invited from Government Servants retired from the Central Government/ Supreme Court or Tribunals on temporary contract basis for the following posts in the Principal Bench and 31 State Benches of Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal.

S. No.	Name of the Post	No. of Posts	Pay Scale (of 7th CPC Pay Matrix)
1	Joint Registrar	05	Level 12
2	Deputy Registrar	06	Level 11
3	Principal Private Secretary	10	Level 11
4	Assistant registrar	01	Level 10
5	Court Officer	14	Level 08
6	Senior Private Secretary	16	Level 08
7	Private Secretary	23	Level 07
	Total	**75***	

*Vacancies are only indicative and may reduce depending upon the appointments made in due course.

General Information:

1. Maximum age to apply is 62 years (as on last date of application).
2. Engagement will be on contract basis initially for one year, extendable up to five years or attainment of 65 years of age, whichever is earlier, subject to satisfactory performance and organizational requirements. Further, the engagement is purely temporary and may be terminated at any time without assigning any reason. The contract shall also stand terminated immediately on joining of a regular incumbent appointed through deputation.
3. Remuneration will be fixed as per the instructions contained in the Department of Expenditure OM dated 09.12.2020 and other extant Government of India instructions.
4. Further details regarding eligibility and other terms and conditions are available on the website of Department of Revenue: **https://gstn.org.in/gstat-sub-staff/** or scan the QR code given in this advertisement.
5. Application may be submitted online in the link provided in the above website. The same can be submitted from **15.01.2026.** This is an open vacancy circular until the requisite positions are filled.

CBC-15302/11/0001/2526

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सत्यमेव जयते

विज्ञापन सं. / Advertisement No.: सैक SAC:01:2026: दिनांक / dated: 23.01.2026

Space Applications Centre (SAC) invites applications from eligible candidates for the post of **Scientist/Engineer 'SD'** in SAC, Ahmedabad and for the post of **Scientist/Engineer 'SC'** in SAC, Ahmedabad, NRSC, Hyderabad, NESAC, Meghalaya and VSSC, Thiruvananthapuram in various fields.

For **Scientist/Engineer 'SD':** Applications will be received on-linè through ISRO Live Register portal only. Accordingly, candidates are advised to either register or update their registrations in the Live Register portal of ISRO **https://www.isro.gov.in** under **''Careers''** tab on or before 12.02.2026 (1700 hours). Live register portal can directly be accessed on **https://liveregister.isro.gov.in/LRClient**

For Scientist/Engineer 'SC': Interested candidates may visit our website **https://www.sac.gov.in** OR https://careers.sac.gov.in for detailed advertisement and registering the applications online. Applications will be received ONLINE only. The site will remain open **from 1000 hrs. on 23.01.2026 to 1700 hrs. on 12.02.2026 for online registration, filling up of online application and payment of application fees.**

Any Addendum/Update/Corrigendum will only be published on SAC website. Candidates should regularly visit the SAC website **www.sac.gov.in** for latest updates.

CBC 49107/11/0022/2526

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Applications are invited for the following posts on Regular Basis for LLB (Hons), BA LLB (Hons) and LLM Courses:

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Qualifications, Pay Scales and Experience Criteria as per UGC, BCI, State Government/MDU, Rohtak Norms. The Interested Candidates may apply in prescribed form with all testimonials within 21 days (upto 13.02.2026) from the date of publication of Advertisement. The Application form may be collected from the office of the Institute during office hours or may be downloaded from the website of the Institute. The Application complete in all respect may be submitted to the President, Puran Murti College of Law, Kami Road, Distt. Sonepat, Haryana-131001, by Hand/Post/Email at puranmurti@gmail.com. It is also mandatory to submit a copy of the Application along with all Testimonials to DCDC, MDU, Rohtak before expiry of Last Date. President

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e-Procurement Notice

On behalf of Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (Govt. of India), tenders are invited from bidders meeting qualifying requirements for following works:

Sl. No.	Description of work	NIT No. and Date	Estimated Cost including GST (Rs. in Crores)	EMD (Rs. in Lakh)	Tender Fee (Rs.)
1	Construction of MSME Technology Centre at Jhansi (Uttar Pradesh) under the Scheme "Establishment of New Technology Centre/Extension Centre" on Engineering Design, Procurement and Construction (EPC) basis including Maintenance for 2 year during DLP Period	IRCON/ B1100009/ MSME/e-Tender/ EPC/TC Jhansi/ ET49, Dated 23.01.2026	84	48	50,000
2	Construction of MSME Technology Centre at Bilaspur (Chhattisgarh) under the Scheme "Establishment of New Technology Centre/ Extension Centre" on Engineering Design, Procurement and Construction (EPC) basis including Maintenance for 2 year during DLP Period	IRCON/ B1100009/ MSME/e-Tender/ EPC/TC Bilaspur/ ET50, Dated 23.01.2026	84	48	50,000
3	Construction of MSME Technology Centre at Rajkot (Gujarat) under the Scheme "Establishment of New Technology Centre/Extension Centre" on Engineering Design, Procurement and Construction (EPC) basis including Maintenance for 2 year during DLP Period	IRCON/ B1100009/ MSME/e-Tender/ EPC/TC Rajkot/ ET51, Dated 23.01.2026	82	47	50,000
4	Construction of MSME Technology Centre at Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu) under the Scheme "Establishment of New Technology Centre/ Extension Centre" on Engineering Design, Procurement and Construction (EPC) basis including Maintenance for 2 year during DLP Period	IRCON/ B1100009/MSME/ e-Tender/EPC/ TC Coimbatore/ ET52, Dated 23.01.2026	82	47	50,000
5	Construction of MSME Technology Centre at Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala) under the Scheme "Establishment of New Technology Centre/ Extension Centre" on Engineering Design, Procurement and Construction (EPC) basis including Maintenance for 2 year during DLP Period	IRCON/ B1100009/MSME/ e-Tender/EPC/ TC Thiruvananthapuram/ET53, Dated 19.01.2026	80	46	50,000

Tender Documents will be available on e-tender portal website https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app w.e.f. 23.01.2026 and last date of submission of above tenders is 12.02.2026 upto 15.00 hrs. Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted only on the website. Executive Director/VME
C-4, District Centre, Saket, New Delhi-110017, email-masood.ahmad@ircon.org

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(मद्य निषेध शाखा)
वाहन नीलामी हेतु अति अल्पकालीन आम सूचना
(बिहार मद्यनिशेध एवं अधिनियम 2016 के संशोधित अधिनियम 2018 के सुसंगत प्रावधानों के तहत् राजसात् किये गये वाहनों की अल्पकालीन सार्वजनिक नीलामी सूचना)

एतद् द्वारा सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि बाँका जिलान्तर्गत विभिन्न थाना काण्डों/उत्पाद वादों में राजसात किये गये वाहनों को बिहार मद्य निशेध एवं उत्पाद अधिनियम, 2016 के सुसंगत प्रावधानों के तहत् विभिन्न अधिहरण वादों में अधिहरण न्यायालय अनुमंडल दण्डाधिकारी, बाँका, भूमि सुधार उपसमाहर्त्ता, बाँका, अपर समाहर्त्ता–सह–मद्यनिशेध दण्डाधिकारी, बाँका, जिला प्रंचायती राज पदाधिकारी–सह–मद्यनिशेध दण्डाधिकारी, बाँका एवं जिला परिवहन पदाधिकारी–सह–मद्यनिशेध दण्डाधिकारी, बाँका द्वारा राजसात् किये वाहनो कि सार्वजनिक नीलामी जो जहाँ है जैसे है के रुप में 11.30 बजे पूर्वाह्न में अधीक्षक मद्यनिशेध, महेशाडीह, बाँका के कार्यालय वेश्म में निम्न प्रकार से की जायेगी।

वाहन नीलामी की तिथि		आवेदन प्राप्त की अंतिम तिथि	आवेदन प्राप्त करने का स्थान
दिनांक 06 .09.2025 (पहली नीलामी)एवं 07 .01.2026 (दूसरी नीलामी) को आयोजित नीलामी से शेष बचे वाहनो की नीलामी की तीसरी तिथि	09.02.2026	06.02.2026 को अपराह्न 05:00 बजे तक	कार्यालय अधीक्षक मद्यनिषेध बाँका

नोट:– (1) विभागीय पत्रांक–5964, दिनांक–04.08.2022 के आलोक में नियमानुसार क्रमाशः प्रथम नीलामी के उपरान्त मूल्यांकित राशि का 10 प्रतिशत कम करके एवं द्वितीय नीलामी के उपरान्त मूल्यांकित राशि का 20 प्रतिशत कम करके तृतीय नीमाली कराई जाएगी।

(2) निम्नांकित वाहन के स्वामियों को भी सूचित किया जाता है कि यदि वे निम्नांकित वाहनों के लिये अपील/रिवीजन/प्रपत्र IV दायर किये हों तो इसकी सूचना साक्ष्य सहित नीलामी की तिथि के पूर्व नीलामी समिति को उपलब्ध करा देंगे।

(3) उक्त वाहन से संबंधित वाहन स्वामी यदि इच्छुक हैं तो नीलामी में भाग ले सकते हैं।

क्र0 सं0	न्यायालय, बांका का ज्ञापांक/ दिनांक	उत्पाद /थाना नाम	उत्पाद /थाना कांड सं0	वाहन का प्रकार	पंजीयन संख्या	चेचिस सं0	इंजन सं0	MVI द्वारा मूल्यांकित राशि (रूपया में)	दूसरी नीलामी के उपरान्त राशि (20%कम करने के उपरान्त)	अग्रधन की राशि (20%)	वाहन स्वामी का नाम व पता	वाहन निर्माण का वर्श (मॉडल)	वाहन की भौतिक उपस्थिति	नीलामी समय बीमाकृत मूल्य (वाहन की बीमाकृत मूल्य)	वाहन जहाँ पर है
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	14	15
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At Kerala Lit Fest, Sunita opens up on retirement, months spent stuck in space

Shaju Philip
Kozhikode, January 22



Sunita Williams speaks at the Kerala Literature Festival in Kozhikode on Thursday. PTI

NASA ASTRONAUT Sunita Williams, who recently announced her retirement after a 27-year career, said during a visit to Kozhikode in Kerala on Friday that she would have loved to go to space again, but that there were some good young astronauts now who are doing "wonderful jobs".

Williams, who is in Kozhikode to take part in the ninth edition of the Kerala Literature Festival, said, "I would love to go to space again, but my husband would kill me. I have some things to do at home," she said, adding that she was excited to see the work of new astronauts.

Referring to the nine months when she and her crewmate Butch Wilmore had to stay for an extended nine-month period in the International Space Station due to technical issues with an experimental capsule, Williams said, "We were trying to participate in as much as we could, as well as being productive members on the space station."

She said she wanted to occupy her time. "We were extra crewmates up there. We were eating a lot of food, and using the bathroom quite a bit... So, obviously, food needs to be stocked, and the bathroom cleaned when all other experiments and other things are going on. These may not be the most glorious jobs up in space, but you need to pitch in and be part of the team," she said.

"As the summer rolled in, it was becoming more clear that we probably were not going home. Then it's time to focus on being crew members up there. And it is a team sport. I had to always remember that and remind people that two people were supposed to be on that spacecraft that came and brought us home. They graciously stepped aside and only two seats went up, so there were two empty seats for me and Butch Wilmore to come back. That was a huge event for someone who was training for a number of years to say that I am not going to fly," she said.

Referring to India's space missions, she said, "I am excited for the Indian space programme. Ideas are becoming a reality. I think as they get more involved internationally, as well as with their own programme, they're going to go to space before too long," she said.

10 SERIOUSLY INJURED SOLDIERS AIRLIFTED TO UDHAMPUR

10 soldiers killed as vehicle plunges into gorge in Doda

Arun Sharma
Jammu, January 22



An Army helicopter arrives to airlift the injured personnel to Udhampur, in Doda on Thursday. ANI

AT LEAST 10 soldiers were killed and 11 others injured when a bulletproof vehicle of the Army skidded off the road and fell into a deep gorge in Khanni Top area situated at an altitude of 9,000 ft along the Bhaderwah-Chamba interstate road connecting Jammu and Kashmir's hilly Doda district with Himachal Pradesh.

Of the injured, 10 were airlifted to Command Hospital at Udhampur in view of their serious condition, while one was undergoing treatment at the government run sub-district hospital at Bhaderwah.

While officials were yet to disclose the cause of the accident, sources attributed it to poor visibility triggered by dense fog in the area at the time.

"We have lost 10 soldiers with 11 others injured in the unfortunate accident involving an army vehicle," Additional Deputy Commissioner, Bhaderwah, Sumit Kumar Bhutyal told PTI.

The accident took place around 11.30 am, sources said, adding that the ill-fated vehicle was on way to Bhaderwah from Chattergala — a high mountain pass at an altitude of nearly 12,000 ft, which connects Doda district's Bhaderwah subdivision with Kathua's Bani area.

A picket of the security forces and police has been set up at Chattergala as terrorists entering Kathua district, after crossing the international border, use this mountain pass to enter Doda. In 2024, nearly half-a-dozen personnel of security force and police were injured in an attack by terrorists on their picket in the area.

On Thursday, the locals were the first to respond to the accident by carrying out the rescue operation. Security forces and police soon reached the spot and brought the bodies and the injured person to the road.

Security forces also launched searches in the area and recovered all the weapons which were being carried by the victims, sources said.

J&K's Lt Governor Manoj Sinha expressed grief over the accident. "Deeply saddened at the loss of lives of 10 of our brave Indian Army soldiers in an unfortunate road accident in Doda," L-G Sinha said in a post on X. "We will always remember the outstanding service and supreme sacrifice of our brave soldiers. My deepest condolences to the grieving families," he added.

"In this moment of profound sorrow, the entire nation stands united with the bereaved families in solidarity and support," he said.

Ten injured soldiers have been airlifted to the hospital, L-G Sinha said, adding that he has directed senior officers to ensure best possible treatment for them. "Praying for their speedy recovery," he added.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and former chief minister Ghulam Nabi Azad also expressed grief over the accident.

"Deeply saddened by the tragic road accident in Doda in which we lost 10 brave soldiers of the Indian Army. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families," the defence minister said in a post on X.

Abdullah lauded the swift rescue and evacuation efforts. He also conveyed condolences to the families of the soldiers who died and wished a speedy recovery to those injured.

Expressing sadness over the accident, Congress president Kharge called for strengthening road safety measures to prevent such deaths.

"My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and loved ones. The nation stands united with deep sorrow and our thoughts and prayers are with the injured for a speedy recovery. Several such instances have happened in the past. There is an urgent need to strengthen road infrastructure, improve mobility in difficult terrain, and road-safety measures to prevent such heartbreaking losses," he said.

Democratic Progressive Azad Party's Azad said, "My deepest condolences to the bereaved families, and I pray for the swift recovery of those injured."

Army's Northern Commander said the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief Lt Gen Pratik Sharma and all ranks of the Command salute the bravehearts and express heartfelt condolences on the untimely demise of soldiers who lost their lives in the unfortunate vehicle accident. -WITH PTI INPUTS

BRIEFLY



The tragedy took place at the sponge iron manufacturing unit of an industrial plant in Balodabazar-Bhatapara district. ANI

CHHATTISGARH

Six labourers killed, five critical after fly ash leak at steel plant

SIX LABOURERS were killed and five were critically injured after fly ash at an extremely high temperature leaked from the fifth floor of a steel plant and fell on 11 labourers in Chhattisgarh's Balodabazar-Bhatapara district Thursday morning. The incident took place at around 9.40 am in the sponge iron manufacturing unit of an industrial plant belonging to Real Ispat and Power Ltd in Bakulahi village in the Bhatapara rural area, the district's Collector Deepak Soni said. Most of those killed are from Bihar, while the injured are from Bihar and Jharkhand, the police said. PTI

UTTAR PRADESH

Judge's gold chain stolen at Magh Mela

A GOLD chain weighing about 25 gm, along with a locket, was allegedly stolen from a woman judge while she was heading for a ritual bath on Mauni Amavasya during the Magh Mela in Prayagraj on January 18, police said Thursday. According to the complaint, the victim Diksha Taneja is posted as a senior civil judge in the Datia district of MP. PTI

HARYANA

Cow-slaughter case: 3 men get 5 years in jail

The COURT of Nuh's Additional Sessions Judge Shashi Chauhan has sentenced three people to five years of imprisonment in a cow slaughter case, police said.The court also imposed a penalty of Rs 75,000 on them, and in case of non-payment of the fine, a provision of an additional six months of simple imprisonment has been made. PTI

IN PAST 19 MONTHS, HALF-A-DOZEN ODISHA TOWNS HAVE SEEN CURFEW, INTERNET SUSPENSION

Attack on pastor follows a spate of communal violence in Odisha; Opp blames BJP govt 'ecosystem'

Sujit Bisoyi
Bhubaneswar, January 22



In December, tension had erupted in Sundargarh town in western Odisha over rumours of beef, that left at least 12 injured

EIGHTEEN DAYS after a pastor was assaulted in Parjang Police Station area of Odisha's Dhenkanal, and hours after the wife's complaint drew outrage from leaders across the country, the Odisha Police on Thursday said nine people have been detained and are being questioned.

Police said they came to know of the January 4 incident only after the wife lodged a complaint, that pastor Bipin Naik was assaulted by a mob comprising allegedly Bajrang Dal members, had vermillion smeared on him, was paraded with a garland of shoes, and compelled to bow before a temple, over allegations of conversion.

Admitting that they were investigating these charges, Dhenkanal SP Abhinav Sonkar said other claims, that Naik had been forced to drink water from a drain and force-fed cow dung, had been found to be incorrect. "These haven't been mentioned in the complaint nor have we found any indication of this," Sonkar said.

In the past 19 months, half-a-dozen Odisha towns have seen curfew and Internet suspension over communal incidents, including lynching of Bengali-speaking Muslims. In most of the cases, the accused have been members of right-wing Hindu outfits.

Officials say many other cases may have gone unreported, with victims being Bengali-speaking daily wagers who are hesitant to approach police.

The Opposition has slammed it as "jungle raj" and the coming of "communal tension" to a state where the BJP formed its first solo government in June 2024.

The latest case was on January 14, when a Muslim youth was lynched by alleged 'cow vigilantes' in Balasore district. This was barely weeks after a Muslim youth from Murshidabad in West Bengal, 30-year-old Jewel Sheikh, was beaten to death in Sambalpur district.

In both the cases, police initially denied any 'hate crime'. While his co-workers and family members alleged Jewel had been assaulted on the suspicion of being an illegal Bangladeshi immigrant, police said the victim and the accused knew each other and had fought over a bidi. Six people were later arrested.

In the January 14 Balasore case, the initial police FIR, lodged on the basis of a complaint by a sub-inspector, had no mention of the assault or any names. It only stated that a driver and owner of a van were charged with rash driving, and under Sections of the Prevention of Cow Slaughter Act. However, a video of the incident showed 'Sk Makandar Mahammad' (who died in the incident) being beaten up, forced to chant Jai Shri Ram and to refer to the cow as his mother.

A murder case was registered after Makandar's brother lodged a complaint against five people. Three were finally arrested, with self-proclaimed "gau-rakshaks" staging a dharna outside the Balasore Superintendent of Police's office seeking their release.

By then, communal tension had erupted in Sundargarh town in western Odisha over rumours of beef, that left at least 12 injured. The government had to suspend the Internet and impose prohibitory orders.

In October 2025, in an incident virtually unknown for the city, Cuttack saw a curfew of around three days following communal violence that started with a clash during Durga Puja immersion. Days later, members of the VHP clashed with police and indulged in vandalism and arson.

Following the incident, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, who also holds the Home portfolio, issued an appeal for peace. "Cuttack is a thousand-year-old city known for its unity and communal harmony. Due to the actions of some miscreants, peace has been disturbed in recent days," he said.

Claiming "complete lawlessness in the state", BJD Rajya Sabha MP Sulata Deo said: "There is an ecosystem backed by some people in power that encourages such activities... It's the duty of the government to protect everyone, especially the minorities."

Former chief minister and BJD president Naveen Patnaik has urged the government and all communities to protect the state's image of communal harmony.

Congress spokesperson Amiya Pandav said the hate incidents against minorities are "carefully organized crimes promoted and patronised by the ruling BJP".

Bishop Pallav Lima, general secretary of the Odisha unit of the Rashtriya Christian Morcha, blames police "inaction" in hate crimes, for the rise in communal incidents. Syed Barkat Ali Tanveer, the coordinator of the Odisha Muslim Development Council, says attempts are being made to incite hate. A retired top police officer accuses provocative statements by leaders as prompting vigilantes to take the law into their own hands. BJP MLA Ashok Mohanty says the Opposition's charge of the Majhi government doing nothing is "baseless". "Attacks on cattle smugglers" are only a reflection of the anger of the people, he says. "Those who indulge in cattle smuggling should be aware of this."

'Homebound' misses Oscar race in a fierce competition

Alaka Sahani
Mumbai, January 22



Actors Ishaan Khatter and Vishal Jethwa in Homebound. FACEBOOK/@DHARMAMOVIES

DIRECTOR NEERAJ Ghaywan's *Homebound* bowed out of the Oscar race at the nomination stage on Thursday.

The five nominees announced for the International Feature Film category for the 98th Academy Awards are Brazil's *The Secret Agent*, France's *It Was Just an Accident*, Norway's *Sentimental Value*, Spain's *Sirāt*, and Tunisia's *The Voice of Hind Rajab*. Though *Homebound*, which premiered in the Un Certain Regard section at the Cannes Film Festival in May last year, had secured a spot among the 15 films shortlisted for the International Feature Film category last month, competition for the final five nominations was especially fierce.

After winning multiple awards at Cannes, including best director award for *Kleber Mendonça Filho* and best actor award for *Wagner Moura* (who is popular for playing Pablo Escobar in the series *Narcos*), *The Secret Agent* has steadily gained momentum during the awards season. The Brazilian political drama, set in 1977 when the country was under dictatorship, explores the absurdities of life as Moura, who plays a widower, returns to Recife during a carnival, to be reunited with his son.

Filho, known for directing acclaimed movies like *Bacurau*, makes a strong statement about everyday corruption and military dictatorship in the 160-minute period piece that's being praised for its visual richness and sound. *The Secret Agent* has already bagged Golden Globes for Best Motion Picture-Non-English Language and Best Performance by a Male Actor in a Motion Picture-Drama for *Moura*.

It Was Just an Accident, written and directed by Iranian filmmaker Jafar Panahi, has long been considered an Oscar frontrunner. Shot discreetly in Tehran, the winner of Palme d'Or, and four Golden Globes nominations, Panahi's movie is an unconventional revenge drama that dwells more on moral dilemmas even as it packs an incisive commentary on authoritarianism.

Yet another Oscar-favourite *Sentimental Value*, directed and co-written by Joachim Trier, has received nine nominations including Best Picture, Best Director, Best Actress (Renate Reinsve), Best Supporting Actor (Stellan Skarsgård), and Best Supporting Actress nominations for *Elle Fanning* and *Ibsdotter Lilleaas*. The movie, which won the Grand Prix at Cannes, is a gripping exploration of the estranged relationship between an aging filmmaker past his prime and his daughters.

Directed by Oliver Laxe, Sirât, a winner of 2025 Cannes Jury Prize, deftly combines a visually and sonically rich experience. A father (Sergi López), accompanied by his young son and a dog, looks for his missing daughter, who is supposed to be entangled in the local rave culture, in the Moroccan desert. What makes this genre-defying movie engrossing is its emotional depth.

The Voice of Hind Rajab is one of the most political narratives competing for the Oscar trophy. The docudrama, written and directed by Kaouther Ben Hania, follows the events after Hind Rajab, a six-year-old Palestinian girl, contacts Palestinian Red Crescent Society to rescue her while under siege in Gaza City in 2024 and after losing her family members, who had been shot in an attack by the Israeli Defence Forces. The film uses the real voice of Hind Rajab while recreating the action of emergency response coordinators. Even though *Homebound's* Oscar campaign comes to an end, it remains a significant Indian film that touched the global audience with the story of two young friends and their struggles. Producer Karan Johar summed it up aptly when he thanked Ghaywan on social media for "allowing us to bask in your light". SEE ALSO P 14

ONE-HOUR-AND-45 MINUTES LONG PLAY IS READY TO OPEN ON JANUARY 29 IN MUMBAI

Breast of Luck: Born from friendship, musical shines light on cancer and care

Alaka Sahani
New Delhi, January 22

AFTER TWO consecutive days of hospital visits for targeted therapy for cancer, actor Tannishtha Chatterjee has returned to rehearsals, stepping back into the role of Sheila Roy, a singer.

Rehearsing alongside her is actor Sharib Hashmi, who plays a stockbroker marked by a goofy, self-deprecating charm. Off stage, Hashmi has been a caregiver and biggest support for his wife Nasreen, a cancer survivor, an experience that informs his engagement with the upcoming play. Under the watchful eye of director Leena Yadav, the two actors perform scenes from Breast of Luck, a play they have co-written, drawing on personal experiences that have been woven into the script.

When Tannishtha and Sharib were shooting for a film in Dehradun in October 2024, they often spent their breaks discussing the possibility of developing a two-actor play. They began reading several scripts, but none felt right. In January 2025, on the day they were scheduled to meet in Mumbai for another round of discussions, Tannishtha received her diagnosis. Though shaken by the news, and worried about how she would share this with her mother, and nine-year-old daughter, she chose not to cancel the meeting that evening.

"I thought it would make me feel better to meet a friend, even though I wasn't planning to tell him about my diagnosis. When he sensed something was wrong, I broke down. He made me speak to Nasreen and that helped," says Tannishtha.

The conversations that followed led Tannishtha and Sharib to decide to develop a play together from scratch, by weaving in some of their experiences of dealing with cancer in the narrative. By October, an initial draft was ready, which they read out to their friend, writer-director Leena for feedback. She responded positively and offered to direct the play. After weeks of readings and rehearsals, the



The play features actors Tannishtha Chatterjee and Sharib Hashmi

one-hour-and-45 minutes long play is ready to open on January 29 at Mumbai's G5A. After two shows each on January 29 and 30 at G5A, Breast of Luck will be staged on February 4, observed as World Cancer Day, as part of the Kala Ghoda Arts Festival at Yashwantrao Chavan Center. On February 11, they will perform the play at the PL Deshpande Maharashtra Kala Akademi for Bharat Rang Mahotsav and in Lucknow on February 14.

From the very beginning, Sharib and Tannishtha were keen on developing a musical and keeping it lighthearted. "We started writing the play after Tannishtha was diagnosed with cancer. It was Tannishtha's idea to incorporate some elements from our lives in the narrative. Yet, we were clear about giving it a humorous touch. We wanted to convey some important things but did not want to make it morose. That's why we incorporated romance, music, and laughter," says Sharib, known for his role as 'JK' in The Family Man web series. He says the play became their means of dealing with their respective personal struggles. The process of writing the play involved jamming in person as well as over Zoom. "We constantly improvised and re-wrote. Though we mostly wrote the parts involving our individual characters, we shared our ideas about them. We wrote our personal monologues," says Tannishtha, a National School of Drama graduate who has acted in acclaimed movies like Brick Lane (2007), Parched (2015) and Joram (2023).

Several others contributed to the making of the play. Lyricist Swanand Kirkere wrote a song, Maanaav Poddar composed the music and Ashley Lobo choreographed a sequence. NSD graduates Kunal Bhange and Sumit stepped in to do production design and lights, respectively. Casting director Mukesh Chabbra offered his space for rehearsals. "As a director, I just helped Sharib and Tannishtha with the structure and dramatistion. I did not want to intrude on what they were doing but be a part of their process," says Leena, who has directed Rajma Chawal (2018) and House of Secrets: The Burari Deaths (2021).

Tannishtha is still undergoing treatment; in fact, she has a targeted therapy session on January 27, two days before the play's opening.

Assam SIR: One person files objections against 64 voters from same booth

Sukrita Baruah
Guwahati, January 22



State Election Commission officials check names of voters. FILE

LAST FRIDAY, retired government employee Hafizuddin Ahmed got a notice summoning him to a local government office for a hearing. It stated that an objection had been filed against the inclusion of his name in the electoral roll of Assam's Nagaon-Batadraba constituency during the claims and objections phase of the ongoing Special Revision process in the state. The grounds for objection simply stated "death."

The hearing was scheduled for that day itself, so he rushed to the office with his documents.

"I showed them the voter ID card, and since I was an employee with the Public Health & Engineering Department, I was familiar with the officials there. They checked my documents and said it would be okay," said Ahmed, a resident of Central Assam's Nagaon town.

He was not the only one. With dozens of others receiving similar notices — many based on objections filed by the same person — the public hearings in three constituencies, Barhampur, Nagaon-Batadraba and Raha, have been put on hold.

The night before Ahmed received a notice, his neighbour, Javed Akhtar, received two such notices for hearings. One was addressed to his bedridden 80-year-old father-in-law, Ajiruddin Ahmed, who was a senior lawyer when he was younger. Again, the grounds of objection stated "death." The other was addressed to his wife, Farhana Yasmin, which listed the grounds of objection as "shifted."

Similarly, 77-year-old retired professor of Dhing College, Abdul Salam, who was travelling in West Bengal with his wife, learnt on Sunday that objections had been filed against both of them on the grounds that they are "dead". Notices issued to all these individuals show that the objections were filed by the same person. Going through the list of objections for the Nagaon-Batadraba constituency, *The Indian Express* found that this individual filed objections against 64 individuals from the same polling booth. This even includes the BLO, Nuruddin Ahmed, and his wife, on the grounds that they are dead. "As a BLO, I do not know who this individual is. He is not among the Booth Level Agents (BLAs) of any of the political parties who have been working on the ground with me. I have only received a list from the election branch which tells us the names of the people against whom objections have been filed, and the complainer's name," said the BLO.

While this issue has been raised by minority groups, Nagaon District Commissioner Devashish Sharma said that objections against Hindus outnumber those against Muslims in Nagaon, a Muslim-majority district.

In the midst of these concerns, on Tuesday evening, Sharma, who is also the District Election Officer, issued a public notice declaring that the public hearings pertaining to three constituencies in the district — Barhampur, Nagaon-Batadraba and Raha — "are hereby placed in abeyance, in respect of complaints received from the public, until further orders".

"The District Administration is conscious of prevailing public concerns and remains fully committed to maintaining transparency, fairness and public confidence in all electoral and administrative processes... It is reiterated that no eligible voter shall be excluded or left behind, and all lawful claims and objections shall be addressed as per the prescribed procedure," states the public notice.

It also warns of action under Section 31 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, against people filing false complaints. "Members of the public are strongly cautioned that the submission of false, misleading or vexatious complaints constitutes serious misuse of the grievance redressal mechanism and contributes to avoidable public confusion or disorder," it stated.

Sharma said the primary reason for placing the public hearings at abeyance in these constituencies was insufficient infrastructure in the small hearing centres to support the large number of people lining up for hearings.

Acknowledging the concerns regarding bulk and false objections, he said, "The election commission allows for anyone to file objections, and we have to verify them. There may be agents of political parties, but in many cases, it could also be overzealous individuals and those trying to settle personal scores. The verification of the objections is happening, and we have issued a warning that those raising false objections will be punished." An individual can file an application for the deletion of a name in the existing electoral roll by filling and submitting Form 7 of the Election Commission. According to guidelines, the application can be made by anyone who is an existing voter from the same constituency. Among the details they need to furnish are their name, EPIC number and their mobile number or that of a relative. They have to select one of the grounds for objection from 'death,' 'underage,' 'absent/permanently shifted,' 'already enrolled', or 'not an Indian citizen'. These forms can be filled out and submitted online on the ECI website or the Voter Helpline.

Imtiaz Hussain, president of the All Assam Minority Students' Union said, "The Nagaon order is an admission that there are flaws in the process. We are submitting memoranda on this across all districts expressing our concerns."

On Wednesday evening, the DC of the North Assam district of Lakhimpur also took cognisance of these concerns and issued a notice similar to that from the Nagaon district administration. "During the Special Revision of Electoral Rolls in Lakhimpur district, allegations are being made in general that a single individual has submitted multiple objections against multiple voters. Such practice is not valid in terms of the provisions of the Representation of the People's Act 1950," the notice states, reiterating that action will be taken if such "false, misleading, or vexatious" objections are established. An official with the office of the CEO said that the issue was discussed on Tuesday with the Nagaon DC following a state-level meeting with representatives of political parties, after which the order was issued.

"Because of such concerns about fraudulent complaints, seven Electoral Roll Observers who are senior IAS officers are in the field talking to local representatives of all political parties at the district level to understand ground realities and to oversee that all processes are being conducted as they should be. There are seven such Electoral Roll Officers, who have been allotted five districts each," said the official.

CAA AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS' IDENTIFICATION

Is EC second guessing SIR objectives, asks SC

Ananthakrishnan G
New Delhi, January 22

POINTING OUT that the June 24, 2025 order of the Election Commission announcing the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls "does not eloquently" say whether it is examining citizenship for the purpose of identifying illegal immigrants, the Supreme Court on Thursday asked the poll body whether it is now second guessing that this was one of the objectives of the exercise.

A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi posed the query as Senior Advocate Rakesh Dwivedi appearing for the Commission submitted that verifying citizenship was found desirable in view of Article 326 of the Constitution, which says that only citizens shall remain on the rolls, and the fact that the Citizenship Act of 1955 was amended in 2003, keeping in mind illegal immigration, after which only summary revision of electoral rolls based on self-declarations was carried out.

Dwivedi denied that the exercise was to identify illegal immigrants. "When I am placing this Citizenship (Amendment) Act, I am not going to illegal migration. This Act is not about illegal migration. It's about citizenship. We are not examining that (illegal immigration)."

He also cited US President Donald Trump's actions in Venezuela and Greenland to contest the argument advanced by Senior Advocate A M Singhvi, who appeared for some of the petitioners, that due process was not followed by the EC in the exercise of its powers.

"I have a serious problem with this due process which Mr Singhvi is trying to import from the United States at a time when the US is hardly following due process. Now President Trump can just go and lift the Venezuelan President to US for trial, so where is the due process? Now he wants Greenland. The US Supreme Court is not applying due process to all this...But my friends are more keen to go that way and to import that," the senior counsel said. He said paragraph 7 of the SIR order sets out the reasons for undertaking the special revision.

"The first is there has been rapid urbanisation, second is frequent migration of population due to education livelihood and other reasons and that has become a trend. Thirdly, there is large-scale duplication of entries on existing electoral rolls... Fourthly, Article 326 requires that only Indian citizens should be registered on the electoral roll. Therefore, an intense verification drive to verify each person before enrolment is necessary. So, the object was to verify."

"The fifth circumstance is the amendment of the Citizenship Act in 1986 and 2003, which required determination of citizenship... Sixth, political parties across the spectrum have voiced serious concerns regarding the accuracy of electoral rolls revised through summary revision process."

Dwivedi said political parties have been complaining about the electoral rolls in Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra among other states. "Now the same political parties say don't do SIR. That is a contradiction in their approach. During the course of the arguments most of the petitioners conceded that conduct of SIR is necessary. Mr Yogendra Yadav (psephologist and politician) said he feels SIR is absolutely essential but he has problems with the designs only."

Dwivedi said the CAA of 2003 "was introduced in Parliament and passed when Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the Prime Minister, but there was complete consensus that this was required. Both sides, No opposition. The notification came to be passed when Manmohan Singh was PM, in 2004. That itself indicates that across the political spectrum, this amendment was considered to be desirable."

As the EC counsel stressed that Parliament made the law in view of illegal immigration, Justice Bagchi wondered if that was one of the reasons for the SIR and said that the June 24 order does not say so explicitly.

Justice Bagchi said the order only speaks of migration but not illegal migration specifically.

Dwivedi agreed that it could have been stated more clearly.

Justice Bagchi said "our question to you is since you are starting a special revision, was that in your mind? What was in your mind? it says migration, urbanisation etc. It does not clearly say illegal immigration... So are you second guessing now?

Dwivedi said he is not second guessing and added that "even if we ignore this, still the reasons which we gave are sufficient".

Man who helped police locate body of villager killed by Maoists dies by suicide

Jayprakash S Naidu
Raipur, January 22

HOURS AFTER helping the police locate the body of a man murdered last August for hoisting the national flag, a 55-year-old man allegedly died by suicide fearing reprisals in Chhattisgarh's Narayanpur district — the second such case in two months.

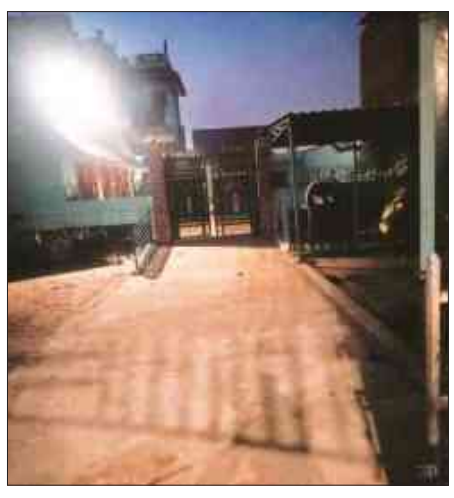
According to sources, Manku Padda, a resident of Binagunda village in Narayanpur, had aided Maoists on several occasions and wanted to surrender. He helped the police locate and exhume the body of Manesh Nareti, who was allegedly killed in August for unfurling the national flag on the outskirts of Binagunda village.

Soon after, Padda began to fear reprisals and consumed bird poison, sources said. His family alerted the police, and he was rushed to hospital but died during treatment on Tuesday night. Police said Binagunda village has long been considered a Maoist base camp under the North Bastar Division's Partapur area committee, with over two dozen Maoists still active in the area. In August, the insurgents abducted Nareti and two others for unfurling the national flag in Binagunda village. Nareti was summarily tried and executed in what Maoists call the Jan Adalat — or People's court — while the other two captives were assaulted. Nareti's body was buried at an undisclosed location.

'Bahut bhaichara tha': A UP village in shock as twin murders shatter harmony

Nirbhay Thakur
Moradabad (UP), January 22





The residences of Kajal Saini (left) and Mohd Arman in Moradabad wear a deserted look. EXPRESS

A FEW hundred metres separated the family homes of Kajal Saini, 19, and Mohd Arman, 27. In Umri, a mixed-population village in Uttar Pradesh's Moradabad, which is almost equal parts Saini and Muslim and has no history of communal tension, it was easy to mistake that as a sign of proximity.

Now, that illusion lies shattered.

On Wednesday, the bodies of Kajal and Arman were found buried next to a riverbank near Umri, allegedly killed by her brothers on discovering their relationship.

"In 50 years, our two communities have never had a major fight... *Daawat bhi hum saath me khaate hain... bahut bhaichara tha. Pata nahin gaon ko kiski nazar lag gayi* (We would share our feasts... there was such brotherhood. God knows whose evil eye has brought us this day)," says a middle-aged man belonging to the Saini community.

Police, who have arrested Kajal's siblings Rajaram, Satish, and Rinku Saini for the murders, say the couple were beaten to death early on Monday.

The two-storey house where Kajal and Arman were attacked lies desolate Thursday. Her brothers, who work as labourers, live here; she was spending the night with them that day. Their parents live some distance away, nearer the fields.

Arman's brother Farman Ali, a year older, says Arman came back from Saudi Arabia only four months ago. "He was working at a KFC outlet there. He had started making furniture here." A lot of men in the area are in the furniture business.

Kajal, who had studied up to class 12, taught children at a school in the village.

SSP Moradabad, Satpal Antil said in a statement that the couple had been in a relationship for nearly two years. If they were, say the villagers, they kept it well hidden.

According to police, on Sunday night, Arman came to meet Kajal at her brothers' house. He was with her when one of her brothers reportedly spotted him. He alerted the others, and the three allegedly forced their way into Kajal's room and started beating the two of them.

One of the brothers allegedly fetched a spade and hit Arman repeatedly, until he fell unconscious in a pool of blood. Kajal tried to run out and raise an alarm, police said, but the brothers allegedly caught her and struck her with the spade too, killing her.

Later, the three allegedly stuffed Kajal and Arman's bodies in gunny bags, and carried them to the bank of the river Gagan and buried them near a temple.

The SSP said that police launched an inquiry when Arman's family contacted them on Tuesday, informing them that he was missing since Sunday night. Kajal's family also lodged a missing person's report the same day.

While Arman's family alerted police about his relationship with Kajal, her family tried to "mislead" them, suggesting that Arman had abducted her and would marry her after conversion, the officer said.

A sole policeman guards Arman's house, which is big and accommodates a large joint family. Farman, who drives a taxi for a living, says they came to know of the relationship between Kajal and Arman only recently. The families had cordial relations and celebrated all festive occasions together. But, Farman admits, when they could not find Arman on January 20, they feared the worst. "We immediately filed a missing complaint... But I could have never imagined (such an end)."

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Tribal Council of Great Nicobar alleges pressure to 'surrender' land

Nikhil Ghanekar
New Delhi, January 22

THE TRIBAL Council of the Great Nicobar Islands has alleged that officials of the Nicobar district administration have asked them to sign "surrender" certificates, writing off their claims over ancestral lands that were affected during the Great Tsunami of 2004.

In a virtual briefing held Thursday, the tribal chiefs alleged that officials from the Nicobar district administration and Andaman Adjim Janjati Vikas Samiti met with the council members on January 7 and verbally asked them to sign surrender certificates, purportedly in the interest of supporting the proposed Great Nicobar project. The Samiti is a registered society overseeing the welfare and protection of the particularly vulnerable tribal groups.

However, the council members refused to sign them and sought time to discuss the matter. The tribal chiefs said they were sent messages on January 3 regarding "surrender" certificates. They said that they were neither provided with any further details nor the meeting agenda was shared with them.

The Nicobarese community faced casualties in the 2004 Tsunami, and have repeatedly made demands to the Andaman and Nicobar Island administration to relocate them to their ancestral villages. Following the Tsunami, they were relocated to a settlement in Rajiv Nagar and New Chingenh, towards the eastern coast.

The council members said that accepting the administration's request would "permanently deprive" them of access to these lands. The Nicobarese population is around 1,200 on the Great and Little Nicobar islands. They have traditionally grown coconut, pandanus or screw pine on these lands and also used the coastal waters for fishing. Around 27 such villages are situated on the western coast of the Great Nicobar Island.

Barnabas Manju, chairman of the tribal council, said that in the past too, authorities got the council to sign no-objection certificates for denotification of a 84 sq km vast tribal reserve without revealing the full extent and impact of the mega infrastructure project on the tribal reserve and the forests they use for livelihoods. The council had later revoked its no-objection certificate within months, in November 2022.

Chief Secretary of the Andaman and Nicobar administration as well as the district magistrate of the Nicobar island did not respond to the mail and text message sent by the *The Indian Express* seeking an official comment.

Education Ministry forms panel to review suicide cases at IIT Kanpur

Express News Service
New Delhi, January 22

AFTER A PhD scholar jumped to death from a building at IIT Kanpur earlier this week, the Education Ministry has constituted a three-member committee to "review cases of student suicides" at the institute. This was the third such incident at IIT Kanpur in the past four months.

The committee will examine the circumstances around these incidents, institutional policies, grievance redressal mechanisms, counselling services, and other student support systems. The panel will be headed by Anil Sahasrabudhe, chairman of the NETF, and will comprise Dr Jitendra Nagpal, senior psychiatrist at Moolchand Hospital, and an official of the Education Ministry.

The committee has been tasked with ascertaining if IIT Kanpur has been complying with framework guidelines that the Ministry issued in 2023 on emotional and mental well-being of students at higher education institutions. It will identify gaps and areas to be strengthened in the framework for mental health and well-being, and will recommend measures to the Ministry on prevention of student suicides, and enhancing support.

An order issued by the Ministry on Thursday stated that the committee will submit its report in 15 days.

With feast and memories of a glorious past, 'Darbhanga Raj' marks end of an era

Santosh Singh
Darbhanga, January 22



Food being prepared for the feast in Darbhanga on Thursday. EXPRESS

LONG TABLES laden with rice, dahl, at least five types of vegetable dishes, and five types of desserts, lined the feast area of the Kalyani Niwas complex in Darbhanga on Thursday. They then sat to eat under the sombre white pandals, on neatly arranged chairs and sofas.

"The food was very good. The rasgollahs, too," said Raj Kishore Jha, who travelled from Madhubani to be there on the occasion. "I came to pay my respects to the Queen. Darbhanga Raj is still the pride of the region."

Like Jha, more than 25,000 people arrived in Kalyani Niwas on Thursday, the last day of rituals following the death of Maharani Kamsundari Devi, also known as Kalyani Devi, the last queen of Darbhanga Raj. Her death in the early hours of January 12 marked the end of an era. She was the third wife of Maharaja Kameshwar Singh, the last ruler of Darbhanga Raj — one of the most illustrious Zamindari estates established during Mughal rule. The last Maharaja, who died in 1962, did not have any children with any of his three wives.

Born in 1932 in Mangrauli village of Madhubani, Kamsundari Devi got married to Kameshwar Singh in 1943. His first wife, Maharani Rajlakshmi Devi, died in 1976, and his second wife, Maharani Kameshwari Priya, died in 1940.

It was Kamsundari Devi who had been in charge of Maharaja Kameshwar Singh Religious Trust, which has 108 temples, several with land plots, across the country and also in Pakistan and Bangladesh. She also founded the Maharajadhiraj Kameshwar Singh Kalyani Foundation, which organises a major seminar every year, inviting renowned scholars from across the country. The foundation's library in Darbhanga has over 15,000 books.

Bihar Governor Arif Mohammed Khan was among several dignitaries to attend the last day of rituals. He recalled the "great contribution of the family to nation building", particularly towards the "cause of education". Darbhanga BJP MP Gopal Ji Thakur, BJP state president Sanjay Saraogi, former BJP president Dilip Jaiswal, Bihar minister and state government representative Madan Sahani, senior RJD leader Abdul Bari Siddiqui and former Bihar Congress president Madan Mohan Jha were also present.

Greeting the guests were Kumar Rajeshwar Singh and Kumar Kapileshwar Singh, the grandsons of Maharaja Kameshwar Singh's brother. According to the Maharaja's will, they become automatic trustees of the family's religious trust after the last queen's death.

The nearly 500-year-old Darbhanga Raj's grandeur can still be made out from the high sandstone fort walls and other royal structures that line the Lalbagh area of Darbhanga.

The beginning of Darbhanga Raj also dates back to the 16th century. It was founded by Mahesh Thakur of the Khandvala dynasty from present-day Jabalpur (in Madhya Pradesh). His descendants later bore the Singh surname, with Lakhmishwar Singh and Kameshwar Singh being two of the most prominent rulers of Darbhanga Raj. It was once spread over 6,200 km in united Bengal and some parts of Nepal. The Raj at one point collected revenue from 4,495 villages.

One of the most popular stories about Darbhanga Raj, however, comes from the 20th century, when the family donated 600 kg of gold to the Indian government to support the armed forces during the war with China in 1962.

The book, '*Biography of an Indian Patriot: Maharaja Lakshmishwar Singh of Darbhanga*', written by Jata Shankar Jha and edited by Vijay Deo Jha, mentions the then Darbhanga Raj ruler making Lowther Castle in Allahabad available for the Indian National Congress's historic convention in 1892. As per the book, the Maharaja Lakshmishwar Singh had said, "It is a source of the greatest pleasure to me that the first use of this property, since my acquiring it, has been for Congress purposes."

There are now several leading institutions that are being run from the many properties of the Darbhanga Raj. These include the Lalit Narayan Mithila University in Darbhanga, which has its head office and some postgraduate departments located in Nargona Palace. Moreover, the Kameshwar Singh Darbhanga Sanskrit University is located in the Darbhanga Raj's Lakshminivas Palace; the Darbhanga Medical College and Hospital is located in 300 acres of land donated by the Raj; and the Postal Training College in Darbhanga is housed in a Raj building. The estate also donated 90 acres of land for the Darbhanga airport, and Darbhanga House, a part of Patna University, was also donated by it.

In Kalyani Niwas, where Maharani Kamsundari Devi lived until her death, the feast on the last day of her death was open for all on Thursday. There was a big police presence due to intermittent VIP movement.

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BECAUSE THE TRUTH
INVOLVES US ALL

Two big speeches, what got lost in between

AT THE World Economic Forum in Davos, leaders of two countries that have benefited from the so-called "rules-based order" gave the world starkly different frames of its demise. Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada, made an unflinching assessment of the current moment, which he described as one not of transition but of rupture. While recognising the hard realities presented by America's unilateralism, Carney suggested a possible roadmap for middle powers. US President Donald Trump, speaking just hours after Carney, confirmed the crisis. He glorified colonialism and spoke of American interests and hegemony, especially in the Western Hemisphere, as paramount. He denigrated non-Western nationalities and people, even as he congratulated himself on ending hostilities. The Davos chattering class instantly framed the two speeches as this versus that. A few things got lost.

Carney's "values-based realism" draws from a particular context. As the Canadian PM acknowledged, "For decades, countries like Canada prospered under what we called the rules-based international order. We joined its institutions, praised its principles, and benefited from its predictability. We could pursue values-based foreign policies under its protection." Long before the American-led order, "developed" countries benefited from centuries of imperialism at the expense of those that are still "developing". This context forms the backdrop of Carney's call for middle powers to, in essence, forge minilaterals to increase their negotiating power. Trump, for his part, was clear about turning back the clock. But parse through his rambunctious rhetoric, and there was some pragmatism, too. He made it clear that the US would not use force to take over Greenland (before claiming a deal was on the table hours later). He also sought to draw a line between the West and the rest, the people dying in Ukraine "who look like us" and the "criminal" migrants and those who made Europe "unrecognisable". (read brown, black, non-Christian).

It is to Carney's credit that he called the bully by his name. He is also right to leverage his country's considerable resources — the Arctic economy, critical minerals, energy reserves, "the most educated population in the world". But the burden on India, and other countries that have been at the receiving end of a "rules-based order" they had little role in shaping, is more complex. Pulling people out of poverty and ensuring they have opportunity is, for many in the Global South, the place where values and realism coincide and collide. Canada, and like-minded countries, must keep that perspective in mind as they build new solidarities. And perhaps, in Washington, the realisation may dawn that power that is sustainable is rarely belligerent.

News TV is racing to a bigoted bottom

IT'S TELLING — and disquieting — that nearly 60 per cent of the orders passed in the last three years by the News Broadcasting & Digital Standards Authority (NBDSA) were against programmes that violated its ethics code on communal harmony. An analysis of the NBDSA orders since 2023 in this newspaper points to a brutish and cynical race to the bottom in a time of churn. Faced with intensifying competition in a far more crowded and fragmented media landscape than before, television channels and digital broadcasters have chosen the path of maximum shrillness and least resistance, becoming megaphones of the powerful — and the hateful. In the social media age, where no one needs a TV studio to broadcast to the world, they are trying to mimic its worst aspects. Because it rewards extremes, outrage and spectacle, channels and platforms are jostling each other to abandon responsibility and to frame news in ways that purvey divisive spectres and stereotypes.

There are high costs of this abdication. There is an unchecked sharpening of polarisation and shrinking spaces for deliberation and dialogue. In a plural and diverse democracy constitutionally committed to protecting the freedom of citizens to profess, practise and propagate their religion, this backsliding is worrying. But the price must be paid not just in terms of the fraying of the larger promise of democracy. It must be paid, too, in terms of an erosion of trust in the very institution that these channels and platforms claim to be part of. Their pursuit of viewership at all costs erodes their own — and the media's — credibility. This is visible, today, in the declining TV audiences and increasing irrelevance of these channels with clickbait images, gladiatorial contests and hate-filled screens. It is visible, too, in growing signs of the citizen's disengagement with a public sphere of shared understandings.

It is welcome that the self-regulatory body has called out the targeting of the minority. It has done well to draw attention to these attempts to paint a community as the Other, as singular, aggressive and conservative. But, in the end, the NBDSA can only prod and nudge gently. The responsibility of calling a halt to this dismal noise that pretends to be news must be owned more widely — beginning with those who own these studios.

Japanese Ambassador uses hands, shows way

WHEN TRAVELLING is reduced to an item on a bucket list and #wanderlust serves as a mere stepping stone to greater social media clout, a simple act can be a reminder of what it really means to be in another land whose riches, to quote the writer Pico Iyer, are differently dispersed. One such act was the choice made by Japan's Ambassador to India, on a recent visit with his team to Delhi's Andhra Bhavan, to decline the use of a spoon to eat the canteen's justly famous biryani. Seated before a fragrant plateful, he used his hands and emulated the Indian diners around him.

This is soft diplomacy done well, as the virality of the visit's video has shown. Warmth responds to warmth, an understanding that is lost amidst the loud chest-beating of today's global politics. And what better context for this than a meal? Long before McDonald's, food was already a carrier of ideas and beliefs, trailing revolutions and reinventions in its wake. If one outcome of this long history of churn is the global menu of the 21st century on which nothing — from paneer tikka pizza to matcha latte — is too alien or exotic, the other is the recognition that hierarchy has no room at the dining table.

In a world beset by growing provincialism, and a fortress mentality that narrows the vision to only that which can be seen through an arrowslit, a simple gesture from the representative of a country with its own elaborate dining etiquette becomes a call to widen the aperture and invite differences of every kind into the frame.

Trump is succeeding because of leaders who want to be little Trumps



PRATAP BHANU MEHTA

THERE IS something extraordinarily myopic and enervating about the international community's response to Donald Trump's transformation of world politics from an imperfect but relatively restrained set of power relations into a wager on his imperious personal judgement. One year into his presidency, the surprise is not that Trump is imperial or authoritarian. The disappointment is the absence of a serious global pushback. Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney has thrown down the gauntlet, describing this as a moment of rupture. Europe may finally be stirred after Trump's threat to Greenland; Countries like India exhibit a sulky but ineffectual resistance. But by and large, capitulation has triumphed over meaningful resistance. This failure demands explanation.

The usual explanations do not hold much water. One claim is, as Carney suggested, no one is willing to defend the old liberal international order because no such order ever truly existed. Great-power exceptionalism destroyed it. The world's acquiescence to the horrors in Gaza decisively buried any remaining moral authority it might have had. But the charge of liberal hypocrisy would be serious only if there was concerted global action to replace it with something fairer and equitable. Instead, what we are getting is greater comfort with international nihilism.

Even if one has no attachment to liberal internationalism, there are compelling realist reasons to resist Trump far more forcefully. His wrecking-ball approach has injected immense strategic instability into the global order. We might not care about norms or decaying international institutions. But Trump's actions have significantly eroded the prospects for stable great-power relations.

The most damaging aspect of Trump's coveting of Greenland is not merely the threat of territorial annexation or resource exploitation. One might dismiss that, cynically, as Denmark's problem. Nor is it only the further weakening of international law. The greater danger is that Trump is placing great-power competition on an escalation ladder that will be exceedingly difficult to dismount. In both Venezuela and Greenland, the ostensible rationale is to deny China and Russia strategic space. But this is not a signal about spheres of influence; it is a signal of escalating confrontation.

Even if such moves marginally strengthen the United States' positional advantage in specific areas in the short run, they raise escalation risks everywhere else. They communicate not merely that the United States will resist China's rise, but that it will not even seek a *modus vivendi* of managed rivalry. Trump's actions do not reduce the risks of great-power conflict; they intensify them. The annexation of Greenland would not be a territorial grab from Europe alone; it would amount to something closer to a declaration of hot war on the existing world order. For these reasons, there are strong realist grounds for a robust international pushback, even for those to whom the liberal international order holds no appeal.

Trump is redefining the rules of the international system by normalising unilateral territorial revisionism under the banner of strategic denial. The justification is the same: Preventing China or Russia from gaining influence. But this is not a classic balance-of-power manoeuvre; it is an escalation signal that lowers the threshold for confrontation everywhere. It reduces the incentives for every kind of cooperation, including arms control and the collective governance of the Arctic. Global wars rarely begin with grand designs. They begin when misunderstandings multiply, and leaders gamble that escalation can be controlled. We are in that situation now.

> Trump is redefining the rules of the international system by normalising unilateral territorial revisionism under the banner of strategic denial. It is an escalation signal that lowers the threshold for confrontation everywhere

Perhaps we have been lulled by Trump's own climbdowns. He does not really mean to play this game of exclusion and encirclement; after all, China forced him to retreat, and a *modus vivendi* may yet be possible. But this explanation does not hold water. We should remember that even if Trump retreats, the pattern of his behaviour still projects a willingness to test limits through maximalist threats. This is a recipe for volatility. Countries cannot afford to assume future climbdowns. Global stability depends on shared understandings of red lines. Trump's episodic retreats do not reaffirm those understandings; they corrode them. They are tactical reversals compelled by resistance. That distinction explains why it is foolish to think that a *modus vivendi* with Trump is possible.

Perhaps there is another explanation: The lack of state capacity. Europe, as it is discovering, cannot realistically confront the United States. Building the institutions and power necessary to do so will take years. India faces a similar reality. But this only explains part of the story. It does not account for the near-total absence of efforts to forge an international coalition against Trump.

In the early months of Trump's presidency, it was not irrational to hope that bilateral deals rather than collective action might better manage risk. Many countries assumed that the greater threat was not American overreach but abandonment. Europe feared it in Ukraine; Southeast Asia feared losing a balancer against China. But two truths are now unavoidable. First, the dangers of abandonment are eclipsed by the systemic risks the United States now poses to global peace and stability. Second, the United States can no longer be counted on as a trustworthy partner.

The world had become too psychologically dependent on the United States. Trump can act as a patriarch because we have put the US in that position. Much of the world, even in the face of Trump's perfidy, is behaving like errant children, seeking their father's good graces. The United Kingdom's responses to Trump are a perfect example of this. But there might be another explanation. You look at risks of war increasing everywhere, in Africa, in West Asia now, given rising tensions between Saudi Arabia and the UAE, and between India and Pakistan. Perhaps Trump is succeeding because the world is full of leaders wanting to be little Trumps. We are not resisting him because we relish the permissions he is putting in place: The universalisation of narcissism and freedom from norms may be the newest form of American internationalism. All risks be damned.

The writer is contributing editor, The Indian Express

Behind the shiny facade, the cracks in the city



ASHOK LAVASA

GRIEF, RAGE and despair are the usual responses to a tragedy. Personal loss often gives way to collective outrage against systemic lapses, and this emotion often turns into despair and cynicism. The establishment response, too, is formulaic.

Do we remember the bizarre deaths of civil services aspirants when floodwaters gushed into a coaching centre in Delhi? Ironically, the victims were preparing to be part of a system that failed them and continues to fail many like them. Haven't we almost forgotten the unfortunate deaths in Indore of people who had complained of their drinking water being contaminated? They had trusted the system to take remedial steps. But, by all accounts, their complaints fell on deaf ears. Many died after drinking water that came from pipes meant to supply fresh water.

Now, a young man has drowned in a pool of water in a city touted as a modern urban settlement. There was no reason for the water to have accumulated at the site of the tragedy. On a foggy night, his car went out of control and fell into the pool because a railing was broken. There was no reason for him to drown in the swamp except that a crude, ill-prepared system did not know how to save a person crying desperately for help. He had shown the courage to climb out of the car after being marooned in the cesspool, reached out to his father, shared his location, and his father had asked for help. That help arrived several hours late.

The fog that day seems symbolic of a system that refuses to see people's desperation. A gig worker mustered the courage to jump into the water in the dead of night. He tried in vain to rescue the drowning car driver. It stands in contrast to the system's incapacity. A few days earlier, this delivery person had reportedly helped a truck driver involved in a similar mishap at the same spot. The failure to take action after the first accident speaks of a criminal apathy.

A familiar thread runs through the tragedies at the Delhi coaching centre, Indore and Noida — the lack of responsiveness and accountability. The system, it seems, is a mute witness to its own culpability. When officials say they will "fix" responsibility, they only mean they will "shift" accountability as they did in the coaching centre case, where an SUV driver was arrested for causing water to flood the basement.

Unresponsiveness and lack of accountability are not the only problems. A large part of the shortcomings is structural. Scant regard for routine administration is a feature of governance today. The focus on development and "concrete" achievements has become an important part of assessing the performance of administrators. As a result, they tend to neglect routine work. Proper maintenance of records, time-bound disposal of files and periodic inspection of subordinate offices by supervisory officers receive low priority from an administration obsessed with "showcasing" achievements.

Engineers today are engrossed in constructing more buildings and roads. There is nothing wrong with that, except that the old roads are not properly maintained. An increase in capital expenditure allows governments to build infrastructure. But once buildings, roads and other facilities are built, they have to be maintained. Today, focusing on maintenance, service delivery and the functional efficiency of what has been built is not considered proof of administrative "dynamism".

Hunting for headlines is understandable for the political executive. But anonymity should be the hallmark of civil servants. Sadly, today, the commitment to serve people seems to have been overtaken by the urge to gain recognition.

This culture might continue if the glitz and "modernity" of new structures exert an inordinate pull on administrators, and they are not bothered about the quality of service they are mandated to deliver. If political parties are allowed to remain wedded to their election-winning formula and administrators forget their mandate, the system is unlikely to improve.

The writer is a former election commissioner

> The focus on development and 'concrete' achievements has become an important part of assessing the performance of administrators. As a result, they tend to neglect routine work

Art that bears witness to a tragedy is not enough



SHAYMA S

THE VOICE *of Hind Rajab* (2025), directed by the Tunisian filmmaker Kaouther Ben Hania, makes for difficult watching. The viewer knows what's going to happen. There are no happy endings amidst genocides, especially when the violence hasn't ended. The film intersperses the actual voice recordings of Hind with dramatisation of the frantic attempts to rescue her via an ambulance. On January 29, 2024, Palestinian Red Crescent received an emergency call from Gaza. Members of the Hammada family were trapped in a car, having been hit by an IDF tank while trying to evacuate Gaza City's Tel al-Hawa neighbourhood . All others had died in the relentless firing; six-year-old Hind pleaded to be rescued. As we know, none of the passengers survived. Israeli forces also attacked and killed the ambulance medics sent for rescue.

Hind's death, and the killing of the medics, underscore the futility of procedure in the face of impunity. Co-produced by Tunisia and France, the film is backed by Hollywood figures including Brad Pitt and Joaquin Phoenix. While American distributors initially avoided the project, its award-season success — notably a prolonged standing ovation at the Venice International Film Festival — has propelled it to global prominence.

Ben Hania has described the film as an act of witnessing — an attempt to ensure Hind's voice is heard and not erased. The question that lingers is whether a film can function as witness while a genocide is ongoing. If the logic is that such films bring about awareness and that there is a need for Hind's story to be preserved and circulated, then the question that emerges is, "What is left to raise awareness about?" This genocide has been livestreamed, yet global impunity has continued. Even as we watch, celebrate and discuss the film, millions continue to starve in a man-made famine. Hind's story — like many other Palestinian men, women and children — is not frozen in history but something ongoing, which needs concrete solidarity in the form of boycotts, protests and political pressure hand-in-hand with artistic enterprise.

This unease is sharpened by the political economy of the film. Its celebrated reception coexists with continued American military, diplomatic, and financial support for Israeli occupation and assault. The contradiction is difficult to ignore: A film mourning Palestinian death circulating through structures entangled with ideological and material support for the conditions that enable that death. What do standing ovations for a beautifully executed, heart-wrenching project do to Palestinian life and survival?

This is not to say art is useless. Art has always been a significant vehicle in the cause of justice; recent Indian films on police violence (*Santosh*) or caste discrimination (*Homebound; Bison Kaalamaadan*) are cases in point. But bearing witness must not collapse into a form of self-congratulation and complacency — that by participating in this artistic process, we have done our part or absolved ourselves. Instead, creators must reflect on whether this can go beyond symbolic condemnation and towards changing conditions of inequality and violence.

The writer is a freelance writer and PhD scholar

> Art has always been a significant vehicle in the cause of justice. But bearing witness must not collapse into a form of complacency — that by participating, we have done our part

40 YEARS AGO

January 23, 1986


INDIAN EXPRESS
Three to die for Indira's murder
We are innocent, say accused
Four killed in Ahmedabad, curfew reimposed
Tightest-ever security

Indira assassins sentenced

ALL THREE accused — Satwant Singh, Balbir Singh, and Kehar Singh — in the Indira Gandhi murder case were sentenced to death by additional district and sessions judge Mahesh Chandra. The sentence was pronounced in a makeshift courtroom in Tihar Jail. Satwant Singh, the 22-year-old Delhi Armed Police constable on duty at the PM's house, who had fired on Indira Gandhi, was in addition sentenced to seven years' rigorous imprisonment for causing grievous hurt (attempt to murder) to ASI Rameshwar Dayal.

Ahmedabad violence

COMMUNAL VIOLENCE erupted anew in Ahmedabad after a lull of over 10 days, leaving at least four persons dead and 10 injured in a spate of stabbing and arson in far-removed places in the city. An indefinite curfew was reimposed in the communally sensitive areas of Kalupur and Dariapur. The trouble sparked off following the murder of a person who was coming out of the metropolitan court complex in Gheekanta.

Devi Lal arrested

THE FOUR-PARTY Haryana Sangharsh Samiti chief, Devi Lal, was among about 500 opposition workers and leaders arrested on the eve of the "rasta roko" stir and the one-day bandh in Chandigarh. The call for agitation has been jointly given by the Lok Dal, the Bharatiya Janata Party, the Congress (S) and the Janata Party, to protest against the alleged injustice done to Haryana under the Punjab accord.

Assam ex-CM's relatives killed

IN ONE of the worst incidents of post-election violence, a mother and daughter described as relatives of former chief minister Hiteshwar Saikia were killed in an armed attack in Guwahati. The leader of the Congress-I legislature party, Golak Rajbonshi, said that there had been a series of attacks on party supporters and workers since the election. He said that he had received written complaints that Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) supporters were involved in many cases.

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

We are a country ruled by laws, not by one man.
— The New York Times

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THE BEST OF BOTH SIDES

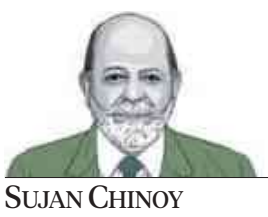
A weekly column, which offers not this-versus-that, but the best of both sides, to inform the debate



ILLUSTRATION: C R SASIKUMAR

Should PM Narendra Modi accept President Donald Trump's invitation to join the Board of Peace?

To have a say, India must be on board



SUJAN CHINOY

DONALD TRUMP'S invitation to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 16 to join the Board of Peace for Gaza is a continuation of the US President's 20-point roadmap for Gaza, which Modi had earlier welcomed as a comprehensive plan to end the conflict and as a viable pathway to long-term peace, security and development for Palestinians, Israelis and West Asia. India remains committed to peace based on a two-state solution, the unconditional release of prisoners, and enhanced humanitarian assistance.

The Indian Prime Minister is among 50-60 world leaders reportedly invited to join the Board of Peace, an idea endorsed in principle by the UN Security Council. All P5 members were invited; so far, French President Emmanuel Macron has declined, while Russia and China are still examining the proposal, despite Trump claiming that Russian President Vladimir Putin has accepted.

Norway, Slovenia and Sweden are reported to have declined. Most West Asian countries, including GCC nations like Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar and Bahrain, have accepted, as have some Central Asian republics. Pakistan, Turkey and Azerbaijan are on board. Interestingly, Belarus was among the first, suggesting Putin's tacit approval.

Among the striking features of the board is that Trump will serve as the inaugural chairman, possibly holding the post beyond his presidential term. Another eye-catching provision is the call for a club-like contribution of US$1 billion to secure "permanent membership" beyond the initial three-year term. Putin is reportedly considering contributing $1 billion from frozen assets for a permanent seat — a condition that may shape Russia's participation.

Trump's invitation to Modi reflects recognition of India's traditional influence in West Asia and credible voice on the global stage. Declining the invitation could be seen as reluctance to engage on a major international issue and may affect future engagement with Trump.

Participation in the board would allow India a greater say in determining Gaza's future, including potential contracts for Indian companies in reconstruction, while underscoring India's commitment to Palestinians and regional stability.

Notably, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has agreed to join the board after initially objecting to its governance, particularly the inclusion of Turkey and Qatar, which Israel views as hostile or supportive of Hamas. Netanyahu had earlier averred that the executive committee plan contradicted Israeli policy.

The board appears multi-tiered, with an inner "founding executive council" chaired by Trump. PM Modi has been invited to the main board, distinct from this inner circle and the Gaza executive board.

The board is a US-led enterprise, unlike the UN-led processes preferred by Russia, China, and India. When the UNSC approved the board in November 2025, China and Russia abstained. Beijing is likely to view initiatives outside the UN as weakening the UN-led multilateral order and China's own four global initiatives, including the latest Global Governance Initiative. Abstention on a resolution was no doubt an easier choice than deciding to join.

Self-appointment by a single power of selected countries to manage international disputes sets a troubling precedent, even considering the US's exceptional military and economic power. India's past roles, such as chairing the UN-backed Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission (Korea) and the International Commission for Supervision and Control (Vietnam), were embedded in UN-backed frameworks. As for the G20, BRICS and the SCO, they focus on strategic and economic issues, not resolving major disputes such as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

In taking a decision on participation, Indian policymakers will have to keep in mind what such a Board of Peace implies for other disputes.

Concerns arise from reports that Chairman Trump will wield veto powers as well as the lack of clarity on the fate of the $1 billion contributions. It is a moot question whether a successor US administration would support the board. Its internal dynamics and a disparate membership might add a layer of complexity.

The invitation coincides with the 50 per cent tariffs imposed by the US over India's energy trade with Russia and threats of further penalties related to Iran. While Trump's invitation is significant, acceptance does not guarantee either a bilateral trade deal or protection from future geopolitical shocks involving core interests.

India will no doubt respond after careful evaluation. The provisions for representation at the level of a high-ranking official, as well as the exit clause, are welcome attributes.

The writer is director general, Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses. Views are personal

Four reasons Delhi should decline



MANAV SACHDEVA

THERE ARE moments in a nation's life when the question is not what we gain, but who we become. The reported invitation for India to join a US-backed "Gaza Board of Peace", accompanied by a promised $1 billion in assistance, is one such moment. India, out of deep respect and solidarity with the Palestinian people and its own history, moral standing, and Global South leadership, should decline — clearly, publicly, and without equivocation.

This is not a question of money for Gaza, nor even of geopolitics in the narrow sense. It is a question of India's constitutional morality, our Independence struggle's memory, strategic autonomy, and moral credibility. India's refusal must be rooted not in anti-Americanism as we are not anti-American per se, nor in reflexive ideology, but in four hard, defensible reasons that go to the core of what India claims to stand for in the world.

First, any governance or "peace" mechanism for Gaza that is designed without the explicit, sovereign consent of the Palestinian people is not a mechanism for peace. It is an externally imposed trusteeship. History has a name for such arrangements: Colonial administration in humanitarian clothing. India knows this story intimately. The colonial state always justified itself as a stabiliser, a civiliser, a guarantor of order. It spoke of roads, schools, development funds, and security. It never spoke of consent. To join a Gaza board structured primarily by external powers, especially in the immediate aftermath of mass civilian destruction, would place India on the wrong side of its own anti-colonial inheritance. India cannot be a signatory to a process that treats Palestinians as subjects to be managed rather than a people entitled to self-determination.

Secondly, India's strategic autonomy allows India to engage with all major powers without becoming an instrument of any. Accepting a $1 billion inducement tied to participation in a geopolitically loaded governance mechanism would erode that autonomy in practice, even if it remains intact in rhetoric. Let us be clear: $1 billion is hardly a problem for India to invest but this is not a Marshall Plan for Gaza. It is not even decisive development finance. What it buys is not economic leverage but political positioning on a colonial board. Once India sits on such a board, it inherits the consequences of decisions it does not control. It becomes associated with outcomes it cannot shape. It risks being blamed by one side for occupation by proxy, and by the other for insufficient obedience. Strategic autonomy means knowing when not to sit at the table.

Third, India has spent decades cultivating trust across the Global South, as a country that understands occupation, displacement, and the long shadow of imperial arrangements. That credibility is not theoretical. It translates into diplomatic capital, coalition leadership, and moral authority in multilateral forums. Joining a Gaza peace board perceived — rightly or wrongly — as legitimising a post-conflict order without justice would fracture that trust. From Africa to Southeast Asia, from Latin America to West Asia, many countries are watching not what India says but what it does. India cannot afford to be seen as a stabiliser of injustice.

Fourth, there is a deeper, more uncomfortable truth: Peace imposed immediately after devastation, without accountability, is rarely peace. It is pacification. And papering over of injustice. Gaza today is not merely a post-conflict zone. It is a traumatised society, with shattered infrastructure, displaced families, and unresolved political futures. Any attempt to fast-track governance mechanisms risks freezing injustice into administrative normalcy. India's own freedom struggle teaches us that order imposed without justice is unsustainable. Stability without dignity breeds resistance. If India truly wishes to contribute to peace, it should do so by insisting on humanitarian ceasefires, international accountability mechanisms, reconstruction led by Palestinians, and political processes rooted in consent, especially of the Gazans and all Palestinians, not by sitting on a board designed to manage the aftermath without taking the victims' agency on board.

India can offer humanitarian assistance without political strings. It can support reconstruction through UN agencies, advocate for international law consistently, and use its diplomatic channels to press for restraint, accountability, and dialogue. But it must not lend its name, history, or constitutional ethos to a process that confuses management with justice. Neither the Israelis nor the Palestinians will benefit from this imposed colonial trusteeship. India should say no — firmly, calmly, and without apology.

The writer is the humanitarian food security and diplomacy ambassador, India, for President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's office

Netaji's parakram lives on, illuminates a nation's path



C P RADHAKRISHNAN

ON NETAJI Subhas Chandra Bose's birth anniversary, the nation pays tribute to his courage, sacrifice, and unyielding passion for freedom. From a young age, Netaji displayed rare moral intensity — renouncing personal comfort, worldly ambition and even a prestigious career in the Indian Civil Service to dedicate himself to India's liberation. For him, freedom was a sacred duty.

A profound insight into Netaji's personality comes from a remarkable tribute by Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore in 1939. He hailed Subhas Chandra Bose as *deshnayak* — the leader of the nation. Gurudev observed that in troubled times, a country needs the strong hand of an inspired and valiant leader. In Netaji, he saw a rare fusion of courage, vision and moral force.

When conventional paths appeared inadequate to achieve Independence, Netaji charted his own course, transforming the freedom struggle into an international movement through the Indian National Army. He asserted, "There is no power on earth that can deprive us of our birthright of liberty any longer." This belief found expression in the INA.



ILLUSTRATION: MITHUN CHAKRABORTY

Netaji's clarion call —"Give me blood, and I will give you freedom"— resonated deeply across regions and communities of India, especially the people of the southern regions, the Tamils in particular. The deep emotional and ideological bond between Netaji and the Tamil people became one of the strongest pillars of support for the INA and the freedom movement. Netaji's popularity also resonated powerfully with Tamil communities in Malaya, Burma and Singapore.

From the early 1920s, Netaji recognised the political importance of the Madras Presidency in the Indian national movement. As a Congress organiser and national leader, he engaged closely with political workers in the region. Netaji's visits to Madras (now Chennai) and other centres of the presidency were marked by large public meetings and enthusiastic receptions, particularly by students and the politically conscious youth.

On September 3, 1939, Netaji arrived at Madras Central Station, where he was received by supporters, including lawyer and freedom fighter S Srinivasa Iyengar and Pasumpon U Muthuramalinga Thevar. Taken in an open jeep to "The Peak", the residence of civil engineer S P Ayyaswamy Mudaliar, he was followed by a sea of supporters. That evening, he addressed a massive public meeting at Marina Beach.

During this visit, Pasumpon U Muthuramalinga Thevar, a close associate of Netaji, emerged as a key leader of the Forward Bloc in Tamil Nadu. Often remembered as the "Bose of the South", he played a significant role in mobilising Tamil support for the INA. He also founded a Tamil weekly magazine, *Netaji*.

Among the notable recruits was Ramu Thevar, originally from Ramnad in the Madras Presidency. Inspired by Netaji at an early age, he joined the INA and was later entrusted with intelligence duties in Penang. Arrested while attempting to reach India, he was imprisoned in Alipore Jail in Calcutta (now Kolkata). His letters to his mother speak of the immense hardship he had to undergo as well as his unwavering patriotism. Unaware of his execution in Madras Jail in 1944, his mother continued writing to him until 1948. Thevar was only 18 when he made the supreme sacrifice for the nation. The Tamil recruits for the INA also came from outside the country. Among them was Lieutenant R Madhavan Pillai. It was heartening to see Prime Minister Narendra Modi felicitate him at the Parakram Diwas celebrations in 2024.

In a stirring address at the Padang in Singapore in 1943, Netaji urged women to join the struggle, declaring that this must be a truly revolutionary army. His words deeply moved Tamil Indian women in Malaya, many of whom had endured hardship on rubber plantations. Despite having never seen India, nearly a thousand of them volunteered for the Rani of Jhansi Regiment.

While the bravery of Lakshmi Swaminathan (Captain Lakshmi Sahgal) is widely recognised, the contributions of Janaky Thevar, Anjalai Ponnusamy and Rasammah Bhupalan are equally inspiring. Janaky Thevar, only 14 when she first heard Netaji speak, donated her diamond earring to the INA and later rose to a senior leadership position in the Rani of Jhansi Regiment. Saraswathi Rajamani, often regarded as one of India's youngest women intelligence operatives, joined the INA at 16 and served with distinction. In keeping with Netaji's egalitarian vision, women trained and served alongside men, and caste divisions were rejected.

Alongside these leaders stood countless unnamed Tamil soldiers and labourers from Ramanathapuram, Tirunelveli, Madurai, Sivaganga, Tiruchirappalli and Cuddalore, who answered Netaji's call from Malaya, Burma and Singapore. Deeply moved by this overwhelming support, Netaji is believed to have remarked that if he were to be born again, he would wish to be born a Tamilian.

Netaji believed that political independence was only the beginning; the greater task was to build a strong, united and self-reliant India that ensured dignity and justice for all. His special bond with the Tamil people stands as a powerful reminder that India's freedom was forged through the shared sacrifice of regions, communities and countless unsung heroes.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has consistently emphasised the need to shed the colonial mindset, honour India's values and freedom fighters, and advance towards true freedom of the mind and spirit. This vision is reflected in the government's observance of Netaji's birth anniversary as Parakram Diwas, the renaming of historic islands in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in his honour, and the installation of his statue at Kartavya Path.

As Netaji once observed, "One individual may die for an idea, but that idea will, after his death, incarnate itself in a thousand lives." His ideals continue to guide Bharat as the nation moves forward with a collective resolve to translate *parakram* into progress.

The writer is Vice President of India

Reading the melee at a book fair



VIKRAM HEGDE

A VIRAL video from the final day of the New Delhi World Book Fair shows a throng of people scrambling to grab books from stalls. The scenes of people pulling books off shelves were decried on social media. Many, including this author, harked back to the adage from Baghdad: "Readers don't steal, and thieves don't read," which does not seem to have found any resonance in this incident. To read that proverb as an exhortation to pay for books would be to grossly misunderstand it.

Think about it. Why is it that people looting a book fair raises our hackles, whereas a person downloading a pirated PDF of a book would not in the same way? The answer lies in the context, effect, and finally, intent.

The person downloading the PDF is still seeking knowledge and not causing any inconvenience to other readers. At a fair, we expect a sort of reverence for books as the vessels of knowledge. When people grab books without care, it feels like an insult to the store owners, to the publishers and writers who worked hard to produce those, and to fellow readers who queue up patiently. The upshot is clear: This chaos dishonours not just the books, but also the idea that we value learning itself. It flies in the face of the literary community.

If we get a little deeper into the collective psyche that drives such behaviour, we see that the problem goes far beyond a frenzy of covetous hands at Pragati Maidan. If a person hasn't internalised a respect for knowledge, one might ask, why go to a book fair at all?

Books have taken on new meanings in the age of lifestyle signalling on social media. The new generation of readers has imbued books with secondary values of prestige and aesthetic appeal. To the clout chaser, this secondary value may be of more significance than the primary one. So, when a raucous book-fair-goer makes a grab for any random book, without even bothering to pick one of their liking, it is this secondary value they are grabbing.

This premiumisation of the appearance of having read, rather than the enjoyment of reading itself, shows up in many other aspects of public life. Take, for instance, the desperation of our teenagers to get into elite educational institutions not for the education but for their brand value.

While we rightly chastised the unruly crowd at the book fair, it is perhaps time to introspect and attempt to address the deep-seated complexes we may all have that manifest themselves in such ugly forms. If we as a society can take note of this, we will be able to recognise the worth of books not by how many or what books got taken away, but by what they carry away from those books.

The writer is advocate on record, Supreme Court of India

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Price caps

THERE IS no doubt that airfares climb significantly during festivals and holiday seasons. But the Court should not interfere to fix a cap ('Court cap on airfares is the wrong answer', *IE*, January 22). Already, there are high operating costs for aviation companies. Such a move will deter new entrants in an already suffocating atmosphere. In fact, a bigger pool of good airlines will automatically address the supply-demand gap, ease the burden of price hikes on fliers, and encourage healthy competition.

—Bal Govind, Noida

COMPONENTS OF ticket booking, such as convenience fees, need to be questioned ('Court cap on airfares is the wrong answer', *IE*, January 22). The dark patterns deployed by airlines on their websites during booking — such as enticing fliers with mediocre meals at inflated prices — need to be highlighted.

—Anany Mishra, Bhilai

Noise over nuance

PRIME-TIME debates today often prioritise noise over nuance and confrontation over clarity, leaving viewers exhausted rather than informed ('Amid cable newsification, journalism must reclaim its role as a check on power', *IE*, January 22). This erosion of credibility is reflected in public trust. According to Reuters, fewer than four in ten Indians say they trust news most of the time.

—Khushi Jaiswal, Jammu

Office of Superintending Engineer,

Rampur Circle, P.W.D. Rampur

Short Term Notice Inviting Tenders (Second Time)

Ref.No. 495/E-Nivida-Rampur/25-26 **Dated :- 20.01.2026**

1. On behalf of the Governor of UP, tenders for following work on percentage rates are invited by the Superintending Engineer, Rampur Circle, PWD Rampur online on website http://etender.up.nic.in from Road Category 'A&B' & Road signage Category 'A' registered contractors from date 24.01.2026 at 10.00 am to 31.01.2026 at 12.00 pm. Technical bid /Prequalification of tenders shall be opened on 31.01.2026 at 12.30 pm in office of undersigned by tender committee in presence of authorised representatives/bidders who wish to be present. Financial bid of the tenders' who qualify in technical bid shall be opened on date and time as specified by a notice in the office of undersigned. In case of Government holiday the required process shall be carried out on next working day.
2. **Details of the works are following:**

Sl. No	DISTRICT	Name of Work	Estimated cost (Rs.in Lacs) (Ex GST)	Bid Security (Rs.in Lacs)	Cost of tender documents including GST (RS.)	Time of completion of the work (Including rainy season)	Address of Executive Engineer executing the work	Address of Superintending Engineer	Address of Chief Engineer	Category of contractor eligible
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	Bijnor	Road safety work of black spot on Najibabad Nagina via Nankar Bundki road.	90.00	6.50	2354.00	03 Months	अधिशासी अभियन्ता नि०ख०–2, लो०नि०वि०, बिजनौर (मु० नजीबाबाद)	अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, रामपुर वृत्त, लो०नि०वि०, रामपुर	मुख्य अभियन्ता, मुरादाबाद क्षेत्र, लो०नि०वि०, मुरादाबाद	Road Category 'A &B' Road Signage Category 'A'

- The defect liability period shall be 02 year from the actual date of completion of work.
- The Rates adopted in the BOQ are including all other taxes but excluding GST.
- The Bid Security and tender cost should be deposited online through Net Banking as per Column 5 & 7 in the table.
- The above works will be executed by hot mix plant.

All terms & conditions can be seen on website **http://etender.up.nic.in** The bidder have to login on Prahari URL http://wms.uppwd.gov.in/Prahari to upload required documents as per Government order no. 14/2020/879/तेईस–7– 2020–176 (सा0)/06 लोक निर्माण अनुभाग–7 दिनांक 25.08.2020, Government order 879 (1)/तेईस–7–2020–176 (सा0)/06 लोक निर्माण अनुभाग–7 दिनांक 25.08.2020 & & E.N.C./H.O.D.'s uppwd letter No. 417/13 रो०ए० मै० खं०/20 दिनांक 28.08.2020.

Executive Engineer
C.D.-2, PWD, Bijnor
HQ- Najibabad
Email – pdrampur@gmail.com

UPID-244423 Date 22/01/2026
www.upidadv.gov.in

Superintending Engineer
Rampur Cir.,PWD, Rampur
Email- pwdrampur@gmail.com

समाहरणालय, नवादा

(मद्य निषेध एवं उत्पाद विभाग)

बिहार सरकार

अल्पकालीन आम नीलामी सूचना

एतद् द्वारा सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि नवादा जिलान्तर्गत विभिन्न थाना काण्डों/उत्पादवादों में राज्यसात किये गये निम्नलिखित वाहनों को बिहार मद्य निषेध एवं उत्पाद अधिनियम, 2016 के सुसंगत प्रावधानों के तहत् आम नीलामी (Public Auction) दिनांक **17.02.2026** एवं **18.02.2026** को समाहरणालय, नवादा में 11:00 बजे पूर्वाहन से की जायेगी। नीलामी योग्य वाहनों की सूची निम्नवत है :–

क्र. सं.	थाना का नाम	थाना काण्ड संख्या	वाहन का प्रकार	निबंधन संख्या	निबंधन का वर्ष	इंजन संख्या	चेचिस संख्या	मूल्यांकित राशि	अग्रधन की राशि	वाहन की अवस्थिति	वाहन मालिक का विवरणी
01	सिरदला थाना	320/23	S SILVER CAR	DL2FFP/0024	30-Apr-05	F10DN4 139909	MA3EED81S 00316400	Scrap 20000	5000.00	सिरदला थाना	विवरण उपलब्ध नहीं है।

विशेष जानकारी के लिए कार्यालय अधीक्षक मद्य निषेध, नवादा से सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है nawada.bih.nic.in पर देखा जा सकता है।

(कृते समाहर्त्ता, नवादा)
अधीक्षक मद्यनिषेध, नवादा

उक्त सूचना **www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar** पर भी देखी जा सकती है।

PR. No.22421 (Excise) 2025-26

सुरक्षित जीवन अपनाओ, अपनी नियमित एच.आई.वी. जाँच कराओ।



Yashrajsinh Durgeshsinh Gohil and Rajeshwari got married two months ago

Gujarat Cong MP's nephew shoots wife, self

Express News Service
Ahmedabad, January 22

THE NEPHEW of a Congress MP shot his wife before taking his own life with the licensed gun in their apartment in Ahmedabad, police said on Thursday.

Yashrajsinh Durgeshsinh Gohil, 30, the nephew of Congress MP Shaktisinh Gohil — son of his late younger brother Durgeshsinh — married Rajeshwari, 30, two months ago. Yashrajsinh had recently joined the Gujarat Maritime Board as an officer.

The couple was due to travel abroad on a holiday and had returned from dinner at an aunt's place when the incident happened between 11.30 pm and 12 am on Wednesday, at the couple's apartment on the fifth floor of NRI Tower, police said.

Sources said an ambulance was called when Rajeshwari was shot. An emergency medical technician reached the apartment and found the woman's body on the floor. As the EMT stepped out of the room to make a call to a physician, she heard a gunshot and went back to find Yashrajsinh had allegedly shot himself, the sources said.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

Tender Notice No.: JHS-N-GSU-03-26 **Dated: 20.01.2026**

E-TENDERING NOTICE

Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer/GSU/Jhansi, DRM's office, Jhansi, for and on behalf of President of India invite open Tender through on Line **(E-Tendering)** for the following works.

E-Tender No.	Approx Cost	Earnest Money
JHS-N-GSU-03-26	Rs. 7484591.47	Rs. 149700.00

Description of work: S&T work in connection with Provision of Limited height subways in lieu of 8 Nos. Level Crossings in Khairar-Bhimsen Section of Jhansi Division.

Cost of Tender Form: Nil. **Opening of tender:** 11.02.2026, Time 15:00

Completion period from issue of letter of acceptance: 12 Months

• Tender on line can be submitted upto **15:00 hrs** on **11.02.2026**. • For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website **www.ireps.gov.in**.

(JHANSI DIVISION-GATI SHAKTI, NORTH CENTRAL RLY) **169/26 (ADM)**

North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @ CPRONCR

मध्यप्रदेश पाठ्यपुस्तक निगम

''पुस्तक भवन'', अरेरा हिल्स, भोपाल-462011
दूरभाष- 0755-2550727, 2551565
ई-मेल- info.mptbc@mp.gov.in बेबसाइट-mptbc.mp.gov.in
क्रमांक/822 /पापुनि/उपार्जन/2026 **भोपाल, दिनांक 22.01.2026**

ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

(निविदा क्रमांक-Proc -05,06 /2026-2027)

म.प्र. की शासकीय शालाओ में **साइंस किट, मैथ किट, सोशल साइंस किट, चाईल्ड फ्रेंडली फर्नीचर के लिए (Proc -05) एवं किचन इक्यूपमेंट एवं किचन यूटेनसिल्स** के लिए (Proc -06) के प्रदाय हेतु दिनांक 10.02.2026 समय प्रातः 11.30 बजे तक ई-निविदा (पृथक-2) आमंत्रित है, जो कि **ई-टेण्डरिंग** पोर्टल **https://mptenders.gov.in** पर दिनांक 23.01.2026 समय सायं 05.00 बजे से देखी जा सकती है। निविदा के संबंध में जानकारी हेतु 24x7 हेल्प डेस्क नम्बर 0120-4001 002/0120-4200 462/0120-4001 005/0120-6277 787 पर संपर्क किया जा सकता है।

उक्त निविदा का विस्तृत विवरण एवं संशोधन/परिवर्तन/शुद्धिपत्र (यदि कोई होवें) तो उपरोक्त पोर्टल पर उपलब्ध होंगे।

म.प्र. माध्यम/124113/2026 **प्रबंध संचालक**

समाहरणालय, बाँका

(मद्य निषेध शाखा)

बिहार सरकार

वाहन नीलामी हेतु अति अल्पकालीन आम सूचना

(बिहार मद्यनिशेध एवं अधिनियम 2016 एवं संशोधित अधिनियम 2018 के सुसंगत प्रावधानों के तहत् राजसात् किये गये वाहनों की अल्पकालीन सार्वजनिक नीलामी सूचना)

एतद् द्वारा सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि बाँका जिलान्तर्गत विभिन्न थाना काण्डों/उत्पाद वादों में राजसात किये गये वाहनों को बिहार मद्य निशेध एवं उत्पाद अधिनियम, 2016 के सुसंगत प्रावधानों के तहत् विभिन्न अधिहरण वादों में अधिहरण न्यायालय अनुमंडल दण्डाधिकारी, बाँका, भूमि सुधार उपसमाहर्त्ता, बाँका, अपर समाहर्त्ता–सह–मद्यनिशेध दण्डाधिकारी, बाँका, जिला प्रंचायती राज पदाधिकारी–सह–मद्यनिशेध दण्डाधिकारी, बाँका एवं जिला परिवहन पदाधिकारी–सह–मद्यनिशेध दण्डाधिकारी, बाँका द्वारा राजसात् किये वाहनो कि सार्वजनिक नीलामी जो जहाँ है जैसे है के रुप में 11.30 बजे पूर्वाहन में अधीक्षक मद्यनिशेध, महेशाडीह, बाँका के कार्यालय वेश्म में निम्न प्रकार से की जायेगी।

वाहन नीलामी की तिथि		आवेदन प्राप्त की अंतिम तिथि	आवेदन प्राप्त करने का स्थान
दिनांक 06.09.2025 (पहली नीलामी) 07.01.2026 (दूसरी नीलामी) को आयोजित नीलामी से शेष बचे वाहनो की नीलामी की तीसरी तिथि	09.02.2026	06.02.2026 को अपराहन 05:00 बजे तक	कार्यालय अधीक्षक मद्यनिषेध बाँका

नोट:– (1) विभागीय पत्रांक–5964, दिनांक–04.08.2022 के आलोक में नियमानुसार क्रमाशः प्रथम नीलामी के उपरान्त मूल्यांकित राशि का 10 प्रतिशत कम करके एवं द्वितीय नीलामी के उपरान्त मूल्यांकित राशि का 20 प्रतिशत कम करके तृतीय नीमाली कराई जाएगी।

(2) निम्नांकित वाहन के स्वामियों को भी सूचित किया जाता है कि यदि वे निम्नांकित वाहनों के लिये अपील/रिवीजन/प्रपत्र IV दायर किये हों तो इसकी सूचना साक्ष्य सहित नीलामी की तिथि के पूर्व नीलामी समिति को उपलब्ध करा देंगे।

(3) उक्त वाहन से संबंधित वाहन स्वामी यदि इच्छुक हैं तो नीलामी में भाग ले सकते हैं।

क्र0 सं0	न्यायालय, बांका का ज्ञापांक/दिनांक	उत्पाद/थाना नाम	उत्पाद/थाना कांड सं0	वाहन का प्रकार	पंजीयन संख्या	चेचिस सं0	इंजन सं0	MVI द्वारा मूल्यांकित राशि (रुपया में)	दूसरी नीलामी के उपरान्त राशि (20%कम करने के उपरान्त)	अग्रधन की राशि (20%)	वाहन स्वामी का नाम व पता	वाहन निर्माण का वर्श (मॉडल)	वाहन की भौतिक उपस्थिति	नीलामी समय बीमाकृत मूल्य (वाहन की बीमाकृत मूल्य)	वाहन जहाँ पर है
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	14	15
1	584/DPRO 29.08.24	उत्पाद (बाँका)	363/23	होण्डा मोटरसाईकिल	UP14AL0383	ME4JC367F780035 33	JC36E0085051	4000	3200	640	नाम–अनुप कुमार झा, पे0–श्री डी0 एन0 झा, सा0–प्लेट नं0–108 कृष्ण विहार, थाना–विहार गाजियाबाद, जिला–गाजियाबाद (उत्तर प्रदेश)		Scrap		उत्पाद (बाँका)

समाहर्त्ता
बाँका

PR- 022212 (EXCISE) 2025-26

विस्तृत जानकारी वेबसाइट state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar पर देखा जा सकता है।

नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार

बिहार सरकार

न्यायालय, जिला दण्डाधिकारी–सह–जिला पदाधिकारी,मधुबनी

:-आम सूचना:-

एतद् द्वारा सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि बिहार राज्य में पूर्ण रूप से शराबबंदी लागू होने के उपरांत उत्पाद विभाग के पदाधिकारियों द्वारा जांच/छापेमारी के क्रम में अवैध रूप से शराब (विभिन्न प्रकार के) को ढ़ोने में प्रयुक्त वाहन अथवा शराब का पान कर वाहन का संचालन करने के क्रम में वाहन को जब्त किया गया है। इन वाहनों के अधिग्रहण के प्रस्ताव के आधार पर बिहार मद्यनिषेध और उत्पाद अधिनियम, 2016 के तहत् अधोहस्ताक्षरी के न्यायालय में अधिहरण वाद संचालित किया गया है। अधिनियम की धारा 58(3) के तहत् वाहन मालिक को नोटिस निर्गत किया गया है, परंतु वे निर्धारित पता पर नहीं पाये गये। नोटिस वापस कर दिया गया। । बिहार मद्यनिषेध और उत्पाद अधिनियम, 2016 की धारा 56 (घ) के तहत् जब्त वाहन अधिग्रहण योग्य हैं, परन्तु बिहार मद्यनिषेध और उत्पाद (संशोधन) नियमावली, 2022 के नियम 12क के अंतर्गत विहित प्रपत्र–IV में आवेदन समर्पित कर वाहन मालिक वाहन को शास्ति के आधार पर वाहन को मुक्त करा सकते हैं। अतः बिहार मद्यनिषेध और उत्पाद (संशोधन) नियमावली, 2022 के नियम 12क के तहत संबंधित व्यक्तियों को वाहन शास्ति के आधार पर मुक्त करने हेतु समय दिया जाना आवश्यक है। अस्तु बिहार मद्यनिषेध और उत्पाद अधिनियम, 2016 की धारा 58(3) के तहत् यह आम सूचना प्रकाशित कर सूचित किया जाता है कि यदि इस जब्त वाहन में किन्हीं व्यक्ति/संस्था का हित निहित हो तो आम सूचना प्रकाशन के तिथि से 15 दिवस तक समय 11:00 बजे पूर्वाहन में समाहर्त्ता–सह–जिला दंडाधिकारी, मधुबनी के न्यायालय में वाहन के वैध कागजात सहित विहित प्रपत्र–IV में आवेदन समर्पित कर विभाग द्वारा निर्धारित शस्ति का भुगतान कर वाहन को मुक्त करा सकते हैं अथवा अपने वाहन को शस्ति के आधार पर मुक्त कराने मे अभिरूची नहीं है तो 15 दिनो के अन्दर लिखित में जबाव समर्पित करें कि क्यों न उत्पाद अधिनियम 2016 की धारा–58 के अन्तर्गत प्रश्नगत वाहन को राज्यसात कर लिया जाय। यदि निर्धारित अवधि तक संबंधित व्यक्ति/संस्था द्वारा विहित प्रपत्र में आवेदन समर्पित/कारण–पृच्छा समर्पित नहीं किया जाता है तो इन वाहनों को बिहार मद्यनिषेध और उत्पाद अधिनियम, 2016 की धारा 58(2) के तहत् अधिग्रहित कर, बिहार मद्यनिषेध और उत्पाद अधिनियम, 2016 की धारा 58(5) के तहत् बिक्री कराते हुए, प्राप्त राशि को सरकारी खजाने में जमा करा दिया जायेगा।

क्र0 सं0	वाद संख्या	वाहन का प्राकर एवं रजिस्ट्रेशन नम्बर	चेचिस नम्बर	इंजन नम्बर	वाहन मालिक का नाम
1	2	3	4	5	6
01	290/25	HERO HONDA CD DULUXE MOTOR CYCLE-HR51Z-5793	07H02F30442	07H22E37271	राम नारायण, पे0–श्री रामेश्वर, सा–161 A वार्ड नं0–08, जिला–फरिदाबाद,राज्य–हरियाणा
02	279/25	TATA MOTORS 22 WHEELER TRUCK,HR69C-2393	MAT704251H3G17842	ISBE5.92304071 G6360927	ललित,पे0–सतबीर सिंह, सा0–झुज्झर,जिला–यमुनानगर, राज्य–हरियाणा।

उक्त सूचना **www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar** पर भी देखी जा सकती है।

PR. No. 022389 (District) 2025-26

जिला पदाधिकारी, मधुबनी

गर्भावस्था की पहली तिमाही में माँ की एच.आई.वी. और सिफलिस की जाँच जरूर करायें।

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.2, 2/1 and 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar
Bengaluru - 560 009. Phone No. 080-22265383, website: www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-74/1723/2025-26 **Date: 22.01.2026**

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER

(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Item Rate Tenders under two cover bid system is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors who have got adequate financial resources, state of the art technology, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the following work of:

Name of the Work : Providing LED Street lights and supply, erection, testing & commissioning of submersible pumpsets to Nagadiyath Kaval Industrial Area, Chikkamagaluru District.

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **09.02.2026** upto **4.00 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/5175/Zen/2025-26

Prohibition, Excise & Registration Department

Vikas Bhawan,Bailey Road,Patna,Bihar Pin-800015,
Website:https://state.bihar.gov.in/registration/
Mobile: 7459996342, e-Mail:

Tender No: Excise/Drones/2026/01

e-Tender Notice

Request for Proposal (RFP) – Empanelment of Vendors for Monitoring of river and Diara are as using drones on rental basis for the Department of Prohibition, Excise and Registration Government of Bihar.

For further details bid documents with all-time linear available on the website: https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in. The last date of submission of the bid is **09/02/2026, 5:00 pm**

The important information about the Bid are as under:

1. Proposals must be received not later than the time,date and venue mentioned in the Fact Sheet. Proposals that are received late WILL NOT be considered in this procurement process.

Sl. No	Information	Details
1.	RFP No.	Excise/Drones/2026/01
2.	Bid Submission End Date and Time	09/02/2026, 5:00 pm
3.	Bid validity period	180 days from the bid submission date.
4.	Bid Document Fee (Non-refundable)	INR 20,000/-only (Rupees Twenty Thousand only) Payable online through e-Procurement
5.	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	INR 15,00,000 only (Rupees Fifteen Lakh only)
6.	Date and Time of Technical Presentation	Date: 12/02/2026 - 13/02/2026 at 12:00 PM onwards
7.	Opening of Technical Bids	11/02/2026, 5:00 pm
8.	Contact person for queries	Smt. Renu Sinha Deputy Commissioner of Excise, Prohibition, Excise and Registration Department, Bihar Email: excise-bih@nic.in

1. The document should be purchased and submitted online via e-Proc portal (https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in) only.
2. In the event of the date specified for receipt and opening of bid being declared as a holiday for Prohibition, Excise & Registration Department office the due date for submission of bids and opening of bids will be the following working day at the appointed times.
3. The bidders are expected to examine all instructions,forms,terms,project requirements and other information mentioned in the RFP documents and Bid Response Checklist. Failure to furnish all information required as mentioned in the RFP documents or submission of a proposal not substantially responsive to the RFP documents in every respect will be at the Bidder's risk and may result in rejection of the proposal and forfeiture of the Bid Security (EMD).
4. Bids along with necessary online payments must be submitted through e-procurementportal https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in before the date and time specified in the NIT.
5. The department doesn't take responsibility for the delay/non-submission of tender/non-reconciliation of online payment caused due to non-availability of internet connection, network traffic/holidays or any other reasons.
6. All further notifications/Corrigendum/Addendum, if any shall be posted on e-Procurement Portal (www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in).
7. For registration,log into https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in.

e-Procurement Help Desk

Toll Free Number: 1800 572 6571 Email Id:eproc2support@bihar.gov.in

Working Hours: 8 AM to 7 PM (All days in week except few selected state holidays)

Authority Signature
(Deputy Commissioner of Excise)
Bihar,Patna

PR. No. 022302 (Registration) 2025-26

This information is available on website **www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar** also

गर्भावस्था की पहली तिमाही में माँ की एच.आई.वी. और सिफलिस की जाँच जरूर करायें।

बिहार सरकार

जल संसाधन विभाग
कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
पश्चिमी कोशी नहर प्रमंडल, खजौली

Email-id:-wkcdkhajauli@gmail.com

शुद्धि पत्र

इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक 1316 दिनांक 31.12.2025 द्वारा आमंत्रित पुर्न निविदा सूचना सं0 **04SBD/2025-26** जिसका PR **NO-20960(WRD)2025-26** है, जो विभिन्न समाचार पत्रो में प्रकाशित हुआ है, अपरिहार्य कारण वश निम्नरूपेण संशोधित किया जाता है:–

कार्य का नाम–मधुबनी जिला के खजौली प्रखंड अंतर्गत ग्राम भटचौरा के समीप जोरलाही नदी पर गेटेड वीयर का निर्माण कार्य।

क्रम सं0	विवरण	पूर्व में निर्धारित तिथि	वर्त्तमान मे संशोधित तिथि
1.	निविदा कागजात डाउनलोड/अपलोड करने की तिथि एवं समयः–	दिनांक–21.01.2026 के 10:00 बजे पूर्वाहन से दिनांक–27.01.2026 के 03:00 बजे अपराहन तक। (केवल बेबसाईट http://eproc2bihar.gov.in पर)	दिनांक–21.01.2026 के 10:00 बजे पूर्वाहन से दिनांक–31.01.2026 के 03:00 बजे अपराहन तक। (केवल बेबसाईट http://eproc2bihar.gov.in पर)
2.	तकनीकी बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समयः–	दिनांक 29.01.2026 के अपराहन 03.30 बजे (केवल बेबसाईट http://eproc2bihar.gov.in पर)	दिनांक 02.02.2026 के अपराहन 03.30 बजे (केवल बेबसाईट http://eproc2bihar.gov.in पर)

शेष सभी नियम एवं शर्ते पूर्ववत रहेगी। निविदा को इस हद तक संशोधित समझा जाय।

विशेष जानकारी प्राप्त करने हेतु बेबसाईट http://eproc2bihar.gov.in एवं http://wrd.bihar.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
पश्चिमी कोषी नहर प्रमंडल, खजौली।

PR- 022528 (W R D) 2025-26

नशामुक्त हो जाए बिहार, सुरक्षित रहे घर परिवार।

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	THE ROHTAK COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS UNION LIMITED, ROHTAK (VITA)	HIRING OF REFRIGERATED VEHICLE FOR SUPPLY OF MILK AND BUTTER FROM MILK PLANT, ROHTAK TO ARMY CANTT. DELHI	23.01.2026 30.01.2026	AS PER DNIT	vitaindia@gmail.com	9896401185 vitarohtak@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in No. 42347/HRY

परियोजना निदेशक (असैनिक) का कार्यालय

बुडको, बांका

बिहार सरकार

Email Id-eebuidcobanka@gmail.com

अति अल्पकालीन ई0 पुर्ननिविदा आमंत्रण सूचना (ई–टेंडरिंग द्वारा www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

निविदा संख्याः–15/2025–26

1	विज्ञापन दाता का नाम एवं पता	:	परियोजना निदेशक, बुडको, बांका।
2	निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना निर्गत की तिथि	:	दिनांक–23.01.2026
3	निविदा कागजात डाउनलोड करने की अवधि	:	दिनांक–31.01.2026 से 03.02.2026 के अपराहन 05:00 बजे तक (on website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
4	प्री बीड मीटिंग का समय स्थान/तिथि	:	समय पूर्वाहन 11:00 बजे स्थान– कार्यालय कक्ष, परियोजना निदेशक, बुडको, बांका (बांका) दिनांक–02.02.2026
5	संवेदक द्वारा निविदा अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि/समय	:	दिनांक–04.02.2026 के अपराहन 05:00 बजे तक (on website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
6	तकनीकी बीड खोलने की तिथि/समय	:	दिनांक–06.02.2026 के पूर्वाहन 11:00 बजे के बाद (on website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
7	वित्तीय बीड खोलने की तिथि/समय	:	तकनीकी मूल्यांकन के पश्चात् (on website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
8	अग्रधन, सभी शपथ–पत्र, Existing Committment (मूल में), परिमाण विपत्र के मूल्य का बैंक ड्राफ्ट जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि/समय एवं स्थान	:	दिनांक–05.02.2026 के अपराहन 03:00 बजे तक 1. मुख्य महाप्रबंधक, बिहार ग्रहरी आधारभूत संरचना विकास निगम लि० (बुडको) बेस्ट बोरिंग केनाल रोड, राजापुर पुल पटना–800001, बिहार, पटना का कार्यालय। 2. परियोजना निदेशक, बुडको, बांका। सी0एस0सी0 बिल्डिंग, डब्लू0टी0पी0 कैम्पस, बरारी, भागलपुर। पिन कोड–812003

9 कार्य का विवरणः–

क्र0 सं0	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (रूपये में)	अग्रधन की राशि (रू0 में)	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य (अप्रत्यर्पणीय) (रू0 में)	Bid Processing Fee (Through online payment) (अप्रत्यर्पणीय) (रू0 में)	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि (इन्कुलिंडिग मोनसून अवधि माह में)
	नगर पंचायत, कटोरिया					
1	कटोरिया नगर पंचायत अन्तर्गत वार्ड संख्या–04 में फारम बांध पर पार्क का निर्माण कार्य।	1,68,39,100.00	3,36,782.00	17,700.00	Eproc2 पर निर्धारित राशि के अनुसार	09 माह

नोटः– **1- Bidders should submit Bid Processing fee through on line payment as per amount generated on website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in**

परियोजना निदेशक
बुडको, बांका

PR- 022493 (BUIDCO) 2025-26

विस्तृत जानकारी वेबसाइट state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar पर देखा जा सकता है।

नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA

PUBLIC WORK DEPARTMENT

INVITATION FOR TENDERS

Web site : http://mahatenders.gov.in
Email : jawhar.ee@mahapwd.gov.in

E-TENDER NOTICE No. 23 for 2025-26

ONLINE Tenders (e-tender) in "B1" form for the following works is invited by the Executive Engineer, P.W. Division, Jawhar, on Government of Maharashtra Electronic Tender Management System from the **Registered Contractors** in appropriate class of Public Works Department of Maharashtra State.

This tender notice contains **03 (Three) Works** and their details can also be viewed on **www.mahapwd.com** and also downloaded from Government of Maharashtra e-tendering Portal **http://mahatenders.gov.in** and sub portal.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Work Portion (Rs. Lakhs)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Class of Contractor	Tender form Fee (nonrefundable)	Time Limit in (Calendar Months)	Head
1.	Improvement to Wada Malwada Sakhara Jawhar Gorthan Aalyachimet Chalatwad Khambala SH 34A Road, Taluka-Jawhar, District- Palghar. Km. 43/00 to 44/500.	1,24,30,300.00	1,26,000.00	Class IV & Above	Rs. 1000/-+18% GST Rs. 180/- Total- 1180/-	06 (Six) Months (Including monsoon)	3054(04) Road and Bridge 30540167-53
2.	Improvement to Wada Malwada Sakhara Jawhar Gorthan Aalyachimet Chalatwad Khambala SH 34A Road, Taluka-Jawhar, District- Palghar. Km. 44/500 to 46/00.	1,24,78,323.00	1,26,000.00	Class IV & Above	Rs. 1000/-+18% GST Rs. 180/- Total- 1180/-	06 (Six) Months (Including monsoon)	3054(04) Road and Bridge () 30540167-53
3.	Improvement to Wada Malwada Sakhara Jawhar Gorthan Aalyachimet Chalatwad Khambala SH 34A Road, Taluka-Jawhar, District- Palghar. Km. 46/00 to 47/500.	1,24,89,144.00	1,26,000.00	Class IV & Above	Rs. 1000/-+18% GST Rs. 180/- Total- 1180/-	06 (Six) Months (Including monsoon)	3054(04) Road and Bridge () 30540167-53

Period of E-Tenders : Date- 23.01.2026 to Date- 30.01.2026
Date of Opening : Date- 02.02.2026 after 1100 hrs. (If possible)

The Executive Engineer P. W. Division Jawhar Reserves right to Accept or Reject any offer. Conditional offers will not be accepted.

Note :-

1. All eligible/interested e-tenders are required to be enrolled on portal enrolled on ports **http://mahatenders.gov.in** before downloading tender documents and participate in e-tendering.
2. The Electronic tendering system for Public Works Department of Government of Maharashtra will be available on separate Sub Portal with URL **http://mahatenders.gov.in** as part of the Electronic Tendering system of Government of Maharashtra which is available on the Portal.

OW.No./PWD/JWR/TC/147/2026
Office of the Executive Engineer
Public Work Division, Jawhar
Dist. Palghar, Pin-401603
Date :- 13.01.2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
P. W. Division, Jawhar
Dist-Palghar

DGIPR-2025-26/5300

META, GOOGLE, AMAZON MAY GET 12 MONTHS INSTEAD OF 18 MONTHS TO COMPLY

Data protection: Shorter timeline likely for Big Tech compliance

A govt committee, to be set up to prescribe the types of personal data that would have to be localised within India, could be formed much sooner

Soumyarendra Barik
New Delhi, January 22

THE MINISTRY of Electronics and IT (MeitY) may shorten the timeline for Big Tech companies such as Meta, Google, and Amazon to comply with India's Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 and other related rules to 12 months from the current 18 months, as the government looks at creating separate compliance regimes for large companies and startups, *The Indian Express* has learnt. The move, though, could spark a wave of pushback from tech companies.

In particular, provisions that place additional obligations on 'significant data fiduciaries' could see fast tracking in terms of compliance timelines, the ministry is understood to have communicated to the industry during a meeting Thursday. A significant data fiduciary will be determined on the basis of the volume and sensitivity of personal data they process, and the risks they might have on India's sovereignty and integrity, electoral democracy, security, and public order. Tech majors including Meta, Google, Apple, Microsoft, and Amazon are expected to be classified as significant data fiduciaries.

These specific provisions require tech companies to carry out a yearly data protection impact assessment, and verify that technical measures including their algorithmic software that deal with handling personal data don't violate users' rights. More notably, under the rules, the Centre will specify the kind of personal data which can be processed by "significant data fiduciaries" subject to the restriction that such personal data and traffic data related to its flow is not transferred outside the territory of India. All these provisions could now be operationalised in 12 months, as opposed to the earlier prescribed 18 months, with the ministry expected to bring an amendment to the data protection rules. A government committee, to be set up to prescribe the types of personal data that would have to be localised within India, could be formed much sooner, it is understood.

The changes are being made to create a compliance gradient between bigger companies and smaller startups, with the idea being that the former already comply with strict privacy laws like those in Europe, and as a result have more institutional bandwidth to comply with India's law. Last year, responding to a question by *The Indian Express*, Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw had said, "It is right that big companies already follow laws like Europe's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). We will compress the timeline. We will amend the law".

Queries sent to the IT Ministry remained unanswered until publication.

Last year, the IT Ministry had notified the long awaited data protection rules, paving the way for India to have a functional privacy law, eight years after the Supreme Court ruled it as a fundamental right. The notification of the rules came over two years after the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act received the President's assent in August 2023. Under the rules, tech companies are required to implement a mechanism for collecting "verifiable" parental consent before processing children's personal data.

Effectively, the government has refrained from proposing a mechanism from its side, and has left it to the companies to adopt a system of their choice, after social media companies complained that it could be a difficult provision to implement.

In the event of a data breach, data fiduciaries will have to intimate impacted individuals "without delay" a description of the breach, including its nature, extent and the timing and location of its occurrence; the consequences relevant to the impacted user, that are likely to arise from the breach; and the measures implemented and being implemented to mitigate risk among other things. The penalty for failing to have adequate safeguards for preventing a data breach could go as high as Rs 250 crore.

The Act had come under scrutiny for granting wide-ranging exemptions to the government or its agencies while processing citizens' personal data on grounds of 'national security', 'friendly relations with other states', and 'public order', among other things. It was also called into question over allegedly diluting the RTI Act. *The Indian Express* had earlier reported that apart from the civil society, even government's think tank NITI Aayog had also raised concerns over the potential weakening of the RTI Act.

'CETA COULD BE RATIFIED IN FIRST HALF OF 2026'

'If firms can't sell, invest in US, then there's UK; India biggest priority for Britain'

EXPRESS interview



HARJINDER KANG
UK TRADE COMMISSIONER FOR SOUTH ASIA & DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR WESTERN INDIA

INDIA IS the biggest priority for the UK in South Asia, UK Trade Commissioner for South Asia, deputy High Commissioner for Western India, and former Chief Negotiator of the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), HARJINDER KANG said in an interview with LEENA MISRA and BRENDAN DABHI. On sanctioning Russian oil importers, Kang said the UK's position on the Russia-Ukraine War is "very, very clear" and that curbs are designed to stop it. Edited excerpts:

How is the UK looking at this region of South Asia?

By far, India is the biggest priority for us. There is no other country this size, growing this fast. Probably because the demographics will continue irrespective of what happens around the world, like China was 20 years ago.

What do you think about US tariffs on India and the UK? What does it mean for India-UK trade? What happens when the US doesn't play by the rules?

That is for the US to decide. There is nothing for the UK to comment on US tariff policy. The UK-India relationship is fine. We have decided on a tariff relationship and it's about to be ratified (by the UK Parliament) and come into force. So our bridge is very strong and continues to be so. The bridges between US-India and US-UK are separate and it doesn't affect that. It would basically be for Indian companies to decide what to do. If they can't sell or invest in the US, then there is the UK. That is the impact which is a positive one for the UK and we are more than happy to accommodate increased Indian activity into the UK, that's my job. But we don't promote it that way, that's a ridiculous thing to do. And it's not for me to comment on US policy.

Do you anticipate any hiccups in the ratification of CETA by the Parliament?

It is going very smoothly. Our ratification process is much more complicated and thorough. It goes through both houses, there are trade committees in the House of Commons and the House of Lords that look at international deals. It is not the first time they've looked at it. Pretty much the things we expected have been raised. There's nothing that makes me think there's going to be trouble. So, my guess is that it could be done sometime in this half of the year.

How is the trade deal going to impact both countries?

The deal is expected to deliver £25.5 billion ($34.25 billion) worth of extra trade between the two sides in the middle to long term. Even before being ratified our trade has already gone up. It was about £43 billion in FY24 and I think it's going to £47 billion already, just based on the confidence that the trade deal has instilled in both sides. And when you talk to the firms on both sides, the appetite is huge to ease bilateral trade.

Could you talk about British companies' investment interest in India?

It's been both ways. There are 700 UK companies already here. And there are 900 Indian companies over there so it's already happening in large volume. It will help by having this sort of treaty by making people more confident in the mid to long term. Because companies don't operate on a one-year cycle. If you're going to put up investment and capacity down, you're thinking in 5-10 year horizons and these deals instill confidence that there will be stability and that's what firms really look for — stability, to put a factory down or put some investment in another country.

What is the balance of trade between the manufacturing and services sector in terms of investments?

The UK is a predominantly service sector country at about 80%... and India is also 50%, if not more. In the WTO, there are a lot of schedules in terms of who can deliver what service in what country. A lot of those have now been formalised in our FTA. That's again a symbol of stability and you have long term visibility that both sides would be able to continue doing this for the perceivable future.

What is Gujarat's share in India's trade with the UK?

We had a report commissioned which shows the trade inflow into India and investment outflow into the UK and Gujarat is right up there. It is known for many things that the FTA will help with — textiles is a big one. It will benefit substantially from lower tariffs. We have a preferential developing nations trading scheme for Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, where the tariffs are lower and agreed upon across the system. But India is a mid-sized economy. There was a kind of differential in tariff (for textiles) which made it uncompetitive to produce in India and export to the UK. The other big sector is gems and jewellery which will be a big beneficiary of the lower tariffs regime.

While the FTA was being signed, the UK sanctioned Gujarat refinery of Nayara Energy for buying Russian crude. Does it impact the business sentiment?

Those are the geopolitical things with global ramifications for trade. Effectively, you know what's happening in Ukraine and our position is very, very clear as a country. To finance that war, the oil trade is absolutely key and the sanctions are designed to stop that and reduce the war that is underway.

FULL INTERVIEW ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

AMID EVIDENCE-DRIVEN POLICY PUSH

Data collectors warn MoSPI of 'acute stagnation'

Siddharth Upasani
New Delhi, January 22

AT A time when the government is pushing for evidence-based policymaking and conducting more and more surveys, the Statistics Ministry has been warned of "acute stagnation" among the officers responsible for collecting data on the ground. In a letter last month, the All India Association of Statistical Officers (AIASO) called on the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) to redress "serious and long-standing" issues that are faced by officers of the Subordinate Statistical Service (SSS).

"Many deserving officers retire without getting the promotion of Junior Time Scale (JTS) even after serving nearly 30 years of service," the letter, reviewed by *The Indian Express*, said. This is not the first time that the SSS has highlighted the "systemic bottlenecks" that are adversely impacting India's data collectors. The SSS comprises Junior Statistical Officers (JSO) and Senior Statistical Officers (SSO) and it serves as a feeder cadre for the Indian Statistical Service (ISS).

AIASO members met Rao Inderjit Singh, Minister of State MoSPI, and Secretary Saurabh Garg on December 18, a week after the letter. The Statistics Ministry did not respond to an email requesting comment.

The junior and senior statistical officers of the SSS form the backbone of India's statistical system as they work on the ground, collect data from the primary source and check them. 90% of JSOs are recruited directly through exams, and get promoted to SSOs, who are then promoted to Assistant Director (AD) in the Junior Time Scale. ISS officers are appointed to this grade after completing their training post an exam.

Heavy workload, poor prospects

In recent years, the workload on these officers has risen significantly due to an increase in the number of surveys for which they are required to collect data. For instance, data is being collected for surveys ranging from the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), the flagship employment survey, to prices for monthly CPI inflation numbers — India's most important economic indicator. Additional surveys are set to begin soon. These include the country's first-ever Household Income Survey starting February 1.

The ministry is also overhauling key indicators, with the updated GDP and CPI data series set to be released next month and the revised IIP in May. This entails more data collection.

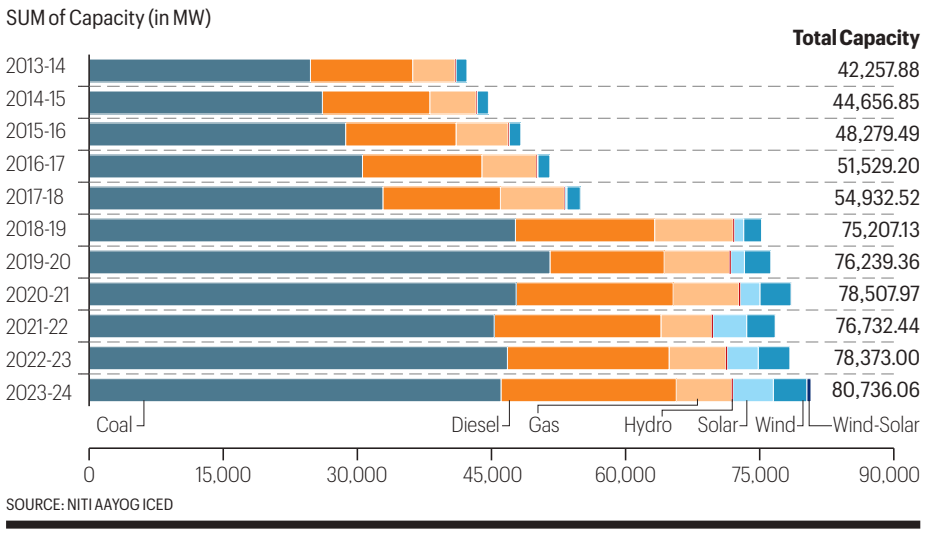
Even as the crucial datapoints are set for a major upgrade, lawmakers have flagged vacancies at the JSO and SSO level as another worry, with the Standing Committee on Finance noting last year that manpower shortage in the FOD has persisted for a "prolonged period of time" and that this "affects the quality of the data".

The lack of career progression for JSOs and SSOs is the real problem facing MoSPI, with the JSO attrition rate as high as 44%, officers told *The Indian Express*. As such, even filing vacant posts in a timely manner will not help. MoSPI is aware of this, as indicated by its reply noted by the Committee on Finance in a 2025 report.

FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Draft NEP 2026 bets big on nuclear, tariff tweaks and cross-subsidy rules

• Installed capacity of captive source: 2013–2024



SOURCE: NITI AAYOG ICED

Pratyush Deep
New Delhi, January 22

WEEKS AFTER the government enacted the SHANTI Act to open India's nuclear sector to private players, a new draft National Electricity Policy (NEP) signals a clear policy shift — a strong pivot to nuclear power as a potential substitute for coal-based thermal generation.

India continues to rely heavily on thermal power, with coal dominating grid-based electricity and captive power used by industries. Against this backdrop, the draft policy seeks to recalibrate the power mix.

Set to replace the 20-year-old NEP notified in 2005, the new draft policy pushes for the adoption of advanced nuclear technologies, including Small Modular Reactors (SMRs), other small-capacity reactors, and direct use of nuclear power by commercial and industrial consumers.

This aligns with the Centre's ambition of scaling India's nuclear capacity to 100 GWe by 2047 — more than 10X the current installed capacity of 8.8 GWe — and builds on the SHANTI Act's removal of long-standing legal and regulatory barriers to private participation in the sector.

At the same time, the draft policy suggests an index-linked automatic tariff revision mechanism that would kick in if electricity regulators fail to revise tariffs on time, aimed at preventing revenue gaps for power utilities. It also proposes exemptions from cross-subsidy charges and surcharges for manufacturing units, Indian Railways and metro rail systems.

It continues to back renewable energy expansion through market-based mechanisms and captive power plants, while placing greater emphasis on energy storage to ensure grid stability as variable renewable energy grows.

NEP 2026: Fine prints

The draft sets out ambitious demand-side targets, projecting per capita electricity consumption to rise to 2,000 kWh by 2030 and over 4,000 kWh by 2047, reflecting the scale of power demand expected from a growing economy. It ties this growth to India's climate commitments, underscoring the need for a decisive shift towards low-carbon energy pathways. The policy places a strong focus on the financial health of distribution companies (discoms).

"NEP 2026 seeks to restore financial health of the discoms by promoting cost-reflective tariffs, timely cost pass-through, and reduction of AT&C losses," the draft policy states.

It also proposes linking tariffs to a suitable index for automatic annual revision if no tariff order is issued by state electricity regulatory commissions.

The draft policy positions nuclear energy as a key pillar of India's long-term energy security. "Nuclear power is a clean, reliable, and sustainable energy source with significant potential for India's long-term energy security," it says. It states that the central government will collaborate with the private sector to set up Modular Reactors, develop Bharat Small Reactors, and advance nuclear technologies.

FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

IndiGo Q3 profit crashes 78% to Rs 549 cr

The Rs 577-cr exceptional loss includes Rs 555 cr provisioned as operational disruption-related costs as per guidelines

Sukalp Sharma
New Delhi, January 22

INDIGO'S OPERATIONAL meltdown early December hit the carrier's Q3 bottomline, with India's largest airline taking a one-time hit of Rs 577 crore due to the network-wide disruption, marking its worst crisis in nearly 20 years of operations. Another exceptional item — a Rs 969-crore provision for increase in social security benefits due to implementation of the new labour codes — meant that the airline's Q3 consolidated net profit nosedived 78% y-o-y to Rs 549 crore from Rs 2,449 crore, even as the operating profit was nearly flat.

The Rs 577-crore exceptional loss on account of the meltdown includes Rs 555 crore provisioned as operational disruption-related costs like passenger compensation as per regulatory guidelines, travel voucher issuances to most-affected passengers, and other associated costs. Another Rs 22 crore have been provisioned for the financial penalty imposed on the airline by aviation regulator DGCA.

On January 17, the DGCA slapped IndiGo with financial penalties totalling Rs 22.20 crore for the massive disruption in its operations that led to over 2,500 flight cancellations and around 1,850 flight delays in the December 3-5 period. The airline was ordered to pledge a bank guarantee of Rs 50 crore in favour of the DGCA; it will be released by the regulator in phases after IndiGo implements measures to ensure compliance with DGCA directives and long-term systemic correction.

The DGCA has also issued warnings to some senior management personnel of IndiGo, including CEO Pieter Elbers and COO Isidre Porqueras, for the disruption caused primarily by its inadequate preparedness for the implementation of revised pilot rest and duty duration rules. The DGCA has directed the airline to relieve Jason Herter, senior VP of IndiGo's operations control centre, of current operational responsibilities. The cumulative fine of Rs 22.20 crore is the highest-ever regulatory penalty imposed by the DGCA on an airline. It is slightly higher than IndiGo's average daily net profit for FY24-25.

Elbers said Thursday that the airline's board is evaluating the DGCA directions, and reiterated that airline's management and board are committed to taking full cognizance of the orders.

FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

As Trump talks tariffs, Argentine ally welcomes Chinese electric vehicles

Associated Press
Zárate, January 22

THE VAST field of over 5,800 electric and hybrid vehicles gleamed on the cargo deck of the BYD Changzhou, an Chinese container vessel unloading Wednesday at a river port in eastern Argentina.

In other places, such a scene would not be noteworthy. Chinese automaker BYD has sped up its exports and undercut rivals the world over, alarming Washington, upsetting Western and Japanese auto giants and unnerving local industries across Southeast Asia, Africa and Latin America.



The BYD Changzhou car carrier docked at Terminal Zarate in the Buenos Aires province of Argentina, Tuesday. AP

But the sight of so many new Chinese EVs gliding onto a muddy river bank in Buenos Aires province was unprecedented for Argentina, its crisis-stricken economy dominated for years by a left-wing populist movement that protected local industry with stiff tariffs and import restrictions.

"For decades people in Argentina had this vision that everything here must be manufactured here," said Claudio Damiano, a professor in the Institute of Transportation at Argentina's National University of San Martin. "The boat has a symbolic value as the first step for BYD. Everyone's wondering how far it will go."

The shipment also came in stark contrast to the news in Brussels, where on Wednesday EU lawmakers voted to delay ratification of a landmark free trade deal with the Mercosur group of South American countries, including Argentina, which promises to tear down trade barriers for European industrial imports and supercharge consumption of German EVs.

PhonePe IPO: Walmart, Tiger Global, Microsoft to sell stake

George Mathew
Mumbai, January 22

DIGITAL PAYMENTS platform PhonePe, controlled by Walmart, has filed an updated Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to raise funds through an initial public offering (IPO).

The DRHP does not specify the exact size of the IPO but it is likely to be in the range of Rs 12,000-13,000 crore, making it the second-largest fintech IPO in India after Paytm. PhonePe is currently the largest digital payments platform in India, followed by Google Pay.

The IPO will consist entirely of an offer-for-sale (OFS) of 5.06 crore equity shares by existing shareholders. The primary seller, WM Digital Commerce Holdings, is a promoter entity owned by Walmart International Holdings Inc., which holds a 71.77% stake. It plans to sell 4.59 crore shares, representing 9.06% of the firm's total paid-up equity via OFS. The remaining 47.17 lakh shares will be sold by investors Tiger Global PIP 9-1 and Microsoft Global Finance Unlimited Company, an Irish subsidiary of Microsoft Corp.

As of September 2025, PhonePe's UPI volume market share was 46.85% as per NPCI. In April 2020, it emerged as the largest player in merchant UPI transactions.

FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

• BRIEFLY

Adani Energy Q3 profit dips 8%

New Delhi: **Adani Energy Solutions Ltd (AESL) Thursday posted an over 8% fall in consolidated net profit to Rs 574.06 crore for December quarter, mainly due to higher tax expenses. AESL had logged a net profit of Rs 625.30 crore in the same period a year ago, it said in an exchange filing.** PTI

• MARKETS

Sensex	NIFTY	Gold ▼	US Dollar ▲
82,307.37	25,157.50	₹1,51,128	₹91.58
397.74	132.40	Silver ▼	Oil ▲
0.49%	0.53%	₹2,99,711	$63.50

NOTE: GOLD, SILVER RATES AS PER INDIA BULLION AND JEWELLERS ASSOCIATION DATA GOLD PER 10G, SILVER PER 1 KG; CRUDE OIL (INDIAN BASKET) AS OF JANUARY 21, 2026

Putin's googly: Ownership of Greenland is of no concern to us

Reuters
Moscow, January 22

PRESIDENT VLADIMIR Putin said on Wednesday that Greenland's ownership was not Russia's concern and that the United States and Denmark - whose historical treatment of the island he criticised - should sort the matter out between themselves.

Moscow has watched with glee as US President Donald Trump's drive to acquire Greenland has widened Washington's split with Europe, even though his moves could have ramifications for Russia, which already has a strong Arctic presence.

Speaking in Davos, Trump on Wednesday stepped back from threats to impose tariffs as leverage to seize Greenland and ruled out the use of force. Putin, addressing the matter for the first time in public, signalled that Russia would not object to Trump's push to control Greenland, which he speculated may be worth nearly $1 billion.

"What happens in Greenland is of no concern to us whatsoever. Incidentally, Denmark has always treated Greenland as a colony and has been quite harsh, if not cruel, towards it. But that is a different matter altogether, and hardly anyone is interested in it now," Putin told a meeting of Russia's Security Council.

Denmark's financial and military support for Ukraine has angered Russia, which is fighting to take full control of four Ukrainian regions it claimed as its own in 2022.

Russia's foreign ministry has bridled at Trump's suggestion that Moscow has ambitions on Greenland too, but has been careful not to criticise Trump.

MANY TOP U.S. ALLIES ARE NOT PARTICIPATING, YET U.S. PRESIDENT SAYS...

'Everyone wants to be a part': Trump launches Board of Peace

Associated Press
Davos, January 22

PRESIDENT DONALD Trump on Thursday inaugurated his Board of Peace to lead efforts at maintaining a ceasefire in Israel's war with Hamas, insisting that "everyone wants to be a part" of the body he said could eventually rival the United Nations — despite many US allies opting not to participate.

In a speech at the World Economic Forum, Trump sought to create momentum for a project to map out a future of the war-torn Gaza Strip that has been overshadowed this week, first by his threats to seize Greenland, then by a dramatic retreat from that push.

"This isn't the United States, this is for the world," he said, adding, "I think we can spread it out to other things as we succeed in Gaza." The event featured Ali Shaath, the head of a new, future technocratic government in Gaza, announcing that the Rafah border crossing will open in both directions next week. That's after Israel said in early December it would open the crossing, which runs between Gaza and Egypt, but has yet to do so.

Shaath, an engineer and former Palestinian Authority official from Gaza, is overseeing the Palestinian committee set to govern the territory under US supervision.

The new peace board was initially envisioned as a small group of world leaders overseeing the ceasefire, but it has morphed into something far more ambitious — and scepticism about its membership and mandate has led some countries usually closest to Washington to take a pass.

Trump tried not to let those not participating ruin his unveiling party, saying 59 countries had signed onto the board — even though heads of state, top diplomats and other officials from only 19 countries plus the US actually attended the event. He told the group, ranging from Azerbaijan to Paraguay to Hungary, "You're the most powerful people in the world." Trump has spoken about the board replacing some UN functions and perhaps even making that entire body obsolete one day. But he was more conciliatory in his remarks on the sidelines of the forum in the Swiss alps.

"We'll do it in conjunction with the United Nations," Trump said, even as he denigrated the UN for doing what he said wasn't enough to calm some conflicts around the globe.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio said some countries' leaders have indicated they plan to join but still require approval from their parliaments.

Big questions remain, however, about what the eventual board will look like.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said his country is still consulting with Moscow's "strategic partners" before deciding to commit. The Russian was hosting Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on Thursday in Moscow.



President Donald Trump, center, poses with international leaders after the signing of a Board of Peace charter during the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, on Thursday. AP

First US, Russia and Ukraine trilateral talks to be held in UAE, says Zelenskyy

Reuters
Davos, January 22

PRESIDENT VOLODYMYR Zelenskyy said Thursday after talks with US President Donald Trump in Davos that terms of security guarantees for Ukraine had been finalised, but that the vital issue of territory in its war with Russia remains unsolved.

In what he said was a positive sign of progress in long-running peace talks to end the four-year conflict, Zelenskyy said negotiators from Russia, Ukraine and the US would hold trilateral meetings for the first time in Abu Dhabi on Friday and Saturday.

He also said a deal was almost ready on economic recovery after the war with Russia, a key element of Kyiv-backed proposals to push back on an earlier US peace plan seen as heavily favouring Moscow.

Zelenskyy and Trump - who have met half a dozen times since Trump returned to the White House last year and upended US policy on Ukraine - both said Thursday's talks were positive.

"I think the meeting with President Zelenskyy was good. It's an ongoing process," Trump told reporters, saying that US envoys were heading for talks in Moscow on Thursday.

Zelenskyy, who did not indicate he discussed territory with Trump on Thursday, had said earlier this week he would only travel to Davos if he could sign agreements with Trump on US security guarantees and post-war reconstruction funding for Ukraine.

Zelenskyy has been saddled with an energy crisis at home from Russian air strikes that have left millions of Ukrainians across swathes of the capital and other regions without power and heating.

• BRIEFLY

UNITED STATES

Massive winter storm to bring crippling snow, sleet and ice



A billboard warns of road preparations in Texas on Thursday. AP

TRAVEL DISRUPTIONS, power outages and frigid temperatures are expected to affect 150 million Americans on Friday and through the weekend as a massive storm clobbers the U.S with heavy snow and freezing rain from the Central Plains to the East Coast, the National Weather Service said. The storm, which could impact nearly half the country's population, will bring up to 20 inches (50.8 cm) of snow in the Appalachians and West Virginia mountains, while most people living in the eastern US could face dangerous slick or frozen roads and potential power outages from ice-laden trees and branches falling and snapping power lines, officials said. REUTERS

CAMBODIA

Govt to repatriate 73 scam suspects to South Korea

DOZENS OF South Koreans detained in Cambodia for alleged involvement in online scam compounds will be sent home this week to face investigations, officials said Thursday, in what would be the largest group reparation of Korean criminal suspects from abroad. The 73 South Korean suspects allegedly scammed fellow Koreans out of 48.6 billion won ($33 million), according to the statement. AP

IRAQ

Govt to prosecute Islamic State detainees

IRAQ'S SUPREME Judicial Council said on Thursday it would begin legal proceedings against Islamic State detainees transferred from Syria after the rapid collapse of Kurdish-led forces in northeast Syria triggered concerns over prison security. The US military said on Tuesday its forces had transferred 150 IS detainees from Syria to Iraq and that the operation could eventually see up to 7,000 detainees moved out of Syria. REUTERS

• NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

BANGLADESH

Fire rips through Cox's Bazar refugee camp

A MASSIVE fire destroyed hundreds of makeshift homes and displaced more than 2,000 people in a Rohingya refugee camp in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, prompting calls Thursday from relief agencies for more funding to build safer housing and help provide emergency aid. The fire broke out in the early morning hours of Tuesday in Camp 16, one of more than 30 camps in the Cox's Bazar district. AP

NEPAL

Probe panel on Gen Z violence gets extension

THE NEPAL government on Thursday extended by 20 days the tenure of a panel investigating the alleged excessive use of force during the Gen Z movement that led to the ouster of prime minister K P Sharma Oli. The extension has been granted for second time at the request of the Home Ministry, as preparations for the final report are still underway, despite a three-month deadline given to the panel. PTI

• OSCAR SEASON BEGINS WITH NOMINATIONS, VAMPIRE EPIC SUCKS IT ALL UP

'Sinners' makes history with 16 under its belt, 'One Battle...' bags 13

Associated Press
Los Angeles, January 22

RYAN COOGLER'S blues-steeped vampire epic "Sinners" led all films with 16 nominations to the 98th Academy Awards on Thursday, setting a record for the most in Oscar history.

Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences voters showered "Sinners" with more nominations than they had ever bestowed before, breaking the 14-nomination mark set by "All About Eve," "Titanic" and "La La Land."

Along with best picture, Coogler was nominated for best director and best screenplay, and double-duty star Michael B Jordan was rewarded with his first Oscar nomination, for best actor.

Paul Thomas Anderson's father-daughter revolutionary saga "One Battle After Another," the favorite coming into nominations, trailed in second with 13 of its own.

Four of its actors — Leonardo DiCaprio, Teyana Taylor, Benicio del Toro and Sean Penn — were nominated, though newcomer Chase Infiniti was left out in best actress.

In those two top nominees, the film academy put its full force behind a pair of visceral and bracingly original American epics that each connected with a fraught national moment. Coogler's Jim Crow-era film — the rare horror movie to win the academy's favor — conjures a mythical allegory of Black life.

For Coogler, the 39-year-old filmmaker of "Fruitvale Station" and "Black Panther," it was a crowning moment. One of Hollywood's most esteemed yet humble filmmakers, Coogler has called "Sinners" — a film that he will own outright 25 years after its release — his most personal movie.

"I wrote this script for my uncle who passed away 11 years ago," Coogler said in an interview Thursday morning. "I got to imagine that he's listening to some blues music right now to celebrate."

Reached by phone an hour after the nominations were read, Coogler — speaking alongside his wife and producer Zinzi Coogler and producer Sev Ohanian — was still trying to process the movie's record-breaking haul.

"I love making movies. I'm honored to wake up every day and do it. I was writing last night. That's why I didn't get too much sleep," said Coogler, chuckling. "Honestly, bro, I still feel a little bit asleep right now."

This year's list of Oscar nominees have been announced. Ryan Coogler's 'Sinners' led all films on Thursday with 16 nominations to the 98th Academy Awards, setting a record for the most in Oscar history.





BEST ACTRESS
Emma Stone, Bugonia
Rose Byrne, If I Had Legs I'd Kick You
Renate Reinsve, Sentimental Value
Kate Hudson, Song Sung Blue
Jessie Buckley, Hamnet



BEST ACTOR
Timothée Chalamet, Marty Supreme
Leonardo DiCaprio, One Battle After Another
Ethan Hawke, Blue Moon
Michael B. Jordan, Sinners
Wagner Moura, The Secret Agent



BEST PICTURE
- Bugonia
- F1
- Frankenstein
- Hamnet
- Marty Supreme
- One Battle After Another
- The Secret Agent
- Sentimental Value
- Sinners
- Train Dreams



Jacob Elordi

Actor Michael B Jordan, left, and director-writer-producer Ryan Coogler on the set of 'Sinners'. AP

BEST DIRECTOR
Paul Thomas Anderson, One Battle After Another
Ryan Coogler, Sinners
Chloé Zhao, Hamnet
Josh Safdie, Marty Supreme
Joachim Trier, Sentimental Value

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS
Elle Fanning, Sentimental Value
Inga Ibsdotter Lilleaas, Sentimental Value
Amy Madigan, Weapons
Wunmi Mosaku, Sinners
Teyana Taylor, One Battle After Another.

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR
Jacob Elordi, Frankenstein
Sean Penn, One Battle After Another
Stellan Skarsgård, Sentimental Value
Benicio del Toro, One Battle After Another
Delroy Lindo, Sinners

Three people shot dead in New South Wales, town under lockdown

Associated Press
Melbourne, January 22

THREE PEOPLE were killed, and another was wounded on Thursday in a shooting in a town in Australia's New South Wales state, police said.

Emergency services were called to an address at Lake Cargelligo, a town of around 1,500 people, following reports of a shooting, a police statement said.

Three people — two women and a man — were dead, and another man was taken to the hospital in serious but stable condition, police said.

The shooter or shooters appeared to be at large.

Police used geo-targeted text messages to urge the public to avoid the area and for local residents to stay inside and contacted.

Local resident Manisha, who did not want to give her family name, told Sydney's The Daily Telegraph newspaper there were police cars and ambulances "all over town."

"The town is made of just two main streets. We can hear the sounds of sirens, she told the newspaper.

The shooting comes on a National Day of Mourning as Australia remembers the 15 people shot dead in Sydney at a Hanukkah celebration on December 14.

• 'VETERANS' THEATRE' IS A KYIV TROUPE OF ABOUT 15 WAR-WOUNDED EX-SOLDIERS WHO USE ACTING AS REHABILITATION AND A PATH BACK TO CIVILIAN LIFE

From trenches to footlights: Wounded Ukrainian soldiers heal on Kyiv stage

Alina Smutko
January 22

UKRAINIAN SOLDIER Andrii Onopriienko ran into a challenge when he took up his new hobby of acting: having to learn his lines just by listening to them. The 31-year-old lost both eyes when two Russian anti-tank rounds ripped into his position in the eastern Ukrainian city of Avdiivka in 2023.

He memorised his part nonetheless. Like the other veterans in his Kyiv-based group of around 15 actors, Onopriienko has found healing and fulfilment on stage, after a friend told him of a theatre looking for injured veterans and suggested he join. He reluctantly agreed to take part.

"Yes, we might not have an arm, or legs, or eyes - but we aren't giving up," he said.

Russia's war, now entering its fifth year, has left countless Ukrainian soldiers wounded, with tens of thousands suffering one or more amputations.

Some of those with life-altering injuries struggle to reintegrate into a society itself navigating how to absorb a generation of maimed men and women.

Coping methods vary. For Onopriienko and his fellow troops-turned-thespians, none of whom had ever acted before, it meant taking to the stage.

Reuters followed the group, called Veterans' Theatre, as they prepared for an avant-garde performance of an 18th-century Ukrainian parody of Virgil's Aeneid.

"It's rehabilitation and socialisation," said Onopriienko. "It's...positive emotions."

Russia's war has left deep scars across wide swathes of Ukraine and its population, with no end in sight despite a US-backed peace push.

Yehor Babenko, 27, was wounded in the first year of fighting when Russian forces struck his base in the southern region of Mykolaiv.

His face deformed by severe burns, he speaks by regulating a tube in his throat with one of two mangled hands that are missing all of their fingers.

That did not stop him from committing to months of taxing rehearsals full of dancing, twirling and tumbling.



Members of the Veterans Theatre group during a performance at a documentary movies festival, in Kyiv on August 17, 2025. REUTERS

Babenko, who began working as a veterans' psychologist last year, said the transformative trauma of serious injury often compels people to seek meaning in something new. "I know a lot of cases where people opened up or tried things they never dared to try," he said.

For 57-year-old Roman Trokhymenko, who lost his right leg in 2024, participating in the theatre has helped reinforce the confidence he has tried hard to maintain since his injury.

The director, Olha Semoshkina, told Reuters she had individually tailored the roles, which were heavily based around physical movement, to suit each veteran's injury.

Performing on stage poses not only physical challenges, the actors said.

Babenko, for instance, said it was difficult adjusting to a creative field which encourages free thought after spending years in the rigid order of the military

Taras Kozub, 53, lost his left arm after storming an enemy position on the southeastern front. Today, the folk music aficionado plays a hurdy-gurdy with a specially designed prosthetic appendage that attaches directly to the instrument.

Even Kozub concedes the adjustment to theatre was challenging, and not a remedy for every veteran.

"The first thing I realised is that you can't fool anyone while onstage," he said. "It's like you're standing there naked."

During the premiere in Kyiv, the veterans stomped and shuffled across the stage under bright neon lights, and to live musical accompaniment by Kozub and others.

They received a boisterous ovation from members of the audience, some of whom cried or embraced.

Babenko says it was critical for his fellow comrades to understand that life does not simply end after a serious injury. "Sometimes, you understand it's the opposite - that it just starts getting going." REUTERS

• SCIENCE

A head-scratcher: Meet Veronika, first cow known to use a tool



Veronika scratches itself with two sticks. ANTONIO J OSUNA MASCARÓ

Yashee
New Delhi, January 22

TO BE called a cow is rarely a compliment to one's brains. While it is a pejorative in English, in Hindi, a *gau* is a person of innocence and virtue, hardly of scintillating intellect. But a new study on an Austrian cow challenges such assumptions.

Veronika, a 13-year-old Brown Swiss cow which lives in the village of Nötsch, has been found using a deck brush to scratch itself. Veronika holds the brush in its mouth, and depending on the body part it wants to scratch — whether the hard skin of its back or its soft underbelly — uses either the brush or the handle, also adjusting the pressure. Veronika, thus, is displaying sophisticated tool usage, not previously seen in cattle.

What is the study?

After coming across a video of Veronika, researchers Alice Auersperg and Antonio Osuna-Mascaro, from the University of Veterinary Medicine in Vienna, went to its home to observe it. Their findings were published Monday in the journal *Current Biology*. "We recorded 76 instances of self-directed tool use over seven sessions of 10 trials...Veronika's behavior... showed versatility, anticipation, and fine motor targeting."

The study adds, "Although flexible tool use has been reported in terrestrial ungulates (including a recent, well-documented case in Asian elephants) prior to our study it had not been experimentally verified in cattle." Ungulates are hoofed mammals.

Is tool usage in animals uncommon?

This study defined tool usage as "the manipulation of an external object to achieve a goal via a mechanical interface".

In the 1960s, the renowned English primatologist Jane Goodall observed that chimpanzees could use blades of grass to spoon out insects from termite mounds to eat. Over the years, crows, parrots, whales, elephants, and wolves have all shown varying levels of skills at manoeuvring objects to use as tools. But using one tool for multiple purposes is much rarer.

"Importantly, the differential use of both broom ends constitutes the use of a multipurpose tool, exploiting distinct properties of a single object for different functions. Comparable behaviour has only been consistently documented in chimpanzees," the study says.

In India, primatologist Anindya Sinha of the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS) in Bengaluru has, along with his collaborators, documented several female and a male bonnet macaque insightfully manufacturing and using tools in a variety of contexts — the only example of wild monkeys actively making tools anywhere in the world.

Is Veronika just super-smart?

The researchers say it is not the cow but the conditions in which it lives that are unusual. Veronika is being kept as a pet, not as a milch animal, by a family that reared its mother. It lives near a meadow where it roams free, and has been given opportunities to play and interact with loving humans. It is also 13 years old, a long and remarkably distress-free life for a cow.

The researchers say that because of the "persistent mind-denial biases associated with meat consumption", there haven't been many research attempts that look at cows beyond their utility value and as intelligent, social animals.

They claim that if more cows were offered a life as rich as Veronika's, they could display similar behaviour.

Sinha told *The Indian Express*: "The case of Veronika is that of one individual. This is not a systematic study of a large number of animals over a long period of time. There are two possibilities here. One is that this is a case of associative learning, where through trial and error, the cow has learnt that the broom can be used to scratch herself. The second, more intriguing possibility, is Veronika has discovered that a tool can be manipulated in different ways for different goals. If that is true, it talks of a cow displaying insight, which would be much more remarkable."

The findings challenge assumptions about animals that are seen largely as utilitarian. The case can be used as a basis for studies about the intelligence of cattle.

• DONALD TRUMP AT DAVOS

Trump Greenland gambit is his signature playbook

After threats of military action and tariffs over Greenland, the President has backed off. His actions send a clear message to the rest of the world



SHUBHAJIT ROY

AFTER DAYS of threats of military intervention and tariffs, US President Donald Trump walked off the ledge by announcing that a framework had been reached for a deal with the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) over Greenland's future.

The announcement followed his speech at the annual World Economic Forum (WEF) meeting in Davos, Switzerland, on Wednesday. Negotiators from the US and Europe will now hammer out the details of the deal.

The American President has argued that US control of Greenland would secure critical resources (the island is estimated to have enormous oil and gas reserves, as well as troves of rare-earth minerals such as cobalt, graphite, and lithium). Additionally, it would expand the US military's reach in the Arctic and would challenge and circumscribe Chinese and Russian influence in a region key to American national security.

But this entire episode has several important takeaways and sheds light on the behaviour of the Trump administration, which has just completed a year in power. These learnings could be useful for similar future episodes stemming from the US.

How Trump seeks to get his way, in 6 steps

FIRST, Trump always dials up the rhetoric and makes a public spectacle of the matter at hand, even for sensitive international issues. His threats and bullying tactics on Greenland, through posts on Truth Social and statements to the press, had stunned many around the world — most importantly, the Europeans.

He adopted a similar playbook for dealing with Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy last year in the Oval Office, when he — along with Vice President J D Vance — had publicly berated the Ukrainian President. Many were struck by Trump's threatening behaviour, with statements such as "You don't have the cards".

For Trump, this was deliberately performative, and that is exactly how he raises the stakes.



US President Donald Trump with NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte at Davos on Wednesday. AP

SECOND, the expected course of action follows, and those at the receiving end of Trump's threats and tirades huddle together. After the Zelenskyy episode, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer met with the Europeans and formed the "Coalition of the Willing", which included most NATO members and partners who had been supporting Ukraine against Russian aggression. They met several times in different European capitals to discuss a strategy.

In Greenland's case, as well, the Europeans started talking to each other to back Denmark's Prime Minister Mette Frederikkson, since Greenland is an autonomous region of the Danish Kingdom. And, be it French President Emmanuel Macron or German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, all of the leaders backed Denmark's sovereignty.

THIRD comes an attempt at standing up to the US President. In Greenland's case, the European allies, seven countries including France and Germany, sent a small contingent of troops to Greenland as a gesture of solidarity to defend Greenland against any military adventurism by the Americans.

Similarly, Europe stepped up their defence supplies to Ukraine last year — as the US dithered and dilly-dallied over its support — and even paused defence and intelligence support to the US for a while.

Eye on Greenland

The US President came up with the idea of purchasing Greenland during his first term in 2019.

•

He is now a step closer to securing the rights of military expansion and mining natural resources on the Danish territory.

Such actions have been matched by public statements. Just like the Danish PM had said that "Greenland is not for sale", Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney's speech backing Greenland's sovereignty got the loudest applause at Davos, and his framework of calling out the bully got him a standing ovation. This was seen by Trump, who warned Carney publicly to watch out for his statements next time, since he said, "Canada lives, because of the US".

FOURTH, the most important step, is talking to Trump himself. The US President likes to be wooed and pursued by his adversaries, even if their framing as such may be largely imagined or perceived.

The Coalition of the Willing spoke to the US President repeatedly. The European leaders swallowed their pride, went to the Oval Office and sat across the table with the US President to back Zelenskyy.

In that vein, NATO Secretary General and former Dutch PM Mark Rutte played the role of the intermediary in Greenland's case. Earlier this week, Trump posted a screenshot of a text conversation with Rutte, who said he would highlight his work on Ukraine and Gaza in Davos, and added that he was committed to finding a "way forward" on Gaza.

And, just like Finland's President Alexander Stubb had developed a rapport with Trump by playing golf for hours, Rutte had defended Trump's language against Iran and Israel last year, saying, "Daddy has to sometimes use strong language to get them to stop."

All of this resulted in Rutte being successful in talking to him, and Trump announced that both of them had "formed the framework of a future deal with respect to Greenland and, in fact, the entire Arctic Region," without offering any details. He added, "This solution, if consummated, will be a great one for the United States of America, and all NATO Nations."

FIFTH, Trump is now closer to acquiring the rights to Greenland, without having to use force. He first came up with the idea of purchasing Greenland during his first term in 2019, which was dismissed as a fantasy by many. At the time, Brussels, Copenhagen, or Greenland's capital, Nuuk, didn't take the threat seriously. But, now, after having threatened military intervention and tariffs, he has moved closer to securing the rights of military expansion and mining natural resources. In the case of Ukraine, the Oval Office blow-up led to Europe stepping up its commitments and funding to Ukraine, which was an issue that Trump had frequently raised.

So, what Trump has now accomplished is the following: the Americans do not have to "take" Greenland by invading a NATO ally, by buying a sovereign territory or by a referendum in Greenland. Instead, he can get the rights to explore, mine and base his military through "essentially, a big real estate deal".

SIXTH, the impact of this saga on the world order is chilling. He has shown world leaders, especially those of the major powers — be it Chinese President Xi Jinping or Russian President Vladimir Putin — what is possible through coercion, that consent doesn't matter, and capitulation is the end goal. New Delhi will also be watching the turn of events.

Carney summed it up accurately when he said, "Every day we are reminded that we live in an era of great power rivalry. That the rules-based order is fading. That the strong do what they can, and the weak suffer what they must."

Immigration, tariffs, territory: Key takeaways from his speech

Anagha Jayakumar
New Delhi, January 22

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump's speech at the World Economic Forum on Wednesday touched on a range of topics, from Greenland to Ukraine and the US economy to immigration. Featuring his characteristic bravado, and inaccurate claims, the 70-minute speech had a major theme — the world does not appreciate the US (and him) enough, and everything is in danger because of this.

"When America booms, the entire world booms... When it goes bad, you all follow us down," he said. Here are the major takeaways from his speech.

Greenland

Trump struck a seemingly conciliatory tone, saying the US "won't use force" to take Greenland. After Denmark fell to Nazi Germany during World War II and was unable to defend Greenland, the US stepped in and built military facilities. Trump recalled this, and credited the US's role in helping to win the war. "After the war, we gave Greenland back to Denmark. How stupid were we to do that," he said. The statement was a distortion of history. Denmark never handed Greenland to the US, though it did strike a defence agreement after its invasion by Nazi Germany.

The US economy

Ahead of his speech, the White House indicated that the US president would speak on the strength of the American economy. He would also introduce a plan to address the problem of housing costs and reiterate his intent to cap credit card interest rates.

The US president did all these, amid a flurry of wild claims. He said that he had secured $18 trillion in investments within his first year of the current term. According to a *CNN* analysis, while the White House has claimed $9.6 trillion in "major investment announcements, this figure is based on a misreading of several major deals concluded last year. On tariffs, he said that the US has made historic trade deals with partners amounting to 40% of all US trade. A think-tank's report this this week showed that Americans were mostly the ones who were footing the bill for Trump's tariffs.

Trump ridiculed Fed chair Jerome Powell, calling him "late" to institute rate cuts. He said he had interviewed candidates for Powell's replacement once his term expires in May, but did not name them.

NATO

Since his first term (2017-21), Trump has insisted that the alliance has treated the US unfairly, with the US shouldering the majority of its defence spending. He repeated similar remarks at Davos. Trump claimed that until he came along, "most of the countries weren't paying anything" despite a stipulated target for each member to spend 2% of its GDP on defence. An analysis of NATO data showed that 18 of the 31 members met the target in 2024.

'Peacemaker'

- Trump repeated his long-standing claim of having ended eight wars, including the conflict between India and Pakistan last May. However, his list includes diplomatic disputes (Egypt vs Ethiopia) and ongoing conflicts (DRC vs Rwanda).
- He acknowledged China as a major competitor in artificial intelligence. He said China makes lots of wind turbines, and erroneously claimed : "I haven't been able to find any windfarms in China".

"I mean, we've helped them for so many years. We've never gotten anything," he said. This is incorrect, considering the lone time NATO's Article 5, the mutual defence treaty, was invoked was following the September 11 terror attack.

Europe

The president alternated between expressing his love for Europe and criticising it for opposing his claim over Greenland. Faced with opposition from the other European members of NATO, he called for "immediate negotiations" towards a deal to acquire Greenland.

Trump also argued at great length about what he called the "green new scam", referencing efforts by European nations to reduce emissions and switch to renewables. He claimed that electricity prices in Germany are now 64% higher, while the UK produces only a third of the energy it produced in 1999. He also claimed that the UK had refused to extract "500 years" of oil reserves in the Arctic, resulting in increased prices.

Ukraine

"I think Russia wants to make a deal, I think Ukraine wants to make a deal. I think I can say we are relatively close," Trump said at Davos, adding that he would meet Zelenskyy later on Wednesday. Zelenskyy, whose attendance was in question, arrived in Davos on Thursday.

Venezuela

"Venezuela's going to do fantastically well," Trump said, praising the administration of interim president Delcy Rodríguez. "Once the attack ended, the attack ended and they said, let's make a deal."

He claimed oil companies were lining up to invest in Venezuela, contrary to reports that these companies were apprehensive about doing so.

Immigration

Trump claimed Europe had become "unrecognisable and weak", and that his friends there don't recognise many of their cities anymore.

Taking credit for his sweeping immigration crackdown, he singled out the Somali diaspora in Minnesota in racist comments. "We're cracking down on $19 billion in fraud that was stolen by Somalian bandits," he said. "Can you believe that Somalia – they turned out to be higher IQ than we thought."

• SPORT

Magical thinking: Behind towel tug-of-war in Africa Cup final, a whiff of *juju*

Sandip G
Mumbai, January 22

A WALK-OFF threat, a fluffed penalty, a thunderbolt winner and bitter accusations. The Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) final between Senegal and Morocco on Sunday was hardly devoid of drama. But the central point of intrigue during the match in Morocco's capital Rabat was an innocent piece of cloth — Senegal goalkeeper Edouard Mendy's blue towel. This was because of a sneaking suspicion among the opposition players, and ball boys, that something sinister may be afoot: voodoo, witchcraft, or, more precisely, what it is called in West Africa — *juju*. And Senegal would indeed go on to win the match. But this is not the first time such talk has come up — storylines in African football have always brimmed with mischief and fantasy.

Rain or more?

It was pouring in Rabat. Naturally, the goalkeeper sought the towel frequently to keep his gloves as dry as possible. As did his Moroccan counterpart, Bono. But Mendy was insistent on one specific towel. He refused other towels the Moroccan ball boys offered him. This did not go unnoticed.

So, whenever Mendy's attention turned to the game, the ball boys tried to sneak in and steal the towel.

The intrusions caught the eye of Mendy's deputy, Yehvann Diouf, who fiercely guarded it as though it were a piece of treasure. Soon, it turned into an open fight with some of the exuberant ball boys trying to snatch the towel from him.

But Diouf would ensure that the towel remained with him even after the match ended. These events were enough for some Moroccan supporters to sniff some *juju*.

Some shattered fans even claimed that the Senegal players, who walked off to the change room protesting a penalty, did so to perform *juju*. The subsequent missed penalty by Morocco's Brahim Diaz would have galvanised their suspicion.

Juju has been a recurrent protagonist in African football and AFCON. Its paraphernalia would be straight out of a horror flick — white powder, "sacred" water, mystery shrubs, and oil (often smeared on goalposts).



A ball boy attempts to grab the blue towel from a Senegal player during the AFCON final. AP

Not the first time

All AFCON champions, at least in this century, had formidable teams, with most of the players drawn from Europe's top five leagues. But rumours swirl of the dark arts' supposed sway on games.

In the 2002 AFCON edition, police arrested members of Cameroon's coaching staff, alleging they had placed a "charm" on the pitch. In the edition before that, a Nigerian official removed a "charm" from the back of Senegal's goal. Ghana's fans were denied entry to the stadium for carrying pots with leaves and liquids in the 2008 edition.

The most bizarre accusation was levelled against Zambia striker Christopher Katongo. His lone goal was the difference in most games, leading some opponents to claim that he had performed *juju* to "bolt" the goalpost after scoring.

Fans, players and coaches all appear to believe in these "supernatural" powers. Last week, a "healer" scammed 33,000 pounds from Mali fans for performing *juju* to guarantee victory in an AFCON match. Last November, Nigeria coach Éric Chelle claimed the Congo DPR beat his team by voodoo. Cameroon legend Samuel Eto'o remembers a story when their opponents Nigeria refused to enter the dressing room during half time. "They said they weren't going in because we'd put a spell on their dressing room," he said.

Action by the CAF

The scuffles over alleged *juju* rituals became so frequent that the Confederation of African Football (CAF) began to impose hefty fines. "We are no more willing to see witch doctors on the pitch than cannibals at the concession stands. Such incidents propagate the image of Africa as a third-world continent," a CAF statement read.

Countries such as Zambia have outlawed the practice. That hasn't meant such claims have stopped, adding a layer of colour and intrigue to a game that is becoming increasingly scientific and structural.

A quote by former Senegalese coach Bruno Metsu sums it up: "Maybe two or three are susceptible to that kind of thing but the rest just treat it as a joke. Otherwise, we'd have won the World Cup ages ago."

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
DEPARTMENT OF INTEGRATED CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
No.1, Dr. M.G.R.Salai, Taramani, Chennai - 600 113.

Notification for supply of Unisex ready-made uniforms to the pre-school children attending anganwadi centres in 437 Project of Tamil Nadu.

SHORT e-TENDER NOTICE Ref. No.4654 / NC-3 / 2025 Dated 23.01.2026

Bids are invited from the manufacturers / dealers for the supply of Unisex Ready-made uniforms to the pre-school children attending anganwadi centres in **437** projects of Tamil Nadu under the department of Integrated Child Development Services. The details are available in the e-procurement portal- **https://tntenders.gov.in**

DIPR/396/TENDER/2026 **Director cum Mission Director**

GOVERNMENT OF MADHYA PRADESH
DEPARTMENT OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION, SKILL DEVELOPMENT & EMPLOYMENT
(Directorate of Skill Development)
CAMP OFFICE 4th FLOOR GAS RAHAT ITI BUIDLING, BHOPAL – 462023
Website: https://dsd.mp.gov.in | https://www.mpskills.gov.in| Email: pmsetu.mp@mp.gov.in
NOTICE FOR INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Expressions of Interest (EOI) are invited from reputed, credible and experienced Industry Partners / Industry Associations / Consortia / Industry-led Foundations / Academic Institutions promoted by Industry for participation in the Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs (PM-SETU) scheme under component I.

The scheme is a centrally sponsored initiative aimed at transforming Government Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) into modern, industry-aligned Centers of Excellence to ensure outcome-based training and enhanced employability of youth.

The Government of Madhya Pradesh intends to engage Anchor Industry Partners (AIP) for establishing and managing selected Government 04 ITI clusters i.e Indore, Ujjain, Sagar & Rewa in the State on a Hub-and-Spoke model, in alignment with the objectives of the PM-SETU scheme.

Detailed guidelines of the PM-SETU scheme & the Expression of Interest (EOI) document can be downloaded from the departmental website : **https://dsd.mp.gov.in | https://www.mpskills.gov.in|**, w.e.f. 22.01.2026 (10:00 AM onwards).

Last date of submission of EOI: 12.02.2026 (up to 1600 hrs)

Director
Directorate of Skill Development
Government of Madhya Pradesh

G-24774/25

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
(Construction Department)
E-TENDER CORRIGENDUM NOTICE

E-Tender No. EPC/PSI/KQR-BRKA (ARGD)/ECR/01. Name of the work: Design, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of Traction Sub-Stations and associated Switching Posts for 2x25 kV AC Traction Feeding System in connection with Doubling of Koderma-Barkakana(Arigada) Section of Dhanbad Division of East Central Railway. **Revised dates are as under: (1) Last date of request for bid document:** 12.02.2026, up to 11.00 AM. **(2) Bid Due Date:** 12.02.2026, up to 11.00 AM. **(3) Physical Submission of all documents listed in clause no. 2.11.2 (a), 2.11.2 (b) & 2.11.2 (c) of RFP:** 17.02.2026, up to 11.00 AM. **(4) Physical submission of the original (Account Payee Demand Draft/Fixed Deposit Receipt/Banker's Cheque/ e-payment Gateway of Authority/ Bank Guarantee Bond) in accordance with clause 2.20.6 of RFP (In case, submission of Bid Security in the form of Bank Guarantee, or Account Payee Demand Draft, or Fixed Deposit Receipt, or Banker's Cheque, or e-payment Gateway of Authority):** 11.02.2026, up to 16:00 Hrs. **(5) Opening of Technical Bids at venue 2.11.4 (i):** 19.02.2026 after 16:00 Hrs. Please visit **www.ireps.gov.in** for more information.

Dy. CEE/CON/S-II MHX
EC Rly. MHX, Patna
PR/1675/Corrigendum/25-26/40

IN THE HON'BLE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL, AHMEDABAD BENCH
COMPANY PETITION NO. C.P.(CAA)/65(AHM)2025
CONNECTED WITH
COMPANY APPLICATION NO. CA(CAA)/44(AHM) 2025
IN THE MATTER OF SECTIONS 230 TO 232 AND OTHER APPLICABLE PROVISIONS OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2013
AND
IN THE MATTER OF COMPOSITE SCHEME OF ARRANGEMENT AMONGST WIM PLAST LIMITED AND CELLO CONSUMER PRODUCTS PRIVATE LIMITED AND CELLO WORLD LIMITED AND THEIR RESPECTIVE SHAREHOLDERS AND CREDITORS ("SCHEME")

WIM PLAST LIMITED a company incorporated under the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956, having its registered office at S. No. 324/ 4 to 7 of Kachigam, Village Kachigam Swami Narayan Gurukul Road, Daman - 396210 Daman and Diu, India	... First Petitioner Company / WPL
CELLO CONSUMER PRODUCTS PRIVATE LIMITED a company incorporated under the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013, having its registered office at Sr. No. 324/ 4 to 7 Kachigam Swami Narayan Gurukul Road, Daman - 396 210, Daman and Diu, India	... Second Petitioner Company / CCPPL
CELLO WORLD LIMITED a company incorporated under the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013, having its registered office at S. No. 597/ 2A, Somnath Road, Dabhel, Nani Daman 396 210, Daman and Diu, India	... Third Petitioner Company / CWL

Collectively referred to as ***"Petitioner Companies"***

NOTICE OF HEARING OF THE COMPANY PETITION

A Company Petition under Sections 230 to 232 and other applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013, for sanctioning the Composite Scheme of Arrangement amongst Wim Plast Limited and Cello Consumer Products Private Limited and Cello World Limited was presented by the Petitioner Companies on December 12, 2025 and was admitted vide Order dated December 18, 2025, by the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Ahmedabad Bench **("Hon'ble NCLT")**. The said Company Petition is fixed for final hearing before the Hon'ble NCLT on February 26, 2026, at 10.30 a.m. (IST) or soon thereafter.

Any person desirous of supporting or opposing the said Company Petition should send to the Petitioner Companies' Advocate - M/s. Thakkar and Pahwa, addressed to Mr. Ravi Pahwa at, ravi.pahwa@thakkarandpahwa.com (in soft copy) and 71, New York Tower - 'A', 7th Floor, Opp. Muktidham Derasar, Thaltej Char Rasta, Ahmedabad - 380 054, Gujarat (in hard copy), notice of such intentions, in writing, signed by him/ her or his/ her Advocate, with his/ her full name and address, so as to reach the Petitioner Companies' Advocate not later than two days before the date fixed for final hearing of the said Company Petition. Where he/ she seeks to oppose the Company Petition, the ground of opposition or a copy of his/her affidavit shall be furnished with such notice.

A copy of the Company Petition will be furnished by the undersigned to any person on payment of prescribed charges.

Sd/-
Ravi Pahwa
Advocate for the Petitioner Companies

Dated this 21st day of January, 2026
Place: Ahmedabad

Tamil Nadu Power Generation Corporation Ltd
Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process)

Specification No.	Tender Inviting Authority	Name of the Work
211	CE / Coal	Time chartering of one Panamax or Kamsarmax gearless vessel

For details of works / Procurement / Due date of submission / Opening, viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit websites: **www.tnpdcl.org, www.tenders.tn.gov.in, www.tntenders.gov.in**

DIPR/393/Tender/2026

Office of the Project Director
RUIDP Rajasthan Urban Infrastructure Development Project
AVS Building, Jawahar Circle, JLN Marg, Jaipur – 302017 Tel No.: +91 141 2721966, Fax No.: 0141-2721919 email : mail.ruidp@rajasthan.gov.in, web site: www.ruidp.rajasthan.gov.in

Invitation for Bids- RUIDP/RIICO/BLT/01

1. Rajasthan Urban Infrastructure Development Project (RUIDP) invites online unconditional bids through e-procurement portal **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** for Package No. RUIDP/RIICO/BLT/01 for the work of "Laying of 28 KM treated water pipeline in Balotra Industrial Area" from eligible class contractor.
2. RTPP Act 2012 and Rules 2013 with all amendment will also be applicable.
3. Bid document for downloading would be available at e-proc website **www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** starting from 21st Jan, 2026. Deadline for bid submission up to 15:00 hours on 12th Feb, 2026.
4. Pre-bid Meeting for the work package will be held at 15:00 hours on 27th Jan, 2026. All the prospective bidders are advised to participate in the Pre-bid meeting.
5. Any addendum, clarification to the bidder's queries and corrigendum etc. will be published on the e-proc web sites and will not be published in Newspapers.
6. Bidders may contact Additional Project Director, RUIDP (0141-2548404), Jaipur for any information on bidding process.

NIB Code : UID2526A0017, UBN No. : UID2526WLOB00017
Raj.Samwad/C/25/18246

Project Director, RUIDP

कार्यालय नगरपरिषद्, बालोतरा (राज.)
Email id:- mbbalotra@yahoo.co.in Contact no. 02988-220024
Address : Pachpadra Road,Opposite Mungra Circle, Balotra (344022)

क्रमांक: नपबा / विकास / 2025 / 18217 दिनांक: 15.01.2026

Corrigendum
(कार्यालय आदेश निविदा सूचना)

इस कार्यालय द्वारा जारी ई–निविदा सूचना क्रमांक नपबा / विकास / 15790 दिनांक 17.12.2025 को जारी ई–निविदा सूचना सं. 14 / 2025–26 क्रंम. सं.01 Construction Of CC & Bt Road At Various Places In Municipal Area In Balotra, Rajasthan कार्य में संशोधित निम्न अनुसार है। जिसमें कार्य में ई–निविदा की शर्त संख्या (5) अनुसार कार्य की धरोहर राशि (BID SECURITY), बैक चैक या मांगदेय ड्रॉफ्ट या बैक गारंटी या ई–बैक गारंटी या ई–ग्रास या इन्सूरेंस श्योरिटी बॉन्ड में से किसी भी माध्यम से ऑनलाईन / ऑफलाईन (नगर परिषद् कार्यालय में) जमा करवाई जा सकती है। जिसमें ऑनलाईन बिड भरने की अंतिम दिनांक व समय 16 / 01 / 2026 ; 6:00 PM को बढाया जाकर दिनांक 03 / 02 / 2026 ; 1:00 PM तक एवं इस कार्यालय में टेण्डर डॉक्यूमेंट, निविदा शुल्क, धरोहर राशि व प्रोसेसिंग फीस जमा करने की दिनांक व समय 03 / 02 / 2026 ; 6:00 PM एवं दिनांक 04 / 02 / 2026 को 12:00 PM को निविदा खोली जायेगी तथा अन्य शर्ते यथावत रहेगी। ई–निविदा संबंधी अन्य जानकारी नगर परिषद् कार्यालय नोटिस बोर्ड, पोर्टल **www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** पर तथा बेवसाईट **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** से जानकारी देखी जा सकती है।

प्रशासक
नगरपरिषद् बालोतरा

आयुक्त
नगरपरिषद् बालोतरा

राज.संवाद / सी / 25 / 18229

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HAFED	SUPPLY,INSTALLATION,TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF ELECTRONIC WEIGHBRIDGE OF 100 MT CAPACITY, PIT LESS PLATFORM SIZE 16.00 X 3.00 MTR. INCLUDING CIVIL WORK AFTER DISMANTLING OF EXISTING 40 MT WEIGHBRIDGE AT HAFED COMPLEX, PIPLI (KURUKSHETRA)	21.01.2026 02.02.2026	EMD ₹49,216.00 FOR CONTRACTORS & ₹24,608.00 FOR SOCIETIES	www.hafed.gov.in	01722590520 hafed@hry.nic.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in No. 42312/HRY

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HARYANA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LIMITED, PANCHKULA	TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF MORTUARY CHAMBER 6 BODIES ON 2 YEARS RATE CONTRACT AS MENTIONED AGAINST ITEM IN SCHEDULE OF REQUIREMENT (PANCHKULA)	21.01.2026 11.02.2026	Rs. 1,62,00,000/-	www.hmscl.org.in	8929299829 equipmentdgm2020@gmail.com
2	HARYANA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LIMITED, PANCHKULA	TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF ELEVATING PEDESTAL AUTOPSY TABLE ON 2 YEARS RATE CONTRACT AS MENTIONED AGAINST ITEM IN SCHEDULE OF REQUIREMENT (PANCHKULA)	21.01.2026 11.02.2026	Rs. 1,19,00,000/-	www.hmscl.org.in	8929299829 equipmentdgm2020@gmail.com
3	HARYANA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LIMITED, PANCHKULA	TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF AUTOPSY DISSECTION WITH SKELETON REMAINING EXAMINATION SET ON 2 YEARS RATE CONTRACT AS MENTIONED AGAINST ITEM IN SCHEDULE OF REQUIREMENT (PANCHKULA)	22.01.2026 12.02.2026	Rs. 12,60,000/-	www.hmscl.org.in	8929299829 equipmentdgm2020@gmail.com
4	HARYANA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LIMITED, PANCHKULA	TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF ELECTRICAL AUTOPSY SAW STAND WITH ACCESSORIES ON 2 YEARS RATE CONTRACT AS MENTIONED AGAINST ITEM IN SCHEDULE OF REQUIREMENT (PANCHKULA)	21.01.2026 11.02.2026	Rs. 22,00,000/-	www.hmscl.org.in	8929299829 equipmentdgm2020@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in No. 42339/HRY

MUTHOOT FINCORP LTD. | GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

Regd. Office: Muthoot Centre, TC No 27/3022, Punnen Road, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India - 695001. CIN : U65929KL1997PLC011518, Ph: +91 471 4911400, 2331427.

Notice is hereby given for the information of all concerned that gold ornaments pledged with under mentioned branches of the company for the period upto 31-03-2025 & All other 6 months tenure gold loans up to 30-06-2025 and EMI gold loans due up to 31.12.2025.Also those gold loans where interest is due and not paid up to 31.12.2025 are also included in this auction. Which were overdue for redemption and which have not been redeemed so for in spite of repeated notices will be auctioned on 10.02.2026 from 10 am onwards.

Auction Date: 10.02.2026 - JHAJJAR DISTRICT - BAHADURGARH: 1200000140, 1200000143, 1200000148, 1200000182, 1200000193, 1200000208, 1200000218, 1200000223, 1200000226, 1200000289, 1200000302, 1200000337, 1200000341, 1200000346, 1200000353, 1200000360, 1200000369, 1200000392, 1200000396, 1200000408, 1200000409, 1200000411, 1200000436, 1200000441, 1200000454, 1200000457, 1200000464, 1200000485, 1200000507, 1200000509, 1200000521, 1200000534, 1200000543, 1200000549, 1200000567, 1200000611, 1200000635, 1200000641, 1200000643, 1200000648, 1200000654, 1200000655, 1200000656, 1200000665, 1200000672, 1200000676, 1200000680, 1200000690, 1200000694, 1200000796, 1200000893, 1200000907, 1200000920, 1200000925, 1200001011, 1200001145, 1200001159, 1200001201, 1200001211, 1200001223, 1200001225, 1200001232, 1200001252, 1200001264, 1200001268, 1200001274, 1200001285, 1200001299, 1200001318, 1200001403, 1200001486, 1200001489, 1200001510, 1200001578, 120001543, GL/BHDG/49, GL/BHDG/67, GL/BHDG/96. **JHAJJAR-HARYANA:** 3006000129, 3006000130, 3006000137, 3006000144, 3006000145, 3006000158, 3006000180, 3006000232, 3006000265, 3006000295, 3006000299, 3006000304, 3006000310, 3006000319, 3006000346, 3006000352, 3006000356, 3006000368, 3006000375, 3006000377, 3006000384, 3006000414, 3006000415, 3006000419, 3006000436, 3006000473, 3006000480, 3006000483, 3006000489, 3006000493, 3006000500, 3006000515, 3006000527, 3006000585, 3006000626, 3006000789, 3006000790, 3006000814, 3006000897, 3006000970, 3006001010, 3006001077, 3006001078, 3006001079, 3006001126, 3006001153, 3006001211, 3006001242, 3006001250, 3006001267, 3006001277, 3006001309, 3006001336, 3006001360, 3006001365, 3006001515, 3006001516, 3006001524, 3006001526, 3006001587. **Auction Date: 10.02.2026 - JIND DISTRICT - JIND-HARYANA:** 1658000108, 1658000112, 1658000123, 1658000132, 1658000141, 1658000144, 1658000150, 1658000170, 1658000183, 1658000185, 1658000202, 1658000217, 1658000236, 1658000258, 1658000262, 1658000272, 1658000276, 1658000289, 1658000290, 1658000352, 1658000356, 1658000357, 1658000386, 1658000398, 1658000419, 1658000420, 1658000422, 1658000423, 1658000429, 1658000446, 1658000497, 1658000502, 1658000509, 1658000510, 1658000527, 1658000538, 1658000540, 1658000558, 1658000562, 1658000574, 1658000583, 1658000606, 1658000610, 1658000646, 1658000648, 1658000658, 1658000664, 1658000671, 1658000697, 1658000701, 1658000715, 1658000740, 1658000812, 1658000956, 1658001023, 1658001064, 1658001085, 1658001104, 1658001107, 1658001256, 1658001301, 1658001325, 1658001366, 1658001395, 1658001427, 1658001435, 1658001453, 1658001497, 1658001504, 1658001648, 1658001697, 1658001716. **NARWANA-HARYANA:** 1820000204, 1820000230, 1820000262, 1820000274, 1820000275, 1820000284, 1820000285, 1820000287, 1820000293, 1820000297, 1820000299, 1820000313, 1820000333, 1820000339, 1820000344, 1820000361, 1820000378, 1820000379, 1820000386, 1820000399, 1820000402, 1820000408, 1820000414, 1820000415, 1820000425, 1820000431, 1820000440, 1820000464, 1820000475, 1820000478, 1820000483, 1820000508, 1820000564, 1820000579, 1820000580, 1820000591, 1820000594, 1820000621, 1820000624, 1820000626, 1820000647, 1820000673, 1820000878, 1820000986, 1820001057, 1820001088, 1820001129, 1820001372, 182002520. **PATIALA CHOWK-JIND:** 4052000205, 4052000206, 4052000207, 4052000273, 4052000312, 4052000320, 4052000321, 4052000322, 4052000340, 4052000388, 4052000396, 4052000407, 4052000413, 4052000420, 4052000456, 4052000471, 4052000473, 4052000489, 4052000491, 4052000504, 4052000521, 4052000527, 4052000534, 4052000540, 4052000580, 4052000581, 4052000601, 4052000603, 4052000622, 4052000637, 4052000650, 4052000651, 4052000658, 4052000678, 4052000685, 4052000691, 4052000702, 4052000706, 4052000713, 4052000720, 4052000725, 4052000733, 4052000737, 4052001158, 4052001179, 4052001198, 4052001203, 4052001285, 4052001632. **Auction Date: 10.02.2026 - ROHTAK DISTRICT - ROHTAK:** 0848000087, 0848000099, 0848000100, 0848000106, 0848000126, 0848000129, 0848000130, 0848000136, 0848000156, 0848000159, 0848000160, 0848000161, 0848000169, 0848000171, 0848000172, 0848000180, 0848000188, 0848000211, 0848000214, 0848000228, 0848000231, 0848000250, 0848000264, 0848000265, 0848000269, 0848000271, 0848000277, 0848000286, 0848000290, 0848000291, 0848000292, 0848000298, 0848000322, 0848000346, 0848000348, 0848000350, 0848000358, 0848000368, 0848000372, 0848000374, 0848000375, 0848000401, 0848000404, 0848000410, 0848000418, 0848000436, 0848000441, 0848000442, 0848000445, 0848000457, 0848000460, 0848000464, 0848000475, 0848000476, 0848000477, 0848000486, 0848000487, 0848000493, 0848000709, 0848000720, 0848000752, 0848000755, 0848000783, 0848000800, 0848000801, 0848000818, 0848000928, 0848000942, 0848000964, 0848000991, 0848001043, 0848001864, GL/RHTK/249, GL/RHTK/252, GL/RHTK/254, GL/RHTK/255, GL/RHTK/262, GL/RHTK/267, GL/RHTK/288, GL/RHTK/290, GL/RHTK/291, GL/RHTK/296, GL/RHTK/306, GL/RHTK/308, GL/RHTK/312, GL/RHTK/330, GL/RHTK/336, GL/RHTK/342, GL/RHTK/350, GL/RHTK/351, GL/RHTK/353, GL/RHTK/356, GL/RHTK/357. **ROHTAK-COURT ROAD:** 2831000081, 2831000082, 2831000104, 2831000125, 2831000140, 2831000149, 2831000171, 2831000175, 2831000219, 2831000273, 2831000293, 2831000297, 2831000325, 2831000329, 2831000330, 2831000345, 2831000346, 2831000348, 2831000388, 2831000390, 2831000395, 2831000397, 2831000399, 2831000431, 2831000445, 2831000451, 2831000468, 2831000473, 2831000478, 2831000488, 2831000491, 2831000499, 2831000510, 2831000715, 2831000782, 2831000864, 2831000865, 2831000881, 2831000941, 2831000947, 2831000950, 2831000991, 2831001010, 2831001080, 2831001151, 2831001167, 2831001187.

Auction will be conducted at respective branches. please note if the auction does not get completed on the same day due to any reasons, the same will be conducted on 20.02.2026 at 10.00 am onwards at JHAJJAR DISTRICT - BAHADURGARH: GROUND FLOOR, MUTHOOT FINCORP LTD , 2142-43 , NEAR KABRA TILES , NEARBUS STAND , BAHADURGARH, HARYANA , 124507, **JIND DISTRICT - JIND-HARYANA:** GROUND FLOOR, MUTHOOT FINCORP LTD , BOOTH NO 46, GOHANA ROAD, NEARNAGAR SUDHAR MANDAL , JIND , HARYANA , 126102, **ROHTAK DISTRICT - ROHTAK-COURT ROAD:** GROUND FLOOR, CHITKARA BULDING , 85/23 DLF COLONY NEAR SBI MAIN BRANCH , COURT ROAD , NEARINDIAN BANK , ROHTAK, HARYANA , 124001 .The bidders are requested to produce photo id card ,Pan card .The successful bidder should transfer the money through RTGS.

MUTHOOT FINCORP LTD

MUTHOOT FINCORP LTD. | GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

Regd. Office: Muthoot Centre, TC No 27/3022, Punnen Road, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India - 695001. CIN : U65929KL1997PLC011518, Ph: +91 471 4911400, 2331427.

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Auction Date: 10.02.2026 - FARIDABAD DISTRICT - FARIDABAD SECT 15: 0615000255, 0615000284, 0615000289, 0615000305, 0615000337, 0615000338, 0615000349, 0615000350, 0615000353, 0615000356, 0615000366, 0615000369, 0615000420, 0615000516, 0615000570, 0615000676, GL/F15S/237, GL/F15S/45, GL/F15S/49, GL/F15S/97. **FARIDABAD SECT 29:** 0593001068, 0593001163, 0593001170, 0593001194, 0593001202, 0593001203, 0593001241, 0593001252, 0593001280, 0593001354, 0593001368, 0593001394, 0593001415, 0593001416, 0593001453, 0593001496, 0593001506, 0593001507, 0593001518, 0593001534, 0593001823, 0593001931, 0593002085, 0593002105, 0593002108, 0593002155, 0593002299, 0593002381, GL/F29S/160, GL/F29S/161. **FARIDABAD SECT 3:** 0616000178, 0616000220, 0616000256, 0616000283, 0616000300, 0616000311, 0616000318, 0616000334, 0616000341, 0616000346, 0616000349, 0616000351, 0616000388, 0616000395, 0616000396, 0616000398, 0616000400, 0616000401, 0616000403, 0616000409, 0616000425, 0616000437, 0616000453, 0616000494, 0616000500, 0616000506, 0616000516, 0616000519, 0616000525, 0616000534, 0616000538, 0616000560, 0616000561, 0616000563, 0616000566, 0616000573, 0616000595, 0616000602, 0616000604, 0616000610, 0616000614, 0616000622, 0616000630, 0616000641, 0616000649, 0616000651, 0616000653, 0616000688, 0616000694, 0616000727, 0616000759, 0616000766, 0616000768, 0616000770, 0616000813, 0616000816, 0616000839, 0616000923, 0616001096, 0616001137, 0616001162, 0616001188, 0616001260, 0616001261, 0616001291, 0616001299, 0616001416, 0616001437, 0616001473, 0616001496, 0616001501, 0616001505, 0616001605, 0616001632, 0616001633, 0616001727, 0616001824, 0616001872, 0616001907. **FARIDABAD SECTOR-34:** 1901002359, 1901002360, 1901002384, 1901002391, 1901002398, 1901002419, 1901002425, 1901002441, 1901002442, 1901002464, 1901002477, 1901002485, 1901002488, 1901002500, 1901002539, 1901002560, 1901002562, 1901002563, 1901002572, 1901002591, 1901002598, 1901002613, 1901002623, 1901002667, 1901002669, 1901002670, 1901002676, 1901002791, 1901002796, 1901002805, 1901002828, 1901002850, 1901002869, 1901002897, 1901002904, 1901002912, 1901002938, 1901002955, 1901002967, 1901002979, 1901003001, 1901003004, 1901003010, 1901003038, 1901003044, 1901003067, 1901003079, 1901003084, 1901003088, 1901003100, 1901003106, 1901003112, 1901003121, 1901003130, 1901003136, 1901003150, 1901003160, 1901003161, 1901003170, 1901003174, 1901003510, 1901003638, 1901003643, 1901003698, 1901003712, 1901003745, 1901003752, 1901003765, 1901003797, 1901003838, 1901003841, 1901003916, 1901003920, 1901003952, 1901003992, 1901004037, 1901004196, 1901004270, 1901004340, 1901004366, 1901004381, 1901004447, 1901004457, 1901004566. **FARIDABAD-AJRONDA:** 1902000289, 1902000307, 1902000332, 1902000352, 1902000354, 1902000376, 1902000430, 1902000465, 1902000481, 1902000500, 1902000502, 1902000506, 1902000516, 1902000522, 1902000524, 1902000651, 1902000713, 1902000753, 1902000781, 1902000827, 1902000885, 1902000890, 1902000919, 1902000920, 1902000972, 1902001035. **FARIDABAD-CHAWLA COLONY:** 2300000513, 2300000518, 2300000557, 2300000559, 2300000560, 2300000564, 2300000634, 2300000664, 2300000670, 2300000683, 2300000697, 2300000707, 2300000745, 2300000758, 2300000760, 2300000795, 2300000796, 2300000813, 2300000816, 2300000832, 2300000835, 2300000836, 2300000849, 2300000862, 2300000883, 2300000920, 2300000922, 2300000971, 2300000996, 2300001347, 2300001360, 2300001399, 2300001453, 2300001456, 2300001509, 2300001605, 2300001736. **FARIDABAD-JAWAHAR COLONY:** 2362002296, 2362002386, 2362002387, 2362002446, 2362002460, 2362002488, 2362002498, 2362002501, 2362002503, 2362002544, 2362002569, 2362002620, 2362002628, 2362002648, 2362002662, 2362002689, 2362002690, 2362002692, 2362002694, 2362002695, 2362002707, 2362002720, 2362002726, 2362002750, 2362002765, 2362002785, 2362002789, 2362002797, 2362002800, 2362002804, 2362002812, 2362002814, 2362002823, 2362002826, 2362002854, 2362002855, 2362002885, 2362002920, 2362002923, 2362002940, 2362002955, 2362002958, 2362003022, 2362003192, 2362003280, 2362003293, 2362003508, 2362003518, 2362003557, 2362003574, 2362003586, 2362003600, 2362003636, 2362003638, 2362003646. **FARIDABAD-NEELAM BATA ROAD:** 1918000919, 1918001081, 1918001082, 1918001083, 1918002245, 1918002251, 1918002285, 1918002291, 1918002293, 1918002316, 1918002337, 1918002345, 1918002385, 1918002416, 1918002430, 1918002455, 1918002477, 1918002481, 1918002488, 1918002505, 1918002509, 1918002515, 1918002525, 1918002545, 1918002564, 1918002594, 1918002602, 1918002908, 1918002945, 1918002969, 1918003052, 1918003094, 1918003151, 1918003184, 191800802. **FARIDABAD-NIT-5:** 2979000402, 2979000406, 2979000416, 2979000417, 2979000428, 2979000430, 2979000432, 2979000441, 2979000455, 2979000474, 2979000479, 2979000498, 2979000512, 2979000513, 2979000521, 2979000548, 2979000574, 2979000580, 2979000608, 2979000620, 2979000623, 2979000633, 2979000636, 2979000642, 2979000643, 2979000650, 2979000658, 2979000666, 2979000671, 2979000689, 2979000698, 2979000699, 2979000708, 2979000711, 2979000717, 2979000719, 2979000721, 2979000723, 2979000727, 2979000728, 2979000734, 2979000745, 2979000747, 2979000751, 2979000794, 2979000832, 2979000861, 2979000922, 2979000941, 2979001071, 2979001088, 2979001100, 2979001232. **FARIDABAD-SECTOR 55:** 2035000175, 2035000195, 2035000199, 2035000217, 2035000224, 2035000235, 2035000306, 2035000323, 2035000340, 2035000359, 2035000379, 2035000385, 2035000434, 2035000440, 2035000458, 2035000461, 2035000495, 2035000510, 2035000536, 2035000564, 2035000596, 2035000598, 2035000608, 2035000609, 2035000612, 2035000614, 2035000621, 2035000634, 2035000635, 2035000654, 2035000667, 2035000688, 2035000692, 2035000696, 2035000704, 2035000705, 2035000718, 2035000729, 2035000742, 2035000743, 2035000745, 2035000747, 2035000748, 2035000753, 2035000767, 2035000774, 2035000780, 2035000787, 2035000794, 2035000802, 2035000816, 2035001024, 2035001042, 2035001182, 2035001183, 2035001184, 2035001202, 2035001360, 2035001372, 2035001485, 2035001542, 2035001580, 2035001606, 2035001613, 2035001759, 2035001816. **NIT 2:** 0621001982, 0621001986, 0621002097, 0621002129, 0621002204, 0621002219, 0621002242, 0621002290, 0621002318, 0621002336, 0621002355, 0621002393, 0621002410, 0621002416, 0621002433, 0621002435, 0621002449, 0621002467, 0621002489, 0621002492, 0621002513, 0621002519, 0621002525, 0621002527, 0621002551, 0621002558, 0621002589, 0621002590, 0621002601, 0621002605, 0621002607, 0621002610, 0621002617, 0621002619, 0621002640, 0621002644, 0621002654, 0621002662, 0621002683, 0621002687, 0621002706, 0621002714, 0621002733, 0621002950, 0621003094, 0621003109, 0621003190, 0621003207, 0621003211, 0621003266, 0621003334, 0621003440, 0621003461, 0621003522, 0621003526, 0621003531, 0621003545, 0621003558. **PALWAL-HARYANA:** 1575002743, 1575002783, 1575002784, 1575002884, 1575002981, 1575003003, 1575003027, 1575003047, 1575003048, 1575003082, 1575003085, 1575003096, 1575003136, 1575003147, 1575003159, 1575003162, 1575003184, 1575003204, 1575003217, 1575003234, 1575003290, 1575003312, 1575003321, 1575003343, 1575003378, 1575003381, 1575003382, 1575003383, 1575003390, 1575003398, 1575003404, 1575003409, 1575003435, 1575003436, 1575003473, 1575003479, 1575003494, 1575003513, 1575003514, 1575003525, 1575003539, 1575003541, 1575003567, 1575003574, 1575003575, 1575003586, 1575003593, 1575003597, 1575003614, 1575003626, 1575003637, 1575003662, 1575003672, 1575003676, 1575003683, 1575003694, 1575003698, 1575003702, 1575003711, 1575003712, 1575003724, 1575003751, 1575003752, 1575003773, 1575003780, 1575003783, 1575003788, 1575003801, 1575003802, 1575003803, 1575003804, 1575003811, 1575003818, 1575003819, 1575003851, 1575003852, 1575003858, 1575003864, 1575003875, 1575003879, 1575003897, 1575003901, 1575003914, 1575003916, 1575003917, 1575003931, 1575003934, 1575003952, 1575003953, 1575003958, 1575003965, 1575003986, 1575004442, 1575004455, 1575004531, 1575004661, 1575004727, 1575004802, 1575004937, 1575005008, 1575005014, 1575005065, 1575005185, 1575005207, 1575005210, 1575005256, 1575005280, 1575005394, 1575005403, 1575005481, 1575005498, 1575005559, 1575005591, 1575005700, 1575005725, 1575005886, 1575006013, 1575006025, 1575006026, 1575006028, 1575006056, 1575006080, 1575006081, 1575006087, 1575006090. **TIGAON:** 4401000889, 4401000900, 4401000904, 4401000911, 4401000920, 4401000940, 4401000946, 4401000947, 4401000983, 4401000988, 4401001004, 4401001022, 4401001039, 4401001044, 4401001066, 4401001093, 4401001101, 4401001129, 4401001137, 4401001145, 4401001357, 4401001364, 4401001445. **Auction Date: 10.02.2026 - PALWAL DISTRICT - HASANPUR CHOWK-HODAL:** 4325000020, 4325000021, 4325000025, 4325000039, 4325000063, 4325000099, 4325000101, 4325000122, 4325000127, 4325000133, 4325000135, 4325000155, 4325000170, 4325000402, 4325000470.

Auction will be conducted at respective branches. please note if the auction does not get completed on the same day due to any reasons, the same will be conducted on 19.02.2026 at 10.00 am onwards at FARIDABAD DISTRICT - FARIDABAD-NIT-5: FIRST FLOOR, P BLOCK NIT , 5P/29 NIT FARIDABAD, MAIN MARKET NIT 5, ABOVEINDIAN OVERSEAS BANK , FARIDABAD, HARYANA , 121001, **PALWAL DISTRICT - HASANPUR CHOWK-HODAL:** GROUND FLOOR, KILLA NO-21/1, UPWAN MARKET, NEAR HASANPUR CHOWK, HODAL, PALWAL, HARYANA-121106 .The bidders are requested to produce photo id card ,Pan card .The successful bidder should transfer the money through RTGS.

MUTHOOT FINCORP LTD

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA CORRIGENDUM

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD CORP./AUTH	OLD REFERENCE/ NIT NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HVPNL	NIT NO. 07/2025-26/XEN/TS/PKL DATED 27.12.2025	DUE TO LESS NO. OF BIDS THIS TENDER IS HEREBY EXTENDED UPTO 28.01.2026 (13:00 HRS)	www.hvpn.org.in	0172-2583789 pro@hvpn.org.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in No. 42303/HRY

MUTHOOT FINCORP LTD. | GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

Regd. Office: Muthoot Centre, TC

The Brihanmumbai Electric Supply & Transport Undertaking
(OF THE BRIHANMUMBAI MAHANAGARPALIKA)

TENDER NOTICE

E-tender are re - invited for the supply of following item.

(1) 81110, (2) 81112.

Note: For more details, log on to website **https://mahatenders.gov.in**

PRO/AAM(M)/112/2026 **GENERAL MANAGER**

कार्यालय वरिष्ठ प्रबन्धक (सिविल)
उ0प्र0 राज्य औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण
निर्माण खण्ड-पंचम, ई.पी.आई.पी., शास्त्रीपुरम, आगरा

ई–निविदा सूचना

एतद्द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि विभिन्न जनपदों में स्थित औद्योगिक क्षेत्रो में सिविल विकास/अनुरक्षण कार्यों हेतु यूपीसीडा एवं अन्य सरकारी विभागों/सार्वजनिक उपक्रमों/निगमों/प्राधिकरणों/परिषदों/नगर निकायों में अर्ह श्रेणी के पंजीकृत फर्मों/ठेकेदारों से अल्पकालीन ई–निविदा आमन्त्रित की जाती है।

क्रमांक	कार्य का नाम	कार्य की लागत रू0 (लाख में)
1	Maintenance/Upgradation of Interlocking Tile of Road No.- 03, 04, 05, 08 at I.A. Sikandra Site-A Agra Distt.- Agra.	18.15

क्र0सं0–1 उक्त निविदा पूर्णकालीन है जो दिनांक 23.01.2026 को पूर्वान्ह 11:00 बजे से दिनांक 11.02.2026 को अपरान्ह 5:00 बजे तक अपलोड की जा सकती है, प्राप्त ई–निविदा को दिनांक 12.02.2026 को पूर्वान्ह 11.00 बजे या इसके पश्चात् खोला जायेगा। निविदादाताओं द्वारा अपलोड किये गये समस्त शपथ प्रपत्रों की मूल प्रतियॉ को पंजीकृत डाक अथवा व्यक्तिगत रूप से दिनांक 11.02.2026 को अपरान्ह 5:00 बजे तक कार्यालय में प्राप्त कराना अनिवार्य है अन्यथा निविदा को Consider नहीं किया जायेगा। निविदा सम्बन्धी विस्तृत जानकारी website: www.onlineupsida.com पर स्थापित ई–लिंक यूपीएलसी की website:-http://etender.up.nic.in पर देखी जा सकती है।

अभिषेक यादव, प्र0 वरिष्ठ प्रबन्धक (सि0) निर्माण खण्ड-पंचम, आगरा

GVK Power (Goindwal Sahib) Limited
Regd. Office: Plot No. 10, Paigah Colony, Sardar Patel Road, Secunderabad- 500003, Telangana, India
CIN: U40109TG1997PLC028483
(A wholly owned subsidiary of Guru Amar Das Thermal Power Limited, GATPL)
(A step down wholly owned subsidiary of Punjab State Power Corporation Limited, PSPCL)

HOD-MMD, GATP, Goindwal Sahib, invites E-Tender for the Supply of: Procurement of Services for Fabrication and Erection of Security Tower at GATP plant along the boundary line.

1	**Tender Enquiry No. 116GATP/MMD/SERVICES/50007572 dated 22/01/2026** "Procurement of Services For Fabrication and Erection of Security Tower at GATP plant along the boundary line from Scrap structure Steels available at GATP. Approximate weight of each Security tower is -5 MT 25 Feet Height at 2X270 MW Guru Amardas Thermal Plant (GATP), Goindwal Sahib, Distt.: Tarn Taran, Punjab as per details given in the tender specifications.

For detailed NIT & tender specifications, please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 22/01/2026 from 17:00 Hrs. onwards.
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any, will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

No. 7436/PB **GATP-10/26**

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala - 147001)
Phone No. 0175-2301367 Email: cspunjabpower@yahoo.com
Corporate identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in
OFFICE OF DEPUTY CHIEF ENGINEER/OP, CIRCLE GURDASPUR
E-mail: circlegurdaspur@yahoo.in Mob: 9646113007

Tender Enquiry no.: 09/2025-2026 & 2026-27 **Date:** 22-01-2026

Outsourcing of Labour Part of LT/HT Network Safety Compliance and System Strengthening Project by upgrading the LT/HT distribution infrastructure to ensure full compliance with statutory safety clearances as mandated by relevant electrical safety codes", to mitigate operational risk and ensure regulatory conformity in Municipal Corp. areas of Batala town under DS Circle Gurdaspur. For detailed NIT & Tender specification please refer to **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** from 22/01/2026 from 10:00 AM onwards.

Note:- Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in**

No. 7428/PB C-126/26

GVK Power (Goindwal Sahib) Limited
Regd. Office: Plot No. 10, Paigah Colony, Sardar Patel Road, Secunderabad- 500003, Telangana, India
CIN: U40109TG1997PLC028483
(A wholly owned subsidiary of Guru Amar Das Thermal Power Limited, GATPL)
(A step down wholly owned subsidiary of Punjab State Power Corporation Limited, PSPCL)

HOD-C & I, GATP, Goindwal Sahib, invites E-Tender for the Procurement of Supply for Magnetic Flowmeter for River Water Intake Flow.

1	**Tender Enquiry No. 117/GATP/CNI/20017986 dated 22/01/2026** **1) "Procurement of Supply for Magnetic Flowmeter for River Water Intake Flow at 2X270 MW Guru Amardas Thermal Plant (GATP), Goindwal Sahib, Distt.: Tarn Taran, Punjab as per details given in the tender specifications."**

For detailed NIT & tender specifications, please refer to **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** from 22/01/2026 from 17:00 Hrs. onwards.
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any, will be published online at **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in**

No. 7437/PB GATP-11/26

Government of Jharkhand Department of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry & Co-operative (Directorate of Dairy Development) Jharkhand, Ranchi

CORRIGENDUM

e-Tender No.- Dairy/01/2025-26

Advertisement PR No.- 371022 Animal Husbandry(25 - 26)_D has been published in different national and state level daily newspapers with end date of the online bid submission period on 05.02.2026 at 05 PM which should be read as 05.02.2026 at 01 PM.

Sd/-
Director, Dairy
Directorate of Dairy Development
Jharkhand, Ranchi

PR.NO.371370 Animal Husbandry(25-26):D

राजकीय केंद्रीय कर्मशाला, चण्डीगढ़
परिवहन विभाग, हरियाणा,

निविदा आमन्त्रण।

राजकीय केन्द्रीय कर्मशाला, चण्डीगढ़ में वाहनों के टायरों **(Bridgestone, MRF, Continental, Apollo, J.K., Good Year, Michelin Company)** व बैट्रियों (**Amron, Exide, Bosch Company**) की अगले 06 माह तक के लिए खरीद की जानी है। विज्ञापन की तिथि दिनांक 31–12–2025 को सांय 4:00 बजे तक थी। अब इसकी तिथि को बढ़ाकर 18.01.2026 को शांय चार बजे तक कर दी गई थी। अब बैटरियों (**Amron, Exide, Bosch Company**) की दोबारा नई निविदायें 30.01.2026 को शांय 4:00 बजे तक इच्छुक सप्लायर सील बंद कुटेशन डाक द्वारा वरिष्ठ यांत्रिक अभियंता, राजकीय केन्द्रीय कर्मशाला, हरियाणा, प्लाट न0 20–21, औधौगिक क्षेत्र, फेस–II चण्डीगढ़ के नाम भेज सकते है। बैट्रियों की सूचि व अन्य शर्तों के लिये राजकीय केन्द्रीय कर्मशाला, चण्डीगढ में सम्पर्क कर सकते है यह सूचि परिवहन विभाग, हरियाणा की **Website https://hartrans.gov.in** पर भी उपलब्ध होगी। अधिक जानकारी के लिए मोबाईल न० 0172–4650299 पर सम्पर्क करें।

हस्ता/–
वरिष्ठ यात्रिक अभियंता,
राजकीय केन्द्रीय कर्मशाला,
हरियाणा–चण्डीगढ़।

No. 42355/HR

राज्य पुनर्वास, प्रशिक्षण एवं शोध संस्थान, रोहतक
(विशेष जरूरतमंद व्यक्तियों के लिए)
(सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता विभाग, हरियाणा सरकार)
State Institute for Rehabilitation, Training and Research (SIRTAR) Rohtak
(For persons with special needs)
(Social Justice & Empowerment Department, Govt. of Haryana)

Admission Information

This is information for the General Public that admission process is open for providing free education/training, residential facility and human resource and research facilities to the children with intellectual disabilities at State Institute of Rehabilitation, Training and Research (SIRTAR), Gandhi Nagar, Rohtak from the session 2026-27.

The admission will be based on evaluation and selection, as per the Institute's rules. For more information, parents can visit the Institute's office on weekdays or call 930010162, 7206073900, 01262-282065, 282211, and also visit departmental website: **www.sirtarrohtak.com.**

Sd/-
Director
(Sirtar, Rohtak)

No. 42358/HR

Government of Jharkhand
Jharkhand Flying Institute
A Society Regd. Under Department of Cabinet Secretariat & Vigilance (Civil Aviation Division)
State Hangar, Birsa Munda Airport Road, Hinoo Ranchi-834002
E-mail-jfi.govtfly@gmail.com, Website-www.jharkhandaviation.in

Tender Ref. No.- Crew Training-26/2025-JFI-51Date :- 22.01.2026

e-Procurement Notice

Jharkhand Flying Institute invites bid through GeM portal for Establishment and operation of full fledged Air Hostess, Crew Ground Training/ Handler & Establishment of MRO on PPP Mode. The detail tender including start and last date of submission etc. can be seen on website www.gem.gov.in with GeM Auction Notice Numer-29844.

Interested bidder can submit their bid only through GeM Portal.

Sd/-
(Capt. S. P. Sinha)
Managing Director Jharkhand Flying Institute

PR 371444 (Civil Aviation)25-26*D

Directorate of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises,
Government of Haryana
Plot No. C-3, HSVP Complex, Sector – 6, Panchkula – 134109
Ph. No. - 0172-2996509,
Email:- pmfme.haryana@gmail.com, www.msme.haryana.gov.in

The Directorate of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Haryana (State Nodal Agency) invites applications for walk-in empanelment of District Resource Persons (DRPs) under the Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme.

Post: District Resource Persons for all 22 districts of Haryana to provide handholding support to PMFME beneficiaries. Please refer to detailed Scheme Guideline on **https://pmfme.mofpi.gov.in/pmfme/#/Home-Page**

Eligibility: Any suitable person(s) such as retired Govt./Bank officials, insurance agents, bank mitras, consultancy firms, individual professionals, etc., having relevant knowledge/experience in project proposal preparation and due diligence.

- Preference to candidates with qualifications in food processing, finance, or related fields.
- DRPs must submit a declaration confirming they are not government employees.

Note: This is a purely empanelment and neither a regular job nor a contractual government Job. The empanelment of DRPs would be purely job work basis as per scheme guidelines and

pay-out would be released as under:

1. Rs.10,000/- after sanction of bank loan.
2. Rs.10,000/- after completion and formalization of unit and uploading of followings:
   - **a.** FSSAI Registration/Licence.
   - **b.** Udyam Aadhaar.
   - **c.** GST (where applicable).
   - **d.** Photograph with geolocation via Performance Monitoring Tool.

Empanelment Process:

- Walk-in interviews at District level or HQ, Panchkula (Address for walk-in interview may checked at **https://msme.haryana.gov.in/field-offices**).

Director General
No. 42315/HRY **MSME, Haryana, Panchkula**

राँची तंत्रिका मनोचिकित्सा एवं संबद्ध विज्ञान संस्थान (रिनपास)
Kanke, Ranchi - 834006 (Jharkhand) Phone (0651) 2450813, 2450303, 2450188
कांके, राँची 834006 (झारखण्ड) फोन न0 0651 2450813, 2450303, 2450188
https://rinpas.jharkhand.gov.in, ***Email Id:-*** directorrinpas@gmail.com & director-rinpas@jharkhandmail.gov.in

पत्रांक :– संचिका सं0 Accounts/015/241/2014-15/Vol-I/ **182** दिनांक :– 22/01/226

Walk in Interview
Advertisement No. – DIR/38/01/2025-2026
Walk in Interview for the post of Accounts Officer

The Director, RINPAS invites application from retired Accounts Officer from office of the Accountant General or Finance Department, Govt. of Jharkhand.

1. Date and Time of Walk in Interview – **02.02.2026** at **03.00** PM.
2. Place of Interview – RINPAS, Kanke, Ranchi.
3. Type of appointment – Contractual basis as per Govt. of Jharkhand rule.
4. Candidate who has retired from the post of Accounts Officer / Audit Officer or equivalent post, from Accounts Department viz CAG (Controller of Accounts) can apply.
5. The Candidate must be below 63 years of age.
6. Knowledge of double entry system of accounting will be preferred.
7. The Candidate must come with hard copy of Bio-data including LPC & Pension Book on the day of interview at **02.30 PM**.
8. Monthly Remuneration : As per Finance Department, Govt. of Jharkhand rule (वित्त विभाग संकल्प संख्या 923/वि0 दिनांक 06.04.2022) for contractual appointment.
9. If, presently working in any organization, NOC should be submitted at the time of Interview.
10. Bio-data may be submitted online on email : directorrinpas@gmail.com & director-rinpas@jharkhandmail.gov.in in advance by **30.01.2026 at 05.00 PM**.

Sd/-
Dr. Jayati Simlai, Director
RINPAS, Kanke, Ranchi

PR 371466 RINPAS (25-26)_D

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR DIRECTORATE OF HORTICULTURE, KASHMIR
Rajbagh-Srinagar opposite Presentation Convent School -190008
TELE-FAX:01943100919 | website: h://hortikashmir.gov.in
Email:dhk-kashmir@jk.gov.in

E-NIT No: 76 of 2025-26 **Dated: - 21 /01/2026**

Note :- AlltheBiddingProcesswillbedoneonwww.jktenders.gov.in

Subject: - National Tender for Import of different Fruit Plants under the Scheme Importing of Planting Material for Public Sector Nurseries under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH).

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Director Horticulture, Kashmir invites bids/offers from reputed/registered fruit plant Nursery Growers/Suppliers/Importers for supply of imported Fruit Plants of different fruit crops detailed in Table-A .

Table-A

S. No.	Kind of fruit crop	Varieties	No's to be imported	Location where to be supplied	Remarks
1	Apple	Gala: High- Colour Clones Red Delicious: High-Colour Clones Fuji: High-Colour Clones	Total=7000 Gala= 3500 Red Delicious= 3000 Fuji=500	ACHD Zainpora	Preferably the Fruit Plants of all the varieties are required, however if any of the varieties is not available, the quantity of that very variety may be substituted by the available ones. The apple fruit plants should be on M9-T337 series rootstock.
2	Pear	Regal Red ® Comice, Abate Fetel, Conference (P), Carmen, Santa Maria, Red William	Total=5000 Regal Red® Comice = 1000 Abate Fetel= 1000 Conference =500 Carmen=1000 Santa Maria= 500 Red William=1000	ACHD Zainpora	Preferably the Fruit Plants of all the varieties are required, however if any of the varieties is not available. The quantity of that very variety may be substituted by the available ones. The pear fruit plants imported should be on either of the rootstocks of Quince A, Qunice C,QuniceBA 29C,
3	Cherry	Regina, Kordia, Lapins, Stella	Total=4000 Regina= 750 Kordia= 2000 Lapins= 750 Stella= 500	ACHD Zainpora	Preferably the Fruit Plants of all the varieties are required, however if any of the varieties is not available. The quantity of that very variety may be substituted by the available ones.The Cherry fruit plants imported should be on either of the rootstocks of GiSelA3,GiSelA5,GiSelA6
4	Olive	Coratina, Frantoio, Leccino, Pendilono	Total=1000 Coratina=250 Frantoio= 250 Leccino=250 Pendilono=250	ACHD Zainpora	Preferably the Fruit Plants of all the varieties are required, however if any of the varieties is not available. The quantity of that very variety may be substituted by the available ones.
5	Kiwi	Sungold G3, M-33, (P), Abbot, Hayward, Tomuri(P), Sunred, Allison, Chieftain	Total=3000 Sungold G3=400 M-33= 400 Abbot=700 Hayward= 300 Tomuri= 300 Sunred= 300 Allison= 300 Chieftain= 300	CoE Zawoora	Preferably the Fruit Plants of all the varieties are required, however if any of the varieties is not available. The quantity of that very variety may be substituted by the available ones. Preferably the verities should be on Bruno rootstock.
6	Almond	California Paper Shelled, Non- Pareil, Tuono, Independence, Merced, Drake, Primorskij	Total=4000 California Paper Shelled=500 Non-Pareil= 500 Tuono= 700 Independence= 700 Merced= 700 Drake =700 Primorskij =200	CoE Zawoora	Preferably the Fruit Plants of all the varieties are required, however if any of the varieties is not available. The quantity of that very variety may be substituted by the available ones.The Almond fruit plants imported should be on either ofthe rootstocks of Garnem,GF-677,Rootpack-20, Nemaguard.
7	Walnut	Chandler, Franquette(P), Fernor	Total=2500 Chandler =1000 Franquette= 1000 Fernor= 500	ACHD Zainapora	Preferably the Fruit Plants of all the varieties are required, however if any of the varieties is not available. The quantity of that very variety may be substituted by the available ones.
8	Pistachio	Kerman, Siirt, Red Aleepo, S Fax	Total=1000 Kerman= 250 Siirt= 250 Red Aleepo=250 S Fax= 250	FPN Lehanvan Anantnag	Preferably the Fruit Plants of all the varieties are required, however if any of the varieties is not available. The quantity of that very variety may be substituted by the available ones. The fruit plants imported should be on either of the rootstocks of UCB-1,PG1,Atl/AXR-1 Hybrids
9	Raspberry	Heritage, Meeker, Tulameen, Zawadi, Caroline, Autumn Bliss	Total=1000 Heritage= 200 Meeker= 200 Tulameen= 200 Zawadi=200 Caroline= 100 Autumn Bliss =100	Zawoora, Srinagar	Preferably the Fruit Plants of all the varieties are required, however if any of the varieties is not available. The quantity of that very variety may be substituted by the available ones.
10	Hazelnut	Toda Di Giffoni, Jefferson, Barcelona, Ennis.	Total=1000 Toda Di Giffoni= 250 Jefferson= 250 Barcelona= 250 Ennis= 250	FPN Lehanvan Anantnag	Preferably the Fruit Plants of all the varieties are required, however if any of the varieties is not available. The quantity of that very variety may be substituted by the available ones.
11	Grapes	Thompson Seedless, Flame Seedless, Crimson Seedless, Red Globe, Sarita	Total=2000 Thompson Seedless=500 Flame Seedless=250 Crimson Seedless= 250 Red Globe= 500 Sarita= 500	Kralbag ganderbal	Preferably the Fruit Plants of all the varieties are required, however if any of the varieties is not available. The quantity of that very variety may be substituted by the available ones.
12	Chestnut	Colossal, Bouche de Bétizac,	Bouche de Bétizac=250 Marsol= 250 Vignols= 250	FPN Lehanvan Anantnag	Preferably the Fruit Plants of all the varieties are required, however if any of the varieties is not available. The quantity of that very variety may be substituted by the available ones. Chestnut fruit plants should be on the rootstock of Castanea crenata or Castanea pumila.
		G-Total	32500 Nos.		

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility Criteria, specifications, Bill of Quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the Tender Website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below in Table C:-

Table-C

Date of issue of Tender Notice	21-01-2026
Date of downloading of bidding documents	21-01-2026
Bid Submission Start Date	26-01-2026
Bid submission End Date	11-02-2026
Deadline for receiving the Hard Copy of the documents uploaded on the website along with Demand Draft of Rs.1000/- only in original (No financial bid to be submitted)	11-02-2026
Date & time of opening of technical bids (online)	12-02-2026

Sd/-
(J. A. BHat)
Dy. Director (Central)

DIPK-10279/25 DATE 22 JAN 2026

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited
(Wholly owned Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
(CIN - UO4010KA2002SGC030438)

REVISED NOTIFICATION INVITING TENDER (NIT)
(Through KPP Portal)

Name of the work: "Conversion of existing 11kV Overhead line into Underground (UG) cable under System Strengthening works in 05 subdivisions of HSR division, Bangalore South circle of BMAZ (South), BESCOM on percentage basis quoting".

Sl. No.	Name of Sub division	Enquiry no's
1)	S-10 s/d	BESCOM/2025-26/UC/WORK_INDENT834
2)	S-11 s/d (Package-I)	BESCOM/2025-26/UC/WORK_INDENT835
3)	S-11 s/d (Package-II)	BESCOM/2025-26/UC/WORK_INDENT874
4)	S-13 s/d (Package-I)	BESCOM/2025-26/UC/WORK_INDENT836
5)	S-13 s/d (Package-II)	BESCOM/2025-26/UC/WORK_INDENT837
6)	S-19 s/d	BESCOM/2025-26/UC/WORK_INDENT838
7)	S-20 s/d	BESCOM/2025-26/UC/WORK_INDENT839

Availability of Bid Documents: 23.01.2026 onwards. Last date for Bid Submission: 25.02.2026 @ 15:00 Hrs. Opening of Technical Bids: 26.02.2026 @ 15:30 Hrs. Pre-Bid meeting: 05.02.2026 @ 11:00 Hrs. Venue: Conference Hall, 3rd Floor, BELAKU BHAVANA, Corporate office, BESCOM, K. R. Circle, Bangalore-560 001. The bid documents can be downloaded and necessary assistance can be obtained through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP) from the website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. KPP portal Help Desk: Phone No: +91 9240214000/+91 9240214001/+91-8046010000/ +91-8068948777 E-mail: support@ eprochelpdesk.com Aspiring bidders needs to be registered on Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP). Bidders can take the assistance from the office of the undersigned during working hours.

Sd/- Chief General Manager, Electy., Projects, BESCOM, K.R.Circle, Bengaluru-560001.

For electricity related complaints call 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra MOBILE APP

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
COMMERCIAL WORK

EOI Notification No.: SUR/COMM/NFR-Consultancy/2026/EOI Date: 20.01.2026

Solapur Division, Central Railway invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from reputed and experienced consultancy firms enhancing Non-Fare Revenue (NFR) at 15 Railway Stations over Solapur Division. The consultancy shall focus on enhancing revenue through advertising, station media, train media, retail utilization, digital engagement, asset monetization and other innovative Non-Fare Revenue avenues, with an objective to fetch the Non fare Revenue more than existing earning in future.

Website-EOI Document Download: **https://cr.indianrailways.gov.in**

Last Date & Time for Submission: **04.02.2026 up to 15:00 hrs**

Mode of Submission: • Sealed cover in Drop Box by speed post at Office of Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, DRM Office, Commercial Branch, Modi Khana, Solapur-413001 (Maharashtra) • By Email: **srdcm@sur.railnet.gov.in** Central Railway reserves the right to accept, reject or cancel the EOI process at any stage without assigning any reason.

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager 06 Solapur

Traveling with dangerous and explosive goods is a punishable offense

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EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

No. MEMUGAYA-BULKRSP2526VSSR1, Date: 21.01.2026

Sr. DME/C&W/DDU on behalf of the president of India invite open E-Tender from the eligible and experienced agency or contractor for E-Tender No. MEMUGAYA-BULKRSP2526VSSR1-20.01.2026. Particulars are as under :-

Name of work with its location : Provision of CCTV system in 200 coaches of EMU/MEMU/DMUs as per RDSO Spec. RDSO/SPN/TC/106/2025, version 3.1 or latest at MEMU Shed, Gaya. Approx. cost of work : ₹8,47,47,600/- (Rupees Eight Crore Forty-seven lakh forty-seven thousand and six hundred rupees only). Earnest money to be deposited : 5,73,700/- (Rupees Five lakh Seventy-three thousand seven hundred only). Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender : From 26.01.2026 up to closing date of tender at 15:00 hrs. on 09.02.2026. Website particulars, notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where tender form can be purchased etc. : IREPS website - www.ireps.gov.in Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids online through this website only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offers received shall be ignored.

Note : Detail information may be seen in the tender documents.

Asst. Mechanical Engineer (TRS)/
Memu Shed./ECR/Gaya
PR/1680/MEMU SHED GAYA/C&W/T/25-26/44

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HARYANA POLICE HOUSING CORPORATION, PANCHKULA	SPECIAL REPAIR OF 3 NOS MALE BARRACKS, 1 NO FEMALE BARRACK, 1 NO LANGER BUILDING, BOUNDARY WALL, ADMINISTRATIVE BLOCK AND WARDEN HOSTEL IN DISTT. JAIL, KAITHAL + 2 WORKS	21.01.2026 02.02.2026	Rs. 1,06,98,561/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9463200487 dbpanchkula@yahoo.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in No. 42343/HRY

GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND
AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY & CO-OPERATIVE DEPARTMENT
(CO-OPERATIVE DIVISION)
OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR, CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES JHARKHAND, RANCHI
INTEGRATED CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (I.C.D.P.) CELL, RANCHI

Short e-Tender Notice

Tender Notice No:- ICDP/RANCHI/15/2025-26 **DATE:-** 21.01.2026

SL No.		Name of work	No Of Unit	Estimated Value of Work (in Rs)	Cost Of BoQ (in Rs)	Earnest Money (in Rs)	Time Of Completion Of Work
01.	(A)	Construction of 500 MT Capacity Godown in Lamps/Pacs Of Districts Koderma and Dhanbad.	10	7,98,31,560.00	10,000.00	7,98,400.00	12 Months
	(B)	Construction of 500 MT Capacity Godown in Lamps/Pacs Of Districts Latehar, Garhwa and Chatra.	07	5,58,82,092.00	10,000.00	5,58,900.00	
	(C)	Construction of 500 MT Capacity Godown in Lamps/Pacs Of Districts Dumka And Jamtara.	08	6,38,65,248.00	10,000.00	6,38,700.00	
02.	Date Of Publication of on Website		29.01.2026 AT 11:00 AM				
03.	Last Date & Time of Submission of bids		06.02.2026 AT 05:00 PM				
04.	Name & Address of Office Inviting Tender		State Monitoring Officer, ICDP Cell, Ranchi, Pasupalan-Sahkarita Bhawan Singh More, Hesag, Hatia, Ranchi. 834003				
05.	Contact No of Procurement Officer		7979780612, 7250895727				

06. Bid document with details terms and conditions will be available online on e-tendering portal, http:// Jharkhandtenders.gov.in from 29.01.2026 at 11:00 AM to 06.02.2026 up to 05:00 PM. Bids must be Submitted online only at the e- tendering portal http:// Jharkhandtender.gov.in on or before 05:00 PM on 29.01.2026. Tender Fee and EMD Will be received through online mode only. Bidders can use internet banking facility for faster processing of tender fee and EMD. Alternatively, bidders can use NEFT/RTGS challan generated for the tender from jharhandtenders.gov.in portal. Technical Bid received online will be opened at 05:00 PM on 09.02.2026.
07. Estimate Cost May Vary.
08. Corrigendum/Amendment if any will be published only on the above mentioned website.

Sd/-
State monitoring Officer
ICDP Cell, Ranchi

PR 371428 (Co-opretive) 25-26 (D)

MUTHOOT FINCORP LTD. | GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

Regd. Office: Muthoot Centre, TC No 27/3022, Punnen Road, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India - 695001. CIN : U65929KL1997PLC011518, Ph: +91 471 4911400, 2331427.

Notice is hereby given for the information of all concerned that gold ornaments pledged with under mentioned branches of the company for the period upto 31-03-2025 & All other 6 months tenure gold loans up to 30-06-2025 and EMI gold loans due up to 31.12.2025.Also those gold loans where interest is due and not paid up to 31.12.2025 are also included in this auction. Which were overdue for redemption and which have not been redeemed so for in spite of repeated notices will be auctioned on 10.02.2026 from 10 am onwards. **Auction Date: 10.02.2026 - CHHATARPUR DISTRICT - CHHATARPUR:** 4411000061, 4411000376, 4411000393. **Auction Date: 10.02.2026 - JABALPUR DISTRICT - ADHARTAL-JABALPUR:** 4359000538, 4359000578, 4359000601, 4359000680, 4359000682, 4359000694, 4359000716, 4359000773, 4359000782, 4359000786, 4359000796, 4359000810, 4359000816, 4359000825, 4359000843, 4359000845, 4359000880, 4359000881, 4359000903, 4359000921, 4359000934, 4359000947, 4359000951, 4359000989, 4359000990, 4359001001, 4359001037, 4359001040, 4359001046, 4359001050, 4359001057, 4359001060, 4359001066, 4359001070, 4359001391, 4359001574, 4359001648, 4359001658, 4359001678, 4359001763, 4359002013, 4359002019, 4359002050. **BALDEOBAGH-JABALPUR:** 2238000093, 2238000130, 2238000174, 223800021, 2238000342, 2238000361, 2238000371, 2238000382, 2238000396, 2238000398, 2238000402, 2238000403, 2238000436, 2238000439, 2238000460, 2238000472, 2238000480, 2238000481, 2238000488, 2238000500, 2238000502, 2238000520, 2238000531, 2238000533, 2238000541, 2238000547, 2238000549, 2238000561, 2238000569, 2238000574, 2238000582, 2238000586, 2238000587, 2238000592, 2238000627, 2238000632, 2238000647, 2238000649, 2238000652, 2238000666, 223800092, 2238000934, 2238001093, 2238001150, 223800205, 223801239, 223801305, F13784, F13787, F14027. **LABOUR CHOWK-JABALPUR:** 4354000324, 4354000333, 4354000394, 4354000397, 4354000401, 4354000427, 4354000456, 4354000458, 4354000471, 4354000499, 4354000507, 4354000517, 4354000519, 4354000535, 4354000536, 4354000538, 4354000553, 4354000730, 4354000821. **MADAN MAHAL:** 4373000341, 4373000346, 4373000376, 4373000416, 4373000423, 4373000433, 4373000438, 4373000458, 4373000479, 4373000482, 4373000493, 4373000501, 4373000508, 4373000513, 4373000530, 4373000561, 4373000562, 4373000571, 4373000587, 4373000596, 4373000609, 4373000616, 4373000619, 4373000622, 4373000625, 4373000635, 4373000673, 4373000674, 4373000692, 4373000699, 4373000710, 4373000714, 4373000726, 4373000728, 4373000763, 4373000910, 4373000927, 4373000946, 4373001042, 4373001064, 4373001094. **RANJHI-JABALPUR:** 3778000184, 3778000203, 3778000281, 3778000307, 3778000308, 3778000417. **Auction Date: 10.02.2026 - KATNI DISTRICT - KATNI-MADHYA PRADESH:** 2672000474, 2672000476, 2672000485, 2672000534, 2672000580, 2672000583, 2672000594, 2672000608, 2672000643, 2672000677, 2672000680, 2672000702, 2672000986, 2672000987, 2672000988, 2672001135, 2672001180. **Auction Date: 10.02.2026 - SATNA DISTRICT - SATNA:** 4357000109, 4357000119, 4357000154, 4357000169, 4357000182, 4357000185, 4357000188, 4357000191, 4357000203, 4357000204, 4357000223, 4357000232, 4357000240, 4357000265, 4357000270, 4357000285, 4357000324, 4357000343, 4357000399, 4357000416, 4357000433, 4357000446, 4357000450, 4357000455, 4357000595, 4357000605, 4357000606, 4357000655, 4357000670, 4357000706, 4357000710, 4357000712, 4357000713, 4357000733, 4357000734, 4357000738, 4357000748, 4357000754, 4357000775, 4357000784, 4357000799, 4357000884, 4357000917, 4357001014, 4357001072, 435701199, 435701242, 435701276, F1092, F1153, F1171, F1183, F1203. **Auction Date: 10.02.2026 - TIKAMGARH DISTRICT - TIKAMGARH:** 4429000523, 4429000528, 4429000533, 4429000569, 4429000574, 4429000576, 4429000580, 4429000595, 4429000596, 4429000598, 4429000607, 4429000622, 4429000646, 4429000651, 4429000652, 4429000654, 4429000655, 4429000656, 4429000659.

Auction will be conducted at respective branches. please note if the auction does not get completed on the same day due to any reasons, the same will be conducted on 19.02.2026 at 10.00 am onwards at CHHATARPUR DISTRICT - CHHATARPUR: GROUND FLOOR, HOUSE NO 67 DOOR NO 1NEAR ICICI BANK, JAWAHAR MARGCHHATARPUR, MADHYA PRADESH-471001, **JABALPUR DISTRICT - BALDEOBAGH-JABALPUR:** GROUND FLOOR, OLD BATA SHOWROOM , 4 KH, NH 7 , MAIN ROAD, NEARCITY HOSPITAL , BALDEOBAGH, MADHYA PRADESH , 482001, **KATNI DISTRICT - KATNI-MADHYA PRADESH:** GROUND FLOOR, DESH BHANDAR , PART OF PLOT NO. 31,85,86,87/2 AND 88, JAIDAYAL ROAD, BESIDEANDHRA BANK , KATNI, MADHYA PRADESH , 483501, **SATNA DISTRICT - SATNA:** GROUND FLOOR, 807 K, AHINSA TOWER, IFO PUSHKARNI PARK, BESIDE EQUITAS BANK, DISTRICT HOSPITAL ROAD, SATNA, MADHYA PRADESH-485001, **TIKAMGARH DISTRICT - TIKAMGARH:** GROUND FLOOR, DOOR NO.01, WARD NO 22VINOD KUNJ TIRAHA, TIKAMGARHMADHYA PRADESH -472001 .The bidders are requested to produce photo id card ,Pan card .The successful bidder should transfer the money through RTGS.

MUTHOOT FINCORP LTD

Classifieds

PERSONAL

Umang, R/o plot 217/218/233, flat 201 manik appartment, nawada village, uttam nagar, New Delhi 110059, Changed my name as Umang Malhotra S/o Dilip Kumar Malhotra 0130060858-1

Maheswari W/o J Balamurugan R/o L240, TopFloor1, street7, Mahipalpur, Delhi have Changed my name to B Maheswari 0130060856-1

I,Vishvjeet Ramchander Nerukar,S/o-Ramchander Sitaram Nerukar,R/o 329B,Pocket-E,LIG Flats, GTB-Enclave,Dilshad Garden,East-Delhi,Delhi 110093,have changed my name to Vishwa Jeet Nerurkar,for all future purposes. 0040834476-8

I,Vinod Kumar Alies Vinod Kumar Singh,S/o-Sooraj Pal Singh,R/o-B-30,Lok Priya Vihar,Khora Colony,Khora, Ghaziabad, UP-201309,have changed my name to Vinod Chauhan.Vinod Kumar alies Vinod Kumar Singh and Vinod Chauhan is one and the same person. 0040834476-5

I,Vikas,S/o-Maha Singh Chaudhary,R/o,Flat.no 1006,Tower-E,Hawelia Valenova,Techzone-4, Greater-Noida,West,Gautam Budh-Nagar,Uttar Pradesh-201318,have changed my name,from Vikas to Vikas Chaudhary,for all future purposes. 0040834476-9

I,Vijay S/o-Hari Prasad, Address-1917/2,Block L-1,Near Asthal-Mandir Sangam-vihar Devli Delhi-110080,have changed my name to Vijay Sharma. 0040834484-10

I,VIJAY KR SHARMA,S/O RAM CHANDER SHARMA,R/O-SHAGUN APARTMENTS-803,FLAT UG-2,SHALIMAR GARDEN.Ex-1,OPPOSITE VARDHMAN-NURSING HOME,GHAZIABAD,UP-201005,CHANGED MY NAME TO VIJAY KUMAR. 0040834476-3

I,Suresh Gupta,S/o-Giriraj Parsad Gupta,R/o-Flat No.AG-1/172-D,Third Floor,Vikas Puri,Delhi-110018,have changed my name Suresh Kumar Gupta. 0040834471-8

I,Surat Mal,S/o-Jai Dayal,R/o-H.No.136, 1st-Floor,Arya Samaj Road,Sabji Mandi, Narela, Delhi-110040,have changed my name,from Surat Mal,to Suraj Mal Gupta,for all purposes 0040834502-3

I,Shailender Kumar Pandey, S/O-Kapildev Pandey,R/O-Qtr.No-702,3rd Floor,Sector-5,Pushp Vihar,South-Delhi-110017, do hereby declare that in my minor son Sushant Pandey's birth certificate (No:MCDOLIR-0111-004869161), my name and my wife's name are wrongly recorded as Sailender Kumar Pandey and Manorama. Our actual names are Shailender Kumar Pandey and Manorama Pandey, respectively. I am correcting these records to reflect our true identities for all future purposes. 0040834502-4

I,Sandeep S/o-Nanhe Lal, R/o F-2/184,Shiv-Durga Vihar, Lakkarpur, Faridabad (Haryana)- 121009,have changed my name to Sandeep Prajapati. 0040834471-5

I,Narender,S/o Randhir Singh,R/o Vill-Nathupur Sonipat Haryana-131029,have changed my name to Narender Kumar. 0040834471-3

I,SURJEET SINGH,S/O SANTOSH SINGH R/O-77, OLD ANARKALI KRISHNA NAGAR, DELHI-110051,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SARABJEET SINGH PERMANENTLY. 0040834476-4

I,SUNIL KUMAR,S/o-Ram Pal,R/o,Kh.no-36/2,Gali No-24,Block-B Kaushik Enclave Burari North Delhi-110084, declare that name of my minor son has been wrongly written as DEVASHISH SAROJ Aged-7,years in his Birth-Certificate No-MCDOLIR-0118-007178310, The actual my minor son name is DEVASHIS SAROJ, Which may be amended accordingly. 0040834484-11

I,SONU S/O RAM NIWAS,S/O-42A G-BLOCK FOURTH-FLOOR DEEP,VIHAR VILLAGE PANSALI SECTOR-24,ROHINI DELHI-110085.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SONU LOHCHAB. 0040834484-8

I,SHEHZED ANJUM,S/o Allauddin,R/o-1562,Gali choti peepal wali pahari bhojla chitli qabar jama masjid,delhi-110006,have changed my name to SHEHZAD ANJUM permanently. 0040834476-12

I,SHAGUFTA PARVEEN W/o,Akbar Begg,R/o-1133,Main Bazar-Matia mahal Jama masjid Delhi 110006,have changed my name to SHAGUFTA Permanently 0040834476-10

I,SANTOSH KUMAR,S/O SANTA SHARAN,R/O KH NO.754,GALI.NO.2 RAJEEV-NAGAR BHALSWA-DAIRY,DELHI-110042.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SANTOSH KUMAR KHATIK. 0040834476-6

I, Laxman S/o Jitan Ojha R/o Sadhopur, Gautam Buddha Nagar, UP-203207, have changed my name to LAXMAN OJHA for all future purposes. 0071014124-1

I,SHABANA PARVEEN W/O, MOHD UVESH ,R/O, H. No-1811,Mahmood nagar, roorkee road,opp Abu Bakar Masjid, Muzaffarnagar,UTTAR PRADESH-251001,have changed my name to SHABANA ANJUM. 0040834471-2

I,Raudas Kumar,S/o Ram Charan Singh,R/o,H.No. -71, Gali.No.4,Aandrun Mani Vatika,Jai Singh Pura, Mathura, Uttar Pradesh-281003,have changed my name to Rohatash. 0040834471-7

I,Ram Vinay,S/o-Ram Lalit Mahto,R/o-I-2037, GALI NO-25,Sangam Vihar,TIGRI,Delhi-110062,have changed my name to Ram Vinay Prasad 0040834476-7

I,RUPESH KUMAR SINGH BANGARI S/o HIMMAT SINGH, ADD:PLOT.NO 214,S/F, GALI.NO.05, GOLDEN ENCLAVE,RANAJI ENCLAVE,NAJAFGARH, NEW-DELHI-110043, changed my name to RUPESH KUMAR SINGH. 0040834476-1

I,Priya Rani,D/o Mandhar Lal,W/o Mr.Anil Kumar, R/o,H.No.2495, Housing Board-Colony, Sector-7A, Faridabad(Haryana)-121006,have changed my name to Dimple Gambhir. 0040834471-6

I,Pooja Arora w/o Aman Arora,r/o 9/97,Geeta colony,Delhi-110031,has changed my name,from Pooja to Pooja Arora. I shall be known as Pooja Arora now onwards. 0040834471-9

I,Pooja Agarwal,W/o-Sharda Raman Das,R/o-B-505,Geetanjali Appartment,Vikas Marg Extn.,Karkardooma,Gandhi Nagar,East-Delhi,Delhi-110092,have changed the name of my minor daughter aged-7-years namely Nyra Agarwal to Nyraa S Agarwal,for all future purposes. 0040834471-4

I,PUNAM KUMARI,W/O PREM SHANKAR VERMA,R/O-91, FIRST FLOOR,POCKET-12, SECTOR-24,ROHINI, DELHI-110085,have changed my name to POONAM VERMA 0040834484-2

I,PARDEEP KUMAR MUKHI,S/O-VASU DEV MUKHI,RESIDENT MUKHI HOSPITAL AND NURSING HOME,AMBALA ROAD, SONIPAT,HARYANA HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO PARDEEP MUKHI. 0040834484-7

I,NAZIMA BEGUM,W/o Yusuf Khan,R/o H.No. 553/54,4th floor SHARDHANAND,MARG LAHORI GATE SADAR BAZAR,DELHI-110006,Have changed my name to NAZMA permanently. 0040834476-11

I,MONIKA RANA,D/O NEERAJ RANA R/O-160, POCKET-9, SECTOR-21, ROHINI, DELHI-110086,have changed my name to MONICA RANA 0040834484-1

I,MOHD NADEEM,S/o Mohd Azim,R/o,H.No. 3301B,Kucha-Tara Chand Bazar-Delhi GateDarya Ganj,Delhi-110002, have changed my name to MOHAMMAD NADEEM permanently 0040834476-13

I,MOHAMMAD HANZALA, S/O,FAIMUDDIN QURESHI ,R/O, HOUSE NO-3,QAZI WARA,KHURJA,BULANDSHAHR, UTTAR PRADESH-203131 have changed my name to MOHD HANZALA. 0040834484-3

I,MEHDI HASAN,S/o-REHMATULLAH,HOUSE.N0-790/9,BLOCK-I,SANGAM-VIHAR, KHANPUR,South Delhi,Delhi-110062,have changed my name to Mehandi Hasan S/O Rahamtulla,for all future purposes. 0040834484-9

I,Keshav,S/o Bhagwat Sarup,R/o B-17,Raghu Nagar,Dabri,New Delhi-110045,have changed my name to Keshav Mudgal 0040834476-2

I,KARAN S/o-KARU YADAV, R/o-11255/15, Ground floor, Gali No-3, Doriwalan, Karol Bagh,Delhi-110005,have changed my name to KARAN YADAV,for all future purposes. 0040834471-1

I,INTAZAR AHMAD S/O ANWAR KHAN R/o 2842, Moh.Kalyan Singh,Mawana, Meerut(UP)-250401 have changed my name to MO INTAJAR. 0040834484-5

I,HAREESH KUMAR, S/O,DESRAJ SINGH,R/O,51,MAPCHA,MAICH A,GAUTAM BUDH NAGAR,UTTAR PRADESH-201310,have changed my name to HARISH KUMAR. 0040834484-4

I,DRISHTI CHAWLA D/O Naveen Chawla R/O 4/70, G/F,Subhash Nagar, Delhi-110027, have changed my name to DRISHTI . 0040834502-1

I,Chhottey Lal,S/o-Suraj Mal Gupta,R/o-H.No.136, 1st-Floor,Arya Samaj Road,Sabji Mandi,Narela, Delhi-110040,have changed my name,from Chhottey Lal,to Chhottey Lal Gupta,for all purposes. 0040834502-2

I,Chaand Rashid S/o-Mohmad Idris Mastan R/o-50.DDA-Flat Jwalaheri Paschim Vihar New Delhi-110063,have changed my name to Mohamad Chaand Rashid. 0040834484-6

I, Munish Kumar Garg R/o-26, 3rd Floor, Block-N, Kalkaji, Delhi-19 have changed my name to Munish Garg. 0071014169-1

I, Hanumant Prasad Ojha S/o Satya Prakash Ojha R/o Shipra Residency, TF-302, Sector-1, Bisrakh Jalalpur, UP-201306, have changed my name to HANUMANT OJHA for all future purposes. 0071014123-1

I,Ankur Aggarwal S/o Sh. Sushil kumar R/o Flat.no.1011, Divyansh Pratham Apartment, Ahinsha Khand II,Indirapuram, Ghaziabad-201014,I inform that my mother name is Renu Aggarwal alias Mamta, W/o Sh. Sushil kumar for all purposes. 0040834498-1

I, YOGISH KUMAR KAILASH S/O CHAMAN KISHORE R/O H N D-197/A, GALI NO 8, GURUDWARA ROAD, MOHAN GARDEN, UTTAM NAGAR, NEW DELHI 110059 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM YOGISH KUMAR TO YOGISH KUMAR KAILASH FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES. 0040834495-1

I, Vikram Goyal, R/o.602, Old Faculty Residence, IIIT Delhi, Okhla Phase-III, New Delhi-110020 have changed my minor daughter's name from Devishi (DOB:18-07-2011) to Devishi Goyal for all purposes. 0040834444-2

I, Taruna Kalra D/o Ram Nath Budhiraja resident of H.NO. C1A/81 B, Janak Puri, West Delhi, Delhi-110058 declares that I got divorce from my husband Ashish Kalra vide court decree HMA No. 3027/25 dated 28-11-2025. Further I have changed my name and I shall hereafter be known as Taruna Budhiraja. 0071014131-1

I, Ananya Bhalla, D/o. Mr. Rohit Bhalla, R/o 501, Tower-14, Lotus Panache, Sector-110, Noida-201304, do hereby affirm that the name of my father has changed from Rohit Mohan Bhalla to Rohit Bhalla for all future purposes. 0040834494-1

I, TANYA GOEL D/O SATENDER KUMAR GOEL R/O 3/52, SECTOR-5, RAJENDER NAGAR, SAHIBABAD,, DIST: GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH-201005 declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as SATENDER GOEL in my 10th class educational documents. The actual name of my father is SATENDER KUMAR GOEL. 0071014129-1

I, Sweta Bhattacharya D/o Sukhendu Bikash Bhattacharjee R/o 3H-0508, ?-Tower, 5th-Floor, Nilaya Green,Rajnagar Ext., Ghaziabad,U.P., Guldhar Metro Station, Hum Tum Road,Rajnagar Ext., DIST-Ghaziabad, U.P.-201017 have changed my name to SWETA BHATTACHARJEE for all future purposes 0071014182-1

I, Shashi Bhardwaj W/o Naressh Bhardwaj R/O A-283, New Friends Colony, Okhla New Friends Colony, South Delhi-110025 have changed my name from Shashi Bhardwaj to Shashii N Bhardwaj for all future purposes. 0040834449-1

I, Seema Choudhary, W/o Pawan Kumar, R/o Flat No-11062, ATS Green Paradiso, Sector CHI-4, Greater Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201310, have changed my name to Seema Bhati for all future purposes. 0071014166-1

I, Rishul Tripathi S/o Narendra Kumar Tripathi R/o C703, Gitanjali Apartment, Karkardooma, Delhi have changed my name to Reyansh Kumar Tripathi. 0071014184-1

I, Raghuraj Singh Bhati S/o Lila Singh R/o Nagla Chandan, Karauli Bangar, G.B.Nagar have changed my name to Raghuraj Singh. 0071014149-1

I, ROMILA ISHWARARY, W/O DHANESH ISHWARARY, R/O House No. 4461, Gali No. 80, Swatanter Nagar, Narela, North West Delhi-110040, affirm and declare that I have changed my name from ROMILA ISHWARARY to RAMELA THAKUR so that. I declared the ROMILA ISHWARARY and RAMELA THAKUR is one and the same person that belongs to me. 0040834495-5

I, Promod Kumar Kumar S/o Baburam R/o Village-Sahji, Nanauta Dehat, Saharanpur have changed my name to Promod Kumar. 0071014148-1

I, Prasanth Chandran S/o M A Chandran, F-171/415, Tara Apartments, Khanpur Extension, Delhi-62 have changed my name to Prasanth C. 0071014185-1

I, Parijat S/o Vikram Goyal, R/o.602, Old Faculty Residence, IIIT Delhi, Okhla Phase-III, New Delhi-110020 have changed my name to Parijat Goyal for all purposes. 0040834444-1

I, PROBHABATI DEVI M/o 15212915P Rank NK RAJESH PRASAD R/o SARAW, JOGIA, SARAN, JOGIA, BIHAR-841212 have changed my name to PRABHAWATI DEVI vide affidavit date 21-1-2026 before Delhi. 0071014170-1

I, POONAM SHARMA ALIAS GAYATRI DEVI W/O GIRDHARI LALD/o Siya Ram Sharma R/O G-98, G-BLOCK JAGJIT NAGAR NEAR SHIV MANDIR MARG VTC: SEELAMPUR EAST DELHI, DELHI-110053 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as GAYATRI DEVI. 0071014141-1

I Sharda D/o Laxmi Narayan and W/o Shiv Charan Lal R/o Jhuggi No-45, New Shyam Nagar, Subhash Nagar Crossing, Tagore Garden, Dist- West Delhi - 110027, have changed my name to Renu 0071014155-1

I Varun Kumar S/o Rajkumar R/o H.No.V-88, Dispensary Wali Gali,Near Krishna Public School, Arvind Nagar, Ghonda, North East Delhi, Delhi-110053 have changed the name of my minor daughter from Aadya to Adhya Kashyap for all purposes. 0040834392-1

I, Madhu Sharma alias Madhu Badoni D/o Late Sh. Satya Prasad Sharma W/O Pramod Badoni R/o D-339, TF-2, Block-D, Indraprastha Yojna, Loni, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201102, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Madhu Badoni. 0071014119-1

I, Ex No- 9102205W,L/Naik, Khurshid Ahmad Mohind, R/O-Harda Turoo, Tehsil/District-Anantnag. In my service record name and D o B of my daughter has been wrongly mentioned as Uzema Khurshid,14-12-2006 Instead of Uzma Khurshid, 08-02-2006 as mentioned in School records void affidavit dated 15th January 2026 . 0020507796-1

I, Ex No- 130289N,PO, Younis Mohamad Khan ,R/O- Tawheed Gunj, Tehsil/District-Baramulla. In my service record, name of my spouse has been wrongly mentioned as Shabreena instead of Shabreena Mohi ud din. It needs correction. Objections be filled to concerned authorities. 0020507797-1

I, Anupam Yadav W/o Shashi Mohan R/o Solitaire-1703, Paramount Symphony, Crossing Republik, Ghaziabad, UP-201016, have changed my name to ANUPAM for all future purposes. 0071014125-1

I, Venugopalan M Legal father of Unnikrishnan M R/o Pandiadath Paramba House, Kottooli Post Kuthiravattom SO, Kozhikode, Kerala-673016 have changed my name from Venugopalan M to Venugopalan vide affidavit IN-DL 15299967314928X dt-18/12/2025 before Notary Public. 0071014183-1

I Seema Rani W/O, Rattan Lal Narang R/o B-136,dayanand Colony, Lajpat Nagar-Iv, New Delhi-110024 have changed my name to Darshan Kumari. 0040834478-1

I Sathianarayanan. S Alias S. Sathyanarayanan Alias Narayanan Sathya Subramanian S/o Subramanian R/o E-138, Ground Floor, Near Lakshminarayan Temple, Kalkaji, Delhi-110019, have changed my name to Subramanian Sathyanarayanan 0071014160-1

I SHAHEEN S/O MOHD ERFAN MANSURI, R/O PLOT NO-E-87, KH NO-809, 810, 811, 837 AND 838, BLOCK-E, AMAN VIHAR, KIRARI SULEMAN NAGAR, DELHI-110086 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM SHAHEEN TO SHAHEEN PARVEEN 0071014094-1

I SAVIR S/O MOHD ANWAR R/O D1-79 GALI NO-2 VISHKARMA COLONY JAITPUR EXTN PART-2 BADARPUR DELHI-44 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SAVIR MANSOORI PERMANENTLY FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES. 0040834495-2

I Lal Mohammad S/o Niyaj Mohammad R/o New F-125, Raghubir Nagar, Tagore Garden, West Delhi - 110027, have changed my name to Bundu Khan 0071014152-1

I Japan Singh Walia S/o Ramesh Chand Walia R/o C-54, UG Floor, Street No.-1/4, Garhi Mendu, Bhajanpura, Delhi-110053, have changed my name to Sonu Walia 0071014101-1

I Girish Mohan S/o Late Sh.Baldev Krishan R/o Wz-283/10A, West Extension, Street No.3, Vishnu Garden, Tilak Nagar, West Delhi, Delhi-110018 have changed my name to Girish Matharu for all purposes. 0040834392-2

I, Baboo Ram S/o Krapa Singh R/o Village-Sahji, Nanauta Dehat, Saharanpur have changed my name to Baburam. 0071014145-1

I HAM SEERAN W/O FAZLE ELAHI R/O 323/22 ZAKIR NAGAR JAMIA NAGAR OKHLAD ELHI-25 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO FARZANA PERMANENTLY FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES. 0040834495-4

I FAZAL EELAHI S/O ISHTIAQ ALI R/O 323/22 ZAKIR NAGAR JAMIA NAGAR OKHLAD ELHI-25 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO FAZLE ELAHI PERMANENTLY FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES. 0040834495-3

LOST & FOUND

I Geeta Nagar W/o Shri Prakash Nagar R/o 65, Sector 19, Pocket 1 Bharat Vandana Apartment, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075 have lost my conveyance deed of property bearing no.65, Sector 19, Pocket 1 Bharat Vandana Apartment, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075 dated 08/06/2005 on 23.12.2025 at Pocket 1 Market, Dwarka. That complaint regarding this has been filed in Police Station Dwarka Sector 23 vide LR No.18889/2026. Finder Please Call: 9710064470 0040834450-1

RECRUITMENT

SITUATION VACANT

OTHERS

Required PRINCIPAL for Orchids The International School Dwarka Sector-19, Minimum 5 years experience. Send your Cv to: goswami@orchids.edu.in 0040834497-1

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to the general public that my client, Smt. Nisha Rani W/o Sh. Jai Kishan, resident of House No. 206/A, Gali No.9, Bhola Nath Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110032 has legally severed all family relations with their son, Mr. Deeijak Kumar, and daughter-in-law, Mrs. Neha Kumari @Deepika, Due to their persistent disrespect and cruel behavior, my client has debarred and disowned them from all her self-acquired movable and immovable properties. My client shall not be held responsible for any loan, debt, or criminal act committed by them henceforth. Any person dealing with them shall do so entirely at their own risk.

MADHUR ARORA- ADVOCATE
E. No. D/1308/2016
128-A, (R.S Block), Street No.14, Bhola Nath Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110032

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all that my client **Shri Guru Prasad Sharma** S/o Late Sh. S.N. Sharma Aged-77 years & **Smt. Promila Sharma** W/o Shri Guru Prasad Sharma Aged-72 years both resident of C-177, Third Floor, Clock Tower, Hari Nagar, West Delhi, New Delhi 110064, due to some unavoidable circumstances they have severed all their relations and disown/debar their daughter namely **Ms. Aakanksha Sharma** D/o Shri Guru Prasad Sharma Aged-29 years resident of C-177, Third Floor, Clock Tower, Hari Nagar, West Delhi, New Delhi-110064, from all my client's movable and immovable properties i.e. C-177, Third Floor, Clock Tower, Hari Nagar, West Delhi & 1745/55, Nai Wala Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110064 and other properties/assets with effect from today dated 15.01.2026 and all movable and immovable properties i.e. /assets which my client inherits from his ancestors and parents through the law of inheritance. My client has no relation with the manner whatsoever. above-named person in any manner whatsoever.
Anyone dealing with her, shall be doing at his/her/their own risks/ costs/ consequences and my client shall not be responsible for their daughter namely **Ms. Aakanksha Sharma** for her acts, deeds and dealings or caused to be done with public at large in any manner whatsoever.

Sd/-
ASHWINI KUMAR
Advocate
I-10, 2nd Floor, Jangpura-B, New Delhi-110014

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that my client **Ms. Prabhrita Kaur** is the absolute and lawful owner of the property bearing **No. D-397, Defence Colony, New Delhi,** by virtue of a **valid Mutation Certificate** and a **Declaration Deed** executed in her favour. It is further informed that the **original property documents,** including the **Conveyance Deed, Perpetual Lease Deed, Builder Collaboration Agreement, Power of Attorney and other sale deeds** relating to the said property, have been **lost** and the same has been **reported to the Delhi Police vide LR No. 2122907/2024 dated 16-09-2024.**

Sd/-
Dharmender Sharma
Advocate
Ch. No. 257, lawyers Chamber Block-I, Delhi High Court, New Delhi-110003

PUBLIC NOTICE

Mrs. Manmeet Kaur & Mrs. Gurpreet Kaur have approached ICICI Bank Ltd., Faridabad, Haryana (Bank) to avail a Loan against mortgage of Property No. D-78, (500 Sq. Yds.), Sector-11, DLF Model Town, Faridabad, Haryana and have represented that they are the absolute owners of the said property by virtue of Transfer Deed dated 25.05.2023 (Doc. No. 1451) executed by Mr. Prabhjot Singh & Mr. Ranjeet Singh who had inherited the said property from their father Mr. Jeet Singh through his Will dated 20.12.2004 (Doc. No. 314). If anybody, person, body corporate has any right, lien, claim or objections whatsoever on the said Property by way of inheritance, mortgage, sale or otherwise, then he/she/it may contact the undersigned with documentary proof of claim within 15 days of publication of this notice, otherwise it shall be deemed that either there are no claims or the same have been waived off. No claim or objection shall be entertained thereafter and Bank shall proceed to advance the loan on mortgaging of the said property.

Amit Kumar, Advocate
GNA & Associates
D-28, Jangpura Extension, New Delhi-110014.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all that, my clients **GAURAV KUMAR** S/o Subodh Kumar Gupta R/o A7/1204 AIMS GARDENIA GLORY 12th Floor near Tulip mall sec. 46 Noida UTTAR PRADESH -201301 have disowned their Younger Brother **SUDHANSHU GUPTA**, alongwith their legal heir severed all their relations social and financial with them due to their disobedience. They have debarred them from inheriting their properties movable and immovable. My clients shall not be responsible for any of their acts, deeds and things. Anybody dealing with them shall be doing so at his/her own risk.

USHA MAHAJAN (Advocate)
Enrolment No : D/272/75

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is hereby notified to the general public that my client **Mr. Dinesh Tyagi,** son of Shri B.S. Tyagi AND **Mrs Manju Devi Tyagi,** wife of Mr. Dinesh Tyagi, residents of TP-96, Third Floor, Pitampura, PO: Saraswati Vihar, North West Delhi, Delhi 110034 has disowned and severed all relations with **Shubham Tyagi,** and declares that the said **Shubham Tyagi** is not their son in any manner whatsoever. My clients shall not be responsible for any acts, deeds, contracts, liabilities, debts, or obligations, whether present or future, incurred by the said **Shubham Tyagi.** Any person, authority, bank, or institution dealing with him shall do so at their own risk and responsibility. This notice is issued to inform the public at large and shall be treated as a final and binding declaration.

Sd/-
TANVI JAIN
Advocate
Chamber No. 1223, Chamber's Block, Rohini District Court, New Delhi-110085

PUBLIC NOTICE

All concerned persons/institutions are hereby informed that: I, **Sanjay Kumar,** son of Prem Singh, aged approximately 53 years, resident of: Flat No. 483. Second Floor, Pocket-B, Sector 16-B, Dwarka Phase-2, South West Delhi. New Delhi 110078, declare that I have severed all family relations with my elder daughter **Sujata.** She has no rights in any of my movable or immovable properties. She shall not be considered an heir to my property, and no claim by her on any property shall be accepted. In the future, I, my wife, or my family member shall not be responsible for any of her financial transactions, debts, disputes, or incidents.

Sd/-
IMRAN AHMED
Advocate
Ch. NO. 721, Lawyers Chamber Block, Dwarka Court Complex, New Delhi-110075

PUBLIC NOTICE

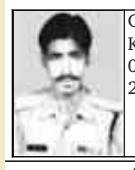
To be known to all that I, A R Kohli ,S/o R P Kohli, R/o Flat No.845, Type A, Pocket 3, Sector 19, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075. Hereby state that all Original Documents i.e. (i) Demand-cum-Allotment Letter, (ii) Possession Letter, (iii) Site Possession Slip, (iv) NOC for Electricity Connection and (v) NOC for Water Connection and Others Documents of the above mentioned Flat of vide DDA File No: F501(4)1997/EHS/DW. Have been Lost/ Misplaced somewhere and not traceable inspite of my best Efforts. An FIR of this has been lodged in Police Station Crime Branch, Delhi vide LR No: 37128/2026 on 17/01/2026.
Any person(s) claiming any right, interest having any objection or found in possession of original documents, with respect to this property may write/ contact with above named person at above address / phone No. 9968253668 or can personally inform or write to Director / Dy Director/ Asst Director Lab (H) or EHS (Housing) D-Block, 3rd Floor Vikas Sadan, New Delhi-110023

"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.

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

BORDER SECURITY FORCE



CONSTABLE KAYAM SINGH 01.01.1968 – 23.01.1990

Director General and all Ranks of Border Security Force remember its gallant Jawan Constable Kayam Singh on his Balidan Diwas. On this day, he made ultimate sacrifice while defending his post during heavy snowfall in Chorbatla area, J&K.

CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE



Veer Balidani Head Constable/Radio Operator Ganesh Kumar 5 SIG/143 Bn 01-04-1983 To 23-01-2007



Veer Balidani Constable Rins Thomas 143 Bn 28-05-1981 To 23-01-2007



Veer Balidani Constable/Driver Srikanta Mishra 143 Bn 16-12-1973 To 23-01-2007

DG and all Ranks of CRPF remember three valiant troopers of 143 Bn, who made the supreme sacrifice while countering an attack by militants in Awantipora, J&K on 23 January 2007. CRPF salutes the bravehearts and pledges never to let his sacrifice go in vain.

INDO-TIBETAN BORDER POLICE(ITBP)



Constable Kiran Pal Singh E-5/15, Rajiv Gali, Dayalpur Distt.- North-East Delhi (Delhi)

23 January, 2026

ITBP salutes its braveheart Constable Kiran Pal Singh of 16th Battalion, who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty on this day in Leh in 2008.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

No. P/Agra/Gaz./Medical/CMP Date: 21.01.2026

Contract Medical Practitioner

In reference to above subject, a notification was issued for engagement of a Contract Medical Practitioner (General Duty Medical Officer) on Contract basis for one year in Agra division of North Central Railway Agra Division vide even number letter dated 12.01.2026 of this office. The date and time of Walk-In-Interview as mentioned in the above notification has been changed due to unavoidable Administrative reasons. Now the Walk-In-Interview will be held on 05.02.2026 (Thursday) at 12:00 hrs. in place of 23.01.2026 in Personnel Branch, DRM Office/Agra. The other terms and conditions mentioned in the letter dated 12.01.2026 of even number of this office shall be remain unchanged. This information can be seen on the NC Railway website- **www.ncrindianrailways.gov.in>Aboutus> Division>Agra Division>Medical.**

Sr. Divisional Personnel Officer
N.C. Railway, Agra

166/26 (C)

North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @ CPRONCR

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 84 Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Rahish S/o** Islam, **R/o** F-2/101, Sunder Nagri, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **FIR No. 470/2014, U/S 394/34 IPC, PS Nand Nagri, North-East Distt., Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Rahish** cannot be found, and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Rahish** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant);

Proclamation is hereby made that **Rahish** the said accused of **FIR No. 470/2014, U/S 394/34 IPC, PS Nand Nagri, North-East Distt., Delhi,** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **20.03.2026.**

By Order
Ms. Deepakshi Rana
Judicial Magistrate First Class-03,
Room No. 19, 1st Floor, Shahdara Distt.,
Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

DP/873/NE/2026
(Court Matter)

CHAUDHARY CHARAN SINGH HARYANA AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, HISAR

(Established by Parliament Act No. 16 of 1970)

Advertisement No.1/2026

(BEFORE APPLYING FOR THE POST, THE CANDIDATES SHOULD GO THROUGH THE INSTRUCTIONS/CONDITIONS CAREFULLY)

Applications are invited from eligible candidates through online mode for filling up the posts of **Dean, College of Agriculture, Dean, College of Biotechnology, Dean, Post-graduate Studies and Director Extension Education** in the pay-scale of Rs. 144200-218200 in AL-14 with unfurnished rent-free accommodation. The detail of essential qualifications, application processing fee, general instructions/conditions etc. can be downloaded from the University Website. The eligible candidates may apply through the University online portal **https://hau.ac.in** and **https://recruitment.hauiums.in** from 28.01.2026 midnight onwards which will be closed on 27.02.2026 midnight. The candidates are also requested to visit University website regularly for notifications/ updates/ corrigendum/ amendment, if any, with respect to above advertisement.

Sd/-
No.- 42354/HRY REGISTRAR

FORM NO. 5

BEFORE THE HON'BLE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL AT LUCKNOW

600/1, University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Temple, Lucknow-226007

(Area of Jurisdiction, Uttar Pradesh)

Summons for filing Reply & Appearance by Publication

O.A No. 611 of 2025.

Summons to defendant under Section 19(3) of Recovery of Debts Due to Bank & Financial Institution Act, 1993 read with rule 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules 1993)

Date: 19.12.2025

State Bank of India Versus Shri Mohd. Asif

To,

SHRI MOHD. ASIF, Age about 59 years (Borrower)
S/o Late Shri Subedar Miyan

i. R/o H.No. 328 R GRP Colony, Railbazar, Kanpur Nagar-208004
ii. H.No.136, Floor-1, Nanak Ganj, Seepri Bazar, Jhansi-284003
iii. Gram-Post-Gondoor, Ghazipur-233225
iv. Crime Branch, Elite Chauraha, Near Civil Line, Jhansi-284303

.....DEFENDANTS

In the above noted application you are requested to file reply in paper book form in two sets alongwith documents and affidavits (if any) personally or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel / duly authorized agent after publication of Summons and thereafter to appear before the Hon'ble Tribunal on 08.04.2026 at 10.30 A.M, failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.

Registrar
Debt Recovery Tribunal
Lucknow

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
Construction & Maintenance Group,
ISRO HQ, Antariksh Bhavan, New BEL Road, Bengaluru -560 094 Ph:080-22172476/2479/2033
Fax No.080-23513126

BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of the President of India, online item rate tenders are invited through e-Tendering for the following work:

Title of work	**Modification and Upgradation of ISRO Guest House at Greater Kailash-II, New Delhi-Civil Works.**
Tender Notice No.	**CMG/ISRO-HQ/C/C/11/P/DEL/ 2025-26 Dated: 21.01.2026**
Estimated cost put to tender	**₹26.67 Lakhs**
Period of completion in months	**Six (06) Months**
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	**From: 18:10 hrs on 21.01.2026 To: 23:59 hrs on 02.02.2026**
Last date and time for receipt of tenders	**Up to: 15:30 hrs on 05.02.2026**
Due date and time of opening of tenders [Technical Bid]	**16:30 hrs on 05.02.2026**
Earnest Money Deposit [EMD]	**₹53,340/-** (Vaild for 180 days)

For eligibility criteria and other details, Interested tenderers may please refer detailed bilingual (Hindi English) Notice inviting Tender (NIT) on the website:**https://www.isro.gov.in/Tenders.html** and at tender free view at **https://www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**. Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) and Tender documents may be downloaded from e-tendering website: **https://www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**

Sd/- Head, CMD, ISRO HQ

MODERN COACH FACTORY, RAEBARELI

E-Advertised Tender Notice No. 71/ET/2025-26 Dated: 20.01.2026

SN.	Tender No.	Short Description	Qty.	Due Date
01	07252270	Marking Pin	316 Nos	16/02/2026

CORRIGENDUM

01	67 ET/2025-26 Dated 31.12.2025	Tender no 15255292	Due date may be read as 03/02/2026 Instead of 20/01/2026
02	67 E1/2025-26 Dated 31.12.2025	Tender no 15255293	Due date may be read as 03/02/2026 Instead of 20/01/2026
03	68 ET/2025-26 Dated: 05.01

CORPORATE BRIEFS

EDUCATION

EVENT— JUIT



The IEEE JUIT Student Branch successfully conducted its flagship technical event, R&D 2026, recently, at Jaypee University of Information Technology, Solan. The three-day program aimed to promote innovation, research-driven thinking, and collaborative problem-solving in line with IEEE's mission of advancing technology for humanity. The event featured expert talks, panel discussions, workshops, and competitions spanning cybersecurity, coding, web development, IoT, and team-based activities. A major highlight was the expert panel with Mr. Ganessh Jha, CEO & Co-founder of FinoFii, and Mrs. Deepali Gulati, Empowerment Coach and entrepreneur, who shared insights on leadership, entrepreneurship, and innovation. With enthusiastic participation and positive feedback, R&D 2026 strengthened the campus technical culture and reaffirmed the IEEE JUIT Student Branch's commitment to holistic student development.

PROGRAM — KIET



KIET School of Management (KSOM), KIET (Deemed to be University), Ghaziabad, in collaboration with the Ghaziabad Management Association, hosted the AIMA Chanakya – Business Simulation Program recently. Inaugurated by Dr. Adesh Kumar Pandey, the two-day program emphasized experiential learning and strategic decision-making. Led by AIMA trainer Dr. Chandrashekhar Rastogi, along with senior representatives from GMA and KSOM, the program saw participation from corporate professionals and academicians from leading organizations. Through real-time business simulations, structured competition rounds, and expert mentoring, participants gained insights into strategic management and leadership. Ajay Kumar Garg Institute of Management won first place, followed by WIKA Instruments India Pvt. Ltd. and Shriram Pistons & Rings Ltd. The valedictory session was attended by senior GMA leadership.

EVENT— GGSIPU



The 18th Dwarka Torchbearers' Award was organised by Dwarka City recently at the CCRT Auditorium, Sector 7, Dwarka, New Delhi. The event honoured individuals and officials for their notable contributions to the development of Dwarka across various sectors, including police, water board, MCD, BSES, DDA, and education. According to Mukesh Sinha, head of the organising body, the awards aim to recognise those who have played a significant role in improving civic life and infrastructure in the region. The chief guest, Prof. (Dr.) Mahesh Verma, Vice-Chancellor of Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, highlighted the remarkable development Dwarka has witnessed over the past decade and praised the awardees for their contributions to its continued progress. The event also marked the release of the "Dwarka Directory," reinforcing the programme's objective of encouraging community-driven development.

EVENT— JMIS DWARKA



JM International School organised a memorable farewell ceremony for the Class XII students recently. The programme commenced with a melodious choir performance, setting a warm and emotional tone. This was followed by the conferring of titles upon the twelfth graders. A humorous enactment on the theme "Bahubali" added joy and laughter to the occasion. This was followed by a specially curated farewell video that took everyone down memory lane, evoking heartfelt emotions. The celebrations reached a high point with a grand finale dance performance, showcasing the students' energy and enthusiasm. The event also included a cake-cutting ceremony, symbolising togetherness and good wishes. The programme concluded with a lively DJ dance, followed by lunch, marking a fitting and joyful send-off for the students as they step into a new phase of life.

EVENT— IITM



The three-day Anugoonj Prelims Zonal–4, organised by Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, was held recently, at IITM, Janakpuri, with enthusiastic participation from students of 24 affiliated colleges. Inaugurated by Prof. (Dr.) Rachita Rana along with senior faculty, the event celebrated creativity, culture, and youthful talent. A wide range of cultural and fine arts competitions—including classical and folk dance, vocal music, group songs, painting, collage making, rangoli, cartooning, and clay modelling—witnessed impressive performances. Winners and runners-up qualified for the university-level Anugoonj festival. The event was smoothly coordinated by faculty and student teams, fostering cultural exchange, teamwork, and harmony among participating institutions.

EVENT — FIMT



Fairfield Institute of Management and Technology (FIMT), New Delhi, affiliated with Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, successfully hosted Anugoonj 2026 Cultural Festival Prelims – Zone 3 recently. The inter-college event saw enthusiastic participation from over 25 GGSIPU-affiliated institutions and more than 900 students, celebrating creativity and youthful expression. Competitions spanned music, dance, theatre, fine arts, and literary events, with crowd-pulling performances in Battle of Bands, group singing, choreography, street dance, and theatre, alongside engaging debates, poetry, storytelling, and JAM sessions. The coveted Mr. & Ms. Anugoonj titles added glamour to the festival. The event concluded successfully, reaffirming FIMT's commitment to holistic education, cultural exchange, and healthy competition, supported by its strong 50-year academic legacy and diverse multidisciplinary programmes.

PROGRAM —MSIT

The Department of Computer Applications, Maharaja Surajmal Institute (MSI), New Delhi, will organise an AICTE–ATAL Online Faculty Development Programme titled "Bridging Intelligence and Connectivity: Emerging Perspectives in AI"recently via Zoom. The six-day programme will focus on Artificial Intelligence and its integration with emerging technologies such as 5G, IoT, Edge Computing, and smart systems. Key areas to be covered include AI fundamentals, machine learning, deep learning, data-driven intelligence, AI ethics, cybersecurity, and emerging fields like Generative AI and Quantum AI. The programme will be coordinated by Dr. Neetu Narwal, with Dr. Neetu Anand and Dr. Manoj Kumar as Co-Coordinators, supported by a dedicated organising team. Conducted as per AICTE–ATAL guidelines, the FDP aims to strengthen academic and professional competencies in AI and connected digital technologies.

PROGRAM —GGSIPU



Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, New Delhi, through its Public Relations Department, witnessed a compassionate initiative recently under the 'Warmth of Makar Sankranti' Annual Winter Relief Drive at the Dwarka campus. Organized by the Kishore Kumar Memorial Club, the drive aimed to support needy communities during the harsh winter season. VC Padma Shri Prof. (Dr.) Mahesh Verma, along with Registrar Dr. Kamal Pathak, distributed blankets to residents of nearby cluster areas, conveying the message that humanity comes first. Emphasizing empathy and social responsibility, the VC noted that true leadership is defined by compassion. The club's General Secretary, Kamal Dhiman, highlighted that such welfare initiatives have been undertaken by the organization for decades, spreading warmth, dignity, and hope to the underprivileged.

EVENT— LBSIM

Lal Bahadur Shastri Institute of Management (LBSIM), Dwarka hosted its flagship Marketing Summit recently, themed "Marketing Metamorphosis," bringing together industry leaders, alumni, and academics. Director Prof. Praveen Gupta highlighted the evolving dynamics of India 1, India 2, and India 3, emphasizing differentiated marketing strategies. Dr. Samant Shant Priya set the context by likening current industry shifts to a transformative metamorphosis. Keynote speaker Amit Jhawar of Patanjali Foods stressed the importance of deep consumer insight in "Bharat." Chief Guest Amandeep Singh Narang and Guest of Honour Lagan Shastri underlined ethics, authenticity, and trust. A panel discussion explored branding in informal markets, followed by a fireside chat advising students to focus on value-driven, consistent influence.



PROGRAM—I.T.S. DENTAL

I.T.S Dental College, Ghaziabad organised the review of its prestigious Young Researcher Award 2025–26 recently to promote innovation and research in dentistry. Instituted to encourage undergraduate and postgraduate students to develop novel ideas, the programme provided a platform for presenting research concepts aimed at advancing dental healthcare. The submissions were evaluated by an expert panel comprising internal and external reviewers, including Dr. Anuj Pathak, Research Scientist and Product Development Expert from KIET. Ishank Khaneja and Divyanshi Mishra won in the undergraduate category, while Anoushka, Saumya, and Tanya secured the postgraduate award. The initiative aims to inspire students to think beyond conventional dentistry, with selected projects receiving support for patent filing, including financial assistance. The institution acknowledged the continued support of Arpit Chadha, Vice-Chairman, I.T.S – The Education Group.

7th International Marketing Conference at SDMIMD, Mysuru The SDM Institute for Management Development (SDMIMD), Mysuru, is pleased to announce its 7th International Marketing Conference titled "Technology and Transformation in Marketing: Advancing Purpose, Performance and Personalisation for Impact," scheduled to be held on January 23, 2026, at the SDMIMD Auditorium. This one-day international conference aims to explore the evolving role of marketing in an era marked by rapid technological change, innovation, and ever-changing customer expectations. The conference will provide a vibrant platform for scholars, industry leaders, academicians, researchers, and practitioners to deliberate on how emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, data analytics, automation, and immersive media are reshaping modern marketing. The conference will feature a distinguished lineup of keynote speakers and industry experts who will share insights on performance marketing, AI-driven personalisation, data-driven decision-making, and the balance between technology and human empathy in marketing practice.

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
PWD CIRCLE SIKAR

No. 3743 Date 08-01-2026

Notice Inviting Bid No. 06/2025-2026

Bids for 1 (One Nos.) Work are invited from interested bidders upto 06:00 PM dated 05.02.2026. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (**http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in**) of the state; and PWD departmental website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs.498.77 Lac.

NIB No. PWD2526A5067
UBN No. PWD2526WSOB20345

Superintending Engineer
PWD Circle Sikar

DIPR/C/704/2026

उत्तराखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग
हरिद्वार
पिन कोड–249404

संख्याः 291/11/CJ(JD)/G-2/2025-26 दिनांकः 22 जनवरी, 2026

विज्ञप्ति

उत्तराखण्ड न्यायिक सेवा सिविल न्यायाधीश (कनिष्ठ श्रेणी) परीक्षा–2023 एतद्द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि रिट याचिका सं0 498 एवं 499 (एस0बी0)/2025 में मा0 उत्तराखण्ड उच्च न्यायालय द्वारा पारित निर्णय दिनांक 18.12.2025 के आलोक में मा0 आयोग द्वारा दिनांक 31.10.2025 को घोषित उत्तराखण्ड न्यायिक सेवा सिविल न्यायाधीश (कनिष्ठ श्रेणी) परीक्षा–2023 का परीक्षा परिणाम निरस्त कर दिया गया है। उपरोक्त परिप्रेक्ष्य में मा0 उत्तराखण्ड उच्च न्यायालय के निर्णय दिनांक 18.12.2025 के अनुपालन में सामान्य ज्ञान एवं अधिनियम और विधियों के प्रश्न पत्र से दो प्रश्न (Set 'A' Question No. 120, Set 'B' Question No. 86, Set 'C' Question No. 196, Set 'D' Question No. 160 and Set 'A' Question No. 145, Set 'B' Question No. 111, Set 'C' Question No. 71, Set 'D' Question No. 185) के उत्तर विकल्प परिवर्तित करते हुए क्रमशः D व C किये गये हैं तथा दो प्रश्न (Set 'A' Question No. 158, Set 'B' Question No. 135, Set 'C' Question No. 95, Set 'D' Question No. 59 and Set 'A' Question No. 150, Set 'B' Question No. 116, Set 'C' Question No. 76, Set 'D' Question No. 190) विलोपित किये गये हैं, जिसके फलस्वरूप संशोधित प्रवीणता सूची के आधार पर **उत्तराखण्ड न्यायिक सेवा सिविल न्यायाधीश (कनिष्ठ श्रेणी) परीक्षा–2023** का संशोधित परीक्षा परिणाम दिनांक 22 जनवरी, 2026 को घोषित कर दिया गया है। अभ्यर्थियों के सूचनार्थ संशोधित प्रारम्भिक परीक्षा का परिणाम, संशोधित कट ऑफ मार्क्स, संशोधित उत्तर–कुंजी एवं परीक्षा में सम्मिलित अभ्यर्थियों के संशोधित प्राप्तांक आयोग की वेबसाईट **psc.uk.gov.in** पर प्रसारित कर दिये गये हैं। मुख्य परीक्षा का आयोजन दिनांक 21 अप्रैल, 2026 से किया जाना प्रस्तावित है। इस सम्बन्ध में विस्तृत दिशा–निर्देश यथासमय आयोग की वेबसाइट पर पृथक से प्रकाशित किये जायेंगे।

(अशोक कुमार पाण्डेय) सचिव

SPORTS UNIVERSITY OF HARYANA
RAI, SONIPAT
(Established by the State Legislature Act, 21 of 2022)

Date: 21.01.2026

NOTIFICATION FOR CIRCULATION

Sub:- Inviting applications for the post of Deputy Director Sports on deputation basis.

Sports University of Haryana Rai proposes to fill up the below mentioned post on deputation basis from the Government Universities/PSUs and Govt./Semi-Government offices from the State of Haryana/other States/Central Government.

The period of deputation shall be one year initially or till the regular appointment is made, whichever is earlier. Interested candidates, who fulfil the eligibility conditions mentioned herein and wish to join on deputation basis may apply through proper channel on the prescribed application form as available on University Website **(www.suoh.ac.in),** along with NOC from their parent department/University certifying that No Vigilance/disciplinary action is pending or contemplated as on date against him/her. No application will be entertained without No Objection Certificate issued by the concerned employer.

The application forms duly signed and filled on prescribed application form only and completed in all respect along with No Objection Certificate from present employer must reach to the office of the Registrar, Sports University of Haryana, 20th Mile Stone (Biswa-Mile) Rai, Sonipat-131029, Haryana on or before 31.01.2026 upto 05.00 P.M. The application form is also attached herewith.

The terms and conditions of the appointment on deputation will be applicable as issued by the University from time to time.

Sd-
No. 42308/HR **(Registrar)**

ओएनजीसी | **ONGC** Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited

Expression of Interest (EOI)
Hiring of services for carrying out remedial measures for soil settlement In OGT Mallavaram, Andhra Pradesh

ONGC, EOA & HPHT Asset, Kakinada invites for submission of Pre-Qualification Criteria (PQC) documents from reputed and interested Contractors having experience for carrying out remedial measures for soil settlement in OGT, HPHT Asset, Mallavaram, Andhra Pradesh. Last date for receipt of PQC documents: 13.02.2026 by 17.00 hrs IST. For further details and PQC documents, kindly visit: **http://tenders.ongc.co.in, https://gepnic.gov.in**

Prospective vendors having the required capability may submit the documents through email to srivastava_alankar@ongc.co.in & das_sanjoy@ongc.co.in

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PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 CrPC

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Aakash S/o** Kanhaiya, **R/o** Gali No.-5, Pandav Nagar, Delhi, **Also at:** Saitoveiti, Nai Court, Thana Nuwau, Distt.- Baksar, Bihar, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **E-FIR No. 1542/2019, U/S 379 IPC, PS Mandawali, East Distt., Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Aakash** cannot be found, and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Aakash** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant);

Proclamation is hereby made that **Aakash** the said accused of **E-FIR No. 1542/2019, U/S 379 IPC, PS Mandawali, East Distt., Delhi,** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **18.03.2026.**

By Order
Sh. Sachin
Judicial Magistrate First Class-03
East Distt., Room No.-16,
Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

DP/16649/ED/2025
(Court Matter)

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

No. WA/E-Tender/01/2026 **Dated : 20.01.2026**

Following E-tenders are invited by DRM (Engg.) NWR/Ajmer at 15.00 Hrs. on the mentioned date. **1. Tender No. :** 157/2025 **Name of work :** ADEN Ranapratap nagar subdivision - Important Track works Nathdwara-MavliBari sadari section. **Approximate Cost :** Rs. 2,08,61,664.70 **Earnest Money :** Rs. 2,54,300.00 **Tender Closing Date :** 13.02.2026 **2. Tender No. :** 158/2025 **Name of work :** Falna-Construction of CPWI office at Falna. **Approximate Cost :** Rs. 42,19,455.95 **Earnest Money :** Rs. 84,400.00 **Tender Closing Date :** 30.01.2026 **3. Tender No. :** 161/2025 **Name of work :** ADEN DNRP Subdivision-Regular maintenance of BG track between Udaipur city (incl.) - Dungarpur Section. **Approximate Cost :** Rs. 1,83,48,308.11 **Earnest Money :** Rs. 2,41,800.00 **Tender Closing Date :** 29.01.2026 **4. Tender No. :** 163/2025 **Name of work :** Preparation of DPR for various ROB & RUB work over Ajmer Division. **Approximate Cost :** Rs. 1,42,05,129.41 **Earnest Money :** Rs. 2,21,000.00 **Tender Closing Date :** 29.01.2026 **5. Tender No. :** 164/2025 **Name of work :** ADEN/Ranapratap Nagar Sub division:-Renovation of bathroom block & Treatment of Roof Leakage in Hostel no. 2, 3, 6 and 7 at ZRTI Udaipur and Provision of S&T rooms in connection with provision of Electronic Interlocking in place of Panel Interlocking along with MSDAC at Ghosunda station of Ajmer division alongwith associated electrical works. **Approximate Cost :** Rs. 4,04,96,192.13 **Earnest Money :** Rs. 3,52,500.00 **Tender Closing Date :** 29.01.2026 **6. Tender No. :** 165/2025 **Name of work :** Pre & Post tamping Track measurements using Gedo vorsys Trolley system in up line and DN line in Sr. DEN/W & DEN/Central jurisdiction. **Approximate Cost :** Rs. 2,04,42,009.00 **Earnest Money :** Rs. 2,52,200.00 **Tender Closing Date :** 29.01.2026 **7. Tender No. :** 166/2025 **Name of work :** Replacement and re furbishing of Glued joint over Ajmer Division. **Approximate Cost :** Rs. 1,17,28,985.22 **Earnest Money :** Rs. 2,08,700.00 **Tender Closing Date :** 02.02.2026 **8. Tender No. :** 167/2025 **Name of work :** ADEN /DNRP Sub Division Supply of potable drinking water through road tankers in railway stations/gangs/LCs (For 24 months) **Approximate Cost :** Rs. 30,01,544.00 **Earnest Money :** Rs. 60,000.00 **Tender Closing Date :** 13.02.2026 **9. Tender No. :** 01/2026 **Name of work :** ADEN/Line/Ajmer Sub Division - Construction of new quarters for staff at various location of ADEN/Line (Type II Kharwa = 08 nos, Makarwali - 02 nos.) Total Type II qtrs -10 nos.) with associated electrical work. **Approximate Cost :** Rs. 1,75,71,164.46 **Earnest Money :** Rs. 2,37,900.00 **Tender Closing Date :** 09.02.2026 **10. Tender No. :** 02/2026 **Name of work :** ADEN (HQ)/ Ajmer Sub Division: Improvement to various staff & officers quarters by Replacing wooden door and windows and repair and improvement to toilets and bathrooms with pipe line & sanitary fittings etc in colony no 1 Colony no. 2 Raja Cycle colony, Gulab Bari colony, Frazer Road colony GLO colony Mall road colony, Pal bichla colony, Hazaribagh, Ashaganj, Malusar Road, Beawar Road, Kasarinadi RPF, Giri Marg, Five Bunglow, Jhonsganj and other colonies. **Approximate Cost :** Rs. 3,75,05,254.64 **Earnest Money :** Rs. 3,37,500.00 **Tender Closing Date :** 04.02.2026 **11. Tender No. :** 04/2026 **Name of work :** ADEN/Line/Ajmer Sub Division - Recondition of wornout points, Tongue Rail of SEJ. **Approximate Cost :** Rs. 12,88,030.52 **Earnest Money :** Rs. 25,800.00 **Tender Closing Date :** 09.02.2026 **12. Tender No. :** 05/2026 **Name of work :** ADEN/Bhilwara Sub Division - Through formation treatment by Geogrid & Geotextile with BCM from Km. 16.00 to 22.00 Between ROSNSD section. **Approximate Cost :** Rs. 2,09,89,436.60 **Earnest Money :** Rs. 2,55,000.00 **Tender Closing Date :** 09.02.2026 **13. Tender No. :** 06/2026 **Name of work :** ADEN-BHL Sub Division - Suply of potable water through road tankers at various stations gang quarters and Level crossings for 24 months. **Approximate Cost :** Rs. 43,90,302.00 **Earnest Money :** Rs. 87,800.00 **Tender Closing Date :** 09.02.2026 The detailed information of the above tender is available on website **www.ireps.gov.in** and Tender Notice Board of DRM Office, NWR/Ajmer.

Follow us on : /NWRailways NWRailways_ **114-CR/26**

E-mail: acezljpr.pwd@rajasthan.gov.in

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता
सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, संभाग-प्रथम, जयपुर पी.डब्ल्यू.डी. कैम्पस,
जैकब रोड, जयपुर क्लब के सामने, जयपुर फोन नं. 0141-2223525

क्रमांकः अमुअ/जोन-प्रथम/निविदा सूचना संख्या 17/2025-26/डी-2155 दिनांकः10-01-2026

निविदा सूचना संख्या 17/पीएमजीएसवाई/2025-26

प्रधानमंत्री ग्राम सड़क योजना-चतुर्थ चरण (बैच-प्रथम वर्ष 2025-26) के तहत स्वीकृत सड़कों का निर्माण कार्य जिला सीकर के कुल 02 पैकेज हेतु इच्छुक निविदादाताओं द्वारा दिनांक 19.01.2026 को प्रातः 09.30 से 09.02.2026 उपरान्ह 12:00 बजे तक निविदाएं आमन्त्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा से संबन्धित अन्य विवरण राज्य की उपापन पोर्टल **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in**, **http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** एवं विभागीय वेबसाईट **http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in and http://pmgsytendersraj.gov.in** पर देखे जा सकते हैं। उपापन की अनुमानित लागत रुपए 915.49 लाख है।

Sr. No.	District	Name of Work	UBN NO.
1	Sikar	RJ-28-P4-01	PWD2526WLOB20615
2	Sikar	RJ-28-P4-02	PWD2526WLOB20616

हस्ता./-
(अनुपम गुप्ता)
अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता
सानिवि सम्भाग-प्रथम, जयपुर

DIPR/C/826/2026

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No.: JHS-N-W-10-26 **Date: 20.01.2026**

E-TENDERING NOTICE

Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/ Jhansi, DRM's office, Jhansi, for and on behalf of President of India invite open Tender through on Line **(E-Tendering)** for the following works.

E-Tender No.	Approx Cost	Earnest Money
JHS-N-W-10-26	Rs. 18887704.71/-	Rs. 244400.00/-

Description of work: Provision of Data entry terminal for signalling maintenance management system (SMMS) over Jhansi Division.

Cost of Tender Form: Nil. **Opening of tender:** 13.02.2026, Time 15:00

Completion period from issue of letter of acceptance: 09 Months

• Tender on line can be submitted upto **15:00 hrs** on **13.02.2026**. • For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website **www.ireps.gov.in**. **(NORTH CENTRAL RLY / JHANSI DIVISION-S AND T)** **153/26 (ADM)**

North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @ CPRONCR

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(SEE SECTION 82(2) (ii) Cr.P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person(s) **Cajtan Chukwu Jekwa Muozoba S/o Denel Muozoba R/o H.No. 08, Gali No. 05, Himgiri Enclave, Chander Vihar, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in FIR No./Ct. Case No. **400/2021**, **U/s 14 Foreigner Act, PS Janak Puri, Delhi, Distt. West, New Delhi** and it has been returned to a Warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused person(s) **Cajtan Chukwu Jekwa Muozoba** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused person(s) **Cajtan Chukwu Jekwa Muozoba** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused person(s) **Cajtan Chukwu Jekwa Muozoba** of FIR No./Ct. Case No. **400/2021**, **U/s 14 Foreigner Act, PS Janak Puri, Delhi, Distt. West, New Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before dated **28.02.2026** at **10:00 AM.**

By Order
Sh. Harjot Singh Aujla
JMFC-11 (South-West)
Room No. 05, Dwarka Courts, New Delhi

DP/802/WD/2026
(Court Matter)

Abbreviated advertisement Notice for the post
Professor-Cum-Chief Scientist
(Advertisement Notification No. 01 of 2026)
Dated: 02.01.2026

Sher-i-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology, Kashmir invites Online applications through University website **www.skuastkashmir.ac.in** from exceptionally bright & motivated Indian Nationals possessing established record of high quality Research, Teaching & outreach activities, for filling up of posts of Professor-cum-Chief Scientist {Pay Level-14(1,44,200-2,18,200)} by selection across various Faculties/Colleges/Stations of the University. The prospective candidates are expected to provide leadership to the concerned discipline/University & contribute towards growth of the University by attracting extramural fundings, creating job opportunities, seeking placement of the students nationally & internationally in peer institutes/high paid industry & the development of technologies with the potential for commercialisation.

Detailed advertisement notice containing information with regard to eligibility requirements, age limit, & other conditions is available on official website of the University **www.skuastkashmir.ac.in.**

No. Au/Adm(GAD)/Adv-T/2026/
Dated: 02/01/2026

Sd/-
Registrar

RAJASTHAN HOUSING BOARD

No. :- 9872 **Dated :- 21/01/2026**

NIB : 04/2025-26

Online bids are invited from registered firm for various Civil works under Pratap Nagar, Jaipur Awasiya Yojna through E-proc from Dated 23.01.2026 to 02.02.2026 up to 5.00 PM. Complete details like tender form, detailed information and condition etc. are available on website **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in &** **http://rhb.rajasthan.gov.in** Department Website.

UBN No. :- RHB2526SSOB00330, 31, 32 & 33

Raj.Samwad/C/25/18294 **Dy. Housing Commissioner, Circle -I, Jaipur**

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 84 Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita-2023

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **1) Sh. Nishant Goel, S/o Lt. Sh. Ishawar Chand Goel, R/o H.No. C-4/152, Yamuna Vihar, Delhi, 2) Gurpreet Singh, S/o Sh. Jeet Singh, R/o H.No. R-786, 3rd Floor, New Rajender Nagar, Delhi** has committed (or are suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 327/2012, U/s 420/468/467/471/34 IPC, P.S. Keshav Puram, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **1) Sh. Nishant Goel, 2) Gurpreet Singh** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **1) Sh. Nishant Goel, 2) Gurpreet Singh** has absconded (or are concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **1) Sh. Nishant Goel, 2) Gurpreet SIngh** accused of **FIR No. 327/2012, U/s 420/468/467/471/34 IPC, P.S. Keshav Puram, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **30.07.2026.**

By Order - Sh. Sanyam Jain
Judicial Magistrate First Class-04
North-West, Room No. 112, 1st Floor
Rohini Courts, Delhi

DP/971/NW/2026

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr. P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Person(s) **Naresh Kumar, S/o: Sh. Om Prakash, R/o** H.No. T-104, Type 1 Tihar Complex, **Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **FIR No: 384/2019, U/S: 447 IPC, PS: Hari Nagar, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused person(s) **Naresh Kumar,** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused person(s) **Naresh Kumar,** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused person(s) **Naresh Kumar,** of **FIR No: 384/2019, U/S: 447 IPC, PS: Hari Nagar, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **06.03.2026.**

By Order
Bharti Garg
Judicial Magistrate First Class-II,
West Court No.31,
Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

DP/932/WD/2026
(Court Matter)

JAPIT
Jharkhand Agency for Promotion of Information Technology

(An Autonomous body under Department of Information Technology, Govt of Jharkhand)
Ground Floor, Engineer's Hostel – I, Near Golchakkar, Dhurwa, Ranchi, Jharkhand
Phone. 0651-2401044, 2401067 e-mail: japit_doit@rediffmail.com

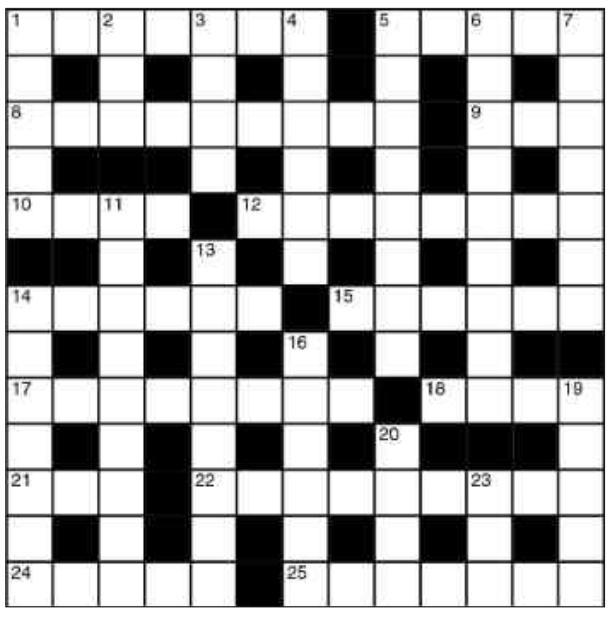
Tender Cancellation notice
Tender Reference No. – JAPIT/VideoWall/2025/01
PR Reference no.:- 368972

This is in reference to the Request for Proposal (RFP) published for the purpose of "**Selection of System Integrator to Supply and Installation of two Indoor Video Wall system at Annexe Building in Project Building, Dhurwa Ranchi**, Reference No.: JAPIT/Video Wall/2025/01.

This is to inform to the concerned that the above said tender has been cancelled and the details given in the portal www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in

Sd /-
OSD, JAP-IT
PR 371495 Information Technology (25-26)_D

• CROSSWORD 5893



ACROSS

1 Potboilers notorious for their bad spelling (7)
5 One backing a horse, it may be added (5)
8 Become liable to debts without interest (9)
9 Sauce for the edge of a plate perhaps (3)
10 Bighead carpeted for security reasons (4)
12 Eternal source of family strife? (8)
14 Noise in the distance from pigs (6)
15 Timely tool (6)
17 There's no accounting for their performance (8)
18 Little land is left to the East (4)
21 Have something to confess (3)
22 To a doctor it's a way one is remembered by (9)
24 Thin strips of mixed paste (5)
25 Hooted at performance after free admission (7)

DOWN

1 It was defined as the middle (5)
2 The first in command may be nervous (3)
3 He goes down or rises in play (4)
4 Tracks defective on board (6)
5 Here cars are involved in scientific inquiry (8)
6 Agents get sealed orders (9)
7 Traveller allowed key is satisfied (7)
11 Start to play (7,2)
13 Political favours? (8)
14 Going full tilt or lying prone on the ground (4,3)
16 Falsely accused of having sheep pastured outside (6)
19 Not all honourable men do the right thing (5)
20 A good man rises to a king and emperor (4)
23 This hat is no longer fashionable (3)

SOLUTIONS CROSSWORD 5892 **ACROSS:** 1 Sediment, 5 Golf, 9 Dents, 10 Tension, 11 Supernatural, 13 Hyenas, 14 Durban, 17 Installation, 20 Minimum, 21 Okapi, 22 Nick, 23 Minsters **DOWN:** 1 Side, 2 Denture, 3 Master-at-arms, 4 Noting, 6 Osier, 7 Fondling, 8 Instructions, 12 Chairman, 15 Brocade, 16 Alumni, 18 Sonic, 19 Wits

JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective circles below. Select the letters in the shaded circles and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

___ is taxation without legislation. - Milton Friedman (9)

SSAIO ●●○●○

CIOULN ○●○○○●

ALSIT ●○●○○

AINTFN ○●●○○○

SOLUTIONS: Oasis, Tails, Uncoil, Infant

ANSWER: Inflation is taxation without legislation. - Milton Friedman

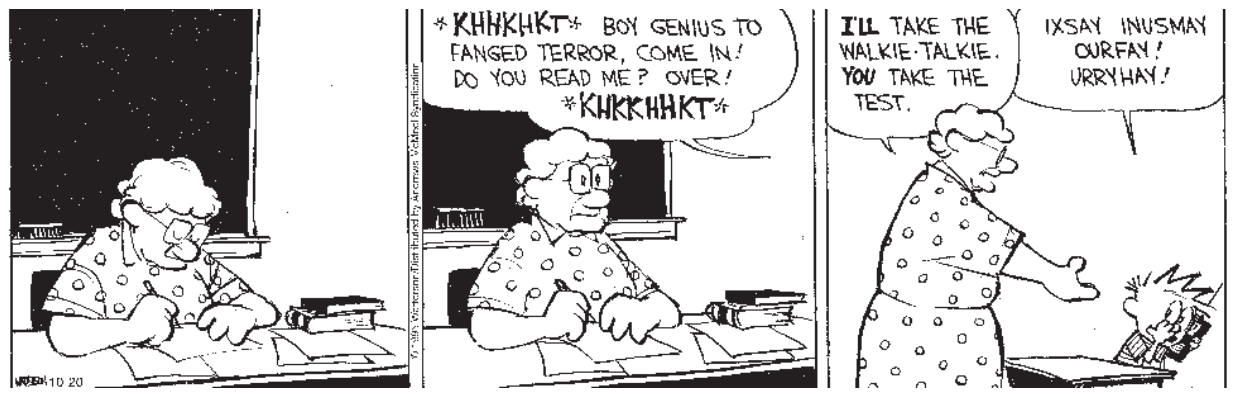
• OVER THE HEDGE

BY MICHAEL FRY & T LEWIS



• CALVIN & HOBBES

BY BILL WATTERSON



• MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG



SUDOKU 6207

DIFFICULTY LEVEL 3s
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

			6					
	7		8		3		5	
9		2				8		3
1		3		8		6		5
5		6		4		2		7
6		9				4		8
	2		6		4		1	
				7				

SOLUTION SUDOKU 6206

6	4	1	5	3	9	7	2	8
5	9	7	2	8	6	3	4	1
2	3	8	7	1	4	9	6	5
4	2	5	9	6	3	8	1	7
9	1	6	4	7	8	5	3	2
7	8	3	1	5	2	4	9	6
8	6	2	3	9	5	1	7	4
3	7	4	8	2	1	6	5	9
1	5	9	6	4	7	2	8	3

• ROYAL STARS

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

ARIES (MAR 21 - APR 20): This is a powerful day because the Moon in your is sign dancing beautifully with Mars. It's as if you have won the lottery. Relations with others will be successful, upbeat and endearing. Lucky you. Tonight: You win.

TAURUS (APR 21 - MAY 21): You make a fabulous impression on everyone today, in no small part because of something you might do behind the scenes. Either you are pulling the strings or someone else is.Bosses love you! Tonight: Enjoy privacy.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21): Grab every chance to travel or do anything that is a change of scenery that's exciting and adventurous. These opportunities are not the only ways that you are blessed today. You can explore new avenues. Go for it! Tonight: Be friendly.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23): People will notice you. Some will know personal details about your private life. Don't worry, because all the planets at the top of your chart are connected and supportive to you, especially in practical and financial ways. Tonight: You're admired.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUG 23): Conversations with friends, partners and spouses are rewarding and meaningful today. You might make travel plans. Your discussions will lead to something entertaining and rewarding. This is a favourable day, make the most of it. Tonight: Explore.

VIRGO (AUG 24 - SEP 23): This is a productive day and you can get a lot done. Financial negotiations will go well. If you need anything, ask for it. Co-workers are supportive. Tonight: Check your finances.

LIBRA (SEP 24 - OCT 23): Accept invitations to socialise and party. Get out and meet friends for coffee, lunch, dinner or any occasion. Enjoy some fun activities. Romantic adventures will delight you. Dress up and go out. Tonight: Listen and cooperate.

SCORPIO (OCT 24 - NOV 23): Stock the fridge and invite friends or family over today. Before you do that, tackle a few repairs. Family conversations are likely. Everything to do with home and family is favourable for you today. Tonight: Get organised.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV 24 - DEC 22): Get out and talk to people. Enjoy short trips. Meet new faces, see new places. Learn something new. In your conversations, you'll be entertaining and convincing. Tonight: Socialise.

CAPRICORN (DEC 23 - JAN 20): Financial discussions will go well today, if they relate to family matters or with home and real estate. You might choose to relax at home today, but some of you will shop online or work from home to boost your assets and earnings. Tonight: Relax.

AQUARIUS (JAN 21 - FEB 19): Today things will go your way. Be aware you have the advantage; plus, you're persuasive and powerful. Go after what you want, you will get it. Tonight: Discussions.

PISCES (FEB 20 - MAR 20): This is a feel-good day. Shopping, spending money, earning money or exploring moneymaking ideas is blessed. Trust your ability to attract money to you or, perhaps, favours and practical support will come your way. Tonight: Check your possessions.

CORPORATE BRIEFS

MEETING—DFCCIL



A two-day high-level meeting between DFCCIL, JNPT, and Western Railway concluded, focusing on connecting the Vaitarna-JNPT section of the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor to JNPT Port. Operationalization will link the port to the DFC network nationwide, boosting rail cargo capacity, speeding freight, and cutting logistics costs for EXIM trade. DFCCIL's Shobhit Bhatnagar visited JNPT with Deputy Chairman Ravish Kumar Singh, then met Western Railway officials including PCOM V.A. Malegaonkar to review works, operations, crew, safety, and security. This promises a modal shift to rail, saving fuel and reducing pollution.

WORLD BOOK FAIR— ITPO



At the New Delhi World Book Fair 2026, ITPO Chairman, Jawed Ashraf, IFS, released "Vyapar Melon Men Bhaagidari Ko Kaise Safal Banayen?" by trade fair expert Deepak Kumar Jain and Associate Prof. Dr. Veena Jain at Bharat Mandapam. Highlighting the vital role of trade shows in socio-economic progress, he noted India's 26th global rank and called for more convention centres like Bharat Mandapam in every state to promote MSMEs, startups, and Viksit Bharat@2047. The ITPO Chief complimented the authors' insightful contribution. The event saw participation of Lt. Col. Harsh Kondilya, publisher Sushil Swatrantra, senior ITPO officials, exhibitors and media representatives.

PROJECT— BHEL



BHEL achieved a pivotal 'Make in India' milestone in rail transportation by starting supplies of underslung traction transformers for the prestigious Vande Bharat Sleeper Train project, led by a BHEL consortium with TRSL. A flag-off ceremony at BHEL's Jhansi plant featured Directors Ms. Bani Varma (IS&P) & S.M. Ramanathan (E, R&D) virtually dispatching the first semi-high-speed set (operational 160 kmph, design 180 kmph). Traction converters were earlier flagged off from Bengaluru; transformers go to Kolkata for assembly. BHEL's Bhopal unit also developed the traction motors, bolstering its propulsion prowess.

CAMP — NCC



At NCC Republic Day Camp, Delhi Cantt , COAS General Upendra Dwivedi called youth the "Face of New India," driving transformation via discipline. He praised NCC cadets' role in Operation Sindoor (75,000 volunteers), drone training, national drives like Puneet Sagar and Swachh Bharat, & Yuva Aapda Mitra (94,400 cadets). Over 35,000 completed Army attachments; 150 joined academies. COAS urged self-reliance, innovation, and nation-building through Army-IIT cells and internships. The COAS also highlighted the significant contribution of NCC cadets in recent years.

MEETING—INDIAN COAST GUARD



ICG Director General Paramesh Sivamani and JCG Commandant Admiral Yoshio Saguchi led a High-Level Meeting, reviewing cooperation in SAR, MPR, MLE, and capacity building. Discussions emphasized best practices, interoperability, tech sharing, & training under their MoC. Amid India's CGGS Presidency, JCG pledged participation in the 5th Summit and ICFGR with ships & aircraft. Aligning with the Aug 2025 Joint Declaration, focus sharpened on rules-based maritime order. JCG delegation heads to Mumbai for Mazagon Dock visit, professional exchanges, and HNS spill joint exercise with ICG.

WORLD BOOK FAIR— NBT



India's first International Space Station visitor, Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, captivated schoolchildren at the New Delhi World Book Fair 2026. Moderated by NBT-India Director Yuvraj Malik, his honest, humorous session traced his Air Force journey to space, urging young listeners: Someone among you could lead India's cosmic future. During the session, Group Captain Shukla took young audiences on an inspiring journey from his early days as an Indian Air Force pilot to becoming the first Indian to visit the International Space Station, igniting curiosity among the children.

EVENT—RAGAS FOR YAMUNA



The 4th edition of Ragas for Yamuna, held recently at Sunder Nursery, Delhi, featured a soulful tribute to the Yamuna River, featuring performances from maestros including Padma Bhushan Pt. Sajan Mishra, Ustad Shujaat Khan, & Siddhartha Banerjee. The event focused on "soulful tribute" performances to the Yamuna. An Evening of Resonance Shaped by Culture, Enduring Artistry, & a Living Heritage Ragas for Yamuna unfolded as a refined celebration of Indian classical traditions, enduring craftsmanship, & shared purpose. Bathed in music, light, & quiet reverence, it was a night marked by grace, depth, & calm.

INAUGURATION—POWERGRID



POWERGRID inaugurated the nation's first 315 MVA, 400/220/33 kV synthetic ester oil-filled power transformer at Bhiwadi Sub-station. The facility was inaugurated by Dr. RK Tyagi, CMD, in the presence of G. Ravisankar, Dir. (Fin.) along with other officials. The transformer efficiently handles high load conditions while reducing environmental risk. As of 31st December 2025, it has commissioned & is operating 287 Sub- Stations, 1,81,894 km transmission lines & 5,94,016 MVA of transformation capacity.

MEETING—SCOPE



Matthias Thorns, Employers' Spokesperson and Vice President to International Labour Organization met Atul Sobti, Director General, SCOPE & Member ILO Governing Body, along with senior officials of SCOPE, to discuss the role of Indian employers in global dialogue frameworks to support harmonious industrial relations. The meeting emphasized on the vital role of tripartite cooperation in today's business landscape and underscored the need for stronger employer engagement within ILO forums to drive inclusive growth, sustainable employment, and resilient industrial relations.

VISIT— DMRC



Foreign Minister of Japan, MOTEGI Toshimitsu, along with ONO Keiichi, Ambassador of Japan to India, visited the Delhi Metro. The delegation was briefed on the metro project and also experienced a metro train ride from Central Secretariat to Patel Chowk and back. The visit highlighted India's strong ties with Japan, with JICA's continued support for the Delhi Metro project.

HUDCO, under MoHUA, has achieved an 'Excellent' MoU rating for FY 2024-25, securing an outstanding score of 97.90 out of 100. This marks the second consecutive year of this prestigious recognition, excelling in 9 of 12 parameters, including 100% compliance in critical areas. Highlights feature sustained profitability, robust asset quality, superior loan efficiency, full GeM/TReDS adherence, meaningful CSR initiatives, and proactive employee wellbeing. CMD Sanjay Kulshrestha affirmed HUDCO's dedication to excellence, accountability, & Viksit Bharat's resilient urban future.

EIL Nigeria's Dangote Group, a leading West African conglomerate in oil & gas, mining, petrochemicals, cement, and more, operates across 17 countries and employs thousands. Its flagship 650,000 bpd Lekki Refinery, world's largest single-train, produces Euro-V fuels and polypropylene. Engineers India Ltd, under India's Ministry of Petroleum, served as PMC and EPCM for this 2024-commissioned project.

IRFC reported its highest-ever profit for the third consecutive quarter, delivering double-digit growth in profitability and a sustained improvement in margins, even as the full-year sanction guidance of Rs 60,000 cr was already achieved by the end of the third quarter. For the quarter ended Dec 31, 2025, IRFC reported a PAT of Rs 1,802.19 cr, registering a year-on-year growth of 10.52% and marking the highest-ever quarterly PAT in the company's history. For the nine-month period ended December 31, 2025, PAT stood at Rs 5,324.86 cr, compared to Rs 4,820.13 cr in the corresponding period last year, reflecting a double-digit growth of 10.47%. Total income for the quarter stood at Rs 6,719.23 cr, while income for the nine-month period was Rs 20,009.38 cr, driven by diversification-led business development.

DEBUT BOOK LAUNCH



Shalini Passi's debut book, The Art of Being Fabulous: 10 Rules for a Beautiful Life, recently unveiled at the Jaipur Literature Festival. The book has been published by Penguin Random House India & offers a personal & reflective exploration of creativity, individuality, & living with purpose. "To me, fabulousness is an act of self-trust," says Shalini Passi. "It begins with how you see yourself, not how the world defines you''. The book is for readers to discover their own truth.

MOU—PNB



PNB renewed its MoU with the Indian Army recently. Under the MoU, PNB will offer numerous services with enhanced insurance coverage & other benefits to all the serving personnel & pensioners under "PNB Rakshak Plus" scheme. The MoU was exchanged between Bibhu Prasad Mahapatra, ED, PNB & Lt Gen Rajeev Puri, AVSM, VSM, DG Manpower Planning & Personal Services, Army Headquarters. The MoU was signed by Sudhir Dalal, Chief GM PNB & Major General VK Purohit, AVSM, YSM, SM, Additional Director General Personal Services.

ACADEMICS

NATIONAL GAMES—SCDAV



Sarla Chopra DAV Public School, Noida, marked the New Year with a compassionate contribution drive for a local orphanage. Dr. NK Uberoi, Vice President of DAV CMC & Chairman of the school, graced the occasion and praised the initiative as a reflection of the institution's values. The drive saw wholehearted participation from students, faculty, staff, and parents, who donated essential items, clothing, & food supplies to support underprivileged children. Ms. Upasana Sharma, Principal of the school, expressed gratitude to the school community, noting that their generosity exemplifies a shared commitment to social responsibility. The initiative not only extended vital assistance but also instilled empathy and the spirit of giving among students, setting an inspiring precedent as the school steps into 2026 with renewed hope, kindness, and dedication to a more compassionate tomorrow.

FOUNDATION DAY—ABV-IIITM



ABV - IIITM, Gwalior celebrated its 28th Foundation Day marking the institute's journey since its establishment in 1997. The program was presided over by the Director, Prof. SN Singh, & was graced by the Chief Guest Prof. Karunesh Kumar Shukla, Director, MANIT Bhopal. Prof. Anurag Srivastava received the ABV–Research Excellence Award 2025, Prof. Joydeep Dhar was conferred the Atal Outstanding Teacher Award, and Dr. Pinku Ranjan received the Atal Young Faculty Award. The event also featured music, dance, and a street play.

CAMP—SCDAV



A Health and Dental Check Up Camp was organised at Sarla Chopra DAV Public School to promote students' well-being. Qualified medical professionals conducted general health assessments and dental examinations. Students and Parents were guided on hygiene and oral health. The initiative reflected the school's commitment to holistic development and preventive healthcare.

Poonawalla to make 'strong & competitive bid' for RCB

Express News Service
January 22

AFTER THE Royal Challengers Bengaluru was put up for sale last year, there have been a lot of speculations going around about who will be the next owner of the franchise which has a Indian Premier League (IPL) trophy as well as a Women's Premier League (WPL) title.

On Thursday, Chief Executive Officer of Pune-based vaccine-maker Serum Institute of India, Adar Poonawalla put his name in the hat when he posted on X that the company will be putting in a 'STRONG and COMPETITIVE bid' for the defending IPL champions. "Over the next few months, will be putting in a STRONG and COMPETITIVE bid for @RCBTweets, one of the best teams in the IPL," he posted.

The effort to find a new owner for RCB, currently valued at around USD 105 million as per Forbes India, began in November last year by current owners United Spirits Ltd (USL), the Indian arm of global beverage major Diageo. The June 4 stampede that killed 11 fans during RCB victory celebrations also accelerated the move to sell the team.

In a communication to the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) and National Stock Exchange in November last year, the UK-based company had called it a 'Strategic Review of the Investment Royal Challengers Sports Pvt Ltd (RCSPL),' a wholly owned company of United Spirits Ltd, the Indian Subsidiary of Diageo.

The letter further stated: "The USL is initiating a strategic review of the investment in its wholly owned subsidiary, RCSPL. RCSPL's business comprises ownership of the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) franchise team that participates in the men's Indian Premier League (IPL) and Women's Premier League (WPL) cricket tournaments hosted by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) annually."

It is understood that the Board of Control for Cricket in India and the IPL Governing Council have been made aware of the development. In the disclosure, Diageo further said, "It is expected the process will conclude by March 31, 2026."

When Vijay Mallya's UB Group bought it for $111.6 million, RCB was the second-most expensive franchise after the Mumbai Indians. In 2015, a year after Diageo took a controlling stake in the UB Group, the franchise came under the UK-based company's control. In 2016, it became the sole owner.

The effort to find a new owner for RCB, valued at around $105 million, began in November

LOOKING AHEAD: T20 WORLD CUP

Why lack of impactful runs will make Surya a liability

Since the start of October 2024, India's T20 captain has made just 388 runs in 26 innings at an average of 16.86 at a meagre strike rate of 134.42

Namit Kumar
Nagpur, January 22

AS INDIA kicked off their preparations for the T20 World Cup with an impressive 48-run victory against New Zealand in the first T20I here on Wednesday, their captain Suryakumar Yadav quietly surpassed a significant landmark. He received his 100th cap for his country in the shortest format. For context, that is two more than MS Dhoni. He is only the third Indian to feature in 100 or more T20Is, after Hardik Pandya, Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma.

But unlike these superstars that have preceded him, Surya is not quite a white-ball great. His ODI record is middling at best: 37 matches without a single century.

He is, by those marks, India's first T20 specialist, captaining the team in an era in which the shortest format has outrightly taken over the public's consciousness.

His one-track mind and specific skills were the reasons why he was entrusted to lead India going into a high-profile title defence after they phased out the stars of the previous generation from the 2024 triumph. He has done a fairly good job at that, sealing a 30th win in 35 games for his side on Wednesday. But his returns with the bat, over a prolonged recent period, have been so modest that, seen within the context of the recent shakeups in the team's top order, India's T20 marauder and leader may well be a liability for them going into a World Cup.

His contribution on Wednesday was not nothing, but that is about the highest praise it can receive. His 22-ball 32 was no display of his usual innovative 360-degree shotmaking, nor a selection of his typical, daring drives on the up. There were a couple of well-timed boundaries and a lovely throwback pick-up six, bending on one knee to send a wobble-seamer soaring above fine leg. But it was also full of mishits in an innings that was bursting with intent but hardly had any control: Surya's general malaise as he has tried to work himself out of this funk.

It was still his third-highest score in 15 months, a period in which he has gone 23 innings without crossing 50. A closer look at his stats since the start of October 2024 tell a dire tale: 388 runs, nearly a third of India's top runscorer Abhishek Sharma, in 26 innings at an average of 16.86 at a meagre strike rate of 134.42.

Fruitful IPL

In between, he did have a fruitful IPL last year, showing he is not totally out of form. But a bulk of his runs came against spin, not against top fast bowlers who have found crafty ways of getting his number and preyed on his desperation. Surya has also struggled due India's attacking template: as the captain, he is expected to lead from the front, not bide his time to understand conditions and eat up the strike in trying to find the middle of the bat.

His tentative strokeplay, arrival at the crease often early due to the loss of a wicket and attempts to force the issue have all created a cocktail that leads opposition pacers to smell blood. His typical areas for scoring, behind square of the wicket and especially on the leg side, have dried up thanks to fast bowlers taking the pace off and getting him to mistime and sky shots in front of him; his premeditated hard hands and a hard bat swing doing their work for them.

These continuing struggles cannot be seen in isolation. They trouble India further after they shot themselves in the foot by constantly rejigging their set batting order. Arguably only Abhishek Sharma is now in form in India's top four going into the World Cup.

While he was in the runs, Sanju Samson was sent roaming the batting order to accomodate vice-captain Shubman Gill, who had been shoehorned into the side on the back of impressive showings as Test skipper. Ahead of the World Cup, they backtracked on that decision, leaving Sanju with just a few games to work himself back into form. Tilak Varma's recent injury has put a further spanner in the works.

It is a non-negotiable for the Indian captain to get back into the runs over the next four T20s against New Zealand this month. The team management set a precedent of prioritising form and team balance by dropping Gill. Continuing to back Surya during this relentless slump while players like the in-form Ishan Kishan and Shreyas Iyer, who defined last year's IPL, are lurking in the background, will unquestionably undermine that. It will be a thumb to the nose to the sheer embarrassment of T20 batting riches in this country to persist with a batter that has a 12-month average of 20.

E. EXPLAINED

Pacers now know how to bowl to SKY

Suryakumar Yadav was a finer player of pace than spin for most of his career. How have those abilities fallen off so much recently? Instead of offering him outright pace, the fast bowlers use their variations and take the pace off the ball, confident that Surya will try to go after them regardless, often seeing him hit balls that are not there to be hit, without pure timing or muscle. These balls are also effective in engaging dew and getting grip into the surface on low and slow subcontinental pitches. He lost his wicket three out four times in the recent South Africa series like this. Twice mistiming an aerial shot to a fielder inside the circle, and once flicking it to the fielder at deep square leg.



Suryakumar Yadav scored 32 off 22 balls during India's 48-run win over New Zealand in the first T20I. AP

Rinku's rocketing strike rate is India's ace up the sleeve

Lalith Kalidas
New Delhi, January 22

The scoring rate skyrockets to 302.63 in the 20th over, the highest among all Full-Member batters

A TINGE of foreboding was beginning to wrap around New Zealand when Rinku Singh walked out of the crease and belted Daryl Mitchell's first ball in the 20th over for a six down the ground. The following ball went sailing over mid-wicket, and Rinku's world had suddenly teleported back to April 2023.

Curiously, since that epic IPL heist for KKR against Gujarat Titans in Ahmedabad, where he clubbed five consecutive sixes to clinch a 20th over thriller, Rinku's T20 career has yet to realise a riff, an encore that would truly stamp his hallmark as a finisher. He relished his best-ever IPL season that year with 474 runs at 149.52. He would oddly face only 247 balls for KKR in the next two seasons, an average of eight balls per outing.

That could partly be blamed for Rinku's selection merely as a reserve for the 2024 T20 World Cup and his conspicuous absence in India's most recent T20I assignments.

The 20 runs he reeled in with two sixes and as many fours in the final over glimpsed that the forthcoming weeks could define India's first bona fide T20I finisher. They have not quite had a player like him in the position before, with wicket-keepers or an ensemble of all-rounders always doing the rounds during major tournaments.

Absence of a secondary skill set had downplayed his ingenuity in the evolving path to defending the World Cup title. That was until the selectors picked up on a glaring hole in the eleventh hour before the World Cup squad was announced last month. The lack of adequate muscle and nous against pace at the death isn't something Hardik Pandya can bandage alone during India's home games at the World Cup, on arguably the flattest strips in the country.

Aptly, for the need of unrelenting options against the quicks in the final quarter of the innings, Rinku was back in the mix, with his unbeaten 20-ball 44 against the Kiwis uncovering a part of India's full combative potential in the format.

The IPL stage has been readying him for years now, for no batter has outpaced the left-hander for the last three seasons at the death. Rinku's 414 runs in the last-four stage have only been bettered by Tim David (463) in the IPL since 2023, but his 201.95 strike rate even eclipses the towering Aussie (197.25). Rinku does not beam explosively like David, or MS Dhoni and Heinrich Klaasen, who have also reached the 400-run mark at the death in the same period. And yet, he frequents boundaries quicker than the sturdy trio at the death, at every 3.15 deliveries.

The 28-year-old has already translated this ballistic charge for India in the death-overs, which has contributed to 51 per cent of his career runs at an explosive 214.68 strike rate. The numbers grow otherworldly as the pressure stiffens. Rinku has already gathered 213 of his 594 career runs in the last two overs of an innings alone, striking at 287.83. The scoring rate skyrockets to 302.63 in the 20th over, the highest among all Full-Member batters who have aggregated at least 100 runs within the final-over sequence.

A closer inspection of the rugged southpaw's knocks throws up room for exploration, past the entrenchments of the slog overs. It is a temptation India will do best to resist, but will find solace in tough times ahead. Over 40 balls were still left in the Indian innings when Rinku walked in at number seven against New Zealand in Nagpur. Playing out six deliveries for five runs before the 16th over, Rinku would plunder 39 off the next 14 deliveries with seven boundaries.

On the eight times he has batted at least 15 deliveries in an innings from No. 5 or lower, Rinku has exhibited exceptional consistency, nudging at least 30 runs in each of those innings. Seven of them contributed 355 runs with an average strike-rate of 184.88, except the one knock (30 off 26) spent lifting India out from a pit - at 12 for three in two overs - against England in Pune last year.

The exceptional range between a grafter in crisis and an instant boundary-poacher at the death also combined to produce his best for India, an unbeaten 69 against Afghanistan, in January 2024.

With only five innings in chases in his T20I career, Rinku hasn't habituated hitting the winning runs amidst a stacked top-order. The 2025 Asia Cup final against Pakistan was his to finish, and India will hope rampant Rinku will remain just the same in the eye of a chasing storm in the next six weeks.

Rinku 'Rocket' Singh



	Runs	SR	6s	Bp6
T20I career	594	165	34	10.58
In death-overs	307	214.68	25	5.72
In overs 19-20	213	287.83	22	3

Ranji: Gill out for duck, Sarfaraz rescues Mumbai

Express News Service
January 22

INDIA'S TEST and ODI captain Shubman Gill fell for nought in the Group B clash of the Ranji Trophy against Saurashtra in Rajkot as Punjab conceded a 33-run lead on a wicket-filled day. Gill was trapped in front of the wicket by left-arm spinner Parth Bhut.

Apart from Bhut, who took five wickets for 33 runs, veteran India spinner Ravindra Jadeja (2/48) and seasoned Dharmendra Jadeja (2/36) joined in to dismiss Punjab for 139..

Saurashtra were bowled out for 172. However, the hosts found themselves in trouble again in the second innings, ending the day on 24/3.



Shubman Gill was out LBW to spinner Parth Bhut. PTI

BRIEF SCORES: Saurashtra 172 all out in 47.1 overs (Gohil 82, Mankad 32; Brar 6/38) and 24/3 in 6 overs vs Punjab 139 all out in 40.1 overs (Prabhsimran 44; Bhut 5/33).

• Round-up

GROUP A

In Lucknow: Jharkhand 279/1 in 86 overs (Sharandeep 128*) vs UP

In Vizianagaram: Vidarbha 267/7 in 81 overs (Rathod 104 not out, Binkar 37; Raju 4/51) vs Andhra

GROUP B

In Thiruvananthapuram: Kerala 139 all out in 56 overs (Aparajith 49; Birla 4/40) vs Chandigarh 142/1 in 34 overs (Azad 78)

In Alur: Madhya Pradesh 244/5 in 90 overs (Venkatesh Iyer 87; Vyshak 2/51) vs Karnataka

GROUP C

In Nadiad: Gujarat 175 all out in 55.4 overs (Patel 57; Zubair 3/36) vs Railways 78/2 in 26 overs

In Kalyani: Bengal 340/4 in 86 overs (Chatterjee 140 not out, Easwaran 81) vs Services

GROUP D

In Jaipur: Himachal Pradesh 314/4 in 90 overs (Mann 118, Bains 72; Suthar 2/59) vs Rajasthan

In Bengaluru: Delhi 216 all out in 67.5 overs (Doseja 104; Dev Aditya Singh 3/43) vs Chhattisgarh 52/0

Group D Ranji Trophy clash against Hyderabad at the RGIS in Hyderabad. The pair put on 249 runs for the fourth wicket before the latter fell for 104 late in the day.

Sarfaraz remained unbeaten on 142 off 164 balls with 11 fours and five sixes. Mumbai is without the services of Ajinkya Rahane, who has opted out due to personal reasons.

BRIEF SCORES: Mumbai 332/4 in 87 overs (Sarfaraz 142, Lad 104; R Rayudu 2/66) vs Hyderabad.

Sarfaraz, Siddesh rescue Mumbai

Centuries from Sarfaraz Khan and Siddesh Lad helped rescue Mumbai from 82/3 and reach 332/4 after Day 1 of the

Saxena claims 500th wicket

All-rounder Jalaj Saxena claimed his 500th first-class wicket during his spell of 6/79, which helped Maharashtra bowl Goa out for 209 runs in 82.1 overs in Pune.

BRIEF SCORES: Goa 209 all out in 82.1 overs (Kauthankar 73, Yadav 33; Saxena 6/79) vs Maharashtra 19/0 in 5 overs

• WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE

Devine, Gayakwad keep GG's playoff hopes alive

Tushar Bhaduri
New Delhi, January 22

SYNOPSIS: Warriorz's playoff chances took another hit as Sophie Devine and Rajeshwari Gayakwad' guided Gujarat Giants to a vital win.

TWO VICTORIES after three defeats on the trot at the start of their campaign had given UP Warriorz some semblance of hope that their Women's Premier League (WPL) season had something to play for, but the 45-run reversal against Gujarat Giants in Vadodara on Thursday – in which their batters failed miserably on an admittedly tricky pitch – put Meg Lanning's team's playoff chances in further jeopardy.

A team is likely to feel satisfied if it restricts the opposition to 153/8 in the first 20 overs. The Warriorz would have fancied their chances at 39/1 and then at 57/2, but they faltered against the Giants' mixture of seam and spin to fall well short, and Ashleigh Gardner's side took a big step towards the playoffs.

Kiwi all-in-one

It would be tough to find a more versatile player in women's cricket than Sophie Devine. The New Zealand legend can be considered at least two players for the price of one. She had been batting at the top of the order for the Giants, but after three successive defeats, the team needed a change in plan. So Devine was pushed down the order, as Danni Wyatt-Hodge came into the side as an opener.

One wouldn't say that the move was an unqualified success, with the team reduced to 65/3 in the 10th over when Devine walked in.

Beth Mooney was holding firm, but the score soon became 93/4, 105/4 and 115/6 with the scoring rate also going nowhere. Devine had to not only score her own runs, but also shepherd the lower order. An unbeaten 50 in 42 balls may not seem much in a T20 game, but the context of the match situation and the Giants' precarious position on the points table added great significance to her effort. The pitch wasn't the easiest to bat on.



Rajeshwari Gayakwad returned figures of 3 for 16. CREIMAS

The Kiwi superstar kickstarted her innings with a slog-swept six off Deepti Sharma, but had only two fours in her innings till she reached the 20th over, as she focused on finding gaps in the field. Phoebe Litchfield would be ruing dropping a dolly at the deep midwicket fence that would have dismissed Devine with almost five overs left. Even though Bharti Fulmali got run out in the ensuing confusion, it allowed the New Zealand veteran to stay till the end and whack two sixes in the final over, bowled by Shikha Pandey, to take the Giants to a competitive score.

Devine was not done yet. Bowling returns of 16/2 in 3.3 overs, a catch, and a run-out finished just a normal Devine evening on the cricket field.

Left is right

The pitch was offering assistance, and the experienced Rajeshwari Gayakwad used it to stub any UP Warriorz comeback in the bud. The chasing team was already up against the eight-ball when the left-arm spinner came on at the halfway mark. Deepti Sharma is a bonafide all-rounder, and Chloe Tryon is a big hitter, but there was no twist in the tale.

The left-handed Deepti was trapped in front, going for a sweep. Then Rajeshwari slowed the pace and bowled it wider as Shweta Sehrawat went for a wild heave, missed the ball completely, and was bowled. Asha Sobhana tried a big hit but couldn't clear the infield as Rajeshwari finished with 3/16.

BRIEF SCORES: Gujarat Giants 153/8 (Devine 50 not out, Mooney 38; Gaud 2/18, Ecclestone 2/22) beat UP Warriorz 108 in 17.3 overs (Litchfield 32, Tryon 30 not out; Gayakwad 3/16, Devine 2/16) by 45 runs

• BRIEFLY



Jeremy Hayward scored four goals for Soorma HC. HIL

Soorma score six but narrowly miss out on playoff berth

JSW SOORMA Hockey Club registered a 6–1 victory over SG Pipers in the final Hockey India League (HIL) group stage match on Thursday. Needing a seven-goal win to seal their spot in Qualifier 2, Soorma made a high-intensity start, led by Jeremy Hayward's (2', 7', 34', 45') thunderous drag flicks and a counter-attacking strike from Lucas Martinez (11'). Nicolas Keenan (47') later helped Soorma move into touching distance of qualification in the final quarter but the SG Pipers held on in the dying minutes to break Soorma's hopes of advancing to the Qualifiers. Soorma finished fifth on the table, level on points with HIL GC (11) but had inferior goal difference (2, to HIL GC's 3). PTI

India bids for 2028 World Indoor Athletics

INDIA IS pitching in for two global athletics events in 2028, with the national federation bidding to host the World Indoor Championships in Bhubaneswar, besides the World U20 Championships in Ahmedabad. The World Athletics will announce the hosts of the 2028 and 2030 editions of Junior World Championships in March. PTI

Tilottama, Mane top shooting selection trials

TILOTTAMA SEN produced yet another solid show to secure the top spot in the T1 finals of the women's 10m Air Rifle event in the National Selection Trials. Shahu Tushar Mane of Railways won in the men's event, while Vijayveer Sidhu claimed top spot in 25m Rapid Fire Pistol T2. PTI



Enzo Fuentes (in white) of Pro Cycling Team says getting onto a professional cycling set-up solved two of his issues: not breathing correctly when cycling, and disturbed sleep.

Cyclists swear by nose strips to keep them going

Shivani Naik
Pune, January 22

A bunch of Spanish, French, Dutch and Belgian teams here travel with a box of nasal strips, which are stuck on the mid-bridge of the nose.

RIDERS AT the Pune Grand Tour have a face-care routine though it's not powdering of their noses. Right before they step out of their tents, riders get busy with slathering or spraying sunscreen on their arms. And looking into their mobile phone mirrors to locate the exact spot on the nose bridge to tape on a 'nasal strip'.

Nasal strips have leapt on to other sports, but their predominance amongst road cyclists is pretty high. Enzo Fuentes of Pro Cycling Team says getting onto a professional cycling set-up solved two of his issues: breathing correctly when cycling, and disturbed sleep. His teammates from Andorra joke that he sought out the strips because they informed him he snored. But the rider says it's essentially to clear nasal pathways and regulate breathing.

"I started using them two years ago after joining the Pro Cycling team. It's also to ensure I'm breathing right when I sleep," he says.

A bunch of Spanish, French, Dutch and Belgian teams here travel with a box of nasal strips, which are stuck on the mid-bridge of the nose. They are known to ease nasal muscles and ease breathing.

Malaysian teams too pass around the stick-ons that look like blackhead removal strips, and are an integral part of a cyclists' gear – as important as helmets or sunglasses.

While the black strips look like warpaint, top teams like Burgos have moved onto the translucent or skin-coloured strips that are barely visible.

A tiny strip, a physio explains, has springy edges that pull the upper curves of the nostrils wide apart gently, and help reduce resistance, easing airflow. Placing the strips accurately is crucial, and part of the cycling finery.

Safety pins

Riders on the Pro Tour for years swear by the meditative practice of attaching the bibs to their back jersey pockets meticulously with safety pins. "Early in my racing career, I once had the paper bibs flapping away like crazy at the start, and I looked really ridiculous," recalls Team Roojai's Australian rider Dylan Hopkins. "It affects riding of course in winds, but I decided I'd never look stupid again. From then onwards, I make it a point to sit calmly each race morning and pin the bibs properly. It's almost a superstition that shabby bibs will lead to a bad race," he says.

From Mongolia, a wrestling & judo country, comes best Asian finisher

Shivani Naik
Pune, January 22

IN A sport that consistently logs winners from Europe and the Tasman Antipodes New Zealand and Australia, Asians are fewer in numbers, and find it tough to break through. Even so, pro cycling teams from China, Malaysia, Korea and Thailand, are attempting to find a toehold at cycling's Pune Grand Tour. The same impediments of genetics, cycling culture and sheer exposure stop Asians from acing the long road race of cycling.

But two Asians have smashed conventions – in their own distinct ways – bagging attention. Jambalhamts Sainbayar is a pioneer from Mongolia, who has been finishing with the orange jersey (best Asian finisher) on all three completed days of the UCI 2.2 event at Pune, and racing for 11 years now, currently with one of Spain's top teams Burgos Burpellet.

Mongolia is hardly ever on the pro-sport map of the world, but the 29-year-old started a trend that was astonishing for his compatriots that it led to an explosion of expressive cycling (speeding) in the sport."Mongolia mostly has just wrestling, judo and pistol shooting. I was the first one to turn professional," says the soft-spoken sprinter, who can straddle the climbs with equal tenacity.

After racing for years in Asia, the Spanish pro team picked him for his disciplined riding. "I was an only child, and I can remember riding a bicycle since I was 3. By 15 I was racing professionally," he says.

Sarda from Bikaner

Manav Sarda won't exactly twirl his moustache, but the young rider from India's Developing squad is mighty proud of what he's achieving in his chosen sport.

It's fairly common for Bikaner cyclists to make it to the national team. "It's known as India's cycling hub and lots from my Rajasthan city actually make it to the Services and India squad. But they tend to be the sporty Jatt-Bishnoi community. I'm a Bania. It was tough to believe I could get into this sport," says the young rider, who finished with the Blue jersey (for best Indian rider after Stage 2). Harshveer Singh Sikhon leads the Indian pack now.

The pressure to stick to a family vocation – business in his case – was daunting.

"I had started cycling because I was a little fat. Bikaner has all these amazing cyclists, but never from my community. And many from my community laughed and taunted me when I said I want to do sport. We are supposed to just be in business, everything else is looked down on as failure. But I loved all those Bikaner bikers and wanted to break the stereotype. My parents supported me always. I'm happy I've done well in Pune's first year of the pro race," he says.

He hopes many will now get into sport, and the city's bike heritage gets as much play as its bhujia.

"After all we are Bikaner boys," he says, stressing he's following a rich tradition. "Hopefully international success follows, and I make my city and country proud."

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Djokovic winds back the clock to sail into Rd 3

Stan Wawrinka and Marin Cilic also among the veterans to advance; Sinner shows he is in fine form

Reuters
Melbourne, January 22

NOVAK DJOKOVIC rolled back the years to reach the Australian Open third round on Thursday but Jannik Sinner, the man who has usurped him as king of Melbourne Park, showed why he is favourite to claim a hat-trick of titles.

Women's defending champion Madison Keys overcame a second-set wobble against Ashlyn Krueger to also advance while former champion Naomi Osaka toned down her outfit but not her power game as she also reached round three.

Iga Swiatek continued her quest to complete her career Grand Slam with a 6-2 6-3 victory over unseeded Marie Bouzkova.

Fourth seed Djokovic, seeking a record-extending 11th Melbourne Park title and 25th Grand Slam trophy overall to break the deadlock with Margaret Court, eased past Italian qualifier Francesco Maestrelli 6-3, 6-2, 6-2.

• RD 2 RESULTS

• Women's singles: (6) J Pegula bt M Kessler 6-0, 6-2; (5) E Rybakina by V Gracheva 7-5, 6-2; K Siniakova lost to (4) A Anisimova 1-6, 4-6; (16) N Osaka bt S Cirstea 6-3, 4-6, 6-2; A Krueger lost to (9) M Keys 1-6, 5-7; M Bouzkova lost to (2) I Swiatek 2-6, 3-6.

• Men's Singles: (Q) F Maestrelli lost to Novak Djokovic 3-6, 2-6, 2-6; J Duckworth lost to J Sinner 1-6, 4-6, 2-6; (5) L Musetti bt L Sonego 6-3, 6-3, 6-4; J Munar lost to (12) c rUDD 3-6, 5-7, 4-6



Novak Djokovic won his 399th Grand Slam match on Thursday. AP

The 38-year-old Serb maintained his steady grip on the second-round clash without needing to shift into top gear.

"I didn't know much about him (Maestrelli) until a few days ago, it happens more often than not these days," Djokovic said of his 23-year-old opponent.

He raced through the opening set and pounced again in the opening game of the second set to heap pressure on world number 141 Maestrelli. The win was Djokovic's 399th in Grand Slams and his 101st in Melbourne, leaving him one shy of record-holder Roger Federer. Djokovic will next meet Botic van de Zandschulp.

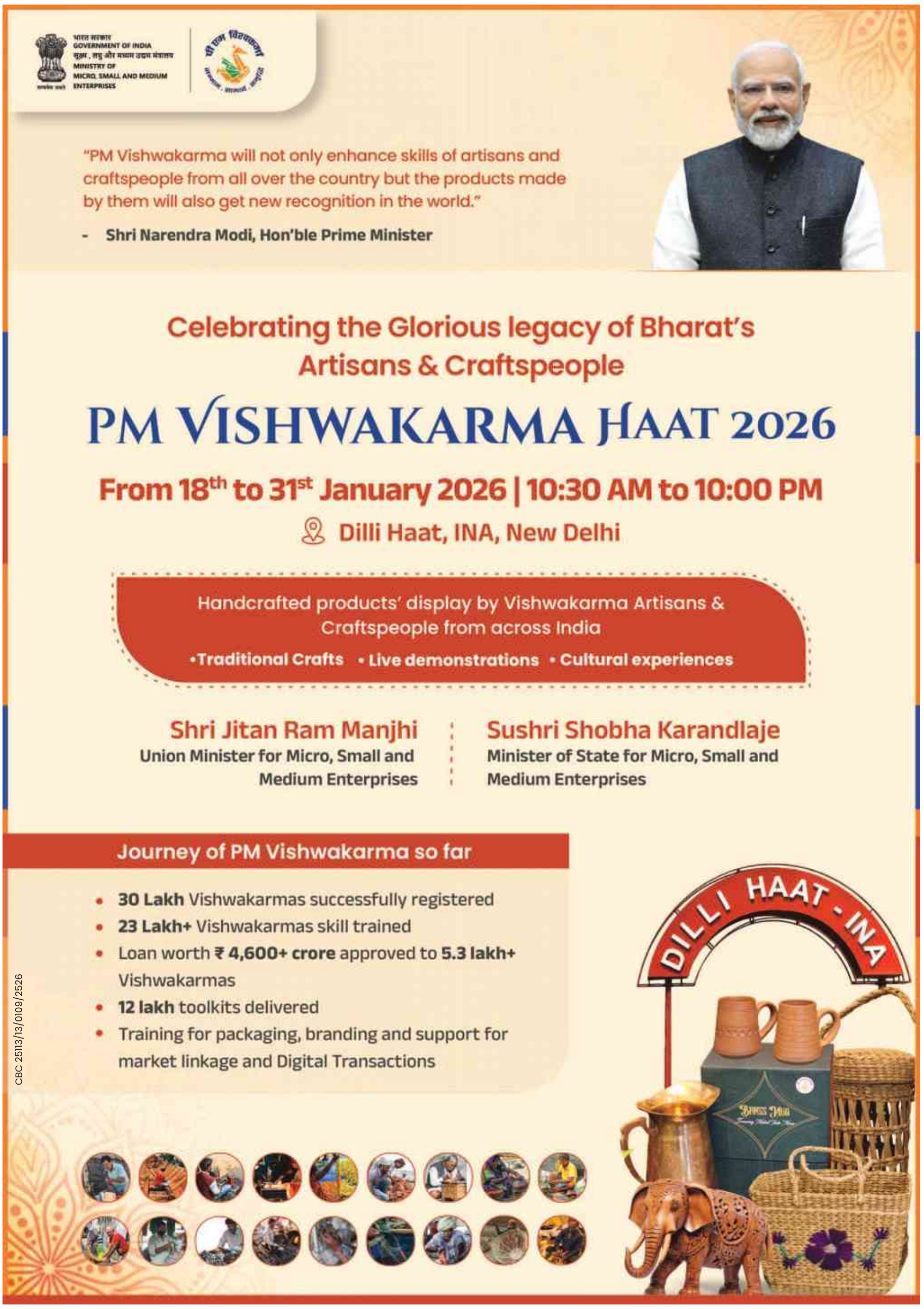
There was something of a retro feel about day five in the men's singles with Swiss former champion Stan Wawrinka, 40, outlasting Arthur Gea 4-6, 6-3, 3-6, 7-5, 7-6 (10-3) while Marin Cilic, 37, dispatched 21st seed Denis Shapovalov 6-4, 6-3, 6-2.

In 2009, Djokovic, Cilic and Wawrinka all reached round three and 17 years later they are still going strong.

The man to beat on blue Melbourne hard courts these days, however, is Sinner. He was supreme as he thumped home wild card James Duckworth 6-1, 6-4, 6-2 in the Rod Laver Arena evening session, banging down 18 aces in a dominant display. Sinner, bidding to join Djokovic by becoming only the second man in the professional era to win three successive Australian Open titles, has now won 12 successive Tour-level matches without dropping a set and looks razor sharp.

"I know how much work I've put in so the body feels good and the mind is in a good moment," he said. The world number two will face American Eliot Spizzirri next.

Osaka, champion in 2019 and 2021, ditched the parasol, veil and broad-brimmed hat for her walk-on against Romania's Sorana Cirstea but continued making waves in her jellyfish-inspired outfit, battling to a 6-3 4-6 6-2 win. There was no love lost between the two players though with a frosty exchange at the net after match point with Cirstea upset by Osaka's antics.



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Delhi court acquits Kejriwal in two ED cases over summons

Not intentional disobedience, says judge; Satyameva Jayate: AAP chief

Sohini Ghosh & Nirbhay Thakur
New Delhi, January 22

A DELHI court Thursday acquitted former Delhi Chief Minister and AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal of the charge of disobeying a public servant's order for skipping six summons from the Enforcement Directorate in connection with its probe into the Delhi excise policy case.

The court of Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Paras Dalal ruled that mere non-appearance following the summons was not "intentional disobedience".

AAP leaders hailed the verdict and Kejriwal, in a post on X, said, "Satyameva Jayate".

The ED had filed two criminal cases against Kejriwal – these were registered in February and March 2024 – under IPC Section 174 (non-attendance in obedience to an order from public servant). Provisions under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) provide ED with powers for launching criminal proceedings under IPC Section 174 for intentionally disobeying summons for appearance before the agency.

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Ahead of EU leaders' visit

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with ambassadors from European Union countries in New Delhi on Thursday. "Spoke to them about the current state of the world with volatility and instability as the new normal," Jaishankar said in a post on X. ANI

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MUKH MANTRI SEHAT YOJANA

Punjab govt rolls out Rs 10-L medical cover for all; no income bar

With praise for Mann, Kejriwal blows bugle for 2027 Assembly elections

Express News Service
Chandigarh, January 22

THE AAM Aadmi Party government in Punjab Thursday formally rolled out the Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojana (MMSY) to provide free cashless medical treatment of up to Rs 10 lakh to every family in the state, even as Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and party national convener Arvind Kejriwal sounded the bugle for the 2027 Assembly polls by asking voters not to make the mistake of electing "power hungry politicians."

The universal healthcare cover will be provided to all 65 lakh families in the state granting them access to free treatment for over 2,500 medical procedures at both state-run and some private hospitals. Any resident of Punjab, carrying an Aadhaar card or a voter card, will be eligible to

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal launch the Yojana, in Mohali on Thursday. ANI

REGION P 6

HOSPITAL BODY BACKS SCHEME, FLAGS FUNDING, PAYMENT RISKS

Happening today

- **PRIME MINISTER** Narendra Modi will flag off four new train services in poll-bound Kerala. He will also address a rally in Madurathakam, Tamil Nadu.
- **SHIV SENA (UBT)** chief Uddhav Thackeray and MNS president Raj Thackeray will together address their party workers in Mumbai to mark Bal Thackeray's 100th birth anniversary.

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EXPLAINED P 20



TRUMP'S GAMBIT ON GREENLAND HAS PARALLELS WITH THE PAST

INSIDE P 6

FIR AGAINST KAPIL MISHRA IN ACCORDANCE WITH LAW, SAYS PUNJAB DGP

INTERNATIONAL SHUTTLERS WRITE TO OLYMPICS BODY ON DELHI'S AIR

Sports alarm bells: Toxic outdoors, no weather-proof indoors, IOC takes note

EXPRESS exclusive

Nihal Koshie & Mihir Vasavda
New Delhi, Mumbai, January 22

■ At the India Open last week, international badminton stars questioned Delhi's place on the global calendar, citing health concerns from the toxic air. Some of them even complained to the International Olympic Committee (IOC). "We can confirm that the IOC Athletes' Commission has received the information and is in touch," the IOC told *The Indian Express*.

■ Dronacharya Award-winning hockey coach Pritam Siwach is worried. At the Sports Authority of India's Sonepat centre, dust and toxic air have left her players coughing and allergic. "They fall sick, recover and fall sick again. It doesn't end," she said. The doctors are blunt: the air and water are unfit.

■ Decathlete Tejaswin Shankar said winter training in Delhi is no longer about grit, but pollution. Shankar, who hails from Delhi, left in November to train

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

SPORTING EXODUS

INDIA-SOUTH AFRICA Test moved to Kolkata last year.

ASIAN GAMES medallist Tejaswin Shankar shifted base to South Africa, US. "I was in Delhi for 10 days to spend time with my family. Then I moved to South Africa, and then the US. The idea was to try and avoid time in Delhi during those months."

SHOOTERS TRAINING at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range in Delhi are travelling to Bhopal. Beyond health concerns, national coach Deepali Deshpande said smog has reduced visibility.

WHEN THE heat peaks, many wrestlers migrate to hill towns like Shilaroo, Shimla or Nainital. But Railways coach Kripa Shankar Patel said: "You can't run long training cycles there... The oxygen is lower because of altitude."

IN 2023, the Cycling Federation of India moved the national camp for road and endurance cyclists from Delhi to Guwahati. In 2024, it was shifted to Patiala.



DAY AFTER ICC ULTIMATUM

Bangladesh firm on World Cup: 'Willing to play, not in India'

Decision paves way for ICC to call Scotland as replacement

Express News Service
Kolkata, January 22

A DAY after the International Cricket Council (ICC) asked the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) to confirm whether their team would play the T20 World Cup in India next month as scheduled, the Bangladesh government responded on Thursday, reiterating that its players are keen to participate but not in India.

The decision sets the stage for the ICC to replace the team with Scotland, as the global governing body had decided during its Board meeting on Wednesday when Bangladesh was given the ultimatum.

Speaking to reporters after holding a "high-level meeting" with BCB president Aminul Islam and the team's cricketers, Bangladesh's Sports Advisor Asif Nazrul said they want to play the tournament in Sri Lanka, which are the co-hosts along with India -- a demand that had already been rejected by the ICC.

"While our cricketers have

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Business as Usual
By EP UNNY



Top Maoist with Rs 1-cr bounty among 15 killed in Jharkhand encounter

Shubham Tigga
Ranchi, January 22

A TOP leader of the banned Communist Party of India (Maoist), carrying a Rs 1-crore bounty on his head, was among 15 Maoists killed on Thursday in an encounter with security forces in the Saranda forest area near Chaibasa in Jharkhand's West Singhbhum district, officials said.

The exchange of fire began near Kumbhdih village under the Chotanagra police station limits. Residents of surrounding villages reported hearing continuous gunfire from the early morning hours of Thursday.

Chaibasa police said security forces were conducting a search operation in the Saranda forests when the Maoists opened fire. The forces retaliated, following which the encounter intensified, officers said.

Among those killed was Pati Ram Majhi, alias Anal Da, who was among Jharkhand's three

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

U.S. ANNOUNCES 'NEW GAZA' PLAN

As Trump unveils his Board of Peace, Delhi waits, watches

India, China, Russia, much of Europe skip event, Pakistan there

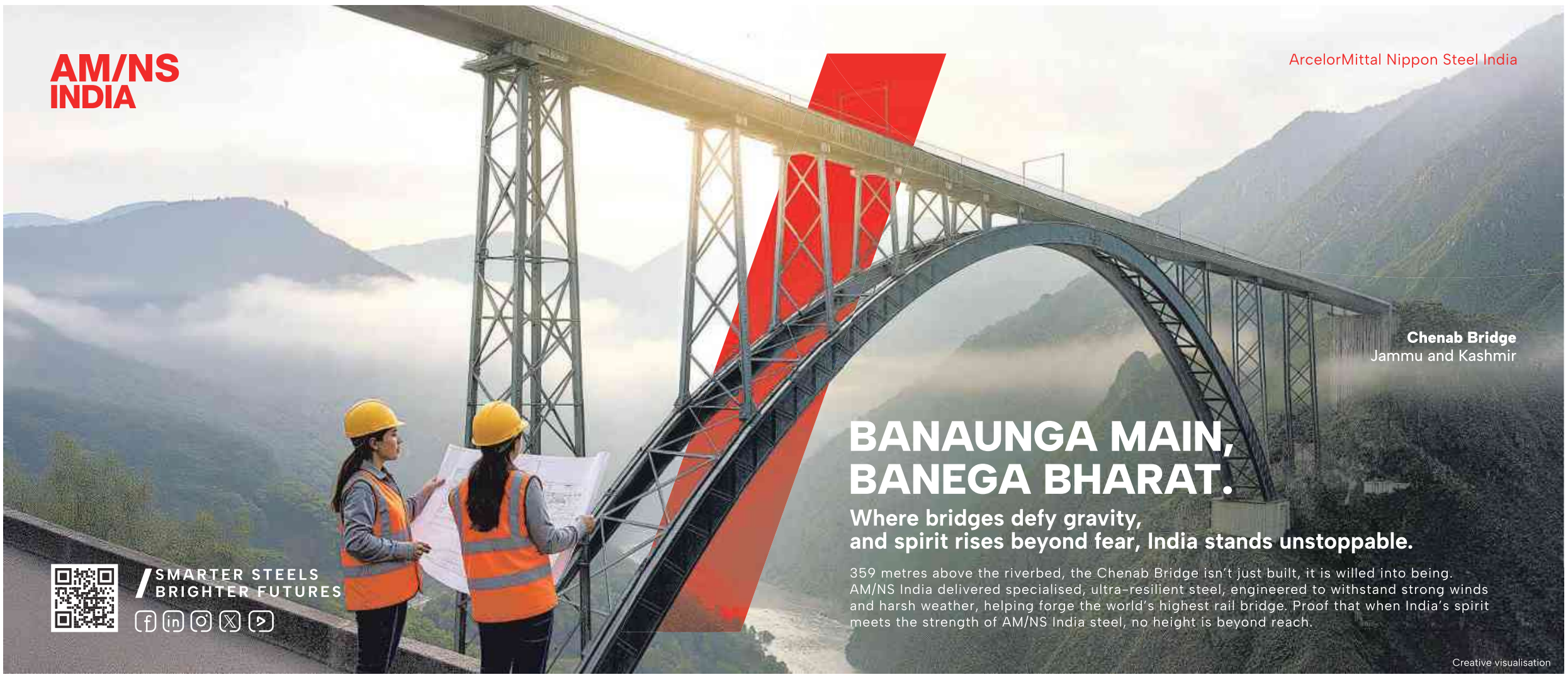
Shubhajit Roy
New Delhi, January 22

AS US President Donald Trump unveiled his Board of Peace and son-in-law Jared Kushner announced plans for a 'New Gaza' rebuilt from the ruins of the Israel-Hamas war, India stayed away from the ceremony in Davos Thursday, opting to walk the diplomatic tightrope for now by neither declining nor accepting Trump's invitation to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to join the board.

Sources said India has strong reasons for not joining the board immediately, and will prefer to wait and watch. It's weighing a range of factors – from the cast of countries on the board, its legitimacy and longevity, challenge to the UN framework and multilateralism, the board's scope and mandate, India's own stand of a negotiated two-State solution to the Israel-Palestine question, and consequences from Trump if it does not join or vacillates.

First, Delhi wants to see which countries are on the board – Trump's invitation has been accepted by Argentina, Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belarus, Bulgaria, Egypt, Hungary, Indonesia, Israel, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Morocco, Mongolia, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia,

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2





Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi at the book launch event in New Delhi on Thursday. EXPRESS

Gen Dwivedi: Op Sindoor was given to Army week after Pahalgam attack

Divya A
New Delhi, January 22

OPERATION SINDOOR was given to the Army a week after the Pahalgam terrorist attack, even as it was carried out another week later, on May 7, said Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi in New Delhi on Thursday.

"Operation Sindoor was given to me — if I remember — on April 29 or 30, but it was not put out in the media," said General Dwivedi while speaking at the launch of a book on the military action.

"Whenever I stay to stand on the rostrum after April 22, 2025, (when Pahalgam terrorist attack happened), I am always slightly cautious and apprehensive because that day, I was taking the retiring officers' seminar and was into 3/4th of my address and suddenly Rajiv Ghai (then DGMO) walked in and said, 'Sir, chhota sa'.

When the DGMO says 'chhota sa', you can make out there must be something more," recalled General Dwivedi.

That time, the Northern Army Commander was also attending the seminar, he looked at me, I looked at him, and he understood and immediately walked out. By that time, he had also gotten a slip about what had happened, and the rest is history, added the Chief of Army Staff.

Calling Operation Sindoor, which was conducted by India as a response to the Pahalgam terror attack as "one of the most consequential operations in recent history", the Army Chief said, "A joint synergistic approach was the hallmark of Op Sindoor, because at 0147 hours, in the ops room, it was a setting which had Army, Air Force and Naval colleagues, along with diplomatic corps."

Red Lines Redrawn: Operation Sindoor and India's New Normal (Konark Publishers), authored by Maj Gen Bipin Bakshi, Air Mshl Rajesh Kumar, Amb Anil Trigunayat and Brig Akhelesh Bhargava, spotlights the planning rooms and operational environment of the 88-hour operation launched on Pakistan.

"There were actions from both sides, but the winner in the long run was the one whose narrative was based on truth and packed with credible evidence. The world saw on their TV screens, how the nine targets were destroyed in a synergistic manner, that all three forces were involved in it through 22 minutes of precision non-escalatory strikes," he said.

"The old assumption that India requires a long time for decision-making as also a long drawn mobilisation cycle to synchronise force application was quietly thrown out of the window, and one could say that the adversary discovered that India's decision-making loop has become shorter," he added, on the political will behind the operation.

'Homebound' misses Oscar nomination in a fierce competition

Alaka Sahani
Mumbai, January 22

DIRECTOR NEERAJ Ghaywan's *Homebound* bowed out of the Orscar race at the nomination stage on Thursday.

The five nominees announced for the International Feature Film category for the 98th Academy Awards are Brazil's *The Secret Agent*, France's *It Was Just an Accident*, Norway's *Sentimental Value*, Spain's *Sirāt*, and Tunisia's *The Voice of Hind Rajab*. Though *Homebound*, which premiered in the Un Certain Regard section at the Cannes Film Festival in May last year, had secured a spot among the 15 films shortlisted for the International Feature Film category last month, competition for the final five nominations was especially fierce.

After winning multiple awards at Cannes, including best director award for *Kleber Mendonça Filho* and best actor award for *Wagner Moura* (who is popular for playing Pablo Escobar in the series *Narcos*), *The Secret Agent* has steadily gained momentum during the awards season. The Brazilian political drama, set in 1977 when the country was under dictatorship, explores the absurdities of life as Moura, who plays a widower, returns to Recife during a carnival, to be reunited with his son.

Filho, known for directing acclaimed movies like *Bacurau*, makes a strong statement about everyday corruption and military dictatorship in the 160-minute period piece that's being praised for its visual richness and sound. *The Secret Agent* has already bagged Golden Globes for Best Motion Picture-Non-English Language and Best Performance by a Male Actor in a Motion Picture-Drama for *Moura*. *It Was Just an Accident*, written and directed by Iranian filmmaker Jafar Panahi, has long been considered an Oscar frontrunner. Shot discreetly in Tehran, the winner of Palme d'Or, and four Golden Globes nominations, Panahi's movie is an unconventional revenge drama that dwells more on moral dilemmas even as it packs an incisive commentary on authoritarianism.

Yet another Oscar-favourite *Sentimental Value*, directed and co-written by Joachim Trier, has received nine nominations including Best Picture, Best Director, Best Actress (Renate Reinsve), Best Supporting Actor (Stellan Skarsgård), and Best Supporting Actress nominations for *Elle Fanning* and *Ibsdotter Lilleaas*. The movie, which won the Grand Prix at Cannes, is a gripping exploration of the estranged relationship between an aging filmmaker past his prime and his daughters.

Directed by Oliver Laxe, Sirât, a winner of 2025 Cannes Jury Prize, deftly combines a visually and sonically rich experience. A father (Sergi López), accompanied by his young son and a dog, looks for his missing daughter, who is supposed to be entangled in the local rave culture, in the Moroccan desert. What makes this genre-defying movie engrossing is its emotional depth.

The Voice of Hind Rajab is one of the most political narratives competing for the Oscar trophy. The docudrama, written and directed by Kaouther Ben Hania, follows the events after Hind Rajab, a six-year-old Palestinian girl, contacts Palestinian Red Crescent Society to rescue her while under siege in Gaza City in 2024 and after losing her family members, who had been shot in an attack by the Israeli Defence Forces. The film uses the real voice of Hind Rajab while recreating the action of emergency response coordinators. Even though *Homebound's* Oscar campaign comes to an end, it remains a significant Indian film that touched the global audience with the story of two young friends and their struggles. Producer Karan Johar summed it up aptly when he thanked Ghaywan on social media for "allowing us to bask in your light".

[FROM PAGE 1 | FULL REPORTS ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM]

Trump unveils his Board of Peace, Delhi waits

Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan and Vietnam.

Last Monday, UAE President Mohamed bin Zayed visited India, and officials in Delhi said Modi and he had held detailed consultations.

The countries that have signed on to the board include West Asia majors Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Israel, UAE, Turkey and Jordan. But Europe has largely stayed away. Trump ally Hungary has accepted his invitation but France, Germany, UK, Sweden and Italy have not joined. Permanent members of the UN Security Council – Russia, China, France and UK – have not joined and there's a view in Delhi that the board, at least for now, lacks both heft and legitimacy.

Second, the longevity of the board is also being assessed. As of now, it is Trump's passion project. The day he leaves office, the board could become infructuous. So, Delhi is considering whether to put its time and energy in an initiative which is time-barred – the Trump term will end after another three years. There is also concern that if he doesn't have his way, he may choose to exit the board. That would mean India being stuck on the board, along with its regional partners.

Third, India's commitment to the United Nations and multilateralism will be on test if the board tends to undermine the UN framework, and positions itself as a parallel body.

It is also unclear who will take the board decisions, whether it will be consultative or according to Trump's whims and fancies. Delhi will watch out for the rules of engagement.

Trump, on his part, has added a role for the UN in the board's functioning, but left the mandate wide open. "Once this board is completely formed, we can do pretty much whatever we want to do. And we'll do it in conjunction with the United Nations," he said, adding that the UN had great potential that had not been fully utilised.

Fourth, Delhi is wary that the Board of Peace might wade into other conflicts, beyond Gaza. And Trump's penchant for getting involved – for instance, taking credit for halting the India-Pakistan conflict last summer – is something that worries Delhi.

Canada's Prime Minister Mark Carney had said, "The UN resolution, Security Council resolution 2803 references a Board of Peace for Gaza. That's where we see it becoming immediately operative, and it needs to be, in our view, it's better to be designed in that way for the immediate needs there."

India would want Carney's template to be adopted, and limited to Gaza. But Trump has said "this is for the world."

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was among the leaders who attended the Davos ceremony. There is a view in Delhi that Pakistan's inclusion makes it difficult for India to stay out of the board. Because if it opts out, India will be cut off from any decision-making by the board in the event of a future conflict with Pakistan.

Punjab rolls out Rs 10-lakh medical cover

avail the benefits of the scheme.

Addressing a gathering in Mohali after launching the scheme, Kejriwal said, "No one (in Punjab) is excluded. All 65 lakh families are covered. We had given this guarantee before the elections. This was called Kejriwal's guarantee".

He said, in the past 75 years, several governments came, but they did not take care of people despite making tall claims. "Beware of these traditional parties. Do not commit the mistake of giving them your vote again. It was the nature that helped formation of AAP. Otherwise, neither I nor Manish Sisodia and Satyendar Jain had the money. Waheguru helped this party."

Stating that last four years (of AAP rule) would be written in golden words in the history of Punjab, he said the traditional political parties would not believe that "we will provide free healthcare and free power" to the people. "We gave free power to all, good schools are coming up, women enjoy free travel and now we are providing free healthcare," he said.

He said during the previous Congress dispensation, both Captain Amarinder Singh and his successor Charanjit Singh Channi used to say that the treasury was empty and that the government was running in deficit. "They said that Kejriwal was roaming around peddling lies about free electricity, free healthcare, and free education, and that none of this was possible because there was no money. But the AAP government proved that all the guarantees could indeed be fulfilled," he added.

Targeting the previous governments, Kejriwal said that in 75 years, merely 400 primary health centres came up in Punjab. "We have set up 1,000 'mohalla' clinics in the past four years and 500 more will come up in the state. In next 4-5 months, we will set up 2,500 pind clinics in the villages. Our mohalla clinics are grand. Those are air-conditioned. Over 1000 doctors and specialists have been hired in the state. Now there is no shortage of doctors in government hospitals," he further said.

Heaping praise on Mann, the AAP convenor said, "Your Chief Minister works 24 hours a day. Their (other parties') chief ministers are in Davos in Switzerland. Your CM is sitting here, inaugurating the healthcare scheme. He may be feeling like traveling. His wife would also be saying that they should travel to Switzerland. He has a daughter who would be wanting to travel. But he is here," Kejriwal said.

Mann said it was a historic day for Punjab in the healthcare sector. The 'Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojna' is the biggest health scheme since independence, he said, adding the the scheme has been launched for the welfare of every section of society, inspired by the teachings of Guru Sahiban. "Health cards will be issued to all 65 lakh families, covering nearly three crore citizens of Punjab," he said, adding that for the first time no income limit has been fixed for any health scheme in the state.

"With the launch of this scheme today, Punjab has set a new benchmark for the entire country," Mann said, underlining that Punjab has now become the first state to provide free healthcare, free education, free electricity, and free bus travel for women.

Explaining the scope of the initiative, Mann said that from government employees and pensioners to and every other resident would be eligible for the health card. "These cards can be obtained from facilitation centres and Common Service Centres, or through online registration using Aadhaar card or voter card," he said, adding that youth club members would also assist citizens by making cards door to door. He further stated that 850 government and private hospitals have already been empanelled under the scheme and more will be added in the coming days.

He said that more than 2,356 treatment packages have been included under the scheme, compared to 1,600 earlier. "Specialised treatments such as Orthopaedics, General Medicine, Cardiology, Neurology, Nephrology, Urology, Oncology, and several others are being offered," he said.

Taking a dig at BJP-led Union government, he said, "Our scheme is inclusive. Everybody is covered. On the contrary, not a single household in Punjab is covered under Pradhan Mantri Aawas Yojana (PMAY). They say the houses should not be bricked. They do not cover the house under the scheme if it has an LPG cylinder. First they give a cylinder under Ujjawala Yojana and then they say because the household has a cylinder, it would not get benefit under PMAY. People are now willing to let go of their cylinder to take benefit from PMAY."

Cautioning people against traditional party leaders, Mann said, "They all want to become chief ministers".

Bangladesh firm on World Cup

worked hard to qualify for the World Cup, the security risk regarding playing in India remains unchanged. This concern is not based on abstract analysis. It comes from a very real incident in which the Indian board failed to provide security to one of our top players due to pressure from extremists and he was asked to leave India," Nazrul said.

He was referring to the BCCI asking Kolkata Knight Riders earlier this month to eject Bangladesh seamer Mustafizur Rahman from its squad for the next IPL, citing "recent developments", which is believed to be a reference to the domestic turmoil across the border.

"It is crucial to weigh the loss of not playing against the potential catastrophe of pushing players, fans, and journalists into a risky regional political situation. This is a government decision, as the state is responsible for determining whether its citizens face security risks abroad," Nazrul said.

"We are not convinced that they can ensure the safety of our entire team, journalists, and spectators. We are not giving up hope yet; our team is ready. We expect the ICC to provide justice by considering our genuine security risks and allowing us to play in Sri Lanka," he said.

According to the original schedule, Bangladesh was slated to play three matches of Group C in Kolkata, including the opening game against West Indies (February 7), and against Italy (February 9) and England (February 14). Its last group was to be held on February 17 against Nepal in Mumbai.

BCB chief Aminul said they will "try again to convince the ICC and look for other ways to play the tournament". "If ICC fails to accommodate us, it will be a significant loss to world cricket and failure for the host country. We are still trying so that our boys can play in the World Cup. We are ready to play the World Cup but not in India but in Sri Lanka. Our team is ready," he said.

Asked about the ICC's ultimatum, Aminul said, "A world organisation can't do that. We'll keep fighting."

On Wednesday, the governing body led by chairman Jay Shah took the opinion of its Board where, apart from Bangladesh and Pakistan, everyone voted in favour of a replacement -- Scotland -- if the BCB didn't agree to the original itinerary.

"The decision was taken after considering all security assessments conducted, including independent reviews, all of which indicated there was no threat to Bangladesh players, media persons, officials and fans at any of the tournament venues in India," the ICC had said in a press release.

The ICC Board noted that it was not feasible to make changes so close to the tournament and that altering the schedule under the circumstances, in the absence of any credible security threat, could set a precedent that would jeopardise the sanctity of future ICC events and undermine its neutrality.

Nazrul, meanwhile, claimed that the ICC didn't try to convince them. "They didn't call the Mustafizur incident an isolated incident. They didn't say sorry about it or even try to communicate with us. So there's no scope for changing our decision," he said.

Kejriwal acquitted

While giving Kejriwal a clean chit in the criminal cases, the court held that ED had failed to prove the emails through which the summons had been sent, and that such a mode of service was not envisaged under the CrPC or PMLA.

The CrPC, it said, mandates physical service of summons with procedure to record that summons have been served. It said when the PMLA does not specifically stipulate the appropriate way of serving summons, the "ED cannot devise its own way" and must adhere to the law laid down under CrPC.

The court also acquitted AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan of a similar charge for skipping three summons in connection with the probe into an alleged money laundering case relating to the Delhi Waqf Board, and discharged him in another case over three other summons. The ED case stemmed from two FIRs: one filed by the CBI concerning alleged irregularities in Waqf Board appointments; and another by the Delhi Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) regarding an alleged case of disproportionate assets.

Kejriwal, while skipping the ED summons, had cited various elections, including those to state assemblies and Rajya Sabha and his obligation to perform his duties as Chief Minister of Delhi. He was arrested on March 21, 2024, by the ED in an alleged money laundering case linked to the now-scrapped excise policy. On June 25, 2024, the Delhi High Court stayed a trial court order granting him bail in the ED case. He was subsequently granted interim bail on July 12, 2024 by the Supreme Court which has continued since.

In two orders, ACJM Dalal said "the entire process is antithetical to the rule of law". He said "no such mode of service is envisaged under the PMLA or CrPC".

Top Maoist with Rs 1 crore bounty among 15 killed in Jharkhand encounter

most wanted Maoist leaders. He was a member of the Central Committee of the CPI (Maoist) and had been active in Saranda.

CRPF IG Saket Kumar Singh said heavy firing began around 6.20–6.30 am, and that it continued intermittently for nearly seven hours till around 1.30 pm, with sporadic exchanges lasting into the evening. "The operation is still continuing as the area is large, heavily forested and laced with IED threats. Search operations are being conducted cautiously," he said.

Officials said 15 bodies have been recovered so far.

IG (Operations) Michael Raj told *The Indian Express* that Saranda continues to be a major operational area for Maoists due to its challenging terrain. "The difficult terrain, dense forests and rugged hills give the CPI (Maoist) a stronghold to continue their activities. A large-scale operation is underway inside the forest," he said, adding that the area has been cordoned off by security teams.

Calling the operation a success, Jharkhand DGP Tadasha Mishra said the killing of the Maoists was a major achievement for the security personnel. "Our personnel did a very good job. The operation has been ongoing since morning, and it is one of the biggest successes that we have been looking for," Mishra said.

Police said that apart from Anal, other identified Maoists killed in the encounter included Anmol alias Shushant (Bihar–Jharkhand Special Area Committee member of the Maoists), who carried a reward of Rs 25 lakh in Jharkhand and Rs 65 lakh in Odisha, and Amit Munda (Maost zonal committee member), who carried a reward of Rs 15 lakh in Jharkhand, Rs 43 lakh in Odisha, and Rs 4 lakh by the NIA.

According to the police, Anal was wanted in nearly 149 criminal cases, including the 2005 Belwa Ghati massacre, in which 17 people were killed by Maoists. He was also involved in the loot of 183 rifles from a Home Guards armoury in Giridih and attacks on security camps in Bokaro and other districts of Jharkhand, police said.

Officials said he also played a key role in several IED attacks between 2022 and 2025.

CRPF IG Singh called the operation a "historic achievement" and said this was possibly the highest number of Maoist fatalities recorded in a single operation in Jharkhand, surpassing earlier encounters in Garhwa and Bokaro.

Officials said Jharkhand earlier had four active Maoist Central Committee members, of whom three have been killed in the last two-three years. "Only Misir Besra remains active," Singh said, adding that intelligence inputs suggest Misir Besra is operating within a 15-km radius of the encounter site with around 40–50 armed cadres.

Singh appealed to the remaining Maoist cadres to surrender. "There are camps everywhere now. Anyone who wishes to surrender will be provided security and rehabilitation under state policy," he said.

Thursday's operation comes ahead of the Central government's March 2026 deadline to bring an end to Left Wing Extremism in the country.

Sports alarm bells

in Bhubaneswar first, South Africa later and the US now. The "extremely difficult" summer brings no relief. "There are real physiological costs for athletes in Delhi," he said.

■ At the premier National Institute of Sport in Patiala, the talk is more about "unbearable summers". "It becomes difficult to even stand outside in the heat for five minutes," former Olympic and world champion Neeraj Chopra had said earlier. Training in such conditions, he had said, was "extremely difficult".

For foreign sportspersons touring India, the risk is occasional -- and one they can choose to avoid, as Denmark shuttler Anders Antonsen did at the India Open. There is no such luxury for Indian athletes. Their exposure is constant, and the cost cumulative.

As the country makes a pitch for the 2036 Olympics, *The Indian Express* spoke to coaches and athletes from a wide range of sports -- boxing, wrestling, athletics and para-athletics, cycling, shooting and hockey — to understand the impact of the toxic winter air and long summers that push temperatures towards 50 degrees Celsius, on health and training.

The answer was unanimous: these conditions are dismantling their carefully planned training cycles -- not through a sudden collapse but slow, relentless erosion.

Dr Randeep Guleria, the former chief of AIIMS, warned that exercising in polluted air "puts extra strain on the lungs, reduces exercise capacity" and can also affect the heart and brain. His prescription is blunt. "Ideally, they will need a base camp in a region where they can train safely -- possibly outside central India, because the air quality is bad in the Indo-Gangetic belt," he said.

However, some of India's premier elite and grassroots institutions are located in and around this region. There is NIS in Patiala, the apex sports education and training centre. There are the National Centres of Excellence for Olympic disciplines in Sonepat, Rohtak, Chandigarh, Lucknow and New Delhi. Venues in the capital, such as Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range and Indira Gandhi Sports Complex, also host international events.

For decades, these sporting facilities have served as nurseries for champions and hopefuls: nine out of India's 13 medallists at the last two Olympics have trained at these centres.

'Dark clouds make us happy'

The shrinking window for effective outdoor training comes at a time when India is pushing to host the 2036 Olympics. The Sports Ministry has roped in legendary athletes to overhaul coaching systems, professionalise administration and roll out a 10-year roadmap targeting 12-14 gold medals. The vision also includes a Rs 1,500-Rs 2,000 crore makeover of the NIS and establishing an Olympic Training Centre for each sport.

And yet, as coaches and athletes point out, one critical factor is being overlooked.

The number of months in which athletes can train without worrying about the weather has shrunk to just "two or three in a year", says hockey coach Siwach, who is also a former India captain. "Even that is not continuous... 15-20 days in one month, 15-20 days more sometime later. When we see dark clouds over our heads, we are happy because it means rain and fresh air," she said.

In 2024, Delhi and adjoining regions saw their longest spell of extreme heat in 74 years, with temperatures above 40 degrees Celsius for over a month. From June to August, temperatures ranged between 46 degrees Celsius and 50 degrees Celsius, far exceeding the 32 degrees Celsius heat-stress threshold defined for sports such as football and tennis.

According to aqi.in, Delhi did not record a single clean air day in 2025. And, a report by Esri India and IPE Global projects a two-fold rise in heatwave days in Delhi by 2030.

Gajendra Singh, who is the husband and coach of Paris Paralympics bronze medallist and two-time world para champion sprinter Simran Sharma, says the pollution level in Delhi "takes a toll on the body". "When we do repeated sprints (in training), Simran vomits and her cough lasts longer. Our training programme revolves around the AQI (Air Quality Index) levels," he said.

So much so, elite athletes are relocating to the south for relatively cleaner air and milder summers, while those with greater means are moving overseas. Left behind are juniors and grassroots athletes -- the cohort from which many of India's potential 2036 Olympians will emerge.

Guleria agreed that the "window for safe outdoor exercise is shrinking". "Because breathing rates increase during exercise, more polluted air is inhaled, increasing exposure to harmful particles, which over time can cause breathing difficulty, chest tightness, and reduced overall performance," said Guleria, now the chairman of Medanta's Institute of Internal Medicine and Respiratory and Sleep Medicine.

Coaches and athletes have, meanwhile, been advocating for indoor, temperature-controlled arenas. Neeraj Chopra spoke about it in 2021: "I have been saying that there should be an indoor track for athletics at least in Patiala. If you see the smallest of countries, they have indoor tracks."

In his recent report for "restructuring and revitalising of NIS, Patiala", badminton great Pullela Gopichand suggested a "flagship multi-sport indoor complex housing climate-controlled training halls" at the centre.

Hockey coach Siwach says she first encountered an indoor hockey centre "in a rural area near Amsterdam a few years ago". Later, she proposed to the Government that a similar centre be built in India.

Time is running out now, she warns. "Even now, when I go to the ground, the irritation in my eyes and throat is so intense that I feel compelled to finish quickly and go back indoors. If I'm experiencing this, imagine what the players, who run constantly, must be going through. How can coaches develop quality talent under such conditions?"

With inputs from NITIN SHARMA, PRITISH RAJ



(From left to right) AAP, BJP, and Congress candidates after filing their nominations for the upcoming elections in Chandigarh, Thursday. KAMLESHWAR SINGH

CONGRESS, AAP, BJP DECLARE CANDIDATES FOR MAYOR, DEPUTY AND SENIOR DEPUTY MAYORS

INDIA bloc partners Cong and AAP fly solo; mayoral face-off turns triangular

Jagpreet Singh Sandhu
Chandigarh, January 22

THE RACE for Chandigarh's top civic posts has turned into a three-cornered contest with the Congress, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) fielding their candidates for Mayor, Senior Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayor, even as an AAP councillor from Ward 15 entered the fray as an Independent, adding a new twist to the electoral battle ahead of the January 29 polls.

The Congress named Gurpreet Singh Gabi as its mayoral candidate, Sachin Galav for Senior Deputy Mayor and Nirmala Devi for Deputy Mayor. All three filed their nomination papers at the Municipal Corporation office in the afternoon on Thursday.

AAP fielded councillor Yogesh Dhingra (from Ward 25) for Mayor, Munawar Khan (Ward 29) for Senior Deputy Mayor and Jaswinder Kaur (Ward 1) for Deputy Mayor.

The BJP also entered the fray, nominating Saurabh Joshi (Ward 12) for Mayor, Jasmanpreet Singh (Ward 32) for Senior Deputy Mayor and Suman Sharma (Ward 4) for Deputy Mayor.

Ramchandra Yadav goes solo

AAP councillor from Ward 15, Ramchandra Yadav, also filed his nomination as an Independent candidate for the post of Deputy Mayor, turning the contest for the post into a four-cornered fight. With Yadav's entry, there are now four candidates in the fray for the Deputy Mayor's post.

Rejecting allegations of rebellion, Yadav said, "I am a soldier of the Aam Aadmi Party. I have not left the party. Contesting elections is my right. I am still in the AAP. Rebellion would have been if I had joined BJP or Congress."

He said he had informed senior party leaders about the matter and demanded action against those who had indulged in cross-voting earlier.

"Five complaints have been filed against me, but there is no talk of any action. Time will tell — if the party does not want me, I will withdraw," Yadav said.

Congress attacks AAP

Chandigarh Congress president H S Lucky said the party had wanted an alliance, but the AAP failed to control its cadre. "One of their councillors has even filed as an Independent. This shows their internal situation," he said.

Gurpreet Singh Gabi said it was "ironic" that the AAP could not manage its own councillors. "On January 29, the Congress will have its Mayor. The AAP will be left with only nine councillors. They cannot manage their own house. We will swing votes from seven to 14. Numbers are just a game — we are fighting with morale," he claimed, also alleging discontent within the BJP.

BJP mayoral candidate Saurabh Joshi said his primary goal was to work for the people of Chandigarh and called the trust reposed in him by the party and citizens an honour.

"Today I realised that serving silently within the party is also equally important. I do not consider victory or defeat the ultimate benchmark," Joshi said.

He said that if elected, he would use his one-year tenure to fulfil the vision he has for the city. Thanking both the local and top leadership of the BJP and Congress, Joshi said the BJP does not work only for elections, but treats elections as a learning process.

"We do not fight a numbers battle, we talk about public interest. I thank the party's top leadership for considering me worthy of this responsibility," he said.

He further said that Congress and AAP councillors were fighting over numbers and posts, while the BJP believed in politics of service and public welfare. "If I get the mayor's post, I will serve the people with complete dedication," he added.

AAP fears defection, keeps councillors under watch

The AAP is apprehensive about possible defections and has reportedly shifted all its 11 councillors to a hotel in Rupnagar (Ropar). According to party sources, their mobile phones have been switched off and they will be kept out of Chandigarh till the completion of the election process.

Political analysts said the understanding between the Congress and AAP remained only verbal. Both parties had different strategies for the upcoming Punjab Assembly elections. An alliance in Chandigarh could have forced them to justify their stand before voters in Punjab. Under pressure from their Punjab units, both parties decided to contest separately.

SAD Mohali chief gets ₹5-cr extortion call, FIR lodged against gangster Pawan Shokeen

Jasbir Malhi
Mohali, January 22

DAYS AFTER an extortion threat targeted singer and music composer B Praak, a fresh case has now surfaced involving senior Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) Mohali district president Parvinder Singh Sohana. Sohana has alleged that he received repeated threats and a Rs 5-crore extortion demand from gangster Pawan Shokeen.

Following Sohana's complaint, police on Thursday registered an FIR under Sections 308(4) and 351(3) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) against gangster Shokeen and unidentified persons, and initiated an investigation.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Sohana said that the first extortion call was received on January 3, 2026, from an international number via WhatsApp. "The caller demanded Rs 5 crore and threatened to kill me and my family if the money was not paid. He claimed to be gangster Pawan Shokeen," he said. Sohana said he immediately lodged a complaint with the SHO of Sohana village, and submitted the audio recording of the call.

Sohana said he received another threatening call on January 7 from a foreign number, followed by a voice message containing chilling references to a recent killing.

"The caller said, 'You saw what we did to the sarpanch in Amritsar, shot him dead at a wedding. If the Peeli Pag can be killed, then the Neeli Pag is next'."

In another call, the caller reportedly warned: "It seems you didn't understand earlier. Now we will show you action". Sohana termed the threats "grave, direct and imminent".

Despite approaching the SHO and later the SSP Mohali, Sohana said no immediate action was taken. He also claimed that on January 16, a police team from Jodhan police station in Ludhiana visited his residence for questioning after detecting gangster-linked calls on his phone.

"I informed them that I had already reported the threat calls to Mohali police. After verification, they left," he said.

'Family under serious threat'

In his police complaint, Sohana said his family has long been associated with social and political work and has actively raised its voice against drugs and gangster culture in Punjab. "Because of my stand against anti-social elements, gangsters are targeting me. They have openly threatened to kill me and my family," he stated.

He also pointed out that he was granted security cover in 2013 by the ADGP (Security), but no protection has been provided this time despite the heightened threat perception.

Police officials said technical analysis of call records and audio clips is underway and further action will follow.

Booked for using 'fake attendance' to draw salary, UT councillor's kin gets bail

Express News Service
Mohali, January 22

KOMAL SHARMA, sister-in-law of Chandigarh Ward No. 4 councillor Suman Sharma who recently switched from the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) to the BJP, has been granted bail by a Mohali court in a case related to allegedly drawing salary through fake attendance.

A case was registered against Sharma at the Sohana police station, Mohali, after allegations surfaced that she had marked false attendance and received salary unlawfully. She was subsequently arrested by the Sohana police. However, after hearing arguments from both sides, the Mohali court granted her bail on a personal bond of Rs 25,000.

According to available information, Sharma was deployed as a clerk on an outsourcing basis with the Punjab Water Supply and Sewerage Board. She was accused of fraudulently claiming salary by putting up fake attendance while working as a clerk.

During the hearing on the bail application, the defence argued that the case is entirely based on documentary evidence, all of which is already in the possession of the investigating agency.

It was further submitted that the petitioner's mobile phone has been seized and she does not possess a passport, ruling out any possibility of her absconding or tampering with evidence.

The defence also contended that Sharma was outsourced through a company based in Panchkula, while the Water Supply Department office is located in Sector 27, raising questions over the jurisdiction of the Mohali police to initiate action in the matter.

Opposing the bail plea, the prosecution argued that Sharma had allegedly drawn a salary amounting to nearly Rs 6 lakh through wrongful means, which is yet to be recovered.

The prosecution emphasised that the case involves loss to the government exchequer and therefore warrants strict action.

After considering the submissions of both sides, the court observed that all relevant documents related to the case are already with the police and, at this stage, custodial interrogation of the accused is not necessary.

PANJAB UNIVERSITY, CHANDIGARH

SENATE ELECTION 2026

The Senate Election of the Panjab University of Registered Graduate Constituency will be held on **20.09.2026.** The existing voters and new voters can cast their votes to elected Fifteen (15) members from this Constituency. For details visit Notice: **https://senateelections.puchd.ac.in/show-noticeboard.php?nbid=1**

Registrar-cum-Returning Officer

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QUALIFICATIONS, PAY SCALES & EXPERIENCE CRITERIA AS PER NORMS OF UGC, BCI & STATE GOVERNMENT NORMS

Qualifications, Pay Scales and Experience Criteria as per UGC, BCI, State Government/MDU, Rohtak Norms. The Interested Candidates may apply in prescribed form with all testimonials within 21 days (upto 13.02.2026) from the date of publication of Advertisement. The Application form may be collected from the office of the Institute during office hours or may be downloaded from the website of the Institute. The Application complete in all respect may be submitted to the President, Puran Murti College of Law, Kami Road, Distt. Sonepat, Haryana-131001, by Hand/Post/Email at puranmurti@gmail.com. It is also mandatory to submit a copy of the Application along with all Testimonials to DCDC, MDU, Rohtak before expiry of Last Date.

President

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e-Procurement Notice

On behalf of Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (Govt. of India), tenders are invited from bidders meeting qualifying requirements for following works:

Sl. No.	Description of work	NIT No. and Date	Estimated Cost including GST (Rs. in Crores)	EMD (Rs. in Lakh)	Tender Fee (Rs.)
1	Construction of MSME Technology Centre at Jhansi (Uttar Pradesh) under the Scheme "Establishment of New Technology Centre/Extension Centre" on Engineering Design, Procurement and Construction (EPC) basis including Maintenance for 2 year during DLP Period	IRCON/ B1100009/ MSME/e-Tender/ EPC/TC Jhansi/ ET49, Dated 23.01.2026	84	48	50,000
2	Construction of MSME Technology Centre at Bilaspur (Chhattisgarh) under the Scheme "Establishment of New Technology Centre/ Extension Centre" on Engineering Design, Procurement and Construction (EPC) basis including Maintenance for 2 year during DLP Period	IRCON/ B1100009/ MSME/e-Tender/ EPC/TC Bilaspur/ ET50, Dated 23.01.2026	84	48	50,000
3	Construction of MSME Technology Centre at Rajkot (Gujarat) under the Scheme "Establishment of New Technology Centre/Extension Centre" on Engineering Design, Procurement and Construction (EPC) basis including Maintenance for 2 year during DLP Period	IRCON/ B1100009/ MSME/e-Tender/ EPC/TC Rajkot/ ET51, Dated 23.01.2026	82	47	50,000
4	Construction of MSME Technology Centre at Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu) under the Scheme "Establishment of New Technology Centre/ Extension Centre" on Engineering Design, Procurement and Construction (EPC) basis including Maintenance for 2 year during DLP Period	IRCON/ B1100009/MSME/ e-Tender/EPC/ TC Coimbatore/ ET52, Dated 23.01.2026	82	47	50,000
5	Construction of MSME Technology Centre at Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala) under the Scheme "Establishment of New Technology Centre/ Extension Centre" on Engineering Design, Procurement and Construction (EPC) basis including Maintenance for 2 year during DLP Period	IRCON/ B1100009/MSME/ e-Tender/EPC/ TC Thiruvananthapuram/ET53, Dated 19.01.2026	80	46	50,000

Tender Documents will be available on e-tender portal website **https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app** w.e.f. **23.01.2026** and last date of submission of above tenders is **12.02.2026 upto 15.00 hrs.** Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted only on the website.

Executive Director/VME
C-4, District Centre, Saket, New Delhi-110017, email-masood.ahmad@ircon.org



MOHALI CIVIC BODY'S ANTI-ENCROACHMENT DRIVE

Bigwigs targeted on day 4 as operation intensifies

Commissioner warns of FIRs, recovery of costs, property cancellation for obstructing action

Jasbir Malhi
Mohali, January 22



A man hangs to an excavator in a bid to stop demolition of his property in Mohali. JASBIR MALHI

ON THE fourth day of its ongoing anti-encroachment drive, the Mohali Municipal Corporation (MC) on Thursday removed illegal occupations belonging to several influential individuals across the city. Notably, an encroachment in Phase 5 allegedly linked to a former senior Punjab Police officer was also cleared.

The drive faced hurdles in Phase 3B2, where a house owner, who had already been granted time a day earlier, again sought an extension instead of removing the encroachment from a public park. The situation escalated when the individual reportedly clung to an excavator, resulting in nearly three hours of delay and disruption to the operation.

Municipal employees eventually cleared the entire park, which had been encroached upon with railings and even vegetable plantations, indicating permanent illegal occupation. Sanitation staff were deployed on-site to restore the park, which was seen being cleaned after the removal of the encroachments.

A significant development observed during the drive was that many residents voluntarily began removing their illegal structures. Officials said this reflected a growing realisation among the public that neither influence nor connections with senior officials would protect encroachers. This was particularly evident in Phase 5, where a large number of residents had already cleared encroachments ahead of the municipal action.

During the operation, municipal officials also faced resistance and protests from some locals. Due to the lack of sufficient police force, the action was halted for several hours at certain spots, adding to the difficulties faced by the enforcement teams.

According to officials, in Phase 5 the Municipal Corporation removed illegal encroachments from a public park, reportedly occupied by a former Inspector General of Police. Encroachments outside residential areas, including near the residence of the Deputy Commissioner, Mohali, were also removed, creating a stir in the locality.

Municipal Commissioner Parminder Pal Singh issued a stern warning, stating: "Anyone who opposes the anti-encroachment action or threatens government staff is being fully videographed. Apart from recovering the cost incurred in removing encroachments, FIRs will also be registered against those creating obstruction."

He further added that in cases where people re-encroach after removal, videographic evidence will be sent to GMADA.

Mayor says areas of Cong councillors seeing extensive demolition

Express News Service
Mohali, January 22

MOHALI MAYOR Amarjit Singh 'Jiti' Sidhu on Thursday levelled serious allegations against the bureaucracy over the ongoing anti-encroachment drive in the city, terming it "biased, selective and an instance of unwarranted high-handedness". While asserting his respect for the orders of the high court and willingness to comply with them, the Mayor said the manner in which officials are executing the drive is arbitrary and discriminatory.

Questioning the logic behind beginning the drive from Phase 4, Sidhu said it could have equally started from Phase 6 or Phase 11. He pointed out that the drive first reached Phase 11 after commencing from Phase 4, then shifted to Phase 10, and after facing resistance there, was diverted to Phase 7. Alleging political targeting, he claimed that areas represented by Congress councillors saw extensive demolition, while localities close to the ruling dispensation witnessed only "token action".

The Mayor further alleged that mandatory procedures were completely bypassed. "No 90-day notices were served, no awareness camps were organised, and no announcements were made through public address systems," he said. Highlighting the human impact, he added that many affected houses belonged to families with elderly residents aged between 85 and 90 years, while several families reside outside the city. "Their houses were demolished and left unsecured, virtually inviting thefts," he remarked.

Slamming the absence of post-demolition planning, Sidhu said no plan, estimate or maintenance programme was prepared after the action, which has further deteriorated the city's condition. Issuing a warning to the bureaucracy, he stated, "Governments change, but it is the people who suffer. Officers too will have to answer for their actions one day."

GMADA fixes enhancement charges at ₹7,845/ sq yard for IT City allottees

Express News Service
Mohali, January 22

ALLOTTEES OF GMADA's ambitious IT City project located on Airport Road have been dealt a fresh financial blow after the development authority decided to levy enhancement charges on plots in the area. All existing allottees and transferees will now have to pay an additional Rs 7,845 per square yard. In case of failure to deposit the amount within the stipulated time, interest will be imposed, which will continue to increase with delay.

An official letter to this effect was issued by the Estate Officer (Plots) on Thursday. The letter states that the agenda titled "Assessment and Recovery of Additional Price from Present Allottee/Transferee of IT City Scheme" was approved in GMADA's 38th meeting held on January 12.

Following the authority's decision, resentment is brewing among IT City allottees. Earlier, enhancement charges imposed in Sectors 76 to 80 had led to a prolonged agitation lasting nearly two-and-a-half years, eventually forcing the government to reduce the rates.

Property traders have termed the decision unjustified, pointing out that when GMADA launched the IT City scheme in 2018, plot rates were fixed at Rs 25,000 per square yard, while under the oustees quota, farmers were allotted plots at Rs 13,500 per square yard.

They argue that demanding additional lakhs after eight years is not only unfair but amounts to injustice to buyers. Recovering extra charges years after selling a property cannot be termed reasonable or just, they said.

Criticising GMADA, Deputy Mayor Kuljit Singh Bedi said that the development authority has completely turned into a "property dealer and has nothing to do with the welfare of Mohali residents".

Census 2027 to kick off in UT, houselisting exercise from May 1

Express News Service
Chandigarh, January 22

THE FIRST phase of Census 2027, Houselisting Operations (HLO), will begin in Chandigarh from May 1 to May 30. Enumerators will identify buildings and households and collect data on housing conditions, assets, and amenities as part of this exercise.

The decision was taken at the second State Level Census Coordination Committee (SLCCC) meeting, chaired by Chief Secretary H Rajesh Prasad at the Chandigarh Secretariat, on Wednesday.

A Union Territory (UT) official said that the meeting focused on reviewing preparations for the upcoming Census, including progress on pre-Census activities, training schedules and budgetary arrangements required for the smooth conduct of the exercise.

The meeting was convened by the director of Census operations, UT Chandigarh, and attended by members of the SLCCC, including representatives from the local government, revenue, urban planning, finance, education, and architecture departments.

Apart from the Houselisting Operations phase scheduled from May 1 to May 30, a 15-day self-enumeration period has also been finalised from April 16 to April 30. These dates will be notified in the official Gazette of UT Chandigarh at the earliest.

To facilitate a smooth transition towards a digital Census, it was decided that the Directorate of Census Operations would organise a one-day conference on February 25 to orient and sensitise the principal Census officer (deputy commissioner) and other senior officials.

As per the UT official, the committee reviewed the successful completion of pre-test activities at two locations—Sarangpur and Sector 22—and discussed preparations underway for the main Census operations. A detailed training schedule for master trainers and field trainers was approved, with sessions set to begin in the third week of February.

On the financial front, the availability of a budget and approved norms was assessed. The committee decided to initiate the hiring of technical staff and procurement of IT infrastructure in Chandigarh at the earliest.

Emphasising the timely completion of all preparatory activities, Chief Secretary Rajesh Prasad directed all concerned departments to ensure close coordination and cooperation to ensure the smooth and efficient conduct of Census-related work in the Union Territory.

War Memorial to be highlight in Chandigarh R-Day tableau debut

Jagpreet Singh Sandhu
Chandigarh, January 22

WHEN CHANDIGARH rolls out its first-ever tableau at Bharat Parv 2026, the city has chosen to place the Chandigarh War Memorial at its forefront, signalling that remembrance and sacrifice will lead its national narrative on Republic Day. The tableau, to be displayed at the Red Fort from January 26 to 31 as part of the Union government's Republic Day celebrations, will open with a sculptural representation of the memorial, underscoring the city's collective tribute to soldiers from Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Chandigarh who laid down their lives for the nation after Independence.

Located in the Bougainvillea Garden in Sector 3, adjacent to the Leisure Valley, the Chandigarh War Memorial is among the country's largest post-Independence war memorials. It commemorates between 8,459 and 11,000 martyrs who died in conflicts such as the Indo-Pak and Indo-China wars, as well as later military operations, including Sri Lanka and Kargil. Conceived in 2003–04 by Lt Gen J F R Jacob (retd), hero of the 1971 war and then Governor of Punjab and Administrator of Chandigarh, the memorial was envisioned as a citizens' project meant to instil pride in the armed forces. Jacob laid the foundation stone on April 28, 2004, describing it as a shandar yadgar, while Gen SF Rodrigues (retd), former Army chief and later Punjab Governor, performed the ground-breaking ceremony. The memorial was inaugurated and dedicated to the nation by President APJ Abdul Kalam on August 17, 2006.

A defining aspect of the memorial's history is the role played by The Indian Express, which spearheaded a city-wide citizens' initiative to raise funds for its construction. Built entirely without government funding, the project cost about Rs 78 lakh, mobilised through public donations driven by the newspaper group in partnership with the UT Administration. The effort turned the memorial into a community-owned space of remembrance rather than a conventional state-funded structure.

Beyond the war memorial, the tableau goes on to depict Chandigarh's contemporary identity in motion. One section highlights the city's sporting culture through a dynamic portrayal of kayaking at Sukhna Lake, with rippling water effects and stone textures capturing both adventure and calm. This segment reflects youth energy, fitness and the city's close relationship with its natural water bodies.



Punjab, NHAI push for lifting tree-felling ban; HC says will safeguard green cover, infra needs

Manraj Grewal Sharma
Chandigarh, January 22

THE PUNJAB and Haryana High Court on Thursday indicated that it would find ways to protect the green cover of Punjab while allowing essential infrastructure development as the state government and the National Highways Authority of India argued that its blanket ban on tree felling in December was stalling key infrastructure and commercial projects despite statutory permissions and compensatory afforestation measures being in place.

A Division Bench of Chief Justice Sheel Nagu and Justice Sanjiv Berry was hearing a clutch of public interest litigations (PILs) challenging the cutting of trees for projects, including a proposed shopping complex in Mohali and the construction of roundabouts and a national highway stretch. The court had, in December, directed that no tree be felled in Punjab, citing abysmal tree cover.

"Do you want your children and your grandchildren to breathe fresh air?" Chief Justice Sheel Nagu asked Punjab Advocate General MS Bedi when he called for removing the ban, saying how it had brought many projects to a grinding halt. "Construction can always wait, but the loss of tree cover cannot be reversed easily," the Chief Justice observed during the hearing. Opposing the blanket nature of the ban, counsel for the state and NHAI submitted that the applicable tree preservation policy did not impose an absolute prohibition, but required avoidance of felling and permitted removal in rarest of rare cases after due consideration. They argued that in several cases, efforts had been made to avoid cutting trees, but expert committees had found redesign or realignment unfeasible.

A counsel for the petitioners said the Punjab Tree Preservation Policy emphasises avoidance, minimisation and compensatory plantation. The policy mandates that old and heritage trees, including species such as peepal, banyan and neem, be preserved, and that felling be recommended only in exceptional circumstances. Heritage trees are defined as those over 100 years old with historical, cultural or environmental value.

The counsel contended that commercial projects such as a shopping mall could not fall within the "rarest of rare" category and accused the authorities of treating compensatory plantation as a substitute for the policy's primary objective of conservation. They also pointed out that Punjab's forest and tree cover stood at about 5.9 per cent of its geographical area, far below the national average, and argued that executive instructions could not be diluted for convenience. The state, however, maintained that all approvals had been obtained for the Mohali shopping complex, which was located on non-forest land earmarked for commercial use under the GMADA master plan. It said compensatory plantation was being carried out and that no heritage trees were involved.

> **"Do you want your children and your grandchildren to breathe fresh air?...Construction can always wait, but the loss of tree cover cannot be reversed easily"**
> **CHIEF JUSTICE SHEEL NAGU**
> PUNJAB & HARYANA HIGH COURT

NHAI, for its part, sought relaxation of the ban for a defence road project on the Abohar–Fazilka corridor, stating that about 75 per cent of the work had already been completed and compensatory afforestation worth Rs 15 crore undertaken. It warned that the blanket stay had brought work on several national projects to a standstill, even as the Punjab counsel said the ban had affected road safety interventions such as roundabouts recommended by traffic experts due to a high fatality rate on certain stretches of the state.

During the hearing, the Bench repeatedly sought clarity on whether any heritage trees were proposed to be felled and directed the authorities to specifically identify such trees from the record. "The fundamental point is avoidance," the court observed, indicating that permissions could not be granted mechanically.

The Bench also dealt with overlapping PILs. One petition relating to a 23-acre forest land in Sector 90, Mohali, was dismissed as premature, as clearance from the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests was still pending. The petitioner was granted liberty to revive the issue if approval was eventually granted. Issues relating to roundabouts and other projects were directed to be pursued in an existing PIL to avoid duplication. Observing that a PIL ceases to remain the petitioner's case and becomes "a baby of the court", the Bench said it would regulate the proceedings and decide how the matters were to be dealt with.

The matters will now be taken up again on Friday, with the court asking the authorities to point out, with precision, whether any heritage trees were involved before it considered any modification of the blanket ban.

BRIEFLY



Youngsters buy kites at a market on the eve of Basant Panchami, in Patiala on Thursday. ANI

Retd Colonel from Mohali says assaulted by son-in-law in Mumbai

Mumbai: **A retired Army colonel has lodged a complaint against his son-in-law, accusing him of assaulting him and snatching his mobile phone in Mumbai's Bandra area, police said on Thursday. The incident took place Wednesday evening on the premises of St Andrews College, they said. Amrit Pal Singh, 63, a resident of Mohali in Punjab, made the allegations against his son-in-law, Sarthak Zohar. Singh's daughter and Zohar are currently locked in a matrimonial dispute being heard by the Supreme Court, the police said. The couple has a five-year-old daughter, and as per the court orders, both the parents are allowed to meet the child on her holidays. On the day of the incident, she was participating in an event at St Andrews College. Zohar arrived at the college along with his cousin and said he wanted to meet Singh's daughter.** PTI

Punjab tableau to showcase spirituality

Chandigarh: **The tableau prepared by the Punjab Government for the Republic Day parade this year is a unique blend of spirituality and the selfless spirit of sacrifice to uphold the ideals of humanity, compassion and religious values. An official spokesperson divulged that the tableau comprises two portions. The front portion of the tableau has a symbol of the 'hand', exuding a spiritual aura, signifying the humanitarian and compassionate approach. The celestial 'Ek Onkar' (God is one) is also depicted in a revolving manner in the front and a piece of cloth with 'Hind di chadar' embossed on the same, symbolising protection for those seeking shelter from oppression.**

3 sentenced to 5 yrs in jail in cow slaughter case

Gurugram: **The court of Nuh's Additional Sessions Judge Shashi Chauhan has sentenced three people to five years of imprisonment in a cow slaughter case, police said. The court on Wednesday also imposed a penalty of Rs 75,000 on them, and in case of non-payment of the fine, a provision of an additional six months of simple imprisonment has been made, they added. The spokesperson of Nuh police said that on September 3, 2020, Ferozpur Jhirka police arrested Asif and Aas Mohammad, residents of the Madaribas village, and Akhtar and Aizaj, residents of the Hasanpur Bilonda village.**

3 Delhi tourists killed in Kullu road accident

Shimla: **Three tourists from Delhi, including a five-year-old girl, were killed and three were injured in Kullu on Thursday when the driver of their car allegedly lost control and the vehicle rammed into a pole and then crashed into a parapet on the road, police said. The accident took place near Babeli, around 10 km from Kullu town while the group was returning from Manali. Three occupants died on the spot, and three others are undergoing treatment at Civil Hospital, Kullu.**

Two get 10 years RI in 2022 arms smuggling case

Faridabad: A court here has sentenced two men to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment in a 2022 case of arms smuggling, police said on Thursday. The court of Palwal's Additional Sessions Judge Dr Tayyab Hussain on January 14 also imposed a fine of Rs 5,000 each on the convicts, they said. According to police, they busted an interstate arms smuggling gang on July 10, 2022, under the guidance of the then SP, Palwal Rajesh Duggal. They arrested Kilor Singh, mastermind of the gang, and Jam Singh, natives of Sendhwa village in Barwani district in Madhya Pradesh.

Drug racket running from jail busted

Khanna: The Khanna Police Thursday claimed to have busted an inter-district drug trafficking racket that was allegedly being operated from a jail. Investigation revealed that an accused was running an organised heroin supply network using a mobile phone, while his family members managed the drug proceeds outside. Khanna SSP Darpan Ahluwalia said that the accused has been identified as Sunil Kumar alias Bachhi, a resident of Samrala. PTI & ENS

Punjab asks border area teachers to sign 'undertaking' to avail an extra increment

Express News Service
Ludhiana, January 22

THE PUNJAB education department has ordered border area teachers to submit an undertaking if they wish to avail an extra increment.

According to the letter issued by director school education dated January 20, teachers serving in border areas have to sign an undertaking stating, "I have decided to serve in border areas for my entire service period." The undertaking adds: "If I move from border to non-border area, then I won't be eligible for any extra increment. And if I move to a non-border area due to any reason after availing an extra increment, then I will return the amount with interest. I will not move to court after taking this decision."

The letter states that the decision to give a bonus increment to border area teachers has been taken in response to several litigations filed in the court. Schools in border districts of Gurdaspur, Amritsar, Tarn Taran, Ferozepur and Fazilka have been facing acute shortage of teachers. Due to lack of basic amenities, teachers don't prefer getting posted here.

The Democratic Teachers Front (DTF) in a statement said that "Punjab government has imposed some unreasonable conditions to avail the bonus increment."

"The teacher or employee who wants to avail the additional increment will give an undertaking (self-declaration) that he/she will spend his/her entire service period in the border area and if in any case that employee moves outside the border area, then he will have to return the benefit of the increment taken in the past along with interest. This is completely unreasonable and unnecessary because the people of the border area are already suffering in getting education and health facilities and there is also resentment among the teachers in this regard," said the DTF.

> ***The letter states that the decision to give a bonus increment to border area teachers has been taken in response to several litigations filed in the court***

Meanwhile, DTF Punjab state president Vikramdev Singh said, "The Punjab government has created a separate cadre for border area schools, but it has failed in creating an environment for working smoothly in this area. Even while giving an increment, the government is imposing unreasonable conditions. This is nothing but keeping teachers in border areas as bonded laborers. With this decision to withdraw the bonus increment on leaving the border area and making the teacher return the increment with interest, no quality change can be expected in the schools of the border areas."

Democratic Employees Federation state president Jarmanjit Singh said that there was a need to create a conducive environment for the smooth functioning of schools in the border areas. "A 'Teacher Home' should be developed on the lines of police lines for the teachers working in the border area and arrangements should be made for the needy teachers to stay there. By imposing unreasonable conditions even while giving only one increment, the Punjab government is only harassing teachers."

MANN'S PLAY BOOK FOR PUNJAB-2027

To keep BJP in check, AAP turns to 'Humare Ram'

Kanchan Vasdev
Chandigarh, January 22

FROM HANDING over the reins of the party in Punjab to a Hindu and backing a Sanatan Seva Samiti to contemplating bringing in a Hindu Temples Act, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has made several attempts to reach out to Hindu voters in the Sikh-majority state. Now, a year before the Assembly elections next year, the party is banking on a theatrical play starring actor Ashutosh Rana.

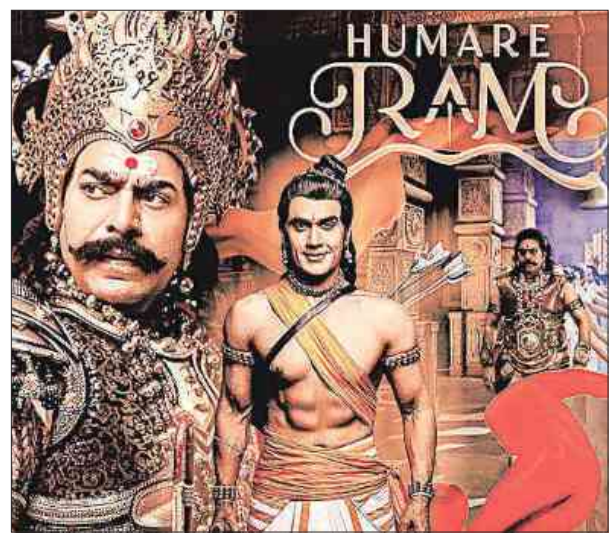
On Tuesday, the Bhagwant Mann-led Cabinet approved the proposal to stage 40 free shows of Humare Ram, a retelling of the Ramayana, across various cities in the state. While each show of the play has previously been priced at Rs 799, Finance Minister Harpal Cheema on Tuesday said the schedule of the shows is being finalised.

"The idea is to build a religious-cultural platform that helps the party remain visible among Hindus," an AAP leader said, even as the party has officially maintained that the proposal was accepted only to "promote cultural heritage and social harmony".

According to the National Centre for Performing Arts, the play brings several scenes from the Ramayana that have never been shown on stage. It begins from the perspective of Lord Ram's sons Luv and Kush after their mother, Goddess Sita, "takes the final refuge in the arms of Bhumi". The angry sons then pose certain questions about their mother to Lord Ram.

The move to stage the play is being viewed as the AAP's attempt to check the rise in support for the BJP among Hindus, who form around 38% of Punjab's population and are largely concentrated in urban centres such as Amritsar, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, and Patiala.

> Hindus form around 38% of the population in Punjab and stay mostly in Amritsar, Jalandhar, Ludhiana



A promo of the play starring Ashutosh Rana

What explains the outreach

The AAP's carefully crafted Hindu outreach began in November 2024 with the appointment of Aman Arora, a Hindu, as the president of its state unit. Arora replaced Mann, a Sikh who had held the post since January 2019. The move, by a party traditionally seen as drawing support from Sikh and rural voters, was viewed as an attempt to expand its footprint among Hindus as well as in urban areas, where the BJP is perceived to be gaining ground.

While still a marginal force in the Assembly, the BJP's vote share grew from 6.6% in the 2022 Assembly polls to over 18% in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The AAP, on the other hand, saw its vote share slip to 26.2% in the Lok Sabha polls, down from the 42% it had secured in the 2022 Assembly elections.

"Since the Lok Sabha polls, the AAP is confident of its support base in rural areas. However, the urban Hindu vote is a bit of a worry," an AAP leader said, adding that the party would be further cornered if the BJP and Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) tied up.

Around the same time as Arora's appointment, the party also backed the newly launched Sanatan Seva Samiti headed by Deepak Bali, with senior AAP leaders such as Arora and state minister Barinder Goyal participating in its events.

The proposal to stage free shows of Humare Ram is said to be the brainchild of Bali, who has also served as the head of the cultural affairs committee and as chairman of Tourism and Cultural Affairs. "There is no Hindu outreach. We respect all communities and castes equally. The AAP believes in inclusivity and winning voters' hearts through good work and governance," Bali said.

In yet another move by the AAP seen as wooing Hindus, Mann said in May 2025 that his government would bring in the Hindu Temples Act, giving temples the right to manage their own affairs without government interference. The CM's assurance came after repeated representations on the issue by the board's chairman, Mahant Ravikant Muni.

Such a law would address a long-standing demand of the Punjab Hindu Welfare Board, which has been seeking an autonomous body to manage temples in the state since 2012.

In August last year, the Mann government set up 14 caste-based welfare boards, most of which catered to Hindu communities such as Brahmins, Aggarwals, Rajputs, Prajapatis, Kanojias, Swarnakars and Vimukt Jatis, among others. Even as some boards cover more than one community—such as the Saini and Ramgarhia Board—and a few cater to minorities, the emphasis on Hindu caste groupings has not gone unnoticed.

The AAP has also turned to symbolic religious visibility as part of its outreach. In late 2024, the party held a Shukrana Yatra (thanksgiving procession) from Patiala to Amritsar, with halts at prominent Hindu temples such as the Kali Mata temple, the Durgiana temple and Ram Tirath. Mann himself visited several Hindu temples during the yatra.

Term ended, polls yet to be announced, NRI Sabha facing leadership vacuum

Anju Agnihotri Chaba
Jalandhar, January 22

FAILURE TO announce the election schedule of the NRI Sabha Punjab has plunged the statutory body into a governance crisis as the two-year tenure of its president, Parvinder Kaur Australia, ended on January 4.

Members of the body have raised serious concerns, including allegations of prolonged constitutional violations, administrative paralysis, and unilateral functioning in what is the only registered institution meant to represent Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) in the state.

Under the Constitution of the NRI Sabha Punjab, the election process must begin at least 90 days before the expiry of the president's two-year term. As 90 days are given for the preparation of elections after the announcement of the schedule, and with no election notification issued so far, members point out that elections cannot take place before April 2026, even if the schedule is announced in the coming days. This delay, they argue, has created a leadership vacuum and rendered the body ineffective.

With nearly 23,000 registered members, the NRI Sabha is expected to function as a democratic platform to address the grievances of the NRI community and involve them in the socio-economic development of Punjab. As per the established practice, only registered NRI members can participate in elections, and voting traditionally requires physical presence.

Members are now demanding that elections be announced immediately so that the organisation can be made functional in an effective and transparent manner. They maintain that the continued delay is eroding the credibility of the institution and weakening its ability to serve NRIs.

Plea filed before HC

The election delay was also brought before the Punjab and Haryana High Court through a petition filed by Karan Randhawa, a member of the NRI Sabha, seeking directions to initiate elections strictly as per the Constitution.

In response, the Divisional Commissioner of Jalandhar, who is also the chairman of the NRI Sabha Punjab and constitutionally responsible for conducting its elections, filed an affidavit stating that a request to initiate the election process had been sent to the Department of NRI Affairs. It was further stated that on December 2, 2025, the department sought the proposed election schedule, which was subsequently forwarded to Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann for approval. Based on this affidavit, the high court recorded that the election process had been initiated. However, no poll schedule has been notified till date, leading members to question the delay in implementing the assurance recorded before the court.

Reacting to the situation, the petitioner Randhawa stated that while the court recorded the government's statement, the lack of concrete action places the responsibility squarely on the chairman of the NRI Sabha Punjab to conduct the election without further delay.

The members of the Sabha pointed out that despite assurances made during the last elections, the outgoing president allegedly failed to revive the Sabha and, instead, ran it in a unilateral manner, against the spirit of collective decision-making enshrined in the Constitution.

Randhawa alleged serious violations of the statutory body's Constitution and its bye-laws during the tenure of the outgoing president. He alleged that the president is supposed to constitute the central executive committee, but it was never formed. He also alleged failure to constitute the administrative sub-committee, failure to convene the Annual General Meeting (AGM), and failure to place monthly income and expenditure statements before the executive committee, thereby violating norms of transparency and accountability.

Seeking financial clarity, Randhawa filed an application under the Right to Information Act (RTI). However, the Sabha allegedly failed to provide the requested financial information.

Randhawa alleged that even a minister's order was ignored. "A binding order dated 31 January 2024, issued by the then Minister for NRI Affairs, Punjab, Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal, who is also the Patron of the Sabha, appointed five office bearers of NRI Sabha Punjab. However, the order was allegedly not implemented, further deepening the governance vacuum," he said.

Operational since 1998

The NRI Sabha was inaugurated in 1996 and became operational around 1998 after its formal registration that year with the objective of providing NRIs a formal platform to raise issues and contribute to Punjab's development. The chief minister is the chief patron of the Saba while the commissioner of the Jalandhar division is its chairman.

Currently, around 14 district units of the NRI Sabha are functional, with the respective deputy commissioners chairing them. Initially, NRI members who were unable to be physically present were allowed to appoint nominees with voting rights. Over time, while nominees retained the right to raise issues on behalf of members, their voting rights were withdrawn.

The NRI Sabha's Constitution also provides for the formation of district-level and area-level units. Where membership exceeds 100, elections are mandatory; where it is below 100, the president of the unit may be nominated by the respective chairman of the district unit.

Members have, however, alleged that the absence of central leadership and elections has adversely affected the functioning of these grassroots units as well.

"If revived through timely, transparent, and constitutionally compliant elections, the body can play a pivotal role in resolving NRI grievances and contributing meaningfully to the state's development," said Randhawa.

"We have urged the government to immediately declare the election schedule, uphold constitutional governance, and restore democratic functioning in the NRI Sabha Punjab, warning that continued delay risks further legal and institutional complications," Randhawa added.

The outgoing President Parvinder Kaur Australia did not offer a detailed comment but said she was busy in a meeting.

HC pulls up I K Gujral univ V-C over missing affidavit on health courses

Manraj Grewal Sharma
Chandigarh, January 22

THE PUNJAB and Haryana High Court Thursday expressed strong dissatisfaction with I K Gujral Punjab Technical University, Jalandhar, over its failure to comply with a specific judicial direction requiring the vice-chancellor to file a personal affidavit explaining why allied and healthcare courses were permitted despite a central prohibition.

Hearing a Public Interest Litigation filed by Kapurthala resident Amardeep Gujral, a Division Bench of Chief Justice Sheel Nagu and Justice Sanjiv Berry was examining the legality of affiliation and continuation orders dated June 30, 2025, through which the university allowed fresh admissions in five allied healthcare courses for the 2025–26 academic session.

The petitioner challenged the university's decision to grant affiliation for courses including BSc Medical Lab Sciences, Radiology and Imaging Technology, Cardiac Care Technology, Optometry and Operation Theatre Technology, alleging that the approvals violated a December 9, 2024, communication issued by the National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions. The Commission had restrained institutions from opening new allied health courses until statutory regulations were framed.

During the hearing, counsel for the petitioner argued that despite the Commission's categorical bar, the university issued affiliation orders, placing students' futures at risk. Attention was drawn to the High Court's order of October 27, 2025, which specifically directed the vice-chancellor to file an affidavit detailing the reasons for ignoring the prohibition and clarifying whether students were informed of the regulatory bar at the time of admission.

The bench repeatedly asked the university to place on record the vice-chancellor's affidavit. When counsel relied on a reply filed through the registrar and a subsequent affidavit merely adopting that response, the court rejected the explanation. "We had passed a specific judicial order asking the vice-chancellor to file an affidavit. We are not satisfied with this," Chief Justice Nagu observed.

The court noted that the registrar's affidavit could not substitute direct compliance with its earlier order and remarked that the vice-chancellor appeared to be taking the court's directions lightly.

Granting what it termed a final indulgence, the bench gave the university a 15-day window to file a proper affidavit by the vice-vhancellor, warning that failure to do so could invite coercive steps.

The matter has been posted for further consideration after the 15-day period expires.



Parade ready

Police personnel during a rehearsal for the upcoming Republic Day parade, in Amritsar, Thursday. PTI

SIKH GURU REMARK ROW

FIR (against Kapil Mishra) as per law, says Punjab DGP

Police accountability towards court, no provision in law for legislative oversight, says Yadav in reply to notice issued by Delhi Assembly

Man Aman Singh Chhina
Chandigarh, January 22

PUNJAB DIRECTOR General of Police Gaurav Yadav in his reply to the Delhi Assembly secretary regarding the FIR registered in connection with an alleged 'doctored' video clip of AAP leader Atishi has said that his force was well within the law to register an FIR for a cognisable offence and that Punjab Police's investigative accountability was towards courts and there was no provision in law for legislative oversight.

The DGP's reply came on a January 10-notice issued to him, special DGP (cybercrime) and Jalandhar police commissioner for "breach of Delhi Assembly's privileges" over an FIR registered against Delhi Minister Kapil Mishra for allegedly uploading on his X handle a video in which Atishi was allegedly seen insulting Guru Tegh Bahadur. Atishi has refuted the charge, saying the video clip had been tampered with by the BJP.

The Punjab DGP, in his reply said, said that the FIR was registered following a complaint from a Jalandhar resident who alleged that on January 7, he noticed video clips on social media in which Atishi was allegedly shown to be making derogatory remarks against Sikh Gurus. It was alleged that the original video of the speech, later uploaded on the official social media account of Atishi, did not feature any such derogatory remarks, making it clear that the video clips were edited to present a manipulated version of the original speech, hurt religious sentiments and provoke communal tension.

The DGP said the widely circulated video clip was forwarded to the State Forensic Science Laboratory, SAS Nagar (Mohali) for examination. "Since the matter was sensitive in nature, the forensic examination was conducted on priority. The report said that the word 'Guru' was not uttered by the speaker of the audio extracted from the video file under examination," read the DGP's reply.

"Jalandhar Commissionerate Police has acted in accordance with law, upon receipt of a written complaint by a local resident, which duly disclosed commission of cognisable offences. In terms of the settled law in this regard, it may be appreciated that the jurisdictional Police Officer is duty-bound to register an FIR if the information/allegations furnished before him disclose commission of any cognizable offence," according to the DGP's reply.

In his reply, the DGP also questioned the issue of legislative privilege of Assembly stating that the privilege afforded by the Constitution is limited to liability in respect of publication "by or under the authority of a house of..a legislature".

"In the present case, the clips in respect of which the FIR have been registered have obviously not been published by or under the authority of the house. Further, the privilege, if any, extends only to protect the member of the House who has spoken on the floor of the house.



"The privilege, if any, extends only to protect the member of the House who has spoken on the floor of the house...FIR against unknown miscreants who sought to manipulate and misuse her (Atishi's) speech outside House.

GAURAV YADAV
DGP, PUNJAB

In this case, that is Atishi, the Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition However, no FIR has been registered against her at all for her speech inside the house, but against unknown miscreants who have sought to manipulate and misuse her speech outside the House," the DGP said.

He clarified that the FIR intends to investigate as to whether any part of the said speech, as originally made, constitutes an offence. "However, it is reiterated that the offences being investigated by the Jalandhar Police Commissionerate comprise of a set of acts which have been committed outside the Assembly by unknown persons...," he said, adding, "the genesis of the alleged offences being investigated...is the act of clipping/ cropping of a video-clip and subjecting it to alleged digital tampering by imposition of offending subtitles thereon".

The DGP further said that the investigative accountability of the Punjab Police under Sections 173, 176 and 193 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNSS) is exclusively to the concerned Judicial Magistrate and the competent courts. "No provision of the BNSS or any other statute grants oversight or control to any legislature, leave alone any extra-territorial jurisdiction over police force of another State on matters that have the direct potential to impact the law and order in that state," he said.

The DGP also said that any investigating responsibility of the Police is to the Courts and any attempt to stop these investigations from any other corner is going to be violative of the Rules of the Assembly itself that require that matters within the domain of the courts be not taken up by the assembly.

The DGP further pointed out that Punjab shares its border with Pakistan and has had a "long and painful history of cross-border terrorism as well as internal disturbances", which often have religious undertones. Thus, such offences, committed in the domain of social media, resulting in rapid and far-reaching viewership, have the tendency to seriously jeopardize the law and order situation in the state.

"Therefore, it is critical for the State Police to act against all such offences promptly, in order to prevent any serious disturbance to and breach of public peace and tranquility," said the DGP. He added that it is also necessary to mention that Public Order and Police are exclusive within List II of Schedule VII of the Constitution and all powers lie with the concerned state alone.

Cong warns Punjab unit: End groupism, don't go to media with internal issues

Man Aman Singh Chhina
Chandigarh, January 22



Lok Sabha LoP Rahul Gandhi, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and party General Secretary K C Venugopal during a meeting related to Punjab Congress, in New Delhi on Thursday. ANI

THE CONGRESS on Thursday cracked the whip on its Punjab unit, making it clear that any kind of groupism and factionalism will not be tolerated and warning the leaders against airing any views in public or in media and social media platforms, which should be raised only with the high command. The high command also made it clear that there will be no leadership change in the state.

The strict instructions from the party's central leadership came during a meeting where Punjab key leaders were called following reports of infighting and factionalism. Punjab goes to the polls in 2027, and the Congress, which is seeking to wrest the state back from the Aam Aadmi Party, is battling with internal dissent.

The three-hour meeting was held at Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge's residence, and was attended attended by Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, along with General Secretary (Organisation) KC Venugopal.

Party MP and former chief minister Charanjit Singh Channi, PCC president Amrinder Singh Raja Warring, Leader of Opposition in Punjab Vidhan Sabha Partap Singh Bajwa, AICC general secretary in-charge of state Bhupesh Baghel, CWC member Ambika Soni, MPs Sukhjinder Randhawa and Amar Singh, former minister and AICC treasurer Vijay Inder Singla and former Assembly Speaker Rana KP Singh attended the meeting.

Venugopal said Kharge and Gandhi discussed the "current political situation" in Punjab and listened to the state leaders, who presented their "viewpoint about the future of Punjab Congress". The state leaders were told to refrain from making statements against each other.

"The party has directed all leaders to refrain from making public statements. Every individual has their own views, but that should be discussed only with the party leadership or at the party forum. Going to the media and spreading those on social media cannot be tolerated. Therefore, a strong direction has been given to the leaders. Don't go to the media, don't give any social media bytes for creating internal issues," Venugopal told reporters after the meeting.

Briefing media persons, Venugopal reiterated Congress' commitment to equitable representation for all communities, including Dalits/SC, ST, OBC, and poorer sections from general castes. "This principle applies nationwide, including Punjab. The high command will handle everything to ensure this," he said.

During a meeting of the Punjab Congress, Channi had alleged that Dalits were sidelined in the party unit where all key posts are allegedly held by Jat Sikhs. Replying to another question about some 30 leaders from Punjab having sought an appointment with the high command, Venugopal said, the leaders are welcome to meet anyone in their individual capacity. "But, we are not going to tolerate this type of group activity. Asking for an appointment is not an issue, but 35-40 people grouping together and signing, that cannot be tolerated. If anybody wants to meet Rahul ji, they can write individually to Rahul ji or to us," he said.

Venugopal added that from now, the entire Congress family in Punjab will work together to fight unitedly and win the state comfortably in 2027 with public support. He said the party high command will take a call on issues such as candidate selection and campaigning, in due course. "This is a very clear direction, and all the leaders unanimously agreed to it," Venugopal added.

He added that Gandhi and Kharge are planning to visit Punjab soon and hold programmes there, and everybody can meet them at that time.

Later, in a post on X, Venugopal said, "The people of Punjab are looking for a change, and we will work in unison to bring the Congress back to power in 2027."

AICC general secretary in charge of Punjab affairs, Bhupesh Baghel, said the top party leadership discussed the strategy and state leaders gave their suggestions for the next one year.

"Punjab's people and workers all want a Congress government as the border state is very crucial for the country. It is the Congress' responsibility to hear the voice of the people and work accordingly. If there are any issues, those should be raised within the party and not in public. Groupism will not be tolerated at all, and every leader should maintain discipline in the party. Our top leadership has given a very stern warning on those indulging in indiscipline, and this will not be tolerated," the former Chhattisgarh chief minister said.

Amritsar temple grenade attack: NIA conducts searches at 10 locations

Press Trust of India
New Delhi, January 22

THE NIA on Thursday conducted searches at multiple locations across three border districts of Punjab in connection with the 2025 Amritsar temple grenade terror attack case.

The searches were carried out at 10 locations in Amritsar, Tarn Taran and Gurdaspur districts, during which incriminating materials were seized, the National Investigation Agency said in a statement. "A host of incriminating materials, including mobiles/digital devices and documents, were seized during the searches," it said.

The case pertains to an explosion outside the Thakur Dwara Sanatan Temple at Khandwala on Sher Shah Road in Amritsar on the night of March 14 last year.

"The attack was carried out on the directions of several foreign-based handlers, who had arranged for explosives and weapons to spread terror in the region," the statement said.

It added that the temple attack was "among many such grenade attacks carried out by operatives of different terror groups in the state of Punjab as part of the terror conspiracy".

The investigation further revealed that the "foreign-based handlers" had been recruiting and funding many individuals in India to carry out these grenade attacks, the NIA said.

After taking over the probe from the state police, the NIA found that the grenade had been hurled at the Amritsar temple by accused Vishal and Gursidak. While Vishal has been arrested, Gursidak has since died, it said. According to the federal agency, the duo had received the explosive from Sharanjeet Kumar of Qadian in Batala, who had fled to Jharkhand and Bihar and was subsequently arrested in September. "Sharanjeet, who had received consignments of explosives and grenades from foreign-based handlers, had also concealed three hand grenades and one pistol," the statement said.

'Promised job in Thailand, sent to Myanmar via jungles, river': Punjab man files FIR against Thai woman

Divya Goyal Gopal
Ludhiana, January 22

PROMISED A "job in Thailand with monthly salary of Rs 65,000", a man from Punjab's Moga was allegedly sent to Myanmar illegally via donkers, before being "rescued him" by the Thai Army, which sent him back to India, police Thursday said.

Based on the complaint of Rakesh Kumar, 41, a resident of Suraj Nagar in Moga, police have registered an FIR against a woman identified as Glory Masih, a native of Partap Pura, Jalandhar, but currently believed to be in Thailand. According to Kumar's statement, he had gone to Thailand only after Glory Masih's assurance that he would get a "trading job with a monthly salary of Rs 65000-70000." However, when he landed at Bangkok airport, he was instead taken to Myanmar illegally via "donkers" and "forced to work in inhumane conditions."

According to the FIR registered at Moga Cyber Crime police station, Kumar said that he was a qualified nurse and used to work at a cancer hospital in Ludhiana. However, looking for better options, he decided to move abroad. He said that Sunila, a woman living in his neighbourhood, introduced him to Glory Masih and claimed that she works in Thailand, and can arrange a job for him too with a handsome salary package of Rs 65,000-70,000 a month.

Kumar said that when he contacted Glory Masih, she assured him that he will get a trading job in Thailand but he will have to reach Bangkok at his own expense. Kumar said that he reached Bangkok after taking a flight from Amritsar on August 8 last year. He added that soon a taxi reached the Bangkok airport and took him to a jungle and dropped him near a river. He added that another man was also waiting there, and soon "donkers" came and took the duo to Myanmar after crossing the river.

"After reaching Myanmar, we were taken to a company's office whose employees were wearing the uniforms like that of the Army. They then said that I have to work for them but I refused. They assaulted me physically and mentally following which I had no option but to work for them. When I said I want to go back to India, they said I will be released only if I pay them Rs 5 lakh. I had no option so I started working for them. My work was to chat with South Asians living in the US via an app. However, instead of the initially promised Rs 32,000 in salary, I was only given Rs 15,000," said Kumar in his statement. He added that on October 22, 2025, they were rescued by the Thai Army and sent back to India. "We reached Ghaziabad airport on November 6 after spending nearly two months in Myanmar," he added.

Amandeep Singh, investigation officer in the case, said that an FIR has been registered under the sections 143 (1) (human trafficking), 318 (4) (cheating) and 146 (unlawful compulsory labor) of BNS against Glory Masih and a probe has been started.

Punjab hospital association backs health cover, but flags funding, payment risks

Raakhi Jagga
Ludhiana, January 22



People register for the scheme, Thursday. @AAPPUNJAB

THE PUNJAB Hospitals and Nursing Home Association (PHANA) Thursday welcomed the Punjab government's decision to universalise the Mukh Mantri Sehat Bima Yojana (MMSBY) by providing Rs 10 lakh free health cover to every state resident, but it also raised concerns over budgetary allocation, payment timelines and the role of the insurance company.

PHANA leaders cautioned that once the scheme covers 100 per cent of the population, empanelled hospitals would become fully dependent on government reimbursements.

"Any delay in payments may severely impact hospital operations, including the timely payment of staff salaries. Therefore, PHANA stressed that the 15-day payment clause mentioned in the MoU must be strictly enforced, failing which hospitals may be compelled to suspend treatment for beneficiaries due to financial constraints," said Dr Divyanshu Gupta, Honorary Secretary, PHANA.

The Association has also demanded adequate financial provisioning for the scheme. PHANA has submitted in writing that a minimum budget of Rs 2,500 crore per annum is required for smooth implementation, while the current allocation is around Rs 1,300 crore.

Concerns were also raised over the appointment of United India Insurance Company by the Punjab government. PHANA pointed out that the insurer had earlier defaulted on payments during the Bhagat Puran Singh Health Scheme under the SAD-BJP regime, with several cases still pending and dues yet to be cleared. The Association questioned that if funds are exhausted and the insurance company fails to make payments, clarity must be ensured on who will be responsible for hospital reimbursements.

Despite these concerns, PHANA welcomed the government's move to expand the health scheme. The Association, which represents nearly 500 private hospitals across Punjab, said the decision aligns with World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines on Universal Health Coverage.

"PHANA primarily represents small and medium-sized empanelled hospitals, which form the backbone of the scheme. While most large corporate hospitals remain outside the ambit of the scheme, small and medium hospitals have consistently supported the government and ensured uninterrupted treatment to beneficiaries," said Dr Gupta.

PHANA President Dr Vikas Chhabra said the scheme can significantly benefit the poor and underprivileged sections of society. "The scheme can be a boon for the poor and underprivileged population of Punjab. Universalisation of the scheme to cover the entire population reflects the government's strong commitment towards Universal Health Coverage," he stated.

Both the PHANA president and secretary praised Punjab Health Minister Dr Balbir Singh, Principal Health Secretary Kumar Rahul, and State Health Agency CEO Sanyam Aggarwal for maintaining continuous engagement with the Association during the formulation of the scheme.

HC complex expansion plan sent to Fondation Le Corbusier

Chandigarh: The Chandigarh Union Territory administration has submitted a holistic development plan for the expansion of the Punjab and Haryana High Court complex after getting a nod from the Chandigarh Heritage and Conservation Committee (CHCC), said officials.

The holistic development plan has been forwarded to Fondation Le Corbusier, Paris, through the government of India, they further said on Thursday. The HC building is an integral part of Le Corbusier-designed Capitol Complex and it has been a UNESCO World Heritage site since 2016.

The Capitol Complex in Sector 1 here comprises structures including the HC, the legislative assembly and the secretariat. It also houses iconic structures such as the Open Hand Monument. The Capitol Complex, which stands as a remarkable example of modernist architecture and urban planning, was designed by renowned architect Le Corbusier in collaboration with his cousin Pierre Jeanneret and a team of architects. PTI

PUNJAB & SIND BANK
(A GOVT. OF INDIA UNDERTAKING)
Zonal Office: Jalandhar

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE
WITHDRAWAL

This has reference to the E-Auction Sale Notices published on **04.01.2026** of Account at Sr. No. 1: Sh. Sahil Verma S/o Vijay verma of **GTB Nagar, Jalandhar Branch** published in **Indian Express & Daily Chardikala** which is scheduled on **05.02.2026**. In this regard, the Bank has WITHDRAWN the auction in the said Accounts due to administrative reasons. All Concerned Please Note.

Date : 22.01.2026 Authorised Officer,
Place :Jalandhar Punjab & Sind Bank

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HARYANA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LIMITED, PANCHKULA	TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF MORTUARY CHAMBER 6 BODIES ON 2 YEARS RATE CONTRACT AS MENTIONED AGAINST ITEM IN SCHEDULE OF REQUIREMENT (PANCHKULA)	21.01.2026 11.02.2026	Rs. 1,62,00,000/-	www.hmscl.org.in	8929299829 equipmentdgm2020@gmail.com
2	HARYANA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LIMITED, PANCHKULA	TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF ELEVATING PEDESTAL AUTOPSY TABLE ON 2 YEARS RATE CONTRACT AS MENTIONED AGAINST ITEM IN SCHEDULE OF REQUIREMENT (PANCHKULA)	21.01.2026 11.02.2026	Rs. 1,19,00,000/-	www.hmscl.org.in	8929299829 equipmentdgm2020@gmail.com
3	HARYANA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LIMITED, PANCHKULA	TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF AUTOPSY DISSECTION WITH SKELETON REMAINING EXAMINATION SET ON 2 YEARS RATE CONTRACT AS MENTIONED AGAINST ITEM IN SCHEDULE OF REQUIREMENT (PANCHKULA)	22.01.2026 12.02.2026	Rs. 12,60,000/-	www.hmscl.org.in	8929299829 equipmentdgm2020@gmail.com
4	HARYANA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LIMITED, PANCHKULA	TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF ELECTRICAL AUTOPSY SAW STAND WITH ACCESSORIES ON 2 YEARS RATE CONTRACT AS MENTIONED AGAINST ITEM IN SCHEDULE OF REQUIREMENT (PANCHKULA)	21.01.2026 11.02.2026	Rs. 22,00,000/-	www.hmscl.org.in	8929299829 equipmentdgm2020@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in No. 42339/HRY

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
DEPARTMENT OF INTEGRATED CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
No.1, Dr. M.G.R.Salai, Taramani, Chennai - 600 113.

Notification for supply of Unisex ready-made uniforms to the pre-school children attending anganwadi centres in 437 Project of Tamil Nadu.

SHORT e-TENDER NOTICE Ref. No.4654 / NC-3 / 2025 Dated 23.01.2026

Bids are invited from the manufacturers / dealers for the supply of Unisex Ready-made uniforms to the pre-school children attending anganwadi centres in **437** projects of Tamil Nadu under the department of Integrated Child Development Services. The details are available in the e-procurement portal- **https://tntenders.gov.in**

DIPR/396/TENDER/2026 **Director cum Mission Director**

Capital Small Finance Bank Ltd.
MIDAS Corporate Park, 3rd Floor, 37, G.T. Road, Jalandhar-144001, Punjab, India

Notice under Section 13 (2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

A notice dated **12.01.2026** under section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. was sent to the following borrowers & Guarantors which was returned undelivered by postal department and Authorised Officer has reason to believe that Borrower/ Guarantors are avoiding the service of notice as such they are informed by way of public notice about the same.

1. (Borrower in OD Limit) : M/s G.K. Cosmetics situated at Kaki Pind, Arora Complex, Rama Mandi, Jalandhar through its proprietor Mr. Manjiven S/o Mr. Chanan Ram.
2. (Proprietor in M/s G.K. Cosmetics & Borrower in LAP) : Mr. Manjiven S/o Mr. Chanan Ram R/o H. No. 20, Kabir Avenue, P.O Ladhewali, Jalandhar-144007.
Also at:-H. No. RZ-G-24A, Gali No.1, West Sagar Pur, South Delhi West, Delhi -110046.
3. (Guarantor in OD Limit & Borrower in LAP) : Mrs. Harjinder Kaur W/o Mr. Manjiven R/o H. No. RZ-G-24A, Gali No.1, West Sagar Pur, South Delhi West, Delhi -110046.
4. (Guarantor in LAP) : Surinder Singh S/o Joginder Singh R/o H. No. 6808/6813, New Session Court, Bashishti Darwaja, Jalandhar -144001.

Nature of facility sanctioned/Loan Number	Amount sanctioned	Total outstanding as on date of demand notice (excluding intt. w.e.f 01.01.2026)
OD/153400000010	Rs. 22,00,000/-	Rs. 20,78,541.47
LAP/153602000042	Rs. 10,00,000/-	Rs. 8,55,232.11

Primary Security : Equitable mortgage of immovable Property:- All the part and Parcel of Property measuring 5 Marla 200 Sq Ft (1 Marla = 272 Sq. Ft) situated at H.No.20, Village Ladhewali, Tehsil and Distt Jalandhar owned by Mr. Manjiven S/o Mr. Chanan Ram vide Sale deed bearing document no. 3536 Dated-25-08-2014.

The Bank, hereby call upon you by this public Notice under section 13 of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 to pay to the bank all the amounts outstanding against you in the books of accounts of the Bank, with its branch at **Milap Chownk, Jalandhar** the Bank from time to time and thereby discharge in full all your liabilities to the Bank within a period of 60 days from the date of this notice, failing which the bank shall at your costs and risks exercise its powers under the Act (Supra) and take all or any of the following measures to recover its secured debt namely:-
(a) Sale for realizing the secured asset.
(b) Take-over the management of secured assets including the right to transfer by way of taking possession of the secured assets including the right to transfer by way of sale and realize the secured assets.
(c) Appoint any person to manage the secured assets.
(d) Require at any time by notice in writing, any person who may have acquired any of the secured assets from you to pay to the Bank.
Further, please note that in the event Borrower/Guarantor fail to discharge the liability in full within 60 days from the date of publication this notice and the bank takes any action under sub-section 4 of the section 13 of the Act (Supra), Borrower/Guarantor shall further be liable to pay to the Bank all costs, charges and expenses incurred by the Bank in that connection. In case the dues to the Bank are not fully satisfied with the sale proceeds of the secured assets, the Bank shall proceed for the recovery of the balance from you & Guarantors personally and from the other persons liable therefore. This notice is issued without prejudice to the bank's all other rights, remedies and legal recourse available to the Bank.

DATE: 22.01.2026 | PLACE : JALANDHAR | (AUTHORIZED OFFICER)

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
SOLAN DISTT. SOLAN (H.P)

NO: Dated: ……..

E-Procurement Notice
INVITATION For BIDS (IFB)

The Commissioner, Municipal Corporation Solan Distt. Solan HP on behalf of Governor of H.P. invites the online bids on item rate, in electronic tendering system, in 2 cover system from the eligible and approved contractors /suppliers/Firms registered with GST.

Key Dates:
1 Date of online Publication 22.01.2026 10.00A.M.
2 Document Download Start and End Date From 22.01.2026 - 10.00A.M. upto 31.01.2026 -5.00PM.
3 Bid Submission Start and End Date From 22.01.2026 - 10.00A.M. upto 31.01.2026 -5.00PM.
4 Physical Submission of EMD, Cost of Form and Tender Document etc. 02.02.2026 upto 11.00 A.M.
5 Date of Technical Bid opening, Evaluation of Technical Bid followed by Opening of Financial Bid 02.02.2026 at 2.00P.M.

NOTE:
1. The Complete Tender set of works with terms & conditions can be downloaded from website https://hptenders.gov.in. Any change/modification in the tender enquiry will be intimated through above website only.
2. Bidders are therefore, requested to visit the website regularly to keep themselves updated.
3. Bidders must submit their bids online on website https://hptenders.gov.in and in hard copy also. The bids will be opened by the Committee in the presence of Authorized representatives of participated firms who may like to attend the proceedings in MC Solan on schedule date, time and venue.
4. For submission of e-bids, bidders are required to get themselves registered with website https://hptenders.gov.in in website along with digital signature certificates issued by CCA under IT Act-2003.
5. Cost of Tender document in the form of Demand draft only and Earnest Money in the form of Demand Draft/Fixed deposits in favour of the Commissioner, MC Solan HP payable at Solan should be deposited along with hard copy of the bids.
6. The envelope containing tender documents should be marked on the top right- "TENDER Name of work with Tender ID."
7. All other terms and conditions are specified in the tender documents.
8. All documents (except BOQ) submitted by the bidders should be legible in PDF format, otherwise, it shall be liable to be rejected.

Joint Commissioner
Municipal Corporation, Solan (H.P.)
NO.1938/2025-2026/HP

CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA
REGIONAL OFFICE, AMRITSAR
PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)

Whereas the undersigned being the **Authorised Officer** of **Central Bank of India** under the Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securtiy Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of Powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued a Demand Notice on the date mentioned against each account and stated herein below calling upon the borrower(s)/guarantor(s) to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
The **borrower(s)/guarantor(s)** having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the **borrower(s)/guarantor(s)** and public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property/ies described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub-section 4 of section 13 of the said Act read within rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rule 2002 on the dates mentioned against the account.
The **borrower(s)/guarantor(s)** in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies. as mentioned herein below against each account and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of **Central Bank of India** for the amount and interest thereon.
The borrower(s)/guarantor(s) attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured asset(s).

Name of the Branch, Borrower/Guarantor	Description of Property/ies	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession	Amount Outstanding
CEMENTARY ROAD, AMRITSAR **Borrower: Sh Sunil Kumar** S/o Sh Sardari Lal and **Mrs Jyoti Aggarwal** W/o Sh Sunil Kumar	All that part and parcel of the property i.e. One House bearing Pvt No. 526, having measurement length 45 feet, width 20 feet total area 100 sq. yards khasra No. 19//17, 19//24/1, min old and Khasra No. 19//24/1 min present situated in area of Kot Khalsa Sub urban, Abadi Guru Nanak Pura, tehsil & Distt Amritsar vide Sale Deed No. 2022-23/93/1/7891 dated 25.11.2022 registered in the name of Smt Jyoti Aggarwal S/o Sh Sunil Kumar **bounded as: East-** Ownership of Others, **West-** Road 18 feet wide, **North-** Ownership of Others, **South-** Ownership of Others	21.07.2025	22.01.2026	**Rs. 20,43,873.25/- (Rupees Twenty Lakh Fourty Three Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Three and Paisa Twenty Five Only) as on**

21.07.2025 plus future interest, costs and other charges thereon.

DATE: 22.01.2026 PLACE : AMRITSAR AUTHORISED OFFICER

SBI | STATE BANK OF INDIA
HLC HOSHIARPUR

[Rule 8- (1)] SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the **State Bank of India, HLC Hoshiarpur,** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notice to borrower on the date mentioned hereunder calling upon the borrower to repay the amount mentioned in the demand notice within 60 days of the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower/Guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **Symbolic Possession** of the property/ies described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 & 9 of the security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on the date mentioned against Account.

The Borrower/Guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealings with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of the **State Bank of India,** for an amount mentioned below and other Charges/Expenses 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 of Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Description of the Immovable Property	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Symbolic Possession	Amount Outstanding
Borrower(s): 1. Sandeep Kumar S/o Sh. Amarjit Singh. **2. Sh. Mandeep Kumar** S/o Sh. Amarjit Singh, Both R/o 443, Street No. 4, Ward No. 8, Subash Nagar, Hoshiarpur.	All that part and parcel of Property measuring 5 Marla comprised in Khata No. 2125/2503 -2504, Khasra No. 552/2 (8-3), 552/1 (0-5), As per Jamabandi for the year 2012-13, Situated at Village Khawaspur, Hadbast No. 246, Tehsil & Distt. Hoshiarpur in the name of Sh. Sandeep Kumar and Sh. Mandeep Kumar Ss/o Amarjit Singh Vide Wasika No. 253 dated 12.04.2017, Jild No. 4611. Bounded as under: **East:** House of Sh. Ram, **West:** Gali 11' wide, **North:** Gali 11' wide, **South:** House of Sh. Amarjit Singh.	11.09.2025	21.01.2026	**Rs. 12,25,800/-** (Rupees Twelve Lakhs Twenty Five Thousand Eight Hundred Only) as on 10.09.2025 plus further interest, other charges and expenses thereon.

Dated : 22.01.2026 Place: Hoshiarpur Authorized Officer

OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER - I/II
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT 3)
Ground Floor SCO 33-34-35, Sector 17-A, Chandigarh-160017

DEMAND NOTICE (THROUGH PUBLICATION)

NOTICE UNDER SECTIONS 25 TO 28 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS & BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993 AND RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961.

RC/388/2025 **UCO BANK** Date 04.11.2025
Versus
M/s NEW SAINI AUTOMOBILES AND OTHERS.

To,
(CD 1) M/s New Saini Automobiles, Village Ghanauli, Nangal Road, Rupnagar through its Partner Sh. Bhupinder Singh Son of Sh. Joginder Singh.
(CD 2) Sh. Bhupinder Singh Son of Sh. Joginder Singh, Resident of Village Thalli, Post Office Ghanauli, District Rupnagar.
(CD 3) Sh. Jaspal Singh Son of Sh. Bhupinder Singh, Resident of Village Thalli, Post Office Ghanauli, District Rupnagar.
(CD 4) Sh. Satnam Singh Son of Sh. Bhupinder Singh, Resident of Village Thalli, Post Office Ghanauli, District Rupnagar.
(CD 5) Sh. Beant Singh Son of Sh. Bhupinder Singh, Resident of Village Thalli, Post Office Ghanauli, District Rupnagar.

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT 3) in **OA/539/2022** an amount of **Rs. 46,78,578.77 (Rupees Forty Six Lakhs Seventy Eight Thousands Five Hundred Seventy Eight and Paise Seventy Seven only)** along with pendentellite and future interest @ 8.00% Simple Interest Yearly w.e.f. **03/02/2022** till realization and costs of **Rs. 49,000/- (Rupees Forty Nine Thousands Only)** has become due against you (Jointly and severally/Fully/Limited).
2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules there under.
3. Whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way, therefore this notice is given by this publication directing you to put in appearance before this Tribunal on **11.02.2026 at 10.30 A.M.**
4. You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of yours assets on or before the next date of hearing.
5. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay:
(a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate / execution proceedings.
(b) All costs, charges & expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice & warrants and other processes and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.
Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this date: **04/11/2025**

Recovery Officer
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT 3)

भारत सरकार GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
अंतरिक्ष विभाग DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
भारतीय अंतरिक्ष अनुसंधान संगठन
INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION
अंतरिक्ष उपयोग केन्द्र SPACE APPLICATIONS CENTRE अहमदाबाद AHMEDABAD-380015

विज्ञापन सं. / Advertisement No.: सैक SAC:01:2026: दिनांक / dated: 23.01.2026

Space Applications Centre (SAC) invites applications from eligible candidates for the post of **Scientist/Engineer 'SD'** in SAC, Ahmedabad and for the post of **Scientist/Engineer 'SC'** in SAC, Ahmedabad, NRSC, Hyderabad, NESAC, Meghalaya and VSSC, Thiruvananthapuram in various fields.

For **Scientist/Engineer 'SD':** Applications will be received on-line through ISRO Live Register portal only. Accordingly, candidates are advised to either register or update their registrations in the Live Register portal of ISRO **https://www.isro.gov.in** under **"Careers"** tab on or before 12.02.2026 (1700 hours). Live register portal can directly be accessed on **https://liveregister.isro.gov.in/LRClient**

For Scientist/Engineer 'SC': Interested candidates may visit our website **https://www.sac.gov.in** OR https://careers.sac.gov.in for detailed advertisement and registering the applications online. Applications will be received ONLINE only. The site will remain open **from 1000 hrs. on 23.01.2026 to 1700 hrs. on 12.02.2026 for online registration, filling up of online application and payment of application fees.**

Any Addendum/Update/Corrigendum will only be published on SAC website. Candidates should regularly visit the SAC website **www.sac.gov.in** for latest updates.

CBC 49107/11/0022/2526

Directorate of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Government of Haryana
Plot No. C-3, HSVP Complex, Sector – 6, Panchkula – 134109
Ph. No. - 0172-2996509,
Email:- pmfme.haryana@gmail.com, www.msme.haryana.gov.in

The Directorate of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Haryana (State Nodal Agency) invites applications for walk-in empanelment of District Resource Persons (DRPs) under the Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme.

Post: District Resource Persons for all 22 districts of Haryana to provide handholding support to PMFME beneficiaries. Please refer to detailed Scheme Guideline on **https://pmfme.mofpi.gov.in/pmfme/#/Home-Page**

Eligibility: Any suitable person(s) such as retired Govt./Bank officials, insurance agents, bank mitras, consultancy firms, individual professionals, etc., having relevant knowledge/experience in project proposal preparation and due diligence.
- Preference to candidates with qualifications in food processing, finance, or related fields.
- DRPs must submit a declaration confirming they are not government employees.

Note: This is a purely empanelment and neither a regular job nor a contractual government Job. The empanelment of DRPs would be purely job work basis as per scheme guidelines and

pay-out would be released as under:
1. Rs.10,000/- after sanction of bank loan.
2. Rs.10,000/- after completion and formalization of unit and uploading of followings:
   a. FSSAI Registration/Licence.
   b. Udyam Aadhaar.
   c. GST (where applicable).
   d. Photograph with geolocation via Performance Monitoring Tool.

Empanelment Process:
- Walk-in interviews at District level or HQ, Panchkula (Address for walk-in interview may checked at **https://msme.haryana.gov.in/field-offices**).

Director General
MSME, Haryana, Panchkula
No. 42315/HRY

UNION BANK OF INDIA, 12, PARAM MARKET CIVIL LINES, JALANDHAR, PUNJAB - 144001

[RULE 8 (1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer for **Union Bank of India, 12, Param Market, Civil Lines, Jalandhar, Punjab - 144001,** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest 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 as briefed under calling upon the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) to repay the amount mentioned in the notice and interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) having failed to repay the Amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **Symbolic Possession** of the property/ies described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security interest Enforcement Rules on the date mentioned there against.

The Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) in particular & the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealings with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of the **Union Bank of India, 12, Param Market, Civil Lines, Jalandhar, Punjab - 144001,** for the amount and interest thereon.

The Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset(s).

Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Description of the Immovable Property	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession	Amount Outstanding
Borrower(s) :1. Mr. Davinder Singh Gambhir S/o Darshan Singh Gambhir. **2. Mrs. Jatinder Kaur Gambhir** W/o Davinder Singh Gambhir. **3. Mr. Harjit Singh Gambhir** S/o Mr. Darshan Singh Gambhir. **4. Mr. Mankirat Singh** S/o Mr. Davinder Singh Gambhir. **5. Ms. Rashpreet Gambhir** D/o Mr. Davinder Singh Gambhir.	Residential Property, Situated at House No. 450, Guru Teg Bahadur Nagar, Tehsil and Distt. Jalandhar. Measuring 21 Marla 153 Sq. feet located at Khasra No. 3340, Hadbast No. 307, As per the Jamabandi for the year 2009-10, Vide Transfer Sale Deed No. 2022- 23/186/1/4581 dated 08.08.2022 measuring 10 Marla 180 Sq. feet and Transfer Sale Deed No. 2022-23/186/1/7178 dated 26.10.2022 measuring 10 Marla 180 Sq. feet registered in the name of Mr. Davinder Singh Gambhir Son of Darshan Singh Gambhir. Boundaries as per Deed: **North:** Plot No. 445, **South:** Road, **East:** Plot No. 451, **West:** Plot No. 449.	17.11.2025	22.01.2026	**Rs. 3,70,35,765.58** as on 31.10.2025 plus interest and incidental expenses incurred by bank w.e.f. 01.11.2025

Date : 22.01.2026 Place : Jalandhar Authorised Officer

IN THE HON'BLE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL, AHMEDABAD BENCH
COMPANY PETITION NO. C.P.(CAA)/65(AHM)2025
CONNECTED WITH
COMPANY APPLICATION NO. CA(CAA)/44(AHM) 2025
IN THE MATTER OF SECTIONS 230 TO 232 AND OTHER APPLICABLE PROVISIONS OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2013
AND
IN THE MATTER OF COMPOSITE SCHEME OF ARRANGEMENT AMONGST WIM PLAST LIMITED AND CELLO CONSUMER PRODUCTS PRIVATE LIMITED AND CELLO WORLD LIMITED AND THEIR RESPECTIVE SHAREHOLDERS AND CREDITORS ("SCHEME")

WIM PLAST LIMITED a company incorporated under the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956, having its registered office at S. No. 324/ 4 to 7 of Kachigam, Village Kachigam Swami Narayan Gurukul Road, Daman - 396210 Daman and Diu, India	... First Petitioner Company / WPL
CELLO CONSUMER PRODUCTS PRIVATE LIMITED a company incorporated under the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013, having its registered office at Sr. No. 324/ 4 to 7 Kachigam Swami Narayan Gurukul Road, Daman - 396 210, Daman and Diu, India	... Second Petitioner Company / CCPPL
CELLO WORLD LIMITED a company incorporated under the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013, having its registered office at S. No. 597/ 2A, Somnath Road, Dabhel, Nani Daman 396 210, Daman and Diu, India	... Third Petitioner Company / CWL

Collectively referred to as "Petitioner Companies"

NOTICE OF HEARING OF THE COMPANY PETITION

A Company Petition under Sections 230 to 232 and other applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013, for sanctioning the Composite Scheme of Arrangement amongst Wim Plast Limited and Cello Consumer Products Private Limited and Cello World Limited was presented by the Petitioner Companies on December 12, 2025 and was admitted vide Order dated December 18, 2025, by the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Ahmedabad Bench (**"Hon'ble NCLT"**). The said Company Petition is fixed for final hearing before the Hon'ble NCLT on February 26, 2026, at 10.30 a.m. (IST) or soon thereafter.

Any person desirous of supporting or opposing the said Company Petition should send to the Petitioner Companies' Advocate - M/s. Thakkar and Pahwa, addressed to Mr. Ravi Pahwa at, ravi.pahwa@thakkarandpahwa.com (in soft copy) and 71, New York Tower - 'A', 7th Floor, Opp. Muktidham Derasar, Thaltej Char Rasta, Ahmedabad - 380 054, Gujarat (in hard copy), notice of such intentions, in writing, signed by him/ her or his/ her Advocate, with his/ her full name and address, so as to reach the Petitioner Companies' Advocate not later than two days before the date fixed for final hearing of the said Company Petition. Where he/ she seeks to oppose the Company Petition, the ground of opposition or a copy of his/her affidavit shall be furnished with such notice.

A copy of the Company Petition will be furnished by the undersigned to any person on payment of prescribed charges.

Sd/-
Dated this 21st day of January, 2026 Ravi Pahwa
Place: Ahmedabad Advocate for the Petitioner Companies

STATE BANK OF INDIA
STRESSED ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH, GROUND FLOOR, ZONAL BUSINESS OFFICE BUILDING, FOUNTAIN CHOWK, CIVIL LINES, LUDHIANA, 141 001

[Rule-8(1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY/IES)

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **State Bank of India** under the **Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securtiy Interest Act, 2002 (No. 3 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 the date mentioned against each account and stated herein below calling upon the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
The **Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s)** having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the **Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s)** and public in general that the undersigned has taken **Physical Possession** of the property/ies described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under **section 13(4) of the said Act read within rule 8** of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rule 2002 on the dates mentioned against the account.
The **borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s)** in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies. as mentioned herein below against each account and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of **State Bank of India** for the amount and mentioned against each account and interest and expenses thereon.
The borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of the section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured asset.

Name of the Branch, Borrower/Guarantor	Description of Property/ies	Date of Demand Notice / Date of Physical Possession	Amount Outstanding in Rs.
Borrowers: M/s Ashirwad Industries, Ballamgarh Road, Near Railway Crossing, Sri Muktsar Sahib, **through its Prop. Smt Palak** (Borrower) W/o Sh Dinesh Grover Resident of Near Sewa Kender, Main Road Village Mohan Ke Uttar, Tehsil Guruharshai, Distt Ferozepur and **Sh Dinesh Grover** (Guarantor) S/o Sh Vijay Kumar Resident of Near Sewa Kender, Main Road Village Mohan Ke Uttar, Tehsil Guruharshai Distt Ferozepur	1.Equitable mortgage of Property i.e. Factory Land and Building measuring 3 Kanal 16 Marla 8 Sarsahi as under - **a)** Property measuring 1 Kanal 1 Marla 8 Sarsahi being 197/1440 share of land measuring 8 Kanal bearing Khewat No 423, Khatoni No 552 Mustil No 269 Killa No 9(8-0) Vakia Rakba Muktsar -III as per Jamabandi Year 2020-21 Hadbast No 54 Tehsil and Distt Muktsar in the name of Smt Palak W/o Sh Dinesh Gover vide Transfer Deed No 2023-24/53/1/400 Dated 28.04.2023 and **b)** Property measuring 2 Kanal 15 Marla being 55/213 share of land measuring 10 Kanal 13 Marla bearing Khewat No 1423, Khatoni No 2070 Mustil No 269 Killa No 2 (3-2), 12/1 (7-11) Vakia Rakba Muktsar -I as per Jamabandi Year 2015-2016 Hadbast No 54 Tehsil and Distt Muktsar in the name of Sh Dinesh Gover S/o Sh Vijay Kumar vide Transfer Deed No 2022-23/53/1/4117 Dated 19.01.2023 and **bounded as East:** Ajay Kumar S/o Ram Kumar, Asha Rani W/o Veer Singh, Sajja W/o Arun, **West:** Neeraj Chawla S/o Kundan Lal and Others, **North:** Rasta Ballamgarh Road, **South:** Jameen Bhai and Others	05.09.2025 16.01.2026	**Rs. 1,47,79,081.00 (Rs. One Crore Forty Seven Lacs Seventy Nine Thousand Eighty One Only) as on 04.09.2025**, less amount of recovery made, if any plus Intt and other charges/expenses, costs, thereon.

(NOTE: This notice supersedes the earlier Possession notice issued on 06.11.2025 under Section 13(4) of SARFAESI Act 2002)

DATE: 16.01.2026 PLACE: MUKTSAR AUTHORISED OFFICER

Advt. No. PR/Advt./(48)/09/Vol.IX/2026
Haryana Waqf Board
50, Sardar Patel Marg, Ambala Cantt. – 133001

NOTICE INVITING BIDS

The Haryana Waqf Board invites bids from the prospective lessees under Rule (5) & (6) of the Waqf Properties Lease Rules, 2014 as amended of the waqf property located in **Distt. Sonepat.** The detail of the waqf property, which includes location, area, purpose of lease, period of lease, reserve lease rent/patta money etc. is given in the table below:-

Sr. No./ No. of property	Area description & location of the waqf property			Purpose of Lease	Period of lease	Reserve lease Rent/ patta money per month/ per annum in Rs.	EMD (20 % of annual lease/patta money) in Rs.
	Kh. No./ M.C. No.	Exact Area to be leased out	Location				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Kh. No. 198, 199	230 Sq. Yds.	Rehra Basti, Gannaur, Distt. Sonepat	Residential	Three Years	1,200/-	2,880/-

The interested persons may enquire the terms & conditions of the bids from the concerned Estate Officer, Haryana Waqf Board and may quote their rates for lease of waqf property under Sealed Cover superscribing "Application for Bid of Waqf Property (Sr. No. of property mentioned in the advertisement)" shall be dropped in the Bid Box kept at the following **Distrlct Waqf Offlce of the Haryana Waqf Board** latest by **02-02-2026 at 1.00 PM:-**

Sr. No.	Name of the Circle/ District Waqf Office	Name of the Estate Officer	Address & Tel. No.
1	Sonepat	Sh. Mohd. Salim	District Waqf Office, Haryana Waqf Board, #524/24, Mission Road, Sonepat. (M) 9466695739

The bids will be opened on the same day i.e. **02-02-2026 at 2.00 PM** in the above mentioned District Waqf Office in presence of the bidders present, if any. The bidder shall mention **reserve lease rent** and also **percentage of annual increase.** Sd/- Chief Executive Officer, Haryana Waqf Board

1984 ANTI-SIKH RIOTS

Court acquits Sajjan Kumar in case linked with inciting violence in Delhi

One can't be found guilty merely because he was involved in similar offences in past, says special judge



Family members of victims outside court on Thursday. ANI

Nirbhay Thakur
New Delhi, January 22

A DELHI court on Thursday acquitted former Congress MP Sajjan Kumar in a case related to inciting violence at Janakpuri in Delhi during the 1984 anti-Sikh riots. He was the only accused in the case.

Kumar, who at the time of the riots was a Congress MP, was tried by a special MP/MLA court on charges of rioting, arson, murder and criminal conspiracy, among others.

The allegations stemmed from a complaint that accused Kumar of the murders of the father and brother-in-law of Harvinder Singh Kohli, the complainant in the case. The family was allegedly escaping from Vikaspuri towards Janakpuri after rioters started looting and burning properties in the area. Kumar is currently in jail after he was sentenced to life imprisonment by the HC in 2018 in a case related to the killing of five Sikhs and the burning down of a gurdwara on November 1-2, 1984. His appeal against the conviction is pending before the Supreme Court. Last February, a Delhi court had sentenced Kumar to life imprisonment in a case in which he was accused of leading a mob that burned alive one Jaswant Singh and his son Tarundeep Singh in Saraswati Vihar on November 1, 1984, while looting and destroying their houses.

Special Judge Dig Vinay Singh of Rouse Avenue court, in his judgment, primarily ordered for the acquittal owing to the "absence of admissible, reliable evidence" proving Kumar's "presence at the crime scene or his participation in any other manner". Kohli, too, had passed away before he could be examined by the court.

The court reasoned that Kumar was not named as an accused by eight of the 18 prosecution witnesses for over 32 years, including Koli. Some of these eight witnesses in fact named Kumar as an accused only during the course of trial. "Not naming the accused in the affidavit or in the statement of the complainant is an important factor while assessing the reliability of the prosecution witnesses," the court ruled.

"Unfortunately, most of the witnesses examined by the prosecution are hearsay, and/or those witnesses who failed to name the accused for three long decades. Relying on the identification of the accused by such persons would be risky and may lead to a travesty," it concluded.

Refusing to accept the prosecution's argument that Kumar has already been convicted earlier and has been found guilty of similar offences, the court observed, "A man may be convicted of 100 crimes, but to be held guilty of the 101st crime, proof beyond a reasonable doubt in that crime is required. One cannot be found guilty merely because in the past he was involved in similar offences. Past criminal background or the commission of other offences are separate and can have some value in sentencing a person, but they cannot be considered by a Court of law in holding a person guilty of another crime."

It further said, "...this Court has no hesitation in holding that the prosecution has not met the standard of proof required in a criminal trial to prove the guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. Merely because the accused is an ex-Member of Parliament or that he was involved in similar instances at other locations, this court cannot lower the standard of proof required in this case to hold him guilty."

"The law remains the same for all criminals, whether they are ordinary men or influential people... there is no satisfactory justification for not naming the accused for three long decades... a witness who has suffered the loss of a family member at the hands of a criminal would not spare such a criminal and would try to name the criminal at the earliest opportunity," it added.

The court also ruled that testimonies of defence witnesses did not aid Kumar's case.

Special Public Prosecutor Manish Rawat, appearing for the State, told The Indian Express that the judgment is likely to be challenged before a higher court. While senior advocate H S Phoolka appeared for the complainant in the case, advocate Anil K Sharma appeared for the accused.

In 1992, an FIR was lodged over the violence in Janakpuri on November 1, 1984. Another FIR was lodged in Vikaspuri on the alleged killing of two men, Sohan Singh and his son-in-law Avtar Singh, the next day.

A common chargesheet was filed in 2022 for both the FIRs. In 2023, Kumar was discharged in the Vikaspuri case, where he was accused of murder.

While Kumar was acquitted in the Janakpuri case on Thursday, a review against his discharge in the Vikaspuri case is pending before the Delhi High Court.

The FIRs were lodged following a review in 1990 of riot cases by a committee comprising Justice J D Jain and then retired DGP D K Aggarwal. After an SIT was constituted in 2015 to reinvestigate the serious riot cases, the 1992 FIRs were reinvestigated and a chargesheet was filed.

More than 2,700 members of the Sikh community were murdered in four days of violence in the Capital in the aftermath of the assassination of then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi by her Sikh bodyguards on October 31, 1984. Till date, of the 587 FIRs registered in Delhi, only 28 cases have ended in convictions. Thirteen of these convictions have been in murder cases.



Members of 1984 Danga Peerat Welfare Society at Dugri, Ludhiana, Thursday afternoon. EXPRESS

'Justice delayed is justice denied... Govt failed to defend case properly'

Raakhi Jagga
Ludhiana, January 22

THE ACQUITTAL of former Congress MP Sajjan Kumar by a Delhi court on Thursday in a 1984 anti-Sikh riots case related to the violence in Delhi has sent shockwaves through the riot victims' families settled in Punjab.

The verdict has triggered sharp reactions from members of the 1984 Danga Peerat Welfare Society, which represents thousands of families who migrated to Punjab after the riots. The state is home to nearly 25,000 families who were forced to flee Delhi and nearby areas following the 1984 anti-Sikh riots. Many of them continue to await closure, justice, and rehabilitation, even after four decades. Surjeet Singh, president of the 1984 Danga Peerat Welfare Society, Punjab, expressed disappointment over the verdict, saying that while the acquittal was limited to one case, its implications were deeply worrying.

"He has been acquitted in one case, but other cases are still pending. However, this acquittal can ease out his bail process, which is really unfortunate. The BJP has long been beating the trumpet that they got the 1984 riot accused punished, and now they themselves were not able to defend the case strongly in the courts," Surjeet Singh said.

Members of the society said the judgment reopened old wounds for families who had already suffered prolonged delays in their fight for justice. Gurdeep Kaur, president of the women's wing of the society, recalled her family's painful past.

"My family migrated from Delhi to Ludhiana after the riots broke out, and we lost many of our family members. Everyone knows that Sajjan Kumar was involved in the riots. Forty-one years have passed since the riots. Many witnesses have died, and others have grown old. Sajjan Kumar was arrested after years, and now this acquittal, even though in one case, has come as a shock to us," she said.

Davinder Singh Soni, secretary of the society, said ,"It is rightly said that justice delayed is justice denied. This shows that the Union Government was not able to defend the case properly, which is why Sajjan Kumar got acquitted," he said.

The society also pointed to repeated assurances given by BJP leaders in the past. BJP leaders have held several meetings with the riot victims' families in Punjab, promising to take up their long-pending demands with both the Union and Punjab Governments.

Former MP Avinash Rai Khanna was honoured by the 1984 Danga Peerat Welfare Society in February last year at Ludhiana. The event was attended by senior BJP leaders, including Gurdeep Singh Gosha and BJP councillor Raj Kumar.

Following Sajjan Kumar's acquittal, the society has renewed its demand for a comprehensive investigation. Surjeet Singh said, "We have repeatedly urged the BJP leadership to establish a Truth Commission to investigate the involvement of Congress leaders such as Sajjan Kumar, Jagdish Tytler, Kamal Nath, and Ajay Maken in the 1984 Sikh massacre. Sajjan Kumar's acquittal has come as a shock to us," he said. "Around 25,000 riot-affected families currently reside in Punjab. We demand their rehabilitation and resettlement, as not all families have been allotted houses as promised. Many of our demands are still unfulfilled," she said.

The society members also said they had been seeking time for a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi for over a year to discuss their grievances and the challenges faced by riot victims' families, but without success so far.

Badal blames 'failure' of investigating agencies

SAD chief Sukhbir Badal Thursday condemned the 'failure" of investigating agencies in the case. Badal said that as president of the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), he assures the Sikh community that the party will not let matters rest here and will continue to fight to deliver justice to the victims of the 1984 riots. "The acquittal has shocked the entire community as well as the right thinking people across the world. It has reopened the deep wounds inflicted on traumatised innocent Sikhs. I strongly condemn the failure of investigating agencies in this case," Badal said in a post on X.

Breather to UltraTech Cement: High Court stays demolition of plant in Manesar

Manraj Grewal Sharma
Chandigarh, January 22

IN A significant temporary relief to UltraTech Cement Limited, the Punjab and Haryana High Court has stayed the execution of a demolition order issued by the Municipal Corporation of Manesar (MCM) against the company's ready mix concrete (RMC) plant located in village Naurangpur at Manesar in Haryana's Gurugram district.

In an order passed on January 19, a bench of Justice Harsh Bunger directed that the demolition order dated January 9, 2026 — which mandated UltraTech to immediately cease operations and demolish the plant within seven days, with the threat of the corporation carrying out the demolition and recovering costs as arrears of land revenue — shall remain in abeyance until the next hearing scheduled for February 25.

The interim stay was granted after senior counsel Anand Chhibbar, assisted by advocates Abhilaksh Gaind, representing UltraTech, argued that the plant has been operating lawfully for more than 25 years with all required statutory approvals. Senior counsel Jagdish Manchanda, along with advocates Nischal Chetanya Manchanda and Saksham Kaushik, appeared for the Municipal Corporation of Manesar and sought additional time to file a detailed reply, which the court permitted.

The RMC plant, originally established by UltraTech's predecessor company, Grasim Industries (under the unit name Vikram Premium RMC), in the late 1990s, is a substantial facility valued at approximately Rs 100 crore. It currently employs 171 workers and plays a vital role in supplying ready mix concrete to numerous ongoing building and infrastructure projects across the Gurugram region.

According to the writ petition filed by UltraTech, the plant received key approvals long before the Municipal Corporation of Manesar came into existence. These include an in-principle change of land use (CLU) permission dated November 5, 1998, followed by formal CLU approval on November 16, 1998, and building plan approval on December 18, 1998. All these documents expressly referred to the unit as an RMC facility operated by Grasim Industries Ltd (Unit: Vikram Premium RMC), with the approved site plan clearly titled as such. More recent clearances include a factory licence issued on November 25, 2025, a fire no-objection certificate, and consent to operate from the Haryana State Pollution Control Board dated August 30, 2024, which categorises ready mix concrete operations in the low-pollution "green" category.

UltraTech has emphasised that the Municipal Corporation of Manesar was only constituted on December 24, 2020, through a government notification under the Haryana Municipal Corporation Act, 1994. At the time, the plant was set up and approvals were obtained, no permission from this body was required or possible. The company relies on Section 350D of the same Act, which explicitly states that any acts done under the earlier Punjab Scheduled Roads and Controlled Areas Restriction of Unregulated Development Act, 1963, are deemed valid under the new municipal corporation framework.

The petition strongly criticises the demolition order for proceeding on the incorrect assumption that the original CLU permission was only for a generic "factory" and not specifically for an RMC plant. UltraTech points out that there was no legal requirement in 1998 to specify the exact nature of industrial activity in such detail, and the authorities at the time were fully aware of the intended RMC operations.

Despite the company submitting comprehensive replies with all supporting documents on July 18, 2025, and August 6, 2025, in response to earlier show-cause notices, the municipal corporation allegedly failed to consider these materials. The demolition order was issued more than five months later, which UltraTech describes as a delayed, arbitrary, and high-handed action that violates principles of natural justice.

The company further contends that the order infringes its fundamental rights under Articles 14 (equality), 19(1)(g) (right to carry on business), 21 (right to life and livelihood), and 300-A (protection of property) of the Constitution of India. Additionally, it argues that the Commissioner of the Municipal Corporation lacks the authority to issue such an order following a 2014 amendment to the Act, which vests enforcement powers in controlled areas with the Director of Urban Local Bodies, and no valid delegation of this power has been shown.

After months of unrest, Mann meets agitating power engineers

Raakhi Jagga
Ludhiana, January 22



PSEBEA members with CM Bhagwant Mann, Thursday. EXPRESS

IN A significant development amid ongoing unrest in Punjab's power sector, a delegation of the Punjab State Electricity Board Engineers Association (PSEBEA), led by its president JS Dhiman, met Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann Thursday to discuss the grievances of engineers and employees of the Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL).

Sources within PSEBEA said this was the first formal meeting between the association and the CM on grievance-related issues since the AAP came to power in Punjab in 2022. The meeting assumes importance as engineers and employees of PSPCL have been on an agitation path since November 2025.

According to association members, the suspension of Harish Sharma, chief engineer of the Ropar and Goindwal Sahib Thermal Plant, was discussed in detail during the meeting. His suspension, along with the termination of services of Harjeet Singh, director (generation), had triggered widespread resentment among engineers.

The disciplinary action was taken following allegations of unusually high fuel costs at the two state-run thermal plants as compared to private thermal power plants. Engineers, however, have consistently maintained that the action was arbitrary and failed to take into account systemic and policy-level issues.

During the course of agitation, several other issues had also cropped up. These included the optimum utilisation of vacant government-owned land (OUVGL), under which over 50 PSPCL properties have been earmarked, and the state government's lack of a clear response to the draft Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2025, which employees fear could weaken the public power sector, maintained PSEBEA.

It may be recalled that PSEBEA, along with other unions of PSPCL, had formed a Joint Action Committee of power sector employees, engineers and pensioners in December last year which has been holding zone-wise protest rallies across the state. The most recent rally concluded in Jalandhar on January 20. Such joint agitation of power sector employees had not taken place earlier in the past one decade, maintained PSEBEA. Before announcing the next course of action, the association managed to secure an appointment with the chief minister.

Employees in their protest rallies had also been alleging political interference in the functioning of PSPCL, which they argue is an autonomous body and should be allowed to operate independently on professional lines.

According to members present at the meeting, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann gave the delegation a patient hearing and assured them that their issues would be looked into and resolved. However, no official timeline or concrete decisions were announced immediately after the meeting.

PSEBEA sources also pointed out that this was not the first interaction between the association and the chief minister, but earlier meetings were largely ceremonial. In January 2024, the association had met the CM to express gratitude over the takeover of the Goindwal Sahib Thermal Plant, while in 2023, Bhagwant Mann had been invited as the chief guest at the annual general body meeting of PSEBEA.

The present meeting, however, comes against a backdrop of heightened discontent within the power sector. Engineers argue that unresolved issues, coupled with disciplinary action against senior officers, have demoralised the workforce.

PERMISSION TO ATTEND BUDGET SESSION OF PARLIAMENT

Justice Berry recuses from hearing Amritpal petition; HC refers matter to special bench

Manraj Grewal Sharma
Chandigarh, January 22

THE PUNJAB and Haryana High Court Thursday directed to place before a special bench the petition filed by jailed Lok Sabha MP Amritpal Singh seeking permission to attend the Budget Session of the Parliament, scheduled in two phases — from January 28 to February 13 and from March 9 to April 2. This came after Justice Sanjiv Berry, part of division bench headed by Chief Justice Sheel Nagu, recused from hearing the petition.

Amritpal, a National Security Act detainee lodged in Assam's Dibrugarh jail since 2023, had on Wednesday moved the high court seeking directions to state authorities to grant him parole to attend the Parliament and make necessary arrangements for that.

His counsel, Imaan Singh Khara, submitted in the court that Amritpal was a sitting MP who had addressed representations to the authorities on January 17. He submitted that the MP intended to raise urgent issues during the Budget Session, particularly the rehabilitation of affected people following the August 2025 floods in his border constituency.

Khara submitted that large parts of Khadoor Sahib parliamentary constituency, spanning districts including Kapurthala, Sultanpur Lodhi, Tarn Taran and Ferozepur, had been severely affected by floods and that rehabilitation work remained incomplete. The MP, his counsel argued, needed to participate in parliamentary debates to seek funds and press these issues.



Khadoor Sahib MP Amritpal Singh is lodged in Assam's Dibrugarh jail since 2023

The counsel for Punjab, Anupam Gupta, however, pointed out that the Budget Session was scheduled to commence on January 28 and asked why the petitioner had approached the court at a late stage. The court observed that the authorities were entitled to a reasonable period to consider the representation.

Gupta submitted that Amritpal had been aware of the session schedule well in advance but had approached the authorities only on January 17. Additional Solicitor General Satya Pal Jain, representing the Union of India, argued that under the law, neither the Speaker of the Lok Sabha nor the Governor had any role in granting such permission, and that the decision rested solely with the detaining authority.

The Bench observed that the competent authority to decide the request was the Home Secretary, Punjab, in terms of earlier court orders and the preventive detention law under which Amritpal was detained. The court was of the view that the Home Secretary should decide the representation within 10 days even as Amritpal's counsel pleaded that the state decide in four days.

ASG Satya Pal Jain underlined that the MP had time at hand as the Budget Session was being held in two phases, with a recess in between, and observed that the second phase would continue from March to April.

At the end of the hearing, the Chief Justice said that in view of Justice Berry's recusal, the matter would be placed before a special Bench for issuance of the formal order.

Amritpal's application follows an earlier plea by him to participate in the Winter Session of Parliament, which was rendered ineffective after the court's hearing did not conclude before the session ended.

Anti-gangster op: Punjab Police arrests 3,256 people in 72 hrs

Express News Service
Chandigarh, January 22

The 72-hour long 'Operation Prahar' initiated as part of the first phase of a decisive war against gangsters has resulted in the arrest of 3,256 people.

"The war on gangsters is a sustained campaign that will continue with full force until Punjab is completely cleansed of the gangster menace," said Director General of Police Punjab Gaurav Yadav in statement issued here Thursday. The DGP had announced a crackdown against gangsters under the name of "Operation Prahar". Over 2000 police teams, comprising 12,000 personnel, were deputed across the state to conduct raids at identified and mapped locations linked to associates of 60 foreign-based gangsters across Punjab.

Sharing the cumulative outcomes of the three-day long operation, Special Director General of Police (Special DGP) Law and Order Arpit Shukla said that a total of 4871 individuals were rounded up across the state, of which, 3256 have been arrested. Police teams have also recovered 69 weapons, 6.5 kg heroin, 10.5 kg opium, 5092 intoxicant pills, 72 kg poppy husk and Rs 2.69 lakh drug money from their possession, he said.

He said that apart from this, police teams have also arrested 80 proclaimed offenders and made 25 preventive arrests.

The Special DGP said that the 72-hours-long operation has achieved its objectives beyond expectations. "Operation Prahar was a surgical and intelligence-driven strike on the logistics, financial, and communication networks sustaining gangsters," he said, while reaffirming that the campaign will be continued till Punjab is free from gangsters.

Urging citizens to actively support the campaign against organised crime, Special DGP Arpit Shukla said that people can anonymously report information related to wanted criminals and gangsters, and also share tips on crime and criminal activity, through the Anti Gangster Helpline number 93946-93946. A cash reward of up to Rs 10 lakh will be given for information leading to the arrest of gangsters, he said.

punjab national bank

ASSET RECOVERY AND MANAGEMENT BRANCH (ARMB)

Plot no. 10, B-Block, Distt. Shopping Complex, Ranjit Avenue, Amritsar

POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES)

Whereas, the undersigned being the **"Authorised Officer"** of **Punjab National Bank**, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of the 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 on the date mentioned against account calling upon the respective borrowers / guarantors to repay the amount as mentioned against account within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers / guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers / guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on the date mentioned against account.

The borrowers / guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealing with the properties will be subject to the charge of the **Punjab National Bank,** for the amounts, other charges, costs, expenses and interest thereon. **The borrowers attention is invited to provisions of Sub Section (8) of the Section 13 of Act, in respect of time available to them, to redeem the Secured Assets.**

Name of the NPA Accounts	Description of the Immovable Properties	Nature of Possesion	Date of the Demand Notice	Date of the Possession	Amount Outstanding
(1) (i) Sh. Pardeep Vij S/o Sh. Mohinder Vij **(Borrowers / Mortgagors)**, 36, Bank Avenue, Majitha Road, Amritsar 143001 **(ii) Sh. Mohinder Vij** S/o Sh. Ram Mangat Vij, **(Borrowers / Mortgagors)**, 36, Bank Avenue, Majitha Road, Amritsar 143001 **(iii) Meena Vij** W/o Sh. Mohinder Vij **(Borrowers / Mortgagors)**, 36, Bank Avenue, Majitha Road, Amritsar 143001 **(iv) M/s Shivam Sale (**through its **Proprietor Sh. Pradeep Vij)**, situated at 36, Bank Avenue, Majitha Road, Amritsar 143001 **(v) M/s Shiva Shawls (**through its **Proprietor Sh. Mohinder Vij),** 2651/11, 2nd Floor, Katra Moti Ram, Gali Vikram, Amritsar 143001	All that Part and Parcel of the Residential Building Built on Plot no. 35 Salam 36 min, admeasuring 119.7 sq. yards, Bank Avenue, Majitha Road, Amritsar, standing in the name of Sh. Mohinder Vij, Smt. Meena Vij and Sh. Pardeep Vij covered under Document no. 2808 dated 16-06-2014	**Symbolic**	**17-10-2025**	**19-01-2026**	**Rs. 49,82,697.07** as on 30-09-2025 + Interest, other charges w.e.f 01-10-2025 and less recovery if any, till date affected
(2) (i) M/s Gurdev Singh & Co., Grain Market, Algon Kothi, Tehsil Patti, Distt. Tarn Taran 143303 **(ii) Sh Amrik Singh (Proprietor)** S/o Sh. Milkha Singh, Village Algon Kalan, Algon Kothi, Tarn Taran 143303 **(iii) Sh Satwinder Kaur (Guarantor / Mortgagor)** W/o Sh. Bagicha Singh, House no. 387, Gali no. 12, Gurudwara Bohri Sahib Road, Kot Khalsa, Akash Avenue, Amritsar 143001 **(iv) Smt Jasbir Kaur (Guarantor / Mortgagor)** W/o Late Sh. Shivraj Singh, House no. 387, Gali no 12, Gurudwara Bohri Sahib Road, Kot Khalsa, Akash Avenue, Amritsar 143001 **(v) Sh Bagicha Singh (Guarantor)** S/o Sh. Balwant Singh, House no. 387, Gali no. 12, Gurudwara Bohri Sahib Road, Kot Khalsa, Akash Avenue, Amritsar 143001 **(vi) Sh. Harmanpreet Singh (Guarantor)** S/o Sh. Shivraj Singh, House no. 387, Gali no 12, Gurudwara Bohri Sahib Road, Kot Khalsa, Akash Avenue, Amritsar 143001	All that Part and Parcel of the Residential Property Build on Private Plot no. 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, bearing Khasra no. 23//1/2, 1/2 min, Khata Khatoni no. 470/681, Jamabandi for year 2004-2005, situated at Rakba Kot Khalsa, Amritsar, in the name of Smt Satwinder Kaur W/o Sh. Bagicha Singh and Smt. Jasbir Kaur W/o Late Sh Shivraj Singh vide Sale Deed no. 1474, Bahi no. 1, Vol. no. 3639, Page no. 35 dt 08-05-2009	**Physical**	**03-11-2023**	**21-01-2026**	**Rs. 1,42,25,941/-** + Interest, other charges w.e.f 01-11-2023 and less recovery if any, till date affected

Date : 21-01-2026 **Place : Amritsar** **Sd/- Authorised Officer (Punjab National Bank)**

इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank

इलाहाबाद ALLAHABAD

BRANCH OFFICE:- KHARAR
Sahibzada Ajit Singh (Punjab)-140301
Phone No. 0160-2286121
E-Mail: KHARAR.K686@indianbank.bank.in

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY/IES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank, Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS"** and **"WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS"** on date mentioned below for recovery of dues to the Secured Creditor from the below mentioned Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit and description of Immovable Properties are also mentioned hereunder:-

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/Guarantor/ Mortgagor	Description of Mortgaged Assets having type of Symbolic/ Physical Possession	Amount of Secured Debt	Reserve Price / EMD	Bid Increase Amount / Property ID
1.	**1. Sh. Rajan Kanwar S/o Sh. Baldev Singh,** Address: 1. R/o Kothi No. 2689 First Floor, Phase 11, Sector 65, SAS Nagar-160062, **Also at Address 2:** H.No. 8909 at Swaraj Nagar, Village Kharar, S.A.S. Nagar Mohali. **2. Smt Meenu Kanwar W/o Sh. Rajan Kanwar,** House No. 8909 at Swaraj Nagar, Village Kharar, SAS Nagar Mohali.	Equitable Mortgage of House No. 8909 at Swaraj Nagar, Village Kharar comprised in Khewat No. 1944, Khatoni No. 1997, Khasra No. 44//12/1/2(0-8), 12/2(6-1), 13/1(1-6), 18/2(0-8), 19/1(1-4) Kitte 5, area 9 Kanal 7 Marla having 25/2244 share i.e. 0 Kanal 2 Marla at Swaraj Nagar, Kharar, Hadbast No. 184 in the name of Smt. Meenu Kanwar W/o Sh. Rajan Kanwar as per Sale Deed/Vasika No. 8629, dated 18.03.2016 registered with Sub Registrar Kharar. Bounded by: North: Other's Property, South: Other's Property, East: Entry, West: Other's Property. **(TYPE OF POSSESSION: SYMBOLIC).**	**Rs. 23,44,134/-** (Rupees Twenty Three Lakh Forty Four Thousand One Hundred Thirty Four Only) as on 08.07.2025 with further interest, costs, other charges and expenses thereon.	**Rs. 37,70,000/-** **Rs. 3,77,000/-**	**Rs. 10,000/-** **IDIB30186514114**

Date for Inspection of documents/property:-	**16.01.2026 to 02.02.2026 between 10.00 am to 4.00 pm**
Last date and Time for submission of bid:-	**05.02.2026 i.e. the e-auction Date & before the e-auction end time in the portal**
Date & Time of E-Auction:-	**05.02.2026 (Thursday) From 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM (with unlimited extensions of 10 minutes duration each till the conclusion of the sale)**

THIS PUBLICATION IS ALSO 15 DAYS NOTICE UNDER RULES 6(2) & 8(6) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002 TO THE ABOVE BORROWERS & GUARANTORS

Bidders are advised to visit the website **(https://www.baanknet.com)** of our e auction service provider PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd to participate in online bid. For Technical Assistance Please call **PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd Helpdesk No. 8291220220, email ID:- support.baanknet@psballiance.com** and other help line numbers available in service providers help desk. For Registration status with PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. and EMD status, please contact **support.baanknet@psballiance.com**.

For property details and photograph of the property and auction terms and conditions please visit: **https://www.baanknet.com** and for clarifications related to this portal, please contact Helpdesk No. 8291220220.

Bidders are advised to use Property ID Number mentioned above while searching for the property in the website with **https://www.baanknet.com**.

Date: 22.01.2026 **Place: Kharar** **Authorized Officer**

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

यूको बैंक UCO BANK

(A Govt. of India Undertaking)

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

SALE NOTICE OF E-AUCTION SALE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY/IES)

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation & Reconstruction of the Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (SARFAESI) read with proviso to Rule8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules,2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Gurarantor(s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the symbolic/physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officers of UCO Bank (Secured Creditor), will be sold on **"As is where is","As is what is"and " Whatever there is"** basis and invite bids from the intending purchasers for purchase of immovable properties mentioned hereunder.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Details of Immovable Properties	Possession Date Status of Possession (Physical or Symbolic	Demand Notice date & Amount	Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Increase Amount	Details of Officer Concerned	Date & Time Of E-Auction
1.	**Branch Office : Millerganj, Ludhiana**						
	Borrower : M/s Kanwar Poultry Farm Prop. Sh. Roop Kanwar Singh and Sh. Roop Kanwar Singh (Borrower & Guarantor) Address: House No. 703, Street No.02, Phase II Urban Estate Duguri, Ludhiana (Punjab), Tehsil & District Ludhiana -141012.	All the part & parcel of Property (Land & Building) Measuring 2670 Sq. yards Comprised in Khata Nos. 89/94, 325/341, 326/342, 328/345, 346, 749/781, Khasra Nos. 13//10/1, 13//11/4, 13//12/3/2, 13//19/5/2, 13//20/2, 18//8/3, 18//13/1, 12//14/2, 12//15/2, 12//17/1, 12//15/3 min.13//11/1 min, 18//8/4, 12//6/3, 12//15/3 min, 13//10/4, 13//11/1 min, 18//13/2, 13//11/3 as per jamabandi for the year 2017-18, Situated at Village Gujjarwal-I, Hadbast No. 310, Tehsil & Distt. Ludhiana vide registered Transfer deed vide Wasika no. 2021-22/103/1/11020 dated 07.01.2022 in the name of Sh. Roop Kanwar Singh S/o Sh. Harjinder Singh and Bounded as Under: **East:** Sh. Jagga Singh106', **West:** Sh. Boota Singh 106', **North:** Sh. Garja Singh 217', **South:** Sh. Boota Singh & Passage 217'.	26.03.2025 / Symbolic	13.01.2025 Rs. 57,20,454.96	Rs. 1,66,78,000/- Rs. 16,68,000/- Rs. 20,000/-	Mr. Ravi Parkash Gupta (M) 9147403124 E-mail Miller@uco.bank.in	24.02.2026 11:00 AM to 05.00 PM
2.	**B/o : Civil Lines, Ludhiana**						
	Borrowers: M/s Ganga Enterprises, B-31-7432, Street No. 9, Guru Arjan Dev Nagar, Ludhiana-141008. **Proprietor: Mr. Jai Narayan** S/o Shri Rajinder Kumar, R/o House No. 609/4B, Street No. 5, Sham Nagar, Ludhiana -141001. **Guarantor: Mr. Munish Kumar Gupta** S/o Shri Rajinder Kumar, R/o House No. 610/10, Street No. 4, Sham Nagar, Ludhiana -141001.	All that part and parcel of Equitable Mortgage Property bearing MC No. B-XXXI-7432 measuring 200 Square yards comprised in Khasra No. 707, Khata No. 418/452 as per Jamabandi for the year 1997-1998 (Khata No. 427/463 as per Jamabandi for the year 2007-08), Situated at Taraf Saidan, Hadbast No. 172, Abadi known as Guru Arjan Dev Nagar, Tehsil & Distt. Ludhiana Registered as per Sale Deed bearing Vasika No. 7726 dated 30.09.2002 in the name of Mr. Jai Narain & Mr. Munish Kumar Sons of Shri Rajinder Kumar. Bounded as under: **East:** Street 20' wide admeasuring 30', **West:** Neighbour admeasuring 30', **North:** Hari Singh admeasuring 60', **South:** Kirpal Singh admeasuring 60'.	31.10.2025/ Symbolic	21.08.2025 Rs. 63,08,357.05	Rs. 55,68,000/- Rs. 5,56,800/- Rs. 10,000/-	Mr. Anshul Singhal (M) 9760999301 E-mail civil@uco.bank.in	24.02.2026 11:00 AM to 05.00 PM
3.	**B/o : Millerganj, Ludhiana**						
	Borrowers: M/s New Satguru Dairy & Milk Product Prop. Sh. Jagmohinder Singh and Sh. Jagmohinder Singh S/o Sh. Ujjal Singh **(Borrower & Guarantor),** Both R/o House No. 76, Block B, City Enclave, Mahmudpura, Tehsil & District Ludhiana 141116 (Punjab).	All the part & parcel of Property Measuring 1210 Sq. Yards Comprised in Khasra No.39//9/1min, 10/1min, 9/1min, 10/1min,39//9/2,10/2,11/2, Khata No.313/366, 367, 323/377, As per jamabandi for the year 2016-2017, Situated at Village-Umedpur, Hadbast No. 231, Sub Tehsil Sahnewal & Distt. Ludhiana as per sale deed vide wasika No. 2023-24/102/1/142 dated 18.04.2023 in the name of Sh. Jagmohinder Singh S/o Sh. Ujjal Singh and Bounded as Under : **East:** Sh. Bahadur Singh, **West:** Road 22'-0", **North:** Sh. Mohinder Singh, **South:** Sh. Sukhdev Singh.	05.03.2025 / Symbolic	24.12.2024 Rs. 88,33,177.59	Rs. 58,99,000/- Rs. 5,90,000/- Rs. 10,000/-	Mr. Ravi Parkash Gupta (M) 9147403124 E-mail Miller@uco.bank.in	24.02.2026 11:00 AM to 05.00 PM
4.	**B/o : Millerganj, Ludhiana**						
	Borrowers: M/s VSG Bikes Prop. Sh. Amarjeet Singh and Sh. Amarjeet Singh S/o Sh. Om Prakash **(Borrower & Guarantor),** Both R/o House No. 7521/9, Gali No.4-1/2, Waheguru Road, Near ATI College, New Amar Nagar, Tehsil & District Ludhiana 141003 (Punjab).	All the part & parcel of House Property measuring 150 Sq. Yards comprised in Khasra no.31, Khewat Khatoni no.250/359-360-361, As per jamabandi for the year 1988-89 (Khata no.291/363 to 365, As per jamabandi for the year 2008-09), Situated at Village-Daba, Hadbast no.262, Locality Known as New Amar Nagar, Tehsil & Distt. Ludhiana, As per sale deed vide Wasika no. 21758 dated 17.12.1990 in the name of Sh. Amarjeet Singh S/o Sh. Om Prakash and Bounded as Under: **East:** Mahinder Singh 25-0", **West:** Manjit Singh 25-0", **North:** Neighbour 54-0", **South:** Street54'-0"	12.05.2025 / Symbolic	05.03.2025 Rs. 40,49,523.15	Rs. 30,79,000/- Rs. 3,08,000/- Rs. 10,000/-	Mr. Ravi Parkash Gupta (M) 9147403124 E-mail Miller@uco.bank.in	24.02.2026 11:00 AM to 05.00 PM

STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002

Terms & Conditions: 1. The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. **2.** The properties are being sold on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS". 3.** The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule herein above have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorised Officer, but the Authorised Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation. **4.** The auction sale will be "online through e-auction " portal **https://baanknet.com**. **5.** The intending Bidders / Purchasers are requested to register on portal **https://baanknet.com** using their mobile number and email-id. Further, they are requested to upload requisite KYC documents. Once the KYC documents are verified by e-auction service provider (may take 2 working days),the intending Bidders/Purchasers has to transfer the **EMD amount using online mode in his Global EMD Wallet ON before the e-Auction Date and time in the portal. The registration, verification** of KYC documents and transfer of EMD in wallet must be completed well in advance, before auction. **6.** Platform **https://baanknet.com** for e-Auction will be provided by e-Auction service provider **Help Desk No. +91 82912 20220, Help Desk E-Mail ID : support.baanknet@psballiance.com.** The intending Bidders/Purchasers are required to participate in the e-Auction process at e-auction service provider's website **https://baanknet.com**. **7.** For any property related query may contact **Mr. Parveen Sandhu, (M) 9882037003. 8.** The Sale Notice containing the General Terms and Conditions of sale is available / published in the websites /web page portal: **https://baanknet.com. 9.** The intending participants of e-auction may download free of cost, copies of the Sale Notice, Terms & Conditions of e-auction,Help Manual on operational part of e-Auction related to this e-Auction from portal **https://baanknet.com. 10.** Bidder's Global Wallet should have sufficient balance (>=EMD amount) at the time of bidding. **11.** During the e-auction bidders will be allowed to offer higher bid in inter-se bidding over and above the last bid quoted and the minimum increase in the bid amount must be as mention above to the last higher bid of the bidders. Twenty (20) minutes time will be allowed to bidders to quote successive higher bid and if no higher bid is offered by any bidder after the expiry of ten minutes to the last highest bid, the e-auction shall be closed. **12.** It is the responsibility of intending Bidder(s) to properly read the Sale Notice, Terms & conditions of e-auction, Help Manual on operational part of e-Auction and follow them strictly. In case of any difficulty or need of assistance before or during e-Auction process may contact authorized representative of our e-Auction Service Provider (https: **https://baanknet.com**. Details of which are available on the e-Auction portal. **13.** After finalization of e-Auction by the Authorized Officer, only successful bidder will be informed by our above referred service provider through SMS/email. (On mobile no/ email address given by them/registered with the service provider). **14.** The secured asset will not be sold below the reserve price. The Authorised Officer reserves the right to accept any or reject all bids, if not found acceptable or to postpone/cancel/adjourn/discontinue or vary the terms of the auction at any time without assigning any reason whatsoever and his decision in this regard shall be final. **15.** The sale certificate shall be issued in favor of successful bidder on deposit of full bid amount as per the provisions of the act. **16.** It shall be the responsibility of the bidders to inspect and satisfy themselves about the asset and specification before submitting the bid. The bidder inspect the property in consultation with the dealing official as per the details provided. All statutory dues/ attendant charges /other dues including registration charges, stamp duty, taxes etc. shall have to be borne by the purchaser. **18.** The Authorized Officer of the Bank shall not be responsible for any charge, lien, encumbrances, or any other dues to the Government or anyone else in respect of properties (E-Auctioned) not known to the bank. The Intending Bidder is advised to make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances on the property including statutory liabilities, arrears of property tax, electricity dues etc. **19.** The bidder should ensure proper internet connectivity, power back-up etc. The Bank shall not be liable for any disruption due to internet failure, power failure or technical reasons or reasons /contingencies affecting the e-auctions. **20.** The successful bidder has to bear the TDS of 1% if the property value exceeds 50 lacs. **21.** This notice is also to be treated as 30 days statutory sale notice to borrower and guarantor under Rule 9(1) Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. **22.** Incase of sole bidder the bid amount quoted in his/her bid form must be improved by at least one bid incremental value, lest the sale shall be cancelled/deferred. **23.** Sale will not be confirmed if the borrower tenders to the bank contractual dues along with other expenses prior to the Authorised Officer issuing Sale Confirmation letter to the successful bidder, in such case the Bank shall refund without interest the entire amount remitted by the successful bidder.

DATE: 22.01.2026 **AUTHORISED OFFICER, UCO BANK**

पंजाब ग्रामीण बैंक PUNJAB GRAMIN BANK

DAC Department
Head Office: Markfed Road, Kapurthala - 144601, Punjab,
E-Mail : dacpgb@pgb.bank.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed by way of this notice that **Ms. Deepshikha Tandon** W/o Sh. Aatish Kumar, R/o- Deep Nagar Bridge no.5, Sujanpur, Distt-Pathankot, Charged Officer was served Charge Sheet **dated 15.12.2025** through Regd. Post and also through her e-mail address **TANDON.DEEPSHIKHA@gmail.com**. Due to the post was returned undelivered to Ms. Deepshikha Tandon. By way of this Notice, one last opportunity is being afforded to Ms.Deepshikha Tandon to receive the Charge Sheet **dated 15.12.2025** from the Head Office: Kapurthala within 7 days from the publication of this Notice, failing which ex-parte proceedings will be initiated against Ms. Deepshikha Tandon under the relevant provisions of the Punjab Gramin Bank (Officer and Employees) Service Regulations, 2010 to be read in conjunction with Punjab Gramin Bank Service (Amendment) Regulations 2013 and Punjab Gramin Bank Service (Amendment) Regulations 2018, republished in the Gazette of India on 16.05.2019.

Dated : 21.01.2026 **GENERAL MANAGER-HRD DISCIPLINARY AUTHORITY**

पंजाब ग्रामीण बैंक PUNJAB GRAMIN BANK

DAC Department
Head Office: Markfed Road, Kapurthala - 144601, Punjab,
E-Mail : dacpgb@pgb.bank.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed by way of this notice that **Ms. Shruti** W/o Sh. Abhishek Salwan R/o Near Gurudwara, Akalgarh, Kamboj Nagar, Ferozepur, Charged Employee was sent Enquiry Report **dated 04.12.2025** w.r.t charge sheet **dated 21.06.2025.** However, the said report was returned undelivered to Ms. Shruti. By way of this Notice, one last opportunity is being afforded to Ms. Shruti to receive Enquiry report **dated 04.12.2025** from the **Head Office: Kapurthala** within 7 days from the publication of this Notice, failing which ex-parte proceedings will be initiated against Ms. Shruti under the relevant provisions of the Punjab Gramin Bank (Officer and Employees) Service Regulations, 2010 to be read in conjunction with Punjab Gramin Bank Service (Amendment) Regulations 2013 and Punjab Gramin Bank Service (Amendment) Regulations 2018, republished in the Gazette of India on 16.05.2019

Dated : 21.01.2026 **Functional Manager-HRD/Disciplinary Authority, Punjab Gramin Bank, HO: Kapurthala**

यूनियन बैंक Union Bank

REGIONAL OFFICE - BATHINDA, SCF 136 - 137, Rose Garden Complex, Near Mittal Mall, Goniana Road, Bathinda - 151001
Email : crld.robathinda@unionbankofindia.bank.in

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to rule 8 (6)] Sale notice for sale of immovable properties

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and to the Borrower/s and Guarantor/s in particular by the Authorized Officer, that the under mentioned property mortgaged to Union Bank of India, taken possession under the provision of Section 13(4) of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, will be sold by E-Auction as mentioned below for recovery of under mentioned dues and further interest, charges and costs etc, as detailed below.

The property is being sold on **"AS IS WHERE IS WHATEVER THERE IS AND WITHOUT RECOURSE BASIS"** as such sale is without any kind of warranties and indemnities.

EMD SHALL BE DEPOSITED AND LINKED/MAPPED WITH THE PROPERTY ID BEFORE THE STARTING OF E-AUCTION
The under mentioned property/ies will be sold by "Online E-Auction through website https://baanknet.com.
For Sr. No. 01 to 04 on 27.02.2026 & For Sr. No. 05 to 12 on 13.02.2026 from 12.00 NOON to 05.00 PM

1)*Any encumbrances over the property/ies is not known to the Bank/Secured Creditor.

Sr. No.	Name of the Branch Account, Borrower/s/ Guarantor/s, etc	Outstanding Amount	Details of Properties	RESERVE PRICE / EMD / BID INCREASE AMOUNT
1.	**NFL Bathinda (55540), (Mob. No. 8369855540)** **Borrower : Smt. Baljit Kaur** W/o Karnail Singh, Ward No. 8, Bhucho Mandi, Bathinda, Punjab –151101. **Guarantor : Mr. Karamjit Singh** S/o Tota Singh, 77A, Bhucho Kalan, Bathinda, Punjab –151101.	**Rs. 6,92,742.27 as on** 30.07.2024 plus intt. & other charges thereon (Less recovery if any)	All the part & parcel of property measuring 04 Marlas – 04 Sarsai comprised in Khasra No.1199/5(0-4-4), Khewat/Khata No. 52/186 as per jamabandi for the year 1997-98, Situated at Bhuj Kahan Singh Wala, Bhucho Mandi, District Bathinda and owned by Smt. Baljeet Kaur W/o Karnail Singh. Bounded as **: East-** Baljeet Kaur, **West:** H/o Kuldeep Singh, **North-** Street, **South-** Jyoti Prakash. **CERSAI ID:400018096674. Type of Possession**: **Symbolic.**	**Rs. 11,40,000/-** **Rs. 1,14,000/-** **Rs. 10,000/-**
2.	**Patran Branch (28031) (M-8356828031)** **Borrower: 1(a). M/s Guru Nanak Trading Co. (Prop. Late Baldev Singh** S/o Gurdeep Singh), Anaj Mandi, Village Shutrana, Tehsil Patran, Distt. Patiala –147105. **1(b). Late Baldev Singh** S/o Gurdeep Singh **(Prop.) (represented through legal heirs) (i) Mrs. Rajwinder Kaur** W/o Late Baldev Singh, Village Shutrana, Tehsil Patran, Distt. Patiala –147105. **(ii) Ms. Manpreet Kaur** D/o Late Baldev Singh, Village Shutrana, Tehsil Patran, Distt. Patiala –147105 & others	**Rs. 8,91,674.15 as on** 07.07.2025 plus intt. & other charges thereon (Less recovery if any)	All that part & parcel of land & Building measuring 00K-03M size of plot 20'x40' as per jamabandi for the year 2004-2005 in Khewat/Khatoni No. 742/1111, Khasra No. 638(5-6) total measuring 05K-06M to the extent of 3/1106th share i.e. 00K-03M (800 Sq. feet). Bounded as under : **East:** Raghvir Singh, **West:** Harpal Singh others, **North:** Road of Bhadshapura, **South:** Jai Partap and others, Situated at Bhadshapur Road, Village Shutrana, Tehsil Patran, Distt. Patiala, Situated at Bhadshahpur Road, Village Shutrana, Tehsil Patran, Distt. Patiala. **Type of Possession**: **Symbolic.**	**Rs. 17,80,000/-** **Rs. 1,78,000/-** **Rs. 15,000/-**
3.	**Barnala Branch (62340) (M-9137462340)** **Borrower(s) : 1. Mr. Manmeet Sharma** S/o Hari Dev Sharma, House No. 867, Street No. 2, Ward No. 26, Shakti Nagar, Barnala, Punjab - 148101. **2. Mrs. Vartika Sharma** W/o Manmeet Sharma, Street No. 2, Shakta Nagar, Barnala, Punjab- 148101. **Guarantor : Mr. Tek Chand** S/o Jagan Nath, House No. 156, Ward No. 8, Bhani Shaib, Dhanaula, Barnala, Punjab-148105.	**Rs. 12,97,326.85 as on** 11.09.2025 plus intt. & other charges thereon (Less recovery if any)	All that part & parcel of Residential property bearing property unit No. B 011/03423 measuring 1 Kanal 3.5 Marla being 47/362 share of 9 Kanal 1 Marla comprising in Khewat No. 1345, Khatoni No. 2017, Khasra Nos. 386//18/1(4-5), 19 /1 /(4-16), Situated within the revenue limit of Barnala A vide jamabandi for the year 2014-2015 now falls within Mc limit of Barnala, Situated at Street No. 2, Street Opposite Residence Surjit Singh Barnala, Shakti Nagar, Barnala which is bounded as under **East: -** 106'2" House of Gazal Resorts Owner, **West** :- 136'8", Property of Charanjit Singh, **North** : 62'3", Street 25' wide, **South:-** 50'10", property of Charanjit Singh. **Type of Possession**: **Symbolic.**	**Rs. 82,45,000/-** **Rs. 8,24,500/-** **Rs. 50,000/-**
4.	**Circular Road, Nabha (917885) (M-9137117882)** **Borrower(s) : 1. M/s Ram Murti and Company (Prop. Sanjay Mittal),** Shop No. 17 A, New Grain Market, Nabha, Patiala, Punjab - 147201. **2. Sh. Sanjay Mittal** S/o Sh. Ram Murti **(Proprietor),** R/o Mittal Lodge, Krishnapuri, Near Vishavkarma Chownk, Sadar Thana Road, Nabha, Patiala, Punjab - 147201. **Guarantor : Sh. Ram Murti** S/o Sarup Chand, R/o Mittal Lodge, Krishnapuri, Near Vishavkarma Chownk, Sadar Thana Road, Nabha, Patiala, Punjab –147201.	**Rs. 40,48,364.02 as on** 09.06.2025 plus intt. & other charges thereon (Less recovery if any)	All the part and parcel of Residential House admeasuring 225 Sq. yards, Situated at Krishnapuri, Near Vishavkarma Chownk, Sadar Thana Road, Nabha, Distt. Patiala purchased vide registered sale deed No. 3699, Bahi No.1, Zild No.233, Page No. 48, registered with Sub Registrar, Nabha on 17.02.1989 owned by Sh. Ram Murti S/o Sarup Chand. Bounded as under **: East:** 12'-0" wide Street (35'-9"), **West:** 12'-0" wide Street (32'-9"), **North:** House of Bhagwanti (61'0"), **South:** Kiran Kumari (56'-9") as per actual. **Type of Possession**: **Symbolic.**	**Rs. 69,00,000/-** **Rs. 6,90,000/-** **Rs. 50,000/-**
5.	**UMFB Patiala (06102), (M-9372806102)** **Borrower: Mr. Shoeb Ahmed Khan** S/o Mr. Habib Ahmed, LIG Flat 501(Ground Floor), Shaheed Sewa Singh, Thikriwala Nagar, Patiala-147001. **Co-applicant: Mr. Lubna Parveen** W/o Mr. Shoeb Ahmed Khan, LIG Flat 501(Ground Floor), Shaheed Sewa Singh, Thikriwala Nagar, Patiala-147001. **Guarantor: Mr. Akhtar Ali** S/o Mohammad Saleem, LIG Flat 501(Ground Floor), Shaheed Sewa Singh, Thikriwala Nagar, Patiala-147001.	**Rs. 12,26,381.35 as on** 01.05.2019 plus intt. & other charges thereon (Less recovery if any)	All that part & parcel of Flat No. 501 Ground Floor, measuring 594 Square feet, Situated at Shaheed Sewa Singh, Thikriwala Nagar, Patiala belongs to Shoeb Ahmed Khan. Boundaries as per Sale Deed :- **East :** Road, **West :** Road, **North:** LIG Flat No. 502, **So**uth: LIG Flat No. 500. **Type of Possession: Symbolic.**	**Rs. 10,00,000/-** **Rs. 1,00,000/-** **Rs. 10,000/-**
6.	**UMFB Patiala (06102), (M-9372806102)** **Borrower: M/s Bansi Lal Sham Lal, Prop. Mr. Anurag Malhotra,** Sanouri Gate Near Sheetla Mata Mandir, Patiala-147001. **Co-applicant: Mr. Anurag Malhotra,**House No. 1001/2, Near Gurbax Colony, Bhindian Street, Patiala-147001. **Guarantor: Mr. Vishal Malhotra,** House No. 1001/2, Near Gurbax Colony, Bhindian Street, Patiala-147001.	**Rs. 14,61,531.50 as on** 05.04.2019 plus intt. & other charges thereon (Less recovery if any)	All that part & parcel of House No.1001/2, measuring 88.44 Square yards, Near Gurbax Colony, Bhindian Street, Patiala-147001 belongs to Mr. Anurag Malhotra. Boundaries as per Sale Deed :- **East** : R/o Mohan Lal & Sohan Lal, **West** : R/o Amar Nath and Mohan Lal, **North** : R/o Mohan Lal, **South** : Street & Resident of Dina Nath. **Type of Possession: Symbolic.**	**Rs. 8,50,000/-** **Rs. 85,000/-** **Rs. 10,000/-**
7.	**Jalalabad Branch (67500), (M-9137567500)** **Borrower(s) : 1. M/s Sain Ladi Shah Construction Prop. Vikrant Kumar,** House No. 282, Bhai Sant Singh Street, Jalalabad, Distt. Fazilka-152024. **2. Mrs. Silky** W/o Vikrant Kumar, House No. 282, Bhai Sant Singh Street, Jalalabad, Distt. Fazilka-152024. **Guarantor(s) : 1. Mr. Abhishek Dahuja** S/o Ashok Dahuja, House No.432, Street Krishna Mandir, Jalalabad, Distt. Fazilka-152024.	**Rs. 8,80,291.59 as on** 20.07.2021 plus intt. & other charges thereon (Less recovery if any)	All that part & parcel of Shop and Plot measuring 04 Marlas 05 Sarsai i.e. 25' x 50' i.e. 18/522 share of 02 Kanals 18 Marlas comprised of Khasra No. 105M/17/2 (2-18)2. Land measuring 14 Sarsai i.e. 14/1440 share of 08 Kanals comprised of Khasra No. 105M/18 (8-0) 3. Land measuring 09 Sarsai 9/630 share of 03 Kanals 10 Marlas comprised of Khasra No. 105M/17/3 (3-10) Khewat No. 1943, which is Situated at College Road, Jalalabad(w), District Fazilka vide sale deed No. 6065 dated 27.03.2014 in name of Vikrant Kumar. Boundaries as per Sale Deed :- **East**: Veena Rani, **West**: Sukhwinder Kaur, **North**: Sonu Madaan, **South**: Road. **Type of Possession: Symbolic.**	**Rs. 15,75,000/-** **Rs. 1,57,500/-** **Rs. 15,000/-**
8.	**Dhuri (916064), (M-9372716062,)** **Borrower: Mr. Baljinder Singh** S/o Kaur Singh, Bagrian Road, Nehru Market, Ward No. 4 Dhuri, Sangrur, Punjab-148024.	**Rs. 5,14,001/- as on** 14.10.2019 plus intt. & other charges thereon (Less recovery if any)	All that part & parcel of residential property of 400 sq. yards vide sale deed No. 3293 dated 01.12.2003 having Khata No. 357/739 (Old), 580/822 (New) Khasra No. 147//9/5-2,147//16/2/0-4, 148//10/6-5,148//11/6-5,148//12/6-5,148//13/1/3-15, 148//14/1/2/5-8, 148//15/4-17,153//2/1/4/1-19, 153//3/1/4/0-5, Situated at Ward No. 1 Bagrian Road, Bardwal, Tehsil Dhuri, Distt. Sangrur, Punjab. Boundaries as per Sale Deed :- **East**: Dilbag Singh side 22 feet, **West**: Pushpa Single side 27 feet, **North** : Street width 10 feet side 34 feet 8 inch, **South** : Hosiyar Singh side 34 feet 8 inch. **Type of Possession: Symbolic.**	**Rs. 12,15,000/-** **Rs. 1,21,500/-** **Rs. 10,000/-**
9.	**Dhuri Branch (62350), (M- 8369662350)** **Borrower: Mr. Sarup Singh** S/o Kartar Singh, Dashmesh Colony, Bouran Gate, Nabha, Dhuri, Distt. Sangrur 148024. **Co-Borrower: Mr. Gagandeep Singh** S/o Sarup Singh, House No. B10 487, Dashmesh

CORPORATE BRIEFS

Chitkara–UMD Students Present Vision for Sector 17 Revitalisation



CHANDIGARH: A 17-day Collaborative Winter School on Urban Redevelopment, jointly organised by the Chitkara School of Planning and Architecture, Chitkara University, and the School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, University of Maryland, concluded with final student presentations proposing innovative strategies for revitalising Sector 17, Chandigarh.

Held from January 5 to January 21, 2026, the intensive international design studio brought together 10 students from the University of Maryland and 12 students from Chitkara University. The programme focused on reimagining the future of Sector 17—Chandigarh's central business district—through contemporary urban redevelopment approaches. The studio was conducted under the academic mentorship of Ar. Surinder Bahga, Principal Architect, Saakaar Foundation.

During the final jury review, students presented comprehensive redevelopment proposals supported by detailed site analysis, policy and regulatory reviews, development frameworks, and financial feasibility assessments. Jury members appreciated the overall quality, depth, and rigour of the work, noting that several proposals demonstrated strong potential to contribute meaningfully to the rejuvenation of Sector 17.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Madhu Chitkara, Pro Chancellor, Chitkara University, said, "*This Winter School reflects our commitment to global academic collaboration and practice-oriented learning. Such initiatives empower students to engage with real-world urban challenges while gaining valuable international perspectives.*"

The Winter School concluded with the felicitation of participating faculty members and students from both institutions, marking a significant milestone in international academic cooperation, experiential learning, and design-led urban inquiry.

Trident Group Announces Rs.1 Crore Research Sustainability Lab at SLIET Sangrur



Sangrur: Trident Group today announced a Rs.1 crore contribution for the establishment of a Research Sustainability Laboratory at Sant Longowal Institute of Engineering and Technology (SLIET). The initiative is being led by Padma Shri Rajinder Gupta, Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), Member of the Standing Committee on Labour, Textiles and Skill Development, and Chairman Emeritus of Trident Group.

The proposed laboratory will focus on developing advanced engineering solutions to address mechanical and electrical/electronic system failures in industrial plants, using real-time operational data from Trident's manufacturing units. The initiative aims to strengthen industry–academia collaboration and promote applied research aligned with real-world industrial challenges.

The programme was organised under the leadership of Prof. Mani Kant Paswan, Director, SLIET, with support from Prof. Ravi Kant Mishra, Dean (Alumni & Industrial Relations), and Prof. Surinder Singh, Dean (Research & Consultancy).

Addressing the gathering, Padma Shri Rajinder Gupta emphasised the growing importance of engineering innovation, technical precision, and data-driven decision-making in modern manufacturing. He noted that the Research Sustainability Lab would provide students and researchers with hands-on exposure to industrial systems while enabling practical, scalable solutions for sustainable manufacturing practices.

The initiative marks a significant step towards fostering innovation-driven education and strengthening India's industrial research ecosystem.

SPS Hospitals Strengthens Respiratory Care with Asthma & Allergy Clinic



On the occasion of the 77th Republic Day, SPS Hospitals inaugurated the SPS Asthma & Allergy Care Clinic under its Department of Pulmonology, marking a significant advancement in specialised respiratory care across North India. The clinic offers advanced diagnostics and international-standard treatment to patients in Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, and Jammu, reducing dependence on metropolitan healthcare centres.

Asthma and allergic respiratory conditions are emerging as major public health concerns in India, accounting for nearly 42% of global asthma-related deaths, largely due to delayed diagnosis and limited awareness.

Dr. Rajinder Kumar Goyal, Senior Consultant – Pulmonology, highlighted that asthma often remains undetected until severe symptoms appear. Dr. Keerat Kaur Sibia, Consultant – Pulmonology, stressed the need for precise diagnosis, noting that breathlessness is not always asthma-related.

Mr. Yogendera Nath Awadhya, COO, said the clinic meets a critical regional need, while Mr. Jai Singh Sandhu, Managing Director, reaffirmed SPS Hospitals' commitment to patient-centric care since 2005.

Saint Soldier Group Opens Third SSE Cambridge School in Amritsar



Saint Soldier Group of Schools inaugurated its third branch, SSE Cambridge, on Ramtirath Road, Amritsar, following the Bhog ceremony of Sri Akhand Path Sahib. The inauguration was performed by Baba Parmanand Ji, who also unveiled the commemorative plaque.Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Mangal Singh Kishanpuri Ji, Managing Director, said the new institution will focus on academic excellence while nurturing values, discipline, and character building among students.Public representatives and dignitaries present lauded the initiative, noting that the school will play a significant role in delivering quality, modern education integrated with strong ethical and cultural values, thereby contributing meaningfully to the region's educational development.

Amandeep Hospital Launches Free Joint Replacement Drive Across Punjab



Amandeep Hospital, in partnership with Ujala Cygnus, has launched "Dr. Avtar Singh's Joint Freedom Drive," a humanitarian initiative to support underprivileged patients suffering from severe joint ailments. Under the programme, 26 free joint replacement surgeries will be conducted across Punjab over the course of the year. The initiative is led by Dr. Avtar Singh, Chairman and Chief Orthopaedic Surgeon, and aims to restore mobility and improve quality of life through world-class surgical procedures, advanced implants, and comprehensive rehabilitation, provided entirely free of cost. The drive reinforces Amandeep Hospital's commitment to inclusive, ethical, and compassionate healthcare for all sections of society.

Dr. Maninder Kaur Awarded PhD in Economics at GNDU Convocation



At a recent convocation ceremony held at Guru Nanak Dev University (GNDU), Amritsar, in the august presence of the Hon'ble President of India, Dr. Maninder Kaur was conferred the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Economics degree.Dr. Kaur specialised in social, economic, and financial infrastructure development. Her doctoral research examines regional disparities and uneven development across Indian states, with a particular focus on infrastructure-led growth and inclusive development. Her academic interests also include regional development studies and public policy analysis, contributing valuable insights towards balanced and sustainable economic growth in India.

Punjab & Sind Bank Celebrates Makar Sankranti with Community Langar in Ludhiana



Punjab and Sind Bank celebrated the auspicious festival of Makar Sankranti with a heart warming Langar at its Millerganj Branch, Ludhiana, fostering a spirit of unity and service. Bank officials and staff joined hands to organise the community meal, reflecting the institution's commitment to social responsibility and inclusive values. The initiative was warmly received by the local community, spreading goodwill and reinforcing the festival's message of compassion, sharing, and togetherness.

Dr. Vijay K. Kukreja Appointed Dean (Students' Welfare) at SLIET Longowal



Dr. Vijay K. Kukreja, Professor of Mathematics, has been entrusted with the additional charge of Dean (Students' Welfare) at Sant Longowal Institute of Engineering and Technology (SLIET), Longowal. He formally assumed office on January 14, 2026.The Institute placed on record its sincere appreciation for the valuable services rendered by Dr. M. M. Sinha, Professor of Physics, during his tenure as Dean (Students' Welfare). SLIET extends its best wishes to Dr. Kukreja in his new administrative role.

IIM Amritsar Concludes 5th International MSME Conference 2026



The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Amritsar, in collaboration with the Dingman Centre for Entrepreneurship, University of Maryland, successfully concluded the 5th International Conference on Management of MSMEs and Doctoral Colloquium 2026 on "Reimagining MSMEs: Pathways to Growth and Innovation." The three-day event featured keynote addresses, panel discussions, research sessions, competitions, and a doctoral colloquium, bringing together scholars and practitioners to foster research, collaboration, and thought leadership aimed at driving growth, innovation, and sustainable development in the MSME sector.

Fortis Jalandhar Achieves City's First Life-Saving ECMO Intervention



In a landmark medical achievement, Fortis Hospital, Jalandhar, successfully saved the life of a 33-year-old man suffering from severe chemical poisoning using Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO)—a first for the city. The patient, critically affected by Celphos, a highly toxic compound, arrived in profound shock with multi-organ failure, unresponsive to conventional treatments. With family consent, the Emergency Medicine team initiated ECMO support, providing advanced heart and lung assistance. Under intensive multi-disciplinary care, the patient gradually stabilized, was weaned off ECMO, and discharged after 15 days in a stable condition, marking a remarkable recovery. This milestone underscores Fortis Jalandhar's commitment to cutting-edge critical care and lifesaving interventions.

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the authorized officer of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** under the Securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued **demand notices** to the borrower(s)/ Co-borrowers(s) calling upon the borrowers to repay the amount mentioned against the respective names together with interest thereon at the applicable rates as mentioned in the said notices within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said notices, along with future interest as applicable incidental expenses, costs, charges etc. incurred till the date of payment and/or realisation.

Sr. No.	Loan No.	Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor	13(2) Notice Date/ Outstanding Due (in Rs.) as on	Date/ Time & Type of Possession
1	30469630000285	1) Mr. Harbhajan Singh, S/o. Amar Singh (Applicant), 2) Mr. Roop Singh, S/o. Amar Singh (Co-Applicant)	11-11-2025 Rs.33,55,713/- (Rupees Thirty Three Lakh Fifty Five Thousand Seven Hundred and Thirteen Only) as on 09-11-2025	Date: 21-01-2026 Time: 01:40 P.M. Symbolic Possession
	Description of Secured Asset: Property Details: Property House Measuring 14 Marle Part 14/160 Hissa 8 Kanal Da Comprised Khasra Number 59//6, (8-0) Wakiya Abadi Village Sada Singh Wala, Moga Tehsil Moga Dist. Moga Wasika No.98 Dated 10.05.2011. Owned by **Mr. Harbhajan Singh, S/o. Amar Singh. Bounded as: East:** Main Rasta, **West:** Property Amar Singh, **North:** Sudagar Singh, **South:** Amar Singh.			
2	45839430000392	1) Mr. Harpreet Singh Atwal, S/o. Gurcharan Singh (Applicant), 2) Mr. Gurcharan Singh, S/o. Ajajb Singh (Co-Applicant), 3) Mrs. Jagdish Kaur, W/o. Gurcharan Singh (Co-Applicant)	11-11-2025 Rs.12,57,417/- (Rupees Twelve Lakh Fifty Seven Thousand Four Hundred Seventeen Only) as on 09-11-2025	Date: 20-01-2026 Time: 11:05 A.M. Symbolic Possession
	Description of Secured Asset: Property Details: Property Area Measuring 03 Marla 5.5 Sarsai at Wakiya Rakba Behram, Jalandhar in Khasra No.231(1-8) Tehsil and District Jalandhar. Owned by **Mr. Gurcharan Singh. Bounded as: East:** Ranjit Singh, **West:** Street, **North:** Ranjit Singh, **South:** Street.			
3	45869430000254 45869410000531 & 45869410000057	1) Mr. Nirmal Singh, S/o. Jarnail Singh (Borrower), 2) Mrs. Kulwinder Kaur, W/o. Nirmal Singh (Co-Borrower)	11-11-2025 Rs.15,61,422/- (Rupees Fifteen Lakh Sixty One Thousand Four Hundred and Twenty Two Only) as on 07-11-2025	Date: 21-01-2026 Time: 10:37 A.M. Symbolic Possession
	Description of Secured Asset: Property Details: House Rakba Tedadi 0 Bhigha 3 Bisbe 150 Muraba Gaj Baka Rakba Sidsar Colony Alora Tehsil Nabha District Patiala Comprised Khewat Number 957 Khatoni Number 1169 Khasra Numbers 704/4(3-8), 705/1/1(3-0), 708/1(3-0), 709/1(3-7), 720/1(3-7), 721/1(3-0), 727/2/1 (1-2), 728/2(1-4) Kitte 8 Kul Tedadi 21 Bhighe 8 Biswe Bhicho 3/428 Hissa Bakdar 0 Bhigha 3 Biswe i.e 150 Murba Gaj Jamabandi for the Year 2005-1006. Situated at Sidhsar Colony Alora Tehsil Nabha District Patiala, Wasika Number 1366 Dated 03.07.2009. Owned by **Mr. Nirmal Singh, S/o. Jarnail Singh** and **Mrs. Kulwinder Kaur, W/o. Nirmal Singh. Bounded as: East:** Gali, **West:** Agriculture Land, **North:** House, **South:** Vacant Plot, **North:** Gali, **South:** Hardeep Singh, S/o. Gurnam Singh			
4	45869430000320	1) Mr. Rajinder Singh, S/o. Darshan Singh (Applicant), 2) Mrs. Jaswinder Kaur, W/o. Darshan Singh (Co-Borrower)	11-11-2025 Rs.7,37,159/- (Rupees Seven Lakh Thirty Seven Thousand One Hundred and Fifty Nine Only) as on 07-11-2025	Date: 21-01-2026 Time: 11:30 A.M. Symbolic Possession
	Description of Secured Asset: Property Details: All that piece and parcel of the Immovable Property bearing A Plot/ House Comprising in Khewat/ Khatoni No.17/48, Khasra No.596 Min 6-1 Kitte 1 Tedadi, 6 Bhige, 1 Bisbe Part 3/121, Bakdar 0-3 Bisbe Baka Rakba Bakhtri, Tehsil Bhawanigarh Dist. Sangaroor Patiala for the Jamabandi Year 2016-2017 Document No.2021-22/124/1/1985, Dated 16 March 2022. Owned by **Mr. Rajinder Kumar, S/o. Darshan Singh. Bounded as: East:** Vacant Plot, **West:** Build up House, **North:** Vacant Plot, **South:** Road.			

Whereas the Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors, mentioned herein above have failed to repay the amounts due, notice is hereby given to the Borrower's mentioned herein above in particular and to the Public in general that the authorised officer of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** has **taken possession** of the properties/ secured assets described herein above in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the dates mentioned above. The Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors mentioned herein above in particular and the Public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the aforesaid properties/ Secured Assets and any dealings with the said properties/ Secured assets will be subject to the charge of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited.**

Place: Punjab
Date: 23.01.2026

Sd/- Authorised Officer,
For Jana Small Finance Bank Limited

JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK (A Scheduled Commercial Bank)
Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071. Branch Office: 16/12, 2nd Floor, W.E.A, Arya Samaj Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005.

The Brihanmumbai Electric Supply & Transport Undertaking
(OF THE BRIHANMUMBAI MAHANAGARPALIKA)

TENDER NOTICE

E-tender are re - invited for the supply of following item.

(1) 81110, (2) 81112.

Note: For more details, log on to website **https://mahatenders.gov.in**

PRO/AAM(M)/112/2026 **GENERAL MANAGER**

भारतीय खाद्य निगम FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA
REGIONAL OFFICE, HARYANA BAY NO. 29-32, SECTOR-4, PANCHKULA

E-TENDER NOTICE

Food Corporation of India, Haryana Region invites **online** tenders under **"TWO BID SYSTEM"** for appointment of regular HTC/RTC from various centres of Haryana Region for a period of two years. Detailed Tender Notice indicating Instructions, terms and conditions and critical dates can be seen at F.C.I. website (URL **http://fci.gov.in**) and GeM Portal (URL **http://www.gem.gov.in**). Tender form can be downloaded from these websites.
Corrigendum, if any, will be published online only. **Sd/-**
General Manager (R)

एफसीआई–राष्ट्र की खाद्य सुरक्षा को सुनिश्चित करते हुए

Office of the Project Director
Rajasthan Urban Infrastructure Development Project
AVS Building, Jawahar Circle, JLN Marg, Jaipur – 302017 Tel No.: +91 141 2721966, Fax No.: 0141-2721919 email : mail.ruidp@rajasthan.gov.in, web site: www.ruidp.rajasthan.gov.in

Invitation for Bids- RUIDP/RIICO/BLT/01

1. Rajasthan Urban Infrastructure Development Project (RUIDP) invites online unconditional bids through e-procurement portal **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** for Package No. RUIDP/RIICO/BLT/01 for the work of "Laying of 28 KM treated water pipeline in Balotra Industrial Area" from eligible class contractor.
2. RTPP Act 2012 and Rules 2013 with all amendment will also be applicable.
3. Bid document for downloading would be available at e-proc website **www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** starting from 21st Jan, 2026. Deadline for bid submission up to 15:00 hours on 12th Feb, 2026.
4. Pre-bid Meeting for the work package will be held at 15:00 hours on 27th Jan, 2026. All the prospective bidders are advised to participate in the Pre-bid meeting.
5. Any addendum, clarification to the bidder's queries and corrigendum etc. will be published on the e-proc web sites and will not be published in Newspapers.
6. Bidders may contact Additional Project Director, RUIDP (0141-2548404), Jaipur for any information on bidding process.

NIB Code : UID2526A0017, UBN No. : UID2526WLO800017
Raj.Samwad/C/25/18246 **Project Director, RUIDP**

Markfed PUNJAB A House Of Quality Food Products

THE PUNJAB STATE COOPERATIVE SUPPLY AND MARKETING FEDERATION LIMITED (MARKFED)
"MARKFED HOUSE" Plot No. 4, Sector 35-B, Chandigarh - 160022
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

MARKFED, invites online bids through GEM Portal under two-bid system for construction of Covered Godowns under '10 Year PEG Scheme for FCI storage requirements to be managed and supervised by MARKFED, for a guaranteed lease for Ten years (10), on Build, Own & Operate/Lease only basis in Punjab State for 2.65 LMT capacities for storage of food grains at 7 locations across the State of Punjab.

The bid tender document (MTF) & other details will be available on the GeM Portal, i.e., **https://gem.gov.in**, from 23.01.2026. MTF will also be available on the Department's website, i.e. **http://markfedpunjab.com**. Bids completed in the manner prescribed in MTF should be uploaded up to 12.00 Noon on 16.02.2026. MARKFED reserves the right to scrap the tender at any stage without assigning any reason, and **MARKFED** will not be held liable for any costs and consequences incurred by the intending bidders.

Any corrigendum/addendum will be uploaded on the GeM portal and **http://markfedpunjab.com**

Managing Director, MARKFED

ओएनजीसी ONGC Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited

Expression of Interest (EOI)
Hiring of services for carrying out remedial measures for soil settlement in OGT Mallavaram, Andhra Pradesh

ONGC, EOA & HPHT Asset, Kakinada invites for submission of Pre-Qualification Criteria (PQC) documents from reputed and interested Contractors having experience for carrying out remedial measures for soil settlement in OGT, HPHT Asset, Mallavaram, Andhra Pradesh. Last date for receipt of PQC documents: 13.02.2026 by 17.00 hrs IST. For further details and PQC documents, kindly visit: **http://tenders.ongc.co.in, https://gepnic.gov.in**
Prospective vendors having the required capability may submit the documents through email to srivastava_alankar@ongc.co.in & das_sanjoy@ongc.co.in

GVK Power (Goindwal Sahib) Limited
Regd. Office: Plot No. 10, Paigah Colony, Sardar Patel Road, Secunderabad- 500003, Telangana, India
CIN: U40109TG1997PLC028483
(A wholly owned subsidiary of Guru Amar Das Thermal Power Limited, GATPL)
(A step down wholly owned subsidiary of Punjab State Power Corporation Limited, PSPCL)

HOD-C & I, GATP, Goindwal Sahib, invites E-Tender for the Procurement of Supply for Magnetic Flowmeter for River Water Intake Flow.

1	**Tender Enquiry No. 117/GATP/CNI/20017986 dated 22/01/2026** **1) "Procurement of Supply for Magnetic Flowmeter for River Water Intake Flow at 2X270 MW Guru Amardas Thermal Plant (GATP), Goindwal Sahib, Distt.: Tarn Taran, Punjab as per details given in the tender specifications."**

For detailed NIT & tender specifications, please refer to **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** from 22/01/2026 from 17:00 Hrs. onwards.
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any, will be published online at **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in**

No. 7437/PB GATP-11/26

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB
PUNJAB URBAN PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
PUDA Complex, Urban Estate Phase-II, Patiala

E-Tender No.: 181/PUDA/DE (PH)/2026/2033-46 **Dated:** 22-01-2026

Divisional Engineer (PH), PUDA, Patiala invites online bids for empanelled agencies for Technical Financial audit on percentage basis for below mentioned works.

"Providing storm water drainage, construction of desilting chambers, drilling and installation of tubewells for rain water recharging and construction of recharging structures in Lehal Mandal Site, Nabha road, Patiala."

Closing date & time: 06-02-2026 at 01:00 PM
For details log on to: https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

Note: Any corrigendum (s) to the tender notice shall be published on the above website only.

No. 7440/PB

कार्यालय नगरपरिषद्, बालोतरा (राज.)
Email id:- mbbalotra@yahoo.co.in Contact no. 02988-220024
Address : Pachpadra Road,Opposite Mungra Circle, Balotra (344022)

क्रमांक: नपरा/विकास/2025/18217 दिनांक: 15.01.2026

Corrigendum
(कार्यालय आदेश निविदा सूचना)

इस कार्यालय द्वारा जारी ई–निविदा सूचना क्रमांक नपरा/विकास/15790 दिनांक 17.12.2025 को जारी ई–निविदा सूचना सं. 14/2025–26 क्रम सं.01 Construction Of CC & Bt Road At Various Places In Municipal Area In Balotra, Rajasthan कार्य में संशोधित निम्न अनुसार है। जिसमें कार्य में ई–निविदा की शर्त संख्या (5) अनुसार कार्य की धरोहर राशि (BID SECURITY), बैंक चेक या मांगदेय ड्राफ्ट या बैंक गारंटी या ई–बैंक गारंटी या ई–बास या इन्स्ट्रेस इयोरिटी बॉन्ड में से किसी भी माध्यम से ऑनलाईन/ऑफलाईन (नगर परिषद् कार्यालय में) जमा करवाई जा सकती है। जिसमें ऑनलाईन बिड भरने की अंतिम दिनांक व समय 16/01/2026 : 6:00 PM को बढ़ाया जाकर दिनांक 03/02/2026 : 1:00 PM तक एवं इस कार्यालय में टेण्डर डॉक्यूमेंट, निविदा शुल्क, धरोहर राशि व प्रोसेसिंग फीस जमा करने की दिनांक व समय 03/02/2026 : 6:00 PM एवं दिनांक 04/02/2026 को 12:00 PM को निविदा खोली जायेगी तथा अन्य शर्तें यथावत रहेगी। ई–निविदा संबंधी अन्य जानकारी नगर परिषद् कार्यालय नोटिस बोर्ड, पोर्टल www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in पर तथा वेबसाईट http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in से जानकारी देखी जा सकती है।

प्रशासक नगरपरिषद् बालोतरा — आयुक्त नगरपरिषद् बालोतरा

राज.संवाद/बी/25/18229

Tamil Nadu Power Generation Corporation Ltd
Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process)

Specification No.	Tender Inviting Authority	Name of the Work
211	CE / Coal	Time chartering of one Panamax or Kamsarmax gearless vessel

For details of works / Procurement / Due date of submission / Opening, viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit websites: **www.tnpdcl.org, www.tenders.tn.gov.in, www.tntenders.gov.in**
DIPR/393/Tender/2026

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala - 147001)
Phone No. 0175-2301367 Email: cspunjabpower@yahoo.com
Corporate identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in
OFFICE OF DEPUTY CHIEF ENGINEER/OP, CIRCLE GURDASPUR
E-mail: circlegurdaspur@yahoo.in Mob: 9646113007

Tender Enquiry no.: 09/2025-2026 & 2026-27 **Date:** 22-01-2026

Outsourcing of Labour Part of LT/HT Network Safety Compliance and System Strengthening Project by upgrading the LT/HT distribution infrastructure to ensure full compliance with statutory safety clearances as mandated by relevant electrical safety codes", to mitigate operational risk and ensure regulatory conformity in Municipal Corp. areas of Batala town under DS Circle Gurdaspur. For detailed NIT & Tender specification please refer to **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** from 22/01/2026 from 10:00 AM onwards.

Note:- Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in**

No. 7428/PB C-126/26

E-mail: aeezljpr.pwd@rajasthan.gov.in
कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता
सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, संभाग-प्रथम, जयपुर पी.डब्ल्यू.डी. कैम्पस,
जैकब रोड, जयपुर कलब के पास्ते, जयपुर फोन नं. 0141-2223525
क्रमांक: अमुप्र/जोन-प्रथम/निविदा सूचना संख्या 17/2025-26/पी-2185 दिनांक: 10-01-2026
निविदा सूचना संख्या 17/पीएमजीएसवाई/2025-26

Sr. No.	District	Name of Work	UBN NO.
1	Sikar	R3-28-P4-01	PWD2526WLOHE20615
2	Sikar	R3-28-P4-02	PWD2526WLOHE20616

DIPR/C/828/2026

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.
Regd. Office :- PSEB H.O.Building, The Mall, Patiala
Corporate Identification Number (CIN): U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website:- www.pspcl.in, Contact NO. 96461-16006)

Tender Inquiry No. 04/Addl. SE/DS/Bhogpur/2025-26 Date: 21.01.2026

Addl. SE/DS/Bhogpur, PSPCL, Bhogpur invites tender For Hiring of Outsourced vehicle Mohindra Genius/Bolero (Double Dooor/Tata 207/408) or Equivalent in price Model (Not old more than 4 years) for DS s/d No 2 Bhogpur under Division Bhogpur. Detailed DNIT & Tender specification may be Collected from the PSPCL office i.e., Addl. SE/DS/Bhogpur from 22.01.2026 11:00 hrs onwards. Last date & time of submitting of tender's Document/specification - 05.02.2026 11:00 Hrs. Open Tenders Date 06.02.2026 10:00 Hrs.
Note:- Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at https://pspcl.in/

No. 7432/PB C-129/26

GVK Power (Goindwal Sahib) Limited
Regd. Office: Plot No. 10, Paigah Colony, Sardar Patel Road, Secunderabad- 500003, Telangana, India
CIN: U40109TG1997PLC028483
(A wholly owned subsidiary of Guru Amar Das Thermal Power Limited, GATPL)
(A step down wholly owned subsidiary of Punjab State Power Corporation Limited, PSPCL)

HOD-MMD, GATP, Goindwal Sahib, invites E-Tender for the Supply of: Procurement of Services for Fabrication and Erection of Security Tower at GATP plant along the boundary line.

1	**Tender Enquiry No. 116GATP/MMD/SERVICES/50007572 dated 22/01/2026** "Procurement of Services For Fabrication and Erection of Security Tower at GATP plant along the boundary line from Scrap structure Steels available at GATP. Approximate weight of each Security tower is ~5 MT 25 Feet Height at 2X270 MW Guru Amardas Thermal Plant (GATP), Goindwal Sahib, Distt.: Tarn Taran, Punjab as per details given in the tender specifications.

For detailed NIT & tender specifications, please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 22/01/2026 from 17:00 Hrs. onwards.
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any, will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

No. 7436/PB **GATP-10/26**

PERSONAL

I, Sita Khadka W/o Late Tilak Ram, currently residing at 1139/7, Govindpura, Manimajra, Chandigarh, state that my son's birth certificate lists Vishal and my mother's name as Sita. However, the son's name is Vishal Oli and the mother's name is Sita Khadka. This is correct. All concerned, please note.

0020507876-1

I, Rama Thakur w/o Sanjay Kumar, Vill. Cheli, P.O. Beolia,Teh. & Distt. Shimla, (HP) declare that I have changed my name from Rama Verma to Rama Thakur. All concerned please note.

0050282321-1

I, Durgaba Bhikhusinh Rathod W/o No. 6503295A Sep/ASH,Zala Kirtisinh Dalpatsinh serving in 874 AT BN ASC C/o 56 APO have change my name from Durgaba Bhikhusinh Rathod to Durgaba Kirtisinh Zala vide affidavit 21.01.2026 before Notary Udhampur.

0020507833-1

I Simran wife of Anand Kumar Ghildyal resident of House no.100, Sector-2, Panchkula, Haryana-134109. Declare that I have changed My name from "Simran Hundal" to "Simran". All concerned please note the same.

0020507792-1

I, Anand Kumar Ghildyal S/o Sachida Nand resident of House no.100, Sector-2, Panchkula, Haryana-134109. Declare that I have changed My name from "Anand Kumar" to "Anand Kumar Ghildyal". All concerned please note the same.

0020507793-1

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Gurdip Singh Bhangoo S/o Kartar Singh R/o House No 79, BRS Nagar, H-Block, Ludhiana declare that my son Jasleen Singh Bhangoo and his wife Tina Samaddar both are out of my Control. So I dis-own them my movable and immovable Properties. Anybody Deals at their own Risk.

0020507820-1

"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.

Himachal Pradesh Power Transmission Corporation Limited
(A State Govt. Undertaking)
Regd. Office: Himfed Bhawan, New ISBT Road,Panjari, Shimla-171005
Ph.:- 0177-2831283, 2831284 FAX:-0177-2831284
(CIN):U40101HP2008SGC030950 | (GSTIN):02AACCH1548M1ZP

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (NIT)

Tender No: HPPTCL/CONTRACTS/TENDERS/GMCD/2026/02 **Dated: 20.01.2026**

The DGM(Contracts), HPPTCL, Shimla-05 invites Bids on Single Stage-Two Envelope Bidding Procedure followed by Reverse Auction through e-Mode (National Competitive Bidding) for "Construction of R.C.C. retaining structure from (RD33-RD66) along Phojal nallah for protection of road and substation complete in all respects at 220/33 kV GIS Substation, Phojal under PIU Sarabai, HPPTCL, District- Kullu, H.P." The detailed NIT is available on **www.hpptcl.com**.

S/d-
(Er. Sanjeev Kumar Rawat)
Dy. General Manager (Contracts)
HPPTCL, Himfed Bhawan
Shimla-05.

No.1945/2025-2026/HP

SHAHEED KARTAR SINGH SARABHA AYURVEDIC MEDICAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL, SARABHA (LUDHIANA) - 141105
E-Mail : sarabhamedico@rediffmail.com

VACANCIES

MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT : Eligibility : M.D. in Clinical Subject with 10 years of experience (minimum 3 years of Administrative experience) or BAMS with MBA in Hospital Administration as Deputy Medical Superintendent.

• **ASSISTANT PROFESSOR(S)** : Prasuti Stree Roga-2, Samhita Siddhanta-1, Shalya Tantra-1, Shalakya Tantra-1, Panchkarma-1, Kumarbhritya-1 • **YOGA INSTRUCTOR** : 1 (Male), 1 (Female) **Eligibility** : M.Sc. in Yoga or BAMS with Diploma in Yoga or Bachelor of Naturopathy and Yogic Sciences.

"EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION & EXPERIENCE AS PER NCISM NORMS."

Dr. Inderpal Kaur (Principal) M : 9417196060
Dr. N.K. Gupta (Vice Principal) M : 7973171143

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF RAJASTHAN

CURAJ/R/F.172/Rectt./2026/3544 & 3562 Date: 21.01.2026

Teaching Positions (Contractual)

Walk-in-Interview

04 Assistant Professor (Contractual)
Management and Computer Science Faculty
(for Online Distance Learning)
and Department of Sports Psychology

For more information visit **www.curaj.ac.in**

Registrar

MAHARASHTRA METRO RAIL CORPORATION LTD.
(A joint venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of Maharashtra)
District Court Interchange Metro Station,
Nyaymurti Ranade Path, ShivajiNagar, Pune - 411005.
TEL NO. 020 - 26051072 / website: www.mahametro.org

Advertisement No. MAHA-Metro/P/HR/01/2026 Date : 23rd JANUARY 2026

Requirement of experienced personnel from Metro Rail / Railway / Railway PSUs / Government Organizations / PSUs / Metro Related Infrastructure Industries on Contract / Deputation basis for Pune Metro Rail Project and Thane Integral Ring Metro Rail Project.

No.	Name of Post	No. of vacancies
1.	Executive Director (Civil) / Chief Project Manager (Civil)	02
2.	Chief Project Manager (E&M) / Addl. Chief Project Manager (E&M)	01
3.	Chief Project Manager (PSI) / Addl. Chief Project Manager (PSI)	01

Refer website: **www.mahametro.org** - 'CAREERS' for details of posts, vacancies, educational qualification, age limit, minimum experience required, how to apply etc.
Last date for submission of applications is 23rd February 2026.
Candidates are cautioned against fake recruitment notices. The organization shall not be responsible for any misleading information published elsewhere.
General Manager (HR), MAHA-Metro, Pune

Pune Metro: City's Transport Solution

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
PWD CIRCLE SIKAR

No. 3743 Date 08-01-2026

Notice Inviting Bid No. 06/2025-2026

Bids for 1 (One Nos.) Work are invited from interested bidders upto 06:00 PM dated 05.02.2026. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (**http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in**) of the state; and PWD departmental website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs.498.77 Lac.

NIB No. PWD2526A5067
UBN No. PWD2526WSOB20345
DIPR/C/704/2026

Superintending Engineer
PWD Circle Sikar

IRCON INTERNATIONAL LIMITED
NAVRATNA COMPANY
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
Website : www.ircon.org, CIN - L45203DL1976GOI008171

EOI Notice Updated

EOI NO.: IRCON/S&T/General/EOI/2026 Dtd. 21.01.2026

Ircon International Limited, A Navratna PSU Under Ministry of Railways, invites open Expression of Interest (EOI) from Reputed Indian firms with experience in Railway Signaling & Telecommunication works to associate with IRCON for empanelment as Pre-bid Partners/ Associate Agencies/Sub-contractors/Execution Partners/JV Partner for upcoming projects in the Railway and Metro sectors.

Last Date and Time of e-Bid Submission of EOI	17.02.2026 up to 15:00 hrs (IST)

For further details and updates, please visit tender section on e-tender website **https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app**. Amendment / Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted only on the website.

Chief General Manager/S&T,
C-4, District Centre, Saket, New Delhi-110017

राजकीय केंद्रीय कर्मशाला, चण्डीगढ़
परिवहन विभाग, हरियाणा,

निविदा आमन्त्रण।

राजकीय केन्द्रीय कर्मशाला, चण्डीगढ़ में वाहनों के टायरों **(Bridgestone, MRF, Continental, Apollo, J.K., Good Year, Michelin Company)** व बैट्रियों (**Amron, Exide, Bosch Company**) की अगले 06 माह तक के लिए खरीद की जानी है। विज्ञापन की तिथि दिनांक 31-12-2025 को सांय 4:00 बजे तक थी। अब इसकी तिथि को बढ़ाकर 18.01.2026 को शांय चार बजे तक कर दी गई थी। अब बैटरियों (**Amron, Exide, Bosch Company**) की दोबारा नई निविदायें 30.01.2026 को शांय 4:00 बजे तक इच्छुक सप्लायर सील बंद कुटेशन डाक द्वारा वरिष्ठ यांत्रिक अभियंता, राजकीय केन्द्रीय कर्मशाला, हरियाणा, प्लाट न0 20-21, औद्यौगिक क्षेत्र, फेस-II चण्डीगढ़ के नाम भेज सकते है। बैट्रियों की सूचि व अन्य शर्तों के लिये राजकीय केन्द्रीय कर्मशाला, चण्डीगढ में सम्पर्क कर सकते है यह सूचि परिवहन विभाग, हरियाणा की **Website https://hartrans.gov.in** पर भी उपलब्ध होगी। अधिक जानकारी के लिए मोबाईल न० 0172-4650299 पर सम्पर्क करें।

हस्ता/-
वरिष्ठ यात्रिक अभियंता,
राजकीय केन्द्रीय कर्मशाला,
हरियाणा-चण्डीगढ़।

No. 42355/HR

सेन्ट्रल बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया
Central Bank of India
1911 से आपके लिए "केन्द्रित" "CENTRAL" TO YOU SINCE 1911

Regional Office SCO 58, 2nd Floor, Sector-17 B, Chandigarh
TENDER FOR FURNISHING WORK IN NEW PREMISES OF BALDEV NAGAR (AMBALA CITY) BRANCH

Central Bank of India, Regional Office, Chandigarh invites sealed tenders in Two-Bids System from reputed contractors for furnishing work at their B/o Baldev Nagar (Ambala City) Branch. Details of works, terms & conditions and tender forms can be downloaded from our website www.centralbankofindia.bank.in or can be obtained from Baldev Nagar, (Ambala City) Branch / Regional Office, S.C.O.-58, Second Floor, Sector-17 B, Chandigarh.

Last date for submission of sealed tenders to our office is 31.01.2026 up to 05:00 PM.

Date: 23.01.2026 Chief Manager, 9354340458

PUNJAB & SIND BANK
(A GOVT. OF INDIA UNDERTAKING)

[Rule-8(1)] POSSESION NOTICE (For immovable property)

Whereas, The understanding being the "Authorized officer" of Punjab and Sind Bank, Besides exercising other rights of the bank available under the law, the bank is intending to exercise any or all the powers provided under section 13(4) of the securitization and reconstruction of financial asset and enforcement of security interest act 2002(Hereinafter referred to as "the act" issued a demand notice on dates under 13(2) mentioned against their names. Calling upon the borrower/ guarantors/surety to repay the amount mentioned hereinafter within 60 days from the date of receipt of said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken the possession of the property described here below in exercise of the powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) OF SAID act Read with rule 8 & 9 of the said rules on the date mentioned against account.

The borrower/guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **Punjab & Sind Bank** for the amount mentioned against their names plus interest and other charges accrued thereon till realization.

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(s) and Guarantor(s)	Description of the Immovable Properties	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession	Amount Outstanding
GORAYA BRANCH **Borrowers: (1) Sh Nachhatar Ram** S/o Hukum Ram, R/o Ward No 2, Garha Road, Phillaur, Jalandhar 144410, **(2) Smt. Kanta Rani** W/o Nachhatar Ram, R/o Ward No 2, Garha Road, Tehsil Phillaur, Jalandhar 144410	All the part & parcel of Residential property measuring 8 Marlas 8 Sarsahi i.e. 40/1197 share of total land measuring 13 Kanal 06 Marla comprised in Khata No. 85/94, Khasra No 6//17/1(5-8), 6//17/2(2-12), 6//18/1(2-13), 6//18/2(2-13) as per Jamabandi for the year 2018-19 of Village Garha, Hadbast No. 152, Tehsil Phillaur, District Jalandhar registered vide SALE DEED dated 12/07/2023 bearing Document No 2023-24/180/1/637 in the office of the Sub-Registrar Phillaur. **Bounded as under:- East:** Street, **West: -** House of Mohan Lal, **South: -** House of Nasib Kaur, **North: -** Plot of Surinder Pal	01.11.2025	19.01.2026	Rs 20, 57,504.26/- **(Rupees Twenty Lakh Fifty Seven Thousand Five Hundred Four and Paisa Twenty Six only)** including interest applied up to **31.10.2025**, and future interest thereon.

DATE : 19.01.2026 PLACE: GORAYA AUTHORIZED OFFICER

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HARYANA POLICE HOUSING CORPORATION, PANCHKULA	SPECIAL REPAIR OF 3 NOS MALE BARRACKS, 1 NO FEMALE BARRACK, 1 NO LANGER BUILDING, BOUNDARY WALL, ADMINISTRATIVE BLOCK AND WARDEN HOSTEL IN DISTT. JAIL, KAITHAL + 2 WORKS	21.01.2026 02.02.2026	Rs. 1,06,98,561/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9463200487 dbpanchkula@yahoo.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in No. 42343/HRY

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA CORRIGENDUM

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD CORP./AUTH	OLD REFERENCE/ NIT NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HVPNL	NIT NO. 07/2025-26/XEN/TS/PKL DATED 27.12.2025	DUE TO LESS NO. OF BIDS THIS TENDER IS HEREBY EXTENDED UPTO 28.01.2026 (13:00 HRS)	www.hvpn.org.in	0172-2583789 pro@hvpn.org.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in No. 42303/HRY

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited
(Wholly owned Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
(CIN - UO4010KA2002SGC030438)

REVISED NOTIFICATION INVITING TENDER (NIT)
(Through KPP Portal)

Name of the work: "Conversion of existing 11kV Overhead line into Underground (UG) cable under System Strengthening works in 05 subdivisions of HSR division, Bangalore South circle of BMAZ (South), BESCOM on percentage basis quoting".

Sl. No.	Name of Sub division	Enquiry no's
1)	S-10 s/d	BESCOM/2025-26/UC/ WORK_INDENT834
2)	S-11 s/d (Package-I)	BESCOM/2025-26/UC/ WORK_INDENT835
3)	S-11 s/d (Package-II)	BESCOM/2025-26/UC/ WORK_INDENT874
4)	S-13 s/d (Package-I)	BESCOM/2025-26/UC/ WORK_INDENT836
5)	S-13 s/d (Package-II)	BESCOM/2025-26/UC/ WORK_INDENT837
6)	S-19 s/d	BESCOM/2025-26/UC/ WORK_INDENT838
7)	S-20 s/d	BESCOM/2025-26/UC/ WORK_INDENT839

Availability of Bid Documents: 23.01.2026 onwards. Last date for Bid Submission: 25.02.2026 @ 15:00 Hrs. Opening of Technical Bids: 26.02.2026 @ 15:30 Hrs. Pre-Bid meeting: 05.02.2026 @ 11:00 Hrs. Venue: Conference Hall, 3rd Floor, BELAKU BHAVANA, Corporate office, BESCOM, K. R. Circle, Bangalore-560 001. The bid documents can be downloaded and necessary assistance can be obtained through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP) from the website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. KPP portal Help Desk: Phone No: +91 9240214000/+91 9240214001/+91-8046010000/ +91-8068948777 E-mail: support@ eprochelpdesk.com Aspiring bidders needs to be registered on Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP). Bidders can take the assistance from the office of the undersigned during working hours.

Sd/- Chief General Manager, Electy., Projects, BESCOM, K.R.Circle, Bengaluru-560001.

For electricity related complaints call 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra MOBILE APP

SBI | STATE BANK OF INDIA
HLC HOSHIARPUR

[Rule 8- (1)] SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the **State Bank of India, HLC Hoshiarpur,** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notice to borrower on the date mentioned hereunder calling upon the borrower to repay the amount mentioned in the demand notice within 60 days of the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower/Guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **Symbolic Possession** of the property/ies described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 & 9 of the security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on the date mentioned against Account.

The Borrower/Guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealings with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of the **State Bank of India,** for an amount mentioned below and other Charges/ Expenses 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 of Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Description of the Immovable Property	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Symbolic Possession	Amount Outstanding
Borrower(s): 1. Sh. Chaman Lal Sood S/o Sh. Gurdas Ram, R/o Narayan Nagar, Street No. 4-A, Hoshiarpur. **2. Sh. Sandeep Sood** S/o Sh. Chaman Lal Sood, R/o Narayan Nagar, Street No. 4-A, Hoshiarpur.	All that part and parcel of Property measuring 4 Marla comprised in Khata No. 323/366, 367, 368, Khasra No. 437 Min(7-0), 437 Min(11-0), 437 Min(13-0), Situated at Village Bahadurpur, Hadbast No. 358, Tehsil & Distt. Hoshiarpur in the name of Sh. Chaman Lal S/o Sh. Gurdas Ram Sood Vide Title deed No. 8447 dated 24.03.2009, Jild No. 2839. Bounded as under: **East:** House of Sh. Hans Raj, **West:** Rasta 20' wide, **North:** Property of Sh. Sarwan Singh, **South:** Rasta 20' wide.	29.08.2025	21.01.2026	Rs. 4,23,136/- (Rupees Four Lakhs Twenty Three Thousand One Hundred Thirty Six Only) as on 29.08.2025 plus further interest, other charges and expenses thereon.

Dated : 22.01.2026 Place: Hoshiarpur Authorized Officer

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.2, 2/1 and 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar
Bengaluru - 560 009. Phone No. 080-22265383, website: www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-74/1723/2025-26 Date: 22.01.2026

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Item Rate Tenders under two cover bid system is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors who have got adequate financial resources, state of the art technology, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the following work of:

Name of the Work : Providing LED Street lights and supply, erection, testing & commissioning of submersible pumpsets to Nagadiyath Kaval Industrial Area, Chikkamagaluru District.

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **09.02.2026** upto **4.00 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/5175/Zen/2025-26

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

BORDER SECURITY FORCE



CONSTABLE KAYAM SINGH 01.01.1968 – 23.01.1990

Director General and all Ranks of Border Security Force remember its gallant Jawan Constable Kayam Singh on his Balidan Diwas. On this day, he made ultimate sacrifice while defending his post during heavy snowfall in Chorbatla area, J&K.

CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE



Veer Balidani Head Constable/Radio Operator Ganesh Kumar 5 SIG/143 Bn 01-04-1983 To 23-01-2007



Veer Balidani Constable Rins Thomas 143 Bn 28-05-1981 To 23-01-2007



Veer Balidani Constable/Driver Srikanta Mishra 143 Bn 16-12-1973 To 23-01-2007

DG and all Ranks of CRPF remember three valiant troopers of 143 Bn, who made the supreme sacrifice while countering an attack by militants in Awantipora, J&K on 23 January 2007. CRPF salutes the bravehearts and pledges never to let his sacrifice go in vain.

INDO-TIBETAN BORDER POLICE(ITBP)

23 January, 2026



Constable Kiran Pal Singh E-5/15, Rajiv Gali, Dayalpur Distt.- North-East Delhi (Delhi)

ITBP salutes its braveheart Constable Kiran Pal Singh of 16th Battalion, who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty on this day in Leh in 2008.

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punjab national bank
...Together for the better

ASSET RECOVERY MANAGEMENT BRANCH,
Site No. 5, Near Wave Mall, Ferozepur Road, Ludhiana,
E-MAIL: cs4540@pnb.bank.in, Mob. :+91 93045 09813

CORRIGENDUM

This is with reference to the E-Auction notice published in the newspapers **"THE INDIAN EXPRESS"** and **"JAGBANI"** on **06.01.2026** regarding the loan account for auction scheduled **on 28.01.2026".** it is to informed that at **Sr. no. 15: Account- M/S East Walk Ville, Property ID: PUNB45400010339** which is scheduled for auction on **28.01.2026** stands withdrawn. All concerned please note.

Date: 22.01.2026 Place: Ludhiana **Authorised Officer, Punjab National Bank**

CHAUDHARY CHARAN SINGH HARYANA AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, HISAR
(Established by Parliament Act No. 16 of 1970)
Advertisement No.1/2026
(BEFORE APPLYING FOR THE POST, THE CANDIDATES SHOULD GO THROUGH THE INSTRUCTIONS/CONDITIONS CAREFULLY)

Applications are invited from eligible candidates through online mode for filling up the posts of **Dean, College of Agriculture, Dean, College of Biotechnology, Dean, Post-graduate Studies and Director Extension Education** in the pay-scale of Rs. 144200-218200 in AL-14 with unfurnished rent-free accommodation. The detail of essential qualifications, application processing fee, general instructions/conditions etc. can be downloaded from the University Website. The eligible candidates may apply through the University online portal **https://hau.ac.in** and **https://recruitment.hauiums.in** from 28.01.2026 midnight onwards which will be closed on 27.02.2026 midnight. The candidates are also requested to visit University website regularly for notifications/ updates/ corrigendum/ amendment, if any, with respect to above advertisement.

Sd/-
No.- 42354/HRY **REGISTRAR**

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punjab national bank
...the name you can BANK upon !

ASSET RECOVERY MANAGEMENT BRANCH (ARMB)
SCO 60-61, First Floor, Bank Square, Sector 17-B, Chandigarh-160017, Email: cs8214@pnb.bank.in

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

Encumbrances, if any: No encumberances known to the Bank, except charge of Punjab National Bank for credit facilities sanctioned to the borrower(s).

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/physical/ symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Punjab National Bank/ Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is",** and **"Whatever there is"** on the date as mentioned in the table herein below, for recovery of its dues due to the Punjab National Bank/ Secured Creditor from the respective borrower (s) and guarantor (s). The reserve price and the earnest money deposit will be as mentioned in the table below against the respective properties.

SCHEDULE OF SALE OF THE SECURED ASSETS

Lot No.	Name of Branch / Name of Account / Name & addresses of the Borrower/Guarantors	Name of Owner(s) / Mortgagors of Property(ies)	Description of Immoveable Mortgaged Property and Name of Owner(s)/ Mortgagors	a) Date of Demand Notice u/s 13(2) of SARFAESI ACT 2002 b) Outstanding Amount c) Possession Date u/s 13(2) of SARFAESI ACT 2002 d) Nature of Possession Symbolic/ Physical/Constructive	Reserve Price / Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) / Bid Increase Amount	Date and Time of E-Auction
1.	**Branch:- ARMB, Sector 17-B, Chandigarh** **M/s Panchmukhi Plywood** (Through its partners) Village Nayagaon PO Sabalpur Tehsil Jagadhri, Distt. Yamuna Nagar, **Sh. Jatin Garg S/o Sh. Arun Garg** (Partner & Guarantor) **& Smt. Poonam Garg W/o Sh. Arun Garg** (Partner & Guarantor) House No. 1006/1 A, Sawanpuri Jagadhri, District Yamuna Nagar.	**M/s Panchmukhi Plywood**	All Part and Parcel of Factory Land & Building measuring 15K 12 M comprised in Khewat No. 58//45, 46, Khatauni No. 67, Khasra No. 22//10(8-0), 23//6(7-12) situated at Village Naya Gaon, H.B. No. 122, Tehsil Jagadhri, District Yamuna Nagar owned & possessed by M/s Panchmukhi Plywood, vide Decree Dated 10.09.2021 titled as M/s Panchmukhi Plywood etc Vs. Chander Bhan etc. bearing Civil Suit No. 2065 of 2021 passed by the Court of Shri Rajat Verma, Civil Judge Junior Division Jagadhri, thereafter the Decree registered in the officer of Sub Registrar Jagadhri bearing Deed No. 6827 dated 22.09.2021 duly registered in the Office of Sub Registrar Jagadhri read with Mutation No. 220 & Jamabandi for the year 2018-19	**a) Date of 13(2):** 23.08.2024 **b) Rs. 2,73,61,917.76** with further interest w.e.f. 01.08.2024 plus misc. charges minus recovery if any until payment in full **c) Date of 13(4):** 06.11.2024, **d) Nature of Possession:** Symbolic	RP: Rs. 2,59,50,000/- EMD: Rs. 25,95,000/- Bid increase amount Rs. 50,000/-	06.03.2026 11:00 AM to 4:00 P.M.
			Plant & Machinery financed by the bank		RP: Rs. 2,12,84,000/- EMD: Rs. 21,28,400/- Bid increase amount Rs. 50,000/-	06.03.2026 11:00 AM to 4:00 P.M.
			Important Note: Both the above secured assets shall be sold together. In case the auction bid is received in respect of one asset only, the bid/sale shall not be confirmed by the bank. GST shall also be applicable on sale of Plant & Machinery as per applicable laws			

NOTE:- For all Immovable property Contact Person: Punjab National Bank, Authorized Officer: Sh. Jagdish Lal, ARMB, Chandigarh, Mob. No. 7527842020.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF E-AUCTION SALE

The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and to the following further conditions.

1. The properties are being sold on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS"** and **"AS IS WHAT IS BASIS"** and **"WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS".**
2. The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule herein above have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorised Officer, but the Authorised Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation.
3. The auction sale will be "online through e-auction" portal **https://baanknet.com.**
4. For detailed term and conditions of the sale, please refer **https://baanknet.com & www.pnbindia.in.**

STATUTORY 30 DAYS NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6) THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002

Date: 21.01.2026
Place: Chandigarh

AUTHORIZED OFFICER
PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK, ARMB, CHANDIGARH

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— Pico Iyer

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IN 1932

BECAUSE THE TRUTH
INVOLVES US ALL

Two big speeches, what got lost in between

AT THE World Economic Forum in Davos, leaders of two countries that have benefited from the so-called "rules-based order" gave the world starkly different frames of its demise. Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada, made an unflinching assessment of the current moment, which he described as one not of transition but of rupture. While recognising the hard realities presented by America's unilateralism, Carney suggested a possible roadmap for middle powers. US President Donald Trump, speaking just hours after Carney, confirmed the crisis. He glorified colonialism and spoke of American interests and hegemony, especially in the Western Hemisphere, as paramount. He denigrated non-Western nationalities and people, even as he congratulated himself on ending hostilities. The Davos chattering class instantly framed the two speeches as this versus that. A few things got lost.

Carney's "values-based realism" draws from a particular context. As the Canadian PM acknowledged, "For decades, countries like Canada prospered under what we called the rules-based international order. We joined its institutions, praised its principles, and benefited from its predictability. We could pursue values-based foreign policies under its protection." Long before the American-led order, "developed" countries benefited from centuries of imperialism at the expense of those that are still "developing". This context forms the backdrop of Carney's call for middle powers to, in essence, forge minilaterals to increase their negotiating power. Trump, for his part, was clear about turning back the clock. But parse through his rambunctious rhetoric, and there was some pragmatism, too. He made it clear that the US would not use force to take over Greenland (before claiming a deal was on the table hours later). He also sought to draw a line between the West and the rest, the people dying in Ukraine "who look like us" and the "criminal" migrants and those who made Europe "unrecognisable". (read brown, black, non-Christian).

It is to Carney's credit that he called the bully by his name. He is also right to leverage his country's considerable resources — the Arctic economy, critical minerals, energy reserves, "the most educated population in the world". But the burden on India, and other countries that have been at the receiving end of a "rules-based order" they had little role in shaping, is more complex. Pulling people out of poverty and ensuring they have opportunity is, for many in the Global South, the place where values and realism coincide and collide. Canada, and like-minded countries, must keep that perspective in mind as they build new solidarities. And perhaps, in Washington, the realisation may dawn that power that is sustainable is rarely belligerent.

News TV is racing to a bigoted bottom

IT'S TELLING — and disquieting — that nearly 60 per cent of the orders passed in the last three years by the News Broadcasting & Digital Standards Authority (NBDSA) were against programmes that violated its ethics code on communal harmony. An analysis of the NBDSA orders since 2023 in this newspaper points to a brutish and cynical race to the bottom in a time of churn. Faced with intensifying competition in a far more crowded and fragmented media landscape than before, television channels and digital broadcasters have chosen the path of maximum shrillness and least resistance, becoming megaphones of the powerful — and the hateful. In the social media age, where no one needs a TV studio to broadcast to the world, they are trying to mimic its worst aspects. Because it rewards extremes, outrage and spectacle, channels and platforms are jostling each other to abandon responsibility and to frame news in ways that purvey divisive spectres and stereotypes.

There are high costs of this abdication. There is an unchecked sharpening of polarisation and shrinking spaces for deliberation and dialogue. In a plural and diverse democracy constitutionally committed to protecting the freedom of citizens to profess, practise and propagate their religion, this backsliding is worrying. But the price must be paid not just in terms of the fraying of the larger promise of democracy. It must be paid, too, in terms of an erosion of trust in the very institution that these channels and platforms claim to be part of. Their pursuit of viewership at all costs erodes their own — and the media's — credibility. This is visible, today, in the declining TV audiences and increasing irrelevance of these channels with clickbait images, gladiatorial contests and hate-filled screens. It is visible, too, in growing signs of the citizen's disengagement with a public sphere of shared understandings.

It is welcome that the self-regulatory body has called out the targeting of the minority. It has done well to draw attention to these attempts to paint a community as the Other, as singular, aggressive and conservative. But, in the end, the NBDSA can only prod and nudge gently. The responsibility of calling a halt to this dismal noise that pretends to be news must be owned more widely — beginning with those who own these studios.

Japanese Ambassador uses hands, shows way

WHEN TRAVELLING is reduced to an item on a bucket list and #wanderlust serves as a mere stepping stone to greater social media clout, a simple act can be a reminder of what it really means to be in another land whose riches, to quote the writer Pico Iyer, are differently dispersed. One such act was the choice made by Japan's Ambassador to India, on a recent visit with his team to Delhi's Andhra Bhavan, to decline the use of a spoon to eat the canteen's justly famous biryani. Seated before a fragrant plateful, he used his hands and emulated the Indian diners around him.

This is soft diplomacy done well, as the virality of the visit's video has shown. Warmth responds to warmth, an understanding that is lost amidst the loud chest-beating of today's global politics. And what better context for this than a meal? Long before McDonald's, food was already a carrier of ideas and beliefs, trailing revolutions and reinventions in its wake. If one outcome of this long history of churn is the global menu of the 21st century on which nothing — from paneer tikka pizza to matcha latte — is too alien or exotic, the other is the recognition that hierarchy has no room at the dining table.

In a world beset by growing provincialism, and a fortress mentality that narrows the vision to only that which can be seen through an arrowslit, a simple gesture from the representative of a country with its own elaborate dining etiquette becomes a call to widen the aperture and invite differences of every kind into the frame.

Trump is succeeding because of leaders who want to be little Trumps



PRATAP BHANU MEHTA

THERE IS something extraordinarily myopic and enervating about the international community's response to Donald Trump's transformation of world politics from an imperfect but relatively restrained set of power relations into a wager on his imperious personal judgement. One year into his presidency, the surprise is not that Trump is imperial or authoritarian. The disappointment is the absence of a serious global pushback. Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney has thrown down the gauntlet, describing this as a moment of rupture. Europe may finally be stirred after Trump's threat to Greenland; Countries like India exhibit a sulky but ineffectual resistance. But by and large, capitulation has triumphed over meaningful resistance. This failure demands explanation.

The usual explanations do not hold much water. One claim is, as Carney suggested, no one is willing to defend the old liberal international order because no such order ever truly existed. Great-power exceptionalism destroyed it. The world's acquiescence to the horrors in Gaza decisively buried any remaining moral authority it might have had. But the charge of liberal hypocrisy would be serious only if there was concerted global action to replace it with something fairer and equitable. Instead, what we are getting is greater comfort with international nihilism.

Even if one has no attachment to liberal internationalism, there are compelling realist reasons to resist Trump far more forcefully. His wrecking-ball approach has injected immense strategic instability into the global order. We might not care about norms or decaying international institutions. But Trump's actions have significantly eroded the prospects for stable great-power relations.

The most damaging aspect of Trump's coveting of Greenland is not merely the threat of territorial annexation or resource exploitation. One might dismiss that, cynically, as Denmark's problem. Nor is it only the further weakening of international law. The greater danger is that Trump is placing great-power competition on an escalation ladder that will be exceedingly difficult to dismount. In both Venezuela and Greenland, the ostensible rationale is to deny China and Russia strategic space. But this is not a signal about spheres of influence; it is a signal of escalating confrontation.

Even if such moves marginally strengthen the United States' positional advantage in specific areas in the short run, they raise escalation risks everywhere else. They communicate not merely that the United States will resist China's rise, but that it will not even seek a *modus vivendi* of managed rivalry. Trump's actions do not reduce the risks of great-power conflict; they intensify them. The annexation of Greenland would not be a territorial grab from Europe alone; it would amount to something closer to a declaration of hot war on the existing world order. For these reasons, there are strong realist grounds for a robust international pushback, even for those to whom the liberal international order holds no appeal.

Trump is redefining the rules of the international system by normalising unilateral territorial revisionism under the banner of strategic denial. The justification is the same: Preventing China or Russia from gaining influence. But this is not a classic balance-of-power manoeuvre; it is an escalation signal that lowers the threshold for confrontation everywhere. It reduces the incentives for every kind of cooperation, including arms control and the collective governance of the Arctic. Global wars rarely begin with grand designs. They begin when misunderstandings multiply, and leaders gamble that escalation can be controlled. We are in that situation now.

> Trump is redefining the rules of the international system by normalising unilateral territorial revisionism under the banner of strategic denial. It is an escalation signal that lowers the threshold for confrontation everywhere

Perhaps we have been lulled by Trump's own climbdowns. He does not really mean to play this game of exclusion and encirclement; after all, China forced him to retreat, and a *modus vivendi* may yet be possible. But this explanation does not hold water. We should remember that even if Trump retreats, the pattern of his behaviour still projects a willingness to test limits through maximalist threats. This is a recipe for volatility. Countries cannot afford to assume future climbdowns. Global stability depends on shared understandings of red lines. Trump's episodic retreats do not reaffirm those understandings; they corrode them. They are tactical reversals compelled by resistance. That distinction explains why it is foolish to think that a *modus vivendi* with Trump is possible.

Perhaps there is another explanation: The lack of state capacity. Europe, as it is discovering, cannot realistically confront the United States. Building the institutions and power necessary to do so will take years. India faces a similar reality. But this only explains part of the story. It does not account for the near-total absence of efforts to forge an international coalition against Trump.

In the early months of Trump's presidency, it was not irrational to hope that bilateral deals rather than collective action might better manage risk. Many countries assumed that the greater threat was not American overreach but abandonment. Europe feared it in Ukraine; Southeast Asia feared losing a balancer against China. But two truths are now unavoidable. First, the dangers of abandonment are eclipsed by the systemic risks the United States now poses to global peace and stability. Second, the United States can no longer be counted on as a trustworthy partner.

The world had become too psychologically dependent on the United States. Trump can act as a patriarch because we have put the US in that position. Much of the world, even in the face of Trump's perfidy, is behaving like errant children, seeking their father's good graces. The United Kingdom's responses to Trump are a perfect example of this. But there might be another explanation. You look at risks of war increasing everywhere, in Africa, in West Asia now, given rising tensions between Saudi Arabia and the UAE, and between India and Pakistan. Perhaps Trump is succeeding because the world is full of leaders wanting to be little Trumps. We are not resisting him because we relish the permissions he is putting in place: The universalisation of narcissism and freedom from norms may be the newest form of American internationalism. All risks be damned.

The writer is contributing editor,
The Indian Express

Behind the shiny facade, the cracks in the city



ASHOK LAVASA

GRIEF, RAGE and despair are the usual responses to a tragedy. Personal loss often gives way to collective outrage against systemic lapses, and this emotion often turns into despair and cynicism. The establishment response, too, is formulaic.

Do we remember the bizarre deaths of civil services aspirants when floodwaters gushed into a coaching centre in Delhi? Ironically, the victims were preparing to be part of a system that failed them and continues to fail many like them. Haven't we almost forgotten the unfortunate deaths in Indore of people who had complained of their drinking water being contaminated? They had trusted the system to take remedial steps. But, by all accounts, their complaints fell on deaf ears. Many died after drinking water that came from pipes meant to supply fresh water.

Now, a young man has drowned in a pool of water in a city touted as a modern urban settlement. There was no reason for the water to have accumulated at the site of the tragedy. On a foggy night, his car went out of control and fell into the pool because a railing was broken. There was no reason for him to drown in the swamp except that a crude, ill-prepared system did not know how to save a person crying desperately for help. He had shown the courage to climb out of the car after being marooned in the cesspool, reached out to his father, shared his location, and his father had asked for help. That help arrived several hours late.

The fog that day seems symbolic of a system that refuses to see people's desperation. A gig worker mustered the courage to jump into the water in the dead of night. He tried in vain to rescue the drowning car driver. It stands in contrast to the system's incapacity. A few days earlier, this delivery person had reportedly helped a truck driver involved in a similar mishap at the same spot. The failure to take action after the first accident speaks of a criminal apathy.

A familiar thread runs through the tragedies at the Delhi coaching centre, Indore and Noida — the lack of responsiveness and accountability. The system, it seems, is a mute witness to its own culpability. When officials say they will "fix" responsibility, they only mean they will "shift" accountability as they did in the coaching centre case, where an SUV driver was arrested for causing water to flood the basement.

> The focus on development and 'concrete' achievements has become an important part of assessing the performance of administrators. As a result, they tend to neglect routine work

Unresponsiveness and lack of accountability are not the only problems. A large part of the shortcomings is structural. Scant regard for routine administration is a feature of governance today. The focus on development and "concrete" achievements has become an important part of assessing the performance of administrators. As a result, they tend to neglect routine work. Proper maintenance of records, time-bound disposal of files and periodic inspection of subordinate offices by supervisory officers receive low priority from an administration obsessed with "showcasing" achievements.

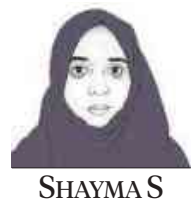
Engineers today are engrossed in constructing more buildings and roads. There is nothing wrong with that, except that the old roads are not properly maintained. An increase in capital expenditure allows governments to build infrastructure. But once buildings, roads and other facilities are built, they have to be maintained. Today, focusing on maintenance, service delivery and the functional efficiency of what has been built is not considered proof of administrative "dynamism".

Hunting for headlines is understandable for the political executive. But anonymity should be the hallmark of civil servants. Sadly, today, the commitment to serve people seems to have been overtaken by the urge to gain recognition.

This culture might continue if the glitz and "modernity" of new structures exert an inordinate pull on administrators, and they are not bothered about the quality of service they are mandated to deliver. If political parties are allowed to remain wedded to their election-winning formula and administrators forget their mandate, the system is unlikely to improve.

The writer is a former election commissioner

Art that bears witness to a tragedy is not enough



SHAYMA S

THE VOICE *of Hind Rajab* (2025), directed by the Tunisian filmmaker Kaouther Ben Hania, makes for difficult watching. The viewer knows what's going to happen. There are no happy endings amidst genocides, especially when the violence hasn't ended. The film intersperses the actual voice recordings of Hind with dramatisation of the frantic attempts to rescue her via an ambulance. On January 29, 2024, Palestinian Red Crescent received an emergency call from Gaza. Members of the Hammada family were trapped in a car, having been hit by an IDF tank while trying to evacuate Gaza City's Tel al-Hawa neighbourhood . All others had died in the relentless firing; six-year-old Hind pleaded to be rescued. As we know, none of the passengers survived. Israeli forces also attacked and killed the ambulance medics sent for rescue.

Hind's death, and the killing of the medics, underscore the futility of procedure in the face of impunity. Co-produced by Tunisia and France, the film is backed by Hollywood figures including Brad Pitt and Joaquin Phoenix. While American distributors initially avoided the project, its award-season success — notably a prolonged standing ovation at the Venice International Film Festival — has propelled it to global prominence.

Ben Hania has described the film as an act of witnessing — an attempt to ensure Hind's voice is heard and not erased. The question that lingers is whether a film can function as witness while a genocide is ongoing. If the logic is that such films bring about awareness and that there is a need for Hind's story to be preserved and circulated, then the question that emerges is, "What is left to raise awareness about?" This genocide has been livestreamed, yet global impunity has continued. Even as we watch, celebrate and discuss the film, millions continue to starve in a man-made famine. Hind's story — like many other Palestinian men, women and children — is not frozen in history but something ongoing, which needs concrete solidarity in the form of boycotts, protests and political pressure hand-in-hand with artistic enterprise.

This unease is sharpened by the political economy of the film. Its celebrated reception coexists with continued American military, diplomatic, and financial support for Israeli occupation and assault. The contradiction is difficult to ignore: A film mourning Palestinian death circulating through structures entangled with ideological and material support for the conditions that enable that death. What do standing ovations for a beautifully executed, heart-wrenching project do to Palestinian life and survival?

This is not to say art is useless. Art has always been a significant vehicle in the cause of justice; recent Indian films on police violence (*Santosh*) or caste discrimination (*Homebound*; *Bison Kaalamaadan*) are cases in point. But bearing witness must not collapse into a form of self-congratulation and complacency — that by participating in this artistic process, we have done our part or absolved ourselves. Instead, creators must reflect on whether this can go beyond symbolic condemnation and towards changing conditions of inequality and violence.

> Art has always been a significant vehicle in the cause of justice. But bearing witness must not collapse into a form of complacency — that by participating, we have done our part

The writer is a freelance writer and PhD scholar

40 YEARS AGO
January 23, 1986


INDIAN EXPRESS
Three to die for Indira's murder
We are innocent, say accused
Four killed in Ahmedabad, curfew reimposed
Tightest-ever security

Indira assassins sentenced

ALL THREE accused — Satwant Singh, Balbir Singh, and Kehar Singh — in the Indira Gandhi murder case were sentenced to death by additional district and sessions judge Mahesh Chandra. The sentence was pronounced in a makeshift courtroom in Tihar Jail. Satwant Singh, the 22-year-old Delhi Armed Police constable on duty at the PM's house, who had fired on Indira Gandhi, was in addition sentenced to seven years' rigorous imprisonment for causing grievous hurt (attempt to murder) to ASI Rameshwar Dayal.

Ahmedabad violence

COMMUNAL VIOLENCE erupted anew in Ahmedabad after a lull of over 10 days, leaving at least four persons dead and 10 injured in a spate of stabbing and arson in far-removed places in the city. An indefinite curfew was reimposed in the communally sensitive areas of Kalupur and Dariapur. The trouble sparked off following the murder of a person who was coming out of the metropolitan court complex in Gheekanta.

Devi Lal arrested

THE FOUR-PARTY Haryana Sangharsh Samiti chief, Devi Lal, was among about 500 opposition workers and leaders arrested on the eve of the "rasta roko" stir and the one-day bandh in Chandigarh. The call for agitation has been jointly given by the Lok Dal, the Bharatiya Janata Party, the Congress (S) and the Janata Party, to protest against the alleged injustice done to Haryana under the Punjab accord.

Assam ex-CM's relatives killed

IN ONE of the worst incidents of post-election violence, a mother and daughter described as relatives of former chief minister Hiteshwar Saikia were killed in an armed attack in Guwahati. The leader of the Congress-I legislature party, Golak Rajbonshi, said that there had been a series of attacks on party supporters and workers since the election. He said that he had received written complaints that Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) supporters were involved in many cases.

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

We are a country ruled by laws, not by one man.
— The New York Times

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THE BEST OF BOTH SIDES

A weekly column, which offers not this-versus-that, but the best of both sides, to inform the debate



ILLUSTRATION: C R SASIKUMAR

Should PM Narendra Modi accept President Donald Trump's invitation to join the Board of Peace?

To have a say, India must be on board



SUJAN CHINOY

DONALD TRUMP'S invitation to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 16 to join the Board of Peace for Gaza is a continuation of the US President's 20-point roadmap for Gaza, which Modi had earlier welcomed as a comprehensive plan to end the conflict and as a viable pathway to long-term peace, security and development for Palestinians, Israelis and West Asia. India remains committed to peace based on a two-state solution, the unconditional release of prisoners, and enhanced humanitarian assistance.

The Indian Prime Minister is among 50-60 world leaders reportedly invited to join the Board of Peace, an idea endorsed in principle by the UN Security Council. All P5 members were invited; so far, French President Emmanuel Macron has declined, while Russia and China are still examining the proposal, despite Trump claiming that Russian President Vladimir Putin has accepted.

Norway, Slovenia and Sweden are reported to have declined. Most West Asian countries, including GCC nations like Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar and Bahrain, have accepted, as have some Central Asian republics. Pakistan, Turkey and Azerbaijan are on board. Interestingly, Belarus was among the first, suggesting Putin's tacit approval.

Among the striking features of the board is that Trump will serve as the inaugural chairman, possibly holding the post beyond his presidential term. Another eye-catching provision is the call for a club-like contribution of US$1 billion to secure "permanent membership" beyond the initial three-year term. Putin is reportedly considering contributing $1 billion from frozen assets for a permanent seat — a condition that may shape Russia's participation.

Trump's invitation to Modi reflects recognition of India's traditional influence in West Asia and credible voice on the global stage. Declining the invitation could be seen as reluctance to engage on a major international issue and may affect future engagement with Trump.

Participation in the board would allow India a greater say in determining Gaza's future, including potential contracts for Indian companies in reconstruction, while underscoring India's commitment to Palestinians and regional stability.

Notably, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has agreed to join the board after initially objecting to its governance, particularly the inclusion of Turkey and Qatar, which Israel views as hostile or supportive of Hamas. Netanyahu had earlier averred that the executive committee plan contradicted Israeli policy.

The board appears multi-tiered, with an inner "founding executive council" chaired by Trump. PM Modi has been invited to the main board, distinct from this inner circle and the Gaza executive board.

The board is a US-led enterprise, unlike the UN-led processes preferred by Russia, China, and India. When the UNSC approved the board in November 2025, China and Russia abstained. Beijing is likely to view initiatives outside the UN as weakening the UN-led multilateral order and China's own four global initiatives, including the latest Global Governance Initiative. Abstention on a resolution was no doubt an easier choice than deciding to join.

Self-appointment by a single power of selected countries to manage international disputes sets a troubling precedent, even considering the US's exceptional military and economic power. India's past roles, such as chairing the UN-backed Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission (Korea) and the International Commission for Supervision and Control (Vietnam), were embedded in UN-backed frameworks. As for the G20, BRICS and the SCO, they focus on strategic and economic issues, not resolving major disputes such as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

In taking a decision on participation, Indian policymakers will have to keep in mind what such a Board of Peace implies for other disputes.

Concerns arise from reports that Chairman Trump will wield veto powers as well as the lack of clarity on the fate of the $1 billion contributions. It is a moot question whether a successor US administration would support the board. Its internal dynamics and a disparate membership might add a layer of complexity.

The invitation coincides with the 50 per cent tariffs imposed by the US over India's energy trade with Russia and threats of further penalties related to Iran. While Trump's invitation is significant, acceptance does not guarantee either a bilateral trade deal or protection from future geopolitical shocks involving core interests.

India will no doubt respond after careful evaluation. The provisions for representation at the level of a high-ranking official, as well as the exit clause, are welcome attributes.

The writer is director general, Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses. Views are personal

Four reasons Delhi should decline



MANAV SACHDEVA

THERE ARE moments in a nation's life when the question is not what we gain, but who we become. The reported invitation for India to join a US-backed "Gaza Board of Peace", accompanied by a promised $1 billion in assistance, is one such moment. India, out of deep respect and solidarity with the Palestinian people and its own history, moral standing, and Global South leadership, should decline — clearly, publicly, and without equivocation.

This is not a question of money for Gaza, nor even of geopolitics in the narrow sense. It is a question of India's constitutional morality, our Independence struggle's memory, strategic autonomy, and moral credibility. India's refusal must be rooted not in anti-Americanism as we are not anti-American per se, nor in reflexive ideology, but in four hard, defensible reasons that go to the core of what India claims to stand for in the world.

First, any governance or "peace" mechanism for Gaza that is designed without the explicit, sovereign consent of the Palestinian people is not a mechanism for peace. It is an externally imposed trusteeship. History has a name for such arrangements: Colonial administration in humanitarian clothing. India knows this story intimately. The colonial state always justified itself as a stabiliser, a civiliser, a guarantor of order. It spoke of roads, schools, development funds, and security. It never spoke of consent. To join a Gaza board structured primarily by external powers, especially in the immediate aftermath of mass civilian destruction, would place India on the wrong side of its own anti-colonial inheritance. India cannot be a signatory to a process that treats Palestinians as subjects to be managed rather than a people entitled to self-determination.

Secondly, India's strategic autonomy allows India to engage with all major powers without becoming an instrument of any. Accepting a $1 billion inducement tied to participation in a geopolitically loaded governance mechanism would erode that autonomy in practice, even if it remains intact in rhetoric. Let us be clear: $1 billion is hardly a problem for India to invest but this is not a Marshall Plan for Gaza. It is not even decisive development finance. What it buys is not economic leverage but political positioning on a colonial board. Once India sits on such a board, it inherits the consequences of decisions it does not control. It becomes associated with outcomes it cannot shape. It risks being blamed by one side for occupation by proxy, and by the other for insufficient obedience. Strategic autonomy means knowing when not to sit at the table.

Third, India has spent decades cultivating trust across the Global South, as a country that understands occupation, displacement, and the long shadow of imperial arrangements. That credibility is not theoretical. It translates into diplomatic capital, coalition leadership, and moral authority in multilateral forums. Joining a Gaza peace board perceived — rightly or wrongly — as legitimising a post-conflict order without justice would fracture that trust. From Africa to Southeast Asia, from Latin America to West Asia, many countries are watching not what India says but what it does. India cannot afford to be seen as a stabiliser of injustice.

Fourth, there is a deeper, more uncomfortable truth: Peace imposed immediately after devastation, without accountability, is rarely peace. It is pacification. And papering over of injustice. Gaza today is not merely a post-conflict zone. It is a traumatised society, with shattered infrastructure, displaced families, and unresolved political futures. Any attempt to fast-track governance mechanisms risks freezing injustice into administrative normalcy. India's own freedom struggle teaches us that order imposed without justice is unsustainable. Stability without dignity breeds resistance. If India truly wishes to contribute to peace, it should do so by insisting on humanitarian ceasefires, international accountability mechanisms, reconstruction led by Palestinians, and political processes rooted in consent, especially of the Gazans and all Palestinians, not by sitting on a board designed to manage the aftermath without taking the victims' agency on board.

India can offer humanitarian assistance without political strings. It can support reconstruction through UN agencies, advocate for international law consistently, and use its diplomatic channels to press for restraint, accountability, and dialogue. But it must not lend its name, history, or constitutional ethos to a process that confuses management with justice. Neither the Israelis nor the Palestinians will benefit from this imposed colonial trusteeship. India should say no — firmly, calmly, and without apology.

The writer is the humanitarian food security and diplomacy ambassador, India, for President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's office

Netaji's parakram lives on, illuminates a nation's path



C P RADHAKRISHNAN

ON NETAJI Subhas Chandra Bose's birth anniversary, the nation pays tribute to his courage, sacrifice, and unyielding passion for freedom. From a young age, Netaji displayed rare moral intensity — renouncing personal comfort, worldly ambition and even a prestigious career in the Indian Civil Service to dedicate himself to India's liberation. For him, freedom was a sacred duty.

A profound insight into Netaji's personality comes from a remarkable tribute by Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore in 1939. He hailed Subhas Chandra Bose as *deshnayak* — the leader of the nation. Gurudev observed that in troubled times, a country needs the strong hand of an inspired and valiant leader. In Netaji, he saw a rare fusion of courage, vision and moral force.

When conventional paths appeared inadequate to achieve Independence, Netaji charted his own course, transforming the freedom struggle into an international movement through the Indian National Army. He asserted, "There is no power on earth that can deprive us of our birthright of liberty any longer." This belief found expression in the INA.

Netaji's clarion call —"Give me blood, and I will give you freedom"— resonated deeply across regions and communities of India, especially the people of the southern regions, the Tamils in particular. The deep emotional and ideological bond between Netaji and the Tamil people became one of the strongest pillars of support for the INA and the freedom movement. Netaji's popularity also resonated powerfully with Tamil communities in Malaya, Burma and Singapore.



ILLUSTRATION: MITHUN CHAKRABORTY

From the early 1920s, Netaji recognised the political importance of the Madras Presidency in the Indian national movement. As a Congress organiser and national leader, he engaged closely with political workers in the region. Netaji's visits to Madras (now Chennai) and other centres of the presidency were marked by large public meetings and enthusiastic receptions, particularly by students and the politically conscious youth.

On September 3, 1939, Netaji arrived at Madras Central Station, where he was received by supporters, including lawyer and freedom fighter S Srinivasa Iyengar and Pasumpon U Muthuramalinga Thevar. Taken in an open jeep to "The Peak", the residence of civil engineer S P Ayyaswamy Mudaliar, he was followed by a sea of supporters. That evening, he addressed a massive public meeting at Marina Beach.

During this visit, Pasumpon U Muthuramalinga Thevar, a close associate of Netaji, emerged as a key leader of the Forward Bloc in Tamil Nadu. Often remembered as the "Bose of the South", he played a significant role in mobilising Tamil support for the INA. He also founded a Tamil weekly magazine, *Netaji*.

Among the notable recruits was Ramu Thevar, originally from Ramnad in the Madras Presidency. Inspired by Netaji at an early age, he joined the INA and was later entrusted with intelligence duties in Penang. Arrested while attempting to reach India, he was imprisoned in Alipore Jail in Calcutta (now Kolkata). His letters to his mother speak of the immense hardship he had to undergo as well as his unwavering patriotism. Unaware of his execution in Madras Jail in 1944, his mother continued writing to him until 1948. Thevar was only 18 when he made the supreme sacrifice for the nation. The Tamil recruits for the INA also came from outside the country. Among them was Lieutenant R Madhavan Pillai. It was heartening to see Prime Minister Narendra Modi felicitate him at the Parakram Diwas celebrations in 2024.

In a stirring address at the Padang in Singapore in 1943, Netaji urged women to join the struggle, declaring that this must be a truly revolutionary army. His words deeply moved Tamil Indian women in Malaya, many of whom had endured hardship on rubber plantations. Despite having never seen India, nearly a thousand of them volunteered for the Rani of Jhansi Regiment.

While the bravery of Lakshmi Swaminathan (Captain Lakshmi Sahgal) is widely recognised, the contributions of Janaky Thevar, Anjalai Ponnusamy and Rasammah Bhupalan are equally inspiring. Janaky Thevar, only 14 when she first heard Netaji speak, donated her diamond earring to the INA and later rose to a senior leadership position in the Rani of Jhansi Regiment. Saraswathi Rajamani, often regarded as one of India's youngest women intelligence operatives, joined the INA at 16 and served with distinction. In keeping with Netaji's egalitarian vision, women trained and served alongside men, and caste divisions were rejected.

Alongside these leaders stood countless unnamed Tamil soldiers and labourers from Ramanathapuram, Tirunelveli, Madurai, Sivaganga, Tiruchirappalli and Cuddalore, who answered Netaji's call from Malaya, Burma and Singapore. Deeply moved by this overwhelming support, Netaji is believed to have remarked that if he were to be born again, he would wish to be born a Tamilian.

Netaji believed that political independence was only the beginning; the greater task was to build a strong, united and self-reliant India that ensured dignity and justice for all. His special bond with the Tamil people stands as a powerful reminder that India's freedom was forged through the shared sacrifice of regions, communities and countless unsung heroes.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has consistently emphasised the need to shed the colonial mindset, honour India's values and freedom fighters, and advance towards true freedom of the mind and spirit. This vision is reflected in the government's observance of Netaji's birth anniversary as Parakram Diwas, the renaming of historic islands in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in his honour, and the installation of his statue at Kartavya Path.

As Netaji once observed, "One individual may die for an idea, but that idea will, after his death, incarnate itself in a thousand lives." His ideals continue to guide Bharat as the nation moves forward with a collective resolve to translate *parakram* into progress.

The writer is Vice President of India

Reading the melee at a book fair



VIKRAM HEGDE

A VIRAL video from the final day of the New Delhi World Book Fair shows a throng of people scrambling to grab books from stalls. The scenes of people pulling books off shelves were decried on social media. Many, including this author, harked back to the adage from Baghdad: "Readers don't steal, and thieves don't read," which does not seem to have found any resonance in this incident. To read that proverb as an exhortation to pay for books would be to grossly misunderstand it.

Think about it. Why is it that people looting a book fair raises our hackles, whereas a person downloading a pirated PDF of a book would not in the same way? The answer lies in the context, effect, and finally, intent.

The person downloading the PDF is still seeking knowledge and not causing any inconvenience to other readers. At a fair, we expect a sort of reverence for books as the vessels of knowledge. When people grab books without care, it feels like an insult to the store owners, to the publishers and writers who worked hard to produce those, and to fellow readers who queue up patiently. The upshot is clear: This chaos dishonours not just the books, but also the idea that we value learning itself. It flies in the face of the literary community.

If we get a little deeper into the collective psyche that drives such behaviour, we see that the problem goes far beyond a frenzy of covetous hands at Pragati Maidan. If a person hasn't internalised a respect for knowledge, one might ask, why go to a book fair at all?

Books have taken on new meanings in the age of lifestyle signalling on social media. The new generation of readers has imbued books with secondary values of prestige and aesthetic appeal. To the clout chaser, this secondary value may be of more significance than the primary one. So, when a raucous book-fair-goer makes a grab for any random book, without even bothering to pick one of their liking, it is this secondary value they are grabbing.

This premiumisation of the appearance of having read, rather than the enjoyment of reading itself, shows up in many other aspects of public life. Take, for instance, the desperation of our teenagers to get into elite educational institutions not for the education but for their brand value.

While we rightly chastised the unruly crowd at the book fair, it is perhaps time to introspect and attempt to address the deep-seated complexes we may all have that manifest themselves in such ugly forms. If we as a society can take note of this, we will be able to recognise the worth of books not by how many or what books got taken away, but by what they carry away from those books.

The writer is advocate on record, Supreme Court of India

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Price caps

THERE IS no doubt that airfares climb significantly during festivals and holiday seasons. But the Court should not interfere to fix a cap ('Court cap on airfares is the wrong answer', *IE*, January 22). Already, there are high operating costs for aviation companies. Such a move will deter new entrants in an already suffocating atmosphere. In fact, a bigger pool of good airlines will automatically address the supply-demand gap, ease the burden of price hikes on fliers, and encourage healthy competition.

—Bal Govind, Noida

COMPONENTS OF ticket booking, such as convenience fees, need to be questioned ('Court cap on airfares is the wrong answer', *IE*, January 22). The dark patterns deployed by airlines on their websites during booking — such as enticing fliers with mediocre meals at inflated prices — need to be highlighted.

—Anany Mishra, Bhilai

Noise over nuance

PRIME-TIME debates today often prioritise noise over nuance and confrontation over clarity, leaving viewers exhausted rather than informed ('Amid cable newsification, journalism must reclaim its role as a check on power', *IE*, January 22). This erosion of credibility is reflected in public trust. According to Reuters, fewer than four in ten Indians say they trust news most of the time.

—Khushi Jaiswal, Jammu

3 COLLEGES IN KASHMIR VALLEY, FOUR IN JAMMU PROVINCE

Vaishno Devi students to join 7 J&K medical colleges

Basharat Masood
Srinagar, January 22

FIFTY MBBS students whose fates were left in limbo after the medical course was scrapped at Jammu's Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Institute of Medical Excellence (SMVDIME) will be adjusted in seven newly established government medical colleges in the Union Territory – three in the Kashmir valley, where 22 students will be admitted, and four in Jammu province, where the rest will be adjusted.

The announcement came after 24 hours of twists and turns. On Wednesday night, the Jammu and Kashmir Board of Professional Entrance Examination (BOPEE) said it cannot conduct fresh counselling for the 2025-26 session for the students, but on Thursday morning, a fresh notice stated that the students have been called for counselling and allotment of colleges on January 24.

The National Medical Commission (NMC) had earlier this month withdrawn the permission it had earlier granted to SMVDIME to conduct an MBBS course in the current academic year. While the NMC cited deficiencies in the college infrastructure and operations, its decision had come against the backdrop of right-wing groups protesting against the course's demography – of the 50 students, 44 were Muslim, and most were from Kashmir.



National Medical Commission had recently withdrawn the nod it had earlier granted to SMVDIME to conduct an MBBS course this academic year

"That the Board shall conduct the physical round of counselling to accommodate MBBS students of SMVDIME Katra to the Govt. Medical Colleges within the UT of J&K against the supernumerary seats so created," the BOPEE said in a fresh notification on Thursday.

The notification said that the Health and Medical Education department has conveyed the seat matrix of the 50 supernumerary seats. Seven additional seats each have been allotted in four government medical colleges in Jammu province – GMC Udhampur, GMC Kathua, GMC Rajouri and GMC Doda – and seven additional seats each have been allotted in GMC Baramulla and GMC Handwara. Eight have been allotted in GMC Anantnag.

All seven government medical colleges have been set up in the past seven years – GMC Anantnag, Baramulla, Handwara, Rajouri and Kathua in 2018; GMC Doda in 2020; and GMC Udhampur two years ago.

The government has not allotted any supernumerary seats in premier institutes such as GMC Srinagar, GMC Jammu or the SKIMS Medical College.

In its communication to the J-K's Health and Medical Education department just hours earlier, on Wednesday evening, BOPEE had said it cannot conduct fresh counselling for the 2025-26 session and asked the government to admit students to supernumerary seats in other medical colleges "at its own level".

Sources said this was issued because officials failed to fully grasp the import of the notification issued by the National Medical Commission seeking adjustment of the students "under supernumerary seats".

According to sources, while the Health and Medical Education department had written to the BOPEE in this regard on January 11, the Board said it received the communication on January 20 and responded that the "creation and allotment of supernumerary seats doesn't fall within its ambit".

After the communication started being circulated, senior officers intervened.

Usage of LPG, smartphones among details to be sought during census

New Delhi: The Registrar General of India (RGI) on Thursday issued a notification regarding the details to be collected during the house-listing process, which include information on usage of PNG, LPG, smartphones, among others.

"In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 8 of the Census Act, 1948 (37 of 1948), the central government hereby instructs that all the census officers may, within the limits of the local areas for which they have been respectively appointed, ask all such questions from all persons on the items enumerated below for collecting information through the houselisting and housing census schedule in connection with the Census of India 2027," said, Mritunjay Kumar Narayan, Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India in a notification.

The census questionnaire is finalised on the basis of inputs and suggestions from different ministries, departments, organisations and census data users before each exercise. ENS

Looking at social media ban for under-16 users, Andhra sets up ministers' panel

Govt will study data from cases in which children are victims or accused

Pushkar Banakar
New Delhi, January 22

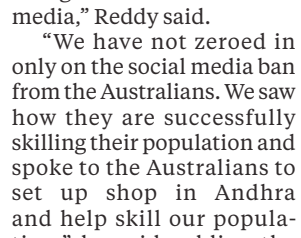
A DAY after Andhra Pradesh's IT and Education Minister Nara Lokesh said the Telugu Desam Party (TDP)-led government was mulling over bringing an Australia-like law on banning social media for children under the age of 16, a Group of Ministers (GoM) headed by him has been set up study the proposal, *The Indian Express* has learnt. Andhra Pradesh is the first state where such a proposal has been mooted.

"The GoM will have Home Minister Anita Vangalapudi, Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav, and I&PR Minister Kolusu Parthasarathi," a government source said on Thursday, adding that the government will study and collate data from cases across the state where children under 16 are either the victims of social media abuse or the accused.

On the sidelines of the World Economic Forum summit in Davos, Switzerland, Lokesh told Bloomberg, "The government is studying Australia's decision to ban children under the age of 16 from accessing social media. Youngsters below a certain age should not be on such platforms, as they do not fully understand the content they are exposed to. A strong legal framework may be required to implement the proposal."

"A meeting is likely to be held after Lokesh returns from Davos to chart out a roadmap to implement the proposal," said a senior government official.

First mover



ANDHRA PRADESH is the first state in the country where such a proposal has been mooted.

THE STATE'S Education Minister Nara Lokesh has said the government is studying Australia's decision to implement such a ban

A SENIOR TDP LEADER said implementation of such a proposal would be complex and would require the support of ally BJP

TDP national spokesperson Deepak Reddy told *The Indian Express* that the idea came up during Lokesh's five-day trip to Australia last October, adding that while "the modalities of the proposal will be worked out after he returns," he had put serious thought into it.

"Children cannot be exposed to the ills of social media in their formative years. Also, in recent times, we have seen a lot of social media abuse. The proposal is a way to prevent people from being attacked on social media," Reddy said.

"We have not zeroed in only on the social media ban from the Australians. We saw how they are successfully skilling their population and spoke to the Australians to set up shop in Andhra and help skill our population," he said, adding the Andhra government would build on global good governance practices.

A senior TDP leader, however, said the implementation of such a proposal would be complex and would require the support of ally BJP. "Regulating Information Technology requires the Centre's approval as it pertains to the IT Act. But before we approach them, we need to finalise the structure of the proposal at the state level. Once that is done, we will approach the Centre," the leader said, adding that convincing the Centre was not likely to be difficult as the TDP is a BJP ally.

While there is no law yet on regulating the use of social media platforms by children, under the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, tech companies are required to implement a mechanism for collecting "verifiable" parental consent before processing the personal data of children, even though it does not prescribe a particular technical measure to collect such consent. As per the law, a child is defined as an individual below the age of 18.

The law also directs companies not to process personal data of children in cases where it could cause any detrimental effect on their well-being.

E. EXPLAINED

The legal aspect

The Kerala HC in 2019 termed the right to access the internet as a part of the Right to Education. A ban on social media for minors will require the state to restrict this right without limiting access to information and hindering digital literacy.

Workers must unite to bring back MGNREGA: Rahul

Express News Service
New Delhi, January 22

LEADER OF Opposition Rahul Gandhi on Thursday said the Narendra Modi government's objectives in repealing MGNREGA is the same as they were in bringing the "three black farm laws", and urged workers to take a cue from farmers and stand united to demand the rollback of VB-G RAM G Act.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said the repeal of MGNREGA was part of a "conspiracy to erase" Mahatma Gandhi's name from public memory and asserted that his party will strongly raise the issue during the upcoming Budget session of Parliament.



Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and LoP Rahul Gandhi at the National MGNREGA workers' convention on Thursday. ANIL SHARMA

Addressing the national MGNREGA workers' convention organised by Rachnatmak Congress at Jawahar Bhawan, Gandhi said, "The MGNREGA movement is a big opportunity for the poor people who believe in the Constitution, democracy and the idea of India... if they stand together, Modi ji will back off and MGNREGA would be reinstated."

"The idea behind it (MGNREGA) was that anyone in need of work could demand it with dignity. MGNREGA was run through the third tier system — the Panchayati Raj system. MGNREGA had the voice of the people, their rights... a concept which Narendra Modi and the BJP want to finish off," Gandhi said.

"The Modi government had brought in black laws against farmers, which the farmers managed to stop. I remember, in Parliament and on streets, along with the farmers, we put pressure on the government and got those laws repealed," he said.

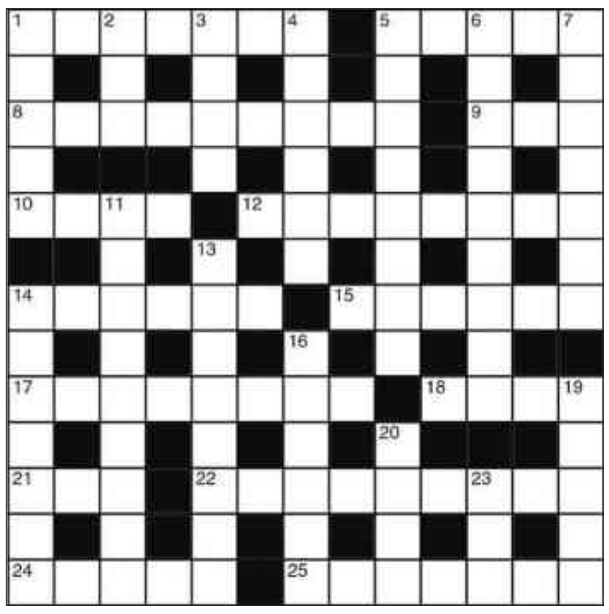
Gandhi claimed that the same concept that the government tried on farmers it is now trying on workers. The idea is that the Central government in Delhi will decide how much money to send to which state, Gandhi said, adding that more money will go to BJP-ruled states.

"Farm laws were an attack on the Constitution, so was demonetisation, flawed GST. What is the name of this new law ....I don't know," he said with some in the audience responding with the VB-G RAM G acronym.

"These people want to bring back the India of pre-Independence where one king used to decide everything, had all the assets and did as he pleased. Their intention is not to stop because they want to change the structure of modern India," Gandhi said.

"There is only one way to stop them, workers have been shown the way by farmers. If we stand together unitedly, they are cowardly people... you can decide the name of the scheme and its modalities," he said.

• CROSSWORD 5893



ACROSS
1 Potboilers notorious for their bad spelling (7)
5 One backing a horse, it may be added (5)
8 Become liable to debts without interest (9)
9 Sauce for the edge of a plate perhaps (3)
10 Bighead carpeted for security reasons (4)
12 Eternal source of family strife? (8)
14 Noise in the distance from pigs (6)
15 Timely tool (6)
17 There's no accounting for their performance (8)
18 Little land is left to the East (4)
21 Have something to confess (3)
22 To a doctor it's a way one is remembered by (9)
24 Thin strips of mixed paste (5)
25 Hooted at performance after free admission (7)

DOWN
1 It was defined as the middle (5)
2 The first in command may be nervous (3)
3 He goes down or rises in play (4)
4 Tracks defective on board (6)
5 Here cars are involved in scientific inquiry (8)
6 Agents get sealed orders (9)
7 Traveller allowed key is satisfied (7)
11 Start to play (7,2)
13 Political favours? (8)
14 Going full tilt or lying prone on the ground (4,3)
16 Falsely accused of having sheep pastured outside (6)
19 Not all honourable men do the right thing (5)
20 A good man rises to a king and emperor (4)
23 This hat is no longer fashionable (3)

SOLUTIONS CROSSWORD 5892 ACROSS: 1 Sediment, 5 Golf, 9 Dents, 10 Tension, 11 Supernatural, 13 Hyenas, 14 Durban, 17 Installation, 20 Minimum, 21 Okapi, 22 Nick, 23 Minsters DOWN: 1 Side, 2 Denture, 3 Master-at-arms, 4 Noting, 6 Osier, 7 Fondling, 8 Instructions, 12 Chairman, 15 Brocade, 16 Alumni, 18 Sonic, 19 Wits

JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective circles below. Select the letters in the shaded circles and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

___ is taxation without legislation. - Milton Friedman (9)

SSAIO ●●○●○
CIOULN ○●○○○●
ALSIT ●○●○○
AINTFN ○●●○○○

SOLUTIONS: Oasis, Tails, Uncoil, Infant
ANSWER: **Inflation** is taxation without legislation. - Milton Friedman

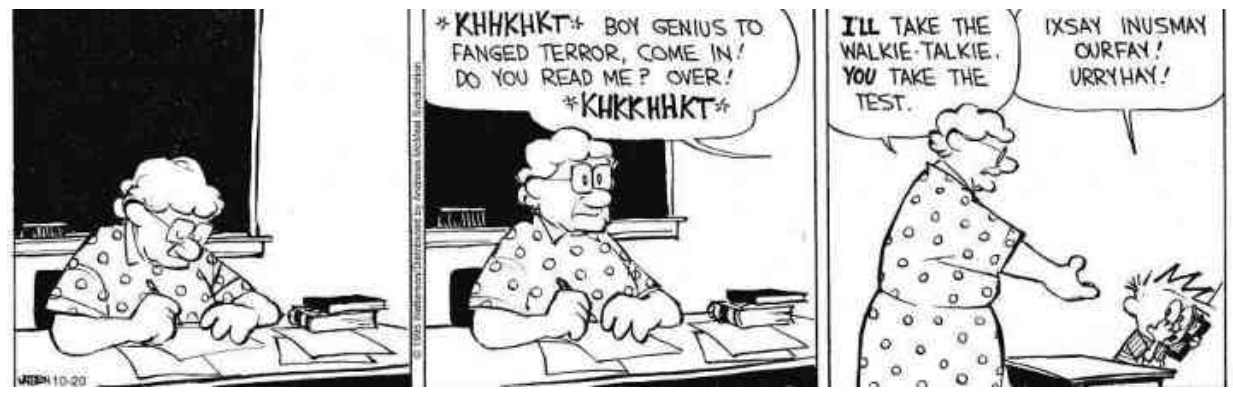
• OVER THE HEDGE

BY MICHAEL FRY & T LEWIS



• CALVIN & HOBBES

BY BILL WATTERSON



• MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG



SUDOKU 6207

DIFFICULTY LEVEL 3s
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

			6					
	7		8		3		5	
9		2				8		3
1		3		8		6		5
5		6		4		2		7
6		9				4		8
	2		6		4		1	
				7				

SOLUTION SUDOKU 6206

6	4	1	5	3	9	7	2	8
5	9	7	2	8	6	3	4	1
2	3	8	7	1	4	9	6	5
4	2	5	9	6	3	8	1	7
9	1	6	4	7	8	5	3	2
7	8	3	1	5	2	4	9	6
8	6	2	3	9	5	1	7	4
3	7	4	8	2	1	6	5	9
1	5	9	6	4	7	2	8	3

• ROYAL STARS

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

ARIES (MAR 21 - APR 20): This is a powerful day because the Moon in your is sign dancing beautifully with Mars. It's as if you have won the lottery. Relations with others will be successful, upbeat and endearing. Lucky you. Tonight: You win.

TAURUS (APR 21 - MAY 21): You make a fabulous impression on everyone today, in no small part because of something you might do behind the scenes. Either you are pulling the strings or someone else is.Bosses love you! Tonight: Enjoy privacy.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21): Grab every chance to travel or do anything that is a change of scenery that's exciting and adventurous. These opportunities are not the only ways that you are blessed today. You can explore new avenues. Go for it! Tonight: Be friendly.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23): People will notice you. Some will know personal details about your private life. Don't worry, because all the planets at the top of your chart are connected and supportive to you, especially in practical and financial ways. Tonight: You're admired.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUG 23): Conversations with friends, partners and spouses are rewarding and meaningful today. You might make travel plans. Your discussions will lead to something entertaining and rewarding. This is a favourable day, make the most of it. Tonight: Explore.

VIRGO (AUG 24 - SEP 23): This is a productive day and you can get a lot done. Financial negotiations will go well. If you need anything, ask for it. Co-workers are supportive. Tonight: Check your finances.

LIBRA (SEP 24 - OCT 23): Accept invitations to socialise and party. Get out and meet friends for coffee, lunch, dinner or any occasion. Enjoy some fun activities. Romantic adventures will delight you. Dress up and go out. Tonight: Listen and cooperate.

SCORPIO (OCT 24 - NOV 23): Stock the fridge and invite friends or family over today. Before you do that, tackle a few repairs. Family conversations are likely. Everything to do with home and family is favourable for you today. Tonight: Get organised.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV 24 - DEC 22): Get out and talk to people. Enjoy short trips. Meet new faces, see new places. Learn something new. In your conversations, you'll be entertaining and convincing. Tonight: Socialise.

CAPRICORN (DEC 23 - JAN 20): Financial discussions will go well today, if they relate to family matters or with home and real estate. You might choose to relax at home today, but some of you will shop online or work from home to boost your assets and earnings. Tonight: Relax.

AQUARIUS (JAN 21 - FEB 19): Today things will go your way. Be aware you have the advantage; plus, you're persuasive and powerful. Go after what you want, you will get it. Tonight: Discussions.

PISCES (FEB 20 - MAR 20): This is a feel-good day. Shopping, spending money, earning money or exploring moneymaking ideas is blessed. Trust your ability to attract money to you or, perhaps, favours and practical support will come your way. Tonight: Check your possessions.

Assam SIR: One person files objections against 64 voters from same booth

Sukrita Baruah
Guwahati, January 22



State Election Commission officials check names of voters. FILE

LAST FRIDAY, retired government employee Hafizuddin Ahmed got a notice summoning him to a local government office for a hearing. It stated that an objection had been filed against the inclusion of his name in the electoral roll of Assam's Nagaon-Batadraba constituency during the claims and objections phase of the ongoing Special Revision process in the state. The grounds for objection simply stated "death."

The hearing was scheduled for that day itself, so he rushed to the office with his documents.

"I showed them the voter ID card, and since I was an employee with the Public Health & Engineering Department, I was familiar with the officials there. They checked my documents and said it would be okay," said Ahmed, a resident of Central Assam's Nagaon town.

He was not the only one. With dozens of others receiving similar notices — many based on objections filed by the same person — the public hearings in three constituencies, Barhampur, Nagaon-Batadraba and Raha, have been put on hold.

The night before Ahmed received a notice, his neighbour, Javed Akhtar, received two such notices for hearings. One was addressed to his bedridden 80-year-old father-in-law, Ajiruddin Ahmed, who was a senior lawyer when he was younger. Again, the grounds of objection stated "death." The other was addressed to his wife, Farhana Yasmin, which listed the grounds of objection as "shifted."

Similarly, 77-year-old retired professor of Dhing College, Abdul Salam, who was travelling in West Bengal with his wife, learnt on Sunday that objections had been filed against both of them on the grounds that they are "dead". Notices issued to all these individuals show that the objections were filed by the same person. Going through the list of objections for the Nagaon-Batadraba constituency, *The Indian Express* found that this individual filed objections against 64 individuals from the same polling booth. This even includes the BLO, Nuruddin Ahmed, and his wife, on the grounds that they are dead. "As a BLO, I do not know who this individual is. He is not among the Booth Level Agents (BLAs) of any of the political parties who have been working on the ground with me. I have only received a list from the election branch which tells us the names of the people against whom objections have been filed, and the complainer's name," said the BLO.

While this issue has been raised by minority groups, Nagaon District Commissioner Devashish Sharma said that objections against Hindus outnumber those against Muslims in Nagaon, a Muslim-majority district.

In the midst of these concerns, on Tuesday evening, Sharma, who is also the District Election Officer, issued a public notice declaring that the public hearings pertaining to three constituencies in the district — Barhampur, Nagaon-Batadraba and Raha — "are hereby placed in abeyance, in respect of complaints received from the public, until further orders".

"The District Administration is conscious of prevailing public concerns and remains fully committed to maintaining transparency, fairness and public confidence in all electoral and administrative processes... It is reiterated that no eligible voter shall be excluded or left behind, and all lawful claims and objections shall be addressed as per the prescribed procedure," states the public notice.

It also warns of action under Section 31 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, against people filing false complaints. "Members of the public are strongly cautioned that the submission of false, misleading or vexatious complaints constitutes serious misuse of the grievance redressal mechanism and contributes to avoidable public confusion or disorder," it stated.

Sharma said the primary reason for placing the public hearings at abeyance in these constituencies was insufficient infrastructure in the small hearing centres to support the large number of people lining up for hearings.

Acknowledging the concerns regarding bulk and false objections, he said, "The election commission allows for anyone to file objections, and we have to verify them. There may be agents of political parties, but in many cases, it could also be overzealous individuals and those trying to settle personal scores. The verification of the objections is happening, and we have issued a warning that those raising false objections will be punished." An individual can file an application for the deletion of a name in the existing electoral roll by filling and submitting Form 7 of the Election Commission. According to guidelines, the application can be made by anyone who is an existing voter from the same constituency. Among the details they need to furnish are their name, EPIC number and their mobile number or that of a relative. They have to select one of the grounds for objection from 'death,' 'underage,' 'absent/permanently shifted,' 'already enrolled', or 'not an Indian citizen'. These forms can be filled out and submitted online on the ECI website or the Voter Helpline.

Imtiaz Hussain, president of the All Assam Minority Students' Union said, "The Nagaon order is an admission that there are flaws in the process. We are submitting memoranda on this across all districts expressing our concerns."

On Wednesday evening, the DC of the North Assam district of Lakhimpur also took cognisance of these concerns and issued a notice similar to that from the Nagaon district administration. "During the Special Revision of Electoral Rolls in Lakhimpur district, allegations are being made in general that a single individual has submitted multiple objections against multiple voters. Such practice is not valid in terms of the provisions of the Representation of the People's Act 1950," the notice states, reiterating that action will be taken if such "false, misleading, or vexatious" objections are established. An official with the office of the CEO said that the issue was discussed on Tuesday with the Nagaon DC following a state-level meeting with representatives of political parties, after which the order was issued.

"Because of such concerns about fraudulent complaints, seven Electoral Roll Observers who are senior IAS officers are in the field talking to local representatives of all political parties at the district level to understand ground realities and to oversee that all processes are being conducted as they should be. There are seven such Electoral Roll Officers, who have been allotted five districts each," said the official.

CAA AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS' IDENTIFICATION

Is EC second guessing SIR objectives, asks SC

Ananthakrishnan G
New Delhi, January 22

POINTING OUT that the June 24, 2025 order of the Election Commission announcing the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls "does not eloquently" say whether it is examining citizenship for the purpose of identifying illegal immigrants, the Supreme Court on Thursday asked the poll body whether it is now second guessing that this was one of the objectives of the exercise.

A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi posed the query as Senior Advocate Rakesh Dwivedi appearing for the Commission submitted that verifying citizenship was found desirable in view of Article 326 of the Constitution, which says that only citizens shall remain on the rolls, and the fact that the Citizenship Act of 1955 was amended in 2003, keeping in mind illegal immigration, after which only summary revision of electoral rolls based on self-declarations was carried out.

Dwivedi denied that the exercise was to identify illegal immigrants. "When I am placing this Citizenship (Amendment) Act, I am not going to illegal migration. This Act is not about illegal migration. It's about citizenship. We are not examining that (illegal immigration)."

He also cited US President Donald Trump's actions in Venezuela and Greenland to contest the argument advanced by Senior Advocate A M Singhvi, who appeared for some of the petitioners, that due process was not followed by the EC in the exercise of its powers.

"I have a serious problem with this due process which Mr Singhvi is trying to import from the United States at a time when the US is hardly following due process. Now President Trump can just go and lift the Venezuelan President to US for trial, so where is the due process? Now he wants Greenland. The US Supreme Court is not applying due process to all this...But my friends are more keen to go that way and to import that," the senior counsel said. He said paragraph 7 of the SIR order sets out the reasons for undertaking the special revision.

"The first is there has been rapid urbanisation, second is frequent migration of population due to education livelihood and other reasons and that has become a trend. Thirdly, there is large-scale duplication of entries on existing electoral rolls... Fourthly, Article 326 requires that only Indian citizens should be registered on the electoral roll. Therefore, an intense verification drive to verify each person before enrolment is necessary. So, the object was to verify."

"The fifth circumstance is the amendment of the Citizenship Act in 1986 and 2003, which required determination of citizenship... Sixth, political parties across the spectrum have voiced serious concerns regarding the accuracy of electoral rolls revised through summary revision process."

Dwivedi said political parties have been complaining about the electoral rolls in Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra among other states. "Now the same political parties say don't do SIR. That is a contradiction in their approach. During the course of the arguments most of the petitioners conceded that conduct of SIR is necessary. Mr Yogendra Yadav (psephologist and politician) said he feels SIR is absolutely essential but he has problems with the designs only."

Dwivedi said the CAA of 2003 "was introduced in Parliament and passed when Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the Prime Minister, but there was complete consensus that this was required. Both sides, No opposition. The notification came to be passed when Manmohan Singh was PM, in 2004. That itself indicates that across the political spectrum, this amendment was considered to be desirable."

As the EC counsel stressed that Parliament made the law in view of illegal immigration, Justice Bagchi wondered if that was one of the reasons for the SIR and said that the June 24 order does not say so explicitly.

Justice Bagchi said the order only speaks of migration but not illegal migration specifically.

Dwivedi agreed that it could have been stated more clearly.

Justice Bagchi said "our question to you is since you are starting a special revision, was that in your mind? What was in your mind? it says migration, urbanisation etc. It does not clearly say illegal immigration... So are you second guessing now?

Dwivedi said he is not second guessing and added that "even if we ignore this, still the reasons which we gave are sufficient".

Man who helped police locate body of villager killed by Maoists dies by suicide

Jayprakash S Naidu
Raipur, January 22

HOURS AFTER helping the police locate the body of a man murdered last August for hoisting the national flag, a 55-year-old man allegedly died by suicide fearing reprisals in Chhattisgarh's Narayanpur district — the second such case in two months.

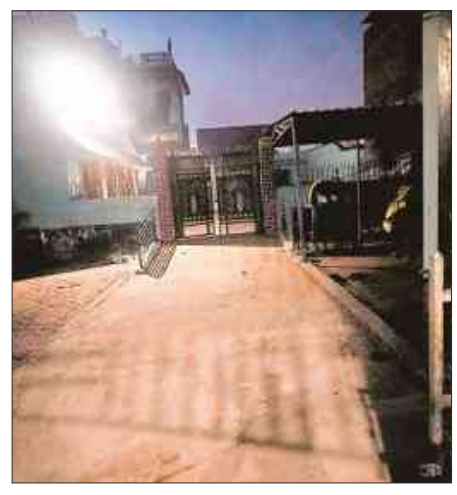
According to sources, Manku Padda, a resident of Binagunda village in Narayanpur, had aided Maoists on several occasions and wanted to surrender. He helped the police locate and exhume the body of Manesh Nareti, who was allegedly killed in August for unfurling the national flag on the outskirts of Binagunda village.

Soon after, Padda began to fear reprisals and consumed bird poison, sources said. His family alerted the police, and he was rushed to hospital but died during treatment on Tuesday night. Police said Binagunda village has long been considered a Maoist base camp under the North Bastar Division's Partapur area committee, with over two dozen Maoists still active in the area. In August, the insurgents abducted Nareti and two others for unfurling the national flag in Binagunda village. Nareti was summarily tried and executed in what Maoists call the Jan Adalat — or People's court — while the other two captives were assaulted. Nareti's body was buried at an undisclosed location.

'Bahut bhaichara tha': A UP village in shock as twin murders shatter harmony

Nirbhay Thakur
Moradabad (UP), January 22





The residences of Kajal Saini (left) and Mohd Arman in Moradabad wear a deserted look. EXPRESS

A FEW hundred metres separated the family homes of Kajal Saini, 19, and Mohd Arman, 27. In Umri, a mixed-population village in Uttar Pradesh's Moradabad, which is almost equal parts Saini and Muslim and has no history of communal tension, it was easy to mistake that as a sign of proximity.

Now, that illusion lies shattered.

On Wednesday, the bodies of Kajal and Arman were found buried next to a riverbank near Umri, allegedly killed by her brothers on discovering their relationship.

"In 50 years, our two communities have never had a major fight... *Daawat bhi hum saath me khaate hain... bahut bhaichara tha. Pata nahin gaon ko kiski nazar lag gayi* (We would share our feasts... there was such brotherhood. God knows whose evil eye has brought us this day)," says a middle-aged man belonging to the Saini community.

Police, who have arrested Kajal's siblings Rajaram, Satish, and Rinku Saini for the murders, say the couple were beaten to death early on Monday.

The two-storey house where Kajal and Arman were attacked lies desolate Thursday. Her brothers, who work as labourers, live here; she was spending the night with them that day. Their parents live some distance away, nearer the fields.

Arman's brother Farman Ali, a year older, says Arman came back from Saudi Arabia only four months ago. "He was working at a KFC outlet there. He had started making furniture here." A lot of men in the area are in the furniture business.

Kajal, who had studied up to class 12, taught children at a school in the village.

SSP Moradabad, Satpal Antil said in a statement that the couple had been in a relationship for nearly two years. If they were, say the villagers, they kept it well hidden.

According to police, on Sunday night, Arman came to meet Kajal at her brothers' house. He was with her when one of her brothers reportedly spotted him. He alerted the others, and the three allegedly forced their way into Kajal's room and started beating the two of them.

One of the brothers allegedly fetched a spade and hit Arman repeatedly, until he fell unconscious in a pool of blood. Kajal tried to run out and raise an alarm, police said, but the brothers allegedly caught her and struck her with the spade too, killing her.

Later, the three allegedly stuffed Kajal and Arman's bodies in gunny bags, and carried them to the bank of the river Gagan and buried them near a temple.

The SSP said that police launched an inquiry when Arman's family contacted them on Tuesday, informing them that he was missing since Sunday night. Kajal's family also lodged a missing person's report the same day.

While Arman's family alerted police about his relationship with Kajal, her family tried to "mislead" them, suggesting that Arman had abducted her and would marry her after conversion, the officer said.

A sole policeman guards Arman's house, which is big and accommodates a large joint family. Farman, who drives a taxi for a living, says they came to know of the relationship between Kajal and Arman only recently. The families had cordial relations and celebrated all festive occasions together. But, Farman admits, when they could not find Arman on January 20, they feared the worst. "We immediately filed a missing complaint... But I could have never imagined (such an end)."

WITH INPUTS FROM ENS, LUCKNOW

FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Tribal Council of Great Nicobar alleges pressure to 'surrender' land

Nikhil Ghanekar
New Delhi, January 22

THE TRIBAL Council of the Great Nicobar Islands has alleged that officials of the Nicobar district administration have asked them to sign "surrender" certificates, writing off their claims over ancestral lands that were affected during the Great Tsunami of 2004.

In a virtual briefing held Thursday, the tribal chiefs alleged that officials from the Nicobar district administration and Andaman Adjim Janjati Vikas Samiti met with the council members on January 7 and verbally asked them to sign surrender certificates, purportedly in the interest of supporting the proposed Great Nicobar project. The Samiti is a registered society overseeing the welfare and protection of the particularly vulnerable tribal groups.

However, the council members refused to sign them and sought time to discuss the matter. The tribal chiefs said they were sent messages on January 3 regarding "surrender" certificates. They said that they were neither provided with any further details nor the meeting agenda was shared with them.

The Nicobarese community faced casualties in the 2004 Tsunami, and have repeatedly made demands to the Andaman and Nicobar Island administration to relocate them to their ancestral villages. Following the Tsunami, they were relocated to a settlement in Rajiv Nagar and New Chingenh, towards the eastern coast.

The council members said that accepting the administration's request would "permanently deprive" them of access to these lands. The Nicobarese population is around 1,200 on the Great and Little Nicobar islands. They have traditionally grown coconut, pandanus or screw pine on these lands and also used the coastal waters for fishing. Around 27 such villages are situated on the western coast of the Great Nicobar Island.

Barnabas Manju, chairman of the tribal council, said that in the past too, authorities got the council to sign no-objection certificates for denotification of a 84 sq km vast tribal reserve without revealing the full extent and impact of the mega infrastructure project on the tribal reserve and the forests they use for livelihoods. The council had later revoked its no-objection certificate within months, in November 2022.

Chief Secretary of the Andaman and Nicobar administration as well as the district magistrate of the Nicobar island did not respond to the mail and text message sent by the *The Indian Express* seeking an official comment.

Education Ministry forms panel to review suicide cases at IIT Kanpur

Express News Service
New Delhi, January 22

AFTER A PhD scholar jumped to death from a building at IIT Kanpur earlier this week, the Education Ministry has constituted a three-member committee to "review cases of student suicides" at the institute. This was the third such incident at IIT Kanpur in the past four months.

The committee will examine the circumstances around these incidents, institutional policies, grievance redressal mechanisms, counselling services, and other student support systems. The panel will be headed by Anil Sahasrabudhe, chairman of the NETF, and will comprise Dr Jitendra Nagpal, senior psychiatrist at Moolchand Hospital, and an official of the Education Ministry.

The committee has been tasked with ascertaining if IIT Kanpur has been complying with framework guidelines that the Ministry issued in 2023 on emotional and mental well-being of students at higher education institutions. It will identify gaps and areas to be strengthened in the framework for mental health and well-being, and will recommend measures to the Ministry on prevention of student suicides, and enhancing support.

An order issued by the Ministry on Thursday stated that the committee will submit its report in 15 days.

With feast and memories of a glorious past, 'Darbhanga Raj' marks end of an era

Santosh Singh
Darbhanga, January 22



Food being prepared for the feast in Darbhanga on Thursday. EXPRESS

LONG TABLES laden with rice, dahl, at least five types of vegetable dishes, and five types of desserts, lined the feast area of the Kalyani Niwas complex in Darbhanga on Thursday. They then sat to eat under the sombre white pandals, on neatly arranged chairs and sofas.

"The food was very good. The rasgollahs, too," said Raj Kishore Jha, who travelled from Madhubani to be there on the occasion. "I came to pay my respects to the Queen. Darbhanga Raj is still the pride of the region."

Like Jha, more than 25,000 people arrived in Kalyani Niwas on Thursday, the last day of rituals following the death of Maharani Kamsundari Devi, also known as Kalyani Devi, the last queen of Darbhanga Raj. Her death in the early hours of January 12 marked the end of an era. She was the third wife of Maharaja Kameshwar Singh, the last ruler of Darbhanga Raj — one of the most illustrious Zamindari estates established during Mughal rule. The last Maharaja, who died in 1962, did not have any children with any of his three wives.

Born in 1932 in Mangrauli village of Madhubani, Kamsundari Devi got married to Kameshwar Singh in 1943. His first wife, Maharani Rajlakshmi Devi, died in 1976, and his second wife, Maharani Kameshwari Priya, died in 1940.

It was Kamsundari Devi who had been in charge of Maharaja Kameshwar Singh Religious Trust, which has 108 temples, several with land plots, across the country and also in Pakistan and Bangladesh. She also founded the Maharajadhiraj Kameshwar Singh Kalyani Foundation, which organises a major seminar every year, inviting renowned scholars from across the country. The foundation's library in Darbhanga has over 15,000 books.

Bihar Governor Arif Mohammed Khan was among several dignitaries to attend the last day of rituals. He recalled the "great contribution of the family to nation building", particularly towards the "cause of education". Darbhanga BJP MP Gopal Ji Thakur, BJP state president Sanjay Saraogi, former BJP president Dilip Jaiswal, Bihar minister and state government representative Madan Sahani, senior RJD leader Abdul Bari Siddiqui and former Bihar Congress president Madan Mohan Jha were also present.

Greeting the guests were Kumar Rajeshwar Singh and Kumar Kapileshwar Singh, the grandsons of Maharaja Kameshwar Singh's brother. According to the Maharaja's will, they become automatic trustees of the family's religious trust after the last queen's death.

The nearly 500-year-old Darbhanga Raj's grandeur can still be made out from the high sandstone fort walls and other royal structures that line the Lalbagh area of Darbhanga.

The beginning of Darbhanga Raj also dates back to the 16th century. It was founded by Mahesh Thakur of the Khandvala dynasty from present-day Jabalpur (in Madhya Pradesh). His descendants later bore the Singh surname, with Lakhmishwar Singh and Kameshwar Singh being two of the most prominent rulers of Darbhanga Raj. It was once spread over 6,200 km in united Bengal and some parts of Nepal. The Raj at one point collected revenue from 4,495 villages.

One of the most popular stories about Darbhanga Raj, however, comes from the 20th century, when the family donated 600 kg of gold to the Indian government to support the armed forces during the war with China in 1962.

The book, '*Biography of an Indian Patriot: Maharaja Lakshmishwar Singh of Darbhanga*', written by Jata Shankar Jha and edited by Vijay Deo Jha, mentions the then Darbhanga Raj ruler making Lowther Castle in Allahabad available for the Indian National Congress's historic convention in 1892. As per the book, the Maharaja Lakshmishwar Singh had said, "It is a source of the greatest pleasure to me that the first use of this property, since my acquiring it, has been for Congress purposes."

There are now several leading institutions that are being run from the many properties of the Darbhanga Raj. These include the Lalit Narayan Mithila University in Darbhanga, which has its head office and some postgraduate departments located in Nargona Palace. Moreover, the Kameshwar Singh Darbhanga Sanskrit University is located in the Darbhanga Raj's Lakshminivas Palace; the Darbhanga Medical College and Hospital is located in 300 acres of land donated by the Raj; and the Postal Training College in Darbhanga is housed in a Raj building. The estate also donated 90 acres of land for the Darbhanga airport, and Darbhanga House, a part of Patna University, was also donated by it.

In Kalyani Niwas, where Maharani Kamsundari Devi lived until her death, the feast on the last day of her death was open for all on Thursday. There was a big police presence due to intermittent VIP movement.

FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

At Kerala Lit Fest, Sunita opens up on retirement, months spent stuck in space

Shaju Philip
Kozhikode, January 22



Sunita Williams speaks at the Kerala Literature Festival in Kozhikode on Thursday. PTI

NASA ASTRONAUT Sunita Williams, who recently announced her retirement after a 27-year career, said during a visit to Kozhikode in Kerala on Friday that she would have loved to go to space again, but that there were some good young astronauts now who are doing "wonderful jobs".

Williams, who is in Kozhikode to take part in the ninth edition of the Kerala Literature Festival, said, "I would love to go to space again, but my husband would kill me. I have some things to do at home," she said, adding that she was excited to see the work of new astronauts.

Referring to the nine months when she and her crewmate Butch Wilmore had to stay for an extended nine-month period in the International Space Station due to technical issues with an experimental capsule, Williams said, "We were trying to participate in as much as we could, as well as being productive members on the space station."

She said she wanted to occupy her time. "We were extra crewmates up there. We were eating a lot of food, and using the bathroom quite a bit... So, obviously, food needs to be stocked, and the bathroom cleaned when all other experiments and other things are going on. These may not be the most glorious jobs up in space, but you need to pitch in and be part of the team," she said.

"As the summer rolled in, it was becoming more clear that we probably were not going home. Then it's time to focus on being crew members up there. And it is a team sport. I had to always remember that and remind people that two people were supposed to be on that spacecraft that came and brought us home. They graciously stepped aside and only two seats went up, so there were two empty seats for me and Butch Wilmore to come back. That was a huge event for someone who was training for a number of years to say that I am not going to fly," she said.

Referring to India's space missions, she said, "I am excited for the Indian space programme. Ideas are becoming a reality. I think as they get more involved internationally, as well as with their own programme, they're going to go to space before too long," she said.

TROOPS WERE ON THE MOVE FOR AN ANTI-TERROR OPERATION

10 soldiers killed as vehicle plunges into gorge in Doda

Press Trust of India
Bhaderwah/Jammu, January 22



An Army helicopter arrives to airlift the injured personnel to Udhampur, in Doda on Thursday. ANI

AN ARMOURED vehicle of the Army carrying troops for an anti-terror operation plunged into a deep gorge in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district on Thursday, killing 10 soldiers and injuring 11 others, officials said.

The accident took place at the 9000-foot-high Khanni top along the Bhaderwah-Chamba interstate road around noon when the driver of the bullet-proof vehicle, Casspir, lost control and the vehicle plunged into a 200-foot-deep gorge.

The Casspir, also known as 'Casper', is a Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle, designed to keep troops safe while navigating hostile environments with high mine or IED threats.

The Army's Jammu-based White Knight Corps described the incident as "unfortunate" and said the vehicle slipped off the road while navigating treacherous terrain in bad weather.

A joint rescue operation by the Army and police recovered the bodies of four soldiers, while 17 others were evacuated to a hospital in an injured condition, the officials said. The vehicle was badly mangled by the rescue team.

Later, six more injured soldiers succumbed to injuries.

While 10 of the injured were airlifted to Udhampur command hospital for specialised treatment, one more soldier is under observation in Bhaderwah sub-district hospital and his condition was stated to be "stable", the officials said.

"We have lost 10 soldiers with 11 others injured in the unfortunate accident involving an army vehicle," Additional Deputy Commissioner, Bhaderwah, Sumit Kumar Bhutyal told PTI.

"In an unfortunate incident, an Army vehicle carrying troops for an operation slipped off the road while navigating treacherous terrain in bad weather in the general area of Doda. There are multiple casualties, including fatal. The injured have been evacuated for further treatment," White Knight Corps said in a post on X.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and former chief minister Ghulam Nabi Azad expressed grief over the accident.

"Deeply saddened by the tragic road accident in Doda in which we lost 10 brave soldiers of the Indian Army. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families," the defence minister said in a post on X.

Singh said the injured soldiers are receiving medical care, and all necessary directions have been given to ensure the best possible treatment.

Abdullah lauded the swift rescue and evacuation efforts. He also conveyed condolences to the families of the soldiers who died and wished a speedy recovery to those injured.

LG Sinha, in a post on X, said, "We will always remember the outstanding service and supreme sacrifice of our brave soldiers." "In this moment of profound sorrow, the entire nation stands united with the bereaved families in solidarity and support," the LG said, adding he had directed the senior officials to ensure the best possible treatment.

Expressing sadness over the accident, Congress president Kharge called for strengthening road safety measures to prevent such deaths.

"My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and loved ones. The nation stands united with deep sorrow and our thoughts and prayers are with the injured for a speedy recovery.

"Several such instances have happened in the past. There is an urgent need to strengthen road infrastructure, improve mobility in difficult terrain, and road-safety measures to prevent such heartbreaking losses," he said.

Democratic Progressive Azad Party Azad said, "My deepest condolences to the bereaved families, and I pray for the swift recovery of those injured." Army's Northern Commander said the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief Lt Gen Pratik Sharma and all ranks of the Command salute the bravehearts and express heartfelt condolences on the untimely demise of soldiers who lost their lives in the unfortunate vehicle accident. "Northern Command fraternity stands in solidarity with the bereaved families and wishes speedy recovery to those injured in the accident," it said in a post on X.

BRIEFLY



The tragedy took place at the sponge iron manufacturing unit of an industrial plant in Balodabazar-Bhatapara district. ANI

CHHATTISGARH

Six labourers killed, five critical after fly ash leak at steel plant

SIX LABOURERS were killed and five were critically injured after fly ash at an extremely high temperature leaked from the fifth floor of a steel plant and fell on 11 labourers in Chhattisgarh's Balodabazar-Bhatapara district Thursday morning. The incident took place at around 9.40 am in the sponge iron manufacturing unit of an industrial plant belonging to Real Ispat and Power Ltd in Bakulahi village in the Bhatapara rural area, the district's Collector Deepak Soni said. Most of those killed are from Bihar, while the injured are from Bihar and Jharkhand, the police said. PTI

UTTAR PRADESH

Judge's gold chain stolen at Magh Mela

A GOLD chain weighing about 25 gm, along with a locket, was allegedly stolen from a woman judge while she was heading for a ritual bath on Mauni Amavasya during the Magh Mela in Prayagraj on January 18, police said Thursday. According to the complaint, the victim Diksha Taneja is posted as a senior civil judge in the Datia district of MP. PTI

GUJARAT

Congress MP's nephew shoots wife, himself

THE NEPHEW of a Congress MP shot his wife before taking his own life with the licensed gun in their apartment in Ahmedabad, police said on Thursday. Yashrajsinh Durgeshsinh Gohil, 30, the nephew of Congress MP Shaktisinh Gohil — son of his late younger brother Durgeshsinh — married Rajeshwari, 30, two months ago. ENS

IN PAST 19 MONTHS, HALF-A-DOZEN ODISHA TOWNS HAVE SEEN CURFEW, INTERNET SUSPENSION

Attack on pastor follows a spate of communal violence in Odisha; Opp blames BJP govt 'ecosystem'

Sujit Bisoyi
Bhubaneswar, January 22



In December, tension had erupted in Sundargarh town in western Odisha over rumours of beef, that left at least 12 injured

EIGHTEEN DAYS after a pastor was assaulted in Parjang Police Station area of Odisha's Dhenkanal, and hours after the wife's complaint drew outrage from leaders across the country, the Odisha Police on Thursday said nine people have been detained and are being questioned.

Police said they came to know of the January 4 incident only after the wife lodged a complaint, that pastor Bipin Naik was assaulted by a mob comprising allegedly Bajrang Dal members, had vermillion smeared on him, was paraded with a garland of shoes, and compelled to bow before a temple, over allegations of conversion.

Admitting that they were investigating these charges, Dhenkanal SP Abhinav Sonkar said other claims, that Naik had been forced to drink water from a drain and force-fed cow dung, had been found to be incorrect. "These haven't been mentioned in the complaint nor have we found any indication of this," Sonkar said.

In the past 19 months, half-a-dozen Odisha towns have seen curfew and Internet suspension over communal incidents, including lynching of Bengali-speaking Muslims. In most of the cases, the accused have been members of right-wing Hindu outfits.

Officials say many other cases may have gone unreported, with victims being Bengali-speaking daily wagers who are hesitant to approach police.

The Opposition has slammed it as "jungle raj" and the coming of "communal tension" to a state where the BJP formed its first solo government in June 2024.

The latest case was on January 14, when a Muslim youth was lynched by alleged 'cow vigilantes' in Balasore district. This was barely weeks after a Muslim youth from Murshidabad in West Bengal, 30-year-old Jewel Sheikh, was beaten to death in Sambalpur district.

In both the cases, police initially denied any 'hate crime'. While his co-workers and family members alleged Jewel had been assaulted on the suspicion of being an illegal Bangladeshi immigrant, police said the victim and the accused knew each other and had fought over a bidi. Six people were later arrested.

In the January 14 Balasore case, the initial police FIR, lodged on the basis of a complaint by a sub-inspector, had no mention of the assault or any names. It only stated that a driver and owner of a van were charged with rash driving, and under Sections of the Prevention of Cow Slaughter Act. However, a video of the incident showed 'Sk Makandar Mahammad' (who died in the incident) being beaten up, forced to chant Jai Shri Ram and to refer to the cow as his mother.

A murder case was registered after Makandar's brother lodged a complaint against five people. Three were finally arrested, with self-proclaimed "gau-rakshaks" staging a dharna outside the Balasore Superintendent of Police's office seeking their release.

By then, communal tension had erupted in Sundargarh town in western Odisha over rumours of beef, that left at least 12 injured. The government had to suspend the Internet and impose prohibitory orders.

In October 2025, in an incident virtually unknown for the city, Cuttack saw a curfew of around three days following communal violence that started with a clash during Durga Puja immersion. Days later, members of the VHP clashed with police and indulged in vandalism and arson.

Following the incident, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, who also holds the Home portfolio, issued an appeal for peace. "Cuttack is a thousand-year-old city known for its unity and communal harmony. Due to the actions of some miscreants, peace has been disturbed in recent days," he said.

Claiming "complete lawlessness in the state", BJD Rajya Sabha MP Sulata Deo said: "There is an ecosystem backed by some people in power that encourages such activities... It's the duty of the government to protect everyone, especially the minorities."

Former chief minister and BJD president Naveen Patnaik has urged the government and all communities to protect the state's image of communal harmony.

Congress spokesperson Amiya Pandav said the hate incidents against minorities are "carefully organized crimes promoted and patronised by the ruling BJP".

Bishop Pallav Lima, general secretary of the Odisha unit of the Rashtriya Christian Morcha, blames police "inaction" in hate crimes, for the rise in communal incidents. Syed Barkat Ali Tanveer, the coordinator of the Odisha Muslim Development Council, says attempts are being made to incite hate. A retired top police officer accuses provocative statements by leaders as prompting vigilantes to take the law into their own hands. BJP MLA Ashok Mohanty says the Opposition's charge of the Majhi government doing nothing is "baseless". "Attacks on cattle smugglers" are only a reflection of the anger of the people, he says. "Those who indulge in cattle smuggling should be aware of this."

'Homebound' misses Oscar race in a fierce competition

Alaka Sahani
Mumbai, January 22



Actors Ishaan Khatter and Vishal Jethwa in Homebound. FACEBOOK/@DHARMAMOVIES

DIRECTOR NEERAJ Ghaywan's *Homebound* bowed out of the Oscar race at the nomination stage on Thursday.

The five nominees announced for the International Feature Film category for the 98th Academy Awards are Brazil's *The Secret Agent*, France's *It Was Just an Accident*, Norway's *Sentimental Value*, Spain's *Sirāt*, and Tunisia's *The Voice of Hind Rajab*. Though *Homebound*, which premiered in the Un Certain Regard section at the Cannes Film Festival in May last year, had secured a spot among the 15 films shortlisted for the International Feature Film category last month, competition for the final five nominations was especially fierce.

After winning multiple awards at Cannes, including best director award for *Kleber Mendonça Filho* and best actor award for *Wagner Moura* (who is popular for playing Pablo Escobar in the series *Narcos*), *The Secret Agent* has steadily gained momentum during the awards season. The Brazilian political drama, set in 1977 when the country was under dictatorship, explores the absurdities of life as Moura, who plays a widower, returns to Recife during a carnival, to be reunited with his son.

Filho, known for directing acclaimed movies like *Bacurau*, makes a strong statement about everyday corruption and military dictatorship in the 160-minute period piece that's being praised for its visual richness and sound. *The Secret Agent* has already bagged Golden Globes for Best Motion Picture-Non-English Language and Best Performance by a Male Actor in a Motion Picture-Drama for *Moura*.

It Was Just an Accident, written and directed by Iranian filmmaker Jafar Panahi, has long been considered an Oscar frontrunner. Shot discreetly in Tehran, the winner of Palme d'Or, and four Golden Globes nominations, Panahi's movie is an unconventional revenge drama that dwells more on moral dilemmas even as it packs an incisive commentary on authoritarianism.

Yet another Oscar-favourite *Sentimental Value*, directed and co-written by Joachim Trier, has received nine nominations including Best Picture, Best Director, Best Actress (Renate Reinsve), Best Supporting Actor (Stellan Skarsgård), and Best Supporting Actress nominations for *Elle Fanning* and *Ibsdotter Lilleaas*. The movie, which won the Grand Prix at Cannes, is a gripping exploration of the estranged relationship between an aging filmmaker past his prime and his daughters.

Directed by Oliver Laxe, Sirât, a winner of 2025 Cannes Jury Prize, deftly combines a visually and sonically rich experience. A father (Sergi López), accompanied by his young son and a dog, looks for his missing daughter, who is supposed to be entangled in the local rave culture, in the Moroccan desert. What makes this genre-defying movie engrossing is its emotional depth.

The Voice of Hind Rajab is one of the most political narratives competing for the Oscar trophy. The docudrama, written and directed by Kaouther Ben Hania, follows the events after Hind Rajab, a six-year-old Palestinian girl, contacts Palestinian Red Crescent Society to rescue her while under siege in Gaza City in 2024 and after losing her family members, who had been shot in an attack by the Israeli Defence Forces. The film uses the real voice of Hind Rajab while recreating the action of emergency response coordinators. Even though *Homebound's* Oscar campaign comes to an end, it remains a significant Indian film that touched the global audience with the story of two young friends and their struggles. Producer Karan Johar summed it up aptly when he thanked Ghaywan on social media for "allowing us to bask in your light".

SEE ALSO P 14

ONE-HOUR-AND-45 MINUTES LONG PLAY IS READY TO OPEN ON JANUARY 29 IN MUMBAI

Breast of Luck: Born from friendship, musical shines light on cancer and care

Alaka Sahani
New Delhi, January 22

AFTER TWO consecutive days of hospital visits for targeted therapy for cancer, actor Tannishtha Chatterjee has returned to rehearsals, stepping back into the role of Sheila Roy, a singer.

Rehearsing alongside her is actor Sharib Hashmi, who plays a stockbroker marked by a goofy, self-deprecating charm. Off stage, Hashmi has been a caregiver and biggest support for his wife Nasreen, a cancer survivor, an experience that informs his engagement with the upcoming play. Under the watchful eye of director Leena Yadav, the two actors perform scenes from Breast of Luck, a play they have co-written, drawing on personal experiences that have been woven into the script.

When Tannishtha and Sharib were shooting for a film in Dehradun in October 2024, they often spent their breaks discussing the possibility of developing a two-actor play. They began reading several scripts, but none felt right. In January 2025, on the day they were scheduled to meet in Mumbai for another round of discussions, Tannishtha received her diagnosis. Though shaken by the news, and worried about how she would share this with her mother, and nine-year-old daughter, she chose not to cancel the meeting that evening.

"I thought it would make me feel better to meet a friend, even though I wasn't planning to tell him about my diagnosis. When he sensed something was wrong, I broke down. He made me speak to Nasreen and that helped," says Tannishtha.

The conversations that followed led Tannishtha and Sharib to decide to develop a play together from scratch, by weaving in some of their experiences of dealing with cancer in the narrative. By October, an initial draft was ready, which they read out to their friend, writer-director Leena for feedback. She responded positively and offered to direct the play. After weeks of readings and rehearsals, the one-hour-and-45 minutes long play is ready to open on January 29 at Mumbai's G5A. After two shows each on January 29 and 30 at G5A, Breast of Luck will be staged on February 4, observed as World Cancer Day, as part of the Kala Ghoda Arts Festival at Yashwantrao Chavan Center. On February 11, they will perform the play at the PL Deshpande Maharashtra Kala Akademi for Bharat Rang Mahotsav and in Lucknow on February 14.



The play features actors Tannishtha Chatterjee and Sharib Hashmi

From the very beginning, Sharib and Tannishtha were keen on developing a musical and keeping it lighthearted. "We started writing the play after Tannishtha was diagnosed with cancer. It was Tannishtha's idea to incorporate some elements from our lives in the narrative. Yet, we were clear about giving it a humorous touch. We wanted to convey some important things but did not want to make it morose. That's why we incorporated romance, music, and laughter," says Sharib, known for his role as 'JK' in The Family Man web series. He says the play became their means of dealing with their respective personal struggles. The process of writing the play involved jamming in person as well as over Zoom. "We constantly improvised and re-wrote. Though we mostly wrote the parts involving our individual characters, we shared our ideas about them. We wrote our personal monologues," says Tannishtha, a National School of Drama graduate who has acted in acclaimed movies like Brick Lane (2007), Parched (2015) and Joram (2023).

Several others contributed to the making of the play. Lyricist Swanand Kirkere wrote a song, Maanaav Poddar composed the music and Ashley Lobo choreographed a sequence. NSD graduates Kunal Bhange and Sumit stepped in to do production design and lights, respectively. Casting director Mukesh Chabbra offered his space for rehearsals. "As a director, I just helped Sharib and Tannishtha with the structure and dramatistion. I did not want to intrude on what they were doing but be a part of their process," says Leena, who has directed Rajma Chawal (2018) and House of Secrets: The Burari Deaths (2021).

Tannishtha is still undergoing treatment; in fact, she has a targeted therapy session on January 27, two days before the play's opening.

Meitei man married to Kuki-Zo woman shot in Manipur, video captures killing — & a message

Sukrita Baruah
Guwahati, January 22

A MAN from the Meitei community was shot dead in Manipur's Churachandpur on Wednesday evening — a killing that was recorded on video and circulated, interrupting months of relative peace in the state.

The man had been living with his wife, who is from the Kuki-Zo community, for the past month in a village in Churachandpur.

In the video, which surfaced late Wednesday night, the man can be seen sitting on the ground outdoors in the dark. The 1-minute, 12-second video carries the text "No peace, no popular government", a reference to attempts to restore a popular government in the state. While it does not have any audio, the man can be seen pleading with folded hands to some people who are not visible in the video, until two shots are fired at him. Then, he is shown motionless on the ground.

Churachandpur Superintendent of Police Gaurav Dogra confirmed that the incident captured in the video took place around 7-7.30 pm on Wednesday, and identified the man as Mayanglambam Rishikanta, who originally hailed from Kakching Khunou in Manipur's Meitei-majority valley. The SP said that the incident took place at a village called Natjang, located a few kilometres away from Tuibong, where the deceased had been living with his wife, Chingnu Haokip. The place of occurrence is a 30-minute drive from Churachandpur town, where the Kuki-Zos are in the majority.

"We got in touch with his wife and found that he had been staying at the village for the past month. The locals, including the village authorities, were aware. He does not normally live in Manipur; he works and lives in Nepal. Then yesterday, some armed miscreants arrived at the village and abducted them and killed him. We have not been able to pinpoint those responsible yet, and no one has taken responsibility either. The investigation is ongoing," said the SP.

According to a security official in Churachandpur, they have learnt that two individuals abducted the couple and took them in an SUV to a spot where there were two more people, all of them masked. Haokip was pushed out of the vehicle around a kilometre before the site at which the killing took place. The body was retrieved and taken to the morgue at the district hospital, and is expected to be handed over to his family in Kakching later on Thursday. The official also stated that multiple parties of the police, Army, CRPF and Assam Rifles conducted combing operations in the area on Thursday.

Another police official said that the deceased had arrived at Churachandpur on December 19 and had been staying with Haokip ever since.

The deceased's cousin, Amarjit Mayanglambam, said the family was unaware Rishikanta was back in Manipur and staying in Churachandpur until they found out about his killing from the video on Wednesday night.

"The girl called us late at night, around 1:30 am, and told us that he had been there since December 19. He last spoke to his father on January 19 to check on him, but didn't mention it then either. He knew that his family would be upset and not support him," he said.

He said that though authorities have referred to Haokip as Rishikanta's wife, the family only knew that they were engaged.

"They met in Guwahati around 2018-2019, where Rishikanta was working at the time. Then he left to work at a private company in Nepal around six years ago, but they continued to be together. They got engaged in early 2023, and when the conflict started in May 2023, the wedding was cancelled. After that, the family was not aware that they were in touch," he claimed.

The ripples of the incident were felt in the Meitei-majority valley, where a Joint Action Committee was formed by locals. It demanded that the case be handed over to the NIA and warned that they will launch an agitation if the culprits are not apprehended within three days.

This killing comes during a period of relative calm in Manipur. President's Rule in the state will complete one year on February 14, and there are ongoing discussions and efforts to build consensus on the formation of a popular government in the state.

A meeting last week was attended by representatives of Kuki-Zo insurgent groups that are signatories to the Suspension of Operation (SoO) agreements, MLAs from the community, and a civil society organisation called the Kuki-Zo Council. A resolution was passed setting conditions for the formation of a new popular government in the state.

Agencies suspect Kuki body behind murder

Deeptiman Tiwary
New Delhi, January 22

THE WEDNESDAY killing of a Meitei man married to a Kuki woman in Churachandpur is being suspected to have been carried out by a Kuki militant organisation not in ceasefire agreement with the government. The execution, which was filmed and then the video circulated online, has now cast a shadow on the Centre's attempt at forming a popular government in the state by early February.

"This is a deliberate attempt to vitiate the atmosphere in the state and an effort to spark a fresh cycle of violence. The message superimposed on the video, 'No Peace, No Popular Government', makes it clear what it is aimed at. This is a political killing," a senior security establishment officer said.

A Meitei man, identified as Mayanglambam, was on Wednesday abducted along with his wife, Chingnu Haokip, from Nathjang village in Kuki-dominated Churachandpur by unidentified militants. While the wife was let go after some time, the man was shot dead.

While no organisation has taken responsibility, sources in the security establishment suspect it to be the handiwork of operatives belonging to United Kuki National Army (UKNA). It is, however, not yet clear whether the killing was carried out on the orders of UKNA leadership or it was a decision taken by the cadres on their own.

"It is also possible that the killing has been carried out as a contract. There are elements on either side of the ethnic divide in the state that do not want a popular government to be formed. UKNA cadres may be just the medium with someone else calling the shots," another officer said.

UKNA operates as a non-signatory to Suspension of Operations (SoO) agreements, unlike other Kuki groups under truces since 2008. It has around 450 cadres armed with over 300 sophisticated weapons, maintaining camps in Manipur's hills and Myanmar. The group emerged amid ethnic tensions, focusing on Kuki tribal interests without formal political wings like some counterparts.

Sources said the suspicion of a larger conspiracy is also informed by the fact that the victim, said to be originally from Meitei-dominated Kakching Khunou area in the state, had been staying in the village since December 19 and everyone was aware of the mixed ethnicity of the couple.

Sources said Mayanglambam got married to Haokip in 2022, before the ethnic violence started in the state. The couple was subsequently disowned by their respective families. Leaving his wife behind, Mayanglambam then went to Nepal to earn a livelihood. He came back this December after taking due permission from the Kuki National Organisation (KNO), the key SoO group which is in talks with the government and one which virtually controls the affairs in the hills.

While Haokip's brother is also said to be part of the KNO, sources ruled out honour killing or execution inspired by ethnic hatred. "There are more than 100 such couples living in Churachandpur... living with full knowledge of society there. The couple got married in 2022. A lot of time has passed by since. The woman's parents also do not live here, but in Guwahati," an officer said.

The killing comes on the back of a sudden spurt of violence in the state following reports of attempts by the Centre to form a popular government in Manipur.

On January 5, an IED exploded inside an abandoned house in Saiton Ngaukon village under Phougakchao Ikhai police station in Bishnupur district. As a mob gathered at the site, another bomb went off, injuring two people. Sources in the security establishment have ruled out the involvement of Kuki groups in the incident.

On January 8, a grenade was hurled at a fuel station, following which police apprehended two members of the Meitei insurgent group KYKL.

These incidents have come in addition to the political hurdles that the Centre is facing in the formation of a popular government.

On the hills, Kuki groups have dug in their heels over their demand for separate administration. At a meeting of Kuki-Zo insurgent groups and MLAs from the community held in Guwahati on Tuesday, participants resolved that participation in a new popular government would require the Centre to give a written "political commitment" on a separate Union Territory for Kuki-Zo-majority areas. They underlined that the demand "must be finalised and signed before the expiration of the normal tenure of the current Legislative Assembly", which ends in 2027.

This hardline position has put the Centre in a bind. Forming a government without Kuki MLAs would deprive it of legitimacy, but committing to separate administration materialising before the polls is also not considered feasible.

In the Valley, the BJP does not have its house in order with multiple factions within the party. Sources said there is a faction within the state unit that is not in favour of government formation since its leader does not see himself becoming the CM. Among the rest, there are more than one claimants to the CM's post, they said.

ON BASANT PANCHAMI

SC permits Hindu puja, Muslim prayers at disputed MP site

Express News Service
New Delhi, January 22

AFTER THE Madhya Pradesh Government agreed to make arrangements for separate entry and exit for Hindus and Muslims and maintain law and order, the Supreme Court Thursday issued directions for simultaneous holding of Basant Panchami puja and namaz at the Archaeological Survey of India-protected Bhojshala Temple/Kamal Maula Mosque complex in the state's Dhar district Friday.

A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi also directed the High Court to supply copies of a scientific survey of the disputed site carried out by ASI to the opposing parties. The court allowed Friday prayers on a plea by an organisation, the Hindu Front for Justice, seeking permission for day-long rituals there on Basant Panchami, which will be observed on Friday.

Appearing for the applicant, Advocate Vishnu Shankar Jain said while ASI has allowed puja and namaz at the site on separate days, Basant Panchami this year falls on a Friday, when Muslims have been permitted to offer namaz. The court initially asked whether Hindus could hold the rituals until about 12 pm, and then continue after 3 pm, by which time the Muslim worshippers would have completed namaz.

Senior Advocate Salman Khurshid, appearing for the Muslim side, said only 2 hours would be necessary for the namaz. However, Jain pointed out that Basant Panchami rituals continue the whole day and wondered if the namaz can be shifted after 5 pm, but Khurshid expressed an inability to do this.

Additional Solicitor General K M Nataraj, appearing for the state, said that if the number of people attending can be provided, the administration is ready to create separate entry and exit for the two communities so that they can continue their worship simultaneously without disturbing each other. Both sides agreed to the suggestion, following which the court issued the directions.

In its order, the bench said, "A fair suggestion was given that in the afternoon, for namaz within 1 and 3 pm, an exclusive and separate area within the same compound, including separate ingress and egress within the same compound, shall be made available so that namaz can be performed. Similarly, a separate space shall be made available to the Hindu community to hold traditional ceremonies on the occasion of Basant Panchami".

Stronger ties between India, EU can de-risk world economy: EAM

Shubhajit Roy
New Delhi, January 22

A STRONGER relationship between India and the European Union can de-risk the world economy, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Thursday as he met the envoys of 27 EU member states, led by the EU envoy to India, in New Delhi.

This comes ahead of the India-EU leaders' summit and the visit of the EU leaders to India for the Republic Day celebrations.

Jaishankar posted on X, "Spoke to them about the current state of the world with volatility and instability as the new normal." The meeting is significant at a time when the US administration led by President Donald Trump is being seen as unpredictable by New Delhi.

Jaishankar said a stronger India-EU relationship can stabilise the global order through stronger trade, mobility and security partnership. He also underlined the need for cooperation between the two sides to ensure resilient supply chains.

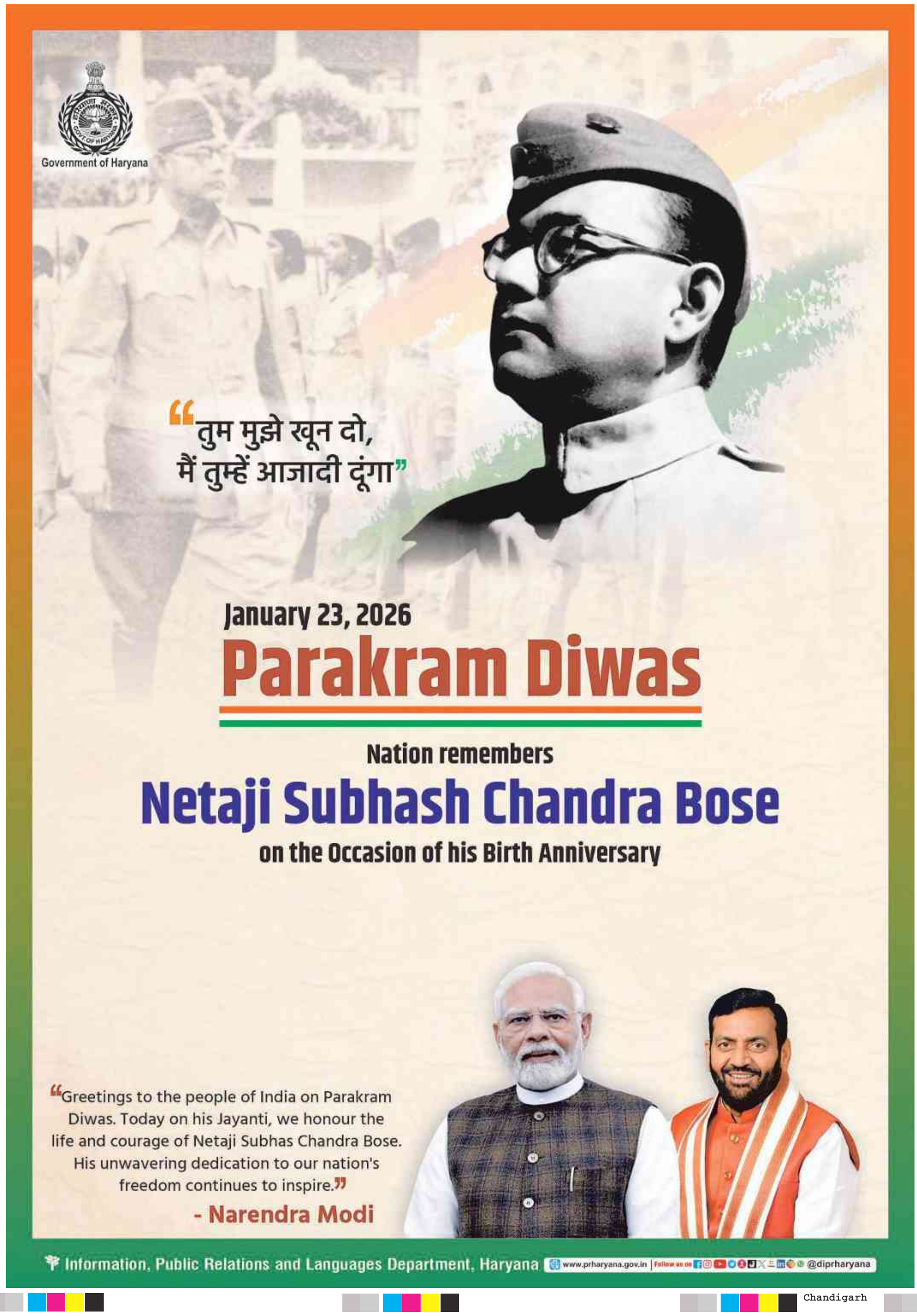
President of the European Council Antonio Costa and President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen will be on a state visit to India from January 25-27.

The two European leaders will attend India's 77th Republic Day celebrations as the chief guests. Costa and von der Leyen will hold summit talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 27.

"Look forward to the visit of @eucopresident Antonio Costa and European Commission President @vonderleyen to India for Republic Day celebrations," Jaishankar said.

EU Ambassador to India Herve Delphin described the interaction with Jaishankar as "excellent".

"Excellent exchange with EAM @DrSJaishankar with Team EU/27 Ambassadors reflecting the high convergence of interests & the strategic value of our growing EU / bilateral partnerships with India: benefits are mutual & global. All eyes on next week's EU-India Summit & its deliverables," he wrote on X.



Putin's googly: Ownership of Greenland is of no concern to us

Reuters
Moscow, January 22

PRESIDENT VLADIMIR Putin said on Wednesday that Greenland's ownership was not Russia's concern and that the United States and Denmark - whose historical treatment of the island he criticised - should sort the matter out between themselves.

Moscow has watched with glee as US President Donald Trump's drive to acquire Greenland has widened Washington's split with Europe, even though his moves could have ramifications for Russia, which already has a strong Arctic presence.

Speaking in Davos, Trump on Wednesday stepped back from threats to impose tariffs as leverage to seize Greenland and ruled out the use of force. Putin, addressing the matter for the first time in public, signalled that Russia would not object to Trump's push to control Greenland, which he speculated may be worth nearly $1 billion.

"What happens in Greenland is of no concern to us whatsoever. Incidentally, Denmark has always treated Greenland as a colony and has been quite harsh, if not cruel, towards it. But that is a different matter altogether, and hardly anyone is interested in it now," Putin told a meeting of Russia's Security Council.

Denmark's financial and military support for Ukraine has angered Russia, which is fighting to take full control of four Ukrainian regions it claimed as its own in 2022.

Russia's foreign ministry has bridled at Trump's suggestion that Moscow has ambitions on Greenland too, but has been careful not to criticise Trump.

MANY TOP U.S. ALLIES ARE NOT PARTICIPATING, YET U.S. PRESIDENT SAYS...

'Everyone wants to be a part': Trump launches Board of Peace

Associated Press
Davos, January 22

PRESIDENT DONALD Trump on Thursday inaugurated his Board of Peace to lead efforts at maintaining a ceasefire in Israel's war with Hamas, insisting that "everyone wants to be a part" of the body he said could eventually rival the United Nations — despite many US allies opting not to participate.

In a speech at the World Economic Forum, Trump sought to create momentum for a project to map out a future of the war-torn Gaza Strip that has been overshadowed this week, first by his threats to seize Greenland, then by a dramatic retreat from that push.

"This isn't the United States, this is for the world," he said, adding, "I think we can spread it out to other things as we succeed in Gaza." The event featured Ali Shaath, the head of a new, future technocratic government in Gaza, announcing that the Rafah border crossing will open in both directions next week. That's after Israel said in early December it would open the crossing, which runs between Gaza and Egypt, but has yet to do so.

Shaath, an engineer and former Palestinian Authority official from Gaza, is overseeing the Palestinian committee set to govern the territory under US supervision.

The new peace board was initially envisioned as a small group of world leaders overseeing the ceasefire, but it has morphed into something far more ambitious — and scepticism about its membership and mandate has led some countries usually closest to Washington to take a pass.

Trump tried not to let those not participating ruin his unveiling party, saying 59 countries had signed onto the board — even though heads of state, top diplomats and other officials from only 19 countries plus the US actually attended the event. He told the group, ranging from Azerbaijan to Paraguay to Hungary, "You're the most powerful people in the world." Trump has spoken about the board replacing some UN functions and perhaps even making that entire body obsolete one day. But he was more conciliatory in his remarks on the sidelines of the forum in the Swiss alps.

"We'll do it in conjunction with the United Nations," Trump said, even as he denigrated the UN for doing what he said wasn't enough to calm some conflicts around the globe.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio said some countries' leaders have indicated they plan to join but still require approval from their parliaments.

Big questions remain, however, about what the eventual board will look like.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said his country is still consulting with Moscow's "strategic partners" before deciding to commit. The Russian was hosting Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on Thursday in Moscow.



President Donald Trump, center, poses with international leaders after the signing of a Board of Peace charter during the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, on Thursday. AP

First US, Russia and Ukraine trilateral talks to be held in UAE, says Zelenskyy

Reuters
Davos, January 22

PRESIDENT VOLODYMYR Zelenskyy said Thursday after talks with US President Donald Trump in Davos that terms of security guarantees for Ukraine had been finalised, but that the vital issue of territory in its war with Russia remains unsolved.

In what he said was a positive sign of progress in long-running peace talks to end the four-year conflict, Zelenskyy said negotiators from Russia, Ukraine and the US would hold trilateral meetings for the first time in Abu Dhabi on Friday and Saturday.

He also said a deal was almost ready on economic recovery after the war with Russia, a key element of Kyiv-backed proposals to push back on an earlier US peace plan seen as heavily favouring Moscow.

Zelenskyy and Trump - who have met half a dozen times since Trump returned to the White House last year and upended US policy on Ukraine - both said Thursday's talks were positive.

"I think the meeting with President Zelenskyy was good. It's an ongoing process," Trump told reporters, saying that US envoys were heading for talks in Moscow on Thursday.

Zelenskyy, who did not indicate he discussed territory with Trump on Thursday, had said earlier this week he would only travel to Davos if he could sign agreements with Trump on US security guarantees and post-war reconstruction funding for Ukraine.

Zelenskyy has been saddled with an energy crisis at home from Russian air strikes that have left millions of Ukrainians across swathes of the capital and other regions without power and heating.

• BRIEFLY

UNITED STATES

Massive winter storm to bring crippling snow, sleet and ice



A billboard warns of road preparations in Texas on Thursday. AP

TRAVEL DISRUPTIONS, power outages and frigid temperatures are expected to affect 150 million Americans on Friday and through the weekend as a massive storm clobbers the U.S with heavy snow and freezing rain from the Central Plains to the East Coast, the National Weather Service said. The storm, which could impact nearly half the country's population, will bring up to 20 inches (50.8 cm) of snow in the Appalachians and West Virginia mountains, while most people living in the eastern US could face dangerous slick or frozen roads and potential power outages from ice-laden trees and branches falling and snapping power lines, officials said. REUTERS

CAMBODIA

Govt to repatriate 73 scam suspects to South Korea

DOZENS OF South Koreans detained in Cambodia for alleged involvement in online scam compounds will be sent home this week to face investigations, officials said Thursday, in what would be the largest group reparation of Korean criminal suspects from abroad. The 73 South Korean suspects allegedly scammed fellow Koreans out of 48.6 billion won ($33 million), according to the statement. AP

IRAQ

Govt to prosecute Islamic State detainees

IRAQ'S SUPREME Judicial Council said on Thursday it would begin legal proceedings against Islamic State detainees transferred from Syria after the rapid collapse of Kurdish-led forces in northeast Syria triggered concerns over prison security. The US military said on Tuesday its forces had transferred 150 IS detainees from Syria to Iraq and that the operation could eventually see up to 7,000 detainees moved out of Syria. REUTERS

• NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

BANGLADESH

Fire rips through Cox's Bazar refugee camp

A MASSIVE fire destroyed hundreds of makeshift homes and displaced more than 2,000 people in a Rohingya refugee camp in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, prompting calls Thursday from relief agencies for more funding to build safer housing and help provide emergency aid. The fire broke out in the early morning hours of Tuesday in Camp 16, one of more than 30 camps in the Cox's Bazar district. AP

NEPAL

Probe panel on Gen Z violence gets extension

THE NEPAL government on Thursday extended by 20 days the tenure of a panel investigating the alleged excessive use of force during the Gen Z movement that led to the ouster of prime minister K P Sharma Oli. The extension has been granted for second time at the request of the Home Ministry, as preparations for the final report are still underway, despite a three-month deadline given to the panel. PTI

• OSCAR SEASON BEGINS WITH NOMINATIONS, VAMPIRE EPIC SUCKS IT ALL UP

'Sinners' makes history with 16 under its belt, 'One Battle...' bags 13

Associated Press
Los Angeles, January 22

RYAN COOGLER'S blues-steeped vampire epic "Sinners" led all films with 16 nominations to the 98th Academy Awards on Thursday, setting a record for the most in Oscar history.

Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences voters showered "Sinners" with more nominations than they had ever bestowed before, breaking the 14-nomination mark set by "All About Eve," "Titanic" and "La La Land."

Along with best picture, Coogler was nominated for best director and best screenplay, and double-duty star Michael B Jordan was rewarded with his first Oscar nomination, for best actor.

Paul Thomas Anderson's father-daughter revolutionary saga "One Battle After Another," the favorite coming into nominations, trailed in second with 13 of its own.

Four of its actors — Leonardo DiCaprio, Teyana Taylor, Benicio del Toro and Sean Penn — were nominated, though newcomer Chase Infiniti was left out in best actress.

In those two top nominees, the film academy put its full force behind a pair of visceral and bracingly original American epics that each connected with a fraught national moment. Coogler's Jim Crow-era film — the rare horror movie to win the academy's favor — conjures a mythical allegory of Black life.

For Coogler, the 39-year-old filmmaker of "Fruitvale Station" and "Black Panther," it was a crowning moment. One of Hollywood's most esteemed yet humble filmmakers, Coogler has called "Sinners" — a film that he will own outright 25 years after its release — his most personal movie.

"I wrote this script for my uncle who passed away 11 years ago," Coogler said in an interview Thursday morning. "I got to imagine that he's listening to some blues music right now to celebrate."

Reached by phone an hour after the nominations were read, Coogler — speaking alongside his wife and producer Zinzi Coogler and producer Sev Ohanian — was still trying to process the movie's record-breaking haul.

"I love making movies. I'm honored to wake up every day and do it. I was writing last night. That's why I didn't get too much sleep," said Coogler, chuckling. "Honestly, bro, I still feel a little bit asleep right now."

This year's list of Oscar nominees have been announced. Ryan Coogler's 'Sinners' led all films on Thursday with 16 nominations to the 98th Academy Awards, setting a record for the most in Oscar history.





BEST ACTRESS
Emma Stone, Bugonia
Rose Byrne, If I Had Legs I'd Kick You
Renate Reinsve, Sentimental Value
Kate Hudson, Song Sung Blue
Jessie Buckley, Hamnet



BEST ACTOR
Timothée Chalamet, Marty Supreme
Leonardo DiCaprio, One Battle After Another
Ethan Hawke, Blue Moon
Michael B. Jordan, Sinners
Wagner Moura, The Secret Agent



BEST PICTURE
- Bugonia
- F1
- Frankenstein
- Hamnet
- Marty Supreme
- One Battle After Another
- The Secret Agent
- Sentimental Value
- Sinners
- Train Dreams



Jacob Elordi

Actor Michael B Jordan, left, and director-writer-producer Ryan Coogler on the set of 'Sinners'. AP

BEST DIRECTOR
Paul Thomas Anderson, One Battle After Another
Ryan Coogler, Sinners
Chloé Zhao, Hamnet
Josh Safdie, Marty Supreme
Joachim Trier, Sentimental Value

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS
Elle Fanning, Sentimental Value
Inga Ibsdotter Lilleaas, Sentimental Value
Amy Madigan, Weapons
Wunmi Mosaku, Sinners
Teyana Taylor, One Battle After Another.

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR
Jacob Elordi, Frankenstein
Sean Penn, One Battle After Another
Stellan Skarsgård, Sentimental Value
Benicio del Toro, One Battle After Another
Delroy Lindo, Sinners

Three people shot dead in New South Wales, town under lockdown

Associated Press
Melbourne, January 22

THREE PEOPLE were killed, and another was wounded on Thursday in a shooting in a town in Australia's New South Wales state, police said.

Emergency services were called to an address at Lake Cargelligo, a town of around 1,500 people, following reports of a shooting, a police statement said.

Three people — two women and a man — were dead, and another man was taken to the hospital in serious but stable condition, police said.

The shooter or shooters appeared to be at large.

Police used geo-targeted text messages to urge the public to avoid the area and for local residents to stay inside and contacted.

Local resident Manisha, who did not want to give her family name, told Sydney's The Daily Telegraph newspaper there were police cars and ambulances "all over town."

"The town is made of just two main streets. We can hear the sounds of sirens, she told the newspaper.

The shooting comes on a National Day of Mourning as Australia remembers the 15 people shot dead in Sydney at a Hanukkah celebration on December 14.

• 'VETERANS' THEATRE' IS A KYIV TROUPE OF ABOUT 15 WAR-WOUNDED EX-SOLDIERS WHO USE ACTING AS REHABILITATION AND A PATH BACK TO CIVILIAN LIFE

From trenches to footlights: Wounded Ukrainian soldiers heal on Kyiv stage

Alina Smutko
January 22

UKRAINIAN SOLDIER Andrii Onopriienko ran into a challenge when he took up his new hobby of acting: having to learn his lines just by listening to them. The 31-year-old lost both eyes when two Russian anti-tank rounds ripped into his position in the eastern Ukrainian city of Avdiivka in 2023.

He memorised his part nonetheless. Like the other veterans in his Kyiv-based group of around 15 actors, Onopriienko has found healing and fulfilment on stage, after a friend told him of a theatre looking for injured veterans and suggested he join. He reluctantly agreed to take part.

"Yes, we might not have an arm, or legs, or eyes - but we aren't giving up," he said.

Russia's war, now entering its fifth year, has left countless Ukrainian soldiers wounded, with tens of thousands suffering one or more amputations.

Some of those with life-altering injuries struggle to reintegrate into a society itself navigating how to absorb a generation of maimed men and women.

Coping methods vary. For Onopriienko and his fellow troops-turned-thespians, none of whom had ever acted before, it meant taking to the stage.

Reuters followed the group, called Veterans' Theatre, as they prepared for an avant-garde performance of an 18th-century Ukrainian parody of Virgil's Aeneid.

"It's rehabilitation and socialisation," said Onopriienko. "It's...positive emotions."

Russia's war has left deep scars across wide swathes of Ukraine and its population, with no end in sight despite a US-backed peace push.

Yehor Babenko, 27, was wounded in the first year of fighting when Russian forces struck his base in the southern region of Mykolaiv.

His face deformed by severe burns, he speaks by regulating a tube in his throat with one of two mangled hands that are missing all of their fingers.



Members of the Veterans Theatre group during a performance at a documentary movies festival, in Kyiv on August 17, 2025. REUTERS

That did not stop him from committing to months of taxing rehearsals full of dancing, twirling and tumbling.

Babenko, who began working as a veterans' psychologist last year, said the transformative trauma of serious injury often compels people to seek meaning in something new. "I know a lot of cases where people opened up or tried things they never dared to try," he said.

For 57-year-old Roman Trokhymenko, who lost his right leg in 2024, participating in the theatre has helped reinforce the confidence he has tried hard to maintain since his injury.

The director, Olha Semoshkina, told Reuters she had individually tailored the roles, which were heavily based around physical movement, to suit each veteran's injury.

Performing on stage poses not only physical challenges, the actors said.

Babenko, for instance, said it was difficult adjusting to a creative field which encourages free thought after spending years in the rigid order of the military

Taras Kozub, 53, lost his left arm after storming an enemy position on the southeastern front. Today, the folk music aficionado plays a hurdy-gurdy with a specially designed prosthetic appendage that attaches directly to the instrument.

Even Kozub concedes the adjustment to theatre was challenging, and not a remedy for every veteran.

"The first thing I realised is that you can't fool anyone while onstage," he said. "It's like you're standing there naked."

During the premiere in Kyiv, the veterans stomped and shuffled across the stage under bright neon lights, and to live musical accompaniment by Kozub and others.

They received a boisterous ovation from members of the audience, some of whom cried or embraced.

Babenko says it was critical for his fellow comrades to understand that life does not simply end after a serious injury. "Sometimes, you understand it's the opposite - that it just starts getting going." REUTERS

META, GOOGLE, AMAZON MAY GET 12 MONTHS INSTEAD OF 18 MONTHS TO COMPLY

Data protection: Shorter timeline likely for Big Tech compliance

A govt committee, to be set up to prescribe the types of personal data that would have to be localised within India, could be formed much sooner

Soumyarendra Barik
New Delhi, January 22

THE MINISTRY of Electronics and IT (MeitY) may shorten the timeline for Big Tech companies such as Meta, Google, and Amazon to comply with India's Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 and other related rules to 12 months from the current 18 months, as the government looks at creating separate compliance regimes for large companies and startups, *The Indian Express* has learnt. The move, though, could spark a wave of pushback from tech companies.

In particular, provisions that place additional obligations on 'significant data fiduciaries' could see fast tracking in terms of compliance timelines, the ministry is understood to have communicated to the industry during a meeting Thursday. A significant data fiduciary will be determined on the basis of the volume and sensitivity of personal data they process, and the risks they might have on India's sovereignty and integrity, electoral democracy, security, and public order. Tech majors including Meta, Google, Apple, Microsoft, and Amazon are expected to be classified as significant data fiduciaries.

These specific provisions require tech companies to carry out a yearly data protection impact assessment, and verify that technical measures including their algorithmic software that deal with handling personal data don't violate users' rights. More notably, under the rules, the Centre will specify the kind of personal data which can be processed by "significant data fiduciaries" subject to the restriction that such personal data and traffic data related to its flow is not transferred outside the territory of India. All these provisions could now be operationalised in 12 months, as opposed to the earlier prescribed 18 months, with the ministry expected to bring an amendment to the data protection rules. A government committee, to be set up to prescribe the types of personal data that would have to be localised within India, could be formed much sooner, it is understood.

The changes are being made to create a compliance gradient between bigger companies and smaller startups, with the idea being that the former already comply with strict privacy laws like those in Europe, and as a result have more institutional bandwidth to comply with India's law. Last year, responding to a question by *The Indian Express*, Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw had said, "It is right that big companies already follow laws like Europe's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). We will compress the timeline. We will amend the law".

Queries sent to the IT Ministry remained unanswered until publication.

Last year, the IT Ministry had notified the long awaited data protection rules, paving the way for India to have a functional privacy law, eight years after the Supreme Court ruled it as a fundamental right. The notification of the rules came over two years after the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act received the President's assent in August 2023. Under the rules, tech companies are required to implement a mechanism for collecting "verifiable" parental consent before processing children's personal data.

Effectively, the government has refrained from proposing a mechanism from its side, and has left it to the companies to adopt a system of their choice, after social media companies complained that it could be a difficult provision to implement.

In the event of a data breach, data fiduciaries will have to intimate impacted individuals "without delay" a description of the breach, including its nature, extent and the timing and location of its occurrence; the consequences relevant to the impacted user, that are likely to arise from the breach; and the measures implemented and being implemented to mitigate risk among other things. The penalty for failing to have adequate safeguards for preventing a data breach could go as high as Rs 250 crore.

The Act had come under scrutiny for granting wide-ranging exemptions to the government or its agencies while processing citizens' personal data on grounds of 'national security', 'friendly relations with other states', and 'public order', among other things. It was also called into question over allegedly diluting the RTI Act. *The Indian Express* had earlier reported that apart from the civil society, even government's think tank NITI Aayog had also raised concerns over the potential weakening of the RTI Act.

'CETA COULD BE RATIFIED IN FIRST HALF OF 2026'

'If firms can't sell, invest in US, then there's UK; India biggest priority for Britain'

EXPRESS interview



HARJINDER KANG
UK TRADE COMMISSIONER FOR SOUTH ASIA & DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR WESTERN INDIA

INDIA IS the biggest priority for the UK in South Asia, UK Trade Commissioner for South Asia, deputy High Commissioner for Western India, and former Chief Negotiator of the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), HARJINDER KANG said in an interview with LEENA MISRA and BRENDAN DABHI. On sanctioning Russian oil importers, Kang said the UK's position on the Russia-Ukraine War is "very, very clear" and that curbs are designed to stop it. Edited excerpts:

How is the UK looking at this region of South Asia?

By far, India is the biggest priority for us. There is no other country this size, growing this fast. Probably because the demographics will continue irrespective of what happens around the world, like China was 20 years ago.

What do you think about US tariffs on India and the UK? What does it mean for India-UK trade? What happens when the US doesn't play by the rules?

That is for the US to decide. There is nothing for the UK to comment on US tariff policy. The UK-India relationship is fine. We have decided on a tariff relationship and it's about to be ratified (by the UK Parliament) and come into force. So our bridge is very strong and continues to be so. The bridges between US-India and US-UK are separate and it doesn't affect that. It would basically be for Indian companies to decide what to do. If they can't sell or invest in the US, then there is the UK. That is the impact which is a positive one for the UK and we are more than happy to accommodate increased Indian activity into the UK, that's my job. But we don't promote it that way, that's a ridiculous thing to do. And it's not for me to comment on US policy.

Do you anticipate any hiccups in the ratification of CETA by the Parliament?

It is going very smoothly. Our ratification process is much more complicated and thorough. It goes through both houses, there are trade committees in the House of Commons and the House of Lords that look at international deals. It is not the first time they've looked at it. Pretty much the things we expected have been raised. There's nothing that makes me think there's going to be trouble. So, my guess is that it could be done sometime in this half of the year.

How is the trade deal going to impact both countries?

The deal is expected to deliver £25.5 billion ($34.25 billion) worth of extra trade between the two sides in the middle to long term. Even before being ratified our trade has already gone up. It was about £43 billion in FY24 and I think it's going to £47 billion already, just based on the confidence that the trade deal has instilled in both sides. And when you talk to the firms on both sides, the appetite is huge to ease bilateral trade.

Could you talk about British companies' investment interest in India?

It's been both ways. There are 700 UK companies already here. And there are 900 Indian companies over there so it's already happening in large volume. It will help by having this sort of treaty by making people more confident in the mid to long term. Because companies don't operate on a one-year cycle. If you're going to put up investment and capacity down, you're thinking in 5-10 year horizons and these deals instill confidence that there will be stability and that's what firms really look for — stability, to put a factory down or put some investment in another country.

What is the balance of trade between the manufacturing and services sector in terms of investments?

The UK is a predominantly service sector country at about 80%... and India is also 50%, if not more. In the WTO, there are a lot of schedules in terms of who can deliver what service in what country. A lot of those have now been formalised in our FTA. That's again a symbol of stability and you have long term visibility that both sides would be able to continue doing this for the perceivable future.

What is Gujarat's share in India's trade with the UK?

We had a report commissioned which shows the trade inflow into India and investment outflow into the UK and Gujarat is right up there. It is known for many things that the FTA will help with — textiles is a big one. It will benefit substantially from lower tariffs. We have a preferential developing nations trading scheme for Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, where the tariffs are lower and agreed upon across the system. But India is a mid-sized economy. There was a kind of differential in tariff (for textiles) which made it uncompetitive to produce in India and export to the UK. The other big sector is gems and jewellery which will be a big beneficiary of the lower tariffs regime.

While the FTA was being signed, the UK sanctioned Gujarat refinery of Nayara Energy for buying Russian crude. Does it impact the business sentiment?

Those are the geopolitical things with global ramifications for trade. Effectively, you know what's happening in Ukraine and our position is very, very clear as a country. To finance that war, the oil trade is absolutely key and the sanctions are designed to stop that and reduce the war that is underway.

FULL INTERVIEW ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

AMID EVIDENCE-DRIVEN POLICY PUSH

Data collectors warn MoSPI of 'acute stagnation'

Siddharth Upasani
New Delhi, January 22

AT A time when the government is pushing for evidence-based policymaking and conducting more and more surveys, the Statistics Ministry has been warned of "acute stagnation" among the officers responsible for collecting data on the ground. In a letter last month, the All India Association of Statistical Officers (AIASO) called on the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) to redress "serious and long-standing" issues that are faced by officers of the Subordinate Statistical Service (SSS).

"Many deserving officers retire without getting the promotion of Junior Time Scale (JTS) even after serving nearly 30 years of service," the letter, reviewed by *The Indian Express*, said. This is not the first time that the SSS has highlighted the "systemic bottlenecks" that are adversely impacting India's data collectors. The SSS comprises Junior Statistical Officers (JSO) and Senior Statistical Officers (SSO) and it serves as a feeder cadre for the Indian Statistical Service (ISS).

AIASO members met Rao Inderjit Singh, Minister of State MoSPI, and Secretary Saurabh Garg on December 18, a week after the letter. The Statistics Ministry did not respond to an e-mail requesting comment.

The junior and senior statistical officers of the SSS form the backbone of India's statistical system as they work on the ground, collect data from the primary source and check them. 90% of JSOs are recruited directly through exams, and get promoted to SSOs, who are then promoted to Assistant Director (AD) in the Junior Time Scale. ISS officers are appointed to this grade after completing their training post an exam.

Heavy workload, poor prospects

In recent years, the workload on these officers has risen significantly due to an increase in the number of surveys for which they are required to collect data. For instance, data is being collected for surveys ranging from the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), the flagship employment survey, to prices for monthly CPI inflation numbers — India's most important economic indicator. Additional surveys are set to begin soon. These include the country's first-ever Household Income Survey starting February 1.

The ministry is also overhauling key indicators, with the updated GDP and CPI data series set to be released next month and the revised IIP in May. This entails more data collection.

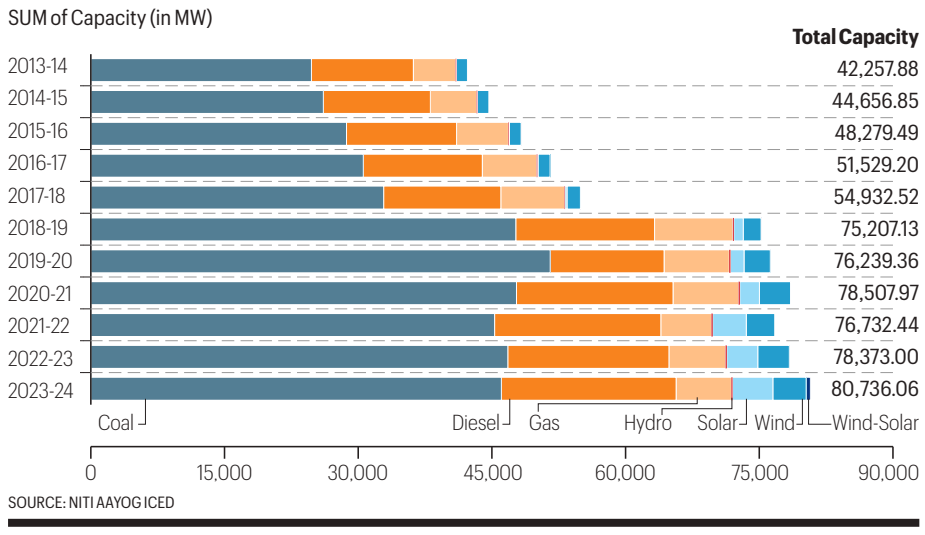
Even as the crucial datapoints are set for a major upgrade, lawmakers have flagged vacancies at the JSO and SSO level as another worry, with the Standing Committee on Finance noting last year that manpower shortage in the FOD has persisted for a "prolonged period of time" and that this "affects the quality of the data".

The lack of career progression for JSOs and SSOs is the real problem facing MoSPI, with the JSO attrition rate as high as 44%, officers told *The Indian Express*. As such, even filing vacant posts in a timely manner will not help. MoSPI is aware of this, as indicated by its reply noted by the Committee on Finance in a 2025 report.

FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Draft NEP 2026 bets big on nuclear, tariff tweaks and cross-subsidy rules

• Installed capacity of captive source: 2013–2024



SOURCE: NITI AAYOG ICED

Pratyush Deep
New Delhi, January 22

WEEKS AFTER the government enacted the SHANTI Act to open India's nuclear sector to private players, a new draft National Electricity Policy (NEP) signals a clear policy shift — a strong pivot to nuclear power as a potential substitute for coal-based thermal generation.

India continues to rely heavily on thermal power, with coal dominating grid-based electricity and captive power used by industries. Against this backdrop, the draft policy seeks to recalibrate the power mix.

Set to replace the 20-year-old NEP notified in 2005, the new draft policy pushes for the adoption of advanced nuclear technologies, including Small Modular Reactors (SMRs), other small-capacity reactors, and direct use of nuclear power by commercial and industrial consumers.

This aligns with the Centre's ambition of scaling India's nuclear capacity to 100 GWe by 2047 — more than 10X the current installed capacity of 8.8 GWe — and builds on the SHANTI Act's removal of long-standing legal and regulatory barriers to private participation in the sector.

At the same time, the draft policy suggests an index-linked automatic tariff revision mechanism that would kick in if electricity regulators fail to revise tariffs on time, aimed at preventing revenue gaps for power utilities. It also proposes exemptions from cross-subsidy charges and surcharges for manufacturing units, Indian Railways and metro rail systems.

It continues to back renewable energy expansion through market-based mechanisms and captive power plants, while placing greater emphasis on energy storage to ensure grid stability as variable renewable energy grows.

NEP 2026: Fine prints

The draft sets out ambitious demand-side targets, projecting per capita electricity consumption to rise to 2,000 kWh by 2030 and over 4,000 kWh by 2047, reflecting the scale of power demand expected from a growing economy. It ties this growth to India's climate commitments, underscoring the need for a decisive shift towards low-carbon energy pathways. The policy places a strong focus on the financial health of distribution companies (discoms).

"NEP 2026 seeks to restore financial health of the discoms by promoting cost-reflective tariffs, timely cost pass-through, and reduction of AT&C losses," the draft policy states.

It also proposes linking tariffs to a suitable index for automatic annual revision if no tariff order is issued by state electricity regulatory commissions.

The draft policy positions nuclear energy as a key pillar of India's long-term energy security. "Nuclear power is a clean, reliable, and sustainable energy source with significant potential for India's long-term energy security," it says. It states that the central government will collaborate with the private sector to set up Modular Reactors, develop Bharat Small Reactors, and advance nuclear technologies.

FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

IndiGo Q3 profit crashes 78% to Rs 549 cr

The Rs 577-cr exceptional loss includes Rs 555 cr provisioned as operational disruption-related costs as per guidelines

Sukalp Sharma
New Delhi, January 22

INDIGO'S OPERATIONAL meltdown early December hit the carrier's Q3 bottomline, with India's largest airline taking a one-time hit of Rs 577 crore due to the network-wide disruption, marking its worst crisis in nearly 20 years of operations. Another exceptional item — a Rs 969-crore provision for increase in social security benefits due to implementation of the new labour codes — meant that the airline's Q3 consolidated net profit nosedived 78% y-o-y to Rs 549 crore from Rs 2,449 crore, even as the operating profit was nearly flat.

The Rs 577-crore exceptional loss on account of the meltdown includes Rs 555 crore provisioned as operational disruption-related costs like passenger compensation as per regulatory guidelines, travel voucher issuances to most-affected passengers, and other associated costs. Another Rs 22 crore have been provisioned for the financial penalty imposed on the airline by aviation regulator DGCA.

On January 17, the DGCA slapped IndiGo with financial penalties totalling Rs 22.20 crore for the massive disruption in its operations that led to over 2,500 flight cancellations and around 1,850 flight delays in the December 3-5 period. The airline was ordered to pledge a bank guarantee of Rs 50 crore in favour of the DGCA; it will be released by the regulator in phases after IndiGo implements measures to ensure compliance with DGCA directives and long-term systemic correction.

The DGCA has also issued warnings to some senior management personnel of IndiGo, including CEO Pieter Elbers and COO Isidre Porqueras, for the disruption caused primarily by its inadequate preparedness for the implementation of revised pilot rest and duty duration rules. The DGCA has directed the airline to relieve Jason Herter, senior VP of IndiGo's operations control centre, of current operational responsibilities. The cumulative fine of Rs 22.20 crore is the highest-ever regulatory penalty imposed by the DGCA on an airline. It is slightly higher than IndiGo's average daily net profit for FY24-25.

Elbers said Thursday that the airline's board is evaluating the DGCA directions, and reiterated that airline's management and board are committed to taking full cognizance of the orders.

FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

As Trump talks tariffs, Argentine ally welcomes Chinese electric vehicles

Associated Press
Zárate, January 22

THE VAST field of over 5,800 electric and hybrid vehicles gleamed on the cargo deck of the BYD Changzhou, an Chinese container vessel unloading Wednesday at a river port in eastern Argentina.

In other places, such a scene would not be noteworthy. Chinese automaker BYD has sped up its exports and undercut rivals the world over, alarming Washington, upsetting Western and Japanese auto giants and unnerving local industries across Southeast Asia, Africa and Latin America.



The BYD Changzhou car carrier docked at Terminal Zarate in the Buenos Aires province of Argentina, Tuesday. AP

But the sight of so many new Chinese EVs gliding onto a muddy river bank in Buenos Aires province was unprecedented for Argentina, its crisis-stricken economy dominated for years by a left-wing populist movement that protected local industry with stiff tariffs and import restrictions.

"For decades people in Argentina had this vision that everything here must be manufactured here," said Claudio Damiano, a professor in the Institute of Transportation at Argentina's National University of San Martin. "The boat has a symbolic value as the first step for BYD. Everyone's wondering how far it will go."

The shipment also came in stark contrast to the news in Brussels, where on Wednesday EU lawmakers voted to delay ratification of a landmark free trade deal with the Mercosur group of South American countries, including Argentina, which promises to tear down trade barriers for European industrial imports and supercharge consumption of German EVs.

PhonePe IPO: Walmart, Tiger Global, Microsoft to sell stake

George Mathew
Mumbai, January 22

DIGITAL PAYMENTS platform PhonePe, controlled by Walmart, has filed an updated Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to raise funds through an initial public offering (IPO).

The DRHP does not specify the exact size of the IPO but it is likely to be in the range of Rs 12,000-13,000 crore, making it the second-largest fintech IPO in India after Paytm. PhonePe is currently the largest digital payments platform in India, followed by Google Pay.

The IPO will consist entirely of an offer-for-sale (OFS) of 5.06 crore equity shares by existing shareholders. The primary seller, WM Digital Commerce Holdings, is a promoter entity owned by Walmart International Holdings Inc., which holds a 71.77% stake. It plans to sell 4.59 crore shares, representing 9.06% of the firm's total paid-up equity via OFS. The remaining 47.17 lakh shares will be sold by investors Tiger Global PIP 9-1 and Microsoft Global Finance Unlimited Company, an Irish subsidiary of Microsoft Corp.

As of September 2025, PhonePe's UPI volume market share was 46.85% as per NPCI. In April 2020, it emerged as the largest player in merchant UPI transactions.

FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

• BRIEFLY

Adani Energy Q3 profit dips 8%

New Delhi: **Adani Energy Solutions Ltd (AESL) Thursday posted an over 8% fall in consolidated net profit to Rs 574.06 crore for December quarter, mainly due to higher tax expenses. AESL had logged a net profit of Rs 625.30 crore in the same period a year ago, it said in an exchange filing.** PTI

• MARKETS

Sensex	NIFTY	Gold ▼	US Dollar ▲
82,307.37	25,157.50	₹1,51,128	₹91.58
397.74	132.40		
0.49%	0.53%		

Silver ▼	Oil ▲
₹2,99,711	$63.50

NOTE: GOLD, SILVER RATES AS PER INDIA BULLION AND JEWELLERS ASSOCIATION DATA GOLD PER 10G, SILVER PER 1 KG; CRUDE OIL (INDIAN BASKET) AS OF JANUARY 21, 2026

• SCIENCE

A head-scratcher: Meet Veronika, first cow known to use a tool



Veronika scratches itself with two sticks. ANTONIO J OSUNA MASCARÓ

Yashee
New Delhi, January 22

TO BE called a cow is rarely a compliment to one's brains. While it is a pejorative in English, in Hindi, a *gau* is a person of innocence and virtue, hardly of scintillating intellect. But a new study on an Austrian cow challenges such assumptions.

Veronika, a 13-year-old Brown Swiss cow which lives in the village of Nötsch, has been found using a deck brush to scratch itself. Veronika holds the brush in its mouth, and depending on the body part it wants to scratch — whether the hard skin of its back or its soft underbelly — uses either the brush or the handle, also adjusting the pressure. Veronika, thus, is displaying sophisticated tool usage, not previously seen in cattle.

What is the study?

After coming across a video of Veronika, researchers Alice Auersperg and Antonio Osuna-Mascaro, from the University of Veterinary Medicine in Vienna, went to its home to observe it. Their findings were published Monday in the journal *Current Biology*. "We recorded 76 instances of self-directed tool use over seven sessions of 10 trials...Veronika's behavior... showed versatility, anticipation, and fine motor targeting."

The study adds, "Although flexible tool use has been reported in terrestrial ungulates (including a recent, well-documented case in Asian elephants) prior to our study it had not been experimentally verified in cattle." Ungulates are hoofed mammals.

Is tool usage in animals uncommon?

This study defined tool usage as "the manipulation of an external object to achieve a goal via a mechanical interface".

In the 1960s, the renowned English primatologist Jane Goodall observed that chimpanzees could use blades of grass to spoon out insects from termite mounds to eat. Over the years, crows, parrots, whales, elephants, and wolves have all shown varying levels of skills at manoeuvring objects to use as tools. But using one tool for multiple purposes is much rarer.

"Importantly, the differential use of both broom ends constitutes the use of a multipurpose tool, exploiting distinct properties of a single object for different functions. Comparable behaviour has only been consistently documented in chimpanzees," the study says.

In India, primatologist Anindya Sinha of the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS) in Bengaluru has, along with his collaborators, documented several female and a male bonnet macaque insightfully manufacturing and using tools in a variety of contexts — the only example of wild monkeys actively making tools anywhere in the world.

Is Veronika just super-smart?

The researchers say it is not the cow but the conditions in which it lives that are unusual. Veronika is being kept as a pet, not as a milch animal, by a family that reared its mother. It lives near a meadow where it roams free, and has been given opportunities to play and interact with loving humans. It is also 13 years old, a long and remarkably distress-free life for a cow.

The researchers say that because of the "persistent mind-denial biases associated with meat consumption", there haven't been many research attempts that look at cows beyond their utility value and as intelligent, social animals.

They claim that if more cows were offered a life as rich as Veronika's, they could display similar behaviour.

Sinha told *The Indian Express*: "The case of Veronika is that of one individual. This is not a systematic study of a large number of animals over a long period of time. There are two possibilities here. One is that this is a case of associative learning, where through trial and error, the cow has learnt that the broom can be used to scratch herself. The second, more intriguing possibility, is Veronika has discovered that a tool can be manipulated in different ways for different goals. If that is true, it talks of a cow displaying insight, which would be much more remarkable."

The findings challenge assumptions about animals that are seen largely as utilitarian. The case can be used as a basis for studies about the intelligence of cattle.

• DONALD TRUMP AT DAVOS

Trump Greenland gambit is his signature playbook

After threats of military action and tariffs over Greenland, the President has backed off. His actions send a clear message to the rest of the world



SHUBHAJIT ROY

AFTER DAYS of threats of military intervention and tariffs, US President Donald Trump walked off the ledge by announcing that a framework had been reached for a deal with the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) over Greenland's future.

The announcement followed his speech at the annual World Economic Forum (WEF) meeting in Davos, Switzerland, on Wednesday. Negotiators from the US and Europe will now hammer out the details of the deal.

The American President has argued that US control of Greenland would secure critical resources (the island is estimated to have enormous oil and gas reserves, as well as troves of rare-earth minerals such as cobalt, graphite, and lithium). Additionally, it would expand the US military's reach in the Arctic and would challenge and circumscribe Chinese and Russian influence in a region key to American national security.

But this entire episode has several important takeaways and sheds light on the behaviour of the Trump administration, which has just completed a year in power. These learnings could be useful for similar future episodes stemming from the US.

How Trump seeks to get his way, in 6 steps

FIRST, Trump always dials up the rhetoric and makes a public spectacle of the matter at hand, even for sensitive international issues. His threats and bullying tactics on Greenland, through posts on Truth Social and statements to the press, had stunned many around the world — most importantly, the Europeans.

He adopted a similar playbook for dealing with Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy last year in the Oval Office, when he — along with Vice President J D Vance — had publicly berated the Ukrainian President. Many were struck by Trump's threatening behaviour, with statements such as "You don't have the cards".

For Trump, this was deliberately performative, and that is exactly how he raises the stakes.



US President Donald Trump with NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte at Davos on Wednesday. AP

SECOND, the expected course of action follows, and those at the receiving end of Trump's threats and tirades huddle together. After the Zelenskyy episode, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer met with the Europeans and formed the "Coalition of the Willing", which included most NATO members and partners who had been supporting Ukraine against Russian aggression. They met several times in different European capitals to discuss a strategy.

In Greenland's case, as well, the Europeans started talking to each other to back Denmark's Prime Minister Mette Frederikkson, since Greenland is an autonomous region of the Danish Kingdom. And, be it French President Emmanuel Macron or German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, all of the leaders backed Denmark's sovereignty.

THIRD comes an attempt at standing up to the US President. In Greenland's case, the European allies, seven countries including France and Germany, sent a small contingent of troops to Greenland as a gesture of solidarity to defend Greenland against any military adventurism by the Americans.

Similarly, Europe stepped up their defence supplies to Ukraine last year — as the US dithered and dilly-dallied over its support — and even paused defence and intelligence support to the US for a while.

Eye on Greenland

The US President came up with the idea of purchasing Greenland during his first term in 2019.

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He is now a step closer to securing the rights of military expansion and mining natural resources on the Danish territory.

Such actions have been matched by public statements. Just like the Danish PM had said that "Greenland is not for sale", Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney's speech backing Greenland's sovereignty got the loudest applause at Davos, and his framework of calling out the bully got him a standing ovation. This was seen by Trump, who warned Carney publicly to watch out for his statements next time, since he said, "Canada lives, because of the US".

FOURTH, the most important step, is talking to Trump himself. The US President likes to be wooed and pursued by his adversaries, even if their framing as such may be largely imagined or perceived.

The Coalition of the Willing spoke to the US President repeatedly. The European leaders swallowed their pride, went to the Oval Office and sat across the table with the US President to back Zelenskyy.

In that vein, NATO Secretary General and former Dutch PM Mark Rutte played the role of the intermediary in Greenland's case. Earlier this week, Trump posted a screenshot of a text conversation with Rutte, who said he would highlight his work on Ukraine and Gaza in Davos, and added that he was committed to finding a "way forward" on Gaza.

And, just like Finland's President Alexander Stubb had developed a rapport with Trump by playing golf for hours, Rutte had defended Trump's language against Iran and Israel last year, saying, "Daddy has to sometimes use strong language to get them to stop."

All of this resulted in Rutte being successful in talking to him, and Trump announced that both of them had "formed the framework of a future deal with respect to Greenland and, in fact, the entire Arctic Region," without offering any details. He added, "This solution, if consummated, will be a great one for the United States of America, and all NATO Nations."

FIFTH, Trump is now closer to acquiring the rights to Greenland, without having to use force. He first came up with the idea of purchasing Greenland during his first term in 2019, which was dismissed as a fantasy by many. At the time, Brussels, Copenhagen, or Greenland's capital, Nuuk, didn't take the threat seriously. But, now, after having threatened military intervention and tariffs, he has moved closer to securing the rights of military expansion and mining natural resources. In the case of Ukraine, the Oval Office blow-up led to Europe stepping up its commitments and funding to Ukraine, which was an issue that Trump had frequently raised.

So, what Trump has now accomplished is the following: the Americans do not have to "take" Greenland by invading a NATO ally, by buying a sovereign territory or by a referendum in Greenland. Instead, he can get the rights to explore, mine and base his military through "essentially, a big real estate deal".

SIXTH, the impact of this saga on the world order is chilling. He has shown world leaders, especially those of the major powers — be it Chinese President Xi Jinping or Russian President Vladimir Putin — what is possible through coercion, that consent doesn't matter, and capitulation is the end goal. New Delhi will also be watching the turn of events.

Carney summed it up accurately when he said, "Every day we are reminded that we live in an era of great power rivalry. That the rules-based order is fading. That the strong do what they can, and the weak suffer what they must."

Immigration, tariffs, territory: Key takeaways from his speech

Anagha Jayakumar
New Delhi, January 22

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump's speech at the World Economic Forum on Wednesday touched on a range of topics, from Greenland to Ukraine and the US economy to immigration. Featuring his characteristic bravado, and inaccurate claims, the 70-minute speech had a major theme — the world does not appreciate the US (and him) enough, and everything is in danger because of this.

"When America booms, the entire world booms... When it goes bad, you all follow us down," he said. Here are the major takeaways from his speech.

Greenland

Trump struck a seemingly conciliatory tone, saying the US "won't use force" to take Greenland. After Denmark fell to Nazi Germany during World War II and was unable to defend Greenland, the US stepped in and built military facilities. Trump recalled this, and credited the US's role in helping to win the war. "After the war, we gave Greenland back to Denmark. How stupid were we to do that," he said. The statement was a distortion of history. Denmark never handed Greenland to the US, though it did strike a defence agreement after its invasion by Nazi Germany.

The US economy

Ahead of his speech, the White House indicated that the US president would speak on the strength of the American economy. He would also introduce a plan to address the problem of housing costs and reiterate his intent to cap credit card interest rates.

The US president did all these, amid a flurry of wild claims. He said that he had secured $18 trillion in investments within his first year of the current term. According to a *CNN* analysis, while the White House has claimed $9.6 trillion in "major investment announcements, this figure is based on a misreading of several major deals concluded last year. On tariffs, he said that the US has made historic trade deals with partners amounting to 40% of all US trade. A think-tank's report this this week showed that Americans were mostly the ones who were footing the bill for Trump's tariffs.

Trump ridiculed Fed chair Jerome Powell, calling him "late" to institute rate cuts. He said he had interviewed candidates for Powell's replacement once his term expires in May, but did not name them.

NATO

Since his first term (2017-21), Trump has insisted that the alliance has treated the US unfairly, with the US shouldering the majority of its defence spending. He repeated similar remarks at Davos. Trump claimed that until he came along, "most of the countries weren't paying anything" despite a stipulated target for each member to spend 2% of its GDP on defence. An analysis of NATO data showed that 18 of the 31 members met the target in 2024.

"I mean, we've helped them for so many years. We've never gotten anything," he said. This is incorrect, considering the lone time NATO's Article 5, the mutual defence treaty, was invoked was following the September 11 terror attack.

'Peacemaker'

- Trump repeated his long-standing claim of having ended eight wars, including the conflict between India and Pakistan last May. However, his list includes diplomatic disputes (Egypt vs Ethiopia) and ongoing conflicts (DRC vs Rwanda).
- He acknowledged China as a major competitor in artificial intelligence. He said China makes lots of wind turbines, and erroneously claimed : "I haven't been able to find any windfarms in China".

Europe

The president alternated between expressing his love for Europe and criticising it for opposing his claim over Greenland. Faced with opposition from the other European members of NATO, he called for "immediate negotiations" towards a deal to acquire Greenland.

Trump also argued at great length about what he called the "green new scam", referencing efforts by European nations to reduce emissions and switch to renewables. He claimed that electricity prices in Germany are now 64% higher, while the UK produces only a third of the energy it produced in 1999. He also claimed that the UK had refused to extract "500 years" of oil reserves in the Arctic, resulting in increased prices.

Ukraine

"I think Russia wants to make a deal, I think Ukraine wants to make a deal. I think I can say we are relatively close," Trump said at Davos, adding that he would meet Zelenskyy later on Wednesday. Zelenskyy, whose attendance was in question, arrived in Davos on Thursday.

Venezuela

"Venezuela's going to do fantastically well," Trump said, praising the administration of interim president Delcy Rodríguez. "Once the attack ended, the attack ended and they said, let's make a deal."

He claimed oil companies were lining up to invest in Venezuela, contrary to reports that these companies were apprehensive about doing so.

Immigration

Trump claimed Europe had become "unrecognisable and weak", and that his friends there don't recognise many of their cities anymore.

Taking credit for his sweeping immigration crackdown, he singled out the Somali diaspora in Minnesota in racist comments. "We're cracking down on $19 billion in fraud that was stolen by Somalian bandits," he said. "Can you believe that Somalia – they turned out to be higher IQ than we thought."

• SPORT

Magical thinking: Behind towel tug-of-war in Africa Cup final, a whiff of *juju*

Sandip G
Mumbai, January 22

A WALK-OFF threat, a fluffed penalty, a thunderbolt winner and bitter accusations. The Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) final between Senegal and Morocco on Sunday was hardly devoid of drama. But the central point of intrigue during the match in Morocco's capital Rabat was an innocent piece of cloth — Senegal goalkeeper Edouard Mendy's blue towel. This was because of a sneaking suspicion among the opposition players, and ball boys, that something sinister may be afoot: voodoo, witchcraft, or, more precisely, what it is called in West Africa — *juju*. And Senegal would indeed go on to win the match. But this is not the first time such talk has come up — storylines in African football have always brimmed with mischief and fantasy.

Rain or more?

It was pouring in Rabat. Naturally, the goalkeeper sought the towel frequently to keep his gloves as dry as possible. As did his Moroccan counterpart, Bono. But Mendy was insistent on one specific towel. He refused other towels the Moroccan ball boys offered him. This did not go unnoticed.

So, whenever Mendy's attention turned to the game, the ball boys tried to sneak in and steal the towel.

The intrusions caught the eye of Mendy's deputy, Yehvann Diouf, who fiercely guarded it as though it were a piece of treasure. Soon, it turned into an open fight with some of the exuberant ball boys trying to snatch the towel from him.

But Diouf would ensure that the towel remained with him even after the match ended. These events were enough for some Moroccan supporters to sniff some *juju*.

Some shattered fans even claimed that the Senegal players, who walked off to the change room protesting a penalty, did so to perform *juju*. The subsequent missed penalty by Morocco's Brahim Diaz would have galvanised their suspicion.

Juju has been a recurrent protagonist in African football and AFCON. Its paraphernalia would be straight out of a horror flick — white powder, "sacred" water, mystery shrubs, and oil (often smeared on goalposts).



A ball boy attempts to grab the blue towel from a Senegal player during the AFCON final. AP

Not the first time

All AFCON champions, at least in this century, had formidable teams, with most of the players drawn from Europe's top five leagues. But rumours swirl of the dark arts' supposed sway on games.

In the 2002 AFCON edition, police arrested members of Cameroon's coaching staff, alleging they had placed a "charm" on the pitch. In the edition before that, a Nigerian official removed a "charm" from the back of Senegal's goal. Ghana's fans were denied entry to the stadium for carrying pots with leaves and liquids in the 2008 edition.

The most bizarre accusation was levelled against Zambia striker Christopher Katongo. His lone goal was the difference in most games, leading some opponents to claim that he had performed *juju* to "bolt" the goalpost after scoring.

Fans, players and coaches all appear to believe in these "supernatural" powers. Last week, a "healer" scammed 33,000 pounds from Mali fans for performing *juju* to guarantee victory in an AFCON match. Last November, Nigeria coach Éric Chelle claimed the Congo DPR beat his team by voodoo. Cameroon legend Samuel Eto'o remembers a story when their opponents Nigeria refused to enter the dressing room during half time. "They said they weren't going in because we'd put a spell on their dressing room," he said.

Action by the CAF

The scuffles over alleged *juju* rituals became so frequent that the Confederation of African Football (CAF) began to impose hefty fines. "We are no more willing to see witch doctors on the pitch than cannibals at the concession stands. Such incidents propagate the image of Africa as a third-world continent," a CAF statement read.

Countries such as Zambia have outlawed the practice. That hasn't meant such claims have stopped, adding a layer of colour and intrigue to a game that is becoming increasingly scientific and structural.

A quote by former Senegalese coach Bruno Metsu sums it up: "Maybe two or three are susceptible to that kind of thing but the rest just treat it as a joke. Otherwise, we'd have won the World Cup ages ago."

Poonawalla to make 'strong & competitive bid' for RCB

Express News Service
January 22

AFTER THE Royal Challengers Bengaluru was put up for sale last year, there have been a lot of speculations going around about who will be the next owner of the franchise which has a Indian Premier League (IPL) trophy as well as a Women's Premier League (WPL) title.

On Thursday, Chief Executive Officer of Pune-based vaccine-maker Serum Institute of India, Adar Poonawalla put his name in the hat when he posted on X that the company will be putting in a 'STRONG and COMPETITIVE bid' for the defending IPL champions. "Over the next few months, will be putting in a STRONG and COMPETITIVE bid for @RCBTweets, one of the best teams in the IPL," he posted.

The effort to find a new owner for RCB, currently valued at around USD 105 million as per Forbes India, began in November last year by current owners United Spirits Ltd (USL), the Indian arm of global beverage major Diageo. The June 4 stampede that killed 11 fans during RCB victory celebrations also accelerated the move to sell the team.

In a communication to the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) and National Stock Exchange in November last year, the UK-based company had called it a 'Strategic Review of the Investment Royal Challengers Sports Pvt Ltd (RCSPL),' a wholly owned company of United Spirits Ltd, the Indian Subsidiary of Diageo.

The letter further stated: "The USL is initiating a strategic review of the investment in its wholly owned subsidiary, RCSPL. RCSPL's business comprises ownership of the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) franchise team that participates in the men's Indian Premier League (IPL) and Women's Premier League (WPL) cricket tournaments hosted by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) annually."

It is understood that the Board of Control for Cricket in India and the IPL Governing Council have been made aware of the development. In the disclosure, Diageo further said, "It is expected the process will conclude by March 31, 2026."

When Vijay Mallya's UB Group bought it for $111.6 million, RCB was the second-most expensive franchise after the Mumbai Indians. In 2015, a year after Diageo took a controlling stake in the UB Group, the franchise came under the UK-based company's control. In 2016, it became the sole owner.

The effort to find a new owner for RCB, valued at around $105 million, began in November

LOOKING AHEAD: T20 WORLD CUP

Why lack of impactful runs will make Surya a liability

Since the start of October 2024, India's T20 captain has made just 388 runs in 26 innings at an average of 16.86 at a meagre strike rate of 134.42

Namit Kumar
Nagpur, January 22

AS INDIA kicked off their preparations for the T20 World Cup with an impressive 48-run victory against New Zealand in the first T20I here on Wednesday, their captain Suryakumar Yadav quietly surpassed a significant landmark. He received his 100th cap for his country in the shortest format. For context, that is two more than MS Dhoni. He is only the third Indian to feature in 100 or more T20Is, after Hardik Pandya, Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma.

But unlike these superstars that have preceded him, Surya is not quite a white-ball great. His ODI record is middling at best: 37 matches without a single century.

He is, by those marks, India's first T20 specialist, captaining the team in an era in which the shortest format has outrightly taken over the public's consciousness.

His one-track mind and specific skills were the reasons why he was entrusted to lead India going into a high-profile title defence after they phased out the stars of the previous generation from the 2024 triumph. He has done a fairly good job at that, sealing a 30th win in 35 games for his side on Wednesday. But his returns with the bat, over a prolonged recent period, have been so modest that, seen within the context of the recent shakeups in the team's top order, India's T20 marauder and leader may well be a liability for them going into a World Cup.

His contribution on Wednesday was not nothing, but that is about the highest praise it can receive. His 22-ball 32 was no display of his usual innovative 360-degree shotmaking, nor a selection of his typical, daring drives on the up. There were a couple of well-timed boundaries and a lovely throwback pick-up six, bending on one knee to send a wobble-seamer soaring above fine leg. But it was also full of mishits in an innings that was bursting with intent but hardly had any control: Surya's general malaise as he has tried to work himself out of this funk.

It was still his third-highest score in 15 months, a period in which he has gone 23 innings without crossing 50. A closer look at his stats since the start of October 2024 tell a dire tale: 388 runs, nearly a third of India's top runscorer Abhishek Sharma, in 26 innings at an average of 16.86 at a meagre strike rate of 134.42.

Fruitful IPL

In between, he did have a fruitful IPL last year, showing he is not totally out of form. But a bulk of his runs came against spin, not against top fast bowlers who have found crafty ways of getting his number and preyed on his desperation. Surya has also struggled due India's attacking template: as the captain, he is expected to lead from the front, not bide his time to understand conditions and eat up the strike in trying to find the middle of the bat.

His tentative strokeplay, arrival at the crease often early due to the loss of a wicket and attempts to force the issue have all created a cocktail that leads opposition pacers to smell blood. His typical areas for scoring, behind square of the wicket and especially on the leg side, have dried up thanks to fast bowlers taking the pace off and getting him to mistime and sky shots in front of him; his premeditated hard hands and a hard bat swing doing their work for them.

These continuing struggles cannot be seen in isolation. They trouble India further after they shot themselves in the foot by constantly rejigging their set batting order. Arguably only Abhishek Sharma is now in form in India's top four going into the World Cup.

While he was in the runs, Sanju Samson was sent roaming the batting order to accomodate vice-captain Shubman Gill, who had been shoehorned into the side on the back of impressive showings as Test skipper. Ahead of the World Cup, they backtracked on that decision, leaving Sanju with just a few games to work himself back into form. Tilak Varma's recent injury has put a further spanner in the works.

It is a non-negotiable for the Indian captain to get back into the runs over the next four T20s against New Zealand this month. The team management set a precedent of prioritising form and team balance by dropping Gill. Continuing to back Surya during this relentless slump while players like the in-form Ishan Kishan and Shreyas Iyer, who defined last year's IPL, are lurking in the background, will unquestionably undermine that. It will be a thumb to the nose to the sheer embarrassment of T20 batting riches in this country to persist with a batter that has a 12-month average of 20.

E. EXPLAINED

Pacers now know how to bowl to SKY

Suryakumar Yadav was a finer player of pace than spin for most of his career. How have those abilities fallen off so much recently? Instead of offering him outright pace, the fast bowlers use their variations and take the pace off the ball, confident that Surya will try to go after them regardless, often seeing him hit balls that are not there to be hit, without pure timing or muscle. These balls are also effective in engaging dew and getting grip into the surface on low and slow subcontinental pitches. He lost his wicket three out four times in the recent South Africa series like this. Twice mistiming an aerial shot to a fielder inside the circle, and once flicking it to the fielder at deep square leg.



Suryakumar Yadav scored 32 off 22 balls during India's 48-run win over New Zealand in the first T20I. AP

Rinku's rocketing strike rate is India's ace up the sleeve

Lalith Kalidas
New Delhi, January 22

The scoring rate skyrockets to 302.63 in the 20th over, the highest among all Full-Member batters

A TINGE of foreboding was beginning to wrap around New Zealand when Rinku Singh walked out of the crease and belted Daryl Mitchell's first ball in the 20th over for a six down the ground. The following ball went sailing over mid-wicket, and Rinku's world had suddenly teleported back to April 2023.

Curiously, since that epic IPL heist for KKR against Gujarat Titans in Ahmedabad, where he clubbed five consecutive sixes to clinch a 20th over thriller, Rinku's T20 career has yet to realise a riff, an encore that would truly stamp his hallmark as a finisher. He relished his best-ever IPL season that year with 474 runs at 149.52. He would oddly face only 247 balls for KKR in the next two seasons, an average of eight balls per outing.

That could partly be blamed for Rinku's selection merely as a reserve for the 2024 T20 World Cup and his conspicuous absence in India's most recent T20I assignments.

The 20 runs he reeled in with two sixes and as many fours in the final over glimpsed that the forthcoming weeks could define India's first bona fide T20I finisher. They have not quite had a player like him in the position before, with wicket-keepers or an ensemble of all-rounders always doing the rounds during major tournaments.

Absence of a secondary skill set had downplayed his ingenuity in the evolving path to defending the World Cup title. That was until the selectors picked up on a glaring hole in the eleventh hour before the World Cup squad was announced last month. The lack of adequate muscle and nous against pace at the death isn't something Hardik Pandya can bandage alone during India's home games at the World Cup, on arguably the flattest strips in the country.

Aptly, for the need of unrelenting options against the quicks in the final quarter of the innings, Rinku was back in the mix, with his unbeaten 20-ball 44 against the Kiwis uncovering a part of India's full combative potential in the format.

The IPL stage has been readying him for years now, for no batter has outpaced the left-hander for the last three seasons at the death. Rinku's 414 runs in the last-four stage have only been bettered by Tim David (463) in the IPL since 2023, but his 201.95 strike rate even eclipses the towering Aussie (197.25). Rinku does not beam explosively like David, or MS Dhoni and Heinrich Klaasen, who have also reached the 400-run mark at the death in the same period. And yet, he frequents boundaries quicker than the sturdy trio at the death, at every 3.15 deliveries.

The 28-year-old has already translated this ballistic charge for India in the death-overs, which has contributed to 51 per cent of his career runs at an explosive 214.68 strike rate. The numbers grow otherworldly as the pressure stiffens. Rinku has already gathered 213 of his 594 career runs in the last two overs of an innings alone, striking at 287.83. The scoring rate skyrockets to 302.63 in the 20th over, the highest among all Full-Member batters who have aggregated at least 100 runs within the final-over sequence.

A closer inspection of the rugged southpaw's knocks throws up room for exploration, past the entrenchments of the slog overs. It is a temptation India will do best to resist, but will find solace in tough times ahead. Over 40 balls were still left in the Indian innings when Rinku walked in at number seven against New Zealand in Nagpur. Playing out six deliveries for five runs before the 16th over, Rinku would plunder 39 off the next 14 deliveries with seven boundaries.

On the eight times he has batted at least 15 deliveries in an innings from No. 5 or lower, Rinku has exhibited exceptional consistency, nudging at least 30 runs in each of those innings. Seven of them contributed 355 runs with an average strike-rate of 184.88, except the one knock (30 off 26) spent lifting India out from a pit - at 12 for three in two overs - against England in Pune last year.

The exceptional range between a grafter in crisis and an instant boundary-poacher at the death also combined to produce his best for India, an unbeaten 69 against Afghanistan, in January 2024.

With only five innings in chases in his T20I career, Rinku hasn't habituated hitting the winning runs amidst a stacked top-order. The 2025 Asia Cup final against Pakistan was his to finish, and India will hope rampant Rinku will remain just the same in the eye of a chasing storm in the next six weeks.

Rinku 'Rocket' Singh



	Runs	SR	6s	Bp6
T20I career	594	165	34	10.58
In death-overs	307	214.68	25	5.72
In overs 19-20	213	287.83	22	3

Ranji: Gill out for duck, Sarfaraz rescues Mumbai

Express News Service
January 22

INDIA'S TEST and ODI captain Shubman Gill fell for nought in the Group B clash of the Ranji Trophy against Saurashtra in Rajkot as Punjab conceded a 33-run lead on a wicket-filled day. Gill was trapped in front of the wicket by left-arm spinner Parth Bhut.

Apart from Bhut, who took five wickets for 33 runs, veteran India spinner Ravindra Jadeja (2/48) and seasoned Dharmendra Jadeja (2/36) joined in to dismiss Punjab for 139..

Saurashtra were bowled out for 172. However, the hosts found themselves in trouble again in the second innings, ending the day on 24/3.



Shubman Gill was out LBW to spinner Parth Bhut. PTI

BRIEF SCORES: Saurashtra 172 all out in 47.1 overs (Gohil 82, Mankad 32; Brar 6/38) and 24/3 in 6 overs vs Punjab 139 all out in 40.1 overs (Prabhsimran 44; Bhut 5/33).

• Round-up

GROUP A

In Lucknow: Jharkhand 279/1 in 86 overs (Sharandeep 128*) vs UP

In Vizianagaram: Vidarbha 267/7 in 81 overs (Rathod 104 not out, Binkar 37; Raju 4/51) vs Andhra

GROUP B

In Thiruvananthapuram: Kerala 139 all out in 56 overs (Aparajith 49; Birla 4/40) vs Chandigarh 142/1 in 34 overs (Azad 78)

In Alur: Madhya Pradesh 244/5 in 90 overs (Venkatesh Iyer 87; Vyshak 2/51) vs Karnataka

GROUP C

In Nadiad: Gujarat 175 all out in 55.4 overs (Patel 57; Zubair 3/36) vs Railways 78/2 in 26 overs

In Kalyani: Bengal 340/4 in 86 overs (Chatterjee 140 not out, Easwaran 81) vs Services

GROUP D

In Jaipur: Himachal Pradesh 314/4 in 90 overs (Mann 118, Bains 72; Suthar 2/59) vs Rajasthan

In Bengaluru: Delhi 216 all out in 67.5 overs (Doseja 104; Dev Aditya Singh 3/43) vs Chhattisgarh 52/0

Group D Ranji Trophy clash against Hyderabad at the RGIS in Hyderabad. The pair put on 249 runs for the fourth wicket before the latter fell for 104 late in the day.

Sarfaraz, Siddesh rescue Mumbai

Centuries from Sarfaraz Khan and Siddesh Lad helped rescue Mumbai from 82/3 and reach 332/4 after Day 1 of the Group D Ranji Trophy clash against Hyderabad at the RGIS in Hyderabad. The pair put on 249 runs for the fourth wicket before the latter fell for 104 late in the day.

Sarfaraz remained unbeaten on 142 off 164 balls with 11 fours and five sixes. Mumbai is without the services of Ajinkya Rahane, who has opted out due to personal reasons.

BRIEF SCORES: Mumbai 332/4 in 87 overs (Sarfaraz 142, Lad 104; R Rayudu 2/66) vs Hyderabad.

Saxena claims 500th wicket

All-rounder Jalaj Saxena claimed his 500th first-class wicket during his spell of 6/79, which helped Maharashtra bowl Goa out for 209 runs in 82.1 overs in Pune.

BRIEF SCORES: Goa 209 all out in 82.1 overs (Kauthankar 73, Yadav 33; Saxena 6/79) vs Maharashtra 19/0 in 5 overs

• WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE

Devine, Gayakwad keep GG's playoff hopes alive

Tushar Bhaduri
New Delhi, January 22

SYNOPSIS: Warriorz's playoff chances took another hit as Sophie Devine and Rajeshwari Gayakwad' guided Gujarat Giants to a vital win.

TWO VICTORIES after three defeats on the trot at the start of their campaign had given UP Warriorz some semblance of hope that their Women's Premier League (WPL) season had something to play for, but the 45-run reversal against Gujarat Giants in Vadodara on Thursday – in which their batters failed miserably on an admittedly tricky pitch – put Meg Lanning's team's playoff chances in further jeopardy.

A team is likely to feel satisfied if it restricts the opposition to 153/8 in the first 20 overs. The Warriorz would have fancied their chances at 39/1 and then at 57/2, but they faltered against the Giants' mixture of seam and spin to fall well short, and Ashleigh Gardner's side took a big step towards the playoffs.

Kiwi all-in-one

It would be tough to find a more versatile player in women's cricket than Sophie Devine. The New Zealand legend can be considered at least two players for the price of one. She had been batting at the top of the order for the Giants, but after three successive defeats, the team needed a change in plan. So Devine was pushed down the order, as Danni Wyatt-Hodge came into the side as an opener.

One wouldn't say that the move was an unqualified success, with the team reduced to 65/3 in the 10th over when Devine walked in.

Beth Mooney was holding firm, but the score soon became 93/4, 105/4 and 115/6 with the scoring rate also going nowhere. Devine had to not only score her own runs, but also shepherd the lower order. An unbeaten 50 in 42 balls may not seem much in a T20 game, but the context of the match situation and the Giants' precarious position on the points table added great significance to her effort. The pitch wasn't the easiest to bat on.



Rajeshwari Gayakwad returned figures of 3 for 16. CREIMAS

The Kiwi superstar kickstarted her innings with a slog-swept six off Deepti Sharma, but had only two fours in her innings till she reached the 20th over, as she focused on finding gaps in the field. Phoebe Litchfield would be ruing dropping a dolly at the deep midwicket fence that would have dismissed Devine with almost five overs left. Even though Bharti Fulmali got run out in the ensuing confusion, it allowed the New Zealand veteran to stay till the end and whack two sixes in the final over, bowled by Shikha Pandey, to take the Giants to a competitive score.

Devine was not done yet. Bowling returns of 16/2 in 3.3 overs, a catch, and a run-out finished just a normal Devine evening on the cricket field.

Left is right

The pitch was offering assistance, and the experienced Rajeshwari Gayakwad used it to stub any UP Warriorz comeback in the bud. The chasing team was already up against the eight-ball when the left-arm spinner came on at the halfway mark. Deepti Sharma is a bonafide all-rounder, and Chloe Tryon is a big hitter, but there was no twist in the tale.

The left-handed Deepti was trapped in front, going for a sweep. Then Rajeshwari slowed the pace and bowled it wider as Shweta Sehrawat went for a wild heave, missed the ball completely, and was bowled. Asha Sobhana tried a big hit but couldn't clear the infield as Rajeshwari finished with 3/16.

BRIEF SCORES: Gujarat Giants 153/8 (Devine 50 not out, Mooney 38; Gaud 2/18, Eccleston 2/22) beat UP Warriorz 108 in 17.3 overs (Litchfield 32, Tryon 30 not out; Gayakwad 3/16, Devine 2/16) by 45 runs

• BRIEFLY



Jeremy Hayward scored four goals for Soorma HC. HIL

Soorma score six but narrowly miss out on playoff berth

JSW SOORMA Hockey Club registered a 6–1 victory over SG Pipers in the final Hockey India League (HIL) group stage match on Thursday. Needing a seven-goal win to seal their spot in Qualifier 2, Soorma made a high-intensity start, led by Jeremy Hayward's (2', 7', 34', 45') thunderous drag flicks and a counter-attacking strike from Lucas Martinez (11'). Nicolas Keenan (47') later helped Soorma move into touching distance of qualification in the final quarter but the SG Pipers held on in the dying minutes to break Soorma's hopes of advancing to the Qualifiers. Soorma finished fifth on the table, level on points with HIL GC (11) but had inferior goal difference (2, to HIL GC's 3). PTI

India bids for 2028 World Indoor Athletics

INDIA IS pitching in for two global athletics events in 2028, with the national federation bidding to host the World Indoor Championships in Bhubaneswar, besides the World U20 Championships in Ahmedabad. The World Athletics will announce the hosts of the 2028 and 2030 editions of Junior World Championships in March. PTI

Tilottama, Mane top shooting selection trials

TILOTTAMA SEN produced yet another solid show to secure the top spot in the T1 finals of the women's 10m Air Rifle event in the National Selection Trials. Shahu Tushar Mane of Railways won in the men's event, while Vijayveer Sidhu claimed top spot in 25m Rapid Fire Pistol T2. PTI

Lakshya, Sindhu enter quarters

Vinayakk Mohanarangan
New Delhi, January 22

INDIA'S LEADING singles players PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen entered the quarterfinals at the Indonesia Masters Super 500 in Jakarta after straight-games wins in the round of 16 on Thursday. But there were defeats for Srikanth Kidambi, Anmol Kharb and Hariharan Amsakarunan-MR Arjun in the day's other pre-quarterfinal fixtures. Sindhu, who began the season with an impressive semifinal run at the Malaysia Open Super 1000 before faltering in the first round at her home event in India last week, came through in straight games against Denmark's Line Hojmark Kjaersfeldt 21-19, 21-18 in 43 minutes. Notably, this was Sindhu's 500th career singles win (including matches at age-group international tournaments and team events). According to Badminton Ranks, she is now the sixth women's singles player to achieve this feat and the first Indian to do so.

After a tight start, Sindhu pulled away to a 9-5 lead and stayed in front for the remainder of the opener despite the Dane threatening a couple of comebacks, first at 15-15 and then saving three game points from 16-20 down. In the second game, Kjaersfeldt had the upper hand at 9-7 but Sindhu, who fought back from 2-11 down in her opener on Wednesday, again showed good bouncebackability to reel off seven straight points and move towards the finish line. The world No 18 did close the gap down to one point at 13-14, but Sindhu held her lead from there to close the match out in straight games.

The milestone win sets up a fascinating quarterfinal against top seed and World No. 4 Chen Yufei, in a rivalry that dates back to November 2015. Sindhu had the early advantage in this matchup against the Chinese allrounder three years younger to her. With her stunning semifinal dismantling of Chen (21-7, 21-14) during that famous week in Basel when she went on to become World Champion, Sindhu opened up a 6-3 lead in the first nine meetings.

But the Tokyo Olympics gold medallist has won all of their last four meetings. Interestingly, though, three of those four defeats for Sindhu have come in three-game marathons lasting 72, 92, and 75 minutes, respectively, and a common thread was that she was able to go toe-to-toe with Chen in all of those encounters but faltered in the endgame. But a rejuvenated, fitter Sindhu at the start of 2025 would be hoping for a different outcome in their 14th meeting on Friday at the iconic Istora Senayan.

In men's singles, Lakshya produced a near flawless performance against Hong Kong China's Jason Gunawan to prevail 21-10, 21-11 in just 33 minutes. Gunawan had no answers to Lakshya's speed of attacks right through the match, with the Indian taking control of the mid-court nicely and early. Lakshya will next face 2022 World Junior Championships bronze medallist Panitchaphon Teeraratsakul in the quarterfinal.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Djokovic winds back the clock; Sinner proves he is in fine form

Stan Wawrinka and Marin Cilic also among the veterans to advance; Swiatek and Keys also make progress

Reuters
Melbourne, January 22

NOVAK DJOKOVIC rolled back the years to reach the Australian Open third round on Thursday but Jannik Sinner, the man who has usurped him as king of Melbourne Park, showed why he is favourite to claim a hat-trick of titles.

Women's defending champion Madison Keys overcame a second-set wobble against Ashlyn Krueger to also advance while former champion Naomi Osaka toned down her outfit but not her power game as she also reached round three.

Iga Swiatek continued her quest to complete her career Grand Slam with a 6-2 6-3 victory over unseeded Marie Bouzkova.

Fourth seed Djokovic, seeking a record-extending 11th Melbourne Park title and 25th Grand Slam trophy overall to break the deadlock with Margaret Court, eased past Italian qualifier Francesco Maestrelli 6-3, 6-2, 6-2.

The 38-year-old Serb maintained his steady grip on the second-round clash without needing to shift into top gear.

"I didn't know much about him (Maestrelli) until a few days ago, it happens more often than not these days," Djokovic said of his 23-year-old opponent.

He raced through the opening set and pounced again in the opening game of the second set to heap pressure on world number 141 Maestrelli. The win was Djokovic's 399th in Grand Slams and his 101st in Melbourne, leaving him one shy of record-holder Roger Federer. Djokovic will next meet Botic van de Zandschulp.

There was something of a retro feel about day five in the men's singles with Swiss former champion Stan Wawrinka, 40, outlasting Arthur Gea 4-6, 6-3, 3-6, 7-5, 7-6 (10-3) while Marin Cilic, 37, dispatched 21st seed Denis Shapovalov 6-4, 6-3, 6-2.

In 2009, Djokovic, Cilic and Wawrinka all reached round three and 17 years later they are still going strong.

The man to beat on blue Melbourne hard courts these days, however, is Sinner. He was supreme as he thumped home wild card James Duckworth 6-1, 6-4, 6-2 in the Rod Laver Arena evening session, banging down 18 aces in a dominant display. Sinner, bidding to join Djokovic by becoming only the second man in the professional era to win three successive Australian Open titles, has now won 12 successive Tour-level matches without dropping a set and looks razor sharp.

"I know how much work I've put in so the body feels good and the mind is in a good moment," he said. The world number two will face American Eliot Spizzirri next.

Keys stumbles

Keys, the ninth seed in the draw, notched up a 6-1, 7-5 win over fellow American Krueger but was less than convincing after powering her way through the opening set. The defending champion allowed doubts to creep into her game in the second set, handing Krueger two breaks on serve with a succession of double faults before battling back to progress to the next round to face Karolina Pliskova. Swiatek shrugged off the sluggishness of her first-round match with a much more lively display against Bouzkova. "It felt great playing today, I felt more free than in the first round so I wanted to go for it," Swiatek said.

Osaka, champion in 2019 and 2021, ditched the parasol, veil and broad-brimmed hat for her walk-on against Romania's Sorana Cirstea but continued making waves in her jellyfish-inspired outfit, battling to a 6-3 4-6 6-2 win. There was no love lost between the two players though with a frosty exchange at the net after match point with Cirstea upset by Osaka's antics. "(There were) apparently a lot of 'come ons' that she was angry about," Osaka said.

Sixth seed Jessica Pegula had few issues against doubles partner McCartney Kessler, handing out a comprehensive 6-0, 6-2 defeat to her fellow American in 58 minutes to set up a meeting with Russia's Oksana Selekhmeteva in the third round.

Wimbledon runner-up Amanda Anisimova, also from the US, eased to a 6-1, 6-4 win over Katerina Siniakova and the fourth seed will next face compatriot Peyton Stearns while fifth seed Elena Rybakina beat Varvara Gracheva, also in straight sets.

Men's fifth seed Lorenzo Musetti won the battle of the Italians on Margaret Court Arena as he beat Lorenzo Sonego 6-3 6-3 6-4 and will face Czech Tomas Machac next after he overpowered Greek 31st seed Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-4 3-6 7-6(5) 7-6(5). "It was not an easy match to prepare, to play, and to deal with because Lorenzo is one of my best friends on tour," said Musetti. "We shared a lot of nice memories, so it's not easy to separate those things in the court."

Eighth-seeded Ben Shelton had few issues against Australia's Dane Sweeny, the American claiming a 6-3 6-2 6-2 win to set up a third-round meeting with Valentin Vacherot, who defeated Australia's Rinky Hijikata in four sets.



Novak Djokovic won his 399th Grand Slam match on Thursday. AP

RD 2 RESULTS

- **Women's singles:** (6) J Pegula bt M Kessler 6-0, 6-2; (5) E Rybakina by V Gracheva 7-5, 6-2; K Siniakova lost to (4) A Anisimova 1-6, 4-6; (16) N Osaka bt S Cirstea 6-3, 4-6, 6-2; A Krueger lost to (9) M Keys 1-6, 5-7; M Bouzkova lost to (2) I Swiatek 2-6, 3-6.
- **Men's Singles:** (Q) F Maestrelli lost to Novak Djokovic 3-6, 2-6, 2-6; J Duckworth lost to J Sinner 1-6, 4-6, 2-6; (5) L Musetti bt L Sonego 6-3, 6-3, 6-4; J Munar lost to (12) c rUDD 3-6, 5-7, 4-6

Liverpool beat Marseille 3-0

Reuters
Marseille, January 22

LIVERPOOL SWEPT aside Olympique de Marseille with a 3-0 away victory on Wednesday to extend their unbeaten run to 13 matches in all competitions and move a step closer to direct qualification for the Champions League last 16.

Goals from Dominik Szoboszlai and Cody Gakpo either side of a Geronimo Rulli own goal lifted Arne Slot's team to 15 points, leaving them well placed in the top eight ahead of the final round of matches. Marseille remain in the hunt for a playoff spot on nine points despite the defeat.

The Ligue 1 side are 19th in the table and travel to Club Brugge in their final group match needing a positive result to keep their European campaign alive, while Liverpool, in fourth, will host Qarabag knowing another win would secure their place in the last 16.

Liverpool looked sharp as they continued their recovery after a difficult period earlier in the season, while Marseille once again showed their limitations on the biggest stage.

"It's always difficult to play against (Roberto) De Zerbi teams because if you aren't front-footed they can play out pretty easy," said Liverpool captain Virgil van Dijk, who made his 350th appearance for the club. "They keep on playing and taking a risk, so if you win the ball between the lines then you have a chance. I'm pleased with the team, everybody put a shift in," added the Dutch centre back before warning of the dangers of Saturday's Premier League opponents Bournemouth.

"We always say after a win or good result to keep momentum. But Bournemouth are a difficult team to beat, play very good football and we have to be more than ready. We will recover and go again."

In the bottom half of the 36-team league, OM were left contemplating the gap between them and their opponents.

"It's tough, they played a good game, we were not well in the first half. We tried our best but it's very tough, they're used to playing like this," Marseille defender Leonardo Balerdi said. "You can't see it from outside the pitch but it's very tough."

Mohamed Salah made his first start since November as Liverpool lined up with Joe Gomez stepping in at centre back in the absence of Ibrahima Konate, who missed the game due to a personal matter.

Marseille came into the match having gone 30 Champions League games without a draw while Liverpool were also without a stalemate in their previous 27 matches, the two longest such runs in the competition's history.

Arne Slot's Liverpool controlled much of a cagey opening half but lacked a little sharpness in the final third. Salah went close when Jeremie Frimpong found him at the near post, but the forward lifted his effort over the bar.

Marseille threatened in flashes. Mason Greenwood's free kick was headed clear to Amine Gouiri, who struck a powerful effort on target, forcing a fine save from Alisson Becker.

The visitors then thought they had scored through Hugo Ekitike, but the goal was ruled out for offside.

Liverpool struck on the stroke of halftime as Szoboszlai sent a low free kick under the wall to give the Reds a deserved lead. Marseille injected some life into their game after the break but they were clearly second best and Liverpool doubled their tally in the 73rd minute when Frimpong's low cutback took a deflection off goalkeeper Rulli and rolled into the net for an own goal.

Every breath they take: Cyclists swear by nose strips to keep them going

Shivani Naik
Pune, January 22

RIDERS AT the Pune Grand Tour have a face-care routine though it's not powdering of their noses. Right before they step out of their tents, riders get busy with slathering or spraying sunscreen on their arms. And looking into their mobile phone mirrors to locate the exact spot on the nose bridge to tape on a 'nasal strip'.

Nasal strips have leapt on to other sports, but their predominance amongst road cyclists is pretty high. Enzo Fuentes of Pro Cycling Team says getting onto a professional cycling set-up solved two of his issues: breathing correctly when cycling, and disturbed sleep. His teammates from Andorra joke that he sought out the strips because they informed him he snored. But the rider says it's essentially to clear nasal pathways and regulate breathing.

"I started using them two years ago after joining the Pro Cycling team. It's also to ensure I'm breathing right when I sleep," he says.



Enzo Fuentes (in white) of Pro Cycling Team says getting onto a professional cycling set-up solved two of his issues: breathing correctly when cycling, and disturbed sleep.

A bunch of Spanish, French, Dutch and Belgian teams here travel with a box of nasal strips, which are stuck on the mid-bridge of the nose. They are known to ease nasal muscles and ease breathing.

Malaysian teams too pass around the stick-ons that look like blackhead removal strips, and are an integral part of a cyclists' gear – as important as helmets or sunglasses.

While the black strips look like warpaint, top teams like Burgos have moved onto the translucent or skin-coloured strips that are barely visible.

A tiny strip, a physio explains, has springy edges that pull the upper curves of the nostrils wide apart gently, and help reduce resistance, easing airflow. Placing the strips accurately is crucial, and part of the cycling finery.

Safety pins

Riders on the Pro Tour for years swear by the meditative practice of attaching the bibs to their back jersey pockets meticulously with safety pins. "Early in my racing career, I once had the paper bibs flapping away like crazy at the start, and I looked really ridiculous," recalls Team Roojai's Australian rider Dylan Hopkins. "It affects riding of course in winds, but I decided I'd never look stupid again. From then onwards, I make it a point to sit calmly each race morning and pin the bibs properly. It's almost a superstition that shabby bibs will lead to a bad race," he says.

A bunch of Spanish, French, Dutch and Belgian teams here travel with a box of nasal strips, which are stuck on the mid-bridge of the nose.

"Three pins to secure the top. Three on the side. All sides. And life feels alright," he says dramatically.

From Mongolia, a wrestling & judo country, comes best Asian finisher

Shivani Naik
Pune, January 22

IN A sport that consistently logs winners from Europe and the Tasman Antipodes New Zealand and Australia, Asians are fewer in numbers, and find it tough to break through. Even so, pro cycling teams from China, Malaysia, Korea and Thailand, are attempting to find a toehold at cycling's Pune Grand Tour. The same impediments of genetics, cycling culture and sheer exposure stop Asians from acing the long road race of cycling.

But two Asians have smashed conventions – in their own distinct ways – bagging attention. Jambalhamts Sainbayar is a pioneer from Mongolia, who has been finishing with the orange jersey (best Asian finisher) on all three completed days of the UCI 2.2 event at Pune, and racing for 11 years now, currently with one of Spain's top teams Burgos Burpellet.

Mongolia is hardly ever on the pro-sport map of the world, but the 29-year-old started a trend that was astonishing for his compatriots that it led to an explosion of expressive cycling (speeding) in the sport. "Mongolia mostly has just wrestling, judo and pistol shooting. I was the first one to turn professional," says the soft-spoken sprinter, who can straddle the climbs with equal tenacity.

After racing for years in Asia, the Spanish pro team picked him for his disciplined riding. "I was an only child, and I can remember riding a bicycle since I was 3. By 15 I was racing professionally," he says.

Sarda from Bikaner

Manav Sarda won't exactly twirl his moustache, but the young rider from India's Developing squad is mighty proud of what he's achieving in his chosen sport. It's fairly common for Bikaner cyclists to make it to the national team. "It's known as India's cycling hub and lots from my Rajasthan city actually make it to the Services and India squad. But they tend to be the sporty Jatt-Bishnoi community. I'm a Bania. It was tough to believe I could get into this sport," says the young rider, who finished with the Blue jersey (for best Indian rider after Stage 2). Harshveer Singh Sikhon leads the Indian pack now.

The pressure to stick to a family vocation – business in his case – was daunting. "I had started cycling because I was a little fat. Bikaner has all these amazing cyclists, but never from my community. And many from my community laughed and taunted me when I said I want to do sport. We are supposed to just be in business, everything else is looked down on as failure. But I loved all those Bikaner bikers and wanted to break the stereotype. My parents supported me always. I'm happy I've done well in Pune's first year of the pro race," he says.

He hopes many will now get into sport, and the city's bike heritage gets as much play as its bhujia. "After all we are Bikaner boys," he says, stressing he's following a rich tradition. "Hopefully international success follows, and I make my city and country proud."

● PAES RECALLS GLORY DAYS

'Playing alongside Navratilova, Hingis unthinkable for a young boy from Calcutta'

Tushar Bhaduri
New Delhi, January 22

AUSTRALIAN OPEN 2026 is breaking attendance records as fans and tennis lovers come through the turnstiles despite the severe heat being experienced in Melbourne. It is often referred to as the 'Happy Slam' and Indian tennis legend Leander Paes has no shortage of happy memories from his playing days in the Victorian sporting capital.

"It's called the Happy Slam for a reason. Australian fans are very sports-loving and generally very friendly. It was always a pleasure playing at the Australian Open," Paes told *The Indian Express*.

The winner of 18 Grand Slam titles in men's and mixed doubles and four at the year-end ATP Tour finals as well as an Olympic medal in singles, Paes is considered one of the greatest players in his discipline in the history of the sport. He has experienced great highs on some of the revered courts in the game, and has partnered some of the greats of the game, including compatriots Mahesh Bhupathi and Sania Mirza.

Four of his Grand Slam titles – one in men's doubles and three in mixed - came in Melbourne.

Also, it was in Melbourne that he first announced his arrival on the big stage. "I reached the final of the Australian Open junior competition in 1990 (lost to German Dirk Drier), before winning the Wimbledon and US Open juniors the next year and becoming the No.1 junior in the world," Paes recalled on the sidelines of an Indian Golf Premier League (IGPL) event where he announced a grassroots mentorship programme for young golfers.

He was joined in the initiative by Jeev Milkha Singh, Shiv Kapur, Jyoti Randhawa, Gaurav Ghei, SSP Chawrasia and Gaganjeet Bhullar.



Paes and Hingis won four mixed doubles Grand Slam titles.

His three Australian Open mixed doubles titles came with Navratilova (2003), Cara Black (2010) and Hingis (2015). In fact, two of his Majors have come alongside Navratilova and four with Hingis.

Drier, meanwhile, failed to kick on from his Melbourne success, only winning one main draw match at Grand Slams in three appearances, and having a highest singles world ranking of 158.

"There are so many memories from the Australian Open. There is no one match that I can single out," the 52-year-old said. "But the standout will be partnering some of the greatest players in the game on the show court named after one of my idols – the Rod Laver Arena."

Indeed, over his career spanning three decades – in which he became the only tennis player to compete in seven Olympic Games, win Grand Slam titles in three different decades, and have the most number of doubles wins in Davis Cup history – Paes has partnered some of the legends of the game.

"Playing alongside the likes of Martina Navratilova and Martina Hingis has been a huge privilege. It would have been unthinkable for a young boy who used to play in the streets of Calcutta."

His three Australian Open mixed doubles titles came with Navratilova (2003), Cara Black (2010) and Hingis (2015). In fact, two of his Majors have come alongside Navratilova and four with Hingis.

One of Paes's happiest memories of Melbourne involves Czech Radek Stepanek. "It was at the Australian Open in 2012 that I completed my career Grand Slam in men's doubles, partnering Stepanek, as we beat the Bryan Brothers Mike and Bob, no less," he said.

"In fact, it was one of the records that I wanted to tick off. I then completed the career Grand Slam in mixed doubles by winning the 2016 French Open with Hingis." They beat Sania and Croat Ivan Dodig in the final.

Coming to the ongoing tournament, Paes is hoping for the clock to turn back and a member of the erstwhile Golden Generation to triumph at his favourite hunting ground. "Jannik Sinner and Carlos Alcaraz have got to be the favourites. But I really hope that Novak Djokovic wins. I'll be very happy if that happens."

The Serb made the semifinals of all four Majors last year, but such has been the dominance of the two youngsters that this achievement is often overlooked. "He (Djokovic) definitely has a chance. And don't forget, he is 38 now while Sinner is 24 and Alcaraz 22," Paes points out.

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Chandigarh

संक्षिप्त समाचार

नागरिक अस्पतालों में आधुनिक उपकरणों की कमी के साथ चिकित्सकों के रिक्त पदों को भरा जाए : लोहित



रोहतक, 22 जनवरी (पंजाब केसरी)। पेंडारी-सांघरण लोकसभा क्षेत्र के विकास और जनसमस्याओं को लेकर पूर्व मंत्री एवं कांग्रेस वरिष्ठ नेता कृष्ण लोहित चौधरी लगातार सक्रिय नजर आ रहे हैं। इसी कड़ी में पार्टी मुख्यालय में आयोजित एक महत्वपूर्ण बैठक के दौरान कृष्ण लोहित चौधरी ने जनहित से जुड़े कई अहम मुद्दे प्रमुखता से उठाए। उन्होंने कहा कि सांघरण विधानसभा क्षेत्र के सुदूर गांवों में आज भी पर्याप्त चिकित्सा सुविधाएं उपलब्ध नहीं हैं। इस मुलाकात का मुख्य केंद्र सिंदू भिवानी होने के कारण क्षेत्र की चिकित्सा व्यवस्था को लेकर भी विशेष चर्चा हुई। मुलाकात के दौरान लोहित चौधरी ने स्वास्थ्य मंत्री को क्षेत्र की वर्तमान और भविष्य की जरूरतों से अवगत कराया। उन्होंने मंत्री को यह भी बताया कि सांघरण विधानसभा क्षेत्र में केवल आधुनिक चिकित्सा की कमी नहीं, बल्कि विशेषज्ञ डॉक्टरों की भारी कमी भी एक बड़ी समस्या है। उन्होंने कहा कि कई ग्रामीण इलाकों में आज भी लोगों को छोटी-छोटी बीमारियों के इलाज के लिए बड़े शहरों की ओर रुख करना पड़ता है।

5 घंटे तक सांकेतिक भूख हड़ताल की



खेड़ा, 22 जनवरी (पंजाब केसरी)। खेड़ा के ग्राम हरियाणा पत्रा कोऑपरेटिव सुगरमिल्स लिमिटेड के अंतर्गत 3 वर्ष तक गन्ना किसानों का बकाया भुगतान, किसान आंदोलन के दौरान किसानों पर दर्ज मुकदमों की वापसी, एमएसपी गारंटी कानून लागू करने, एक पूर्व सैनिक परिवार को नौकरी देने, ग्राम पंचायत खेड़ा में पूर्व सैनिक के नाम पर द्वार बनाने, एक पूर्व सैनिक परिवार को प्लॉट आवंटित करने तथा एक पूर्व सैनिक के परिवार को पेट्रोल पंप आवंटित करने की मांगों को लेकर किसान यूनियन के जिला अध्यक्ष सुरेश कौथ के नेतृत्व में पूर्व सैनिकों ने 5 घंटे की सांकेतिक भूख हड़ताल की।

PURAN MURTI
COLLEGE OF LAW
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पॉपर्टी टैक्स व डेवलपमेंट चार्ज डिफॉल्टरों पर नगर परिषद की बड़ी कार्रवाई

11 दुकानें व भवन सील

एसडीएम ने कहा, नागरिक जल्द से जल्द जमा कराएं प्रॉपर्टी टैक्स और डेवलपमेंट चार्ज

बहादुरगढ़, 22 जनवरी (पंजाब केसरी): प्रॉपर्टी टैक्स और डेवलपमेंट चार्ज की बकाया राशि जमा न कराने वाले डिफॉल्टरों के खिलाफ बहादुरगढ़ नगर परिषद ने सख्त रुख अपनाते हुए बड़ी कार्रवाई की है। बहादुरगढ़ की एसडीएम अभिनव सिवाच (एचसीएस) की मौजूदगी में नगर परिषद की टीम ने शहर के विभिन्न इलाकों में कार्रवाई करते हुए कुल 11 दुकानों और भवनों को सील किया। उल्लेखनीय है कि एक रोज पूर्व ही एसडीएम डॉ. अभिनव सिवाच ने बहादुरगढ़ शहर का निरीक्षण करते हुए अतिक्रमण हटाने, अवैध पार्किंग को हटवाने और अन्य गैरकानूनी गतिविधियों पर सख्त कार्रवाई करने के लिए प्रशासनिक अधिकारियों को दिए थे। बहादुरगढ़ की अधिकारियों को टीम ने शहर में अतिक्रमण हटाने हुए कार्रवाई की। नगर परिषद अधिकारियों ने बताया कि संबंधित दुकान व भवन मालिकों को बकाया



बहादुरगढ़ में नगर परिषद टीम एक दुकान को सील करते हुए।

राशि जमा कराने के लिए कई बार नोटिस जारी किए गए थे, लेकिन इसके बावजूद उन्होंने न तो प्रॉपर्टी टैक्स और न ही डेवलपमेंट चार्ज जमा करवाया। मजबूरन नगर परिषद को सीलिंग की कार्रवाई करनी पड़ी। यह कार्रवाई फतेह नगर, उद्योग नगर, छोटूराम नगर और रमाकांत कॉलोनियां सहित विभिन्न वॉर्डों में की गई। इसके साथ ही नगर परिषद शहर में स्थित अन्य डिफॉल्टरों के खिलाफ भी कार्रवाई अमल में लाई गई। एस.डी.एम. अभिनव सिवाच ने मौके पर स्पष्ट किया कि सभी डिफॉल्टर जल्द से जल्द अपना प्रॉपर्टी टैक्स और डेवलपमेंट चार्ज जमा करवाएं, अन्यथा भविष्य में भी इसी प्रकार की सख्त कार्रवाई जारी रहेगी। उन्होंने कहा कि नगर परिषद क्षेत्र में किसी भी पात्र या अन्य इमारत का निर्माण कार्य शुरू करने से पहले नगर परिषद से नक्शा पास करवाना अनिवार्य है। नियमों का उल्लंघन करने वालों के खिलाफ कोई ढील नहीं बरती जाएगी। उन्होंने कहा कि नगर परिषद का यह अभियान आगे भी निरंतर जारी रहेगा। ऐसे में नागरिकों समय रहते अपने टैक्स जमा कराएं। एसडीएम ने कहा कि यह टैक्स का पैसा शहरवासियों की मूलभूत सुविधाओं के लिए किया जाता है। सभी अपना हाउस टैक्स, प्रॉपर्टी टैक्स, डेवलपमेंट टैक्स समय पर जमा कराएं ताकि शहर के विकास कार्यों को और तेज गति प्रदान की जा सके।

- नगर परिषद टीम ने शहर के पटेल नगर, उद्योग नगर, छोटूराम नगर सहित अन्य क्षेत्रों में चलाया अभियान

विधायक सर्राफ करेंगे ध्वजारोहण, गणतंत्र दिवस की तैयारियां तेज

भिवानी मंडी, सतीश खारी (पंजाब केसरी): उपमंडल स्तर पर 77वें गणतंत्र दिवस समारोह को भव्य रूप देने के लिए एसडीएम विवेका मलिक ने बीरवार को समीक्षा बैठक की। उन्होंने बताया कि इस वर्ष समारोह राजकीय मॉडल संस्कृति सीनियर सेकेंडरी स्कूल के प्रांगण में हॉकी ग्राउंड के साथ मनाया जाएगा।

समारोह के मुख्य अतिथि भिवानी के विधायक घनश्याम सर्राफ होंगे, जो सुबह 9:58 बजे ध्वजारोहण करेंगे। कार्यक्रम में पुलिस, एनसीसी और होमगार्ड की टुकड़ियां द्वारा परेड की जाएगी, साथ ही स्कूली बच्चों द्वारा पीटी शो और देशभक्तिपूर्ण सांस्कृतिक प्रस्तुतियां भी प्रस्तुत की जाएंगी। एसडीएम ने अधिकारियों को निर्देश दिए कि सभी तैयारियां समय पर पूरी करें। उन्होंने बताया कि समारोह को अंतिम रिहर्सल 24 जनवरी को होगी और इस अवसर पर उत्कृष्ट कार्य करने वाले व्यक्तियों को सम्मानित भी किया जाएगा।

हरियाणा के बॉक्सरों का नेशनल कैंप में दबदबा, 64 में से 31 हरियाणवी

भिवानी, खंडेलवाल (पंजाब केसरी)/पेरिस इंटरनेशनल ओलम्पिक से शहरेन एशिया महाद्वीप के महासचिव सहस्त्रधारी कुलदीप शहरेन ने बताया कि हरियाणा अब मुक्केबाजी का बड़ा केंद्र बनता जा रहा है। नेशनल कोचिंग कैंप 64 में से 31 हरियाणवी बॉक्सरों का चयन हुआ है। इसमें प्रदेश की 14 बेटियों ने जगह बनाई है, जहां 17 पुरुष मुक्केबाजों का चयन हुआ है। जिससे कैंप में लगभग 45 प्रतिशत बॉक्सर हरियाणा के हैं। खेल प्राधिकरण ऑफ इंडिया ने नेशनल कैंप के लिए मुक्केबाजों की सूची जारी की है। यह कैंप पंजाब के एलआइएम पटियाला में 14 मार्च तक चलेगा। कैंप में सीनियर एंड जेंस ओलिंपिक, ओलिंपिक क्वालिफाई मुकाबलों और अन्य अंतरराष्ट्रीय टूर्नामेंट को ध्यान में रखकर मुक्केबाजों की तैयारी करवाई जाएगी। सभी प्रतिभागियों के खाने-पीने और ठहरने की व्यवस्था कैंप स्थल पर ही रहेगी।

संस्कृति और संस्कारों को आयाम देते हैं धार्मिक अनुष्ठान : फरटिया



नांदगढ़, 22 जनवरी (पंजाब केसरी)। श्री श्याम परिवार के तत्वावधान में श्रीमती देवी माता मंदिर प्रांगण में 2 दिवसीय श्री श्याम एवं देवी महिमा का आयोजन किया गया। जिसमें प्रसिद्ध गायक गुरुमेल सिंह मस्ताना की मनमोहक प्रस्तुति ने श्रद्धालुओं को भक्ति रस में सराबोर कर दिया। कार्यक्रम में मुख्य अतिथि के रूप में पहुंचे कांग्रेस विधायक राजेश जून्सवाल ने मंदिर कमेटी को एक लाख रुपये का अनुदान दिया और सभी कार्यक्रम के लिए बधाई दी। इससे पहले सिंह ज्योति प्रज्वलन कार्यक्रम के साथ हुई। इसमें कहा कि इस प्रकार के धार्मिक अनुष्ठान संस्कृति और संस्कारों को आगामी पीढ़ी तक पहुंचाने में अहम भूमिका निभाते हैं और लोगों को आपस में जोड़ते हैं। इससे पहले कार्यक्रम में पहुंचे कैलाश गोयल, अमर गर्ग, सोनकोर सिंह, सोनू गोयल, सतपाल खोरवाल सहित सभी गणमान्य व्यक्तियों का स्वागत किया। वहीं गायक कलाकार दल सहित निरंजनपुरा, सिंगर पवन और अंकित राजनिपाल ने अपने भजनों के माध्यम से श्रोताओं को झूमने पर मजबूर कर दिया। कार्यक्रम में मुख्य गायक कलाकार गुरुमेल सिंह मस्ताना के साथ जय ही प्रकट कृपाला, राहू मेरा महाराज व इक्का कलाकारी का, श्याम बाबा की कृपा सभी भाषा सहित अनेक भजन प्रस्तुत किए।

जब ज्ञान का प्रकाश फैलता तब अज्ञान रूपी दानव का अंत होता : राजवंती

बहादुरगढ़, प्रेम शर्मा (पंजाब केसरी): श्री रामायण प्रचार सभा हिंदी विभाग द्वारा महान स्वतंत्रता सेनानी नेताजी सुभाष चंद्र बोस जयंती एवं वार्षिक पंचमी की पूर्व संध्या पर दीप महोत्सव का आयोजन हुआ। प्रारंभ डॉ. राजवंती शर्मा ने कहा कि ऐसे कार्यक्रमों के आयोजन का मुख्य उद्देश्य आपसी में राष्ट्रभक्ति, सांस्कृतिक चेतना एवं साहित्यिक रुचि का विकास करना होता है। उन्होंने कहा कि जब ज्ञान का प्रकाश फैलता है तब अज्ञान रूपी दानव का अंत हो जाता है। संसार में ज्ञान का महत्व सर्वोपरि है। मुख्यथी लोक पर मनुष्य ही एक ऐसा प्राणी है जो अपने ज्ञान व बुद्धि के बल पर समस्त प्राणियों को अपने वश में रखने की शक्ति रखता है। पुरुषोत्तम पुरा से कार्यालय पुरा तक का जो विकास अवश्य सम्पादन और संस्कृति में दिखाई देता है वह मनुष्य के ज्ञान व बुद्धिमत्ता के कारण ही संभव हुआ है।

जिला स्तरीय गणतंत्र दिवस समारोह के लिए स्कूली बच्चों ने भीम स्टेडियम में किया अभ्यास



भिवानी दीपक खंडेलवाल (पंजाब केसरी) 26 जनवरी को स्थानीय भीम स्टेडियम में आयोजित होने वाले जिला स्तरीय गणतंत्र दिवस समारोह की तैयारियां तेज हो गई हैं। विभिन्न स्कूली बच्चों और परेड की टुकड़ियों ने परेड का भीम स्टेडियम में अभ्यास किया। इस दौरान एसडीएम महेश कुमार ने कार्यक्रम की तैयारियों का जायजा लिया। उन्होंने परेड की टुकड़ियों से बातचीत की और कार्यक्रम को लेकर जरूरी निर्देश दिए। उन्होंने कहा कि किसी भी प्रकार की लापरवाही बर्दाश्त नहीं की जाएगी। उन्होंने कहा कि जिला स्तरीय गणतंत्र दिवस समारोह भीम स्टेडियम आयोजित किया जाएगा। समारोह में जनप्रतिनिधि, अधिकारियों की गरिमामयी उपस्थिति होगी। इसी मद्देनजर पुलिस के विशेषज्ञों द्वारा ट्रैफिक व्यवस्था को लेकर भी सुझाव दिए गए। इसी कड़ी में बीरवार को सिविल स्कूलों के बच्चों ने डीसीपीओ भी मौजूद रहे।

समाधान शिविरों के माध्यम से आमजन को मिल रही राहत : सीईओ

चरखी दादरी, जयवीर फौगाट (पंजाब केसरी): हरियाणा सरकार की ओर से आमजन जीवन की समस्याओं को दूर करने के उद्देश्य से सप्ताह में दो दिन समाधान शिविरों का सफलतापूर्वक आयोजन किया जा रहा है। बीरवार को लघु सचिवालय के बैठक कक्ष में उपायुक्त डॉ मुनीश नागपाल के मार्गदर्शन में सीईओ डॉ. योगेन्द्र अहलावत ने समाधान शिविर में जन समस्याओं को सुना। समाधान शिविर में डॉ योगेन्द्र अहलावत ने नागरिकों की समस्याएं सुनी हुए मौके पर उपस्थित संबंधित विभाग के अधिकारियों को जिला स्तर पर हल होने वाली समस्याओं को त्वरित हल करने के निर्देश दिए और साथ ही पहले सप्ताह की पेंडिंग शिकायतों की रिपोर्ट उनके समक्ष प्रस्तुत करने के लिए कहा। उन्होंने कहा कि हरियाणा सरकार राज्य के लोगों की समस्या को प्राथमिकता देकर उनका निवारण करने के लिए प्रयासरत है।

संक्षिप्त समाचार

नागरिक अस्पतालों में आधुनिक उपकरणों की पूर्ति के साथ विशेषज्ञों के रिक्त पदों को भरा जाए : मोहित



मोहाली, सोनू जोशी (पंजाब केसरी): भिवानी-महेंद्रगढ़ लोकसभा क्षेत्र के विकास और जनसमस्याओं को लेकर भूपेन्द्र सिंह मोहित चौधरी लगातार सक्रिय नजर आ रहे हैं। इसी कड़ी में साथ गुरुद्वारा में आयोजित एक सामाजिक समारोह के दौरान आप मुख्य अतिथि पहुंचे समारोह में मंत्री खट्टर राव ने मुख्य रूप से, पंजाबी गेस्ट के मुख्य एवं मुख्य भाजपा नेता मोहित चौधरी ने मुख्यमंत्री की। इस मुलाकात का मुख्य केंद्र बिंदु भिवानी इंडो तोहाना क्षेत्र की विकास व्यवस्था की और अधिक सुदृढ़ बनाना रहा। मुलाकात के दौरान मोहित चौधरी ने स्वास्थ्य मंत्री को क्षेत्र की चौकसिक और जनसमस्या संबंधी स्थितियों से अवगत कराया। उन्होंने मांग की कि भिवानी और तोहाना के 2 नगरीय अस्पतालों में न केवल आधुनिक उपकरणों की पूर्ति की जाए, साथ विशेषज्ञों के रिक्त पदों को भी प्राथमिकता के आधार पर भरा जाए, ताकि स्थानीय निवासियों को इलाज के लिए बड़े शहरों की ओर न भागना पड़े।

5 घंटे तक सांकेतिक भूख हड़ताल की



झज्जर, अजीत सैनल (पंजाब केसरी): कोरका की अलग हरियाणा पत्रकार यूनियनेशन मुख्यालय झज्जर के आह्वान पर 5 घंटे तक सांकेतिक भूख हड़ताल की गई। जिसमें सब अर्बन यूनियन के पदाधिकारी प्रधान सुरेश कौशिक, वरिष्ठ विकास हाजा, वैशाख संभाही देवानाद, सहायक विकास जागड़ा, सब यूनियन सिकरी प्रधान संजीव कालरा, वैशाख सतीश पुनिया, सब यूनियन बहादुरगढ़ प्रधान राकेश शर्मा, सब यूनियन डिपार्टमेंट प्रधान राकेश सब यूनियन झज्जर के वैशाख राजकुमार के सब यूनियन सोहना प्रधान सन्दीप कुमार व सुखदेव इन सभी का सर्वसम्मति अनिल कुमार रोहतक व धर्मवीरभट्टी राज्य अधिवेशन में चुनने के बाद पत्रकार सांकेतिक हड़ताल पर बैठाया।

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प्रॉपर्टी टैक्स व डेवलपमेंट चार्ज डिफॉल्टरों पर नगर परिषद की बड़ी कार्रवाई

11 दुकानें व भवन सील

एसडीएम ने कहा, नागरिक शब्द से जल्द जमा कराएं प्रॉपर्टी टैक्स और डेवलपमेंट चार्ज

बहादुरगढ़, दीप शर्मा (पंजाब केसरी): प्रॉपर्टी टैक्स और डेवलपमेंट चार्ज की बकाया राशि जमा न कराने वाले डिफॉल्टरों के विरुद्ध बहादुरगढ़ नगर परिषद ने सख्त रुख अपनाते हुए बड़ी कार्रवाई की है। खुदखुशीकला को एसडीएम अभिनव सिहाग (आईएएस) की मौजूदगी में नगर परिषद की टीम ने शहर के विभिन्न इलाकों में कार्रवाई करते हुए कुल 11 दुकानों और भवनों को सील किया। उल्लेखनीय है कि इस रोज पूर्व डी.सी. स्वनिल पविंद पाटिल ने बहादुरगढ़ शहर का विशेषज्ञ करते हुए अतिक्रमण हटाने, अवैध पार्किंग को रोकथाम और अन्य गैरकानूनी गतिविधियों पर सख्त कार्रवाई करने के निर्देश प्रशासनिक अधिकारियों को दिए थे। खुदखुशीकला की अधिकारियों की टीम ने शहर में अभियान चलाते हुए कार्रवाई की। नगर परिषद अधिकारियों के अनुसार कि संबंधित दुकान व भवन मालिकों को बकाया राशि जमा कराने के लिए कई बार नोटिस जारी किए गए थे, लेकिन इसके बावजूद उन्होंने न तो प्रॉपर्टी टैक्स और न ही डेवलपमेंट चार्ज जमा कराया। मंगलवार नगर परिषद की सीलिंग की कार्रवाई करनी पड़ी। यह कार्रवाई पटेल नगर, उद्योग नगर, छोटूराम नगर और श्यामजी कॉम्प्लेक्स सहित विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में की गई। इसके साथ ही नगर परिषद क्षेत्र में



बहादुरगढ़ में नगर परिषद टीम एक दुकान को सील करते हुए।

- नगर परिषद टीम ने शहर के पटेल नगर, उद्योग नगर, छोटूराम नगर सहित अन्य क्षेत्रों में चलाया अभियान

भी घर या अन्य इमारत का निर्माण कार्य शुरू करने से पहले नगर परिषद से नक्शा पास करवाना अनिवार्य है। नियमों का उल्लंघन करने वालों के खिलाफ कोई ढील नहीं बरती जाएगी। उन्होंने कहा कि नगर परिषद का यह अभियान आगे भी निरंतर जारी रहेगा। ऐसे में नागरिक समय रहते अपने टैक्स जमा कराएं। एसडीएम ने कहा कि यह टैक्स का पैसा शहरवासियों की मूलभूत सुविधाओं के लिए किया जाता है। सभी अपना हाउस टैक्स, प्रॉपर्टी टैक्स, डेवलपमेंट टैक्स समय पर जमा करवाएं ताकि शहर के विकास कार्यों को और तेज गति प्रदान की जा सके।

विधायक सर्राफ करेंगे ध्वजारोहण, गणतंत्र दिवस की तैयारियां तेज

सिवानी मंडी, सतीश खुराना (पंजाब केसरी): उपमंडल स्तर पर 77वें गणतंत्र दिवस समारोह को भव्य रूप देने के लिए एसडीएम त्रिवेणा गर्ग्रेक ने चौपाल की समीक्षा बैठक की। उन्होंने बताया कि इस वर्ष समारोह राजकीय सीनियर संस्कृति सीनियर सेकेंडरी स्कूल के प्रांगण में हर्षोल्लास के साथ मनाया जाएगा।

समारोह के मुख्य अतिथि भिवानी के विधायक घनश्याम सर्राफ होंगे, जो सुबह 9:58 बजे ध्वजारोहण करेंगे। कार्यक्रम में पुलिस, एनसीसी और होमगार्ड की टुकड़ियों द्वारा परेड की जाएगी, साथ ही स्कूली बच्चों द्वारा पीटी शो और देशभक्तिपूर्ण सांस्कृतिक प्रस्तुतियां दी जाएंगी। एसडीएम ने अधिकारियों को निर्देश दिए कि सभी तैयारियां समय पर पूरी करें। उन्होंने बताया कि समारोह की अंतिम रिहर्सल 24 जनवरी को होगी और इस अवसर पर उत्कृष्ट कार्य करने वाले व्यक्तियों को सम्मानित भी किया जाएगा।

हरियाणा के बॉक्सरों का नेशनल कैंप में दबदबा, 64 में से 31 हरियाणवी

भिवानी, संदीपलाल (पंजाब केसरी): पैरिस इंटरनेशनल ओलम्पिक से शुरुरेत एशिया महाद्वीप के महत्त्वाकांक्षा अभ्यासारी कृपाशंकर शास्त्रेत ने बताया कि हरियाणा अब मुक्केबाजों का बड़ा केंद्र बनता जा रहा है। नेशनल कोचिंग कैंप 64 में से 31 हरियाणवी बॉक्सरों का चयन हुआ है। इससे प्रदेश को 14 चोटियों ने जगह बनाई है, जहाँ 12 पुरुष मुक्केबाजों का चयन हुआ है। जिससे कैंप में लगभग 45 प्रशिक्षित बॉक्सर हरियाणा के हैं। खेल प्राधिकरण ऑफ इंडिया ने नेशनल कैंप के लिए मुक्केबाजों की सूची जारी की है। यह कैंप पंजाब के एनआईएस पटियाला में 14 मार्च तक चलेगा। कैंप में स्वीस ऐंजेल्स ओलिंपिक, ओलिंपिक क्वालिफाई मुकाबले और अन्य अंतरराष्ट्रीय टूर्नामेंट की ध्यान में रखकर मुक्केबाजों की तैयारी करवाई जाएगी। सभी प्रतिभागियों के खाने-पीने और ठहरने की व्यवस्था कैंप स्थल पर ही रहेगी।

संस्कृति और संस्कारों को आयाम देते हैं धार्मिक अनुष्ठान : फरटिया



खेड़ाहर, सुधीर शर्मा (पंजाब केसरी): श्री श्याम परिवार के सान्निध्यान में आती देर रात स्थानीय अनाज मंडी परिसर में प्रथम श्री श्याम रोशिता महोत्सव का आयोजन किया गया। जिसमें प्रसिद्ध गायक सुलाब नाथ महाराज की भव्य आरती से श्रद्धालु झूमने को मजबूर हो गए। कार्यक्रम में मुख्य अतिथि के रूप में पहुंचे भाजपा जिलाध्यक्ष राजबीर फरटिया ने संयोजकों को एक लाख रुपये का अनुदान दिया और भव्य कार्यक्रम के लिए बधाई दी। उन्होंने कहा कि इस प्रकार के धार्मिक अनुष्ठान संस्कृति और संस्कारों को आगामी देने का काम करते हैं और लोगों को आत्मिक सुख प्रदान करते हैं। इससे पहले कार्यक्रम में महंत कैलाश नाथ, महंत गणेश जी जोगी, सोमवीर पवन, भक्त रामवीर मलखाना धाम का संगठन सदस्यों लाला गुप्ता, कार्ल गुप्ता, रामपाल जांगड़ आदि ने स्वागत किया। वहीं गायक कलाकार दास महेंद्र निजामपुरिया, विजेंद्र भारीव और अंकित डालपिया ने अपने भजनों के माध्यम से श्रोताओं को झूमने पर मजबूर कर दिया। कार्यक्रम में मुख्य गायक कलाकार गुलाबनाथ महाराज ने भोले जब हो पवन कुमार, शहर शहर लहराए ने झंडा बजरंगबली का, श्याम बाबा को खूंटा मनै भाये सहित अनेक भजन प्रस्तुत किए।

जब ज्ञान का प्रकाश फैलता तब अज्ञान रूपी दानव का अंत होता : राजवंती

बहादुरगढ़, प्रेम शर्मा (पंजाब केसरी): वैश्य आर्य कन्या महाविद्यालय में हिंदी विभाग द्वारा महान स्वतंत्रता सेनानी नेता जी सुभाष चंद्र बोस जयंती एवं बसंत पंचमी की पूर्व संध्या पर तीन महोत्सव का आयोजन हुआ। प्राचार्य डॉ. राजवंती शर्मा ने कहा कि ऐसे कार्यक्रमों के आयोजन का मुख्य उद्देश्य छात्राओं में राष्ट्रभक्ति, सांस्कृतिक चेतना एवं सामाजिक समरसता का विकास करना होता है। उन्होंने कहा कि जब ज्ञान का प्रकाश फैलता है तब अज्ञान रूपी दानव का अंत हो जाता है। संसार में ज्ञान का खजाना अनमोल है। पुस्तकें एक ऐसा माध्यम हैं जो मनुष्य को एक ऐसा प्राणी है जो अपने ज्ञान व बुद्धि के बल पर समस्त प्राणियों को अपने वश में रखने की ताकत रखता है।द्ध पुराणकाल युग से वर्तमान युग तक का जो विकास मानव सभ्यता और संस्कृति में दिखाई दे रहा है वह मनुष्य के ज्ञान व बुद्धिमत्ता के कारण ही संभव हुआ है।

जिला स्तरीय गणतंत्र दिवस समारोह के लिए स्कूली बच्चों ने भीम स्टेडियम में किया अभ्यास



भिवानी दीपक खंडेलवाल (पंजाब केसरी) 26 जनवरी को स्थानीय भीम स्टेडियम में आयोजित होने वाले जिला स्तरीय गणतंत्र दिवस समारोह को रोकर विभिन्न स्कूली बच्चों और पोड की टुकड़ियों ने चौपाल को भीम स्टेडियम में अभ्यास किया। इस दौरान एसडीएम महेश कुमार ने कार्यक्रम को लेकर जरूरी निर्देश दिए। उन्होंने कहा कि बेहतरीन प्रदर्शन करने वाले स्कूलों का ही सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रमों में शामिल होने के लिए जमकर अभ्यास किया। इस दौरान एसडीएम महेश कुमार ने कार्यक्रम को लेकर जरूरी निर्देश दिए। उन्होंने कहा कि बेहतरीन प्रदर्शन करने वाले स्कूलों का ही सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रमों में चयन होगा। 24 जनवरी को गणतंत्र दिवस समारोह की अंतिम रिहर्सल होगी, जिसमें डीसी सहित पूरा प्रत: दल वर्ग लेगा फहराएंगे। इस दौरान जिला शिक्षा अधिकारी निर्मल दहिया और विभिन्न स्कूलों के बच्चे व अतिथि भी मौजूद रहे।

समाधान शिविरों के माध्यम से आमजन को मिल रही राहत : सीईओ

चरखी दादरी, जयवीर फौगाट (पंजाब केसरी): हरियाणा सरकार की ओर से आमजन मानस की समस्याओं को दूर करने के उद्देश्य से सप्ताह में दो दिन समाधान शिविरों का सफलतापूर्वक आयोजन किया जा रहा है। चौरवर को लघु सचिवालय के बैठक कक्ष में उपायुक्त डॉ. सुमैरा नागपाल के मार्गदर्शन में सीईओ डॉ. वीरेन्द्र अहलावत ने समाधान शिविर में जन समस्याओं को सुना। समाधान शिविर में डॉ. वीरेन्द्र अहलावत ने नागरिकों को समस्याएं सुनते हुए मौके पर उपस्थित संबंधित विभाग के अधिकारियों को जिला स्तर पर हल होने वाली समस्याओं को तुरंत हल करने के निर्देश दिए और साथ ही पहले सप्ताह की पेंडिंग शिकायतों की एंडोजार उनके समय प्रस्तुत करने के लिए कहा। उन्होंने कहा कि हरियाणा सरकार राज्य के लोगों की समस्या को प्राथमिकता देकर उनका निवारण करने के लिए प्रयासरत है।

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card, will be eligible to avail the benefits of the scheme.

Addressing a gathering in Mohali after launching the scheme, Kejriwal said, "No one (in Punjab) is excluded. All 65 lakh families are covered. We had given this guarantee before the elections. This was called Kejriwal's guarantee".

He said, in the past 75 years, several governments came, but they did not take care of people despite making tall claims. "Be-

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For **Scientist/Engineer 'SD'**: Applications will be received on-line through ISRO Live Register portal only. Accordingly, candidates are advised to either register or update their registrations in the Live Register portal of ISRO **https://www.isro.gov.in** under "Careers" tab on or before 12.02.2026 (1700 hours). Live register portal can directly be accessed on **https://liveregister.isro.gov.in/LRC/lrcw**

For Scientist/Engineer 'SC': Interested candidates may visit our website **https://www.sac.gov.in** OR https://careers.sac.gov.in for detailed advertisement and registering the applications online. Applications will be received ONLINE only. The site will remain **open from 1000 hrs. on 23.01.2026 to 1700 hrs. on 12.02.2026 for online registration, filling up of online application and payment of application fees.**

Any Addendum/Update/Corrigendum will only be published on SAC website. Candidates should regularly visit the SAC website www.sac.gov.in for latest updates.

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Qualifications, Pay Scales and Experience Criteria as per UGC, BCI, State Government/MDU, Rohtak Norms. The interested Candidates may apply in prescribed form with all technical details within 21 days (upto 13.02.2026) from the date of publication of Advertisement. The Application form may be collected from the office of the Institute during office hours or may be downloaded from the website of the Institute. The Application complete in all respect may be submitted to the President, Puran Murti College of Law, Kanti Road, Distt. Sonepat, Haryana-131001, by Hand/Post/mail at puranmurti@gmail.com. It is also mandatory to submit a copy of the Application along with all Testimonials to DCDC, MDU, Rohtak before expiry of Last Date. President

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On behalf of Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (Govt. of India), tenders are invited from bidders meeting qualifying requirements for following works:

Sl. No.	Description of work	NIT No. and Date	Estimated Cost including GST (Rs. in Crores)	EMD (Rs. in Lakh)	Tender Fee (Rs.)
1	Construction of MSME Technology Centre at Jhansi (Uttar Pradesh) under the Scheme "Establishment of New Technology Centre/Extension Centre" on Engineering Design, Procurement and Construction (EPC) basis including Maintenance for 2 year during DLP Period	INCON/ E-1/28/24 MSME/e-Tender/ EPC/TC Jhansi/ ETI0/ Dated 23.01.2026	94	48	30,000
2	Construction of MSME Technology Centre at Manipur (Chhatrapati) under the Scheme "Establishment of New Technology Centre/ Extension Centre" on Engineering Design, Procurement and Construction (EPC) basis including Maintenance for 2 year during DLP Period	INCON/ E-1/32/26/ MSME/e-Tender/ EPC/TC Manipur/ ETI0/ Dated 23.01.2026	84	48	30,000
3	Construction of MSME Technology Centre at Rajouri (Gujarat) under the Scheme "Establishment of New Technology Centre/Extension Centre" on Engineering Design, Procurement and Construction (EPC) basis including Maintenance for 2 year during DLP Period	INCON/ E-1/28/26/ MSME/e-Tender/ EPC/TC Rajkot/ ETI0/ Dated 23.01.2026	82	47	30,000
4	Construction of MSME Technology Centre at Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu) under the Scheme "Establishment of New Technology Centre/ Extension Centre" on Engineering Design, Procurement and Construction (EPC) basis including Maintenance for 2 year during DLP Period	INCON/ E-1/1/2026/MSME/ e-Tender/EPC/ TC Coimbatore/ ETI0/ Dated 23.01.2026	82	47	30,000
5	Construction of MSME Technology Centre at Thiruvanthuvuram (Kerala) under the Scheme "Establishment of New Technology Centre/ Extension Centre" on Engineering Design, Procurement and Construction (EPC) basis including Maintenance for 2 year during DLP Period	INCON/ E-1/1/2026/MSME/ e-Tender/EPC/ TC Thiruvananthapuram/ETI0/ Dated 19.01.2026	80	46	30,000

Tender Documents will be available on e-tender portal website https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app w.e.f. 23.01.2026 and last date of submission of above tenders is 13.02.2026 upto 15.00 hrs. Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted only on the website. Executive Director/MM

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2.	Chief Project Manager (E&M) / Addl. Chief Project Manager (E&M)	01
3.	Chief Project Manager (PSI) / Addl. Chief Project Manager (PSI)	01

Refer website: www.mahametro.org - "CAREERS" for details of posts, vacancies, educational qualification, age limit, minimum experience required, how to apply etc. **Last date for submission of applications is 23rd February 2026.**

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	14	15
1	UR/EWS/ 29.08.24	इतर (पीबी)	49129	पैरामेडिकल स्टाफ नर्स/ नर्सिंग सुपरिंटेंडेंट	DL/SD/ PHS/A	MD/CM/07 2870/M22	CF/16/11 83444	4000	3200	640		Recog			वर्तमान (रिक्त)
02	40/UR 23.10.24	अनारक्षित	160/22	क्ष्य	DL/C AF/20 A	MA/C/M/C 6/2/MA/0008	AF/C/0.09 4/18	61000	48800	97600	2012				अनारक्षित
03	13/UR 11.09.24	अनारक्षित	134/23	क्ष्य	DL/C A/169	MA/TA/SU MA/0C/0669	EJ/44/20 027	170000	140400	28080	2010				अनारक्षित
04	40/UR 23.10.24	अनारक्षित	113/22	क्ष्य महिला	DL/C A/204	-	-	41000	36000	7200	----	Recog			रिक्त
05	44/UR 30.11.24	अनारक्षित	89/24	पोस्टमास्टर/क्लर्क	DL/SD/ EP/20	-	-	4000	3200	640	2007	Recog			अनारक्षित

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