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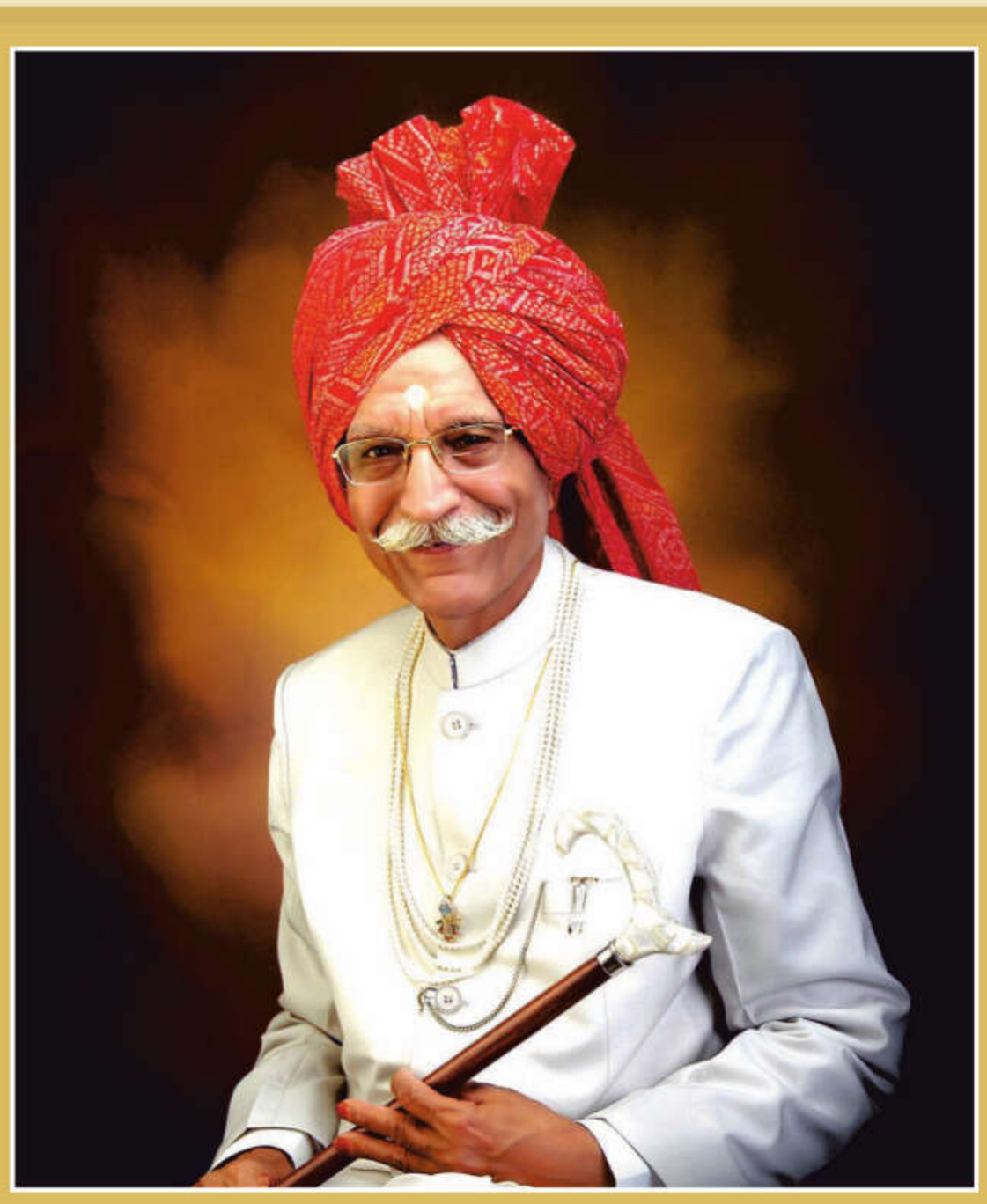


महाशय धर्मपाल गुलाटी जी

संस्थापक चेयरमैन, महाशियाँ दी हट्टी (प्रा०) लि०

पुत्र स्वर्गीय महाशय चूनीलाल जी

(27.03.1923 - 03.12.2020)

एक सच्चे कर्मयोगी, एक दूरदर्शी, परोपकारी और एक उच्च कोटि के उद्योगपति। मसालों के बादशाह को याद करते हुए आपके कर्मयोगी जीवन से प्रत्येक परिवार में भोजन के स्वाद में अधिभूत आनन्द को महसूस किया है। आपकी विनम्रता, सूझबूझ, करुणा एवं मार्गदर्शन हमारी प्रेरणा का स्त्रोत रहेंगे।

हमारी प्रेरणा, प्रतिबद्धता, प्यार और स्नेह के स्त्रोत के लिए हमारी सम्मान जनक श्रद्धांजलि

एक युग का अंत 1923 – 2020 (एक सरल, परोपकारी और आत्मसमर्पण की दूरदर्शी जीवन यात्रा) आपका काम के प्रति सच्ची निष्ठा और दृढ़ संकल्प, समाज समर्पण और प्रगतिशील विचारों के प्रति निस्वार्थ भक्ति हमेशा सुनहरे अक्षरों में याद की जाएगी। आपकी अनुपस्थिति का गहरा घाव कभी नहीं भर पाएगा। महाशय जी का मुस्कुराता हुआ चेहरा और दूरदर्शितापूर्ण अथक निरंतर प्रयासों से निस्वार्थ दृष्टिकोण और मानवीय मूल्यों से हमेशा प्रेरित यह मानव समाज सदा आपका आभारी रहेगा। यह मानव समाज आपका सदा ऋणी रहेगा।

शोक सन्तप्त परिवार

महाशय चूनीलाल धर्मार्थ ट्रस्ट एवं महाशय धर्मपाल धर्मार्थ ट्रस्ट द्वारा संचालित एवं संवर्धित संस्थान

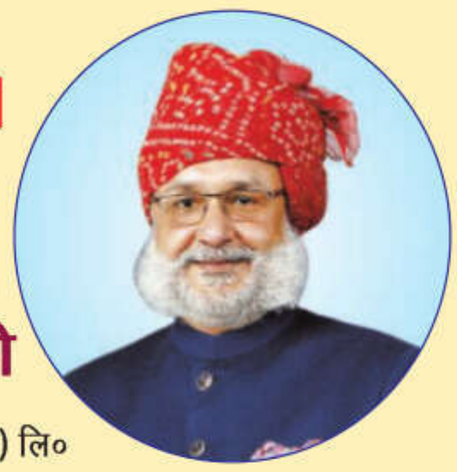
० महाशियां दी हट्टी प्रा० लि०, (दिल्ली, गुड़गांव, फरीदाबाद, कुण्डली, नागौर) ० सुपर डेलिकेसीज प्राइवेट लिमिटेड नई दिल्ली ० माता चन्नन देवी अस्पाताल, (जनकपुरी, नई दिल्ली) ० एम.डी.एच. इंटरनैशनल स्कूल (जनकपुरी एवं द्वारका, नई दिल्ली) ० महाशय चुन्नीलाल सरस्वती बाल मन्दिर (हरी नगर, नई दिल्ली) ० माता लीलावंती सरस्वती विद्या मन्दिर, (टेगौर गार्डन, नई दिल्ली) ० महाशय धर्मपाल विद्या मन्दिर, (बेदगी, कर्नाटक) ० श्री संजीव गुलाटी चिकित्सालय एवं शोध केन्द्र (ऋषिकेश) ० माता लीलावंती वैदिक संस्कृति प्रशिक्षण केंद्र (उदयपुर, राजस्थान) ० माता चन्नन देवी आर्य कन्या गुरुकुल, (पिल्लु खेड़ा, हरियाणा) ० महाशय धर्मपाल चैरिटेबल सोसाइटी ० महाशय धर्मपाल दयानन्द आर्य विद्या निकेतन (आसाम, एम.पी. झारखण्ड एवं नागालैण्ड) ० एम.डी.एच. गऊशाला (अजमेर, नागौर – राजस्थान) ० माता लीलावंती श्री कृष्ण वैदिक कन्या विद्यालय (खुशीपुरा, मथुरा) ० एम.डी.एच.परिसर निर्वाण न्यास (अजमेर, राजस्थान) ० महाशय धर्मपाल वेद रिसर्च फाउण्डेशन (कालीकट, केरल) ० महाशय धर्मपाल हार्ट इंस्टीट्यूट (जनकपुरी, नई दिल्ली) ० एम.डी.एच. पार्क, (नागौर) ० महाशय धर्मपाल अंतरराष्ट्रीय अतिथि गृह, ग्रेटर केलाश, नई दिल्ली ० महाशय संजीव कुमार धर्मार्थ औषधालय, नालागढ़ (हिमाचल) ० महाशय धर्मपाल यज्ञशाला आर्य समाज, त्रिनगर, नई दिल्ली ० महाशय धर्मपाल स्वावलंबना गृह, सिरसा जेल, सिरसा (हरियाणा) ० महाशय धर्मपाल सर्वोदय विद्यालय मलारना चौड़ (राजस्थान) ० गुरुकुल यमुनावट मंझावली फरीदाबाद (हरियाणा) ० महाशय धर्मपाल सर्वोदय विद्यालय एवं वैदिक शोध केंद्र हल्दीघाटी मार्ग उदयपुर ० महाशय धर्मपाल सर्वोदय विद्यालय एवं वैदिक शोध केंद्र नागौर (राज०) ० श्री सत्य सनातन वेद मंदिर रोहिणी, नई दिल्ली ० स्वामी आत्मानंद वैदिक गुरुकुल मलारना चौड़ जिला सवाई माधोपुर (राजस्थान) ० आर्योदय गुरुकुल संस्थान (जयपुर राजस्थान) ० आर्य समाज कोटपूतली, जिला जयपुर (राजस्थान) ० हवन उत्थान जन कल्याण समिति, मण्डावली,(दिल्ली) ० महर्षि दयानन्द योग धाम, अलवर (राजस्थान) ० सर्वे भवन्तु सुखिनः ट्रस्ट, गाज़ियाबाद (यू० पी०) ० वानप्रस्थ साधक आश्रम (गुजरात) ० आर्य समाज श्री विजयनगर श्रीगंगानगर (राजस्थान) ० आर्य कन्या गुरूकुल शिवगंज, सिरोही (राजस्थान) ० महर्षि पतंजलि इंटरनेशनल योग विद्यापीठ, मुजफ्फरनगर (यू० पी०) ० आर्यवीर दल उत्तर प्रदेश, गुरूकुल विश्वविद्यालय, वृंदावन ० श्री गोपाल गोशाला लोहारू, भिवानी (हरियाणा) ० महाशय धर्मपाल ओपन एअर थियेटर, भिवानी जेल (हरियाणा) ० महाशय धर्मपाल चेरिटेबल ट्रस्ट टंकारा (गुजरात) ० महाशय धर्मपाल चेरिटेबल ट्रस्ट अजमेर (राजस्थान) ० महात्मा रामलाल ट्रस्ट इंदरपुरी (दिल्ली) ० सनातन धर्म मंदिर गुरूग्राम ० महाशय धर्मपाल संस्कृत भवन गुरू विरजानंद संस्कृत कुलम हरी नगर, नई दिल्ली ० युगपुरुष महाशय धर्मपाल गुलाटी (एम.डी.एच.) चेरिटेबल भवन एवं डायग्नोस्टिक सेंटर X-25 कड़कड़डूमा इंस्टीटयूशनल एरिया, नई दिल्ली ० युगपुरुष संत महाशय धर्मपाल गुलाटी (एम.डी.एच.) चेरिटेबल कैंसर निदान सहयोग हॉस्पिटल एंव रिसर्च सेंटर X-25 कड़कड़डूमा इंस्टीटयूशनल एरिया, नई दिल्ली ० युगपुरुष संत महाशय धर्मपाल गुलाटी (एम.डी.एच.) आयुर्वेदिक, पंचकर्मा, योग एंव प्राकृतिक चिकित्सा स्वास्थ्य वर्धक एंव रोग निवारण धर्मार्थ संस्थान, खसरा नं० 259, 275, 276, ग्राम ईशाक नगर, तहसील मोदीनगर, जिला गाजियाबाद यूपी ० विश्वारा कन्या गुरूकुल रुड़की जिला रोहतक (हरियाणा) ० श्री मट्टयानन्द कन्या गुरूकुल महाविद्यालय चोटीपुरा, (उत्तर प्रदेश) ० संजीव गुलाटी स्मृति चिकित्सालय वन्देमातरम कुंज गंगा भोगपुर तल्ला पौड़ी गढ़वाल (उत्तराखंड) ० महर्षि दयानन्द वेद–विद्या आर्य गुरूकुल नली खुर्द (करनाल) ० श्रीमद् दयानन्द विद्यालय 119, गौतम नगर नई दिल्ली ० श्रीमद् दयानन्द आर्य ज्योतिर्मठ गुरूकुल, पौन्धा, देहरादून (उत्तराखंड) ० बाबा ब्रह्मदास गऊशाला (जीन्द) हरियाणा ० बाबा जमीन नाथ गऊशाला सेवा समिति (जीन्द) हरियाणा ० जय बाबा मन्सानाथ गऊशाला, छात्तर ० जय बाबा धुणेवाला विकलांग गऊशाला समिति (जीन्द) हरियाणा ० श्री कृष्ण गौशाला, नगूरां (जीन्द) हरियाणा ० नन्दी सेवा संघ, उचाना मण्डी (जीन्द) हरियाणा ० श्री गौशाला बाबा फुल्लू साध (जीन्द) हरियाणा ० जय दादा खेड़ा गऊशाला समिति (जीन्द) हरियाणा ० बाबा दलीप गिरी डेरा गऊशाला समिति (जीन्द) हरियाणा ० श्रीमद्दयानंद उत्कर्ष आर्य कन्या गुरूकुल मेरठ ० आर्य समाज विजयनगर (अजमेर) राजस्थान ० महर्षि दयानन्द आर्य गुरूकुल एवं गोशाला भादस जिला मेवात हरियाणा ० आर्यवर्त खेल महासघं जहांगीरपुरी, नई दिल्ली ० महर्षि दयानन्द सेवा समिति (पं.) जनपद एटा, उत्तर प्रदेश

MDH

निवेदक

महाशय राजीव गुलाटी

चेयरमैन, महाशियाँ दी हट्टी (प्रा०) लि०



० आर्य समाज निरसा धनबाद ० वेदविद्या शोध संस्थान (न्यास) कुरुक्षेत्र (हरियाणा) ० वेदविद्या आर्य गुरूकुल कन्धमाल (ओडिशा) ० वानप्रस्थ साधक आश्रम साबरकांटा (गुजरात) ० आर्य समाज सैक्टर–11, द्वारका, नई दिल्ली ० सार्वदेशिक आर्य वीर दल, मथुरा (उ.प्र.) ० महर्षि दयानन्द आर्ष कन्या गुरूकुल समिति, शाजापुर (म.प्र.) ० आर्य समाज निरसा, धनबाद झारखण्ड ० आर्य कन्या गुरूकुल, शिवगंज, गुरूकुल – आर्ष कन्या विद्यापीठ नजीबाबाद (उ.प्र.) ० आर्ष गुरूकुल शिक्षा प्रबंध समिति, नोएडा (उ.प्र.) ० गुरू विरजानन्द स्मारक समिति ट्रस्ट, करतारपुर जालन्धर (पंजाब) ० श्रीमती चन्द्रावती कन्या गुरूकुल संस्कृत विद्यापीठ, कासगंज (उ.प्र.) ० वैदिक राष्ट्रनिर्माण गुरूकुल, लखनऊ (उ.प्र.) ० स्वामी कृष्णानन्द आर्य बालाश्रय चैरिटेबल ट्रस्ट वेद मन्दिर ब्रह्मपुरी, दिल्ली ० आर्य समाज पूर्वी पंजाबी बाग, दिल्ली ० आर्य समाज शकरपुर, दिल्ली ० दर्शन योग महाविद्यालय, सुंदरपुर कुटिया, रोहतक ० दर्शनयोग धाम, संस्कृतिवन, गांधीनगर, गुजरात ० टीकम सिंह आर्य आदर्श बाल/पू०मा० विद्यालय, रजपुरा (सम्भल) ० गुरूकुल विद्यापीठ, पुष्पावती पूठ (पंजि०), गढमुक्तेश्वर, जिला हापुड (उ.प्र.) ० श्रीमद् दयानन्द गुरूकुल विद्यापीठ गदपुरी, पलवल (हरियाणा) ० वैदिक संस्कृति गुरूकुलम् फाउंडेशन ट्रस्ट (रजि.), आर्य समाज ब्रह्मपुरी, न्यू उस्मानपुर, दिल्ली

MDH

महाशियाँ दी हट्टी (प्रा०) लिमिटेड

9/44, कीर्ति नगर, नई दिल्ली - 110015 फोन नं० 011-41425106-07-08, E-mail: delhi@mdhspices.in Web. www.mdhspices.com

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THE INDIAN EXPRESS, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2024

THE WORLD

STRUGGLES TO SEE HIS NEW STAGE MUSICAL

ELTON JOHN SAYS HE LOST HIS EYESIGHT

Elton John says he struggled to watch his new musical because he has lost his eyesight after contracting an infection. He attended the opening night of *The Devil Wears Prada* in London Sunday and said: "I haven't been able to come to many previews because... I have lost my eyesight." "So it's hard for me to see it, but... boy, it sounded good tonight," he said. **AP**

TOP OF THE WORLD

BNP leader Tarique Rahman

BANGLADESH

HC acquits Zia's son, 48 others in 2004 grenade attack case

Dhaka: Bangladesh's High Court on Sunday acquitted former prime minister Khaleda Zia's son, Tarique Rahman, and 48 others, overturning their verdicts in a deadly 2004 grenade attack on a political rally. Rahman serves as the acting chairperson of Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party while in self-exile in London, and could become Bangladesh's next leader if his party is voted into power. Rahman and the 48 others were found guilty in 2018 in the attack targeting a rally held by supporters of Hasina, who led the opposition at the time, leaving two dozen people dead and wounding about 300 others. A court sentenced 19 to death while Rahman got life in prison. **PTI**

PAKISTAN

Imran sent on judicial remand over PTI protests

Islamabad: An anti-terrorism court Monday sent former prime minister Imran Khan on a 14-day judicial remand in connection with seven cases related to the recent protests by his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party. Judge Amjad Ali Shah presided over the hearing, during which the court approved Khan's judicial remand in the New Town police station case, as well as in six other cases. Khan, 72, was presented before the anti-terrorism court judge at Adiala jail, where he has been incarcerated for months. **PTI**

THE PHILIPPINES

Civil society groups seek VP impeachment

Manila: Philippine civil society and religious leaders asked Congress on Monday to impeach Vice President Sara Duterte over a list of complaints that include graft, incompetence and amassing ill-gotten wealth while in office. The daughter of ex-President Rodrigo Duterte has been embroiled in a row with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr and faces an enquiry into her spending by the Congress. **REUTERS**

AFTER REPEATEDLY SAYING HE WOULD NOT

Biden pardons son Hunter in tax, arms cases, Trump says miscarriage of justice

REUTERS
WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 2

US PRESIDENT Joe Biden said on Sunday he had pardoned his son, Hunter Biden, a reversal after pledging to stay out of legal proceedings against the younger Biden who pleaded guilty to tax violations and was convicted on firearms-related charges.

"Today, I signed a pardon for my son Hunter. From the day I took office, I said I would not interfere with the Justice Department's decision-making, and I kept my word even as I have watched my son being selectively, and unfairly, prosecuted," the president said in a statement.

The White House had said repeatedly that Biden would not pardon Hunter, a recovering drug addict who became a target of Republicans, including President-elect Donald Trump.

"No reasonable person who looks at the facts of Hunter's cases can reach any other conclusion than Hunter was singled out only because he is my son," Biden said in a statement released shortly before leaving for a trip to Africa.

President Joe Biden in Sal island, Cape Verde on Monday. *AP*

The grant of clemency said Biden had granted "a full and unconditional" pardon to Hunter Biden for any offenses in a window from January 1, 2014, to December 1, 2024. Hunter Biden faced sentencing for the false statements and gun convictions this month. In September he pleaded guilty to federal charges of failing to pay $1.4 million in taxes while spending lavishly on drugs, sex workers and luxury items. He was scheduled for sentencing in on December 16.

"I have admitted and taken responsibility for my mistakes during the darkest days of my addiction – mistakes that have been exploited to publicly humiliate and shame me and my family for political sport," Hunter Biden said in a statement on Sunday, adding he had remained sober for more than five years. "In the throes of addiction, I squandered many opportunities and advantages ... I will never take the clemency I have been given today for granted and will devote the life I have rebuilt to helping those who are still sick and suffering."

Republicans criticized the president's move. "Does the Pardon given by Joe to Hunter include the J-6 Hostages, who have now been imprisoned for years? Such an abuse and miscarriage of Justice!" Trump said in a post on his Truth Social site, referring to those convicted for storming the US Capitol on January 6, 2021, after Trump claimed falsely that he had won the 2020 election.

"Joe Biden has lied from start to finish about his family's corrupt influence peddling activities," said Representative James Comer, chair of the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

"It is clear that Hunter was treated differently. The charges in his cases came about only after several of my political opponents in Congress instigated them to attack me and oppose my election," Biden said. "In trying to break Hunter, they've tried to break me – and there's no reason to believe it will stop here. Enough is enough."

EXPLAINED

Can pardon be revoked?

IT IS unclear if Trump can revert Hunter Biden's pardon. Pardons are generally irreversible — Congress and courts can't reverse them. George W Bush in 2008 revoked a pardon, the very next day of granting it, but because the pardon attorney had not signed it. The Supreme Court has not tackled the question of when a pardon is no longer revocable.

French Prime Minister Michel Barnier speaks in the National Assembly in Paris on Monday. *Reuters*

VOTE LIKELY TOMORROW

French govt faces collapse as Left, Far-Right seek confidence vote

REUTERS
PARIS, DECEMBER 2

THE FRENCH government is all but certain to collapse later this week after far-right and left-wing parties submitted no-confidence motions on Monday against Prime Minister Michel Barnier.

Investors immediately punished French assets as the latest developments plunged the euro zone's second-biggest economy deeper into political crisis, with serious doubt cast over whether the annual budget will be approved.

"The French have had enough," National Rally (RN) leader Marine Le Pen told reporters in parliament, saying Barnier, who only became prime minister in early September, had made things worse and needed to be pushed out. "We are proposing a motion of no confidence against the government," she said.

Barring a last-minute surprise, Barnier's fragile coalition will be the first French government to be forced out by a no-confidence vote since 1962.

A government collapse would leave a hole at the heart of Europe, with Germany also in election mode, weeks ahead of US President-elect Donald Trump re-entering the White House.

RN lawmakers and the left combined have enough votes to topple Barnier and Le Pen confirmed her party would vote for the left-wing coalition's no-confidence bill on top of the RN's own bill. That vote is likely to be held on Wednesday.

The parties announced their no-confidence motions after Barnier said earlier on Monday that he would try to ram a social security bill through parliament without a vote as a last-minute concession proved insufficient to win RN's support for the budget.

"Faced with this umpteenth denial of democracy, we will censure the government," said Mathilde Panot of the left-wing France Unbowed. "We are living in political chaos because of Michel Barnier's government and Emmanuel Macron's presidency."

Barnier urged lawmakers not to back the no-confidence vote.

"The French will not forgive us for putting the interests of individuals before the future of the country," he said as he put his government's fate in the hands of the divided parliament which was the result of an inconclusive snap election Macron called in June.

'Brain rot' named Oxford Word of the Year 2024

London: Many of us have felt it, and now it's official: "brain rot" is the Oxford dictionaries' word of the year. Oxford University Press said on Monday the evocative phrase "gained new prominence in 2024", with its frequency of use increasing 230 per cent from the year before.

It defines brain rot as "the supposed deterioration of a person's mental or intellectual state, especially viewed as the result of overconsumption of material (particularly online content) considered to be trivial or unchallenging".

The word of the year is intended to be "a word or expression that reflects a defining theme from the past 12 months". "Brain rot" was chosen by a combination of public vote and language analysis by Oxford lexicographers. **AP**

Landmark climate change case opens at Hague as island nations fear rising seas

ASSOCIATED PRESS
THE HAGUE, DECEMBER 2

THE TOP United Nations court took up the largest case in its history on Monday, hearing the plight of several small island nations helpless in combating the devastating impact of climate change that they feel endangers their very survival. They demand that major polluting nations be held to account.

After years of lobbying by island nations who fear they could simply disappear under rising sea waters, the UN General Assembly asked the International Court of Justice last year for an opinion on "the obligations of States in respect of climate change." "The stakes could not be higher. The survival of my people and so many others is on the line," said Arnold Kiel Loughman, attorney-general of the Vanuatu archipelago nation.

South African delegates at the International Court of Justice in The Hague on Monday. *Reuters*

"As the principal legal officer of my country, I have come before this court because domestic legal remedies are unable to address a crisis of the scope and magnitude," he said during the opening session of two weeks of hearings.

"States have obligations ... to act with due diligence, to prevent significant harm to the environment, to prevent, to reduce the emissions and provide support to countries like mine to protect the human rights of present and future generations," he said.

Any decision by the ICJ would be non-binding advice and couldn't directly force wealthy nations into action to help struggling countries.

In the decade up to 2023, sea levels have risen by a global average of around 4.3 centimetres, with parts of the Pacific rising higher still. The world has also warmed 1.3 degrees Celsius since preindustrial times because of the burning of fossil fuels.

Guinea stadium crush kills 56 people after disputed refereeing

REUTERS
CONAKRY, DECEMBER 2

A CONTROVERSIAL refereeing decision sparked violence and a crush at a soccer match in southeast Guinea, killing 56 people according to a provisional toll, the government said on Monday.

The fatalities occurred during the final of a tournament in honour of Guinea's military leader Mamady Doumbouya at a stadium in Nzerekore, one of the nation's largest cities.

Some fans threw stones, triggering panic and a crush, the government statement said, promising an investigation.

A video authenticated by Reuters showed dozens of people scrambling over high walls to escape.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, an official from the city's administration said many victims were minors caught in the turmoil after police started firing tear gas. The official described scenes of confusion and chaos with some parents retrieving bodies before they were officially counted.

People scramble in Guinea's Nzerekore, Monday. *Reuters*

Videos and pictures shared online showed victims lined up on the ground. In one video, over a dozen inert bodies could be seen, several of them children.

Reuters was not immediately able to verify that footage.

Iran-backed militias enter Syria to back offensive against rebels

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BEIRUT, DECEMBER 2

IRANIAN-BACKED Iraqi militias have deployed in Syria to back the government's counteroffensive against an advance by insurgents who seized the largest city of Aleppo last week, a militia official and a war monitor said Monday.

Insurgents led by jihadi group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham launched a two-pronged attack on Aleppo and moved into the countryside around Idlib and neighbouring Hama province.

The push is among the rebels' strongest in years and raised the prospect of another violent front reopening in the Middle East, at a time when US-backed Israel is fighting Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon, both Iranian-allied groups.

It also risks drawing Russia and Turkiye — each with its own interests to protect in Syria — into direct confrontation.

Government troops built a fortified defensive line in northern Hama in an attempt to stall the insurgents' momentum while jets on Sunday pounded rebel-held lines. On Monday, Syria's military said that their airstrikes alongside Russia's killed 400 insurgents over the past 24 hours. It said that government forces were mobilising to encircle the rebels in the Aleppo, Hama, and Idlib countrysides.

Syrians near destroyed buildings in Idlib on Monday. *AP*

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian in a phone call with Assad Monday said Tehran was willing to provide all the support needed to push back the rebels.

Hezbollah won't send fighters to Assad now

Lebanese armed group Hezbollah does not currently intend to send fighters to northern Syria to support the Syrian army there, three sources familiar with the group's thinking told *Reuters* on Monday.

Canada launches global ad campaign to curb asylum claims

REUTERS
TORONTO, DECEMBER 2

ONCE PRESENTING itself as one of the world's most welcoming countries to refugees and immigrants, Canada is launching a global online ad campaign cautioning asylum-seekers that making a claim is hard.

The C$250,000 ($178,662) in advertisements will run through March in 11 languages, including Spanish, Urdu, Ukrainian, Hindi and Tamil, the immigration department told *Reuters*.

They are part of a broader shift in tone by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government on immigration.

Migrants have been blamed for high housing prices, although some experts argue this is a simplistic explanation, and polls show a growing number of Canadians think the country admits too many newcomers.

Advertisements to run in 11 languages including Urdu, Hindi and Tamil. *Reuters File*

"Claiming asylum in Canada is not easy. There are strict guidelines to qualify. Find out what you need to know before you make a life-changing decision," one ad reads.

Canada has long been seen as a welcoming place for newcomers. Now its leaders are slashing immigration and trying to get temporary residents to leave and to prevent people fleeing U.S. President-elect Donald Trump from claiming asylum.

CARTELS HAVE AN AMBITIOUS DREAM — TO SYNTHESISE RAW MATERIALS REQUIRED TO MAKE FENTANYL TO AVOID IMPORTING THEM

Drug cartels recruit chemistry students from Mexican colleges to make fentanyl

NATALIE KITROEFF & PAULINA VILLEGAS
CULIACÁN, DECEMBER 2

THE CARTEL recruiter slipped onto campus disguised as a janitor and then zeroed in on his target: a sophomore chemistry student. The recruiter said the cartel was staffing up for a project. "You're good at what you do," the student recalled the recruiter saying. "... decide if you're interested."

In their quest to build fentanyl empires, Mexican criminal groups are turning to an unusual talent pool — chemistry students studying at Mexican universities.

People who make fentanyl in cartel labs — cooks – told *The New York Times* that they needed workers with advanced knowledge of chemistry to help make the drug stronger and "get more people hooked," as one cook put it.

The cartels also have a more ambitious goal: to synthesise the chemical compounds, known as precursors, that are essential to making fentanyl, freeing them from having to import them.

If they succeed, US officials say, it would mark a terrifying new phase in the fentanyl crisis, in which Mexican cartels have more control than ever. *The Times* interviewed seven fentanyl cooks, three chemistry students, two high-ranking operatives and a high-level recruiter — all working for the Sinaloa cartel.

A 2020 Mexican intelligence assessment, leaked by a hacker group, found that the Sinaloa cartel appeared to be recruiting chemistry professors to develop fentanyl precursor chemicals after the pandemic slowed supply chains. U.S. law enforcement officials also said that many young chemists had been swept up in arrests at Mexican fentanyl labs in recent years. A chemistry professor at a university in Sinaloa state said he knew that some students enrolled in chemistry classes just to become more familiar with skills needed to cook synthetic drugs. "Sometimes when I am teaching them synthesis of pharmaceutical drugs, they openly ask me, 'Hey, professor, when are you teaching us how to synthesize cocaine and other things?'" he said.

A drug cartel safe house in Culiacán, Sinaloa. *NYT*

President-elect Donald Trump had threatened to deploy the US military to battle the criminals, vowing to issue a 25% tariff on Mexican goods if it doesn't stop the flow of drugs and migrants. Mexico's president, Claudia Sheinbaum, said that "international collaboration" was needed to prevent the shipment of precursors to Mexico from "Asian countries."

The cartels "know we are now focused on the illicit trafficking of these precursor chemicals," said Todd Robinson, the assistant secretary of the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs. That drives the cartels "to try to bring this thing in-house," he said.

But trying to synthesize the precursors from scratch is a much more difficult process, said James DeFrancesco, a forensic science professor at Loyola University Chicago.

Yet the work pays more than many legal jobs in chemistry, and that's often enough of a sell. The student said the recruiter who visited the campus had offered him $800 up front, plus a monthly salary of $800 — twice as much as the average pay for chemists formally employed in Mexico, according to government data.

He told the recruiter he was interested, and five days later, he was picked up by cartel members, blindfolded and driven to a clandestine lab hidden in the mountains, he said. **NYT**

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BUSINESS AS USUAL
BY UNNY

CBSE plan: Pick from standard or advanced Social Science and Science in Classes 9-10

Proposal to start from 2026-27, must be cleared by CBSE governing body

ABHINAYA HARIGOVIND
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 2

AFTER INTRODUCING two levels of Mathematics (standard and basic) for Class 10 students, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) is learnt to be working towards a similar structure for Science and Social Science (standard and advanced) for Classes 9 and 10, starting from the 2026-27 academic session.

The decision to offer these subjects at two levels was taken during a recent meeting of the CBSE's curriculum committee. The Board's governing body, which serves as its highest decision-making authority, has to give the final approval.

The framework for this change, including whether students opting for the advanced level will use different study material or simply take a different exam, is yet to be finalised.

EXPLAINED

In line with NEP

AS PART of the attempt to "reduce pressure", the National Education Policy, 2020, stated that "all subjects and corresponding assessments, beginning with Mathematics, could be offered at two levels, with students doing some subjects at standard level and some at higher level".

According to sources, the CBSE is awaiting the release of new textbooks by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), aligned with the updated National Curriculum Framework.

While the NCERT, which advises the Centre on school education and classroom curriculum, released new textbooks for Classes 1 and 2 last year and for Classes 3 and 6 this year, it is expected to release textbooks for a few more classes in early 2025 before the new academic session begins.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

DEBATE IN LS ON DEC 13-14, RS ON DEC 16-17

House deadlock breaks as Govt and Opp agree on Constitution debate

Under pressure from section of INDIA bloc and within, Congress changes tack

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla meets floor leaders. *Express*

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 2

THE WEEK-LONG standoff in Parliament came to an end as the government and the Opposition reached an agreement Monday, which was reflected by the announcement of dates for a special discussion on the Constitution in both the Houses.

The Opposition leaders indicated that they would cooperate with the government for smooth functioning of both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, which have been stalled over various issues — including Gautam Adani's indictment by the US prosecutors in an alleged bribery case, recent Sambhal violence and Manipur unrest — since the Winter Session got underway on November 25.

At a meeting of floor leaders of all parties convened by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, both the government and Opposition parties agreed for a special discussion on the Constitution during the session.

Expressing confidence that both the Houses will function smoothly from Tuesday, Parliamentary Affairs Minister

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

IN PARLIAMENT
PAGE 7

Will set date for Putin visit early next year: Kremlin

Expected to visit India next year

SHUBHAJIT ROY & DIVYA A
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 2

IN LESS than a month, Russia has conveyed twice that President Vladimir Putin is expected to visit India next year. Saying that Putin had received Prime Minister Narendra Modi's invitation to visit India, the Kremlin has said the dates will be decided early next year. This will be Putin's first visit to India since the war in Ukraine began in February 2022.

"Our leaders have an agreement to hold meetings once a year. This time, it's our turn... We received PM Modi's invitation and we will certainly consider it positively... We will figure out the tentative dates early next year," Kremlin aide Yury Ushakov said

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Protesters vandalise Bangla mission in Agartala, MEA says 'deeply regrettable'

DEBRAJ DEB
AGARTALA, DECEMBER 2

A PROTEST outside the Bangladesh Assistant High Commission in Agartala over the recent arrest of Hindu monk Chinmoy Krishna Das spiralled out of control Monday afternoon as a group of protesters broke the police barricade and stormed inside, indulged in vandalism and removed the Bangladesh national flag from a pole.

In the evening, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) described the incident as "deeply regrettable" even as Bangladesh said the incident appeared to be "preplanned" and blamed Tripura Police for not doing enough.

In a statement, the MEA said, "The incident earlier today of the breach of premises at the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

FULL COVERAGE
PAGE 3

A protest by BJP and Hindu outfits at Petrapole, the border town in North 24 Parganas district, on Monday. *Partha Paul*

Anxiety & panic: Bangla nationals rush back home

RAVIK BHATTACHARYA & ATRI MITRA
PETRAPOLE (NORTH 24 PARGANAS), DECEMBER 2

AS TARAK Mondol hauled his luggage — a backpack and two duffel bags — towards the immigration centre at the Petrapole-Benapole checkpoint on the India-Bangladesh border, it could not have been more disappointing for the 38-year-old.

For, Mondol, a resident of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

35% GST likely on cigarettes, aerated drinks and tobacco

AANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 2

IN A step that would mark the first major restructuring of tax rates under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) seven years after its rollout, a special rate of 35 per cent could be carved out for demerit (sin) goods such as aerated beverages, cigarettes, tobacco and related products.

At a meeting on Monday, ahead of the GST Council meeting on December 21, the Group of Ministers (GoM) on rate rationalisation finalised its report with this recommendation of a special rate, in addition to proposing a slew of rate tweaks for over 148 items including ready-made garments.

The proposed hike in GST rates for sin goods, from the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

At home of IIT researcher killed in Lothal, a box of soil, questions

MAULSHREE SETH
SITAPUR, DECEMBER 2

"THIS IS all we have now," says Maheshwari Verma. On the centre table in front of her is an open black suitcase with plastic bags of mud samples that her daughter Surabhi Verma collected during her study of the Harappan

Surabhi Verma

site of Lothal.

Last week, on November 27, Surabhi, a 26-year-old PhD student at IIT Delhi's Centre for Atmospheric Sciences, died when a trench she was working in near Lothal collapsed on her. While Surabhi was buried alive, her Associate Professor Yama Dixit was pulled out of the trench.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Bharti Airtel Foundation

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FIRST OFFICIAL MEET AFTER SWEARING-IN

CM Soren discusses additional expense on welfare schemes

JATIN ANAND
RANCHI, DECEMBER 2

WITH DAYS to go for a special session of the Jharkhand Vidhan Sabha, Chief Minister Hemant Soren Monday chaired his first official meeting, since being sworn-in last week, to dicuss modalities related to additional expenditure on significant welfare schemes and government recruitments over and above the state's budgetary allocation for the 2024-25 fiscal year.

Apart from preparations for the supplementary budget of the current financial year, to be presented in the upcoming special session scheduled between December 9 and 12, one of the most crucial point of discussion was an additional expense of around ₹10,280 crore on popular welfare schemes, according to government officials.

"Today I met with all departmental heads and secretaries to review modalities related to projects...there will be separate discussions and assessments with those in charge of departments," Soren said.

"We will now proceed towards speeding up developmental work and the requirements for this… so that those concerned can begin work in this direction as soon as the government is fully constituted…I have issued directions to ensure that projects are delivered on the ground in the minimum possible time… (as well) as reporting any issues so that they can be sorted out," he also said.

Soren directed all departments concerned to prepare action plans on revenue generation, government officials said.

He said, "Tax is required for the progress of the state, to give speed to its development, to find solutions for its problems, for jobs and employment," adding that the process of government formation, especially the constitution of its 12-member cabinet, would be done over the coming days.

According to sources, the Maiya Samman Yojana was also discussed among other projects.

Centre to formulate stricter 'non-negotiable' norms on accessibility

NIKHIL GHANEKAR
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 2

THE GOVERNMENT is formulating "non-negotiable" and a "minimum core" set of rules in compliance with the SC's orders on framing mandatory accessibility standards, officials of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) said Monday.

The new set of rules are being drafted in consultation with other ministries, rights bodies and stakeholders. This is being done to define what would be the minimum enforceable standards for a barrier-free environment in buildings and on digital portals.

As part of the stricter enforcement, the government will include steps such as larger fines, penalties and non issuance of completion certificates to buildings for non-compliance with accessibility standards, officials said.

On Tuesday, the department is set to roll out around 16 initiatives, such as the standard Bharti Braille code draft to provide a unified Braille script in 13 Indian languages, on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

The Centre is also set to roll out initiatives such as Sugamya Bharat Yatra. The yatra will see persons with disabilities travel across major cities and towns, and visit important public establishments to assess their accessibility and rate them accordingly, said DEPwD Secretary Rajesh Aggarwal.

• Bangla nationals rush back home

Khulna district in Bangladesh, had to cut short his stay in India without getting his eye surgery done in view of a volatile situation in his country and amid rumours of the international border being sealed soon. He was diagnosed with an eye ailment and was asked to undergo surgery for which he was in India.

At Petrapole, India's largest land customs station near Bongaon in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district, many Bangladeshi nationals are making a beeline to go back to their country after getting frantic calls from their families and relatives.

There was fresh turmoil in the neighbouring country following the arrest of Hindu monk Chinmoy Krishna Das, a leading face of the protests against continued attacks on minorities in Bangladesh. Das was arrested on November 25 by the Bangladesh Police on charges of sedition.

"I lost vision in my left eye after I met with an accident. I came to India (West Bengal) a few days back and got my eye checked at a private hospital. I was advised to get my eye surgery done," said Tarak Mondol who was accompanied by his brother-in-law Prabir Mondol.

"But you know the situation in Bangladesh. I am getting calls from my wife and son. They are scared. Moreover, there are rumours that the border will be sealed in the next couple of days. So I am rushing back without getting my surgery done even as I had my visa till December 17," added Tarak, a mason, whose son studies in class 10.

Kalpana Ghosh (57) and her husband Dulal Chandra Ghosh (62), who hail from the Mymensingh Sadar area of the neighbouring country, were also among those rushing back home. "I underwent cataract surgery yesterday. I could have stayed here back and rested for a while. But the situation is bad there and we want to get back home as soon a possible," said Kalpana.

Sipra Biswas, who along with her husband Babul Biswas was standing in the queue at the checkpoint, said, "What if our homes are vandalised? Our children and relatives are there. We cut short our visit to our relatives here in Bengal. We came here after things settled a bit, but now the trouble started once again."

The couple is from Narail in Bangladesh's Jessore district.

Gopal Dutta (36), a resident of Nilgunj in Bangladesh, said, "I came on a tour to India on a three-month visa. Meanwhile, the situation in Bangladesh deteriorated and my family is calling me to come back. I am returning in less than a week."

Shahinoor Begum (30), another Bangladesh national who was in Bengal for her son's treatment, said, "I don't understand politics much. But whatever is happening is not acceptable. My son's treatment is done and now we are returning home. My husband and relatives want us to be back."

Abdulla Al-Mamun of Chittagong in Bangladesh said, "It is not that every area in Bangladesh has communal tension. Tension prevailed in some places after the Sheikh Hasina government was brought down. I have several Hindu friends who I talked to and they are doing fine. In some areas, local residents have taken upon themselves to protect their Hindu friends."

Rajdeep Roy (31), a Sylhet resident who came to India on Monday for the treatment of liver disease, said, "I usually come to India twice a year. But now, people from Bangladesh are not getting visas as easily as they used to get earlier."

Meanwhile, BJP workers and supporters on Monday held a meeting in an area abutting the Petrapole checkpoint over the alleged "atrocities on minorities" in Bangladesh.

However, exports and imports continued as normal during the day.

Kartik Chakraborty, secretary, Petrapole Clearing Agents' Staff Welfare Association, said, "Imports and exports remained normal on Monday. Nearly 150 trucks left for Bangladesh and 139 trucks entered India. But with the fresh situation in Bangladesh, there is a sense of fear among truck drivers and exporters. We are receiving so many calls."

In July this year, exports and import through Petrapole were suspended for a few days following unrest in Bangladesh.

FROM PAGE ONE FULL REPORTS ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Govt, Opp agree on Constitution debate

Kiren Rijiju said that the Lok Sabha will take up a debate on the Constitution on December 13-14 while the Rajya Sabha will hold a discussion on it on December 16-17.

Rijiju, who attended the meeting, told reporters that the Opposition parties had demanded discussions on the issue to mark the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution by the Constituent Assembly.

Earlier in the day, several Opposition MPs met Speaker Birla, seeking a discussion on the Constitution and urging him to slot dates for the same.

The Opposition members meanwhile continued their protests in both the Houses over the Adani indictment, Sambhal violence and other issues, leading to the repeated disruption of their proceedings before their adjournment for the day.

The first week of the session has been washed out in the wake of the Congress's insistence on a thorough discussion on the Adani row and the government's reluctance to accept it.

The Congress leadership, however, came under pressure amid unease among a section of the party MPs as well as some other Opposition parties over the continued stonewalling of the two Houses.

Sources said there was "an overwhelming" view among the Congress MPs at their morning huddle before Parliament met that such stalling of discussions and proceedings were not helping the party's cause. "The leaders, in a way, came under pressure to look for ways to see that Parliament functions," said a party MP.

In the meeting of the INDIA bloc leaders, too, which was attended by Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, the Left parties took a stand that the Opposition's current strategy of protests in the House was not working. While maintaining that the Left is with the INDIA bloc, its leaders suggested that there should be a "rethink" in its strategy. The decision to approach the Speaker and press for a discussion on the Constitution was subsequently taken, sources said.

With a large Opposition section keen on participating in the business of both the Houses to take up multiple issues, the Congress leadership thus decided to change its parliamentary tactics and resolve the impasse, sources added.

Later in the day, Congress sources said that while deciding to participate in the parliamentary proceedings, the party would not give up its protests over the Adani row.

In a meeting of Congress leaders held at party president Mallikarjun Kharge's residence in the evening, the party decided to rally the Opposition MPs to hold a sit-in protest over the Adani issue at Makar Dwar of Parliament House before the resumption of the House sittings Tuesday.

"We will continue our protest. Our members will raise this issue during the debates on Bills, such as when the House takes up the banking law amendment Bill introduced in the Lok Sabha today, or on other occasions," said a Congress leader.

Congress general secretary K C Venugopal told reporters in the morning that the Opposition has demanded a discussion on the Constitution.

"We have met the Speaker and our only demand is that he has to take action to run the House smoothly. We are ready to run the House provided there should be a discussion on the Constitution which they promised us," Venugopal said.

The BJP leaders, however, asserted that the party had already demanded a discussion on the Constitution. "We had made this demand on the first Business Advisory Committee (BAC) meeting of this Winter Session itself. We wanted a proper discussion on the Constitution and Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to speak on it too," said a BJP leader.

Congress general secretary in charge of communications Jairam Ramesh accused the government of allegedly not showing any interest in running Parliament. "Today also, both Houses got adjourned. INDIA parties had given notices for an immediate discussion on Adani, Manipur, Sambhal and Ajmer. These (Opposition) parties never agitated. There was hardly any sloganeering. But the Modi government simply did not want Parliament to function," Ramesh alleged.

"The situation is truly extraordinary. The Opposition wants a discussion but the government is running away from it," he claimed. "The responsibility of the government is to get Parliament functioning. The Opposition must have its say but the government will have its way. But here the government has lost its way and does not want Parliament to function."

Ramesh dismissed reports of differences within the Opposition ranks over the Adani issue, saying that different parties have different issues but all of them were united over this "important matter". "We are also of the view that Manipur is an important issue. The way a Pandora's box has been opened (with respect to) the Places of Worship Act is an issue. So there are various issues," he added.

Some INDIA parties, especially the TMC, were however said to have not attached the same priority to the Adani row as the Congress, seeking discussions on a slew of other issues, including unemployment, price rise and the Centre's alleged discrimination against Opposition-ruled states in fund allocations.

So far, the TMC has skipped the INDIA meetings held by the Congress to work out the alliance's strategy for the session.

The SP is likely to raise the Sambhal issue in Parliament during the Zero Hour Tuesday.

• Will set date for Putin visit early next year: Kremlin

at a briefing, according to the Russian Embassy.

However, there has been no word of confirmation from New Delhi, and the Indian government is reading this public articulation as interest in Moscow to signal to the world that India is an important partner and Russia is far from isolated in the international community. Sources said the Indian government announces visits closer to the date, and would not like to speculate on the timeframe. But they pointed to the schedule for reciprocal annual visits, according to which it is the Russian President's turn to come to India next year.

This comes at a time when US President-elect Donald Trump is set to assume office in January next year. In the past, Trump has said that the Russia-Ukraine war would not have happened if he were the US President, and that he could "negotiate an end...in 24 hours". He has also touted his relationship with Putin. In this context, a visit by Putin to India can be significant. In fact, Trump is also expected to visit India for the Quad leaders' summit next year.

In Kazan last month, Modi had told Putin that India was ready to help bring about a peaceful resolution to the ongoing conflict. He had also travelled to Kyiv in August and met Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, asking him to sit with Putin to "find a way out of the crisis".

The Russian Embassy said that Putin and Modi have maintained regular contact, holding telephone conversations once every couple of months. Before travelling to Kazan for the BRICS Summit in October, Modi also made a two-day visit to Moscow to take part in the 22nd Russia-India Summit in July.

This is not the first time that Moscow has announced Putin's intent to visit India. Two weeks ago, Kremlin press secretary Dmitry Peskov had announced his upcoming visit. "We welcomed Prime Minister Modi twice this year and we hope that soon we will figure out the dates of the visit of President Putin to India," Peskov had said during his video address at an event in New Delhi organised by state-owned Sputnik news agency.

Putin last visited India in December 2021 — months before the war started in Ukraine. His planned visit is part of a protocol between India and Russia for reciprocal annual visits by their leaders. However, after the war began in Ukraine, there were no visits by either side, and it was only resumed when Modi went to Moscow in July this year. While thanking Putin for the "gracious hospitality" extended to him and his delegation in Moscow in July, Modi had invited him to visit India in 2025 for the 23rd India-Russia Annual Summit, the Ministry of External Affairs had said then.

Last month, Russia's First Deputy Prime Minister, Denis Manturov, also visited India for key discussions on bilateral and global issues. He participated in the plenary session of the Russia-India Business Forum in Mumbai, which focussed on expanding economic and business cooperation. Manturov also held a bilateral meeting in New Delhi, and participated in the 25th Session of the Intergovernmental Russian-Indian Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technical, and Cultural Cooperation.

• 35% GST likely on cigarettes, aerated drinks & tobacco

current highest slab of 28 per cent, would help the Centre and the states to make up for the loss from other rate cuts for common-use items, officials said. The current four-slab GST structure — of 5 per cent, 12 per cent, 18 per cent and 28 per cent — will continue for the medium term, a state finance minister said.

Among other rate change proposals, the GoM, headed by Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary, has suggested levying 5 per cent GST on readymade garments priced up to Rs 1,500; 18 per cent for those priced at Rs 1,500-10,000; and 28 per cent for garments costing above Rs 10,000.

"The GoM has proposed raising the rates for tobacco and related products, and aerated beverages to 35 per cent. It will be a special rate and will help in minimising the revenue loss impact from the other rate changes," a state finance minister, who is part of the GoM, told *The Indian Express*.

The GoM has also proposed hiking rates on other high-end items such as cosmetics, watches and shoes. With this, the indirect tax regime would transition towards a regime where taxation gets linked to the pricing of the product and hence, a greater incidence would be on those who buy luxury and high-end items.

The GST Council is scheduled to meet in Jaisalmer on December 21, where it will also take up the key proposal of GST on life and health insurance premiums. The premiums paid by senior citizens for health insurance and premiums paid by all for term life insurance are likely to be exempted. For other citizens, health insurance cover till Rs 5 lakh is likely to be exempted and the existing rate of 18 per cent will be charged for health insurance cover over Rs 5 lakh.

At its meeting in October, the GoM had suggested GST rejig for several items and proposed cutting rates for some items such as packaged water above 20 litres (5 per cent from 18 per cent), bicycles priced less than Rs 10,000 (5 per cent from 12 per cent) and exercise notebooks (5 per cent from 12 per cent). Shoes costing above Rs 15,000 and wristwatches above Rs 25,000 are likely to be shifted to the highest slab of 28 per cent GST from 18 per cent.

Separately, the GoM on compensation cess, headed by Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary, also held its meeting on Monday and sought an extension of six months to submit its report to the GST Council. This GoM, which includes members from Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, MP, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, was mandated to submit its report by December 31.

The GoM is looking at the legal implications of removal of the cess — levied on sin and luxury goods such as cars, tobacco, over and above the existing highest rate of 28 per cent. "There is time till March 2026 to take a decision regarding the levy of the cess. So it was felt that a detailed discussion should happen, and so more time will be sought for submission of the report," the minister said.

The compensation cess was proposed to be levied for five years after the rollout of GST, till June 2022, to compensate states for revenue loss. In 2022, the Council decided to extend the levy till March 2026 to repay the interest and principal amount of the Rs 2.69 lakh crore of loans taken in FY21 and FY22 to pay off states' revenue loss during Covid years. At its meeting on September 9, the Council decided to set up a GoM to decide the future course of the cess.

• At home of IIT researcher killed in Lothal, a box of soil, questions

Hours later, at their house in Sitapur district, as the family got a call from an "official in Gujarat" informing them of the accident, it was decided that two of Surabhi's cousins from Delhi would go to Lothal to collect her belongings and bring back the body.

In the days since then, Maheshwari's heart has been bursting with questions. "I still don't understand. What was the hurry to do this digging in such a short time? Why did the pit have to be so deep? My nephew who saw the pit told me water was still seeping into it. And they got an excavator to dig? Who gave them the permission for all this? I do know who can tell me all this. Do you know?"

Surabhi's father R K Verma, who teaches at the government primary school nearby, is just back from Naimisharana, a religious site in Sitapur, after dispersing his daughter's ashes in the Gomti river.

He slumps on to the bed in front of the still-open suitcase and talks about how, seven years ago, Surabhi, the second of his four children, made a journey he is proud of — from the congested lanes of Sitapur's Sri Nagar colony to Allahabad University, where she did her BSc and MSc in Geology and later an MTech in Earth Sciences, before joining IIT Delhi last year for her PhD.

"I always wanted Surabhi to join the IAS. In fact, I was the one who pushed her to take up Geology as her third subject for BSc, hoping it would help her score better. But then, she developed a keen interest in the subject. The rest of it was her decision -- to do MTech, apply for the scholarship and do research in the field. Still, somewhere, I wanted her to be an IAS officer and she would often tell me, 'Papa, don't worry, I'll appear for the UPSC exams as well. But let me first settle down in my field. She was always very clear about what she wanted," says Verma, his tears flowing freely.

Maheshwari says she lived her own life through Surabhi's.

Parents and siblings of IIT-Delhi PhD student Surabhi Verma at their home in Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh. *Vishal Srivastav*

"I did an MA in Economics from Lakhimpur Kheri but my father never let me work. After I got married, my children were my sole focus. We were all very proud of Surabhi — she was the topper and vice-captain of her school (Sacred Hearts School in Sitapur)," she says.

She says Surabhi had applied for the Prime Minister's Research Fellowship. "She told me that soon she would start getting Rs 70,000 a month. She would tell me that once she got the money, she would call me to Delhi and take me to a lot of places. I don't want any of that now... I only want my daughter," says Maheshwari, breaking down.

As her younger daughter Devyanshi leafs through the family album — its plastic sheets holding several photographs of Surabhi on stage, receiving medals and certificates over the years – she says "didi" was her "guiding light". "I would always turn to her when I needed help. She was the one helping me for the IBPS PO (bank probationary officers') examination," says Devyanshi.

After clearing the preliminaries, Devyanshi appeared for the main exam on November 30, the day after Surabhi's body was brought home. "I had no strength left in me but I travelled to Lucknow for the exam because that is what didi would have wanted," she says, adding, "Her sole focus was to attain financial independence... That's something she wanted from me and my siblings too." Devyanshi's eldest sister Suprabha, who has a BEd, teaches in a private school in Sitapur and her younger brother Ankush is preparing for his JEE.

Devyanshi says that around 10.30 pm on November 26, the night before the accident at Lothal, she had made a video call to Surabhi. "We had a long call then. She spoke to our mother too. Then, I called her again at 12.30 at night because I needed help with something I was studying. She said she had a long day at the site and was very tired. She had to wake up early too, so she hung up," she says.

That was the last time they spoke.

A day after her death, the family got another call — from IIT Delhi. Surabhi had topped her second semester. "The professor told us Surbahi had got an A throughout... aur use pata hi nahi chala (she did not even get to know). Wherever she went, she brought medals. *Woh research scholar thi jo climate change jaise vishaya par research kar rahi thi... Woh ghar ki hi nahin nation ki treasure thi* (She was a research scholar who studied subjects like climate change. She was not just our treasure, but the nation's too)," says Verma.

He, too, has questions, "No other child should lose their life because of such negligence. I am also a teacher — every student in my class is my responsibility and I am accountable if something happens to them. Who is accountable for my daughter's death?" says father.

• CBSE plan: Pick from standard or advanced Social Science and Science in Classes 9-10

The decision is in line with the National Education Policy, 2020, which states that "all subjects and corresponding assessments, beginning with Mathematics, could be offered at two levels, with students doing some of their subjects at the standard level and some at a higher level". This suggestion is part of the policy's push to "reduce pressure and the coaching culture".

Currently, the Board offers only one subject at two levels in Class 10. In this model, the syllabus for students opting for Mathematics (Standard) and Mathematics (Basic) is the same, but the question papers and the difficulty level of the questions in the Board examination differ. This system was introduced in the 2019-20 academic session.

According to CBSE data, in the 2023-24 exam, more students registered for the standard level (15,88,041 students) of Maths as compared to the basic level (6,79,560 students).

The objective behind offering Science and Social Science at two levels for Classes 9 and 10 is to allow students with the aptitude for these subjects to study them at an advanced level before they take up these subjects in Class 11, said a source.

Students are likely to be granted a certain time-frame to take a final decision on whether they want to take the advanced or standard levels, allowing them to switch within that period.

The advanced level could mean additional learning material, different textbooks or the same textbook with more advanced exercises, and/ or additional learning hours. For the exams, it could mean an entirely different set of question papers for the advanced level, or a question paper that may have a different set of questions for the standard and advanced levels.

The framework — on how the two levels will be implemented — will depend on the new textbooks that will be developed by the NCERT.

Textbooks that align with the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCFSE), 2023, have already been introduced for Classes 1, 2, 3 and 6. The NCERT is in the process of developing textbooks for Classes 4, 5, 7 and 8, and these are set to be made available to students from the 2025-26 academic session.

At an event in October this year, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan had said that new textbooks for more classes are likely to be made available from next year. "By January 2026…desh mein nayi pathyapustak aa hi jayega (the country will have new textbooks)," he had said.

• Protesters vandalise Bangladesh Assistant High Commission

Bangladesh Assistant High Commission in Agartala is deeply regrettable. Diplomatic and consular properties should not be targeted under any circumstances."

"Government is taking action to step up security arrangements for the Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi and their Deputy/Assistant High Commissions in the country," the MEA said.

The protest was held under the aegis of the Hindu Sangharsh Samiti. The breach took place even as a delegation of the protesters was submitting a representation to the Assistant High Commissioner of Bangladesh inside.

In a statement later in the evening, Bangladesh's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said, "The Government of Bangladesh deeply resents the violent demonstration and attack by a large group of protesters of the Hindu Sangharsh Samiti... on the premises of the Assistant High Commission of Bangladesh in Agartala."

It said that accounts received by them "conclusively attest" that the protesters were allowed to aggress into the premises, by breaking the main gate of the mission in a "pre-planned manner".

"In the process, in the presence of the members of the local law enforcement agencies, they vandalised the flagpole, desecrated the national flag of Bangladesh and also damaged properties inside the Assistant High Commission. Regrettably, the local police personnel present in charge of protecting the premises were found not to be active in containing the situation from the beginning," the Bangladesh Foreign Affairs Ministry said.

"This particular act in Agartala stands in violation of the inviolability of diplomatic missions, as the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, 1961, asks for," it said.

Stating that it is the responsibility of the host government to protect diplomatic missions, Bangladesh called upon the Government of India to take immediate action. It called for a thorough investigation and action to prevent any further act of violence against diplomatic missions of Bangladesh in India.

Although the protest started as a peaceful sit-in demonstration, the protesters later began raising anti-Bangladesh and 'Jai Shri Ram' slogans near the Bangladesh Assistant High Commissioner's office.

They spoke of alleged atrocities meted out to Hindus and other minorities in Bangladesh under the current dispensation led by Chief Advisor Mohammad Yunus, and also demanded the release of Chinmoy Das, who was arrested last week on sedition charges.

Ruling BJP state vice-president Subal Bhowmik, who also joined the protest, demanded that Yunus's Nobel Prize be withdrawn.

"Such attacks on Hindus are intolerable... Hindus across the world are getting united. Attacks on Hindus in Bangladesh are increasing by the day..... Md. Yunus is provoking these incidents," he told reporters.

A six-member delegation of the protesters then met the Assistant High Commissioner to convey their message.

However, as the delegates were busy with the Assistant High Commissioner, a group of protesters broke the security barricade and stormed the premises. They removed Bangladesh's national flag from the pole, damaged chairs, flower-pots and other property.

Security forces brought the situation under control within minutes and dispersed them from the premises. DG (Intelligence) Anurag Dhyankar rushed to the spot and assessed the situation. Additional security forces were deployed outside the mission shortly afterwards.

FRESH TURMOIL IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRY

Situation in Bangladesh alarming, press UN to send peacekeeping forces: CM to Centre

Says PM or External Affairs Minister should make statement in Parliament on the issue, hits out at Bengal BJP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, DECEMBER 2

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee

DESCRIBING THE situation in Bangladesh as "alarming" following the arrest of a Hindu monk, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday asked the Centre to move the United Nations (UN) to send its peacekeeping force to the neighbouring country to "ensure security to people of all caste, creed and religion".

Speaking in the Assembly, the TMC chief said: "The recent situation in Bangladesh is quite alarming. I would request the Central government to send peacekeeping forces there through the United Nations... Security should be ensured to all, irrespective of religion, caste and creed."

Reiterating her previous statement that the West Bengal government has a "very limited" role in bilateral relations between the two countries, and that she would back the Central government's decision on the issue, the chief minister said: "In the wake of the recent developments and the experience narrated by many people here having relatives and base in Bangladesh, the arrests of people coming over to our side and my conversations with the ISKCON representatives here, has forced me to make this statement on the floor of this House."

"Many relatives of the people of West Bengal live in Bangladesh. Stop torturing them. We should show our solidarity from this platform," the CM added.

Accusing the Central government of "remaining mum for the past 10 days" despite the escalating law and order situation on the other side of the border, Banerjee, in an indirect reference to the state BJP's demand to block trade with Bangladesh, said, "Why don't they ask their Central leadership to pursue the Union government to proactively intervene in the Bangladesh situation? Instead, their leaders are demanding the closure of goods movement along our land borders. They should know that as per international border agreements, stoppage of commodity movement is not in our hands. We can act only as per guidelines issued by the Centre."

The chief minister also demanded a statement from Prime Minister Narendra Modi or External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar on the government's position vis-a-vis Bangladesh in Parliament. "The statement from the EAM should come during the ongoing winter session of Parliament. If the Prime Minister has any problem, External Affairs Minister can give a statement. Here, one political party (BJP) is holding rallies every day, but they should know, this is a foreign affairs issue. We can't say anything on this issue," the CM said.

Stating that there was an urgent need to rescue persecuted Indians and rehabilitate them on this side of the border, the chief minister said, "If required we can rehabilitate the Indians attacked in Bangladesh. We have no problem sharing our 'one roti' with them if the need arises. There will be no shortage of food for them."

Banerjee stressed she wished for harmony, fraternal ties and cordial relationship to remain between all communities living in Bangladesh and elsewhere.

Talking about the arrest of 79 Indian fishermen sometime back for straying into Bangladesh waters, she said, "Our fishermen still remain in their captivity and are yet to be released". "When the Bangladesh fishermen had entered into our waters, we ensured their safe return," she recalled.

—WITH PTI

BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari with party leaders and monks during a demonstration in Petrapole, Bongaon, Monday. *Partha Paul*

Suvendu leads protest at Petrapole, threatens full-time border trade blockade next month

Slams Mamata over UN peacekeeper demand: 'Trying to shrug off responsibility'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PETRAPOLE (NORTH 24 PARGANAS), DECEMBER 2

LEADING A march of BJP workers, members of Hindu outfits and monks to the Petrapole border checkpost in North 24 Parganas district, Leader of Opposition in Assembly, Suvendu Adhikari, on Monday threatened to impose an "indefinite export embargo" if Bangladesh failed to reign in attacks on minority Hindus and their institutions.

"The 24-hour suspension of trade was just a trailer of what will happen next... If the situation in Bangladesh does not improve and atrocities continue on minorities, we will block this border for five days next week. In 2025, we will resort to a full-time blockade. We will see how they (Bangladesh nationals) will eat potatoes," Adhikari told a large gathering of protesters near Petrapole.

The protest programme was organised demanding release of arrested former ISKCON monk Chinmoy Krishna Das and immediate stoppage of attacks and persecution on Hindu minorities and their institutions.

"India is not just another country. It is the world's fourth largest economy under the leadership of PM Modi... If they dishonour our flag, we will force the new sons of Rajakars (pro-Pakistan people's militia) in Bangladesh to surrender like we did in 1971 when we brought the Pakistani military to its knees," said Adhikari, who was accompanied by BJP leaders and local MLAs Swapan Majumdar, Ashok Kirtania and Arjun Singh. They later marched on foot to the Petrapole 'Zero Point' where Adhikari released balloons as a symbolic gesture of protest demanding the unconditional release of the arrested Hindu monk.

The Leader of Opposition also criticised Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for asking the Centre to deploy the UN peacekeeping force in Bangladesh.

"A few days ago, during the anti-quota movement in Bangladesh, when the Hasina government was carrying out repression, the chief minister said, 'those who will be tortured will get shelter here'. She did not say anything about foreign affairs then. Now, if Hindus are affected, why are they putting the onus on the central government?"

"Today, when Hindus are being persecuted all over the world, the anger of Hindus is increasing in the soil of Bengal also. Mamata Banerjee's party is also growing discontent over this issue. In this situation, the chief minister is trying to put all the responsibility on the Centre only to avoid responsibility."

The BJP questioned the chief minister's will to protect the life and livelihood of persecuted Hindus across the border.

"She (Mamata Banerjee) has her MPs who should raise the matter in Parliament as a reflection of her right political will. This is not a political issue, but an existential crisis of the Bengali-speaking Hindus, and the chief minister should rise above politics to stand beside them," said Adhikari.

Alleging that Banerjee had mobilised her police to set up barricades to stop protesters from marching to the Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Kolkata last week, the BJP leader said, "She never bothered to seek the permission of the PM or the external affairs ministry before publicly offering shelter to persecuted Indians during the regime of the erstwhile Bangladeshi PM Sheikh Hasina. —WITH PTI

HOUSE CALL

CM Mamata Banerjee with Speaker Biman Banerjee and Governor CV Ananda Bose in Assembly during the oath-taking ceremony of six newly elected MLAs, Monday. *Express*

6 NEWLY ELECTED TMC MLAs TAKE OATH

Kolkata: West Bengal Governor C V Ananda Bose on Monday administered oath to six newly elected Trinamool Congress MLAs at the Assembly.

Bose administered the oath in the presence of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Speaker Biman Banerjee. The six legislators who won the November 13 byelections are Sangita Roy from Sitai, Jayprakash Toppo from Madarihat, Sanat De from Naihati, S K Rabiul Islam from Haroa, Sujoy Hazra from Medinipur and Falguni Singhababu from the Taldangra seat. PTI

ASSEMBLY SESSION

Centre targeting Muslims in name of Waqf Bill: Mamata

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA, DECEMBER 2

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday slammed the BJP-led Central government over the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, accusing it of targeting Muslims and expressing doubts on its passage in Parliament.

Speaking in the Assembly during a debate on a resolution opposing the Bill, Banerjee alleged that the Centre had bypassed state governments over the matter. "The Centre did not consult us on the Waqf Bill," she said.

The Trinamool Congress chief also criticised the BJP for silencing Opposition members at the Joint Committee of Parliamentary deliberations on the Bill. "In the committee, Opposition members are not allowed to speak. That is why they have boycotted it," Banerjee said.

She accused the Centre of pushing a "divisive agenda" by singling out Muslims. "Why is a single religion being targeted in the name of this Waqf (Amendment) Bill? Why are Muslims being targeted? Would you dare to do the same with the properties of various Hindu temple trusts or churches? The answer is no. But, targeting a specific community suits your divisive agenda," Banerjee said.

"Will the BJP be able to pass this Bill in Parliament as it lacks a two-thirds majority?" she said.

Bengal yet to get Rs 14,000 crore from Centre for supply of rice through PDS: CM

The chief minister said West Bengal is yet to get Rs 14,000 crore from the Centre for supply of rice through the Public Distribution System (PDS).

"For giving rice through PDS we get 60 per cent of the amount as subsidy from the Centre which is yet to reach us", the CM said at the Assembly.

"Still the state continues to bear the expense through its coffer so that the poor are not deprived," she said.

Banerjee said the Khadya Sathi scheme of the state also covers people who are deserving but strictly don't belong to the criteria set up by the Centre.

The Khadya Sathi Scheme is a food security programme in West Bengal that aims to provide rice and wheat at a subsidised rate to the state's population.

'I was in love with Bangladesh hospitality, but will never go again': Youth who was attacked

SWEETY KUMARI
KOLKATA, DECEMBER 2

Sayan Ghosh had gone to Dhaka with his friends for shopping

A 21-YEAR-OLD Indian tourist, Sayan Ghosh, who had visited Bangladesh multiple times and always admired its warm hospitality, says he has been left deeply scarred after facing a recent attack in the country.

"I was in love with the hospitality of the country. Despite being an Indian, I always felt at home there. It has never been a disappointing trip. But this time was different. It has left scars on my soul," Ghosh told *The Indian Express*. "I filed a complaint at Dhaka's Shyampur police station, but everyone advised me to leave the country instead of taking any action."

He is set to file a complaint with the Bangladesh Embassy, with purported photographs of those who had attacked him and his friends, and who had allegedly snatched his mobile phone as well.

Ghosh claimed that the incident occurred when he "revealed" his Hindu identity to local people on his last visit. He was allegedly subjected to physical assault, threats, and intimidation.

"If Bangladesh doesn't get stable, or unrest continues, I will not visit the country," he said.

Ghosh's experience comes amidst growing concerns over the safety of Indian tourists in Bangladesh, particularly in light of recent incidents of alleged religious intolerance and violence.

Sukanta Ghosh, Sayan Ghosh's father, expressed relief over his son's safe return. He voiced disappointment with the Embassy's response to Sayan's distress call.

"I am happy that he returned safely. When he was attacked, he sought help from the Embassy which didn't help him. Instead, they kept questioning him over why he was there. He had a tourist visa… if it is so troublesome, they shouldn't give tourist visas now. I was aware of all that he went through… as his father, I was just praying he must return safely."

Ghosh, a resident of the Deshpriya Nagar area in Belghoria, returned from Bangladesh on November 26. after a harrowing experience. He had gone to Bangladesh on November 23rd with a friend for shopping. "The (local people) asked us who we were and that we didn't look like local people," Ghosh said. "When I told him that I am from India. They asked me about my religion and as soon as they heard I was Hindu they attacked me with a knife. They took my wallet and snatched my phone too… I will never visit Bangladesh again."

More doctors turn away Bangla patients, Siliguri doctor wants *pranam* offered to Tricolour

RAVIK BHATTACHARYA
KOLKATA, DECEMBER 2

At the entrance of a doctor's private practice in Siliguri, the Tricolour has been put up. The message in Bengali demands that everyone, "especially Bangladeshi patients", offer "pranam" to the flag before being allowed to enter the chambers.

This comes amid protests in West Bengal over allegations that the Indian flag was desecrated in Bangladesh, and strained ties between the two countries over the arrest of Hindu monk Chinmoy Krishna Das in the neighbouring country. In recent days, several doctors in West Bengal, and a hospital in Kolkata, have announced that they would not treat patients from Bangladesh.

Sekhar Bandopdhyay, the doctor in Siliguri who demands that patients offer pranam to the national flag before getting treatment at his private chambers, told The Indian Express: "It pained me to see that our national flag was disrespected and desecrated in Bangladesh. As a doctor, I do not want to refuse patients. But those who come to my country should respect our flag, our motherland. It seems Bangladesh has gone under the Talibani mindset."

Bandopdhyay is a senior ENT specialist working as the Special Medical Officer at the ENT department in the North Bengal Medical College Hospital.

"I cannot refuse treatment at the government hospital. But in the private clinic in Siliguri, I have put out the national flag with the message. Those who cannot respect my motherland cannot expect to be treated by me," he said over the phone.

Many patients from Bangladesh visit Siliguri, which shares a border with the neighbouring country and houses border check posts like Hilli, Changrabanda and Phulbari.

Another doctor, general surgeon and paediatrician Chandranath Adhikary, has announced that he will not treat any Bangladeshi patients in his private chambers.

Speaking over phone from Bolpur in Birbhum, Adhikary said: "I am attached to a government hospital in Bolpur. There, I cannot refuse any patient. But I have the freedom to do so in my private chambers. I will not see patients from Bangladesh."

"My country comes first. It hurts to see people insulting our national flag in Bangladesh… I can't provide service to those who insult my country's national flag. What is happening in Bangladesh is of grave concern to all of us," said Adhikary, who has shared his decision on social media.

On Friday, a 141-bed hospital in Kolkata announced a ban on Bangladeshi patients as a sign of protest because of allegations that "the national flag of India has been desecrated in various places" in the neighbouring country.

CM reviews Jal Jeevan Mission, vows action 'if people face any problem'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, DECEMBER 2

THE WEST Bengal government will take strict action against those not properly implementing the Jal Jeevan Mission, Chief Minister on Monday said.

During a review meeting, the CM expressed her displeasure over the progress of the project. "I will not tolerate if people face any problem. If someone compromises on this, they will lose their job." She ordered a weekly review meeting on the project.

A report was submitted to the CM by the Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department on the delivery of drinking water pipelines.

After looking into the report, Banerjee said that "many people are cutting pipelines to use them for personal purpose. As a result, water does not reach households. It is criminal. I will not spare anyone. In many cases even as the pipelines reach villages, there is no water since the contractors hastily installed them without conducting a survey. In some cases, wrong tenders are floated, in others wrong DPRs are prepared."

At EIMG vintage car rally, Kolkata's stunning automotive past comes to life

SWEETY KUMARI
KOLKATA, DECEMBER 2

KOLKATA, THE City of Joy, turned into a time machine as a spectacular fourth annual EIMG Vintage Car Fiesta presented by Club De Golf took place on Sunday.

The event, a nostalgic journey through automotive history, captivated the city's residents and visitors alike. Starting from the iconic Town Hall, a procession of vintage cars, each a masterpiece of engineering and design, snaked its way through the bustling roads of Kolkata. As the convoy cruised past landmarks like the AJC Bose Flyover and the Maa Flyover, it drew curious glances and excited cheers from onlookers.

"The EIMG (Eastern India Motoring Group) car rally proved to be a grand success," said Shrivardhan Kanoria, founding president of EIMG and a vintage car collector and restorer.

Many onlookers to their phones to capture the moment, while others followed the convoy on bikes and cars.

During the rally in Kolkata on Sunday; (right) Shrivardhan Kanoria, founding president of EIMG. *Partha Paul*

Among the vehicles which participated were a rare 1934 SS1 Tourer, and a 1938 Rolls-Royce 25/30 limousine, both owned by Kanoria, a 1948 Bentley Mark 6 owned by Azam Monem, a 1938 Rolls-Royce 25/30 owned by Tamalika Naha, a 1913 Stoewer of Ananda Choudhury, a 1948 Plymouth Special Deluxe of SK Lahiri, a 1947 Chevrolet Fleetmaster owned by Saikat Dutta, and 1963 Standard Herald owned by Shubhajit Kumar.

At Club De Gold, a thanksgiving ceremony was performed to felicitate the car owners followed by a vintage motor quiz.

Sreerupa Sarkar, a participant, said, "My father had nine vintage cars and two bikes. In 2020 my father passed away. I feel very honorored that Mr Kanoria is doing a great job for vintage car enthusiasts. These are more of passion than possession."

SK Lahiri, the owner of Plymouth which orginally belonged to famous singer Hemant Kumar, said, "In our community, my car is addressed as Nilu. It runs with all original parts."

पंजाब नैशनल बैंक ...भरोसे का प्रतीक ! punjab national bank ...the name you can BANK upon!

Circle Sastra Centre, Durgapur

Nachan Road, Benachity, Durgapur Paschim Bardhaman, W.B., E-mail : cs8222@pnb.co.in

SALE NOTICE, E-AUCTION DATED : 30.12.2024

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

LAST DATE & TIME OF SUBMISSION OF EMD (Earnest Money Deposit) AND DOCUMENTS 30.12.2024/ UPTO 2.00 PM

Sale of immovable property mortgaged to Bank under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 (No.54 of 2002)

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 9 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/physical/ symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Bank/ Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on the date as mentioned in the table herein below, for recovery of its dues due to the Bank/ Secured Creditor from the respective borrower (s) and guarantor (s). The reserve price and the earnest money deposit will be as mentioned in the table below against the respective properties.

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

[The Said Properties are under Constructive Possession/ Physical possession of the Secured Creditor]

SL No	BRANCH NAME / Name & Address of the Borrowers / Guarantors	Description of the Immovable Properties Mortgaged, Owner's Name (Mortgagers of property(ies) & Possession	A) Date of Demand Notice u/s 13 (2) B) Date of Possession C) Outstanding as on	A) Reserve Price B) EMD C) Bid Increase Amt (in Rs.)	Date & Time of E-Auction
1	**B/O- ASANSOL, (030510)** **Account: BRIGHT ENTERPRISE** Borrower/Co-Borrower/s/Guarantor: M/s Bright Enterprise Prop: Nausad Ali, S/o Abdul Samad, 181, G T Raod Gopalpur, Asansol-713304 Nausad Ali, S/o Abdul Samad, 181, G T Raod Gopalpur, Asansol-713304. Mrs Mumtaz Ali, S/o Abdul Samad, 181, G T Raod Gopalpur, Asansol-713304. Ms Rehana Ali, W/o Nausad Ali, 181, G T Raod Gopalpur, Asansol-713304	1. All that piece & parcel of landed property situated at Mouza Gopalpur under Asansol Municipal Crop. Ward No 2, J L no 10 Kh No 777, Plot No 450 having area-1, cottah 13 Chatak in the name of Rehana Ali Covered by Deed No 1162 of 2005. 2. All pieces & parcel landed property at Mouza Gopalpur under Asansol Municipal Crop. Ward no 2, J L No 10, Kh No 229, Khanda RS Kh No 777, Plot No 450 having area 1 cottah 12 chittak in the name of Rehana Ali covered by deed no 5352 of 2004. 3. All piece & parcel landed property at Mouza Gopalpur under Asansol Municipal Corp. Ward No 2 J L no 10, RS Kh No 440, RS Plot No 447 having area 4 Kathas 12 chittak in the name of Rehana Ali covered by deed no 758 of 2006. Possession Constructive	A) 17.07.2014 B) 09.10.2014 C) Rs. 80,12,476.12 (Rupees Eighty Lakh Twelve Thousand Four Hundred Seventy-Six and Twelve Paise Only) as mentioned in the above notices.	**A) Rs. 30.97 Lakh** **B) Rs. 3.10 Lakh** **C) Rs. 10000.00**	**30.12.2024** **11:00 AM to 5:00 PM**
		All piece & parcel landed property at Mouza Gopalpur, under Asansol Municipal Corp. Ward No 2 J L no 10, RS Kh No 446, RS Plot No 441 having area 5 Kathas 2 chittak in the name of Nausad Ali covered by deed no 4078 of 1993. Possession Constructive		**A) Rs. 19.04 Lakh** **B) Rs. 1.90 Lakh** **C) Rs. 10000.00**	
		All piece & parcel landed property at Mouza Gopalpur, under Asansol Municipal Corp. Ward No 2 J L no 10, RS Kh No 464, RS Plot No 441 having area 5 Kathas 2 chittak in the name of Mumtaz Ali covered by deed no 4081 of 1993. Possession Constructive		**A) Rs. 19.02 Lakh** **B) Rs. 1.90 Lakh** **C) Rs. 10000.00**	
		All pieces & parcel landed property at Mouza Gopalpur, under Asansol Municipal Corp. Ward No 2 J L no 10, RS Kh No 515, RS Plot No 439 having area 6 Kathas 10 Decimal in the name of Rehana Ali covered by deed no 4079 of 1993. Possession Constructive		**A) Rs. 22.50 Lakh** **B) Rs. 2.25 Lakh** **C) Rs. 10000.00**	
2	**B/O- S. B. GORAI ROAD (139720)** **Account: NITU DAROGA** Borrower/Co-Borrower/s/Guarantor: Mrs. Nitu Daroga, D/o Satyanarayan Daroga, Tilak Road, Burn's Plot, Raniganj, Dist-Paschim Bardhaman-713347 Tarun Kanti Dawn (Guarantor) Budha More, B C College Road, Asansol, Dist-Paschim Bardhaman-713301 M/s Shipra Construction (Builder) Prop: Sri Lakshmi Kanta Roy, S/o Late Narayan Chandra Roy, Purusattampur, PO-Suryanagar, PS-Haripur, Dist-Paschim Bardhaman- 713361	All that piece and parcel of Flat No.301 of Bloc-B in 3rd floor having covered area 847 sq.ft. building named as "AVISHEK APARTMENT' with one four Wheeler parking near children park, Municipal ward no. 6 under Asansol Municipal Corporation Pin-713304 with proportionate rights in common area situated at Mouza-Asansol Municipality, JL No 20 R S Khatian No. 15899, 15901 & 15903, R S Plot No 4301 PS Asansol Dist- Paschim Bardhaman West Bengal in the name of Nitu Daroga D/o Satyannarayan Daroga. Possession Constructive	A) 29.09.2018 B) 04.12.2018 C) Rs. 15,78,124.00 (Rupees Fifteen Lakh Seventy-Eight Thousand One Hundred Twenty-Four Only) as mentioned in the above notices.	**A) Rs. 25.71 Lakh** **B) Rs. 2.57 Lakh** **C) Rs.10000.00**	**30.12.2024** **11:00 AM to 5:00 PM**
3	**B/O- BCET, Bidhannagar, Durgapur- 713206** Borrower: M/s Pioneer Electricals, Prop. Biswanath Ghose, S/o- Shri Karali Charan Ghose, Regd. Office-38, Rani Rasmoni Path City Centre, Durgapur-713216. Guarantor: i) Mou Ghose, W/o-Biswanath Ghose, S/o- Shri Karali Charan Ghose, Regd. Office-38, Rani Rasmoni Path City Centre, Durgapur-713216.	All the piece and parcel of land & building and Plant & Machineries situated at layout plot No.24 at Naseer Avenue (Industrial Lane), Mouza- Gopinathpur, JL No.85, CS Plot No. 242(P), 243(P), 268(P), 270(P), 271(P), 269(P), 303(P), 304(P), Khatian No.999, 1551, 1577, 841, 1947, 1989, 341, 744, 1046 Tauzi No.1, Area 43.26 Cottah or 0.715 Acre (more or less) registered at ADSR Durgapur in the name of M/s. Pioneer Electricals represented by Mr. Biswanath Ghose S/o-Sri Karali Charan Ghose being Deed No. 07890 of the year 2012. Possession Constructive	A) 19.09.2022 B) 08.12.2022 C) Rs.7,19,13,402.45 (Rupees Seven crore Nineteen Lakh Thirteen Thousand Four Hundred Two and Paisa Forty-Five only) as mentioned in the above notices.	**A) Rs. 677.69 Lakh** **B) Rs. 67.77 Lakh** **C) Rs. 10000.00**	**30.12.2024** **11:00 AM to 5:00 PM**
4	**B/O- Nachan Road, City Centre, Durgapur- 713216** Borrower: M/s SYNERGY AGRI PRODUCT (P) LTD, Vill- Bargoria, PO-Dhabani, Durgapur-713205 Guarantor: Mr Francis Astony, MNAV-49, Bengal Ambuja Housing, City Centre, Durgapur-713216 Mrs Ritu Aroro Antony, MNAV-49, Bengal Ambuja Housing, City Centre, Durgapur-713216 Mr Cecil Antony, Flat No. 7F, Oxford Merlin Residency-22, Prince Amwar Sah Road, Kolkatta-700020 Mrs Merry Cecil, MNAV-49, Bengal Ambuja Housing, City Centre, Durgapur-713216	i) All the piece and parcel of the land JL No.41, Mouza-Bargoria, Po- Dhabani, SRO-Durgapur, Dist- Paschim Bardhaman, West Bengal i) Plot No.1279/1528, Sub Plot No-B, Khatian 40, area- 3.00 acre covered by Deed No. 2126 dt 07.05.2004. ii) Plot No.1279/1528 under khatian No.292,305,307,309,310,311,313,379, Area- 45 decimal covered by Deed No. 2309 dt 07.05.2004 iii) Plot No.1279/1528, Area- 82 decimal, covering by Deed No.2127 dt 07.05.2004. iv) Plot No.1279/1528 under Kh No.436 &328, Area- 15.79 Acre covered by Deed No. 2310 dt 07.05.2004. in the name of Synergy Agri Products Pvt Ltd, Total Area of land- 20.06 Acres. Possession Constructive	A) 21.08.2021 B) 06.01.2022 C Rs.6,01,63,916.17 (Rupees Six crore One Lakh Sixty-Three Thousand Nine Hundred Sixteen and Paisa Seventeen only) as mentioned in the above notices.	**A) Rs. 696.61 Lakh** **B) Rs. 69.66 Lakh** **C) Rs. 10000.00**	**30.12.2024** **11:00 AM to 5:00 PM**
5	**B/O- Asansol (030510)** **Account: MUKHERJEE & CO** Borrower/Co-Borrower/s/ Guarantor: M/s Mukherjee & Co. Prop: Sh Kalyan Mukherjee, S/o Dr R N Mukherjee, Upasana Apartment, R N Tagore Road, Asansol - 713303 Sh Kalyan Mukherjee, S/o Dr R N Mukherjee, Upasana Apartment, R N Tagore Road, Asansol- 713303 Smt Jayshree Mukherjee W/o Sh Kalyan Mukherjee, Mangaldeep Apartment, Grount Floor, Mehata Road, Durgamandir Road, Asansol-713303	All that piece & parcel of flat no G/1, consisting of one bed room, one living room, one toilet, one kitchen and one balcony on the ground floor of the building identified as Block "BANSARI" in "GURU UDAYAN" Apartment having build area of 460 Sq Ft situated at Gurupally South Road, Bolpur, Mouza-Bandhgora, JL No 100 RS Kh No 189, LR Kh No 3581 & 3653, RS Dag No 260 & 317, LR Dag No 448 in the name of Kalyan Mukherjee & Jayshree Mukherjee covered by deed no 2871 of 2013. Possession Constructive	A) 02.04.2015 B) 08.01.2016 C) Rs. 47,66,597.00 (Rupees Forty-Seven Lakh Sixty-Six Thousand Five Hundred Ninety-Seven Only) as mentioned in the above notices.	**A) Rs. 8.93 Lakh** **B) Rs. 0.89 Lakh** **C) Rs. 10000.00**	**30.12.2024** **11:00 AM to 5:00 PM**
6	**BO: CBB Durgapur (030410)** **Account Name: SETH AND ASSOCIATES** Borrowers/Guarantors: M/S Seth and Associates 68B, A.P.C. Roy Road, Second floor, Room No 19, Kolkata – 700009 M/S Seth & Associates S/O- Late Maniklal Seth, Ashroy Residency, Flat No. 9A, 3rd Floor, Karangapara, Durgapur- 713 201 Smt Srabani Seth W/O- Sh Sailen Seth, Ashroy Residency, Flat No. 9A, 3rd Floor, Karangapara, Durgapur- 713201 Sh Sailen Seth, Ashroy Residency, Flat No. 9A, 3rd Floor, Karangapara, Durgapur- 713201	All that piece & parcel of commercial cum residential Flat, Flat Nos. 18 & 19 of the 2nd floor, Super Built Up Area- 1598 Sq Ft at 68B Acharya Prafulla Chandra Roy Road, formerly known as 67 & 68, Upper Circular Road, A.K.Point, PS Amharst street, Dist- North 24 Pargans, Kolkata – 700009, covered by Deed no 4498 of 2006 and 5185 of 2013, standing in the name of Sri Sailen Seth. Possession Constructive	A) 04.11.2016 B) 05.07.2017 Rs.1,28,84,203.05 (Rupees One crore Twenty-Eight lac Eighty-Four thousand Two hundred Three and paise Five only) as mentioned in the above notices.	**A) Rs. 84.91 Lakh** **B) Rs. 8.49 Lakh** **C) Rs. 10000.00**	**30.12.2024** **11:00 AM to 5:00 PM**
7	**BO: Barakar** **Account: Moin Khan** Borrower/Guarantor: MOIN KHAN, Left Bank Colony, Hadla Road, Po- Kalyaneshwari, PS Salanpur, Dist- Paschim Bardhaman, Pin- 713369 Md. Shamshad Khan, S/o Moin Khan Left Bank Colony, Hadla Road, Po- Kalyaneshwari, PS Salanpur, Dist- Paschim Bardhaman, Pin-713369 Shamida Khatoon, W/o Moin Khan, Left Bank Colony, Hadla Road, Po-Kalyaneshwari, PS Salanpur, Dist-Paschim Bardhaman, Pin- 713369	All the piece and parcel of land and building situated at Dist-Paschim Bardhaman, PS Salanpur, GP- Salanpur, Mouza-Hadia (Halda), JL No 23, Plot No 523, Sub Plot No 523A, Khatian NO 26, JL Khatian No 1162 measuring 05 decimal or 03 cottah of land registered in the name of Shamida Khatoon, Deed No I- 1613 of 2010. Possession Constructive	A) 27.02.2024 B) 13.06.2024 C) Rs. 14,08,603.26 (Rupees Fourteen Lakh Eight Thousand Six Hundred Three & Paise Twenty-Six Only)	**A) Rs. 33.24 Lakh** **B) Rs. 3.32 Lakh** **C) Rs. 10000.00**	**30.12.2024** **11: AM to 5:00 PM**
8	**BO: G T Road Asansol** **Account: Vishal Kumar** Borrower/Guarantor: Mr. Vishal Kumar S/o-Lt Balmiki Tiwari, Shimultala 1 No., Mohishila Colony (Near Durga Mandir), Asansol-713303 Mrs. Tanmoyee Panchadhyayee 2 No Mohishila Colony, Shimultala 1 No., Mohishila Colony (Near Durga Mandir), Asansol-713303 Mr. Kunal Kumar S/o Balmiki Tiwari, 541 R/297, Rifa Colony, Campwell Road, Lucknow, Uttar Prasad- 226003	All the piece and parcel of the two stored residential building (G+1) constructed (as per building plan dated 17/10/2020,vide memo no 37/BP/AMC/B-VI) measuring covered area total 1100 Sq. Ft (in which ground floor 785sq. feet & the first floor 315 sq. feet) situated at Dist- Paschim Bardhaman, Mouza- Asansol, PS- Asansol, Ward no 35(New) Under Asansol Municipal Corporation, JL No. 35, RS Plot No-270, Subsequently LR Plot No 245, Khatian No 5585,under Asansol Municipality, measuring area of land -05 (five) Decimal or 3(three) Katha registered in the name of 1.Mr Vishal Kumar (PAN: DTUPK33 I 8H), 2. Tanmoyee Panchadhyayee, W/O Mr. Vishal Kumar & 3. Mr. Kunal Kumar S/0 Lt. Balmiki Tiwari being Sale Deed No: 1-7886 of the year 2021. Possession Constructive	A) 07.12.2023 B) 29.02.2024 C) Rs. 39,66,483.10 (Rupees Thirty-Nine Lakh Sixty-Six Thousand Four Hundred Eighty-Three & Paise Ten Only)	**A) Rs. 44.91 Lakh** **B) Rs. 4.49 Lakh** **Rs. 10000.00**	**30.12.2024** **11: AM to 5:00 PM**
9	**BO: City Centre** **Account: Swamiji Construction** Borrower: Swamiji Construction Prop; Debdas Goswami S/o Late Sitaram Goswami, Shankarpur, Bidhan Nagar, Durgapur-713212 Debdas Goswami S/o Late Sitaram Goswami, C-18 Gitanjali Park, Bengal Ambuja, City Centre, Durgapur-713216	All the piece and parcel of land and building situated at Mouza-Shankarpur, RS Plot No 136/499, 479, 500, LR pLot No 878,899, RS Plot No 225, 97/4, 33LR Kh No 28, JL No 95 Mouza Shankarpur, PS-Durgapur, Sale Deed No I-1228 dated 27.07.2005 and I-553, 554, 555 & 556 dated 27.01.2006 in the name of Debdas Goswami. Possession Constructive	08.09.2021 17.11.2021 Rs. 89,99,703.11 (Rupees Eighty-Nine Lakh Ninety-Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Three and Paise Eleven Only)	**A) Rs. 73.87 Lakh** **B) Rs. 7.39 Lakh** **C) 10000.00**	**30.12.2024** **11: AM to 5:00 PM**
10	**BO: Apcar Garden Branch** **Account Suman Guhathakurta** Borrower: Suman Guhathakurta Baishnab Bandh PO-Burnpur – 713325, Payel Konar Subhadeep Konar, Budha Gram, Asansol (South) 713301	All the piece and parcel of land and building situated ay Vill-Budha, Near Saraswati Mandir/Konars Kennel, Mouza- Asansol Municipality, RS Plot No 4698 with RS khatian no 16336, JL No 20, Ward no 6 of Asansol Municipal Corporation, area 1440Sq Ft Deed no 05876/2013, ADSR Asansol in the name of Mrs. Payel Konar. Possession Constructive	27.10.2021 18.02.2022 Rs. 18,30,421.00 (Rupees Eighteen Lakh Thirty Thousand Four Hundred Twenty-One Only)	**A) Rs. 22.90 Lakh** **B) Rs. 2.29 Lakh** **C) Rs. 10000.00**	**30.12.2024** **11: AM to 5:00 PM**
11	**BO: Pandaveshwar Branch** **Account: Subrata Neogi** Borrower: Subrata Neogi S/o Late Sanjib Neogi, Ramnagar, Vill+PO-Pandevwswar- 713346 Bandana Neogi W/o Subrata Neogi, Ramnagar, Vill + PO - Pandevwswar- 713346	All the piece and parcel of the land and building situated at Mouza- Baidyanathpur, JL No 5, Kh No 1407,367 & 2609, RS & LR Dag No n630/187, Area of land 3.50 cottah, ADSR Raniganj, Pandaveswar, under Baidyanathpur Gram Panchyet, Dist Paschim Bardhaman, Pin 713346, registered in the name of Sri Subrata Neogiu, S/o Late Sanjib Neogi, deed no i-63 dated 06.01.2015. Possession Constructive	04.02.2022 06.09.2023 Rs. 10,28,896.59 (Rupees Ten Lakh Twenty-Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety-Six and Paise Fifty-Nine Only)	**A) Rs. 30.15 Lakh** **B) Rs. 3.02 Lakh** **Rs. 10000.00**	**30.12.2024** **11: AM to 5:00 PM**
12	**BO: Cokeoven Branch** **Account: NIKLANTHO HALDER** Borrower: Nilkantho Halder Shukla Halder, Add: Gopalpur, Uttar Para, Sukanta Pally, Durgapur, Paschim Barhdaman. 713212	All that piece & parcel of residential land & building situated on Plot No 6135/6908, Kh No 1767 & 3789, LR Kh No 3833, JL No 65, Area of land more or less 5 cottah, Mouza Gopalpur, PO- Panagarh, PS kanksa, Dist-Paschim Bardhman in the name of Nilkantho Halder S/o Khudiram Halder covered by deed no I-2039 of 2000. Possession constructive	A) 09.07.2021 B) 19.10.2021 C) Rs. 17,83,165.20 (Rupees Seventeen Lakh Eighty-Three Thousand One Hundred Sixty-Five and Paise Twenty Only)	**A) Rs. 31.95 Lakh** **B) Rs. 3.20 Lakh** **C) Rs. 10000.00**	**30.12.2024** **11: AM to 5:00 PM**
13	**BO: Burnpur Branch** **Account: Industrial System** Borrower: M/s Industrial System, Prop: Siddharatha Sankar Banerjee, Ramkanan Apartment, Hindstan Park, Street No 1, PS Hirapur, Asansol- 713304 Siddharatha Sankar Banerjee, Ramkanan Apartment, Hindstan Park, Street No 1, PS Hirapur, Asansol- 713304	All that piece and parcel of Flat No 3B on 3rd Floor in RAMKANAN Apartment, Hindustan Park, Street No 01, Asansol PO Hirapur- 713304, Mouza Santa, JL No 20, RS Khatain No 73, LR Khatian No 6251, 6252, 6253, RS Plot No 2031, LR Plot No 1569, Ward No 01(Old) 053 (New), Holding No 327 (122/1) under Asansol Municipality Corporation, registered in the name of Siddhartha Sankar Banerjee covered by deed no I-2663 dated 28.03.2019, super built-up area 1450 sq ft (approx..) & covered area 820 sq ft out of total covered area 1230 sq ft (approx.) and four-wheeler covered garage being no 03 of total measuring area 120 sq ft in the ground floor. Possession Constructive	31.03.2023 05.06.2023 Rs. 60,88,230.04 (Rupees Sixty Lakh Eighty-Eight Thousand Two Hundred Thirty and Paise Four only)	**A) Rs. 29.00 Lakh** **B) Rs. 2.90 Lakh** **C) Rs. 10000.00**	**30.12.2024** **11: AM to 5:00 PM**
14	**BO: Nachan Road Branch** **Account: Kaji Nijamuddin** Borrower: Kaji Nijamuddin S/o Kazi Adbul Rashid, Vill & PO- Rasalpur, Panchusa, Bolpur- 713204	All piece & parcel of Flat no B on first floor of G+1 storied building having super built area of 960 sq ft situated at Mouza-Goda under Belkash Gram Panchyet, JL No 41, Khatian No 175, RS Plot No 5056, LR plot no 15A & 15B, standing in the name of Kaji Nijamuddin covered by Deed no I-4543 of 2015. Possession Constructive	06.06.2016 21.06.2017 Rs. 17,28,156.00 (Rupees Seventeen Lakh Twenty-Sight Thousand One Hundred Fifty-Six Only)	**A) Rs. 18.77 Lakh** **B) Rs. 1.88 Lakh** **C) Rs. 10000.00**	**30.12.2024** **11: AM to 5:00 PM**
15	**BO: BCET Branch** **Account: H M Trailors** Borrower: M/s H M Trailors Prop: Mahendra Singh Bagga 1057, Panagarh Bazar GT Road, Panagarh, Pin 713148 Mahindra Singh Bagga, Priya Bagga, D/6, Fuljhor, Bidhanpark, Sector-1, PO Durgapur ABL Township, Durgapur 713206	All that piece and parcel of land situated at Mouza- Birudiha, JL No 76, LR Khatian No 1641, LR Plot No 2862, PO- Panagarh, PS Kanksa, Dist-Paschim Bardhaman, Pin 713148, comprises of 13.50 decimal land in the name of Priya Bagga, W/o Mahendra Singh Bagga being gift deed noi I-0206-05172 dated 27.11.2018. Possession Constrictive	27.06.2022 16.09.2022 Rs. 35,35,637.07 (Rupees Thirty-Five Lakh Thirty-Five Thousand Six Hundred Thirty-Seven and Paise Seven Only)	**A) Rs. 56.80 Lakh** **B) Rs. 5.68 Lakh** **C) Rs. 10000.00**	**30.12.2024** **11: AM to 5:00 PM**
16	**B/O-Burnpur** **Account:** **Sujata Enterprise (Sujata Ghosh)** Borrower: Sujata Enterprises (Prop: Sujata Ghosh) Santi Nagar, Vivekananda Road, Burnpur, Paschim Bardhman-713325 Proprietor/Guarantor: Sujata Ghosh Subrata Ghosh Subhas Pally, Main Road, PO-Burnpur, PS Hirapur, Dist Burdwan, 713325	All the piece & Parcel of land and building situated at 1st floor of G+1 two storied building having flat area measuring 904.68 sq ft (cover area) located at Mouza-Narsinghbandh, JL No 21, RS khatian No 2711, RS Dag No 4133, under Asansol Municipal Corporation, Ward No 41, Holding No 118/426A, PO Burnpur PS-Hirapur, Asansol-713325, Dist-Paschim Bardhman WB covered by Sale Deed No 7938 in the year 2011 in the name of Sujata Ghosh & Subrata Ghosh. Possession Constructive	18.04.2022 11.08.2022 Rs. 23,35,476.89 (Rupees Twenty-Three Lakh Thirty-Five Thousand Four Hundred Seventy-Six and Paise Eighty-Nine Only)	**A) Rs. 14.85 Lakh** **B) Rs. 1.49 Lakh** **C) Rs. 10000.00**	**30.12.2024** **11: AM to 5:00 PM**
17	**B/O-SB Gorai Road Asansol** **Account:** **SREE KRISHNA MARBLES** Borrower: SHREE KRISHNA MARBLES 120(69/10), SB Gorai Road, Near petrol pump, Asansol- 713304 Guarantor: Jayanta Dawn, Achintya Dawn Susanta Dawn Sumanta Dawn Add: S/o Sananda Dawn, Budha Village, Uppar Para, Asansol-713301	All the piece and parcel of property situated within Dist-Paschim Bardhaman, Mouza Narsinghbandh under Asansol Municipality ADSR Asansol, PS Hirapur, J L No 21, CS plot No 1137, RS Plot No 2155,under CS Khatian No 27 corresponding to RS khatian no 4870, measuring an area of 6 cottahs of land within Asansol Municipal Corporation in the name of Sananda Dawn & Company being deed no- 1011 for the year 2007. Possession Constructive	09.11.2022 27.01.2023 Rs. 18,66,781,55 (Rupees Eighteen Lakh Sixty Six Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty One and Paise Fifty Five Only)	**A) Rs. 54.77 Lakh** **B) Rs. 5.48 Lakh** **C) Rs. 10000.00**	**30.12.2024** **11: AM to 5:00 PM**
18	**B/O-SB Gorai Road Asansol** **Account: SHREE KRISHNA ASSOCIATES** Borrower: SHREE KRISHNA MARBLES 120(69/10), SB Gorai Road, Near petrol pump, Asansol- 713304 Guarantor: Achintya Dawn, Krishna Dawn, Susanta Dawn, Address: Old Victoria Building, Budha Village Road, Behind Lear Nursing Home, Asansol- 713301	All the piece and parcel of property situated within Dist-Paschim Bardhaman, Mouza Naesinghbandh under Asansol Municipality ADSR Asansol, PS Asansol (S), J L No 21, CS Khatian No 845, CS Ployt No 508, RS Khatian No 1604, measuring an area of 0.098 acre of Land wquivalent to 5.50 cottahs situated at 2nd Plot of SB gorai Road, Asansol within Asansol Municipal Corporation in the name of Susanta Dawn being deed no- 1489 for the year 1980. Possession Constructive	03.08.2021 21.11.2022 Rs. 23,43,740.54 (Rupees Twenty-Three Lakh Forty-Three Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Paise Fifty-Four Only)	**A) Rs. 54.22 Lakh** **B) Rs. 5.42 Lakh** **C) Rs. 10000.00**	**30.12.2024** **11: AM to 5:00 PM**

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and to the following further conditions:

1. The properties are being sold on **'AS IS WHERE IS BASIS and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS"**
2. The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule hereinabove have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorized Officer, but the Authorized Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation.
3. The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Website **https://www.ebkray.in on 30.12.2024 @ 11.00 AM to 5.00 PM**
4. For detailed term and conditions of the sale, please refer to website: **www.ebkray.in,**
5. For any queries regarding the terms and conditions of the sale, the interested bidders may contact, **Raj Kishore Sahoo (AGM) Mob: 7978664055.**

STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 9 (1) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST ENFORCEMENT AMENDMENT RULES, 2002.

Date: 03.12.2024,
Place: Durgapur

Raj Kishore Sahoo, Assistant General Manager
AUTHORISED OFFICER, PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK

STATUTORY SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 9 (1) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002

Akal Takht indicts Sukhbir & others, tells Akali Dal need to 'rebuild' party

KAMALDEEP SINGH BRAR
AMRITSAR, DECEMBER 2

IN A scathing indictment of the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) and its president Sukhbir Singh Badal, Akal Takht Jathedar Giani Raghbir Singh on Monday imposed religious punishment on Badal and other senior Akali leaders, saying they were unfit to lead the Sikh community.

The Jathedar directed the party's working committee to accept Badal's resignation and announced the formation of a committee to initiate a membership drive and begin the process of electing a new leadership.

The proceedings, held at the Akal Takht Sahib, the highest temporal seat of the Sikhs at the Golden Temple, extended beyond punitive measures, with the Jathedar also asking the splintered party to stop squabbling and rebuild the over 100-year-old regional party, signalling a significant political shift within the community.

In an unprecedented move, the Jathedar also revoked the title of Fakhr-e-Qaum (Pride of the Nation) awarded to former Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal. Ironically, he was the first political leader to be conferred with this title.

Sukhbir Singh Badal with others. *Rana Simranjit Singh*

As part of the punishment, Sukhbir Badal and core committee members of the Akali Dal, including cabinet ministers from 2015, were ordered to clean toilets, serve in the langar (community kitchen), perform Nitnem (daily Sikh prayers), and recite Sukhmani Sahib. Placards were also placed around their necks as part of the sentence.

Due to health concerns, Badal and Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa were instructed to serve as gatekeepers at the Guru's abode for two days, donning traditional servant attire and holding spears as a mark of humility.

Additionally, the Jathedar announced that all facilities provided to former Jathedar Giani Gurbachan Singh — who had pardoned Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ran Rahim, ostensibly under the influence of the Badals — would be withdrawn, barring him from speaking at public events. He also directed the recovery of funds spent on advertisements related to Dera Sacha Sauda, including interest, to be collected from Badal, Sucha Singh Langah, Gulzar Singh, Daljit Singh Cheema, Balwinder Singh Bhundar, and Heera Singh Gabria.

The punishment stems from allegations that the Akali leadership maintained ties with Dera Sacha Sauda head Gurmeet Ram Rahim despite his excommunication by the Sikh community in 2007. Later, the leadership allegedly facilitated his pardon by the Akal Takht.

The party leadership also faced criticism for failing to address key panthic issues when they were in power between 2007 and 2017. These included incidents of sacrilege, and police firing at Kotkapura as well as the appointment of DGP Sumedh Singh Saini, who was accused of rights violations during the period of militancy in Punjab.

During the proceedings, Jathedar Raghbir Singh pointedly questioned Badal, often asking him to answer in yes or no when the latter tried to express his regrets at his actions. Badal admitted to inviting the then Akal Takht Jathedar to his residence before he granted a pardon to Gurmeet Ram Rahim.

It was an unprecedented public inquisition the kind the Akal Takht has not seen in the recent past.

Sitharaman, Rupani central observers to elect legislative leader of Maharashtra BJP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 2

THE BJP parliamentary board Monday deputed Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and former Gujarat chief minister Vijay Rupani as observers for the Maharashtra legislative party meeting scheduled to be held on Wednesday.

The party also sent former cabinet minister and party leader Girish Mahajan in a bid to placate caretaker Chief Minister Eknath Shinde whose party has been demanding the Home ministry. Sources said that while it was to seek his active participation in the government formation process, it was also to send out a message that the BJP really cares for him and its allies. The new BJP-led government will swear in on December 5 at the Azad Maidan in Mumbai.

It was the first meeting of a BJP leader with Shinde after he returned from Delhi on November 28, where he had met Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

After coming out of the 90-minute meeting, Mahajan said, "I came to meet Shinde ji to enquire about his health. As we all know, he has been unwell for four to five days."

Nirmala Sitharaman, Vijay Rupani

Rubbishing the speculations, Mahajan said, "All is well within the Mahayuti. There is no dispute. Shinde himself has clarified to the media a few days ago that he will not be a hurdle in government formation. He is not unhappy."

Known as a trouble-shooter, Mahajan's visit to Shinde is being seen as rapprochement by the BJP to the Shiv Sena leader and reassure the party values his support in government formation.

Mahajan said, "By Tuesday, Shinde would resume his work, including meetings, as a caretaker CM. We have taken the decision to work together as a team."

The 132 elected BJP legislators Wednesday will meet with the central observers at the Central Hall in Vidhan Bhawan at 10 am, to elect the party's new state legislative leader.

The decision comes after BJP central and state leaders were assured of support to their decision by both the alliance partners — Shinde-led Shiv Sena and NCP led by Ajit Pawar.

A senior BJP leader requesting anonymity said, "There are absolutely no hurdles in government formation. All the issues confronting the allies were sorted out and the decision on oath taking ceremony was announced only after that." BJP insiders have already indicated that Devendra Fadnavis will be the chief minister of the BJP-led Mahayuti government in Maharashtra.

Responding to apprehensions between Shiv Sena and BJP, a highly placed source said, "Had there been any inconclusive discussions or power tussle, we would not have given nod for oath taking on December 5."

Source said, "Along with Fadnavis taking oath as CM, Shinde and Ajit Pawar will also take oath as deputy chief ministers."

SC seeks EC response on plea against increase of voters per booth to 1,500

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 2

THE SUPREME Court on Monday sought the response of the Election Commission on a PIL questioning the poll body's decision to raise the number of voters from 1,200 to 1,500 in all polling booths.

A bench of Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar asked the poll body to file a short affidavit in three weeks. The direction came after senior advocate Maninder Singh, representing the EC, said the number was increased in 2019 and since then, the process has been smooth.

"Your Lordships have not been told this.. 1,500 is being carried out from 2019. And there's no problem with franchise. People have not complained anywhere…" Singh said, adding that political parties are consulted before every step.

"You file a short affidavit. Explain that position because we are concerned that no voter should be troubled," said CJI Khanna.

Ladakh thaw, but China approach in Indo-Pacific still a worry: Navy chief

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 2

THE THAW between Indian and Chinese forces in eastern Ladakh has not brought any change in the Chinese approach in the Indo-Pacific region and that remains a cause for concern, Navy chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi said on Monday. He also suggested that China had a role in Pakistan's growing naval strength.

On his force's impending acquisitions, Admiral Tripathi said the deals for Scorpene submarines and 26 Rafale Marine aircraft could be signed by next month. Admiral Tripathi was addressing the Navy's annual press conference ahead of Navy Day on December 4, which will be celebrated in Puri this year.

Responding to a question on whether the Navy had seen any perceptible change in China's approach in the Indo-Pacific region following fruitful negotiations between India and China over Depsang Plains and Dhemchok in eastern Ladakh, Admiral Tripathi said in his view nothing had changed.

"China's approach is too early to call. You are talking of a wide swathe of the Indo-Pacific region and whether it has changed or not. We have operated across the globe, including the South China Sea. They have operated here.

Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi in Delhi. *Amit Mehra*

What is happening in South China Sea is not with us but with others. That is the cause for concern. Whether that has changed or not is in the open domain. In my view, I don't think anything has changed. It's a cause for worry," he said.

The Navy chief, however, underlined that the last known visit of a Chinese submarine in the Indian Ocean region was last year. "It went to Karachi and went back. After that we have not heard of any Chinese submarine coming in the Indian Ocean region," he said.

Admiral Tripathi said the Navy had kept a close watch on the activities of "extra-regional forces operating in the Indian Ocean region, which included the PLA Navy units". "We knew who is doing what, where and how," he said.

The Congress team led by Ajay Rai stopped outside the party office in Lucknow. *Vishal Srivastav*

Congress team stopped from visiting Sambhal, SP team meets accused in jail

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, DECEMBER 2

Congress workers jostled with police outside the party office in Lucknow on Monday as a party delegation led by its Uttar Pradesh unit chief Ajay Rai was prevented from leaving for Sambhal, which has been made out of bounds by administration after the November 24 violence.

Amid high drama, Rai, who took the driver's seat in his car with senior party leader P L Punia next to him, could not leave for the "fact-finding" visit. He sat on a dharna outside the party office along with Congress workers, Punia said. A police contingent had been deployed and barricades put up since Sunday night around the Congress office in Lucknow's Mall Avenue area to prevent Rai and others from leaving for Sambhal, which was hit by violence during protests against a court-ordered mosque survey.

"Preventing Congress leaders from going to Sambhal is undemocratic," Rai alleged. "There is definitely something in Sambhal that the government does not want to reveal, but the Congress party is committed to becoming the voice of the people," said Rai, who sat on dharna outside party office, when stopped by the police force," he added.

Meanwhile, a Samajwadi Party delegation visited the Moradabad jail to meet — among others — one of the accused booked for alleged involvement in Sambhal violence. This came days after a 15-member party delegation was barred from entering Sambhal district by the police.

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

JAMMU & KASHMIR30NOVEMBER1996(OP RAKSHAK)

Late NkMuraleedharan G
8 Mtn Div Int & FS Coy
25.05.1969 -30 Nov 1996

Late NkMuraleedharan G was serving with 8 Mtn Div Int & FS Coy deployed at Sopore, Dist-Baramulla, J & K and engaged in active Counter Insurgency Operation. On 30 Nov 1996, while carrying out his duties, he fell victim to an attack by unidentified militants.Despite efforts to save him, he succumbed to his injuries and was died on the spot.On this auspicious day Intelligence Corps salute and pay homage to this brave soldier who made the supreme sacrifice in the finest traditions of the Indian Army.

Col Comdt, OIC Records &
All Ranks of Intelligence Corps

CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE
3 December 2014

Shaheed ASI Samsher Singh
07-08-1970 To 03-12-2014
183 Bn

On 3rd December 2014, troops of 183 Battalion of CRPF were deployed for road sanitization to ensure the safe induction of CISF personnel during Assembly Elections. Pickets were established at regular intervals, including one near village Pahoo, Pulwama. At around 1715 hrs, shortly after a CISF convoy passed, unidentified militants, exploiting the crowded surroundings, hurled a grenade at the picket and fled in a vehicle. In the attack, ASI Samsher Singh sustained critical injuries and made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty.

CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE
3 December 2004

Shaheed Head Constable A. Thulasi
01-06-1963 To 03-12-2004
16 Bn

Shaheed Constable Gagan Singh
08-08-1969 To 03-12-2004
16 Bn

Shaheed Constable Rampal Sharma
01-01-1973 To 03-12-2004
16 Bn

Shaheed Constable K. Shiv Raj
04-10-1970 To 03-12-2004
16 Bn

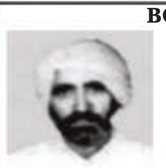
Shaheed Ct/Barber Mohd. Sayeed
16-01-1968 To 03-12-2004
16 Bn

On 3rd December 2004, two militants, under the cover of darkness, launched a heavy attack with gunfire and grenades on the sentry post of 16 Battalion, CRPF in Sopore, Baramulla. Despite a brave response, the sentry was martyred. The militants then stormed the camp, firing indiscriminately and targeting the barracks. CRPF troops retaliated, forcing them to take cover inside a room. An assault team was quickly formed, and after a swift room intervention drill, both militants were neutralized. In this fierce gunfight, five brave CRPF troopers- HC A. Thulasi, Constable Gagan Singh, Constable Rampal Sharma, Constable K. Shiv Raj, and Constable Barber Mohd. Sayeed—made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty.

BORDER SECURITY FORCE
L/NK KISHAN LAL
30.08.1946 - 03.12.1971

Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice during Indo-Pak war in area of Derababa Nanak, Punjab.

BORDER SECURITY FORCE
CT BALBIR SINGH
28.02.1948 - 03.12.1971



Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice during Indo-Pak war in area of Chhamb (Jammu).

BORDER SECURITY FORCE
NK SAT PRAKASH
11.04.1942 - 03.12.1971

Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice during Indo-Pak war in area of Derababa Nanak, Punjab.

BORDER SECURITY FORCE
CT HARNEK SINGH
26.03.1948 - 03.12.1971

Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme during Indo-Pak war in area of Chhamb (Jammu).

BORDER SECURITY FORCE
LCT SURJIT SINGH
02.01.1947 - 03.12.1971

Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice during Indo-Pak war in area of Chhamb (Jammu).

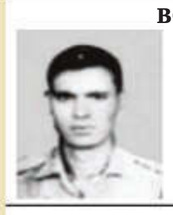
BORDER SECURITY FORCE
L/NK LAKHI RAM
05.05.1947 - 03.12.1971

Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice during Indo- Pak war in area of Chhamb (Jammu).

BORDER SECURITY FORCE
CT RAGHUNATH SINGH
15.05.1946 - 03.12.1971

Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice during Indo-Pak war in area of Chhamb (Jammu).

BORDER SECURITY FORCE
NK MEHAR SINGH
06.12.1948 - 03.12.1971

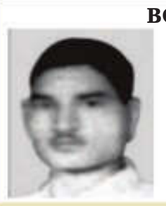


Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice during during Indo-Pak war in area of Chhamb (Jammu).

BORDER SECURITY FORCE
HC AMRIK SINGH
01.01.1945 - 03.12.1971

Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice during Indo-Pak war in area of Chhamb (Jammu).

BORDER SECURITY FORCE
CT RAM SINGH
03.04.1947 - 03.12.1971



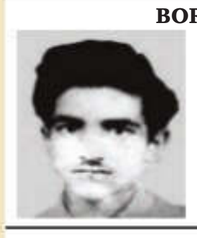
Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice during Indo- Pak war in area of Chhamb (Jammu).

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

BORDER SECURITY FORCE
CT/WC ABDUL GANI
06.07.1946 - 03.12.1971

Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice during Indo-Pak war in area of Chhamb (Jammu).

BORDER SECURITY FORCE
CT KARLEEP SINGH
09.09.1950 - 03.12.1971



Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice during Indo- Pak war in area of Chhamb (Jammu).

BORDER SECURITY FORCE
CT SAHIB DITTA
10.11.1946 - 03.12.1971

Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice during Indo-Pak war in area of Chhamb (Jammu).

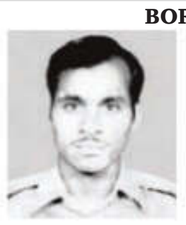
BORDER SECURITY FORCE
CT AZAD SINGH
03.12.1971

Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice while fighting militants in Jafarwal (Punjab).

BORDER SECURITY FORCE
CT DAYA RAM
10.12.1948 - 03.12.1971

Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice during Indo-Pak war in area of Chhamb (Jammu).

BORDER SECURITY FORCE
L/NK FAQUIR CHAND, PMG
13.10.1959 - 03.12.1993



Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice while fighting militants in Srinagar (J&K).

Government of Karnataka

SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT

Indira Gandhi Centre for Career Development,
Dr. Babu Jagajeevan Ram Research Centre,
Outer Ring Road, Summanahalli Circle, Magadi Main Road,
Bangalore -560091.

No. SWD/IGCCD/S-5/CR-Trg/2024-25 **Dated: 02.12.2024**

NOTIFICATION OF TENDER

(Through e-tendering only)

Short Term Tender is invited from Reputed & Prestigious Training Institution through E-Procurement portal, to provide pre-examination coaching for UPSC course to Schedule Castes & Scheduled Tribes candidates for the year 2024-25. Short term Tender notification (15 Days) number given below. **(1) UPSC SWD/PETC/S-5/CR-01/UPSC/SC/2024-25.** For more details please visit **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/
Assistant Director
& Tender inviting Authority
Indira Gandhi Centre for
Career Development (IGCCD), Bangalore

DIPR/CP/3572/SSC/2024-25

Invitation of Expression of Interest (EoI)

SETTING UP OF CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE (CoE) FOR CERAMIC AT BIKANER (RAJASTHAN)

Department of Mines & Petroleum, Govt. of Rajasthan, Directorate of Mines & Geology, Shastri Circle, Udaipur, desires to set up of Centres ofExcellence forCeramic at Bikaner.

Application are invited from Central Government, State Government, PSU's, Research & Development Institutes, Universities, Industrial Associations, Corporate Institutes & any other having prior experience of working in the field of Ceramic.

Interested entities must submit documents pertaining to financial strength i.e. Audited Financial Statements of last 3 financial year, documents supporting with technical capabilities of the organization, experience of the team, prior experience of working or currently working in the field of Ceramic etc. as per enclosed Annexure in the document.

DMG, Rajasthan reserve the right to short list proposal by way of evaluation and to ask the interested party to furnish other detail/document related to the company/proposed project. The party submitting the EoI shall be bearing all cost associated with the preparation & submission of EoI. DMG, Rajasthan in no case be responsible or liable for these costs.

DMG, Rajasthan may, at its absolute discretion, decide to abandon any part or whole of the process without giving prior notice to the Proponents.

All details regarding eligibility & condition may be downloaded from the DMG website(s); https://mines.rajasthan.gov.in

Last date of sub mission of applications - 18th December, 2024.

Department Mines & Geology
Government of Rajasthan
Shastri Circle, Udaipur (Rajasthan)

SETTING UP OF CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE (COE) FOR RARE EARTH ELEMENTS (REE) AT UDAIPUR (RAJASTHAN)

Department of Mines & Petroleum, Govt. of Rajasthan, Directorate of Mines & Geology, Shastri Circle, Udaipur, desires to set up of Centres ofExcellence forRare EarthElements at Udaipur.

Application are invited fromCentral Government, State Government, PSU's, Research & Development Institutes, Universities, Industrial Associations, Corporate Institutes & any other having prior experience of working in the field of Rare Earth Elements.

Interested entities must submit documents pertaining to financial strength i.e. Audited Financial Statements of last 3 financial year, documents supporting with technical capabilities of the organization, experience of the team, prior experience of working or currently working in the field of Rare Earth Elements etc. as per enclosed Annexure in the document.

DMG, Rajasthan reserve the right to short list proposal by way of evaluation and to ask the interested party to furnish other detail/document related to the company/proposed project. The party submitting the EoI shall be bearing all cost associated with the preparation & submission of EoI. DMG, Rajasthan in no case be responsible or liable for these costs.

DMG, Rajasthan may, at its absolute discretion, decide to abandon any part or whole of the process without giving prior notice to the Proponents.

All details regarding eligibility & condition may be downloaded from the DMGwebsite(s); https://mines.rajasthan.gov.in

All subsequentnotifications, changes, amendments etc. will be posted on the website.

Last date of sub mission of applications - 18th December, 2024.

Department Mines & Geology
Government of Rajasthan
Shastri Circle, Udaipur (Rajasthan)

C-1108

ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର
ଜଳସମ୍ପଦ ବିଭାଗ ଦ୍ୱାରା ଜନସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ ଇଞ୍ଜିନିୟରିଂ ବିଭାଗ

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION, BALASORE.

AT-SAMALPUR, P.O-BALIA, DIST-BALASORE, PIN-756056
(e-mail: eephbls@gmail.com, Phone-9438660004)

NO 5442 / **1ST CORRIGENDUM** **DATE 26.11.24**

Tender for the work

"Supply of ISI Marked DI (K7) Pipes for the work Improvement of water supply to Basudevpur Municipality".
In continuation to this office Bib-Identification No.SEPHBLS-16 of 2024-25 dt.14.11.2024. The following changes are hereby made.

Sl. No.	Item/Clause	Description	Existing	Revised/Amended
1	Clause- 7.1(V), (Page-4)	NIT (DTCN)	The manufacturer should have valid Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) license for marking ISI mark on their product for at least 5 (Five) years from the last date of Bidding	1) Each intending bidder (manufacturer) should have valid BIS License for manufacturing ISI marked DI pipes. 2) Only ISI marked DI pipes should be procured with necessary test certificates as communicated earlier.
	Clause- 7.1(VI), (Page-4)	NIT (DTCN)	The manufacturer's Ductile Iron (D.I) pipes& fittings are in satisfactory performance in Indian Projects for at least three years from the Bid Date	Regarding past history of satisfactory performance of the DI pipes of any intending manufacturer-bidder, at least one year history (one year to be reckoned from the date of invitation of each tender) of satisfactory performance in any projects executed in India would be adequate.
2	DTCN- Clause 6.4 (Page-7)	DTCN (Check list to be filled by the bidder)	Complete audited annual financial year statements for last Five Years including audit report, balance sheets, profit & loss accounts statement all other schedules etc.	Bidders should have annual financial turnover of not less than 40% of estimated cost in at least one year during last 5 (Five) preceding financial years. Inflation/Escalation @10% per financial year (on compound basis) shall be considered on the value of annual turnover of the proceeding years

All other terms and conditions Un-Altered.

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer,
Public Health Division, Balasore.

OIPR-13053/11/0007/2425

Aditya Birla Capital Limited

ADITYA BIRLA CAPITAL

Regd. Office: Indian Rayon Compound, Veraval - 362 266, Gujarat | Tel: 91 2876 243257
CIN: L67120GJ2007PLC058890 | www.adityabirlacapital.com | abc.secretarial@adityabirlacapital.com

BEFORE THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL,
AHMEDABAD BENCH
C.A. (CAA)/ 49 (AHM) 2024
In the matter of Sections 230 to 232 read with other applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013
and
In the matter of Scheme of Amalgamation
of
Aditya Birla Finance Limited ("Amalgamating Company")
with
Aditya Birla Capital Limited ("Amalgamated Company")
and
their respective shareholders and creditors

ADITYA BIRLA CAPITAL LIMITED, a company incorporated)
under the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956 and)
having its registered office at Indian Rayon Compound,)
Veraval - 362 266, Gujarat, India.)
CIN: L67120GJ2007PLC058890) **... APPLICANT NO. 2 / AMALGAMATED COMPANY**

NOTICE AND ADVERTISEMENT OF NOTICE OF THE MEETING OF THE EQUITY SHAREHOLDERS

Notice is hereby given that by an order dated November 29, 2024 ("**Order**"), the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Ahmedabad Bench ("**Hon'ble Tribunal**") has directed convening of the meeting of the equity shareholders of Aditya Birla Capital Limited (hereinafter referred to as the "**Amalgamated Company**"), for the purpose of considering, and if thought fit, approving the arrangement embodied in the Scheme of Amalgamation of Aditya Birla Finance Limited (hereinafter referred to as the "**Amalgamating Company**") with the Amalgamated Company and their respective shareholders and creditors (hereinafter referred to as the "**Scheme**") pursuant to the provisions of Sections 230-232 of the Companies Act, 2013 ("**the Act**") and other applicable provisions thereof and applicable rules thereunder.

In pursuance of the Order passed by the Hon'ble Tribunal and as directed therein, further Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the equity shareholders of the Amalgamated Company will be held on Tuesday, January 7, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. (1100 hours) IST through Video Conferencing ("**VC**")/Other Audio Visual Means ("**OAVM**") (hereinafter referred to as the "**Meeting**") in compliance with the applicable laws including circulars issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs ("**MCA Circulars**") from time to time and the Circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/CFD-PoD-2/P/CIR/2024/133 dated October 3, 2024, issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India ("**Circular issued by SEBI**") and the said equity shareholders are requested to attend the Meeting.

The Amalgamated Company has completed the electronic dispatch of the Notice of the Meeting dated December 2, 2024; the explanatory statement as required under Sections 230(3) to 232 (1) and (2) and 102 of the Act read with Rule 6 of Companies (Compromises, Arrangements and Amalgamations) Rules, 2016; and the annexures to the explanatory statement which includes the Scheme (collectively referred to as "**Particulars**") on December 2, 2024 through e-mail. The Particulars were sent through electronic mode to those equity shareholders whose e-mail addresses are registered with Kfin Technologies Limited ("**Kfin**"), Registrar and Transfer Agent of the Amalgamated Company/depositories/ Amalgamated Company and whose names appear in the register of members/list of beneficial owners as on Friday, November 29, 2024. The Particulars are placed on the website of the Amalgamated Company and can be accessed at **https://www.adityabirlacapital.com/investor-relations/scheme-of-amalgamation** and also available on the websites of BSE Limited at **www.bseindia.com**; National Stock Exchange of India Limited at **www.nseindia.com**; and Kfin at **https://evoting.kfintech.com**.

If so desired, copy of the Particulars can be obtained free of charge, between 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on all working days up to the date of the Meeting at the registered office of the Amalgamated Company, or from the office of its advocates, M/s. Singhi & Co., Singhi House, 1, Magnet Corporate Park, Off Sola Bridge, S. G. Highway, Ahmedabad - 380 059, Gujarat, India or by sending a request along with the details of shareholding to the Amalgamated Company by email at **abc.secretarial@adityabirlacapital.com**.

Since, the Meeting is being held pursuant to the Order passed by the Hon'ble Tribunal and in compliance of MCA Circulars and Circular issued by SEBI through VC/OAVM, physical attendance of the equity shareholders has been dispensed with. Accordingly, the facility for appointment of proxy by the equity shareholders of the Amalgamated Company is not available at this Meeting.

The Hon'ble Tribunal has appointed Justice (Retd.) Akil Kureshi, Former Chief Justice of the High Courts of Rajasthan and Tripura, and in his absence, Mr. Unmesh Shukla, Senior Advocate, to be the Chairman of the Meeting.

Mr. Dilip Bharadiya, Practicing Company Secretary (FCS No.: 7956/ C.P. No. 6740); or in his absence Mr. Omkar Dindorkar (ACS No.: 43029), or in his absence, Mr. Saurabh Agarwal (FCS No.: 9290), from M/s MMJB & Associates LLP (C.P. No. 24580), have been appointed as the scrutinizer to scrutinize the e-voting during the Meeting and the remote e-voting process.

The Scheme, if approved by the equity shareholders will be subject to subsequent approval of the Hon'ble Tribunal or such other regulatory approvals as may be necessary.

NOTICE is further given that:

1. The Amalgamated Company has provided remote e-voting facility to its equity shareholders to enable them to cast their votes electronically and has availed the services of Kfin for providing VC/OAVM facility, remote e-voting and e-voting during the Meeting (Insta Poll). Some of the important details regarding remote e-voting are provided below:

EVEN	8519
Commencement of remote e-voting period	Thursday, January 2, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. (0900 hours) IST
End of remote e-voting period	Monday, January 6, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. (1700 hours) IST The remote e-voting module will be disabled by Kfin thereafter.

2. The e-voting facility will also be made available during the Meeting (Insta Poll) to enable the equity shareholders who have not cast their vote through remote e-voting, to exercise their voting rights. Equity shareholders who have cast their vote through remote e-voting prior to the Meeting may attend the Meeting but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again.
3. An equity shareholder, whose name is recorded in the register of members or in the list of beneficial owners maintained by Kfin/depositories/Amalgamated Company as on the cut-off date, i.e. Tuesday, December 31, 2024 only shall be entitled to exercise his/her/its voting rights on the resolution proposed in the Notice and attend the Meeting of the equity shareholders. The voting rights of the equity shareholders of the Amalgamated Company shall be in proportion to their share in the paid-up equity share capital of the Amalgamated Company as on cut-off date i.e. Tuesday, December 31, 2024.
4. The Scheme shall be acted upon if a majority of persons representing three-fourth in value of the equity shareholders of the Amalgamated Company voting through remote e-voting and e-voting during the Meeting (Insta Poll) approve the Scheme, in terms of the provisions of Sections 230-232 of the Act.
5. The results, together with the scrutinizer's report, will be displayed at the registered office and on the website of the Amalgamated Company and on the website of Kfin at **https://evoting.kfintech.com** and shall be communicated to BSE Limited and to National Stock Exchange of India Limited on or before Thursday, January 9, 2025.
6. Information and instructions for attending the Meeting including manner of voting [both remote e-voting and e-voting at the Meeting (Insta Poll)] by the equity shareholders holding shares in dematerialised mode, physical mode and for equity shareholders who have not registered their e-mail address has been provided in the Notice of the Meeting. The manner in which (a) person who becomes an equity shareholder of the Amalgamated Company after dispatch of the Notice and holding equity shares as on cut-off date (mentioned herein above); (b) equity shareholders who have forgotten the User ID and Password, can obtain/generate the User ID and password, has also been provided in the Notice of the Meeting.
7. Equity shareholders holding equity shares in physical mode, who have not registered/updated their e-mail address with the Amalgamated Company/Kfin, are requested to register/update their e-mail address and other KYC details, if applicable, by sending request at **einward.ris@kfintech.com** along with Form ISR-1 and other relevant forms and documents. The format of Form ISR-1 is available on the website of Kfin at **https://ris.kfintech.com/clientservices/isc/isrforms.aspx**.
8. Equity shareholders holding equity shares in dematerialised mode, who have not registered/updated their e-mail address with their depository participant(s), are requested to register/update their e-mail address with the depository participant(s) where they maintain their demat accounts.
9. Equity shareholders having any queries seeking any information with regard to the Scheme or the matter proposed to be considered at the aforesaid Meeting, are requested to write to the Amalgamated Company atleast 3 (three) days before the date of the Meeting through e-mail on **abc.secretarial@adityabirlacapital.com**.
10. In case of any difficulty or queries in connection with attending the Meeting through VC/OAVM or casting vote through remote e-voting facility, equity shareholders may contact:

For	Name & Designation	E-mail	Address	Contact Number
E-voting and VC/OAVM	Mr. Ganesh Chandra Patro, Vice President, KFin Technologies Limited	**einward.ris@kfintech.com**	Selenium Building, Tower B, Plot No. 31-32, Gachibowli, Financial District, Nanakramguda, Serilingampally, Hyderabad, Rangareddy, Telangana, India - 500 032	Phone No.: + 91 40 6716 1630 Toll-free No.: 1800-309-4001

Sd/-
Justice (Retd.) Akil Kureshi
Chairman appointed for the Meeting

Dated: 2.12.2024

NOTICE

I, Sukumar Mondal S/O Akrur Mondal of Dhakhin Khudirampally, P.O.- Sarsuna, P.S.-Thakurpukur, Kol-700063, had purchased a land/property, schedule stated below, from Power of Attorney Holder Asima Mondal, POA No.- VI-1607-2015, 0623/2015 Deed No.-7105/2016. If anybody has any objection on mutation of said land/property, please inform office of BL & LRO, Kolkata Block, KMC Building, Room 328, 5, S. N. Banerjee Road, Kolkata-13, in writing or over email- bllroatm@gmail.com .within one month from the date of this advertisement. Land Schedule- Mouza- Paschim Barisha, JL-119, Plot No-1791.

আমার মক্কেল ডিসান হেলথ সিটি ফাউন্ডেশন পক্ষে সুভাষ চন্দ্র মহাপাত্র সাং-৮১ রাজভাঙ্গা নবপল্লি, তিলজলা, কলকাতা নিবাসী, ১২/০৯/২০২৪ তারিখে A.R.A.-III, কলকাতা অফিসে রেজিস্ট্রীকৃত ৮২০৭ নং দলিলমূলে অন্নপূর্না জানা স্বামী স্বর্গীয় কার্তিক জানা সাং-তিসা, চন্ডীতলা, হুগলী নিবাসী এর পক্ষে নিযুক্ত আমমোক্তার ফিরোজ আলি মোল্লা পিতা আনসার আলি মোল্লা সাং-জয়কৃষ্ণপুর, চন্ডীতলা, হুগলী নিবাসী (আমমোক্তার নং- ৮৩৮৯/২৪ A.D.S.R- জনাই, হুগলী) নিকট হইতে কাপাসহাড়িয়া মৌজায় জে.এল ৬৮ ভুক্ত, এল.আর ১৯১ নং খতিয়ানভুক্ত,আর.এস ১২৬৮ নং দাগ হইতে হাল.এল.আর ১৩২০ নং দাগে শালি জমি কমবেশী ১.৪০ শতক সম্পত্তি খরিদ করিয়া চন্ডীতলা-২ বি.এল.এন্ড.এল.আর.ও চন্ডীতলা হুগলী অফিসে মিউটেশনের জন্য আবেদন করিয়াছেন, যদি উক্ত আমমোক্তার দাতা বা অন্য কোনো ব্যাক্তির কোনো রকম অভিযোগ থাকে তাহা হইলে বিজ্ঞাপনের দিন হইতে আগামী ০১ মাসের মধ্যে উক্ত বি.এল.এন্ড.এল.আর.ও অফিসে অভিযোগ জানাইতে হইবে, নতুবা উক্ত সময়ের পর আইন মোতাবেক ব্যবস্থা গ্রহন করা হইবে।

Sd/-
Mousumi Mukherjee (Mustaphi)
Advocate
Serampore & Chinsuraha Court

আমার মক্কেল ডিসান হেলথ সিটি ফাউন্ডেশন পক্ষে সুভাষ চন্দ্র মহাপাত্র সাং-৮১ রাজভাঙ্গা নবপল্লি, তিলজলা, কলকাতা নিবাসী, ১৩/০৯/২০২৪ তারিখে A.R.A.-III, কলকাতা অফিসে রেজিস্ট্রীকৃত ৮২৫১ নং দলিলমূলে মঞ্জু জানা স্বামী স্বর্গীয় পশুপতি জানা সাং-খরসরাই, চন্ডীতলা, হুগলী ও সুজাতা জানা স্বামী বিশ্বজিৎ জানা সাং-আনন্দনগর, হাওড়া নিবাসী এর পক্ষে নিযুক্ত আমমোক্তার রাজকুমার মান্না পিতা বিশ্বনাথ মান্না সাং-নিউ কলোনাহ, ডোমজুড়, হাওড়া নিবাসী (আমমোক্তার নং- ৮৮৩৬/২৪ A.D.S.R - জনাই, হুগলী) নিকট হইতে কাপাসহাড়িয়া মৌজায় জে.এল ৬৮ ভুক্ত, এল.আর ৫৯২ নং খতিয়ানভুক্ত,আর.এস ১২৬৮ নং দাগ হইতে হাল.এল.আর ১৩২০ নং দাগে শালি জমি কমবেশী ২.৮০ শতক সম্পত্তি খরিদ করিয়া চন্ডীতলা-২ বি.এল.এন্ড.এল.আর.ও চন্ডীতলা হুগলী অফিসে মিউটেশনের জন্য আবেদন করিয়াছেন, যদি উক্ত আমমোক্তার দাতা বা অন্য কোনো ব্যাক্তির কোনো রকম অভিযোগ থাকে তাহা হইলে বিজ্ঞাপনের দিন হইতে আগামী ০১ মাসের মধ্যে উক্ত বি.এল.এন্ড.এল.আর.ও অফিসে অভিযোগ জানাইতে হইবে,নতুবা উক্ত সময়ের পর আইন মোতাবেক ব্যবস্থা গ্রহন করা হইবে।

Sd/-
Mousumi Mukherjee (Mustaphi)
Advocate
Serampore & Chinsuraha Court

GENERAL CAUTION

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Canara Bank

Premises & Estate Section, Canara Bank, Circle Office, 5th Floor, 21 Camac Street, Kolkata- 700016, Ph - 033-22831501, Email - pecokol@canarabank.com

FOR SALE

A Four Wheeler bearing registration number WB06M 9095, WB06M 9083, WB06M 9084, WB06M 9082 (All Make SWIFT DZIRE, Year 2016) and WB06N 1704 (Make Maruti Ciaz, Year 2016) is for sale on 'As is Where is basis'. Interested parties may please call on Canara Bank, Circle Office, Bells House, 21, Camac Street, Kolkata - 700016, Phone - 033 22831501 for further details. Last date of submission of offer is 23.12.2024 be 3.00 PM along with EMD (DD amount Rs. 10000/-) & application fees of Rs.50.00 for each car. Further communications, corrigendum, and amendments if any will be hosted in Banks, website only.

02.12.2024 **Assistant General Manager**

NAME CORRECTION

I, Rajiv Jhunjhunwala son of Mr. Satya Narain Jhunjhunwala residing at 9, Rajnigandha, 25 Ballygunge Park, Ballygunge, Kolkata-700019, West Bengal solemnly declared that in my Driving License my name has been wrongly printed as Rajeev Jhunjhunwala but the correct name is Rajiv Jhunjhunwala which is recorded in my Adhaar Card and Passport and also it is declared before the First Class Metropolitan Magistrate at South 24 Parganas Sealdah Court at Vide Affidavit No 4689 dated 27/11/2024.

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

e-Tender are hereby invited by the Prodhan, Alugram GP from bonafied tenderer for 22nos of works for the follwing NIeTs : NIeT 10/AGP/15thCFC/24-25, NIeT 11/AGP/15th CFC/24-25, NIeT 12/AGP/15th CFC/24-25, NIeT 13/AGP/15th CFC/24-25 & NIeT 14/AGP/15th CFC/24-25 All dated 30/11/2024. Last date of bid Submission 10/12/2024 up to 15.00 hrs. For details visit the website https://www.wbtenders.gov.in

Sd/-
Prodhan Alugram G.P.
Bharatpur-I Block, Murshidabad

NOTICE INVITING PRE- QUALIFICATION - CUM - TENDER

E-bid is hereby invited on the behalf of the prodhan, Kumra (GP) 03 (Three) nos. of civil works NIT No.: **WBNPG07/ KGP-0505/2024-25 Dated 02.12.2024. Total Amount- 2519098/-.** Details contact P&RD website: **http://wbtenders.gov.in** Notice from: Prodhan, Kumra G.P.

Sd/-
Prodhan, Kumra G.P
P.O.-Kumra Kashipur,
North 24 Parganas

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IN HOUSE

Bill to promote coastal trade brought in LS

A BILL that seeks to promote coastal trade and encourage the participation of Indian-flagged vessels owned and operated by Indian citizens for national security and commercial needs was introduced in Lok Sabha Monday by Union Ports, Shipping and Waterways minister Sarbananda Sonowal. It seeks prohibition of trade in the coastal water without licence by vessels other than Indian vessels and permitting inland vessels to engage in coastal trading subject to conditions. It also seeks to empower the DG to issue licence after taking into consideration certain factors including citizenship of the crew and building requirements of the vessel so as to create major jobs for India seafarers and to promote ship building in India. **PTI**

Lok Sabha secy general gets fresh extension

LOK SABHA Secretary General Utpal Kumar Singh has been granted a fresh one-year extension, an official order said. According to the order, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has extended the tenure of Singh up to November 30, 2025. Singh, a 1986-batch IAS officer of the Uttarakhand cadre, took over as Lok Sabha Secretary General on December 1, 2020, and his tenure has been extended earlier too. He retired as chief secretary of Uttarakhand on July 31, 2020, and took over as secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat on September 1, 2020. He assumed office as Lok Sabha Secretary General three months later after the superannuation of Snehlata Shrivastav. **PTI**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Union Ministers (from left) Manohar Lal Khattar, Jitan Ram Manjhi, Nitin Gadkari, Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, J P Nadda, Mansukh Mandaviya, Rajiv Ranjan Singh and Jayant Chaudhary as they watch the film *The Sabarmati Report* at the Balayogi Auditorium in Parliament complex on Monday. *PTI*

PM Modi, Cabinet Ministers watch *The Sabarmati Report*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 2

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi watched the movie *The Sabarmati Report* on Monday along with several members of his Cabinet besides MPs from the ruling alliance at the Balyogi Auditorium in the Parliament library building.

Some members of the audience, including veteran actor Jeetendra and Raashii Khanna, who has a key role in the movie, told reporters after the meeting that Modi told them this was the first film he had watched after becoming the prime minister.

Modi was joined by Union ministers Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, Nitin Gadkari and Jitan Ram Manjhi, a BJP ally, among others. The film claims to reveal the truth behind the fire incident in Sabarmati Express at Godhra on February 27, 2002, killing 59 devotees returning from Ayodhya after participating in a religious ceremony.

Vikrant Massey, who played the lead protagonist, said it was a different experience watching the movie with Modi that cannot be expressed in words. He expressed his delight and appealed to the people to watch the film. This experience was the highest point in his career, he added.

In a post on X after watching the film, Modi commended the makers of the film for their effort.

Jeetendra told reporters that this was the first time he had watched a film with the prime minister due to his daughter Ekta Kapoor, one of its producers.

"He (Modi) told me that it was the first movie he has seen after becoming prime minister," one of the Hindi film industry's leading actors of his times said.

Actor Raashii Khanna also made a similar comment and expressed delight at the experience.

The ruling BJP has actively promoted the movie, with many of its state governments making it tax-free.

Modi was the chief minister of Gujarat at the time of the incident, which was followed by communal riots, and the state police had blamed a Muslim mob for setting some of the train coaches on fire. Many accused chargesheeted by the police were later convicted in courts.

The incident had triggered a major political row as an enquiry commission constituted by the then railway minister Lalu Prasad Yadav, a Congress ally, had claimed that the fire was an accident.

The Gujarat High Court had, however, quashed its findings and termed the commission unconstitutional.

Sessions in South: Those in favour included Ambedkar and Vajpayee

VIDHATRI RAO
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 2

SHOULD PARLIAMENT have sessions in South India? A new debate has set off, with YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) MP Maddila Gurumoorthy writing a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 28 and requesting him to hold two Parliament Sessions in South India annually.

In the letter, Gurumoorthy argued the move will help national integration and "address the practical challenges faced by Parliament while dealing with the extreme weather conditions" of Delhi, and facilitate "effective" working of Parliament.

The idea of holding Sessions in the South has been discussed in the past by Parliament, with among those in its favour being B R Ambedkar.

In November 1959, Independent Gurgaon MP Prakash Vir Shastri introduced a Private Member's Resolution that proposed holding a Session of the Lok Sabha in South India, either in Hyderabad or Bangalore (as it was known then), annually.

Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who was then a first-time Bharatiya Jan Sangh (the precursor to the BJP) MP from Balrampur in Madhya Pradesh backed the proposal, saying it had "been made to strengthen the unity of the country" and shouldn't be looked at through a "political prism".

Vajpayee added that there was no question about shifting the national capital. "*Keel yehin gaadi gayee thi… Woh keel abhi tak gadi hai, aur usko ukhaadne ka koi prayatna ho bhi nahin raha hai aur karna bhi nahin chahiye* (The foundation of the national capital was laid here in Delhi. It is very much based here, and no attempt is being made to uproot it, nor should there be any.)

In his book *Thoughts on Linguistic States*, Ambedkar had proposed two capitals and given three reasons for it. "Delhi is most inconvenient to the people of the South. They suffer the most from cold as well as distance. Even the Northern people suffer in the summer months," he had written. He had also argued that people in the South feel their Capital is far away and that they feel they are being "ruled" by the North.

The third reason he had given was defence. "Delhi is a vulnerable place. It is within bombing distance of neighbouring countries."

As per Ambedkar, the second capital of the country could be Hyderabad, especially in the summer months. "Hyderabad fulfils all the requirements of a capital for India," he said, and was "equidistant to all states". "The only thing that is wanting (in Hyderabad) is a Parliament House...It is a place in which Parliament can sit all year round and work, which it cannot do in Delhi."

The then Congress Anantapur MP Nagi Reddy also backed holding House Sessions in the South. **FULL REPORT**
www.indianexpress.com

AMID OPP PROTESTS ON ADANI ROW, MANIPUR

Both Houses adjourned again, Dhankhar cites Murphy's Law

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 2

AFTER A washout during the first week, the Winter Session of Parliament resumed its proceedings on Monday morning. However, both Houses were adjourned without much business amid the Opposition's protests on the Adani row and the Manipur situation. Parliament will now reconvene on Tuesday.

Proceedings for the Lok Sabha began amid constant sloganeering by the Opposition. During the Question Hour, Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Jayant Chaudhary responded to a question on the Centre of Excellence for Skill Development. Meanwhile, the House was filled with "We want justice" slogans.

Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar in Rajya Sabha, Monday. *ANI*

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla adjourned the House until noon. However, before proceeding with the adjournment, he urged the protesting MPs to let the House function, asking them to return to their seats. Meanwhile, floor leaders of the INDIA bloc parties, after a meeting at the Congress Parliamentary Party office chaired by Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, sought the Speaker's intervention in the smooth functioning of the House.

In Rajya Sabha, within 15 minutes of the proceedings, the Upper House was first adjourned until noon. But soon after the House met at noon, Opposition members raised their issues, including the allegations of bribery against the Adani Group and the recent violence in Sambal and Manipur, even as Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar said nothing would go on record.

The chairman also disallowed 20 notices served under rule 267, including eight that had sought a discussion on the US indictment of the Adani Group. Stating that the notices did not call for admittance, Dhankhar went on to equate the situation in Parliament, which has seen repeated adjournments since it met on November 25, to Murphy's Law that states, "Anything that can go wrong will go wrong."

"It appears that there exists a deliberate algorithm to actualise Murphy's laws in this august House, consequently impeding the proper functioning of Parliament. We find ourselves achieving precisely the antithesis of what our Constitution ordains," said Dhankhar.

As he allowed Question Hour to proceed, Tiruchi Siva of DMK also sought to raise some issues, which the Chairman said he would allow only after members took their seats and maintained decorum. As the opposition members continued to raise an uproar, Chairman Dhankhar adjourned the House for the day.

The chairman appealed to them in the name of the framers of the Constitution to allow the House to function. "We find ourselves achieving precisely the antithesis of what our Constitution ordains… In reverence to the framers of our Constitution... I implore this House to permit me to proceed with the business listed on today's agenda," he said.

DELHI CONFIDENTIAL

BJP chief J P Nadda with party MP Anil Baluni. *@anil_baluni*

BIRTHDAY MYSTERY

BJP NATIONAL president J P Nadda, who celebrated his 64th birthday on Monday, was greeted by almost everyone in Parliament, but one MP stood out. As BJP's national media head and Lok Sabha member Anil Baluni extended birthday wishes to Nadda, the latter returned the greeting with "same to you". Monday was Baluni's birthday too and the two leaders posed with a bouquet, leaving party MPs confused over who gave the flowers to whom.

SPLIT SCREEN

ON A day Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other NDA MPs watched *The Sabarmati Report* at the Balayogi Auditorium in Parliament complex , Rajya Sabha MP Jaya Bachchan organised a special screening of her son Abhishek Bachchan's latest movie *I Want to Talk* for her MP friends. The screening at Chanakya auditorium was attended by leaders cutting across party lines. The stand-off in Parliament did not seem to affect the warmth among the MPs. Those who attended the screening included Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh, BJP MP Neeraj Shekhar, TMC's Derek O'Brien, Shiv Sena's Priyanka Chaturvedi and CPM's John Brittas.

PRESS BRIEF

SINCE THE Winter Session started last week, Union Ministers and junior ministers have been holding press briefings on government programmes. Monday saw a briefing on health by former health minister Mansukh Mandaviya and former Ayush minister Shripad Yesso Naik. Later this week, Jyotiraditya Scindia will brief the media on infra push in road, rail and air and Arjun Ram Meghwal will hold a press briefing on social empowerment.

Why Mahayuti is ironing out wrinkles

BJP yet to stake claim, nor has Governor invited it; CM face yet to be announced

THE NEERJA CHOWDHURY COLUMN

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

A LUNCH thrown by NCP MP Praful Patel last week at his 26, Gurdwara Rakabgunj Road, residence in Lutyens Delhi, where he has lived for 34 years, bespoke the tectonic changes that have taken place in Maharashtra politics. It was one of those rare days when Delhi saw sunshine break through the pall of a polluting haze.

This was like the countless parties Patel has hosted where mediapersons could meet the first family of Maharashtra -- the Pawars. But this time the cast of Pawars was different. It was not Sharad Pawar or daughter Supriya Sule who were there, but his nephew Ajit Pawar, his wife Sunetra, who lost to Supriya in the Lok Saha elections and was subsequently made a Rajya Sabha MP, his son Parth and NCP MP Sunil Tatkare who were the stars.

Praful Patel, at one time Sharad Pawar's right-hand man, was introducing to the national media Ajit Pawar who had wrested control of the NCP, having won 41 seats in the recent Assembly elections, with his uncle reduced to a mere 10.

Ajit Pawar sported a different image, dressed in casual shirt trousers and a jacket, mingling with mediapersons and answering questions on the new government about to be formed in Mumbai. There are indications he is set to be a Deputy CM again and retain the Finance portfolio.

After the Assembly results, as the BJP stood far ahead of the rest with 132 seats, "Ajit Dada (as he is called)" moved with alacrity and announced his support to Devendra Fadnavis as CM. This means Ajit Pawar would be there in the reckoning in any new arrangement and that, if push came to shove, it is the third partner, the Shiv Sena led by Eknath Shinde, who might find itself out of favour, especially due to Shinde's initial insistence on being made CM again.

However, as of Monday, that is nine days after the people of Maharashtra gave the Mahayuti a massive mandate (236 out of 288 seats), the coalition has not been able to decide the contours of the new government. Neither, and this too is odd, has the BJP chosen to stake its claim, nor has the Governor invited it to form a government.

Even if the nuts and bolts of the power-sharing arrangement are still being worked out, the BJP — and this is the curious part of the story — has not even announced its CM candidate. If Ajit Pawar has already lent his support to Fadnavis as CM, Shinde has declared publicly that he will abide by the decision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah.

With Fadnavis seen as the chief architect of the BJP's biggest ever victory in Maharashtra, at 132 seats, the BJP has few options but to appoint him the CM. It cannot experiment in Maharashtra as it did earlier in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, by picking Bhajan Lal Sharma, Mohan Yadav or Vishnu Deo Sai, respectively — that is opting not to go for strong or established leaders.

The new CM in Maharashtra will need the experience and a steady hand to keep Eknath Shinde, Ajit Pawar, and the state bureaucrats in check, and yet push ahead with its infrastructural and development plans for the state.

The RSS, which has delivered both Haryana and Maharashtra to the BJP (unlike the Lok Sabha elections when it had held back), has been rooting strongly for Fadnavis as CM. The BJP cadre is also sympathetic towards him — bearing in mind that he had earlier agreed to be Deputy CM under Shinde.

"The only thing that goes against him is his caste," a political journalist in Mumbai points out. With Fadnavis, a Brahmin, as CM, and with Marathas Shinde and Ajit Pawar as Deputy CMs — the scenario considered most likely — the BJP will have to innovatively accommodate OBCs, who consolidated in its favour in the Assembly elections. Union Home Minister Amit Shah consulted leaders like BJP Maratha face Vinod Tawde to find out the impact Fadnavis's elevation would have on the Maratha community!

The chief ministership of the country's second largest state in terms of parliamentary strength (48 Lok Sabha seats), on top of the BJP's electoral performance under him, could also bring Fadnavis into national reckoning once again, at par with Yogi Adityanath in UP.

However, as CM from 2014-19, Fadnavis's rule is remembered as a "one man show", which ruffled some feathers in the party.

By taking time to announce his name, the BJP brass may be sending a message that even if Fadnavis has crafted the party's victory and becomes CM, "the control lies with us".

Shinde, whose sudden "illness" and decision to head to his native village after talks in Delhi with the BJP leadership, raised eyebrows. While Shinde is supposedly bargaining hard for the Home Ministry, sources said he is too savvy not to know that the BJP would not part with the Home department, which was held by Fadnavis when he was CM as also Deputy CM.

Shinde also knows he does not have many cards up his sleeve. Moving to the Union cabinet in Delhi or supporting the new government from "outside" are non-options, politics having become so transactional today. Being out of power in Maharashtra could mean going out of the public mind.

The BJP has been trying to mollify him, not because it needs his Shiv Sena numbers (57) to form a government, but for other reasons – wresting control of the BMC from Uddhav Thackeray in the soon-to-be-held civic poll, for one. Shinde's usefulness has lain in weakening Uddhav Thackeray – a process which is far from complete as 10 of the 20 overall seats the Shiv Sena (UBT) won were from Mumbai.

When he was appointed CM in 2022, few had heard of Eknath Shinde. He has used the last two years to create a political niche for himself as an up and coming Maratha leader (even quota activist Manoj Jarange-Patil has been soft on him) and a benefactor of social welfare schemes, particularly the Ladki Bahin Yojana.

He had appointed a committee of senior officials to suggest schemes that could be rolled out this year (keeping in mind the elections), and decided that Ladki Bahin Yojana should be rolled out in time for the Assembly elections, and not earlier for the Lok Sabha polls!

By helping delay the process of government formation, Shinde may also be using the situation to position himself as the tallest Maratha leader, after Sharad Pawar, that the BJP is going out of its way to woo – and cannot do without.

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

Opp slams Bhagwat's '3 kids' advice: 'Stop instrumentalising women, are we rabbits?'

VIKAS PATHAK, DEEPTIMAN TIWARY & NIKHILA HENRY
NEW DELJHI, DECEMBER 2

RSS CHIEF Mohan Bhagwat's comment that couples should have at least three children to ensure that India's population does not decline evoked varied reactions on Monday, with the Congress and the Left targeting him, the BJP choosing to remain mum, and the BJP's NDA allies adopting a measured approach.

Criticising Bhagwat, Congress's Rajya Sabha MP Renuka Chowdhury told the media outside Parliament, "Unemployed men cannot get married as no one is ready to give their daughters to them. How will they take care (of their partners)? Elderly parents are working and looking after their children as there is no money. He (Bhagwat) is saying produce more children. Are we rabbits that we will keep reproducing? How many children do people who are talking have?"

Samajwadi Party leader Abhishek Mishra told *The Indian Express* there should be no "ideological sermonising" on the issue and such decisions should be left to families.

CPI(M) leader Brinda Karat said Bhagwat's remarks were an attempt to "instrumentalise women's bodies and choices". She told *The Indian Express*, "Bhagwat ji and his kin should stop instrumentalising women's bodies and their choices about having children to suit his agenda."

The BJP's biggest NDA ally Telugu Desam Party (TDP), whose chief and Andhra Pradesh CM N Chandrababu Naidu recently advocated for couples having more children, citing the state's ageing population, had a measured reaction to Bhagwat's remarks. The party claimed it was concerned about Andhra Pradesh and its holistic development. "We recently scrapped the two-child policy as it suits the state's population dynamics vis-a-vis low fertility rates and did not link it to delimitation or any particular community's population," said TDP national spokesperson Jyothsna Tirunagari.

BJP's Kiran Choudhry, Sena (UBT)'s Priyanka Chaturvedi and RJD's Misa Bharti at Parliament. *ANI*

Saying that the RSS is a cultural organisation, the BJP's second-largest ally Janata Dal (United) pointed out how Bihar is a "role model" when it comes to implementing population control measures. "Since our student days, we have been learning about population explosion being a problem. (Former PM) A B Vajpayee ji had spoken of population control through education and healthcare. Even PM Narendra Modi has expressed similar sentiments and said the issue has to be approached socially. NFHS data shows Bihar is among the best in controlling population growth," JD(U) spokesperson Neeraj Kumar told *The Indian Express*. According to NFHS-5 data, Bihar's TFR has come down to 3 but is still highest in the country.

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)

Dept-HOD, HR & ADMIN GATP, Goindwal Sahib, invites E-Tender for the work of:

1	Tender Enquiry No. 004/GATP/HRADMIN/50006998 dated 02/12/2024 "FACILITY MANAGEMENT SERVICES" at 2X270 MW Guru Amardas Thermal Plant (GATP), Goindwal Sahib, Distt.: Tarn Taran, Punjab as per details given in the tender specifications for a period of One year'

For detailed NIT & tender specifications, please refer to **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** from 02/12/2024 from 17:00 Hrs onwards.

Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any, will be published online at **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in**

No. 39723/PB GATP-03/24

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.

(Regd. Office PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala)
Corporate Identification Number (CIN): U40109PB2010SGC033813
Web site: www.pspcl.in
(Contact Number 9646118754)

Tender Inquiry No. 91/GHTP/MM-II/HM-50(IX) **Dated: 29-11-2024**

Superintending Engineer/MM-II/GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat invites E-tender for the work of "AMC for Routine, Preventive and Breakdown maintenance of Heavy Earth Moving Machinery, i.e. Loco Shunters, Bulldozers including, Grabber Loader Machines, Poclain, Auger and Coal Compactor etc. AND Re-railment of minor derailments of Wagons & Loco Shunters in CHP of GHTP, Lehra- Mohabbat as per tender specifications, For detailed NIT and tender specifications please refer to **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** from 03-12-2024 at 11:00 AM onwards.

Note: Corrigendum and addendum if any, will be published online at **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** only.

No. - 39719/PB GHTP-96/24

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

Regd. office: PSEB head office, The Mall Patiala-147001
Corporate Identity No. UP0109PB2010SGC033813 Website: www.pspcl.in
(Contact No. 96461-01116)

Tender Enquiry No. 09/GC/TS/PSPCL/2024-25 **Dated: 02.12.2024**

Dy. CE/ Grid Construction, opp. PAU Gate No.1, PSPCL, Ludhiana invites open e-Tender for outsourcing of Augmentation of Power Transformers related works on partial turnkey mode under RDSS Scheme under Grid Construction Division Bathinda under Grid Construction Circle Ludhiana. For detailed NIT & Tender Specifications please refer to **http://eproc.punjab.gov.in** from 02.12.2024 (01:00 PM onwards).

Note: Corrigendum and amendments, if any, will be published online at **http://eproc.punjab.gov.in**.

No. 39717/PB C-899/24

Karnataka Bank

Head Office,Mangaluru – 575 002 CIN : L85110KA1924PLC001128

ASSET RECOVERY MANAGEMENT BRANCH
2nd Floor, Premises No. 07/1-0333, Plot No. CBD 100/3, New Town, Kolkata-700156, (West Bengal)

Phone/Fax : 033-22268580
Mobile : 9632026760 / 9073371733
Website : www.karnatakabank.com
E-mail : kolkata.arm@ktkbank.com

SALE NOTICE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

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 provision to rule 9(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules,

Notice is hereby given to public in general and in particular to 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 **Karnataka Bank Ltd,** the Secured Creditor on **23.07.2024,** will be sold on **"As is Where is ", "As is What is" and "Whatever there is"** on **24.12.2024,** for recovery of **Rs.57,92,128.87 (Rupees Fifty Seven Lakhs Ninety Two Thousands One Hundred twenty Eight and Paise Eighty Seven only)** under **Term Loan A/c 1477001600202101** along with future interest from **25.09.2024** plus costs, due to the **Karnataka Bank Ltd, Overseas Branch, Kolkata,** 1st Floor, "Shubham" Building, #1 Sarojini Naidu Sarini, Park Street Mullick Bazar Crossing, Near Sim Park Plaza, Kolkata- 700017, West Bengal, the secured creditor from **(1) Mr. Joydeep Roy** S/o Mr. Swadesh Ranjan **(2) Mrs.Sananda** Roy W/o Joydeep Roy, **Both (1) & (2)are addressed at:** N-76 Nr, Taibagan Club, Purba Putairy South 24 Para, Kolkata – 700093, **being borrowers/ guarantors/ co – obligants.**

Reserve Price / Upset Price below which the property may notbe sold: **Rs.46,77,000.00 (Rupees Forty Six Lakhs and Seventy Seven Thousands only)** Earnest money to be deposited / tendered: **Rs.4,67,700.00 (Rupees Four Lakhs Sixty Seven thousands Seven Hundred Only)**

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY:

All that part and parcel of residential Flat No. 1C at 1st floor on the south east facing of the Building Block II with admeasuring super built up area 1156 Sqft and one covered car parking space at ground floor of YAHVI, 324, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Kabardanga P.S. Joka, Kolkata- 700104 within Kolkata Municipal Corporation (S.S. Unit), Ward No. 142,Kolkata-14, belonging to Mr. Joydeep Roy Boundaries: East: Open Space, West: Corridor & Stair Case, North : Flat No.1D, South : Open Space

(The borrower's / mortgagor's attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset).

(This Notice shall also serve as Notice under Sub Rule (1) of Rule (9) of Security Interest Enforcement Rules-2002 to the Borrower / Guarantors)

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to link in Karnataka Bank's Website i.e. www.karnatakabank.com under the head "Mega Auction on 24.12.2024".

The E-auction will be conducted through portal https://bankauctions.in/ on 24.12.2024 from 11:30 A.M to 12:30 P.M with unlimited extension of 05 minutes. The intending bidder is required to register their name at https://bankauctions.in/ and get the user Id and password free of cost and get online training on E-auction (tentatively on 23.12.2024) from M/s.4closure, 605A, 6th Floor, Maitrivanam, Ameerpet, Hyderabad-500038, Contact No.040-23836405, Mobile 8142000809, E-mail:info@bankauctions.in.

Date: 02.12.2024 **For Karnataka Bank Ltd**
Place: Kolkata **Chief Manager & Authorised Officer**

Karnataka Bank

Head Office,Mangaluru – 575 002 CIN : L85110KA1924PLC001128

ASSET RECOVERY MANAGEMENT BRANCH
2nd Floor, Premises No. 07/1-0333, Plot No. CBD 100/3, New Town, Kolkata-700156, (West Bengal)

Phone / Fax : 033-22268580
Mobile : 9632026760 / 9073371733
Website : www.karnatakabank.com
E-mail : kolkata.arm@ktkbank.com

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Reserve Price / Upset Price below which the property may not be sold: **Rs.37,82,000.00 (Rupees Thirty Seven Lakhs Eighty Two Thousands only)** Earnest money to be deposited / tendered: **Rs.3,78,200.00 (Rupees Three Lakhs Seventy Eight Thousands Two Hundred Only)**

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY:

All that part and parcel of residential Flat No. 1D at 1st floor of the Building Block II with admeasuring super built up area 941 Sqft on the North East facing and one open car parking space at ground level of YAHVI, 324, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Kabardanga P.S. Joka, Kolkata- 700104 within Kolkata Municipal Corporation (S.S. Unit), Ward No. 142, Kolkata-14, belonging to Mrs. Sananda Roy, Boundaries: East: Open Space West : Corridor & Lift, North :Open Space, South : Flat No. 1C & Lift

(The borrower's / mortgagor's attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset).

(This Notice shall also serve as Notice under Sub Rule (1) of Rule (9) of Security Interest Enforcement Rules-2002 to the Borrower/Guarantors)

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to link in Karnataka Bank's Website ie.,www.karnatakabank.com under the head "Mega Auction on 24.12.2024".

The E-auction will be conducted through portal https://bankauctions.in/ on 24.12.2024 from 11:30 A.M to 12:30 P.M with unlimited extension of 05 minutes. The intending bidder is required to register their name at https://bankauctions.in/ and get the user Id and password free of cost and get online training on E-auction (tentatively on 23.12.2024) from M/s.4closure, 605A, 6th Floor, Maitrivanam, Ameerpet, Hyderabad-500038, Contact No.040-23836405, Mobile 8142000809, E-mail:info@bankauctions.in.

Date: 02.12.2024 **For Karnataka Bank Ltd**
Place: Kolkata **Chief Manager & Authorised Officer**

Karnataka Bank

Head Office,Mangaluru – 575 002 CIN : L85110KA1924PLC001128

ASSET RECOVERY MANAGEMENT BRANCH
2nd Floor, Premises No. 07/1-0333, Plot No. CBD 100/3, New Town, Kolkata-700156, (West Bengal)

Phone / Fax : 033-22268580
Mobile : 9632026760 / 9073371733
Website : www.karnatakabank.com
E-mail : kolkata.arm@ktkbank.com

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Notice is hereby given to public in general and in particular to 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 **Karnataka Bank Ltd,** the Secured Creditor on **20.03.2023,** will be sold on **"As is Where is" , "As is What is" and "Whatever there is"** on 24.12.2024, for recovery of **Rs.2,10,79,899.02 (Rupees Two Crore Ten Lakhs Seventy Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Nine and Paise Two Only) i.e. 1) Rs. 1,01,20,649.01** under **Term Loan Account No. 4347001600124001,** along with future interest **from 09.04.2024**

2) Rs.1,01,20,647.01 under **Term Loan Account N0. 4347001600124101** along with future interest from **09.04.2024,** plus cost, **3) Rs.8,38,603.00** under **Term Loan Account No. 4347001600125401** along with future Interest from **29.03.2024** Plus Cost, due to the **Karnataka Bank Ltd, Central Avenue Branch-** Kolkata, D-4 Hindu Mutual House, Madan Street, opp. E-mall (Chandni Chowk) Kolkata -700072 West Bengal, the Secured creditor from **(1) Mr. Rajesh Kumar Punjabi** S/o Mr. Gurdhan Das Punjabi residing at, C/o Bengal Essence Stores, 7, Ezra Street, Kolkata - 700001 **(2) Mrs. Suman Punjabi** W/o Mr. Rajesh Kumar Punjabi residing at, Flat No. 3A, 3rd Floor, 57, Sarat Bose Road, PS Residency, Chroma Building, Kolkata – 700025 **(3) Mrs. Pushpa Kumar Punjabi** W/o Mr. Gurdhan Das Punjabi, residing at, 28/1, SP Sarani, Park Street, Circus Avenue, Kolkata - 700017 **being borrowers/ guarantors/ co – obligants.**

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY:

1)All that part and parcel of Residential Flat bearing No. 102 on the 1st Floor with admeasuring Super Build up Area 1783 Sqft and one medium size Car Parking Space in the Ground Floor together with undivided share in Land and common areas at Residential Complex – Deja Vu, Wings A, Mouza Mohisgote, P.O. Krishnapur, PS. New Town, Ward No. 27, under Bidhan Nagar Municipal Corporation, District: North 24 Parganas, Pin-700102, J.L. No. 20, R.S. Dag No. 868, L.R.Dag No. 922, L.R Khtian No. 117/2, **belonging to Mr. Rajesh Kumar Punjabi. Boundaries: East:** Land of LR Dag No. 922, Mahisgote, **West:** Land of LR Dag No. 923, Mahisgote, **North :** Land of LR Dag No. 926, Mahisgote, **South :** 20'-0" wide Road

The Reserve Price will be Rs.54,54,000.00 (Rupees Fifty Four Lakhs Fifty Four Thousand only) and the Earnest money will be **Rs.5,45,400.00 (Rupees Five Lakh Forty Five Thousand Four Hundred Only) – Including TDS.**

2) All that part and parcel of Residential Flat bearing No. 202 on the 2nd Floor with admeasuring Super Build up Area 1783 Sqft and one medium size Car Parking Space in the Ground Floor together with undivided share in Land and common areas at Residential Complex – Deja Vu, Wings B, Mouza Mohisgote, P.O. Krishnapur, PS. New Town, Ward No. 27, under Bidhan Nagar Municipal Corporation, District: North 24 Parganas, Pin-700102, J.L. No. 20, R.S. Dag No. 868, L.R.Dag No. 922, L.R Khtian No. 117/2, **belonging to Mr. Rajesh Kumar Punjabi.Boundaries: East :** Land of LR Dag No. 922, Mahisgote, **West:** Land of LR Dag No. 923, Mahisgote, **North :** Land of LR Dag No. 926, Mahisgote, **South :** 20'-0" wide Road

The Reserve Price will be **Rs.54,54,000.00 (Rupees Fifty Four Lakhs Fifty Four Thousand only)** and the Earnest money will be **Rs.5,45,400.00 (Rupees Five Lakh Forty Five Thousand Four Hundred Only) – Including TDS.**

(The borrower's / mortgagor's attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset).

(This Notice shall also serve as Notice under Sub Rule (1) of Rule (9) of Security Interest Enforcement Rules-2002 to the Borrower/Guarantors)

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to link in Karnataka Bank's Website i.e. www.karnatakabank.com under the head "Mega Auction on 24.12.2024".

The E-auction will be conducted through portal https://bankauctions.in/ on 24.12.2024 from 11:30 A.M to 12:30 P.M with unlimited extension of 05 minutes. The intending bidder is required to register their name at https://bankauctions.in/ and get the user Id and password free of cost and get online training on E-auction (tentatively on 23.12.2024) from M/s.4closure, 605A, 6th Floor, Maitrivanam, Ameerpet, Hyderabad-500038, Contact No. 040-23836405, Mobile 8142000809, E-mail:info@bankauctions.in.

Date: 02.12.2024 **For Karnataka Bank Ltd**
Place: Kolkata **Chief Manager & Authorised Officer**

Karnataka Bank

Head Office,Mangaluru – 575 002 CIN : L85110KA1924PLC001128

ASSET RECOVERY MANAGEMENT BRANCH
2nd Floor, Premises No. 07/1-0333, Plot No. CBD 100/3, New Town, Kolkata-700156, (West Bengal)

Phone / Fax : 033-22268580
Mobile : 9632026760 / 9073371733
Website : www.karnatakabank.com
E-mail : kolkata.arm@ktkbank.com

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(2) Rs.29,95,465.68 under **PS Term Loan Account No. 4367001800026701**, along with future interest from **03.11.2024,** Plus costs, due to the **Karnataka Bank Ltd, Rash Behari Branch,** 4A,Ground Floor, J C Guha Sarani, Lake Place Kolkata - 700029 the Secured creditor from : **(1) Mr. Ranjit Roy** S/o Phani Bhushan Roy **(2) Mrs. Sathi Chakraborty** W/o Ranjit Roy **both (1) and (2) are residing at,** Kayasthapura, Baruipur, Hariharapore, Malickpore, South 24 parganas, Beside Antora Hospital, West Bengal – 700145, **being borrowers/ guarantors/ co – obligants.**

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY:

1) All that part and parcel of residential land and two storied residential building along with one mezzanine Floor, admeasuring area of 1590 sqft situated at holding no: 645, Sadabrata Ghat Road within Baruipur Municipality, Ward No: 08, Mouza No:31, RS No:71, Khaitan no:7685 formerly 5131 Dag No:4718, Baruipur District South 24 Parganas W.B., **belonging to Mr.Ranjit Roy. Boundaries: East:** By 12'-0" wide Road, **West:** By others Residential House, **North:** By 8 ft. wide common passage now Municipal Road **South:** By Vacant Land of Mr. Samir Paul

Reserve Price / Upset Price below which the property may not be sold: **Rs.47,00,000.00 (Rupees Forty Seven Lakhs only)** Earnest money to be deposited / tendered: **Rs.4,70,000.00 (Rupees Four Lakhs Seventy Thousand Only)**

2) All that part and parcel of residential Land And Building Situated At Holding No:157, K K Bhattacharjee Road, Now 30 K K Bhattacharjee Road Within Rajpur-Sonarpur Municipality Ward No:18, Mouza -Harinabhi, JL No: 36, RS Khatian No:513, LR Khatian No:787, present Khatian No:3355, Dag No: 850, ADRSO- Sonarpur, Kolkata-700148, District South 24 Parganas. The land area is 862 Sqft , ground floor building area is 455 Sqft, **belonging to Mr. Ranjit Roy. Boundaries: East:** By land of Dag No. 850(P), **West:** By land of Dag No. 850(P), **North:** By the land of Dag No.850(P), **South:** By Kalikrishna Bhattacharya Road

Reserve Price / Upset Price below which the property may not be sold: **Rs.26,00,000.00 (Rupees Twenty Six Lakhs only)** Earnest money to be deposited / tendered: **Rs.2,60,000.00 (Rupees Two Lakh Sixty Thousand Only)**

(The borrower's / mortgagor's attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset).

(This Notice shall also serve as Notice under Sub Rule (1) of Rule (9) of Security Interest Enforcement Rules-2002 to the Borrower/Guarantors)

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to link in Karnataka Bank's Website ie.,www.karnatakabank.com under the head "Mega Auction on 24.12.2024"

The E-auction will be conducted through portal https://bankauctions.in/ on 24.12.2024 from 11:30 A.M to 12:30 P.M with unlimited extension of 05 minutes. The intending bidder is required to register their name at https://bankauctions.in/ and get the user Id and password free of cost and get online training on E-auction (tentatively on 23.12.2024) from M/s.4closure, 605A, 6th Floor, Maitrivanam, Ameerpet, Hyderabad-500038, Contact No.040-23836405, Mobile 8142000809, E-mail: info@bankauctions.ins.in.

Date: 02.12.2024 **For Karnataka Bank Ltd**
Place: Kolkata **Chief Manager & Authorised Officer.**

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda

POSSESSION NOTICE
(For Immovable Property/ies)

Hastings Park Alipore Branch
6 Hastings Park Road, Alipur, Kolkata 700027
E-mail: vjalpo@bankofbaroda.com

(As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)

The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of Baroda under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated **10-09-2024,** calling upon the Borrower **Shri /M/s Bijay Das Prop: Moms Food Café,** BIDISHA SARANI, BALLY DURGAPUR, AMABAYPALLI, West Bengal- 711205 to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs.12,75,677.29 (Rupees twelve lakhs seventy five thousand six hundred and seventy seven and twenty nine paisa) as on 10.09.2024** together with further interest thereon at the contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower and the Public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on this the **29th day of November of the year 2024.**

The Borrower/Guarantors/Mortgagors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of **Bank of Baroda** for an amount of **Rs.12,75,677.29 (Rupees twelve lakhs seventy five thousand six hundred and seventy seven and twenty nine paisa only)** and further interest thereon at the contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment.

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

Description of the Immovable Property

Equitable mortgage of commercial shop situated on the ground floor having its super built up area measuring more or less 222 sqft situated in the multistoried building known as "Rupandan Mahamaya Housing Complex" together with undivided proportionate share of land under the building constructed over Bastuland lying in Mouza- Bally , J L no 14 RS no 1767 comprised as R S Dag no 2692 and 2692/3168 under R S Khatian no 6431 and 7030 suituated at Durgapur within the ambit of Durgapur Abhaynagar -1 no Gram Panchayat P.S Bally, Dist- Howrah, North: Bally Durgapur Road, South: Property of Lalit Bit, East: Property of Debasish Chatterjee, West: Property of MoloyAdhikary and others

Date : 29.11.2024 **Authorised Officer**
Place: Bally Durgapur **Bank of Baroda**

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT PRASARAN NIGAM LIMITED

Notice Inviting Bid

(A) BID FOR ESTABLISHING OF 2 X 500 MVA, 400/220 KV SUB-STATION AT KUMHER (DISTT. BHARATPUR) ALONGWITH 400KV, 1X125 MVAR, SHUNT REACTOR (BUS TYPE) & 4 X50 MVAR, SHUNT REACTOR (LINE TYPE) AND ASSOCIATED BAYS INCLUDING SUPPLY OF ALL EQUIPMENTS/MATERIALS, ERECTION (INCLUDING CIVIL WORKS), TESTING AND COMMISSIONING (TURNKEY PROJECT) AGAINST SPECIFICATION No. RVPN/EHV/BN-9018002425 (UBN: VPN2425WLOB02157) ARE INVITED FROM INTERESTED BIDDERS UP TO 04:00 PM ON 20.01.2025.

(B) BID FOR CONSTRUCTION OF VARIOUS TRANSMISSION ELEMENTS (02 NO. 400 KV (approx. 49.5 kM) & 02 NO. 220 KV (approx. 15 kM) TRANSMISSION LINES) FOR PROPOSED 400 KV GSS KUMHER [DISTT.-BHARATPUR] INCLUDING SURVEY, SUPPLY OF ALL EQUIPMENTS/MATERIALS, ERECTION (INCLUDING CIVIL WORKS), TESTING AND COMMISSIONING (ON TURNKEY BASIS) AGAINST SPECIFICATION No. RVPN/EHV/BN-9018002426 (UBN: VPN2425WLOB02158) ARE INVITED FROM INTERESTED BIDDERS UP TO 04:00 PM ON 20.01.2025.

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 **http://energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvpnl** departmental website.

Superintending Engineer
Raj.Samwad/C/24/8526 **RRVPN/TR-6492/2024** **(Contract - I), Jaipur**

Karnataka Bank

Head Office,Mangaluru – 575 002 CIN : L85110KA1924PLC001128

ASSET RECOVERY MANAGEMENT BRANCH
2nd Floor, Premises No. 07/1-0333, Plot No. CBD 100/3, New Town, Kolkata-700156, (West Bengal)

Phone/Fax : 033-22268580
Mobile : 9632026760 / 9073371733
Website : www.karnatakabank.com
E-mail : kolkata.arm@ktkbank.com

SALE NOTICE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

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 provision to rule 9(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules,

Notice is hereby given to public in general and in particular to Borrower (s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged /charged to the secured Creditor, the **Physical Possession** of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Karnataka Bank Ltd, the Secured Creditor on **11.06.2024,** will be sold on **"As is Where is ", "As is What is" and "Whatever there is"** on **24.12.2024** for recovery of **Rs.30,15,157.28 (Rupees Thirty Lakhs Fifteen Thousand One Hundred Fifty Seven and Paise Twenty Eight Only)** under **PS- Term Loan Account No. 9157001800008301** with future interest from **18.11.2021**, plus costs, due to the **Karnataka Bank Ltd, Baruipur Branch,** Dag No.116/7, First Floor, Padmapukur, Kulpi Road, Baruipur, South 24 Paraganas, Dist- 700029 West Bengal, the secured creditor from **(1) Mrs Chameli Sarkar,** W/o Sukanta Sarkar **(2) Mr. Sukanta Sarkar** S/o Mr. Sambhu Nath Sarkar, **both (1) and (2) addressed at:-** Village- Khasmallick, Post- Dakshin Gobindapur, P.S. Baruipur, District- South 24 Parganas- 700145, **being borrowers/ guarantors/ co – obligants.**

The Reserve Price will be **Rs.23,00,000.00 (Rupees Twenty Three Lakhs Only)** and the Earnest money to be deposited will be **Rs.2,30,000.00 (Rupees Two Lakhs Thirty Thousand Only).**

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY:

All that part and parcel of under construction residential plot area of about 2 cottah situated at Mouza Hariharpur, J. L. No. 11, Dag No. 230, R.S. Khatian No. 508 (R.S.), L. R. Khatian No. 15, present L. R. Khatian No. 2383, P.S. Baruipur, Hariharpur Gram Panchayat, District South 24 Parganas, **belonging to Mrs Chameli Sarkar. Boundaries: East :** 4 ft wide Passage thereafter property of Ashok Basu, **West** : CS & RS Dag No. 225, **North** : Property of Dipankar Mondal at Dag No. 230, **South :** Property of Jayanta Basu at Dag No. 230

(The borrower's / mortgagor's attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset).

(This Notice shall also serve as Notice under Sub Rule (1) of Rule (9) of Security Interest Enforcement Rules-2002 to the Borrower / Guarantors)

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to link in Karnataka Bank's Website i.e. www.karnatakabank.com under the head "Mega Auction on 24.12.2024".

The E-auction will be conducted through portal https://bankauctions.in/ on 24.12.2024 from 11:30 A.M to 12:30 P.M with unlimited extension of 05 minutes. The intending bidder is required to register their name at https://bankauctions.in/ and get the user Id and password free of cost and get online training on E-auction (tentatively on 23.12.2024) from M/s. 4closure, 605A, 6th Floor, Maitrivanam, Ameerpet, Hyderabad-500038, Contact No.040-23836405, Mobile 8142000809, E-mail:info@bankauctions.in.

Date: 02.12.2024 **For Karnataka Bank Ltd**
Place: Kolkata **Chief Manager & Authorised Officer**

NPCL — Noida Power Company Limited, Greater Noida

NOIDA POWER COMPANY LIMITED

Electric Sub Station, Knowledge Park-IV, Greater Noida-201310
(CIN: U31200UP1992PLC014506)

TENDER NOTICE

Date: 03.12.2024

Sealed tender under two Bid System (Commercial & Technical) are invited for following job from all interested bidders

NIT No.	Brief Item Description	EMD (Rs)	Start and DueDate & Time of Submission
NPCL/PRJ/FY24-25/16MVA PTR/019	Augmentation of Power Transformers from 12.5MVA to 16MVA at 33/11 Substations	6.0 Lakh	From 03.12.2024 to 24.12.2024 (up to 15:00 hours)

Cost of Individual Tender Document (Incl. GST) Rs 1180/-

For tender details and further amendment/corrigendum, please visit our website **www.noidapower.com-->Procurement-->Tenders**

DGM (CMM)

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda — DEMAND NOTICE

ALIPORE BRANCH
38/1E, Gopalnagar Road, Kolkata - 700 027 (W.B.)
E-mail : alical@bankofbaroda.com

Demand Notice u/s 13 (2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 issued by the Bank of Baroda as Secured Creditor against the following **Borrowers / Guarantor :**

Date of Notice / Acctt. Name / NPA Date	Name & Address of Borrowers / Guarantor	Nature and type of facility/ Limit / Rate of interest / Amount Outstanding	Security agreement with brief description of securities
13(2) Notice Date: 21.11.2024 / M/s. Das Enterprise / NPA Date: 18.11.2024	**M/s. Das Enterprise (Borrower), (Prop. Mrs. Shubra Das),** Berapara, Bishnupur-1, P.O. and P.S. Bishnupur South 24 Parganas, West Bengal – 743503 **Mrs. Shubra Das (Prop. of M/s. Das Enterprise),** Berapara, Bishnupur-1, P.O. and P.S. Bishnupur, South 24 Parganas, West Bengal – 743503 **Mr. Tapan Das (Guarantor & Mortgagor)** S/o Mohan Das Berapara, Bishnupur-1, P.O. and P.S. Bishnupur, South 24 Parganas, West Bengal – 743503	**Baroda Property Pride – OD (08540400008487) / Limit: Rs.22.00 Lacs / Rate of Interest: 9.15% / Outstanding: Rs.21,88,733.73** (Rupees Twenty One Lakhs Eighty Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty Three and Paise Seven Three Only) (inclusive of interest Up to 31.07.2024) plus unapplied interest and unserviced interest and other charges as applicable	EM of all that piece and parcel of land measuring about 06 Sataks equivalent to 03 Cottahs 10 Chittacks 03 Sq. Ft. with a two storied building measuring about 3371.27 sq. ft. built up area (precisely measuring about 1856.89 sq.ft. commercial on the ground floor and 1514.38 sq. ft. residential on the first floor) lying and situate under Mouza Santipur, JL No. 065, comprised in R.S. Dag No. 145 & 146 under R.S. Khatian No. 182 within the limits of Khakurdaha Gram Panchayat, P.S. Joynagar, Pin-743391, District – South 24 Parganas which is butted and bounded by: On the North: By Shop of Kesto Ghosh, On the South: By 10' wide Concrete Road, On the East: By Shop of Santanu Ghosh, On the West: By Property of Sanku Ghosh

You have committed default in repayment of credit facility [Baroda Property Pride – OD] mentioned above with further interest at the agreed rate availed from our branch as mentioned in the above. The bank has issued notice under the said Act to you to repay the outstanding amount in the above mentioned table. The Demand Notices sent to borrowers' address by registered post has been returned unserved (either all or in some addresses). You are called upon to pay the dues together with interest within 60 days from the date of this notice failing which bank will be constrained to exercise right of Enforcement of Security interest as against the secured assets given in the schedule of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002. This notice is without prejudice to any other right remedy available to the bank including initiation of legal action.

Date: 03.12.2024, Place: Kolkata **Authorised Officer**
Bank of Baroda

Justice (Retd.) R.M. Lodha Committee (in the matter of PACL Ltd.)

PUBLIC NOTICE

1. This Public Notice is being issued for the attention of the general public, in view of the order dated 08.08.2024 passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Civil Appeal No. 13301 of 2015 titled Subrata Bhattacharya Vs. SEBI & Ors. with other connected matters.
2. In compliance with the above-mentioned order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, all objections with respect to properties of PACL Limited, shall now be heard by Recovery Officer attached to the Justice (Retd.) R.M. Lodha Committee (In the matter of PACL Ltd.).
3. In this regard, the general public is hereby informed that objections with respect to properties of PACL Limited can be filed in accordance with the requirements which can be accessed on the website of SEBI, **www.sebi.gov.in**, by following Home Page - PACL Matters - Public Notices. Objections not in conformity with these requirements shall not be entertained.
4. Further, the above mentioned Recovery Officer shall also deal with such objections filed earlier by parties before Shri R.S. Virk, District Judge (Retd.), but remain pending for disposal. Fresh dates of hearing of such objections shall be intimated separately to the concerned parties by the Recovery Officer concerned.
5. In case of rejection of objection(s); aggrieved party /parties may approach the Hon'ble Supreme Court by way of an appropriate application in Civil Appeal No.13301/2015, referred to herein above.

Mumbai
November 25, 2024 **Nodal Officer-cum-Secretary**

CBC 15204/11/0181/2425

RAJASTHAN STATE FOOD & CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LTD.

(A State Government Undertaking) 5th Kisan Bhawan, Lalkhoti , Tonk Road, Jaipur - 302015
Ph :- 0141-2744692 Email rsfcsc@gmail.com, Website: rsfcsc.org

No. :- ( )/RSFCSC/PDS/Bid/6431 **Dated :- 29/11/2024**

NOTICE INVITING BID

e-Bids for Milling cum Transportation & Supply of Chana Dal under welfare scheme at Fair Price Shop Dealers & Other Govt./ Semi Govt. institutions and any other directions by Food Dept./RSFCSC for supply of Dal IN RAJASTHAN are invited from interested bidders 10.12.2024 till 3:00 PM Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal **(http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in or http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in)** of the state, and rsfcsc.org. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs 160 Crore. **UBN No.- FCS2425SLOB00055**

Raj.Samwad/C/24/8544 **OIC, PDS, RSFCSC HQ**

TENDER FOR EMPANELMENT OF AUTHORISED LOCAL CHEMIST WITH ECHS POLYCLINIC, MASIMPUR FOR TWO YEAR

1. ECHS Cell, Masimpur invites applications for supply of emergent, lifesaving and essential drugs for two year on demand by ECHS Polyclinic, Masimpur as and when required.

2. For terms & conditions and application form, kindly see our website **www.echs.gov.in**. For details contact mobile No. **

DMK leader Senthil Balaji

SC to see if Balaji back as minister is putting pressure on witnesses

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 2

THE SUPREME Court on Monday expressed its concern over Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) leader Senthil Balaji being reinstated as minister in the M K Stalin-led government in Tamil Nadu shortly after it granted him bail in a money laundering case.

A bench of Justices A S Oka and A G Masih agreed to examine if his role as a minister would put the witnesses under pressure when it comes to deposing against him.

The court was hearing a plea that sought to recall the September 26, 2024 order granting bail to Balaji on the ground that his reinstatement would put witnesses under pressure. The Supreme Court had granted him bail on the ground that there was no likelihood of the trial beginning anytime soon. Three days later, on September 29, Balaji was made minister in the state government once again.

"We grant bail and the next day you go and become Minister? Anybody will be bound to be under the impression that now with your position as a senior Cabinet Minister witnesses will be under pressure. What is this going on?" asked Justice Oka.

The court said it would not recall the entire judgment granting bail but would examine the apprehension of witnesses coming under pressure. "The apprehension is that considering the seriousness of allegations against the second respondent in the predicate offences, the witnesses may not be in the frame of mind to depose against the second respondent who is holding the position of cabinet minister… This is the only aspect on which prima facie we are inclined to consider the application…", the court said.

Balaji's counsel sought time to take instructions following which the court fixed the matter for the next hearing on December 13, 2024. DMK leader Senthil Balaji was arrested under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in June last year in connection with a cash-for-jobs scam. He was then serving as the minister for electricity, prohibition and excise in Tamil Nadu.

Vehicles swept away following heavy rainfall in Uthangarai area in Krishnagiri district of Tamil Nadu, Monday. *PTI*

TORRENTIAL RAIN SWEEPS STATE

Thousands displaced as Fengal leaves trail of devastation in TN

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, DECEMBER 2

TAMIL NADU on Monday continued to grapple with the devastating aftermath of Cyclone Fengal, which unleashed torrential rain and widespread flooding across the state, leaving thousands of people displaced, train services suspended, and schools shut.

Vikravandi and Krishnagiri were the worst-affected areas following heavy rain late Sunday night. Villupuram and Puducherry have also been reeling under the cyclone's fury over the past two days. Villupuram witnessed unprecedented flooding and Krishnagiri its worst deluge in decades, battering infrastructure and submerging agricultural fields.

Chief Minister M K Stalin inspected the situation in Villupuram district on Monday and said thousands of families were relocated to safer areas. He said relief camps were set up "with all basic amenities including food, water, and medical facilities", and that the government is closely monitoring the situation to address the immediate needs of the affected people. He said the administration would "stand by the people during this time of distress and work tirelessly to bring life back to normal".

In Vikravandi, rising floodwaters over a bridge that connects the town to Mundiyampakkam led Southern Railway to suspend train operations on Monday. Among the cancelled services were the Chennai Egmore-Nagercoil Vande Bharat Express and several other key routes linking northern Tamil Nadu to the central and southern regions.

In neighbouring Krishnagiri district, lakes and reservoirs overflowed, inundating roads and homes. Uthangarai recorded 503 mm rainfall, washing away vehicles and cutting off access to Tiruvannamalai. Pochampalli, which received 250 mm rain, saw floodwaters breach Konannur lake, inundating shops and the local police station.

Krishnagiri saw a district-wide average of 367.90 mm rain, and the Nilgiris recorded 23.72 mm. The water level at Pambar Dam reached 17.78 feet, and released 3,345 cusecs of water.

In Puducherry, Chief Minister N Rangasamy announced Rs 5,000 in relief for ration card holders and promised to send a detailed damage assessment to the central government. The Army has been deployed to assist in evacuating stranded residents.

Seven people, including five children, were feared trapped in a building buried under mudslides on the slopes of Annamalaiyar Hill in Tiruvannamalai. Rescue teams have been working with the assistance of sniffer dogs. However, some locals suggested the residents may have sought shelter elsewhere during the storm, but District Collector D Bhaskar Pandian said they would go ahead with the rescue mission before ruling out casualties.

IMD: Second warmest November since 1901

POST-MONSOON RAINFALL OVER INDIA

Region	Rainfall departure % (Nov)	Rainfall departure % (Oct-Nov)
Northwest India	-79.9	-77.2
East & Northeast India	-67	1.8
Central India	-87.4	-21.5
South peninsula India	-37.9	-6.5
All India	-54.5	-15

Source : IMD

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, DECEMBER 2

INDIA EXPERIENCED the second warmest November in 123 years, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said Monday. A warming trend has continued over India since the post-monsoon season in October and could contribute to making 2024 the warmest year ever on record, globally.

At the recently concluded COP-29 in Baku, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said that the January-September 2024 global mean surface air temperature was 1.54 degree Celsius (ºC) above the pre-industrial average. The global body also warned that the 2015-2024 decade was on its way to be the warmest ever.

According to the IMD, the average maximum temperature recorded over the country in November was 29.37 ºC — 0.62 degrees above normal. The average minimum temperature, too, was high last, with a deviation of 1.05 degrees above the normal mark of 15.86ºC.

India's warmest November was in 2016, when the average maximum temperature was 29.75ºC.

Meteorologists attributed the above-normal temperatures over India to two factors: the lack of strong western disturbances affecting the plains of northwest India and the lack of cyclonic disturbances (low pressure systems or likewise) --- in the absence of which the rainfall activity remained at its lowest.

ADHAI DIN KA JHONPRA PROTECTED BY ASI

After Ajmer survey plea, similar demand for another mosque

HAMZA KHAN
JAIPUR, DECEMBER 2

AN AJMER court admitting a petition seeking survey of Ajmer Sharif Dargah has renewed similar demands for the historic Adhai Din Ka Jhonpra, said to be one of the oldest mosques in the state and the country.

In a statement, Ajmer's deputy mayor Neeraj Jain claimed, "There has been evidence of a Sanskrit college and temple in the Jhonpra. It was demolished by the invaders the same way they demolished (historical education sites of) Nalanda and Takshila. There was an attack on our culture, our civilisation, our education and this (Jhonpra) too was among them."

Barely 5 minutes' walk away from the Ajmer Dargah, the Adhai Din Ka Jhonpra is an Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)-protected monument. Jain claimed that the ASI has over 250 statues from the site and that "there is swastika and bells and Sanskrit shlokas on the site, which is originally over 1,000 years old" and has been mentioned in historical books. He said, "We have demanded this in the past too, that existing religious activities should be stopped and the ASI should ensure the return of the college's old glory."

As per the ASI, which has possession of the site, its name came to be "possibly from the fact that a fair (Urs) used to be held here for two and a half days." In his 1911 book, Ajmer: Historical and Descriptive, Har Bilas Sarda wrote that the name was "given to it in the latter half of the eighteenth century" when fakirs began to assemble here to celebrate the two and a half day Urs anniversary of the death of their religious leader, Panjaba Shah, who had migrated to Ajmer from Punjab.

As per Sarda, Seth Viramdeva Kala built a Jain temple in celebration of the Jain festival Panch Kalyan Mahotsava in 660 AD. "As there was no place in Ajmer for Jain priestly class to stay in Ajmer, this temple was built," Sarda wrote. However, the structures at the site were allegedly destroyed by Afghans of Ghor, led by Muhammad Ghori, in 1192, and the structure was converted into a mosque as per Sharda.

"It was commenced by Qutubuddin Aibak in about 1200 AD with carved pillars used in colonnades… The pillared (prayer) chamber is divided into nine octagonal compartments and has two small minarets on top of the central arch. The three central arches carved with Kufic and Tughra inscriptions make it a splendid architectural masterpiece," the ASI says.

MAINTAIN STATUS QUO AT DARGAH: MUSLIMS TO SC

Jaipur: Muslim organisations in Jaipur on Monday appealed to the Supreme Court to stop attempts to "tamper" with the Ajmer Sharif Dargah and other religious places, and maintain the status quo of mosques by not allowing their survey. They also demanded that lower courts be instructed to fully comply with the Places of Worship Act, 1991, and not entertain petitions seeking surveys of religious places.

"An attempt is being made to end the status quo of mosques in the name of survey by filing false court cases claiming temples existed at mosque sites," Mohammad Nazimuddin, convener of the joint committee Tahaffuz-e-Auqaf, said. The Supreme Court should stop tampering with the Ajmer Dargah and other religious sites where no survey should be allowed, he added. **PTI**

Cop 'hacked to death by brother', honour killing suspected

SREENIVAS JANYALA & RAHUL V PISHARODY
HYDERABAD, DECEMBER 2

A 28-YEAR-OLD police constable in Telangana was hacked to death on Monday allegedly by her brother, who attacked her while she was on the phone with her husband, police said.

Police suspect the incident was a case of honour killing. There was also a property dispute between the woman and her brother, and this angle is also being looked into, police said.

The incident took place Monday near Ibrahimpatnam in Telangana's Ranga Reddy district, on the outskirts of Hyderabad. The constable, S Nagamani, had married Srikant, who is from a different caste, on November 21 at Yadagirigutta. According to police, Nagamani's family was vehemently opposed to the relationship and her brother, Parmesh, had warned the couple of dire consequences.

"Parmesh and the family were called to the police station and they were given counselling to accept the marriage and not create any problems for the couple," a police officer said. However, Srikant alleged that Parmesh issued threats right after the police counselling. Over the weekend, the couple, who live in Hyderabad, had gone to Srikant's house in Ibrahimpatnam.

S Nagamani was posted at Hayatnagar police station

On Monday morning, Srikanth left for work, and later he called up Nagamani to check whether she had left, too. During that call, Nagamani told her husband that her brother was attacking her, after which the call got disconnected, police said.

"On her way to work, when she reached Raipole, Parmesh, who was driving a car, chased and hit her scooter from behind, causing her to fall on the road. He hacked her to death with an axe," a police officer said.

According to police, Nagamani and her brother were also in a dispute over ancestral property. "The suspicion is on her brother and the matter seems to be family related. Further investigation is on," police said.

34-yr-old man arrested for rape, murder of minor girl in Nuh: Police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GURGAON, DECEMBER 2

A 34-YEAR-OLD man was arrested in Nuh for allegedly raping and murdering a three-year-old girl Saturday, police said Monday.

The accused, who resides in the same village, allegedly took the girl to the hills and raped her before dumping her body near shrubs, police said.

The police received information around 7 am Sunday that a minor had been raped and the body was found late on Saturday.

"We rushed to the area and collected details. The family of the victim lodged a complaint and we filed an FIR. The suspect was arrested with the help of five teams and initially was detained for questioning when he confessed to committing the crime," said Station House Officer Subhash Chand.

The police officer said that a boy who was present near the spot informed the villagers about the accused. "The accused had also allegedly informed villagers about the incident and left the village," he added.

The father of the girl said she was playing near the house and went missing around 5 pm Saturday. "The girl was lured by offering food and drinks. My cousin saw him taking her there. While searching for the girl, we found her body under shrubs around 11 pm. Blood was flowing from her mouth and private parts, and there were injury marks on her legs and other body parts. We called the police helpline. After some time, police reached the spot and took my daughter to the hospital for post-mortem," the father stated in his complaint.

MP gets eighth tiger reserve

ANAND MOHAN J
BHOPAL, DECEMBER 2

THE RATAPANI Wildlife Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh was on Monday declared a tiger reserve following in-principle approval from the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change through the National Tiger Conservation Authority.

Officials said this will bring significant benefits. "Local communities will see economic opportunities grow with the promotion of ecotourism, which is expected to generate employment and improve livelihoods," said an official.

Officials said the tiger reserve designation enables the state to receive funding from the NTCA, which will "ensure better management and conservation efforts for wildlife".

"Eco-development programs are also set to provide further support to the region's inhabitants," said an official.

The notification delineates the core and buffer areas, making this the eighth tiger reserve in the state. The core area spans 763.8 square kilometers, while the buffer area covers 507.6 square kilometers, making the total area of the Ratapani Tiger Reserve 1,271.4 square kilometers.

Sitting in the lap of the Vindhya hills, the sanctuary encompasses a World Heritage Site – the Bhimbetka Rock Shelters – and many historical and religious destinations. It is located in the Raisen district with a substantial cover of teak forests and is less than 50 kilometres away from Bhopal.

The notification was issued under Section 38V of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, acknowledging the core area as a critical tiger habitat. This will cover nine revenue villages covering 26.947 square kilometers. "These villages have been integrated into the buffer zone. This decision ensures that the rights of local villagers within the sanctuary's boundaries will remain unaffected," said a wildlife officer.

Government of India,
Ministry of Home Affairs,
Directorate General
Border Security Force

ADVERTISEMENT FOR RECRUITMENT OF MERITORIOUS SPORTS PERSON TO THE POST OF CONSTABLE (GENERAL DUTY) UNDER SPORTS QUOTA -2024 IN BORDER SECURITY FORCE

Online aapplications are invited from eligible Indian citizen (Male and Female) for filling up 275 vacancies for the Non- Gazetted and Non Ministerial post of Constable (General Duty) in Group "C" on temporary basis likely to be made permanent in Border Security Force against Sports Quota as per table at Para 2. Application from candidates will be accepted through online mode only. No other mode for submission is allowed. Online application mode will be opened w.e.f 01/12/2024 at 00:01 am and will be closed on 30/12/2024 at 11:59 pm.

2. VACANCIES-

There are 275 vacancies in the following Sports/ Games disciplines: -

S/N	DISCIPLINE	VACANCY		S/N	DISCIPLINE	VACANCY	
		MEN	WOMEN			MEN	WOMEN
1	Archery	3	3	15	Hockey	4	7
2	Athletics	13	16	16	Ice-Skiing	6	0
3	Badminton	4	4	17	Judo	2	4
4	Swimming	17	17	18	Karate	3	4
5	Diving	3	3	19	Volleyball	4	10
6	Water Polo	1	1	20	Weight Lifting	5	3
7	Basketball	4	10	21	Water Sports	6	6
8	Boxing	7	5	22	Wrestling (G/R)	4	0
9	Cycling	4	4	23	Wrestling F/S	5	5
10	Cross Country	1	1	24	Shooting	5	3
11	Equestrian	5	5	25	Taekwondo	5	9
12	Football	4	0	26	Wushu	4	7
13	Gymnastics	6	6	27	Fencing	0	6
14	Handball	2	12				
Grand Total-275 (Men-127 & Women-148)							

PAY SCALE AND OTHER ALLOWANCES- As per 7th CPC pay matrix level -3 Rs. 21,700-69,100/- and other allowances admissible to Central Government employee from time to time under the rule.

3. ELIGIBILITY CONDITION FOR THE POST AS UNDER-

a) **Age-** 18 to 23 years as on 1st January 2025 (Relaxation as per the prevalent recruitment Rules).

b) **Education qualification-** Matriculation or its equivalent from a recognized board (As on 30-12-2024)

c) **Sports Qualifications-** Players who have participated or won medal(s) in the various level of competition given at Para 4(b) of detailed advertisement (uploaded on **https://rectt.bsf.gov.in**) during the last two years from the closing date of advertisement will only be considered.

d) **Physical Standard-**

i. Height: Male 170 CMs and Female= 157 Cms

ii. Chest- (for male only) 80 CMs (unexpanded). Min expansion -05 CMs

Weight- Proportional to height and age as per medical male and female candidates. standards for

Note- Relaxation in physical parameters as per Government orders

e) Medical Standards- As per the revised Medical Guidelines issued by MHA from time to time.

4. **How to Apply-** Online application mode will be opened w.e.f. 01/12/2024 at 00:01 am and will be closed on 30/12/2024 at 11:59 pm on BSF Recruitment website https://rectt.bsf.gov.in Eligible and interested candidate should apply only through this BSF Recruitment website.

5. **Selection process-**

I. Checking of Testimonials/documents

II. Measurement of Physical Standard (PST)

III. Detailed Medical Examination (DME)

Note- Event wise/Weight category wise details of vacancies are available in detailed guidelines available on BSF recruitment website https://rectt.bsf.gov.in However, vacancies are subject to change (may increase or decrease within above disciplines). BSF reserve the right to cancel or postpone the recruitment at any stage and to make changes in sequence of the recruitment process after publication of this advertisement without assigning any reason.

Sd/-
(Pramendra Kumar)
Commandant (Trg / Sports)
HQ DG BSF New Delhi

CBC 19110/11/0076/2425

In a first, Uber rolls out shikara rides in Dal Lake

Srinagar: Ride-hailing multinational company Uber on Monday launched its first water transport service in Kashmir, bringing the option to book Shikaras through its mobile app.

Uber Shikara will allow tourists in Srinagar the option to pre-book their boat rides on the Dal Lake through their app. "The limited-period product will help tourists pre-book their Shikara rides through the Uber app in advance so that they are all set to enjoy the scenic beauty of Dal Lake in Srinagar during the upcoming busy holiday season," the company said in a statement.

J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinhacommended Uber, saying that the Uber Shikara is "a testament to creative ways technology can enhance cultural heritage." **ENS**

US shooting shatters family in Telangana: 'It breaks us to imagine how violently he died'

SREENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD, DECEMBER 2

THE FAMILY of Sai Teja Nukarapu, a 22-year-old from Telangana's Khammam who was shot dead at a store in Wisconsin, US, last Friday, is struggling to come to terms with his untimely death.

"He was here not too long ago, celebrating his birthday, and now he is no more. We are unable to accept that. It breaks us to imagine how violently he died. He was such a lovely person, would never say anything bad or harm anyone," Koteshwar Rao, his father said.

"Sai was a cricket buff with an extremely friendly nature. One of his friends in the US, who called us with the news, said that Sai, who was working as a part-time cashier at a store, had stayed back even though his shift had ended to help a colleague. It is typical of Sai to help. We grew up together and it is difficult to come to terms with his loss," his cousin Bandi Manoj told *The Indian Express*.

Sai hails from a family with many relatives in the US, including his sister, who is doing her MS in Chicago. "She is completely heartbroken and in a state of shock. They were supposed to meet later in the evening after his shift," Manoj said.

Sai Teja Nukarapu

Koteshwar Rao runs a rice and groceries shop in Raparthi Nagar in Khammam town, where the family, originally from Ramannapet village, lives. "Sai did his Intermediate and BBA from Malla Reddy Group of Educational Institutions, Hyderabad. He studied till SSC at Khammam. Just before he left for the US on June 17, we celebrated his birthday on May 23 with his father and mother Vani," Manoj said.

Sai was sharing a room with a relative in Milwaukee, and had enrolled for an MBA course at Concordia University.

He took up a part-time job as a cashier at a store attached to a gas station at West Burleigh Street, Milwaukee. "It was his dream to follow his sister to the US for higher studies. Sai used to make video calls almost every day to speak to his mother, who told him how much she misses him," Koteshwar Rao said.

His friends told the family that robbers went into the store and ordered Sai to hand over the cash, which he did without resisting. "He did as he was told but they still shot him. They should face the strictest punishment," Rao said.

Khammam MP R Raghuram Reddy is coordinating with the Centre, while the Telugu Association of North America is trying to repatriate the body.

The Consulate General of India in Chicago has demanded "immediate action against the culprits". External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said he is "deeply grieved" at the news.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

Notice is hereby given at large by my client Smt Sandhya Chatterjee, w/o Late Dilip Kumar Chatterjee, residing at Sarada Pally, Jaffarpur Road, P.S.Titagarh, P.O. Nonachandanpukur, North 24 PGS, PIN-700122, that she has misplaced some important documents relating to her property during the shifting of address as follows : **1.** Original Decree Dt. 25.06.1980 passed by the Ld. ADJ Alipore, in the T.S. No. 90 of 1980, wherein said Sandhya Chatterjee became the absolute owner of the land measuring 2 Cottahs, 5 Chittaks & 18 Sq.Ft. more or less lying within the KMC Premises No. 60/76A, Haripada Dutta Lane, P.S. Golf Garden, Post- Tollygunge, Kolkata- 700033 (Assessee No. 210940503000). **2.**Original Development Agreement Dated 04.06.1993 with Bappaditya Bhowmick. **3.** Other property related original document. My aforesaid Client being the absolute owner of the said property by the operation of Law and applied for the Mutation of the said property and received the Assessee No. 210940503000 from the KMC authority which had been lost from her custody and a G.D. has been lodged on 21.10.2024 with the Golf Garden Police Station and recorded therein Vide GDE No. 1110. Dt. 21.10.2024, West Bengal. Kindly note that the said original papers including the belongings belong to my aforesaid client and whoever received the aforesaid misplaced Documents shall hand over to the undersigned immediately within 15 days from the date of this publications (if received by anyone else), no claim shall be entertained after the expiry of the said date.

S/D SUJAY SUBHRA HAZRA
ADVOCATE
(Mob: 9831123804)

EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender No. SDSTE-ETN-NDRM-BLD-HWH-2, Dated: 29.11.2024. Open E-Tenders against Tender No. SDSTE-ETN-NDRM-BLD-HWH-2 is invited by Divisional Railway Manager, Howrah, Eastern Railway, DRM Building, Near Railway Station, Howrah-711101 for the following work. **Name of Work:** Rehabilitation of Datalogger system, Train Management System, PA System, Security System, Conferencing System and Access Security control System at DRM Building Howrah; **Advertised Value:** ₹ 4,91,18,845.66; **Earnest Money:** ₹ 3,95,600.00; **Tender Doc. Cost:** ₹ 0.00; **Bidding System:** Single Packet; **Bidding Start Date:** 09.12.2024; **Validity of Offer (Days):** 60; **Period of Completion:** 4 Months. **Date & Time of Uploading Tender:** 29.11.2024, 17:47 hrs.; **Tender Closing Date and Time:** 23.12.2024, 15:00 hrs. Complete details can be seen in the Railways website **www.ireps.gov.in** Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. HWH-454/2024-25

Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in

Follow us at : @EasternRailway
@easternrailwayheadquarter

S. E. RAILWAY — TENDER

For and on behalf of The President of India, Sr.DEE/TRD/Kharagpur-721301 invites e-Tender for the following works : **Tender Notice No. TRD-KGP-W-2024-25-15, Dated: 29.11.2024. Description of work :** POH of 01 No. 21.6 MVA, 132/27kV and 01 No. 21.6/30.24 MVA, 132/27 kV Power Transformer under SSE/PSI/Balasore in Kharagpur Division of S.E. Railway. **Tender Value :** ₹40,20,061/-. **EMD :** ₹80,400/-. **Cost of Tender Document :** Nil. **Date of Opening:** 24.12.2024. **Completion Period:** 04 (Four) months. **Date of Submission : Upto 15.00 Hrs. of 24.12.2024.** Interested Tenders may visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for full details, description, specification of the tender and submit their bids online. In no case manual tender for this work will be accepted. **(PR-851)**

For and on behalf of The President of India, Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom. Engineer, S. E. Railway, Adra, Pin-723121, West Bengal invites following e-tender for the following works : **Tender Notice No. : SnT_e_Tender_ADA_24_25_27. Name of the work :** Provision of CCTVs in Lockup areas of 11 RPF Posts (Mahuda, Adra Jn., Purulia Jn., Anara, Chandil Jn., Bokaro Steel City, Bhojudih Jn., Bankura, Bishnupur, Bumpur & Kotshila) and 02 Out Posts (Sonamukhi & Chandrakona Rd.) (Total 13 Locations) of Adra Division. **Tender Value :** ₹16,60,888.53/-. **Closing Date & Time of Tender : 13.12.2024 at 11.00 Hrs.** Details are available at website **www.ireps.gov.in** **(PR-855)**

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Dinesh Goyal, S/o, Late Narsingh das Goyal, residing at 135, Salkia School Road, Golabari, Howrah-711106, solemnly affirm and declare Before the Ld. Judicial Magistrate at Kolkata, vide Affidavit No. 4597 dated 29th November 2024 that Dinesh Kumar Goyal and Dinesh Goyal is the same and one identical person and will now be known as Dinesh Goyal.

EASTERN RAILWAY

Abridge e-tender notice DTE_JMP_10/24-25 Date: 28.11.2024. Assistant Town Engineer, Eastern Railway, Jamalpur Workshop, District-Munger, Bihar- 811214 invites e-tender against **Abridge Tender No. DTE_JMP_10/24-25. Name of Work :** Annual repairing and maintenance of all P.Way (Rail Track) work inside Workshop in the section of JE/P.Way/WS/JMP in **Z-04/24-25. Advertised Tender Value:** ₹10,00,000/-, **Earnest Money:** ₹20,000/-; **Date of Opening:** 27.12.2024; **Completion Date of the work :** 06 (Six) Months. Bidders are advised to visit **www.ireps.gov.in** for details. MISC-256/2024-25

Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in

Follow us at : @EasternRailway
@easternrailwayheadquarter

B-718

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
"e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, KHORDHA (R&B) CIRCLE, KHORDHA
WORKS DEPARTMENT
Short Tender call Notice
E-mail: rbcicrlekhurda@gmail.com

Bid Identification No. CCE-Khordha (R&B) Circle-18/2024-25 Memo No 2346 Dt. 29.11.2024

The Chief Construction Engineer, Khordha (R&B) Circle, Khordha on behalf of Governor of Odisha inviting percentage rate bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Bridge works as detailed in the table below:

1. **Nature of Work** : Bridge Works
2. **No of Work** : 1 Nos
3. **Tender Cost** : Rs.10000.00 (On-Line)
4. **Class of Contractor** : Special, A Class
5. **Available of Bid document in the Website** : From 10.00 AM of Dt.07.12.2024 up to 05.00 PM of Dt.17.12.2024 up to 5.00 PM
6. **Date of opening of Bid** : Dt 18.12.2024 at 11.30 AM
7. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the Website: **https://tenderodisha.gov.in**. Any Addendum / Corrigendum / Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Sd./-
Chief Construction Engineer,
Khordha (R&B) Circle, Khordha

OIPR-34127/11/0020/2425

IFSCA

INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL SERVICES CENTRES AUTHORITY
2nd and 3rd Floor, Pragya Tower, GIFT City, Gandhinagar Gujarat

File No.73/IFSCA/Consultants/2020-21 **November 06, 2024**

VACANCY NOTIFICATION

The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA), a unified regulatory body set up under the IFSCA Act, 2019, invites applications from eligible Central Government Officers retired from the level of Principal Staff Officer (PSO) or equivalent for One (1) position of Consultant Grade 2 purely on contract basis. The place of posting is GIFT City, Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

2. The candidates willing to apply are requested to refer www.ifsca.gov.in/career for detailed vacancy notification. The last date for receipt of application along with requisite documents by post is 17.12.2024 by 6.00 PM.

General Manager
Dept. of General Administration

CBC 15228/12/0008/2425

Army Institute of Technology
Alandi Road, Dighi Hills, Pune- 411015
(Tele 7249250184, 7249250185)

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for the Post mentioned below:-

Sr. No.	Post	Total Vacancy	Qualification/ Experience
1	Assistant Professor	Comp/IT 02	M. Tech. or equivalence in relevant Branch with first Class or equivalent in BE/M.Tech Professional experience :- 2 years after Master Degree for Grade I
2	Nursing Assistant	01	**Class 1 -** Nursing Assistant **Age:** Not more than 40 years. Preference will be given to AMC (retired) person.

- Applications by post, to reach **Registrar, AIT, Dighi Hills, Pune-411015 by 15 Dec. 2024**
- Post will be on contractual basis & on consolidated salary only.
- Candidates should attach relevant documents.
- No TA/DA will be given for attending interviews.
- Applications to be forwarded in the prescribed word format available on AIT Website: **www.aitpune.com** alongwith Qualification required (QR)

Director, AIT

V.O.CHIDAMBARANAR PORT AUTHORITY
Civil Engineering Department
TUTICORIN - 628 004.
SAGARMALA

GLOBAL NOTICE INVITING TENDER

No. CIV-OFCPD-PRJ-DEVEL-V1-21(50298)/D.3328 Date:03.12.2024

V.O.Chidambaranar Port re-invites Application from interested parties (Applicants) in accordance with the Request For Qualification (RFQ) and Request For Proposal (RFP) for the project "Development of Outer Harbour Container Terminal Project including Dredging and Construction of Breakwater at VOC Port on DBFOT Basis".

Name of Work	**Development of Outer Harbour Container Terminal Project including Dredging and Construction of Breakwater at VOC Port on DBFOT Basis**
Indicative Project Cost	**Rs.7055.95 Crores**
Sale of bid Documents	**03.12.2024 to 20.01.2025**
Bid document fee	**Rs.24,97,806/- (inclusive of GST @ 18%)**
Bid Security	**Rs. 70.56 Crs (As per cl. 1.2.4 of RFQ)**
Last date of receiving queries	**11.12.2024**
Pre-Application Conference	**12.12.2024 at 11:00 hours**
Last date and time for submission of Tender through online	**20.01.2025 upto 15:00 hours (IST)**
Date RFQ Bid opening date and time	**21.01.2025 at 15:30 hours (IST)**
Validity of offer	**180 days from the last date fixed for submission of Tender**

For downloading of RFQ, RFP & further details, visit port Website: www.vocport.gov.in
Ph.No : 0461-2352270
Email : ce@vocport.gov.in, vocportce@gmail.com

Sd/-
CHIEF ENGINEER

Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation Ltd.

REQUEST FOR BID (RFB) : MRVC/W/MUTP-3A/KYN-BUD/259

(Two – Envelope/Packet Bidding Process with IREPS)

Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation Ltd. (MRVC) having its corporate office at Second Floor, Churchgate Station Building, Mumbai–400020, invites e-Tenders for the **"Construction of additional Bridges / Viaduct and other miscellaneous works in connection with proposed 3rd & 4th line between Kalyan – Badlapur stations of Central Railway"**. Details of Tender and Tender document are available on IREPS website **https://ireps.gov.in** The last date for completed e-Tender submission at website **https://ireps.gov.in** is **07.01.2025 up to 14:00 hours. Corrigendum, if any, will be posted on the website only.**

B-721a

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA,
"e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
WORKS DEPARTMENT
E-mail: ceroads.bbsr@gmail.com

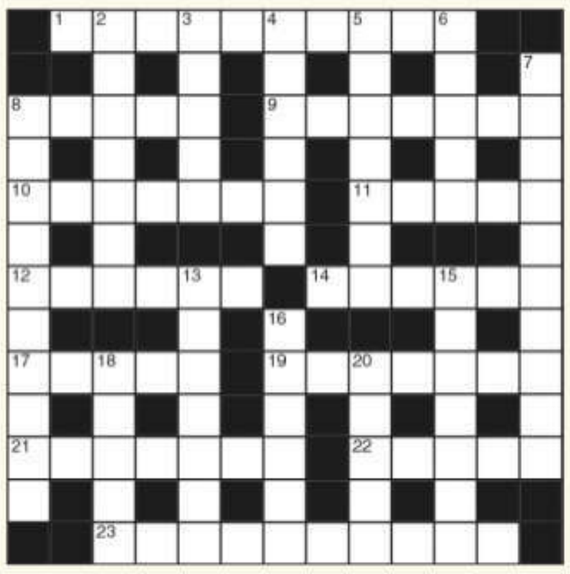
Bid Identification No. CE-Roads-II-21/2024-25

1. The Chief Engineer (Roads-II), Odisha on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids in double cover system through ONLINE MODE form eligible contractors for Roadwork as mentioned below:
2. Nature of work : Road work
3. No. of work : 6 Nos.
4. Tender Paper cost : Rs.10,000.00
5. Class of Contractor : A Class/ Special Class/Super Class
6. Available of bid document in the website : From 10.00 A.M. of 12.12.2024 to 5.30PM of 30.12.2024
7. Date of opening of Bid : Dt.31.12.2024 at 11.30 A.M.
8. The Bidders have to participate in **ONLINE** bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: **https://tenderodisha.gov.in**. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Sd./-
Chief Engineer (Roads-II), Odisha

OIPR-34181/11/0001/2425

CROSSWORD 5537



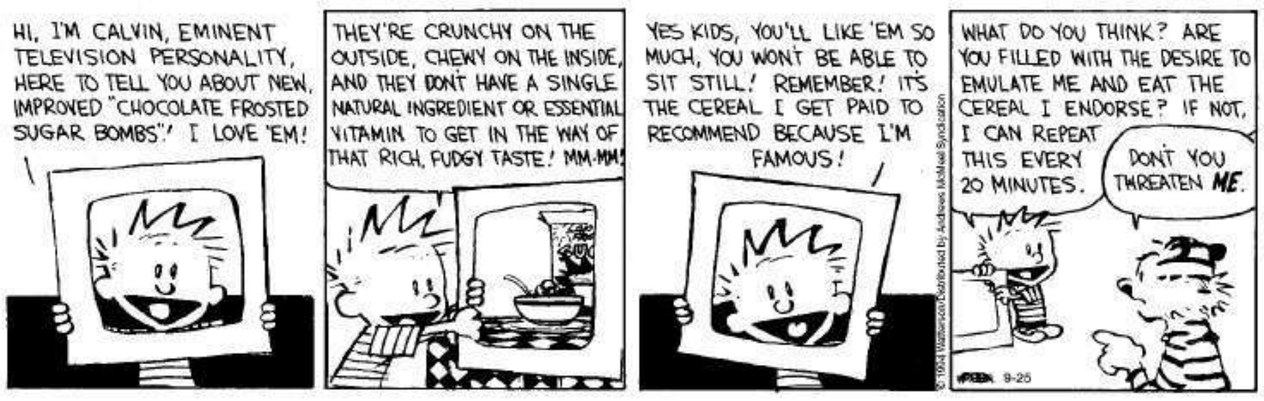
ACROSS
1 He sticks up for his employer (10)
8 The price of a suit (5)
9 Chap unfit to work on a tough paper (7)
10 It's not a positive answer (7)
11 Fall into part of the main current (5)
12 One who deserves what he gets (6)
14 Condemns strikes (6)
17 Beastly Holst composition (5)
19 Top clue put out eight times (7)
21 Position right for military leader (7)
22 Goes out of play (5)
23 Contests in which no one goes the distance (5,5)

DOWN
2 To an extent it's of Iran's making (2,2,3)
3 Turns the tables (5)
4 Refurbished room in mid-blue or gilt decoration (6)
5 One isn't put out by it but it's a strain (7)
6 Priest in church demonstrates holy memento (5)
7 Advocates acting on brief instructions (10)
8 It does business in more than one way (6,4)
13 Latch that is about right (7)
15 Accountant has added a charge on a whim (7)
16 Many include an alternative to being ill (6)
18 Tender proposal (5)
20 A letter is all the thanks you get (5)

Solutions Crossword 5536 Across: 1 Nudity, 4 Former, 9 Clamour, 10 Costs, 11 Twang, 12 Corsage, 13 Flat refusal, 18 Pass out, 20 Eider, 22 Opine, 23 Assures, 24 Eights, 25 Plates **Down:** 1 Nicety, 2 Drama, 3 Thought, 5 Oscar, 6 Mascara, 7 Rested, 8 Cricket team, 14 Lasting, 15 Utensil, 16 Oppose, 17 Crisis, 19 Overt, 21 Durst

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis

CALVIN & HOBBES by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong

DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
You won't be the only person to be affected by pride today, but you may have the most cause. Yet rather than being smug or complacent, focus on your own real achievements and do what you can to help others. You'll be rewarded for your generosity.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
Unexpected developments are about to enter the domestic and private pattern of your life. There is every indication that these will represent a considerable improvement over current conditions. That has to be good news, especially in view of everything that you've been through recently.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Any discussions with family members, or news about emotional ties, are bound to be pleasant. At the best you will experience a sense of hope and personal liberation. If you wish, you may abandon the lack of confidence which has so often held you back.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
All your instincts and hunches may tell you that this is the time to splash out, and they could well be right! If you feel a generous impulse coming on, you may give it free rein and count the cost tomorrow. But if partners disagree, you'd better get them on your side first.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
You're still in control, even if the flag of emotional revolt does happen to be raised very soon. If you are faced with anger at home, don't confront it. Gently deflect bad feeling in the manner of an oriental sage, and so disarm your opponent with goodwill.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)
Sometimes you're willing to face big personal challenges head on. A bone of contention may relate to a home or family matter, but if I were you, I'd leave well alone today. If you do want to get your own way, and which of us doesn't, hold your horses.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)
You are now in an ideal position to take the initiative socially. Even at work you will be able to galvanise other people, although it looks as if you should leave them to figure out the details. I should think it will be good for them to take a little responsibility.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)
You're reaching a minor turning point in your material affairs. At this stage, you must either complete a financial deal or think about writing off a small sum of money for good. The fact is that pursuing such issues may not be worth your valuable time.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)
The world is about to see you at your best, and I mean the whole world. If you have any aspirations at all to set off on a tour of distant parts, there is no time like the present. At the very least you should get in touch with relations in far away places.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)
You often experience emotional insecurities and conflicts. The last thing you should do is to revive old battles, especially over pointless issues like who pays for, or owns, what. A generous gesture would be far better.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
If you are to achieve the kind of acceptance you have always craved, you must make a bid now. The close relationship between the Moon, Jupiter and a series of other planets indicates that, if you give them the chance, other people will at last be ready to listen and help.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
You seem to be in danger of overplaying your hand at work. Although you're in a fortunate position, you should now reinforce your current gains and allow other people a chance to shine. In love, do be sure to let others know how you're feeling.

JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

The_____ know what to leave out. - Charles de Lint (4,7)

FERAL
EILTTT
BILSS
HIOYBS

Solution: WORDS: FLARE, BLISS, TITTLE, BOYISH
Answer: The **best artists** know what to leave out. - Charles de Lint

SUDOKU 5793

Difficulty Level 2s
Instructions
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy;
3s = Medium; 4s = Hard;
5s = Very Hard;
6s = Genius

5	2	6		3				
	4				5			
				2			3	1
	9	2	4				1	
4								7
	6				9	2	8	
3	7			4				
			5				7	
				6		3	9	8

SOLUTION SUDOKU 5792

7	6	8	4	3	1	5	9	2
9	5	4	8	2	7	6	1	3
2	3	1	5	6	9	7	4	8
3	4	7	6	1	5	8	2	9
1	9	5	2	7	8	3	6	4
8	2	6	3	9	4	1	7	5
5	7	2	9	8	6	4	3	1
6	8	9	1	4	3	2	5	7
4	1	3	7	5	2	9	8	6

GOLD	USD RATE	OIL	SILVER
₹79,400	₹84.70	$72.77	₹90,000

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) per barrel as of November 29

SENSEX: 80,248.08 ▲ 445.29 (0.56%) **NIFTY:** 24,276.05 ▲ 144.95 (0.6%) **NIKKEI:** 38,513.02 ▲ 304.99 **HANG SENG:** 19,550.29 ▲ 126.68 **FTSE:** 8,327.55 ▲ 40.25 **DAX:** 19,892.58 ▲ 266.13

International market data till 1900 IST

FABBED AT TSMC

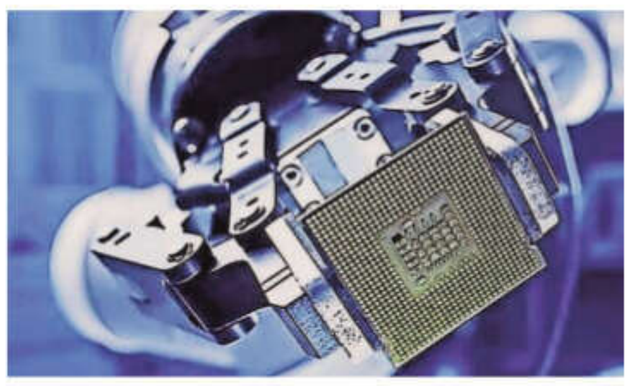
'Designed in India' 5G chip facing fund crunch, low commercial uptake

SOUMYARENDRA BARIK
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 2

A FIRST of its kind 'designed in India' 5G and Internet of Things (IoT) chip, which has been allocated funding of close to Rs 45 crore by the Indian government, is facing mass production issues owing to a lack of funds, and an inability to draw commercial orders, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

The Narrow Band IoT (NB-IoT) chip, which has been designed by WiSig Networks — a startup incubated at IIT Hyderabad — and fabricated using the 40 nanometre process of Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC), is targeted primarily for smart metres used in the electricity distribution sector. WiSig Networks has also been approved by the IT Ministry under its Design Linked Incentive (DLI) scheme for the chip. Hyderabad-based technology and engineering company Cyient collaborated on the tapeout process for the chip, while WiSig Networks is commercialising it. Multiple tapeouts have resulted in hundreds of chips fabricated and successfully completing 3GPP-compliant testing, and drive testing on Reliance Jio's NB-IoT network is ongoing at the IIT Hyderabad campus. The tapeout process is the final stage in the design phase of semiconductor manufacturing.

This is the first time a 3GPP compliant modem system-on-chip (SoC) has been indigenously designed and made working.



File

Volume production of the chip includes the development of a package, production test solution suited for volume production, organisation of silicon fabrication, volume testing of the integrated circuit (IC), and the management of supplying the chip. The Department of Telecommunications' (DoT's) 5G testbed project allocated Rs 40 crore for two chip revisions, and an additional Rs 5 crore grant was awarded to WiSig Networks for refining the third tapeout. The IT Ministry has allocated Rs 13 crore to extend the chip's functionality for satellite connectivity, this paper has learnt.

However, a 12,000-unit production tapeout and the development of a production test program are required, as per an internal government assessment. But, it is understood that WiSig Networks has a shortage of funds as well as commercial orders to complete the remaining activities.

Among the policy interventions that the government is considering to boost commercial uptake of the chip include the Ministry of Power requiring that a share of the smart meter procurements by discoms be those that have domestically designed chips, and for the IT Ministry to introduce design-linked-manufacturing scheme for locally made smart metres, among other things. Cyinet did not respond to a request for comment until publication.

"WiSig Networks has licensed the chip from IIT Hyderabad for commercialisation, WiSig received a Rs 5 crore DCIS Grant for Rev 3 tapeout of the chip, which has been completed and chip samples are in working in the lab, we are further evaluating the same… As the chip is still under customer evaluation and qualification, we can complete the production tapeout once it is completed and production orders are received… Regarding availability of funds, it is a matter of going concern, which will be addressed as part of our business plans (sic)," WiSig Networks told *The Indian Express* in an emailed statement.

The DLI scheme is part of the overall $10 billion incentive scheme for the semiconductor ecosystem, which was rolled out by the government in December 2021. The design scheme aims to offer financial incentives and infrastructure support across various stages of development and deployment of semiconductor design for integrated circuits, chipsets, and system on chip over a period of five years.

India is a major force in chip designing, with all major semiconductor companies having their design offices in the country. However, these engineers have traditionally designed systems for foreign companies, which has resulted in zero to little intellectual property creation by Indian entities. The chip DLI scheme is an attempt at plugging that gap, as it incentivises a crucial part of the chip supply chain — the IP.

As of September 2024, the IT Ministry had approved chip design related proposals from at least 12 Indian start-ups and has committed more than Rs 130 crore to their projects, which span from developing integrated circuits for telecommunication applications, to artificial intelligence (AI) hardware accelerators, *The Indian Express* had reported.

In total, the approved projects will cost Rs 342 crore, and the government has so far released close to Rs 7 crore. It received 59 applications under the DLI scheme, with 15-20 applications currently under review. However, the run rate of the scheme seems to be slower than the Centre's initial projections. The government wants to fund at least 100 start-ups over five years under the DLI scheme, which would be an average of 20 entities per year. That run rate has not been met yet.

EXPLAINED

Crucial part of semiconductor ecosystem

INDIA WANTS to create an indigenous chip design ecosystem, where its domestic companies hold intellectual property. Chip designing is a crucial part of the semiconductor ecosystem, and one that takes years of sustained research, and funding. Having domestic chip making capabilities is also expected to help New Delhi strategically, where it can prescribe use of domestically designed chips for use in certain sensitive sectors.

Rupee hits record low on concerns over slowing growth, strong dollar

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 2

THE RUPEE lost 21 paise to end at a fresh record low of 84.70 against the US dollar on Monday after the country's gross domestic product (GDP) slowed to a multi-quarter low in the July-September 2024 period and tracking weakness in other Asian currencies.

The local currency closed at 84.70 against the greenback, compared to the opening of 84.58 and the previous close of 84.49.

"Indian rupee touched a fresh record low on Monday on economic data and a strong US dollar," said Anuj Choudhary, research analyst at Mirae Asset Sharekhan.

The country's real gross domestic product (GDP) slumped to a seven-quarter low of 5.4 per cent in July-September 2024, as against a growth of 6.7 per cent in the April-June 2024 quarter and 8.1 per cent in the July-September 2023 period. Most analysts projected GDP growth to be in the 6.5-6.8 per cent range in Q2 FY25.

"Slower GDP growth means easing of monetary policy, which implies that there could be a cut in the repo rate soon. A reduction in the interest rate will widen the difference between rates in India and the US, which may result in outflows from the domestic market. This kept the rupee under pressure," said VRC Reddy, head treasury, Karur Vysya Bank.

In the last two months, foreign institutional investors (FIIs) have been selling domestic equities. In October and November, they offloaded Rs 1.16 lakh crore worth of local shares. In case of FII outflows, there is higher demand for the foreign currency, which in turn leads to a downward pressure on the local currency.

Internationally, Chinese Yuan depreciated to a one-year low of 7.3 per dollar due to tariffs threats by US President-elect Donald Trump to the BRICS nations if they move away from the dollar and look to create a new currency.

Besides, analysts said that higher demand for the US dollar from importers also weighed on the rupee.

The downside in the rupee was limited by the Reserve Bank of India's intervention in the market, forex participants said. The RBI intervened at 84.65 and 84.70 levels.

The RBI has always maintained that its intervention in the forex market is aimed at preventing excessive volatility, anchoring market expectations and providing a stable exchange rate regime.

The rupee is likely to trade with a negative bias on strong dollar and FII outflows. The USD-INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of Rs 84.50 to Rs 84.95, said Mirae Asset Sharekhan's Choudhary.

HIGHER DEMAND FOR USD DUE TO FII OUTFLOWS

In the last two months, foreign institutional investors (FIIs) have been selling domestic equities. In October and November, they offloaded Rs 1.16 lakh crore worth of local shares. In case of FII outflows, there is higher demand for the foreign currency, which in turn leads to a downward pressure on the local currency

Windfall gains tax on domestic crude production, export of petrol, diesel, ATF scrapped

AANCHAL MAGAZINE & SUKALP SHARMA
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 2

ALMOST TWO-AND-HALF years after it was introduced, the government has finally withdrawn windfall gains tax on domestic production of crude oil and export of diesel, petrol, and aviation turbine fuel (ATF). The Finance Ministry notifications for removal of the windfall tax—special additional excise duty (SAED) on production of crude and export of ATF, and road and infrastructure cess (RIC) on export of petrol and diesel—with immediate effect were laid in Parliament on Monday.

Lately, not much revenue was getting generated by the windfall gains tax. In fact, the levies are currently nil. This is mainly due to significant softening in prices of crude oil and the three major fuels in the international market.

The enabling provisions to impose the levy, however, continued to be in place. With Monday's move, the government has effectively withdrawn those provisions as well, sources indicated. The industry had also raised concerns about the continuation of the levy, sources said.

These levies were first imposed on July 1, 2022 due to the surge in global oil and fuel prices in the aftermath of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. As the price of crude oil produced in India is benchmarked to international prices, domestic oil prices also went through the roof. At the same time, margins on fuels were a lot more lucrative in other markets, incentivising refiners, particularly private sector players, to export fuels. This had resulted in fuel supply disruptions in some parts of the country.

Apart from taking a share of windfall profits of oil producers and fuel exporters to partly soften the blow of duty cuts on domestic petrol and diesel sales, the government also wanted to ensure enough fuel supply to meet domestic demand through these taxes.

The levies were reviewed on a fortnightly basis by the Finance Ministry based on crude oil and fuel prices in the international market.

With the international crude oil and fuel market nowhere as volatile as it was in the initial months of the Ukraine war, and the domestic fuel supplies stable and robust, the windfall gains tax collection has seen a steady decline over the past two-and-a-half years. The windfall gains tax mop-up was around Rs 25,000 crore in 2022-23 (FY23), around Rs 13,000 crore in FY24, and around Rs 6,000 crore so far in FY25.

While the levy on petrol exports has been zero since July 20, 2022, on diesel exports, it has been nil since March 1, 2024. On ATF exports, windfall gains tax was reduced to nil from January 2, 2024, while on domestic oil production, the levy was brought down to zero from September 18, 2024. When the windfall gains tax was first imposed, it translated to a levy of about $40 per barrel on domestic crude oil production, as crude oil prices were well over $100 per barrel at the time.

FINANCE MINISTRY NOTIFICATIONS

File

THE FINANCE Ministry notifications for removal of the windfall tax—special additional excise duty (SAED) on production of crude and export of ATF, and road and infrastructure cess (RIC) on export of petrol and diesel—with immediate effect were laid in Parliament on Monday

BRIEFLY

H2 GDP number expected to be better: DEA secy

New Delhi: Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth on Monday said second quarter GDP growth at 5.4 per cent is lower than the potential but exuded confidence that the second half to be better. **PTI**

'SteelMin for 25% safeguard duty on steel imports'

New Delhi: Taking up the concerns of domestic steel industry, the Steel Ministry on Monday proposed for a 25 per cent safeguard duty on import of certain steel items into the country, sources said. **PTI**

JSW MG Motor to drive in electric sports car

New Delhi: JSW MG Motor India has said it plans to drive in an electric sports car, 'Cyberster' as its first offering under the new retail channel brand, 'MG Select'. **PTI**

₹6,839 cr worth ₹2,000 notes still with public

New Delhi: The Reserve Bank has said 98.08 per cent of the Rs 2,000 banknotes have been returned to the banking system, and only Rs 6,839 crore worth such notes are still with the public. **PTI**

Sebi order on Reliance Big Entertainment

New Delhi: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has ordered the attachment of bank accounts as well as shares and mutual fund holdings of Reliance Big Entertainment to recover dues of Rs 26 crore. Before this, Sebi on November 14 sent a notice to Reliance Big Entertainment Pvt Ltd (now known as Rbep Entertainment Pvt Ltd) and asked the entity to pay dues within 15 days in a case pertaining to illegal diversion of funds in the matter of Reliance Home Finance Ltd (RHFL). **PTI**

RBI'S ALL-INDIA HOME PRICE INDEX RISE TO 322 AS OF SEPT 2024 AGAINST 308.6 IN SEPT 2023

RBI: Home price index rises by 4.3% amid high interest rates, inflation

GEORGE MATHEW
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 2

HOME PRICES are on the rise in India despite high interest rates in the banking system and inflation. The All-India Home Price Index (HPI) of the Reserve Bank of India rose by 4.34 per cent to 322 as of September 2024 as against 308.6 in September 2023, indicating that price rise is continuing across the metros, according to Reserve Bank of India data.

HPI has gone up by nearly 67 per cent in the last ten years from 193.05 in 2014-15 amid the pandemic, high inflation and interest rates. The annual HPI growth varied widely across the cities, ranging from a high growth of 8.76 per cent (Bengaluru) to a decline of (-)2.0 per cent (Kanpur). On sequential (quarter-on-quarter) basis, all-India HPI decreased by 0.1 per cent in September 2024-25. Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Kolkata and Chennai recorded a sequential rise in house prices during the latest quarter, RBI data shows.

Home price index for Mumbai rose by 2.95 per cent to 303.62 in September 2024 as against 294.92 a year ago, Delhi increased by 3.31 per cent to 350.40 from 339.16 and Bengaluru by 8.76 per cent to 360.11 from 331.08.

File

The RBI's home index is based on transaction-level data received from the registration authorities in top ten major cities.

Average housing prices across the top eight markets in India rose 11 per cent year-on-year at Rs 11,000 per sq ft during Q3 of 2024, led by sturdy demand and positive market sentiments, industry body CREDAI said. Interestingly, average housing prices have increased for the 15th consecutive quarter since 2021. All the eight major cities saw an annual increase in housing prices with Delhi NCR witnessing the highest rise at 32 per cent, followed by Bengaluru at 24 per cent rise during the quarter. After registering record high sales over the last two years, the demand momentum across the top cities is stabilizing. Nevertheless, with anticipation of healthy residential activity in the last quarter, 2024 is likely to end on a strong note, it said.

However, overall unsold inventory continued to witness a quarterly drop for the third consecutive quarter, led by healthy uptake in housing units. At the end of September 2024, unsold inventory stood at over 10 lakh housing units across the eight major cities, with Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) accounting for a majority at about 40 per cent share. Unsold units in Hyderabad saw a modest dip on a sequential basis despite a yearly increase of about 28 per cent.

"The ongoing rise in housing prices is another validation of positive homebuyer sentiments and the highly conducive nature of the real estate market. We are seeing more and more aspirational homebuyers come to the fore – resulting in bigger homes that are also being reflected in the rise in prices as homes continue to get more expansive, truly reflecting the current market dynamics and consumer preferences," said Boman Irani, president of CREDAI National. "While the housing market is gradually stabilising, the outlook for the residential segment remains positive supported by strong underlying market fundamentals. Developers are recalibrating their strategies, particularly in the price-sensitive segments, by offering compact size units," said Badal Yagnik, chief executive officer, Colliers India.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

India has contributed $2 billion to BRICS Bank: Finance Ministry

RAVI DUTTA MISHRA
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 2

INDIA HAS contributed nearly $2 billion to the BRICS New Development Bank (NDB), and 20 externally aided projects, with loans amounting to $4,867 million in areas such as transportation, water conservation, food management, and connectivity in rural areas, are currently ongoing in the country, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said on Monday.

Chaudhary's response followed a Lok Sabha question regarding the government's stance on the initiative for a joint currency for BRICS nations and India's contribution to the BRICS Bank. The queries were prompted by concerns over US President-elect Donald Trump's threats of imposing 100 per cent tariffs on BRICS nations as a reaction to their efforts to reduce reliance on the US dollar in international trade.

The question was asked by MK Raghavan, Member of Parliament, Kozhikode.

MoS for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary's response followed a Lok Sabha question regarding the government's stance on a joint currency for BRICS nations and India's contribution to the BRICS Bank

"India's contribution to the BRICS New Development Bank (NDB) stands at $2 billion, paid in seven instalments from the fiscal year 2015-16 to 2021-22. As of now, 20 externally aided projects with loan amounts of $4.867 million funded by the NDB are ongoing in India," Chaudhary stated.

However, regarding the question of a joint currency, the minister referred to a report on the international financial system prepared by Russia during its BRICS chairmanship. "During 2024, under its BRICS Chairmanship, Russia prepared a report, 'BRICS Chairmanship Research on the Improvement of the International Monetary and Financial System'." The report emphasises that BRICS nations recognise natural constraints and the will of the free market. Thus, BRICS "do not seek to replace the US dollar as a medium of exchange" due to its significant share in the global economy. Instead, BRICS aims to "offer a viable alternative that will aid the market in its perpetual mission for efficiency" and foster greater prosperity, promoting universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalisation.

Nevertheless, the report highlighted that the current cross-border payments infrastructure "lacks competition" and struggles to meet participants' demands. It stated that the prevailing reliance on centralised settlement mechanisms and reserve currencies for cross-border payments represents a "legacy overhang" that is no longer optimal for the 21st century.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

Manufacturing sector growth falls in Nov: PMI

New Delhi: India's manufacturing sector growth fell to a joint 11-month low of 56.5 in November, restricted by competitive conditions and inflationary pressures amid a softer increase in factory orders, a monthly survey said on Monday.

The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) fell from 57.5 in October to 56.5 in November, signalling a softer improvement in the health of the sector. However, the pace of growth remained above its long-run average. In PMI parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

"India recorded a 56.5 manufacturing PMI in November, down slightly from the prior month, but still firmly within expansionary territory," Pranjul Bhandari, chief India economist at HSBC said. Bhandari further noted that strong broad-based international demand, evidenced by a four-month high in new export orders, fuelled the Indian manufacturing sector's continued growth. **PTI**

Intel CEO Gelsinger retires from struggling chipmaker

REUTERS
BENGALURU, DECEMBER 2

INTEL CEO Pat Gelsinger has retired, the company said on Monday, following a tumultuous period for the chip pioneer that has struggled to keep up in the AI era with players like Nvidia dominating the market.

The company named chief financial officer David Zinsner and senior executive Michelle Johnston Holthaus as interim co-chief executive officers while its board conducted a search for a new CEO. Shares of the company rose nearly 5 per cent in premarket trading. They have lost more than half of their value this year.

Gelsinger was appointed as CEO in 2021 to spearhead a transformation of the chipmaker which was once at the helm of the US semiconductor industry but ceded its manufacturing lead to players like Taiwan's TSMC.

Intel CEO Pat Gelsinger in Taipei, Taiwan on June 4. *Reuters File*

"While we have made significant progress in regaining manufacturing competitiveness and building the capabilities to be a world-class foundry, we know that we have much more work to do at the company and are committed to restoring investor confidence," Frank Yeary, independent chair of the board, said in a release. Under Glesinger, Intel undertook a costly turnaround centered around making the company a contract manufacturer for other chip firms and reinvigorating its technological lead.

The company's board has formed a search committee to appoint Gelsinger's successor.

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

WORDLY WISE

THE LESS THERE IS TO JUSTIFY A TRADITIONAL CUSTOM, THE HARDER IT IS TO GET RID OF IT.

— MARK TWAIN

The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

RBI'S CHALLENGE

As differences emerge with government on growth and inflation, it will need to draw on multiple policy tools

OVER THE NEXT few days, the RBI's monetary policy committee will hold its last scheduled meeting for this calendar year. So far, the central bank's "resilient" growth outlook provided the committee the space to keep the policy rate unchanged and focus on "attaining a durable alignment of inflation with the target". However, since the last committee meeting in October, the macroeconomic scenario has changed dramatically — inflation has edged upwards, while growth has slowed down. In this changed environment, questions are being asked, including by the government, about whether the RBI has kept interest rates too high for too long, not anticipating the economic slowdown.

As reported in this paper, the government has raised questions over the stance of monetary policy, calling into question the central bank's assessment of the underlying growth momentum and price dynamics in the country. On growth, it viewed the RBI's exuberance — the central bank had raised its growth forecast to 7.2 per cent for the year in June — as out of sync with other signals. Thereafter, even when economic indicators subsequently pointed towards a slowing growth momentum, the central bank continued to exude confidence about the economy's growth prospects, retaining its growth forecast in the October MPC meeting. Its assessment was also at odds with some segments of India Inc who have spoken frankly about the pain points in the economy. The economy grew at 5.4 per cent in the second quarter, compared to the RBI's assessment of 7 per cent in the October MPC meeting. There is also disagreement with the central bank's assessment of the underlying price pressures in the economy. The RBI is worried about the second round effects of high food inflation spilling over to core inflation. But as per government officials, there are no second round effects. Excluding gold and silver, core inflation is stable. Moreover, the surge in headline inflation over the past two months has been largely due to food inflation, which in turn is driven by vegetables. Analysts expect vegetable prices to show some moderation in the coming data.

RBI's inflation targeting framework of 4 plus/minus 2 per cent has a degree of flexibility that gives the committee the space to look through such transient supply side shocks. Monetary policy works with long lags. With the RBI's forecasts now showing inflation at 4.2 per cent in the fourth quarter of this financial year, and 4.3 per cent in the first quarter of next year, real interest rates remain at levels that former MPC members have characterised as excessively restrictive. The question now, after the recent GDP data, is whether the MPC will continue to attach primacy to inflation, or will growth considerations also dominate its thinking, or will the currency now also be a factor. The RBI has multiple policy tools at its disposal. It will need to draw on them as it navigates the rapidly changing environment.

THE APATHY MUST END

Express investigation of manual scavenging highlights continuing failures and abdications at several levels

SINCE 1993, INDIA has had a law to ban manual scavenging. Since 2013, employers are required by law to provide 44 types of protective gear to labourers engaged in cleaning septic tanks and sewers. Yet, according to the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment's data, 443 workers died between 2018 and 2023, while undertaking this hazardous task. This, by all accounts, is a conservative estimate. Several independent surveys have talked about the continued reluctance on the part of state governments to admit that the practice prevails under their watch. Unable to provide safety equipment, municipalities live in denial. Employers are rarely held accountable when manual labourers succumb to the perils of their jobs. An investigation by this newspaper has revealed only one conviction for 75 sewer deaths in Delhi in the past 15 years. From the police being unable to trace the culprits to the investigating officers not cooperating with the judiciary or failing to appear before the courts, it reveals the apathy of law-enforcing agencies. That several sewer deaths happened at high-profile locations at the national capital, including prominent malls, hospitals and hotels only shows that the abdication is unabashed and pervasive.

The Manual Scavengers and Their Rehabilitation Act, which came into force in 2013, asks state governments and municipalities to identify workers who clean sewers and provide them with alternative employment options. A year later, the Supreme Court also asked states to abolish manual scavenging and rehabilitate the workers. However, local bodies outsource sewer cleaning to private contractors, who do not maintain proper rolls of manual scavengers. Investigations often come to a dead end because the police cannot find written orders from contractors asking workers to enter sewers. Located at the margins of society, the families of the deceased do not have the resources to fight lengthy legal battles.

Government initiatives to end manual scavenging have fallen short of their objectives because they do not adequately account for the social conditions that force people to plumb toxic cesspools. Civil society groups have, for long, argued that fixing the problem is difficult without acknowledging that it operates at the intersections of caste, economic inequalities and the deficits of the country's sewerage networks — most septic tanks are not amenable to new technology and machines are too big to operate in the narrow bylanes of dense urban areas. The failings, as this newspaper's investigation shows, are at multiple levels. A government that counts the Swachh Bharat Mission among its successes needs to do more for the safety and well-being of the workers at the frontlines of its cleanliness projects.

WHOSE DRESS

If some see the graduation cap and gown as a colonial relic, for others it represents empowerment and choice

FROM THE VANTAGE point of the present, there is something faintly absurd about certain traditions of dressing that came as part of the baggage of colonialism — such as the wigs that members of the legal fraternity were once forced to wear. Time and context wore out any extra dignity that they conferred on the wearer, and they felt hot and uncomfortable to boot. A similar argument made against the graduation ceremony cap and gown by the UGC — which issued an advisory to the effect in 2015, with follow-ups in 2019 and January this year — has led to several central institutions easing out the outfit. As a report in this newspaper revealed, they have replaced it with "Indian attire" to boost the country's handloom traditions, ostensibly as part of a decolonisation exercise.

But what place does the government have here? It's not as if its education to-do list isn't weighty enough. Among the several ongoing concerns — such as ensuring equity and access to learning resources and infrastructure — the matter of what a ceremonial outfit should look like seems out of place. In any case, practical concerns regarding the synthetic fabrics used to make the gown and mortarboard, as well as a desire to promote "traditional" clothing, had led some institutions to ease out the uncomfortable gown and mortarboard even before the UGC put out its advisory — just as a sentimental attachment to another kind of tradition, one handed down during the Raj, made others retain the ceremonial wear.

The matter of clothing presents a peculiar problem, being deeply imbued with meaning not only at a personal level, but also at the level of community, institution and state. In 2019, at Lucknow's Babasaheb Ambedkar University, the Dalit Students' Union sought permission to wear formal Western attire, instead of the mandated Indian wear, as a tribute to B R Ambedkar. Clearly, what is seen as a "colonial relic" by some, represents empowerment and choice for others.

Neighbourhood on edge

Ironically, in a deep ideological sense, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh are once again joined at the hip

PRATAP BHANU MEHTA

SOUTH ASIA IS at a precipice. India, Pakistan and Bangladesh are now vulnerable to the fatal kiss of religious nationalism destroying both democracy and decency in their societies. It is anathema for an Indian audience to think of these three countries on the same plane. But, with varying degrees of intensity, they are now displaying symptoms of the same political disease. Each of the three countries seems to already have, or is in the process of creating, the background conditions for significant religious conflict. Each of them seems to be now determined to reopen the settlement of 1947, not in the direction of freedom and human rights, but the denouement of targeted conflict, almost as if to complete the logic of partition, not to undo it. And their ideological fates are intertwined. India may, with all its arrogant bluster, claim to be a big power that transcends its region. But its fundamental insecurities, its domestic politics, and increasingly its identity, is so tied to its neighbourhood that this claim is almost laughable.

Let us start with Bangladesh. Sheikh Hasina had lost popular legitimacy, or at least deprived herself of the means to establish it. But it is still an open question what kind of successor regime will be institutionalised in its wake. Bangladesh may still overcome its present hurdles, but there are three ominous signs. The first is that the strategy of the new regime seems to be moving not towards building an inclusive democracy, but to keep on engaging in the same cycles of recrimination between the Awami League and its opponents that have marked Bangladesh's history, a cycle of recrimination that never ends well for democracy. Second, Islamists seem to have gained much more visible space, and there is no political force that can marginalise them. There is greater risk to minorities, especially Hindus in Bangladesh. The Bangladeshi elites deny this charge as simply Indian disinformation, used to discredit the regime and used by the BJP for domestic politics in India.

It is true that the Indian state has a vested interest in exaggeration. But the response in large sections of Bangladesh's elites to a genuine concern is dispiriting because it has all the elements of a familiar South Asian play book. When it comes to communal targeting, it goes something like this: Claim that reports are exaggerated (though exaggeration might be less of a sin than denial), or whataboutery (nothing has fundamentally changed) or root causes (they were not targeted as Hindus but were collateral damage in the violence against Awami League supporters) or pretexts (there are genuine non-communal reasons to be worried about of some of the ISKCON figures). Or finally a performative secularism, where the leader gives a statement that ticks a box, while not addressing fundamental insecurities. All of our societies are masters at this playbook, it is the way we do communalism without thinking of ourselves as communal.

> For good or for ill, Sheikh Hasina's authoritarianism collapsed under its own weight. It is in India's interest not to use Bangladesh to flame sectarian fires, but to find a solution. And no solution will be forthcoming if India is ex-ante openly hostile to what, for good or for ill, is the de facto government of Bangladesh. In fact, it will only jeopardise the fate of Hindu minorities. India is right to be concerned about the fate of minorities in Bangladesh. But our interest in them is not humanitarian, it is also cut of a deeper communal cloth. India's concern at the fate of minorities at this point is a bit like the US being concerned about the fate of international law.

India, for its part, is doing the utterly myopic thing. For good or for ill, Sheikh Hasina's authoritarianism collapsed under its own weight. It is in India's interest not to use Bangladesh to flame sectarian fires, but to find a solution. And no solution will be forthcoming if India is, ex-ante, openly hostile to what, for good or for ill, is the de facto government of Bangladesh. In fact, it will only jeopardise the fate of Hindu minorities. India is right to be concerned about the fate of minorities in Bangladesh. But our interest in them is not humanitarian, it is also cut of a deeper communal cloth. India's concern at the fate of minorities at this point is a bit like the US being concerned about the fate of international law.

Its entire ideological orientation is now towards majoritarianism and creating the conditions for conflict. The government literally finds a new pretext to needle minorities: Lynching, bulldozers, hate speech, normalising of prejudice, claiming more mosques and now the Waqf issue. The Waqf Board may need reform but that is not the point. The modus operandi of the government is to keep pushing minorities into disempowerment and marginalisation. This is an open playbook.

Ayodhya was not the satiation of Hindu nationalism. Because it was a victory achieved through sheer power, and not a political settlement, that playbook will now be generalised. The legitimation of violence and the degree of communal suffocation in India is at unprecedented levels. If those concerned about Bangladesh would admit this, their concern would come across as more sincere.

The Pakistan story is, of course, familiar. In part, Hindutva takes inspiration from that story. Pakistan is an example of what happens when the meaning of religion becomes subordinated to maintaining the religious character of that state. The need for benchmarking a religious identity will constantly put all minorities at risk. In Pakistan all minorities are at risk, including Ahmadiyyas and Shias. The recent massacre in Kurram has a regional dimension, but it has a deep overlay of Shia-Sunni schism.

Pakistan has reached a point where the ideological basis of its state is bound to fail, or at best just stutter along. Overlay on top of that the gap between popular sentiment and the military's legitimacy and you have the makings of a perpetual crisis. The need to benchmark the state to a religious identity, once it runs out of other minorities to target or cleanse, will turn on other groups. The only thing one can say about Pakistan is that its dark humour about its own potential dystopian state seems to be more potent and more openly critical than most people in India's elites dare to be.

So, ironically in a deep ideological sense, these three countries are now once again tied at the hip. They are all potentially caught in a spiral where the identities they seek to craft as states will exacerbate conflict. India uses the fires in Pakistan and Bangladesh to shore up the claims of a Hindu state, and the "India" card is still a potent defining feature of their identity. There is only one abiding lesson in South Asian history: State sponsored religious nationalism will always turn authoritarian, and it will always destroy democracy and humanity.

The writer is contributing editor, The Indian Express

FAIRNESS, NOT JUST SPEED

A sensitive judicial system maintains a delicate balance between the two

OM DAMANI AND ANSHUL AGRAWAL

SHAILAJA CHANDRA'S ARTICLE, 'Leaner, Faster, Fairer' (*IE*, November 22), highlights several reasons behind the high number of pending cases across Indian courts and proposes two main solutions — measuring judge's performance by the case disposal rate and recruiting retired officials. It also pointed out the absence of video conferencing facilities in several district courts.

We started the project 'System dynamics modelling of the pendency of undertrials' with a focus on speeding up the disposal of cases. However, after talking to several stakeholders in the judicial system for a year and a half, we realised that a fair trial is as important as a speedy trial. One must be careful while talking about faster case disposal since reducing the number of pending cases requires a delicate balance. The pursuit of speed should not come at the cost of fairness.

Categorising judges, on their disposal performance, could push them to choose cases that have a high likelihood of faster disposal. This might negatively impact the hearings of sensitive cases where judges might not have enough time left on the listing days. Hasty judgments can increase the likelihood of appeals, further clogging the judiciary.

The article also mentions, "In an average district or subordinate court, about half of the 90 cases listed daily reportedly get adjourned." Keeping the fairness aspect in mind, we need to ask why are there such frequent adjournments. Which type of cases are adjourned frequently? Is it justified to put a permissible limit for adjournments? During our research, multiple advocates told us that they demand adjournments to get more time to gather evidence, research the law, file motions, or wait for certain events that can have a significant impact on the verdict. Refusing these adjournments in such cases could be unfair.

> Each case passes through multiple stages: Charge sheet filing, charge framing, trial (evidence presentation), arguments, and judgment. Each stage has a different source of delay. For example, investigation officers can take time to gather evidence; police and public prosecutors usually keep issuing summons instead of a non-traceable report if a witness is not responding; the 'roznama' has inaccurate or misleading information about the case stage.

The judicial system is complex with numerous actors — with judges, lawyers, litigants, and court employees having their own mental models. Delegating administrative tasks to retired officials who are not familiar with and sensitive towards judicial procedures, might create new inefficiencies and increase the unfairness. A system's behaviour is a function of its structure. Delayed disposals and high pending case counts are due to the justice-system structure and cannot be improved by tweaking without addressing structural issues. Each case passes through multiple stages: Charge sheet filing, charge framing, trial (evidence presentation), arguments, and judgment. Each stage has a different source of delay. For example, investigation officers can take time to gather evidence; police and public prosecutors usually keep issuing summons instead of a non-traceable report if a witness is not responding; the *roznama* has inaccurate or misleading information about the case stage; case files get misplaced or are not available since the case has been pending for long. It is necessary to identify the critical stages where there are bottlenecks and focus on reducing the delays in those specific stages.

Several experts we spoke to raised concerns about video proceedings. During such proceedings, the accused are often surrounded by jail officers creating an environment of intimidation. If they are mistreated in jail, say they have been tortured, they fear saying so; judges cannot see their physical condition clearly. During the physical trial, the accused are under the custody of judges, not jailers. Coming out of jail to the court for trial is the only chance for an accused to breathe free air. They can meet their family members and talk to their lawyers confidentially. Video conferencing trials take away these particularly important rights of undertrials.

Accessing prompt legal advice and assistance is critical for ensuring a fair trial and the rule of law. However, researchers at National Law University Delhi's Project 39A have shown that undertrials from poor socioeconomic backgrounds cannot get the desired legal assistance due to unawareness about free legal aid, and the poor quality of the legal aid system. We urge allocating more resources to strengthen the legal aid system to ensure that the judicial system is both efficient and fair.

Damani is with the Department of Computer Science and the Center for Policy Studies at IIT Bombay. Agrawal is a research associate at IIT Bombay

INDIAN EXPRESS

DECEMBER 3, 1984, FORTY YEARS AGO

MILITANTS KILL 11

11 SINHALESE FISHERMEN were killed when Tamil militants attacked two villages in Sri Lanka's north-eastern Mullaitivu district on December 1. He said people had fled the villages and taken shelter at the district headquarters. This was the second attack by militants on Sinhalese civilian settlements since November 29, when they attacked settlements of ex-convicts at Padaviya, killing 65 people.

ASSASSINATION PLOT

BEANT SINGH, KILLED by ITBP commandos, had taken an oath on October 20 at the Akal Takht in the Golden Temple complex, to kill Indira Gandhi. This was disclosed by Kehar Singh, Beant Singh's uncle, who was arrested in Delhi on November 30, intelligence sources revealed. Beant Singh, who was gunned down by ITBP commandos on October 31, had confessed the conspiracy to Kehar Singh.

PM ON DIVISIVENESS

PRIME MINISTER RAJIV Gandhi, on December 2, vowed to stamp out "forces of destabilisation" which he said had their roots outside India. These forces were behind the assassination of Indira Gandhi and were financed by outside sources. He said these forces were trying to divide the nation based on caste, religion, and region. To root them out, he said, a new movement was necessary.

PAKISTAN'S REFERENDUM

A PRESIDENTIAL ORDER on December 1 barred all courts, tribunals or any authority from questioning the conduct of the referendum to be held on December 19. The Pakistani government made it compulsory for all those 21 and above to exercise their verdict in the referendum. The referendum order put to the nation the question of whether it endorses the process of Islamisation initiated by Gen Zia-ul-Haq.

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"To counter the spread of misinformation and disinformation on social media, the government must develop ways to address deepfakes. Countering false narratives, controlling the propagation of disinformation by forces outside the nation may require thought-out strategies." —THE DAILY STAR, BANGLADESH

What kind of India do we seek?

In Kachchh, at a gathering of organisations, this and other big questions, and a daring to imagine alternatives to modern 'development'

DESHKAAL

BY YOGENDRA YADAV

C R Sasikumar

KACHCHH INVITES YOU to ask big questions. This is the site for a fusion of horizons. Here, sea meets desert under an uncluttered sky. Shifting topography, recurring earthquakes, the intermingling of races and cultures from Gujarat, Sindh and Rajasthan to Afghanistan, Iran, and East Africa and a line in the sand that marks the boundary of nation-states serves to remind you of the transient nature of everything. Kachchh releases you from the prison of the here and now, from the cycles of breaking news, election results, scandals and wars, and lets you sit back and reflect.

So, we asked big questions: What does our future look like? What should it look like, if we could shape it? What kind of India do we seek? Can we envision something beyond the stale dream of a modern, developed, superpower with cutting-edge technology and an x-trillion dollar economy — a mirage that we have been chasing, breathless and mindless? Is another world possible?

"We", here, meant a group associated with Vikalp Sangam, a confluence of over 90 organisations and movements that share a quest for transformative alternatives. These are activists, scholars and development practitioners who do not merely complain and protest; they actively seek alternative "ways of meeting human needs and aspirations, without trashing the earth and without leaving half of humanity behind". And they do not seek it just on paper, but on the ground. This was the 10th anniversary of Vikalp Sangam, a moment to remember the journey and to reflect on the future.

Kachchh provides stark options to think about our future. From an outsider's gaze, this largest district of India is a backward wasteland — vast swathes of unproductive arid land unfit for cultivation — waiting to be reclaimed for "development". Following the earthquake of 2001, all kinds of modern, multi-storied buildings and industries (led by, who else, but Adani!) have come up here. From a different point of view, however, Kachchh is diverse and vibrant, home to many ecological practices, crafts and art that we need to learn from. When I read that someone called Kachchh a "museum of environmental hardship" the first image that flashed in my mind was the breathtaking museum of Kachchh embroideries in that extraordinary LLDC complex at Bhuj that could put any of our metropolitan museums to shame. Kachchh is a museum of human resilience and creativity under conditions of hardship.

More than high-rise buildings and factories, for me the symbol of modernity in Kachchh is a thorny tree that you see everywhere. The scientists call it *Prosopis juliflora*. Locals call it *gando bawal* (or *kharo babul*), the mad tree. Native to Mexico, this tree was imported to India and showered on to Kachchh — literally, thanks to government helicopters — ostensibly to prevent desertification. Today, this invasive and impossible-to-uproot tree is omnipresent in Banni, the largest grassland of India, displacing other native trees and grasses, extracting the scarce underground water, besides harming animals who consume its leaves. This is what we call development.

Are there alternatives? Are there ways to support local farming practices and pastoral communities like Maldharis? Kachchh is also home to many experiments in alternatives. As many as 13 organisations hosted this decennial Vikalp Sangam. Sahjeevan is involved in organising the Maldhari community in demanding community forest rights that they are entitled to under the Forest Rights Act. They have also initiated a project to replant native (*meetha*) *babul* to replace the invader tree. Khamir, whose campus hosted the confluence this time, is involved in the promotion of traditional handicrafts and the preservation of culture, community and local environments. They have revived cultivation of and weaving in Kala cotton, a local variety destroyed by industrialisation. Other organisations are involved in increasing the participation of women in decision making and making self-governance a reality.

The deliberations in this decennial meeting were obviously not limited to Kachchh. A team from Gadchiroli in Maharashtra and another from Karnataka shared the success stories of how Adivasi communities acquired community forest rights and have managed their common resources for collective good. Activists from all over the country discussed alternative experiments, success stories and challenges in ecological agriculture, water, environment, energy, health, education and democracy.

Over the last 10 years, Vikalp Sangam has documented nearly 2,000 such stories from all over the country on its website https://vikalpsangam.org and showcased some of these in a documentary "Churning the Earth". These stories include a Goa-based couple (who else but Sikhs from Jalandhar) that grows their veggies and fish without using soil and any chemicals, a successful off-grid, small-scale, rooftop, solar experimentation around Kolkata, revival of traditional architecture in Spiti and Ladakh, recharging of "dead" rivers in Alwar district of Rajasthan, an alternative hospital run for and by Adivasis in Tamil Nadu, models to integrate hawkers and street vendors in urban planning, and *hunnarshala* to promote craft learning in mainstream education. A similar initiative, ASHA (Alliance for Sustainable and Holistic Agriculture) has held five Kisan Swaraj Sammelans to bring together successful models in alternative agriculture. Just last week, a People's Festival of Innovation was held in Delhi that showcased a wide range of affordable, grassroots innovations. We are not short of alternatives.

> You might ask: Are all these really an alternative to modern development? Can they take on the challenge of scale and survive in the face of giant corporations in a globalised market economy? Does the practice of majority-based democracy leave any room for concerns of future generations and nature? Valid questions. But you must also ask another valid question: Can we really ever hope to offer every Indian the lifestyle available to everyone in the Global North? Is this model worth replicating? Can we afford to go on with the destruction of nature, lives and livelihoods?

You might ask: Are all these real alternatives to modern development? Can they take on the challenge of scale and survive in the face of giant corporations in a globalised market economy? Does the practice of majority-based democracy leave any room for concerns of future generations and nature? Valid questions. But you must also ask another set of valid questions: Can anyone seriously think of offering to every Indian the lifestyle available to everyone in the Global North? Is this model worth replicating? Can we afford to go on with the destruction of nature, lives and livelihoods as an inevitable cost of "development"?

Once we recognise the unbearable weight of these questions, a quest for alternatives does not remain an obsession of a mad minority. Once we realise that alternatives are not about going back to our past, but about imagining and shaping our future, this becomes a collective search. How do we make these radical alternatives feasible? Can we think of a "scale out" rather than "scale up" model? What is the roadmap of transition from where we are to where we wish to go? Someone has to begin thinking about these questions. Someone has to risk being called "mad" and think of alternatives before all of us are left with nothing to think about. Kachchh invites you to ask these big questions.

Postscript: As I was writing this article, I heard about the passing away of Dr Rakesh Sinha, an engineer and a thinker who argued that unemployment was inherent in the modern, large-scale, industrial model of development; who believed in an alternative paradigm of economy and technology.

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

Choking on smoke

Climate financing that fails to promote transitions from biomass cooking fuels to LPG could leave millions in developing countries vulnerable

KALPANA BALAKRISHNAN, SAGNIK DEY, CHANDRA VENKATARAMAN, SOUMYA SWAMINATHAN

AROUND THE TIME the COP 29 ended in Baku, some parts of our country, especially the National Capital Region (NCR), witnessed yet another year of predictable deterioration of seasonal air quality to "severe" levels with an air quality index (AQI) of greater than 400. The 2024 report of the Lancet Countdown on Climate Change and Health, while pointing to the need to reduce fossil fuel dependence, also argues for health-centric approaches for climate finance to support public-health interventions aimed at reducing exposure to air pollution through shifts to clean energy sources.

Unhealthy air pollution exposures are neither limited to winter time in the NCR nor attributable to the same mix of sources across the country. It is time for India's National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) to re-examine sectoral priorities that place health at the centre. This would entail redefining strategic, near term, clean energy shifts to fossil fuels (LPG) in the residential sector that can reduce net climate warming. This is central to preserving energy equity for the vulnerable poor, while also making attainment of national air quality standards a feasible reality.

Over the last two decades, primary field studies have been undertaken in India to establish that exposure to household air pollution (HAP), resulting from the use of solid cooking fuels, are associated with a wide range of acute and chronic health conditions among adults and children. This includes impacts on chronic respiratory diseases including lung cancer, adult blood pressure and cardiovascular disease, birth weight, child pneumonia, and child growth and development.

Burning solid fuels in inefficient open fires or *chulhas* in poorly ventilated homes can result in dangerous levels of exposure to multiple harmful air pollutants, including fine particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter of less than 2.5μm (PM 2.5), black carbon, and carbon monoxide, among others. Quantitative HAP measurements performed across multiple states have shown HAP exposures exceeding the WHO's air quality guidelines (AQGs) by several orders of magnitude.

While Indian cities, in particular NCR, come to focus often for ambient air pollution (AAP) and have remained as the focal point for the NCAP, the insidious health damaging HAP exposures experienced routinely by rural populations, have largely been missing from the air-pollution discourse.

Until recently, the scale and magnitude of HAP's contribution to AAP has been under-recognised and poorly characterised and the impact of emissions from solid cooking fuels has been largely overlooked. Newly developed emission inventories estimate that primary PM2.5 emissions, summed across non-attainment cities of the NCAP, contribute a small fraction of state-level emissions (for example, 4 per cent in Uttar Pradesh and 17 per cent in Maharashtra). Further, while the traditional focus has been on coal as the largest sectoral contributor, residential biomass cooking-fuel use dominates emissions across the cleanest to the most polluted air-sheds in India.

The estimates of the contribution of solid cooking fuels to ambient PM 2.5 are also getting more consistent with an estimated median national contribution of 30 per cent, with considerable heterogeneity across states. Granular models conducted under the aegis of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MOEFCC) now estimate that eliminating residential biomass combustion can reduce average national ambient exposure to fine particulate matter below the national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS) across most districts in India.

Finally, transitioning poor populations from biomass cook-fuels to LPG has often been pitched as being inconsistent with the global "de-carbonisation" and "fossil fuel phase out" goals. However, the use of biomass cooking fuels punishes the climate agenda twice, on account of non-renewable biomass harvesting and release of short-lived climate pollutants during combustion. These climate pollutants like particulate black carbon (or soot) are nearly 1000-times stronger atmospheric warmers, on a per mass basis, than carbon dioxide. Globally and in India, complete transitions to gaseous cooking fuels such as LPG have been shown to result in drastic reductions in emissions of climate-damaging pollutants with health co-benefits from reductions in HAP and AAP.

India has an unprecedented opportunity to demonstrate the feasibility of a public-health intervention focused on eliminating household air pollution. The Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) has already made hefty infrastructure investments for providing LPG access that cover nearly 99 per cent of households in the country. Recently conducted studies have shown that provision of free LPG results in sustained attainment of the WHO interim target guidelines within the household and a virtual elimination of solid fuel use even among the poorest of biomass-using households. Since both household and ambient air-pollution exposure are causally linked to a range of child and adult health outcomes, mitigating emissions from residential biomass combustion would reduce overall exposure much faster than any other source, translating to a bigger health benefit.

Strengthening PMUY with additional financial resources including further subsidies to enable poor communities to completely transition to LPG would yield transformative co-benefits for the NCAP and public health in India. Cost effectiveness of such strategies have also been noted in a recent World Bank report on addressing air pollution in South Asia.

Global climate investments shying away from promoting near-term transitions from biomass cooking fuels to LPG could leave millions across developing countries in the shadow of unjust transitions that leave vulnerable communities bearing the brunt of energy and health inequities.

Balakrishnan is professor and dean (Research) at Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research, Chennai. Dey is professor at Centre for Atmospheric Sciences and Coordinator of CERCA at IIT Delhi. Venkataraman is the Shobha Dixit Chair Professor of Chemical Engineering and Climate Studies at IIT Bombay. Swaminathan is chairperson, M S Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai, and principal advisor, MOHFW

Spokesperson for the oppressed

Amiya Kumar Bagchi went against dominant currents in his research, convictions

ADITYA MUKHERJEE

PROFESSOR AMIYA KUMAR Bagchi passed away on November 28 at 88. A legendary Indian academic, teacher and institution builder has left us. Since the 1970s, there would hardly be any historian or economist in any premier institution in India who was not exposed to or grappled with his writings, whether they agreed with some of his conclusions or not. He will be sorely missed, particularly in today's times when the academic world is under severe stress in India, with free and non-conformist thought becoming increasingly difficult and even punishable.

If there was one quality that distinguished Professor Bagchi, it was his ability to stand up boldly against the dominant current, however powerful and pervasive it may be, if his own research and conviction pointed the other way. In the discipline of economics, India began to witness by the late 1960s and early '70s a turn away from the study of Political Economy, (which was the hallmark of our early nationalists, people like Dadabhai Naoroji and R C Dutt, a tradition kept alive by later economists like Bhabatosh Datta, B N Ganguli, K N Raj and several others), towards econometrics, mathematical modelling, game theory, etc. It was at that time that Bagchi, as a doctoral student at Cambridge, switched from being a game theorist to probing issues of political economy, particularly economic history. Economic history proved critical in making major theoretical breakthroughs, as is evident from the writings of Karl Marx, Dadabhai Naoroji, Maurice Dobb, Ernest Mandel, Andre Gunder Frank, Paul Baran, Daniel Thorner and so many others. Bagchi too used his deep foray into economic history to make important theoretical generalisations.

Bagchi's magnum opus *Private Investment in India*, 1900-1939, published in 1972 was his first major work as a result of his shift in focus to economic history. Based on research from a variety of sources in India and England, the book immediately became a must-read for every student of history and economics and it remains so till today, more than 50 years after it was published. After a deep and thorough study of all major sectors of the Indian economy, Bagchi demonstrates, proving many current supply-oriented hypotheses wrong, that the reason for the lack of industrial investment and overall growth in colonial India was not what economists had been repeating ad infinitum. That is, the lack of supply of capital, or its "shyness", lack of entrepreneurship, unsuitable social traditions and values in contrast to the so-called "protestant ethic" in England, overpopulation and so on, but the imposition of the priorities of British imperialism in India which constrained demand severely, limiting the profitability or even viability of investment.

Professor Bagchi's foray into the economic history of the modern period led him inevitably to look at the capitalist system as a global phenomenon, which explained the development of some parts of the world and the underdevelopment if not decimation of other parts. Among his numerous publications, the next major contribution came in the form of the book *The Political Economy of Underdevelopment*, published in 1982. It is a study that looks at various parts of the world which became victims of colonialism at different points of time for varying periods, under different colonial masters, but all sharing certain underlying similarities and structural disabilities. The study covered Latin America, Indonesia, China and India.

From here, the logical next step was his masterly overview of the emergence of world capitalism and its impact, not only in the early stages of the rise of capitalism but also its devastating consequences on a large part of humanity up to the current millennium. It was to be his last magnum opus, *Perilous Passage: Mankind and the Global Ascendancy of Capital*, published in 2005. In this work, Bagchi, in his inimitable polemical style backed by huge amount of empirical evidence, demolishes several Eurocentric myths promoted by the dominant Western world, such as that Europe went ahead of the rest of the world centuries before the Industrial Revolution, or that Europe shot ahead of the rest of the world with the Industrial Revolution because of some intrinsic advantages or capabilities. On the contrary, he shows that the Great Divergence, the rapid rise of the West was in fact predicated upon surplus extraction and decimation of the rest. Through a detailed calculation he shows that between 1871 and 1916, Britain extracted as tribute from India about £3.2 billion while total British investment abroad was about £4 billion, a large part of it going to the White colonies and the US. The blood and sweat of the Indian people thus contributed, in no small measure, to the "peopling of the United States" through massive migrations from Europe "and its rise as the most economically advanced country in the world (and) also helped improve the living conditions of the Europeans left behind." A connection Professor Bagchi brings home so dramatically that our colonised minds did not make.

The world will miss a great spokesperson for the oppressed.

The writer taught contemporary history at JNU. His latest book is Nehru's India: Past, Present and Future

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A BAD PRECEDENT

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'When court undermines itself' (IE, December 2). It is surprising that civil courts across India have ordered an archaeological survey of various mosques. Such an order violates the Places of Worship Act, 1991 which mandated that the religious status of any place of worship should be maintained as it existed on August 15, 1947. The Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi and the Krishna Janmabhoomi site in Mathura have received special attention. The Supreme Court has not intervened effectively. The Court's observation that the Act did not bar a survey to find out the nature of a religious place actually encouraged activists and petitioners to intensify their campaign.

Sankar Paul, *Nadia*

WOMEN'S AGENCY

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Hit and miss' (IE, December 2). Women seeking fewer work hours is a cause for celebration, not concern. Workers trying to have a balanced work life balance leads to self-enrichment and improvement of mental health. An assured payout encourages women to dream bigger, seek better wages and improve their social standing within family and society. To say that women are less incentivised to seek work because of such schemes falls victim to the narrow vision of viewing them as mere "labhartis".

Nimmish, *Mumbai*

BANGLADESH UNREST

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'A time to rebuild' (IE, December 2). Atrocities against minorities continue to be reported in Bangladesh. The Indian government has expressed its concern to the Yunus government. However, this diplomatic push for communal harmony is nuanced. If the BJP has not shied away from religious polarisation targeting Muslims in India — indeed, making it a cornerstone of its politics — why would any other party, in a similar situation, not exploit polarisation politics? This presents a paradox: Countries whose domestic politics stand at odds with their projected international image.

L R Murmu, *New Delhi*

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If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to **explained@indianexpress.com**

Electronic monitoring of prisoners: arguments for and against

AJOY SINHA KARPURAM
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 2

PRESIDENT DROUPADI Murmu last month released a report by the Supreme Court's Centre for Research and Planning, which suggested several measures to address the problem of overcrowding in India's prisons.

The report, *Prisons in India: Mapping Prison Manuals and Measures for Reformation and Decongestion*, has a section on 'Electronic Tracking of Prisoners', which discusses the use of tracking technology as a condition for bail to reduce the number of undertrial prisoners who make up the vast majority of prisoners.

This July, the Supreme Court had held that bail conditions that allow the police to track the movement of an accused released on bail, violate the right to privacy.

However, the report — like the Law Commission of India and the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs — has said that tracking, with the right guardrails, would be beneficial.

The case for tracking

As of December 2022, India's prisons had an overall occupancy of 131.4%, with 5,73,220 inmates against a total capacity of 4,36,266, according to figures compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). More than three quarters of prisoners were undertrials, who had not been convicted of a crime.

According to the report, electronic monitoring "could prove to be a cost-effective method to decongest jails". It gives the example of Odisha, where the government spends about Rs 1 lakh annually on each undertrial, while a tracker "would cost around Rs 10,000 to 15,000".

A report submitted by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs last year noted that "through the use of [ankle/bracelet] trackers, administrative machinery or human resources staff involved in keeping track of prisoners who are out on bail can be reduced". (*Prisons: Conditions, Infrastructure and Reforms*)

Lessons from the US

Several studies have argued that electronic monitoring is essentially incarceration by another name – "e-carceration".

In a report published in September 2022, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) noted that "EM (electronic monitoring) serves as an extension of the carceral crisis, expanding the punitive power of jails and prisons beyond their traditional physical walls as a system of "e-carceration"".

The "overuse of government surveillance can create oppressive, criminalizing environments, especially for communities of color", the report, *Rethinking Electronic Monitoring: A Harm Reduction Guide*, said.

EXPLAINED LAW

Electronic monitoring and restrictions on movement for persons on parole or in the pre-trial stage is common in the US. Like people of colour in the US, members of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) are overrepresented in prison populations in India. The latest NCRB data show almost 70% of prisoners belong to these communities.

The other question is of bearing the cost of electronic monitoring. The Supreme Court's report suggests it should be the government — in the US (which has been cited as an example in the report) though, the costs are often borne by the individual under monitoring. These include $100-$200 in setup charges and daily charges of up to $35, according to the nonprofit Electronic Frontier Foundation.

The report also acknowledges the possibility of stigma associated with a visible monitoring device: "Some individuals may resist wearing [them] due to concerns about social stigma or a perception of invasive surveillance".

Question of privacy

On July 8, an SC Bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan struck down a bail condition imposed by the Delhi HC on two foreign nationals booked for offences under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 — that they must "drop a PIN on the google map to ensure that their location is available to the Investigation Officer...".

This, the top court held, would violate the fundamental right to privacy under Article 21. "The investigating agency cannot be permitted to continuously peep into the private life of the accused enlarged on bail," it said.

The Standing Committee Report of 2023 had noted that such measures must only be taken with the consent of the individual. "...It must be ensured that to avoid any kind of human rights violation this scheme or method should be used on voluntary basis after procuring the consent of inmates," the report said.

Research by George Washington University on the impact of electronic monitoring on privacy in 44 US states reported that "people on court supervision (including those who are on monitors) are often subjected to invasions of their bodily autonomy through random drug testing, blood and DNA sampling, as well as invasions of their home through mandatory home visits...".

The 268th Report of the Law Commission of India, published three months before the SC verdict recognising the fundamental right to privacy, argued for electronic monitoring, but acknowledged the possible "grave and significant impact on constitutional rights".

"Such monitoring must be used only in grave and heinous crimes, where the accused person has a prior conviction in similar offences", the Report said.

EXPLAINED GLOBAL

President Biden pardons his son: What will it entail?

President Joe Biden embraces his son Hunter Biden after his speech in Chicago on August 19, 2024. *The NYT*

THE US President Joe Biden on Sunday pardoned his son Hunter after repeatedly saying that he will not. Here are the circumstances in which the pardon came, and what all it entails.

What did the pardon cover?

Hunter Biden was pardoned for his conviction by a jury in Delaware and a guilty plea in California. Hunter was also pardoned for federal crimes "he committed or may have committed" between January 1, 2014 through the end of this year.

What crimes was Hunter convicted of?

A Delaware jury in June found the President's son guilty of lying about his addiction to illegal drugs on a disclosure form that is required to purchase a firearm. Hunter was scheduled to be sentenced on December 12.

He separately pleaded guilty to criminal charges of failing to pay $1.4 million in taxes while spending lavishly on drugs, sex workers, and luxury items. He was scheduled to be sentenced on December 16.

What kind of sentence was Hunter looking at?

Hunter was potentially facing decades in prison, although sentencing guidelines suggested he was likely to receive a much less severe punishment.

For the gun charges, sentencing guidelines are 15 to 21 months, although legal experts said defendants in similar situations receive shorter sentences and are less likely to be incarcerated if they abide by the terms of their pretrial release.

Could Hunter still be implicated in other cases?

If the US House of Representatives or the Justice Department decides to probe the Biden family business dealings, as some Republicans have promised to do, Hunter could potentially be called to testify.

Before he was pardoned, he could have declined to do so, citing his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination. The pardon could limit his ability to invoke that right, because he no longer faces criminal jeopardy for any federal crimes committed during the period covered. Presidential pardons do not protect people from prosecution for state crimes.

Are presidential pardons unusual?

No. Presidents beginning with George Washington, the first US president, have granted pardons. Gerald Ford pardoned his predecessor Richard Nixon, who had resigned in disgrace, Bill Clinton pardoned his brother-in-law, and Donald Trump pardoned Charles Kushner, a real estate developer and the father of Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner.

REUTERS

Drishti IAS
Mukherjee Nagar Classes have Shifted to
NOIDA
SECTOR 15
IAS GS Foundation Course
हिंदी माध्यम 9 दिसंबर | सुबह 11:30 बजे
English Medium 12 December | 6 PM
C-171/2, Block A, Sector - 15, Noida, UP
9311 406 440

EXPLAINED ECONOMICS

BRICS currency, Trump threat

What does the US President-elect's threat of 100% tariffs if BRICS countries ditch the dollar mean for India — and the US? What has provoked Trump, and why is India pushing for the internationalisation of the rupee?

RAVI DUTTA MISHRA
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 2

DONALD TRUMP has threatened the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) countries with 100% import tariffs if they create their own currency or back an existing currency to replace the United States dollar as the world's reserve currency.

"We require a commitment from these countries that they will neither create a new BRICS currency nor back any other currency to replace the mighty US dollar, or they will face 100 per cent tariffs and should expect to say goodbye to selling into the wonderful US economy," the US President-elect posted on social media over the weekend.

Ever since the US threw Iran and Russia out of the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT), which is key to international financial transactions, countries around the world, including India, have looked to reduce dependence on the US dollar, as well as on the US-led global financial system.

At the BRICS summit in Kazan in October, Russian President Vladimir Putin said: "The dollar is being used as a weapon. We really see that this is so. I think that this is a big mistake by those who do this."

At the 2023 BRICS summit in Johannesburg, President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva of Brazil had said the "creation of a new [BRICS] currency…increases our payment options and reduces our vulnerabilities".

Internationalisation of rupee…

In an attempt to reduce reliance on the US dollar and to internationalise the Indian rupee, the Reserve Bank of India allowed invoicing and payments for international trade in Indian rupees in 2022, after sanctions were imposed on Russia amid the war in Ukraine.

In his remarks at Kazan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said India "welcome[d] efforts to increase financial integration among BRICS countries", and "trade in local currencies and smooth cross-border payments will strengthen our economic cooperation".

Last month, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar told the India-Russia Intergovernmental Commission meeting in Mumbai that "mutual settlement of trade in national currencies is of great importance, especially in the current circumstances".

India's trade with Russia in domestic currency remains low due to Indian banks' fear of US sanctions, and an unbalanced trade relationship between the countries — Indian imports far outstrip its exports. Russia has, therefore, not been able to use its huge pile of rupee reserves to settle bilateral trade dues, and has used it to invest in Indian stocks and bonds instead.

Russia's President Vladimir Putin, seen at the Kazan BRICS summit in October with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and China's President Xi Jinping, has said the United States is using the dollar as a "weapon". *Reuters*

The more balanced Russia-China trade, by contrast, has helped transactions using the yuan and ruble. According to the Russian government, more than 90% of trade settlement between the two countries is now done in rubles.

…But not targeting US dollar

In October Jaishankar had clarified that while US policies often complicate trade with certain countries, and India sought "workarounds" in pursuit of its trade interests, it did not "target" the dollar or seek to move away from it.

"We have never actively targeted the dollar. That's not part of our economic, political, or strategic policy. Some others may have done so. What I will say is that we have a natural concern. We often have trade partners who lack dollars for transactions. So, we must decide whether to forgo dealings with them or find alternative settlements that work. There's no malicious intent towards the dollar," Jaishankar said in response to a question at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, an American think tank in Washington DC.

The Triennial Central Bank Survey 2022 of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), an international financial institution owned by member central banks, showed the US dollar accounted for 88% of the global forex turnover. The rupee accounted for 1.6%.

High tariff wall could hit US

While the dollar dominates global trade — accounting for more than 90% of transactions — it is not the only currency used internationally. Other convertible currencies like the Japanese yen, the euro, and the British pound are also integral to global commerce, and the US has not objected to their use. The proposed BRICS currency is simply another of these alternatives, aimed at facilitating trade among member countries and reducing over-reliance on a single currency, international trade experts said.

"It is the actions of the United States that have pushed many countries to seek alternatives to the US dollar. The US has a history of leveraging its influence over global financial systems, such as the SWIFT network, to impose unilateral sanctions. SWIFT is essential for secure and standardised international financial transactions. By blocking countries like Russia and Iran from accessing SWIFT, the US has effectively weaponised the global financial infrastructure, forcing other nations to find alternative payment mechanisms to continue legitimate trade," Ajay Srivastava, head of the think tank Global Trade Research Initiative, and a former Indian government trade official, said.

According to Srivastava, a 100% tariff on BRICS countries would ultimately hurt the US. "Imports into the US would shift to third countries, potentially increasing costs for American consumers without bringing manufacturing jobs back home. The US has become less competitive in manufacturing labour-intensive goods due to higher production costs, and tariffs are unlikely to reverse this," he said.

Need for China caution

Ajay Sahai, Director General & CEO of the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO), the country's top trade promotion organisation, said that while supporting local currency initiatives, India should ensure the framework does not disproportionately favour China, given the asymmetry in economic power among BRICS nations.

"China is very keen to assume a dominant role to use the bloc against the US, though India, Brazil, and South Africa are more keen to work with the US and settle the differences amicably through negotiations," Sahai said. India should engage diplomatically with the US to explain its position, emphasising that diversifying trade mechanisms is not anti-American but a move towards multipolarity and financial stability, he said.

India should accelerate its Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) initiative and push for internationalisation of financial platforms such as Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Sahai said.

"Trump's threat is unlikely to deter BRICS nations from pursuing alternatives to the US dollar. For India, the best course is a balanced approach: supporting financial reforms within BRICS that align with its interests while maintaining strong ties with the US to safeguard its broader strategic and economic priorities," he said.

The Currency Composition of Official Foreign Exchange Reserves (COFER) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) shows a gradual decline in the share of the dollar in central bank and government foreign reserves. However, the reduced role of the dollar over the past two decades has not been matched by corresponding increases in the shares of the euro, yen, and pound, according to the IMF.

"Rather, this has been accompanied by a rise in the share of…non-traditional reserve currencies, including the Australian dollar, Canadian dollar, Chinese renminbi, South Korean won, Singaporean dollar, and the Nordic currencies," the IMF said in a blog published in July. The gains of the renminbi in particular, "match a quarter of the decline in the dollar's share", the blog said, confirming a trend it had also flagged in a paper in 2022.

How land degradation is threatening Earth's capacity to sustain humanity

ALIND CHAUHAN
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 2

LAND DEGRADATION is undermining Earth's capacity to sustain humanity, and failure to reverse it will pose challenges for generations to come, a new United Nations report found.

A million sq km of land is getting degraded each year, with an estimated 15 million sq km already impacted — more than the entire continent of Antarctica — by land degradation, the report titled *Stepping back from the precipice: Transforming land management to stay within planetary boundaries* said.

EXPLAINED ENVIRONMENT

The analysis has been carried out by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) — a legally binding framework to address desertification and the effects of drought — in collaboration with Germany's Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research. It was published on Monday, a day before the 16th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP16) of UNCCD began in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

What is land degradation? Why is it a matter of concern?

According to UNCCD, land degradation is "the reduction or loss of the biological or economic productivity and complexity of rainfed cropland, irrigated cropland, or range, pasture, forest and woodlands resulting from a combination of pressures, including land use and management practices".

Land degradation adversely affects humans and ecosystems around the planet. For instance, it raises the risk of malnutrition by reducing the quality and quantity of food production. It contributes to the spread of water- and food-borne diseases that result from poor hygiene and scarcity of clean water. It can cause respiratory diseases due to soil erosion.

Marine and freshwater systems also suffer due to land degradation. For example, eroded soil carrying fertilisers and pesticides washes into water bodies, harming both the fauna living there and local communities which depend on them.

LAND DEGRADATION IN NUMBERS

60%: Remaining global forest cover — well below the safe boundary of 75%.

15 MN SQ KM: Degraded land area, more than the size of Antarctica, expanding by 1 mn sq km annually.

20%: Earth's land surface covered by the savanna, now under threat from cropland expansion and poorly planned afforestation.

46%: Global land area classified as drylands, home to a third of humanity

90%: Share of recent deforestation directly caused by agriculture.

20%: Decline in trees' and soil's CO2 absorption capacity since 2015 attributed to climate change

25%: Share of biodiversity found in soil

50%+: World's major rivers disrupted by dam construction

47%: Aquifers being depleted faster than they are replenished

Source: UNCCD report

Land degradation contributes to climate change as well. The world's soil is the largest terrestrial carbon sink. When land is degraded, soil carbon can be released into the atmosphere, along with nitrous oxide. This can further exacerbate global warming.

The new report said land degradation has reduced the capacity of land ecosystems such as trees and soil to absorb human-caused carbon dioxide by 20% in the last decade. Previously, these ecosystems could absorb nearly one-third of this kind of pollution.

What is causing land degradation?

Unsustainable agricultural practices such as the heavy use of chemical inputs, pesticides, and water diversion are the foremost drivers of land degradation, the report said. That is because such practices lead to deforestation, soil erosion, and pollution.

"Unsustainable irrigation practices deplete freshwater resources, while excessive use of nitrogen- and phosphorus-based fertilisers destabilise ecosystems," according to the report.

Another factor is climate change — land degradation not only contributes to climate change but is also spurred by it. A report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the UN body for assessing the science related to climate change, noted that global warming has worsened land degradation by increasing frequency, intensity and/ or amount of heavy precipitation, and increased heat stress.

Then there is rapid urbanisation, which has intensified land degradation by contributing to habitat destruction, pollution, and biodiversity loss.

Which areas are the worst affected?

The report has identified several land degradation hotspots in dry regions such as South Asia, northern China, the High Plains and California in the United States, and the Mediterranean. A third of humanity now lives in drylands, which include three-quarters of Africa.

It also noted that land degradation hits low-income countries disproportionately. That is because its impacts are concentrated in tropical and arid regions, and poorer countries have lesser resilience to withstand land degradation and its fallouts.

5 INDIANS PART OF RAPID & BLITZ WORLDS

Lausanne: R Praggnanandhaa, Arjun Erigaisi and R Vaishali will be among five Indian participants in the upcoming 2024 FIDE World Rapid & Blitz Championships, the International Chess Federation (FIDE) said on Monday. The prestigious event will be held in New York City from December 26-31. **PTI**

BGT SHORTS

I'm good to go: Marsh ahead of pink ball Test

Australia's seam bowling all-rounder Mitchell Marsh has allayed concerns about his injury, declaring himself "good to go" for the pink ball second Test against India, which begins here on December 6. The 33-year-old had felt discomfort after bowling after bowling 19.3 overs in the opening Test, which Australia lost by 295 runs at Perth, but Marsh has confirmed his fitness ahead of the second Test at Adelaide Oval. Australia had included uncapped Tasmania all-rounder Beau Webster in the squad due to doubts over Marsh's fitness. However, Marsh has assured that he is ready for the challenge. Asked about any fitness concerns, Marsh told Channel Nine: "The body's all good, yep. Nah, nah, I'm good to go." "I'll be there," he added after arriving in Adelaide on Monday. This news will come as a boost for Australia, who are also dealing with the absence of pacer Josh Hazlewood, who pulled out of the pink ball Test due to a side strain. Marsh, who has been managing a recurring ankle injury, also underwent surgery that saw him miss parts of the 2022-23 summer. **PTI**

I'll tell my grandkids I faced Bumrah: Head

Australia batter Travis Head feels Jasprit Bumrah will go down as "one of the greatest fast bowlers to play the game" and said he'll proudly tell his grandchildren about the formidable challenge of facing the Indian pace maestro. Bumrah reinforced his status as the best bowler in the world with a stunning performance in the opening Test in Perth which India won by 295 runs. "Jasprit will go down as probably one of the greatest fast bowlers to play the game. I think we're finding that at the moment -- how challenging he can be, and it's nice to play against that," Head told reporters on Monday. "It's gonna be nice to go back and look at your career and go tell the grandkids that you faced him. So not a bad series of playing with him. Hopefully I'll face a few more times, but he has been challenging," he added. Bumrah, who was captaining the visiting side, led from the front with a match-haul of 8/72, including several pivotal wickets, showcasing his exceptional form. **PTI**

Gambhir to rejoin Indian team in Aus

India head coach **Gautam Gambhir** is set to rejoin the team in Australia ahead of the second Test at Adelaide Oval, having flown back home due to "personal reasons" after the big win in the series opener in Perth. Gambhir missed the two-day warm-up game against the Prime Minister's XI at Manuka Oval here, which was reduced to a 46-overs-a-side contest due to inclement weather. He had left the touring party on November 26, the scheduled final day of the first Test in Perth. India won the opening Test by 295 runs and with plenty of time left in the match. The second Test of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, a pink-ball day-nighter, will start on Friday. Finalising the playing XI will be Gambhir's top priority after he links up with the Indian squad. In Gambhir's absence, his three trusted lieutenants Abhishek Nayar, Ryan ten Doeschate and Morne Morkel oversaw the team's training and preparations for the tour match, which India won by six wickets. **PTI**

BENAFSHA'S TALE OF SURVIVAL

Escape from Kabul

Her father was killed in mysterious circumstances in Afghanistan, but cricket kept her determined at 18 to escape Taliban atrocities

EXPRESS IN AUSTRALIA

SRIRAM VEERA
CANBERRA, DECEMBER 2

BENAFSHA HASHIMI is sitting on her father's lap, stroking his beard, in Kabul, when an advisory message plays out on television. 'Don't come to Australia illegally on boats' – a note for the many travellers risking, often losing, their lives to get across.

Little Benafsha thinks Australia is just on the other side of the big river in Kabul. "I shall go there one day, I have to just cross the river". Her father tells her she has to learn swimming first. "Don't worry, I can go in a boat!" The father laughs but assures her that she can go the proper way one day but has to study hard and grow up.

Nearly a decade and a half later, in 2021, Benafsha, 21, ended up in Canberra. She escaped the Taliban's clutches and survived the mysterious death of her father, an Afghan special forces soldier. She saw her aunt bleed to death and witnessed myriad shootings. But at has been able to drag the entire Afghan women's cricket team to Australia. All this when she was still a teenager. It's a remarkable story of hope, willpower, selflessness, stubbornness, and a lot of cheekiness.

It's the morning of India's warm-up game against the Prime Minister's XI. Benafsha has agreed to meet at an outdoorsy cafe where a loud dog catches her attention. After petting it, she plonks back on her chair to announce, "I have a cat, Lilly. I love lilies and my Lilly. We talk a lot." Right now, she reflects her age; the rest of the time, as she narrates her life story, immense maturity floats in the air.

Hers is a tale where it's difficult to decide where to start. Perhaps in 2021, when the Taliban have taken over Kabul. She is 18 but responsible enough for her family of 10 to send her to the bank to withdraw money. She could hear Taliban soldiers outside the bank firing in the air.

The start could even be at the checkpost on the Pakistan border, when she is fleeing with the family in the middle of night "like a pack of thieves". They would be stopped by Talibs, who bark at her brother Hamid to tell "this girl" to stop talking. "Who has given a girl the right to talk, just stand aside," they would shout threateningly.

> **My well-wishers, who were trying to help me escape, called me an idiot. In weak moments, when I would think perhaps I should take it, an inner voice would say: 'C'mon Benafsha, you are a team player. You can't abandon your friends'."**

Or the moment when her phone starts to ring, with a popular Farsi love song triggering outrage among Taliban soldiers, and her brother muttering, 'we are all going to die' even as he tries to stop the call. It is her friend, a cricketing team-mate, wanting to know her whereabouts.

It's perhaps best to start with why that friend was reaching out. Not at that moment, but how Benafsha became the rallying group leader for the girls of her cricket team, and their families, to get to Australia. "No, it was a combined team effort, I couldn't have done it without my friends," she says but it's clear that they couldn't have even dared to dream this life without her.

She was the resourceful one, tirelessly pursuing opportunities outside, sending emails to all parts of the cricketing world and beyond for a possible light at the end of the Taliban tunnel. The first three replies were her passport to survival and a better life but she chose to ignore them. The US authorities offered her escape due to her father's past with them, Canada threw a lifeline, as did Dubai, but she was adamant that she wanted her team with her.

"My well-wishers, who were trying to help me escape, called me an idiot. But I was stubborn. In weak moments, when I would think perhaps I should take it, an inner voice would come loud and clear: 'C'mon Benafsha, you are a team player. You can't abandon your friends and be selfish'." And so she even lied to her mother that she didn't hear back from anyone. That they had to just wait and hope.

Then Mel Jones, a former Australia woman cricketer of stature, hears her story and offers help. The Australian authorities get into the picture but are shocked to hear that Benafsha wants the entire team and families to escape. "We can't do that. It's not easy, how can we take so many people out? You and your family come first."

But Benafsha listens to no one but her inner voice. "Even today when I speak to youngsters, I tell them my life motto is, 'Listen to all, but don't follow anyone. Only follow your heart, courage will come automatically'."

The conversation soon goes back to Kabul, her escape and her father. "He treated me like a little princess. Usually Afghan men prefer sons; he was different, distributing laddoos in the neighbourhood when I was born, his fourth child."

Due to the nature of his work, he was often away. "And then one day, he came in a coffin. There he was laid out, outside our door and I was not even 10 then. I just sat there, staring at him. My younger sister kept repeating, "he is just sleeping, he will wake up."

Benafsha Hashimi crossed over to Pakistan from Afghanistan, and then flew to Australia in 2021. *Express photo*

It was their mother who took both aside to tell them that their father was no more and it was okay to cry. "Don't bottle it up, cry if you have to. This is what it is. We have to face reality."

The reality kept turning dark. "Some said he had a heart attack, some said he was poisoned, we don't know to this day." Not long after that, another tragedy struck. Benafsha found herself pouring water on her aunt's dead body. "Only women are allowed in our tradition. She was shot in the hip and head, blood on her body when she was brought home." A childhood shot to pieces, pushing her to grow up rather too quickly, but luckily one remnant would remain.

"Cricket saved my life," she says with a chirpiness, adding solemnly, "Cricket is my life."

Her mother never liked her playing cricket. Especially in the streets with boys, once she grew up a little. The coaches at the academy didn't take a liking to her because she was a "street cricketer", not someone who grew up in the system.

> **And then one day, he (her father) came in a coffin. There he was laid out, outside our door and I was not even ten then. I just sat there, staring at him. My younger sister kept repeating, "he is just sleeping, he will wake up."**

Her memories of playing in the streets still remain special to her. "The empty oil tin cans were our stumps and I terrorised the boys by hitting!" It was her eldest brother Hamid who kept fighting with their mother to allow her to play cricket and things turned a bit when she won a scholarship to a cricket talent programme. Things kept escalating positively and she was named alongside 25 girls, officially contracted by the Afghanistan Cricket board in 2021. The lights would go out soon though.

She remembers that day at the bank just days after the Taliban took over. "When I heard the shootings, I froze in fear. I huddled behind other women, not knowing what would happen." But it wasn't the bullets that's her worst memory, but the vulgar gaze of a male Taliban soldier. "He gave me this look - a dirty look that I can't describe. He told the others to stop shooting and told me that the bank is shut today, but write your name now in this paper and come to meet me tomorrow. I shall take you inside. I ran from there, shivering. That look is my worst memory from those days in Kabul. It made me doubly determined to leave Afghanistan."

But even when the opportunities came, she didn't take them as she wanted her team to be safe too. "I am the one doing all the paperwork, emailing, talking in my broken English; what would happen to them if I left?" And so she pressed the Australian authorities to somehow pull off a miracle for her.

They buckled under her emotional pressure, and promised they would. That they will process the paperwork and get the required permission, but the evacuation can't be en masse. First she and her family. "I managed to get two more families along with me, of course," she smiles.

It's to that night in September 2021 she returns to. "Many in our group were happy, but me and my sister Safia, who is two years younger and also in our team, were sad. We love Afghanistan, We didn't want to leave …"

There were numerous checkpoints where they would all insist that they were off to a wedding. It was at one such post where her phone rang with a Farsi love tune drifting in the air. "The Talibs were so angry, screaming that it's blasphemy and that we shall be whipped. Somehow we got through." They were in Pakistan for a week before flying to Australia.

Benafsha's story is similar to those of other Afghan women players like Nahida Sapan, Aysha Yousofzai and Firooza Amiri, who escaped from Taliban under some pretext or the other.

It took people from different countries to accomplish the evacuation. Walwala and Toba in Afghanistan's cricketing circuit, unnamed Australian authorities, Mel Jones, and Catherine Ordway, a lawyer, academic, and sports integrity expert who has been part of tribunals.

Benafsha plays for two clubs in Australia, turned out briefly for the Sydney University team, and travelled to Fiji to play cricket with the organisation 'Cricket without Borders'. In January, she will represent an Afghan Women XI against Cricket without Borders at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. "We shall get there early January and there will be selection trials. I would absolutely love it if I were the captain!"

This match is a result of the exiled Afghan women cricketers writing to former International Cricket Council chairman Greg Barclay after the country's men's team reached the semifinals of the T20 World Cup. The letter sought help in setting up a refugee team for them in Australia.

Not everything is hunky dory. The past has a way to cling on, leaving its residue in the soul. Benafsha often wakes up screaming at night, calling out for her mother. "I would have different nightmares that also include me being about to be killed."

She explains: "Often, when you reach a safe place, with the troubles seemingly behind you, that's when the trauma hits." She is taking counselling and is all set to pursue her sports management course, that has psychology in the syllabus, at the Canberra University, starting February.

She then recalls a moment with her mother, who had worried about her playing cricket. "One day here, she said, 'Benafsha, without you, none of this would have been possible. I dread to think what would have happened to us in Kabul'."

As she gets up to leave, refusing the offer of a lift, Benafsha, which means 'violet' and whose nickname is '*Chhoti Shaitaan*' (Little Devil), smiles and says, "Don't worry *janaab* (sir), I know my way. This is my country now!"

How cricket has been Oz premier's unwritten perk over the years

SHIVANI NAIK
DECEMBER 2

AUSTRALIAN PRIME Ministers don't wade into cricket. Their toes, it would seem, are permanently sunk into the soft, fine sand on the beach that cricket resembles, while rougher political tides ebb and flow all around.

Not merely because the Indian team was camped in Canberra, and paid a visit to the PM Anthony Albanese, but Cricket and the Australian PM are entwined deeper than what normal statecraft, would afford. It's the unofficial distraction, a PM's unwritten perk.

Back in 2018-19 former PM Scott Morrison had a private WhatsApp group called 'Legends', and added Pat Cummins and then coach Justin Langer, onto it. He did his best to gee them up with, 'good luck, go get 'em today' messages, according to an Amazon documentary. Tim Paine earlier, received texts of encouragement from Morrison too. But cricket has famously wooed every inhabitant of 'The Lodge', the official PM residence.

PMs, considerably more ancient than Morrison, like Ben Chifley, the first post-war elected head, were in fact lobbied for serious issues. Chifley softened the federal entertainment tax on the sport, which during the 1948 tour by India, took out £17,724 out of the £76,186 gate receipts, writes historian Greg Blood.

Joseph Lyons, the Bodyline-era PM, saw the sport as a national distraction to Great Depression, but had to intervene to convince the bruised Aussies to carry on against Jardine's 'leg side threat'.

Australian state finances were delicate, and he was petrified Britain would play hardball on repayment of loans if the tour was called off. But Lyons famously adjourned Cabinet meetings to receive updates on team selections, kept the radio in his room blaring to catch clues of wicket and weather conditions and set up the Australian Broadcast Corporation in July 1932 for popularising cricket.

While Robert Menzies formalized the PM XI tradition that still carries on, his successor Bob Hawke, a grade cricketer in Sydney, famously survived a session till lunch with Jeff Thomson, Max Walker and Gary Gilmour darting all morning at him. Batting with sports writer David Lord in a Parlimentarians vs Press match, he pointed to Lord-Hawke partnership, and quipped, "We would make a great political team with a name like that." The trade unions chief took a few more bouncers to the head but was elected Prime Minister subsequently.

Australian PM Anthony Albanese hosted the Indian team last week. *Instagram/AlboMP*

Other PMs encountered cricket on their way to the top post. Paul Keating had his election campaign news pushed way down by Australia refusing to play a World Cup match at Colombo.

The unmissable presence though was of John Howard's - much before his ICC stint. He notoriously called Muttiah Muralitharan a chucker, saying rather uneloquently with no PM-esque grace that "they proved it in Perth with that thing." The biomechanics.

The self-anointed cricket tragic, who was a regular at SCG, spoke to Mark Taylor ahead of his 334 declaration in Pakistan, rejigged cabinet meetings to meet Tubby on arrival, found urgent matters to discuss with Britain around Ashes, and was in the stands for Steve Waugh's farewell, as PM. His constituency didn't vote him back to power, to watch Ricky Ponting bid goodbye, but the jury is out on whether his off-spin action on a Pakistan visit was "biomechanically faultless", as one commentator described.

What he did manage though was to deter Julia Gillard from attempting to roll her arm over, when she visited Delhi as PM. "I wasn't tempted to showcase my skills … because I don't really have any skills, so that would be a problem. I have learnt something from watching John Howard and that is, don't succumb to playing cricket in front of TV (cameras)," she jested.

Her decision to bestow the Order of Australia on cricketer Sachin Tendulkar though, saw her being accused of using cricket for diplomatic gain. Her hedge was that the Tendulkar headlines would smoothen feathers ruffled due to a tricky "nuclear issue which is a trust issue with the Indian government."

Kevin Ruud angered his own countrymen when he scolded his team battling the Harbhajan-Symonds controversy in 2008, lecturing, "It's a tough and competitive business (but) you can conduct it with a bit of civility." By the time of his second term in 2013, with Australia battling to save the third Ashes Test, and Usman Khawaja given out caught behind with replays unclear, the Gary Sobers fan was billowing away on Twitter like a proper cricket crank, "I've just sat down to watch the Test. That was one of the worst cricket umpiring decisions I have ever seen."

Tony Abbott, who took office after Gillard, admitted he made it to the Oxford cricket team because he could get lippy. "I couldn't bat, I couldn't bowl, but I could sledge," he said. He then proceeded to call English captain Alastair Cook an 'extremely stylish man in every sense.' Swooning over an English captain was more cringe than sledging them.

But Malcolm Turnbull, Abbott's successor belonging to the Liberal Party too, wanted to have nothing to do with sledging. PM during the ball-tampering scandal, he termed sledging "right out of control", and Steve Smith's admission a "shocking affront to Australia."

Little wonder then that Scott Morrison who followed, needed to calm things down, and pull off the modern-day, mature, masterstroke - forming a WhatsApp group with all relevant cricket characters on board. But we know how that one ended.

Albanese's cricket cred? He invited the Indians for high tea. Then Virat Kohli brewed a nice spicy masala storm in the tea cup.

BRIEFLY

Sindhu to tie knot on December 22

New Delhi: Two-time Olympic medallist shuttler PV Sindhu will tie the knot on December 22 in Udaipur. The former world champion, who ended a long title drought with victory at the Syed Modi International in Lucknow on Sunday, will marry Hyderabad-based Venkata Datta Sai, who is an executive director at Posidex Technologies. "The two families knew each other but it was only a month ago that everything was finalised. This was the only possible window as her schedule will be hectic from January," Sindhu's father, PV Ramana, told PTI. "So that is the reason the two families decided to have the marriage ceremony on December 22. The reception will be held in Hyderabad on December 24. She will start her training soon after as the next season is going to be important." **PTI**

U-19 Asia Cup: India thrash Japan

Sharjah: Mohamed Amaan led from the front with an unbeaten century, while KP Karthikeya and opener Ayush Mhatre made fifties to hand India a comfortable 211-run victory over minnows Japan in the Under-19 Asia Cup here on Monday. Amaan slammed an unbeaten 122 off just 118 balls, a knock studded with only seven boundaries, after India were invited to bat. Besides Amaan, Karthikeya made 57 off 49 balls with the help of five fours and one six, while Mhatre's fiery 29-ball 54-run knock featured six boundaries and four hits over the fence.

Brief Scores: **India Under-19:** 339 for 6 in 50 overs (Mohamed Amaan 122, KP Karthikeya 57, Ayush Mhatre 54; Hugo Kelly 2/42) beat **Japan Under-19:** 128 for 8 in 50 overs (Hugo Kelly 50; Hardik Raj 2/9) by 211 runs

Seales takes four wickets for 5 runs

Kingston: Fast bowler Jayden Seales took four wickets and conceded only five runs in almost 16 overs to give West Indies the advantage over Bangladesh on Day 2 of the second Test. Seales bowled 10 maiden overs in total and helped to mop up the tail Sunday as Bangladesh was all out for 164 in 71.5 overs in its first innings.West Indies trailed by 94 runs after reaching 70-1 at stumps in reply. Captain Kraigg Brathwaite is 33 not out and Keacy Carty is on 19. Mikyle Louis was the only wicket taken by Bangladesh, caught behind off Nahid Rana (1-28).

Brief scores: **West Indies** 70 for 1 (Brathwaite 33*, Rana 1-28) trail **Bangladesh** 164 (Shadman 64, Mehidy 36, Seales 4-5, Shamar 3-49) by 94 runs

Jamshedpur bag 3-1 win vs Mohammedan

Jamshedpur: Jamshedpur FC returned to winning ways with a 3-1 victory over Mohammedan SC in the Indian Super League here on Monday. Mohammed Sanan (53rd min) handed Jamshedpur FC the lead before Javier Siverio (61st) and Stephen Eze (79th) stepped up and joined the party at the JRD Tata Sports Complex. Mohammed Irshad (88th) scored a consolation goal for the visitors as the Khalid Jamil-coached team held their lines brilliantly. It was one of the slow burners where both teams took their time to settle down before throwing attacks at each other. **PTI**

WORLD CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

'Mistake after Mistake'

Carlsen, Nakamura, Kramnik left unimpressed by quality on show in title showdown between Ding Liren and Gukesh

AMIT KAMATH
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 2

THE FIDE world chess championship battle between holder Ding Liren and challenger D Gukesh spiced up quite early, with the Chinese grandmaster winning game 1 before allowing his opponent to level the score in Game 3. Heading into Tuesday's Game 7, both players are tied with three points each after three successive draws.

However, former world champions like Magnus Carlsen and Vladimir Kramnik have been left underwhelmed by the quality of play so far in the title showdown.

Kramnik flayed the players for calculating too much and not playing like humans.

"Frankly, I am very disappointed by today's game (Game 6). Even Game 5 was not extremely high level, but today it was really — for a professional — it was really weak play from both players. It's a very disappointing level," former world champion Kramnik ranted while analysing game 6 on his YouTube channel.

"It's such a strange game. Both players were making mistake after mistake, strategical mistakes. As if they don't get the sense of the position. Maybe I'm old-school but it's pretty basic! Of course, they're both great players and great calculators. They calculate fantastically. But I expect something a bit more from a world championship match, like ideas! Human play, human concepts! If I want to enjoy chess as just a game of calculation, I would rather watch a world championship of chess engines!"

Kramnik said that he didn't even want to analyse Game 6 too deeply because there were "too many obvious and conceptual mistakes". He pointed out a specific instance when Gukesh could have pushed for a win in the endgame with a push of his king while also pointing out how Ding had made life difficult for himself by making inaccuracies on the board. Ding's predecessor on the throne, Magnus Carlsen has also been doing daily analysis on his new Take Take Take app, where he frequently opens up on how he would have played differently if he were in the shoes of either player. After Game 5, he had some harsh words for the 18-year-old from Chennai.

"Gukesh has generally not impressed me (so far at the world championship). Ding has probably done a little bit better than we thought. But we probably didn't expect much (from Ding). And Gukesh has probably been a little bit worse," he said. Carlsen said Game 6 was "interesting", but pointed out, as Kramnik had, how Gukesh could have played for a win.

"D Gukesh has generally not impressed me (so far at the world championship). Ding Liren has probably done a little bit better than we thought."
— MAGNUS CARLSEN

"Very strange game (Game 6): even though Ding was better for much of the game positionally, it felt like Gukesh was the one trying to win the game!
— HIKARU NAKAMURA

"Both players were making mistake after mistake, strategical mistakes. As if they don't get the sense of the position. Maybe I'm old-school but it's pretty basic!
— VLADIMIR KRAMNIK

Not impressed

World No.3 Hikaru Nakamura called Game 6 a "strange game", pointing out the paradoxical nature of the play by the end.

"For me, this was a game that was hard to understand! I thought Ding had a nice position on the board out of opening, he was up on the clock. Easy position to play. He squanders the time advantage and then wants to make a draw. Gukesh declines and plays on. Very, very hard to judge. Very strange game: even though Ding was better for much of the game positionally, it felt like Gukesh was the one trying to win the game! Really hard to understand the psychology behind this game," said the American grandmaster on his YouTube recap.

The American went as far as saying that he was unable to understand what the world champion's strategy for the match was.

In Game 6, Gukesh made a daring attempt to keep the game going despite being in a worse position when he could have ended the game in a draw early with one move (moving 26…Qh4 instead of playing 26…Qe7). Ding, at that stage, had already signalled he was ready to head into the rest day with a draw. But Gukesh, instead of repeating the position for the third time, played a different move, thus signaling he wanted to grind on.

Kramnik was livid at Gukesh's tactics and exhorted some pragmatism considering the Indian is playing at the biggest stage of all.

"I understand it could have been some kind of an idea to play for a win but it's a very big misjudgement of the position. Obviously, white (Ding) is much better here. Modern-day players are so much into calculating variations. Black's position (Gukesh's position) is practically on the edge of losing. I don't understand! This is a world championship match. The decision here should be completely automatic."

Heading into Game 7, Carlsen predicted a "fight" solely because that's how games in which Gukesh plays with white have been so far. But he did have a sobering analysis of the match situation for the Indian prodigy.

"We're almost down to a 60-40 match, in Gukesh's favour. The odds are getting better and better for Ding. If he doesn't win the next game, we're closing in on a very even match."

No ice-cream, just some Thai food: Ding

A POST-PRESS conference exclusive with IM Mike Klein by Ding Liren (correct pronunciation Ding Lee-Gen spellt Lizhen), revealed that though the Chinese wasn't gorging on tubs of ice cream on the sidelines of the World Chess championship, he had his favourite among the frozen treats

"Strawberry ice cream," Liren named his favourite flavour, while adding that there was another flavour he was curious about.

Liren and Indian D Gukesh are currently level on points after Game 6, with Monday as rest day.

When asked if GM Rapport would be dispatched to find him strawberry ice cream, Liren said, "haven't had any ice cream, just some Thai food. I remember there was coconut ice cream …."

Post a press conference where he further endeared the crowd with his quippy responses, Liren made light of his fast-gaining funny reputation. Chess 24 asked Ding Liren, "Do you like making us laugh?" The Chinese responded, "It is by accident. I really don't know what the question means."

Quizzed on whether he was happy that memes on him were getting popular and internet was talking about him, he said he recalled hearing, "I smile like a very innocent man." He also admitted he was a tad tired "after long thought on the opening", though the six games hadn't been particularly long. He thought was surprised that Gukesh refused the first offer of a draw. Expecting Gukesh to play same move third time, he was readying to write it in the score sheet where everyone records theirs and their opponent's moves. Then he realised Gukesh had changed course and refused draw with a different move.

The Russian chess federation official report of Game 6 meanwhile noted a coincidence in Liren's play similar to when he played Ian Nepomniachtchi last edition.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

A FAREWELL TO REMEMBER

Tennis icon Gabriela Sabatini with Novak Djokovic at Juan Martin del Potro's last match. *Reuters*

'Special player': Legends hail DelPo on retirement

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
DECEMBER 2

A THUNDEROUS, iconic forehand and winning smile was enough for Juan Martin del Potro to endear himself into the heart of tennis fans when he stunned Roger Federer for the 2009 US Open title.

Once seemingly destined to be an all-surface champ, relentless injury issues derailed a career that failed to reach greater heights, and officially came to a close in an exhibition match that was a repeat of the 2018 US Open final — beating old friend and rival Novak Djokovic 6-4, 7-5 in Buenos Aires early on Monday.

The tributes for the 36-year-old Argentine poured in soon after.

"Like everyone here in this stadium, I am very emotional today," Djokovic said after the match. "I am also grateful for being able to play with my friend, with a great person and a great player, as well as a great rival. It is a very special day for me too.

"Juan Martin is an example for all of us, and his greatest victory in life is being a wonderful person," the 24-time Major winner added.

A video that played in the arena after the conclusion of the match included messages from the likes of Carlos Alcaraz, Gael Monfils, and Federer

"You were a very special player and person for the world of tennis, and I hope this moment is a beautiful one, one where you are celebrating, not a sad one."
ROGER FEDERER

"You were a very special player and person for the world of tennis, and I hope this moment is a beautiful one, one where you are celebrating, not a sad one. We all need to take that next step in life, and I believe the best for you is yet to come," Federer said.

"It has been a total honour and pleasure to play against you and spend time with you off the court. I wish you all the best and I am sure we will see each other soon," the Swiss legend added.

Del Potro reached a career-high ranking of World No. 3, and reached only one Major final after winning in New York in 2009. But among his career achievements, which includes 22 titles and over $25 million in prize money, are back-to-back Olympic medals in 2012 (bronze) and 2016 (silver).

MUMBAI INDIANS: FINDERS, KEEPERS

Behind spotting Ghazanfar, Minz; retaining scouts Sourabh, Robin

SANDEEP DWIVEDI
DECEMBER 2

■ ALLAH GHAZANFAR is from Paktia, a Pashtun province with a violent history on Afghanistan's border with Pakistan. He is a 19-year-old mystery spinner, a lower-order six-hitter and is being compared to the greatest cricketer his country has produced - Rashid Khan.

■ Robin Minz grew up in Telgaon, the tribal belt in Jharkhand's Gumla district that's mostly in news for insurgency. He is a 22-year-old wicketkeeper, has earned a MS Dhoni recco and is also being called 'Jharkhand ka Chris Gayle.'

■ Bevon Jacobs was born in Pretoria, South Africa, now lives in Auckland, New Zealand. Those who have seen the 22-year-old play see shades of living legends from his country of birth - AB de Villiers and Faf du Plesis - in his batting.

At this week's mega Indian Premier League (IPL) auction, Mumbai Indians signed these youngsters who were unknown to those outside cricket's inner circle but are central to their plans going ahead. Ghazanfar and Minz, those in the know say, will start in all games. As for Jacobs, he is a long-term investment, one for the future.

The story of how MI spotted, followed, chased, tested and finally drafted these three promising players points to IPL's pushing back boundaries, stretching its reach and asserting its reputation as a truly global league. Not just India, the nets are now being cast into the deep interiors of the entire cricketing world. It's like the searing gaze of European football clubs on the ghettos of South America or NBA travelling to public basketball courts in Eastern Europe with cheque books. There's more ...

The valuable inputs about the potential of these untested players were provided by the army of ex-MI players spread across the world. Close to 15 talent-spotters have been MI's loyal and trusted retainers.

It also helps that MI have sister teams in franchise leagues in South Africa, USA and UAE. Since the launch of the International League T20, a tournament owned by the Emirates Cricket Board, MI have a unit stationed in Dubai. Incidentally, that is where the Afghanistan national team trains. MI old hand Robin Singh, who coaches MI Emirates, first spotted Ghazanfar when he got into the Afghanistan national camp.

Singh's regular cable to HQ Mumbai would mention the boy from Paktia. Ghazanfar was now on MI watch. Comparisons would be made. The optimists would see in him Sunil Narine - the Trinidadian mystery spinner-cum-opener who helped Kolkata Knight Riders win their third title earlier this year. At the junior level, the Ghazanfar graph would keep showing spikes. From the under-19 national team, he would graduate to the seniors.

Months before the auction, the Afghan boy would play India A in the Emerging Trophy tournament in UAE. He would dismiss India's big T20 hope - left-hander Abhishekh Sharma. Next in was India A captain Tilak Verma, the top-order batsman retained by Mumbai. Tilak would face a few Ghazanfar deliveries, most being dot balls. Another vital input would reach the MI core team that would be at the auction table. Tilak's green signal was all MI needed to go 'all out' for the Afghan teen. They would end up buying him for much less than what they had expected. Maybe, other franchises don't have that many talent scouts posted at every cricketing outpost. Maybe, that's why they didn't know his true worth.

Minz has a different backstory. The Jharkhand boy was part of the auction last time also. He was picked by Gujarat Titans for Rs 3.6 crore. Unfortunately for Minz, a freak motorbike accident ruled him out for the season. But MI's hot pursuit continued. They had whiffed a star, and didn't give up on the trail.

MI's man in Jharkhand is Saurabh Tiwary. The burly left-handed batsman was with the franchise for four years. He was a utility player, a master of cameos who MI kept retaining. He was reliable and it was this quality that came handy again. Tiwary's 'all ok' was a factor in Minz getting picked by MI.

Long-term view

While Ghazanfar and Minz are ripe to take the field, Jacobs still has time. MI is ready to wait. The batsman has numbers and is also recommended by the trusted voice of Mitchell McClenaghan, another former MI player. Back in 2015, the Kiwi pacer was signed for a bargain price of Rs 30 lakh. He would prove to be priceless that season. He got 18 wickets of which three were in the final against Chennai Super Kings. He played a role in MI winning the title. Even after retirement, he continues to be valuable. So when McClenaghan called to say that Jacobs had potential, MI were ready to listen and lift the paddle at the auction.

Robin Singh, Tiwary and McClenaghan are the back room boys to the coaching galacticos, also former MI players, seen in the dugout on match days. Starting with their first marquee player, the GOAT himself, Sachin Tendulkar, most MI stars, after their playing days, remain part of the Mumbai Indians set-up. Shaun Pollock, Ricky Ponting, Lasith Malinga, Shane Bond, Zaheer Khan ... the list is long.

It's the post-retirement employment, along with playing-day perks, that makes MI a franchise where players rarely leave after checking in. Take the example of India's present MVP, Jasprit Bumrah. He was spotted by MI's long-time talent spotter-in-chief John Wright, groomed by Bond and Malinga. When he got injured, the world-class medical facility, owned by the MI owners, came in handy. It was the same when Hardik Pandya got injured. Even lesser players are extended the same perks.

Back in 2019, MI's West Indian signing Alzarri Joseph, within days of his 6/13 on debut, got injured while taking a tough catch. Even six months after the IPL season, Joseph was put up in a five-star hotel for his rehab.

All this helps to answer that pre-auction puzzling retention question: How were Mumbai able to hold on to Rohit Sharma, Jasprit Bumrah, Suryakumar Yadav - the marquee players who could have got more cash and the captaincy arm-band from any other team of their choice? They wouldn't have got the same perks elsewhere.

This also ended up helping others. The huge supply-demand leadership gap would result in the likes of Rishabh Pant and Shreyas Iyer getting the crores that didn't match with their captaincy acumen and record. The unending spotting-retaining cycle also makes MI avoid the existential questions that a one-man franchise like CSK faces - Who after MS Dhoni?

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