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# THE WORLD

## TOP OF THE WORLD

### PAKISTAN

ISIS trying to make foothold: Pak minister

**Islamabad:** Pakistan, which is witnessing an influx of Tehreek-i-Taliban terrorists in significant numbers in the restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's tribal districts, is also facing a threat from the Islamic State (ISIS) which is trying to establish a foothold in the country, the Ministry of Interior has said. The ministry's statement came as the Senate was briefed about the escalating influence and activities of the TTP following the withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan and the inaction of the interim Afghan government led by the Taliban against the banned group.

PTI



Displaced Palestinians in a makeshift camp in Rafah in southern Gaza Strip on Wednesday. Reuters

### AL-NUSSEIRAT CAMP RESIDENTS ORDERED TO EVACUATE, SAY RESIDENTS

## Israel bombs Gaza camp, braces for Hezbollah reaction after Beirut strike

Hamas leader Saleh al-Arouri's killing in Lebanon threatens widening of war

### AGENCIES

BEIRUT, GAZA, CAIRO, JAN 3

ISRAELI FORCES intensified their bombing of the Gaza Strip on Wednesday and told civilians to leave a refugee camp in north of Gaza after war stretched into Lebanon with the killing of Hamas deputy leader in Beirut.

Residents and Palestinian media said Israeli forces bombed Al-Nusseirat refugee camp in the northern part of the Hamas-ruled enclave overnight and into

Wednesday, destroying several multi-story buildings. Israeli planes also dropped leaflets on Al-Nusseirat ordering people to leave seven districts. Israeli war planes and tanks also attacked the Al-Bureij refugee camp.

In the Al-Maghazi refugee camp, health officials said at least four people were killed in an Israeli air strike on a house.

Israel was on high alert for an escalation with Hezbollah Wednesday after one of the top leaders of the Palestinian Hamas was killed in a strike in Beirut

that was widely blamed on Israel and heightened the risk of a broader Middle East conflict.

Israel has neither confirmed nor denied that it killed Saleh al-Arouri in a drone strike in the Lebanese capital on Tuesday.

The assassination was a further sign that the nearly three-month war between Israel and Hamas was spreading across the region, drawing in the occupied West Bank. Hezbollah forces on the Lebanon-Israel border, and even Red Sea shipping lanes.

The strike in Hezbollah's

southern Beirut stronghold could cause the fighting along Lebanon border to boil over into all-out war.

In a televised speech Wednesday, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, Hezbollah's leader said that Israel's killing of the deputy chief of allied Palestinian faction Hamas in Beirut was "a major, dangerous crime about which we cannot be silent".

In Gaza, health officials said that a total of 22,313 Palestinians have been killed and 57,296 injured in Israeli strikes since October 7.

### NATO to help allies to buy 1,000 missiles as Russia steps up airstrikes

**Brussels:** NATO announced Wednesday that it would help buy up to 1,000 Patriot missiles so that allies can better protect their territory as Russia ramps up its air assault on Ukraine.

NATO said it will support a group of nations, including Germany, the Netherlands, Romania and Spain, in buying the Patriots.

According to industry sources, the contract could be worth around USD 5.5 billion.

The purchase could help allies free up more of their own defense systems for Ukraine. The agency said that "other user nations are expected to benefit from the conditions of the contract," without elaborating. AP

## Russia pounds 2 Ukraine cities, says Kyiv's missiles hit Belgorod again

### REUTERS

KYIV, JANUARY 3

**Russia pounded** Ukraine's two biggest cities on Tuesday in a new wave of heavy air strikes that killed at least five civilians and prompted calls for the West to provide more military assistance.

Ukraine's Interior Ministry said 135 people had been injured in the latest missile and drone attacks, including 61 in and around Kharkiv and 17 in and around Kyiv. President Zelenskiy said rescue operations continued into the late evening as the assaults also caused widespread damage and hit power supplies.

Meanwhile, Ukraine launched 12 missiles and several drones in



Residents clear debris of a building destroyed after Russian attack in Kyiv on Wednesday. AP

the early hours of Wednesday on Russia's southern region of Belgorod, Russia's defence ministry and local authorities said.

Regional governor Vyacheslav Gladkov said the situation "continues to remain tense" in Belgorod.

## UK doctors' strike piles pressure on health service

### REUTERS

LONDON, JANUARY 3



JUNIOR DOCTORS in England started a six-day walkout over pay on Wednesday, the longest strike in the 75-year history of the state-run National Health Service (NHS), hitting patient care during a winter peak in demand.

As in other key sectors over the past year, junior doctors represented by the British Medical Association (BMA) have staged a series of walkouts to demand better pay in the face of soaring inflation. In a statement, the union

urged the government to make a "credible" pay offer to end the strikes, which threaten to increase the pressure on the health service, where more than 7.7 million on waiting lists seek treatment.

Cumulatively, the NHS, which has provided healthcare free at the point of use since it was founded in 1948, cancelled 1.2 million appointments since strikes began in 2023. The government, which has agreed new pay deals with other healthcare workers, including nurses and senior doctors in recent months, has resisted hikes it says would worsen inflation.

The BMA abandoned talks

with the government after being offered a pay rise of 8% to 10%, and held strikes from Dec. 20 to 23. The union is seeking a 35% improvement, which it says is needed to cover the impact of inflation over several years.

A spokesman for PM Rishi Sunak said Tuesday: "We have sought to come to a fair resolution - fair for the taxpayer, fair for hardworking doctors and health workers".

"We have achieved that in the majority of cases ... we are willing to have further discussions. But obviously the first thing to do is to stop striking."

## As flames surged, order prevailed inside the Japan Airlines plane

### MOTOKO RICH & HISAKO UENO

TOKYO, JANUARY 3

AS SMOKE filled the cabin of Japan Airlines Flight 516 after its fiery landing in Tokyo on Tuesday, the sound of a child's voice rose above the din of confusion. "Please, let us off quickly!" the child pleaded, politely, despite the fire washing over the passengers.

Even as the flames that would eventually engulf the JAL plane flickered outside the windows, order held. The attendants

evacuated all 367 passengers through the three exit doors, with no major injuries. Most left behind everything but the phones that would capture the harrowing scenes for the world.

While a number of factors aided what many have called a miracle at Haneda Airport — a well-trained crew of 12; a veteran pilot with 12,000 hours of flight experience — the relative absence of panic perhaps helped the most.

"Even though I heard screams, mostly people were calm and didn't stand up from their seats but kept sitting and waiting," said



Most passengers left behind everything but the phones that would capture the harrowing scenes for the world. AP

### AS PART OF RUSSIA WAR SANCTIONS

## EU TARGETS WORLD'S BIGGEST DIAMOND MINER

The European Union imposed sanctions on the world's biggest diamond mining company and its chief executive officer on Wednesday as part of what it called its "unwavering commitment" to Ukraine in the war against Russia. It targeted Alrosa, which accounts for about 90% of Russia's diamond production, and CEO Pavel Marinychev, who faces a travel ban to Europe. Alrosa's assets in Europe will be frozen. AP

## Over 100 killed in blasts near Soleimani's tomb; will respond, says Iran

### ASSOCIATED PRESS

DUBAI, JANUARY 3

TWO BOMBS exploded minutes apart Wednesday at a commemoration for a prominent Iranian general slain in a U.S. drone strike in 2020, officials in Iran said, killing at least 103 people as the Middle East remains on edge over Israel's war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for what appeared to be the deadliest militant attack to target Iran since its 1979 Islamic Revolution.

The blasts shook the city of Kerman, about 820 kilometers (510 miles) southeast of the capital, Tehran, and sent shrapnel hurtling into a screaming crowd fleeing the first explosion.

At least 211 people were wounded.

The gathering marked the fourth anniversary of the killing of General Qassem Soleimani, the head of the Revolutionary Guard's elite Quds Force, in a U.S. drone strike in Iraq.

The explosions occurred near his grave site as long lines of people gathered for the event.

Iranian state television and officials described the attacks as bombings, without immediately giving clear details of what happened. Authorities declared Thursday would be a national day of mourning.

Ahmad Vahidi, the interior minister, told state television that the first bomb detonated around 3 p.m., with the other going off some 20 minutes later. He said the second blast killed and wounded the most people.

Media shared appeared to correspond with officials' accounts, which said the first blast happened about 700 meters from Soleimani's grave in the Kerman



People at the site of explosion in Kerman on Wednesday. Reuters

### EXPLAINED

E

Houthi's seek to link blast to war in Gaza



WHILE IRAN'S top officials including Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and President Ibrahim Raisi vowed to respond harshly to the "cowardly act," a Houthi spokesman, Mohammed Abdelsalam, sought to link the blasts to Iran's "support for the resistance forces in Palestine and Lebanon". Though he did not specifically blame anyone for the attack, it raises serious concern considering the already violent situation in the region, with the war in Gaza feared to widen.

Martyrs Cemetery near a parking lot. The crowd then rushed west along Shohada, or Martyrs, Street, where the second blast struck about 1 kilometer from the grave.

Delayed second explosion is often used by militants to inflict more casualties to target emergency personnel responding.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said the attackers will face "a harsh response," though he didn't name any possible suspect.

Iranian President Ibrahim Raisi added: "Undoubtedly, the perpetrators and leaders of this cowardly act will soon be identified and punished."

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan offered his condolences over the "heinous attacks."

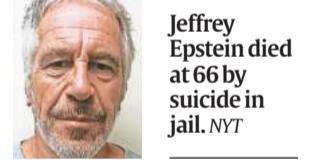
Iran has multiple foes who could be behind the assault, including exile groups, militant organizations and state actors.

While Israel has carried out attacks in Iran over its nuclear program, it has not conducted mass casualty bombings. Sunni extremist groups including the Islamic State have conducted attacks that killed civilians in Iran, though not in relatively peaceful Kerman. The city and province of the same name sits in Iran's central desert plateau.

Pak poll body charges Imran, former aide in contempt case

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ISLAMABAD, JANUARY 3



Jeffrey Epstein died at 66 by suicide in jail. NYT

since paid out about \$150 million in settlements to more than 125 women.

It is in connection with a defamation lawsuit against Ms. Maxwell that the documents are being released.

That lawsuit was brought by one of Epstein's and Maxwell's victims, Virginia Giuffre. Previously, many of the names in other court documents or in news reports as having been associated with Epstein.

A longtime friend of powerful people, Epstein was accused of preying on girls as young as 14, bringing them to his homes and paying them for sex acts. He died at 66 by suicide in jail in 2019, before he could stand trial in Manhattan, but his associate Ghislaine Maxwell was convicted in 2021 of conspiring with him and sentenced to 20 years in prison. Epstein's estate has

been in connection with a defamation lawsuit against Ms. Maxwell that the documents are being released.

Multiple news reports have said that former President Bill Clinton will be among those named, a fact conservative commentators have jumped on,

though there is no indication that it will be in connection with allegations of wrongdoing, and Ms. Giuffre has not accused Mr. Clinton of any misconduct.

The two leaders were indicted on the charges of insulting the electoral body and the chief election commissioner. Both were present in the courtroom when the charges were read and they denied the allegations mentioned in the charge sheet.

After the indictment, the panel adjourned the hearing on the contempt case till January 16.

## WHILE MANY FACTORS INCLUDING WELL-TRAINED CREW HELPED THE MIRACULOUS SAVE, RELATIVE ABSENCE OF PANIC HELPED THE MOST

## As flames surged, order prevailed inside the Japan Airlines plane

Aruto Iwama, a passenger, to *The Guardian*. "That's why I think we were able to escape smoothly."

In video footage of the JAL plane's landing, it appeared to be lined in flames as it plunged down the runway, making it difficult to believe anyone could have made it off the flight unscathed.

Yet the JAL plane's survival defied expectations. The fact that passengers did not stop to retrieve carry-on luggage or otherwise slow down the exit was "really critical," she added.

Yasuhito Imai, 63, a passenger, said: "Despite some crying children, we were able to evacuate almost without panic."

### TRANSCRIPT POINTS TO MISCOMMUNICATION

Tokyo: Japanese authorities said Wednesday that the passenger jet that collided with a Coast Guard aircraft was given permission to land, but the smaller one was not cleared for take-off, based on transcripts of conversations with the control tower. Probe has only begun and there is uncertainty over the circumstances of the incident. REUTERS

## BUSINESS AS USUAL

BY UNNY  
BJP, please note, Ally Shinde is mimicking you.

## INSIDE

AAP: ED MAY RAID KEJRIWAL HOUSE TODAY, ARREST HIM

SOMETIMES, EXILE HAPPENS WHEN A CORONATION SEEKS IMMINENT: SHIVRAJ

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INVESTIGATE SHORT SELLERS, INCLUDING HINDENBURG: CJI BENCH

**SC rejects pleas for court-monitored CBI probe into allegations against Adani firms**

Truth has prevailed, contribution to growth story will continue, says Adani

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

THE SUPREME COURT on Wednesday rejected demands for a court-monitored probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation or a Special Investigation Team (SIT) into allegations raised against the Adani Group companies by US-based short seller Hindenburg Research in a January 2023 report.

The Court also asked the

Centre to probe "the loss which has been sustained by Indian investors as a result of the volatility caused by the short positions taken by Hindenburg Research and any other entities acting in concert with Hindenburg Research" and "enquire into whether there was any infraction of law by the entities, which engaged in short-selling on this occasion".

Disposing a batch of four petitions filed in the wake of the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**Tiger zinda hai: Big cat's return brings hope in Bengal reserve**RAVIK BHATTACHARYA  
KOLKATA, JANUARY 3

TWO YEARS ago, a fleeting glimpse of a tiger gave way to disappointment in West Bengal's Buxa National Park, as the big cat was not to be seen again.

Then, on December 28, forest officials got an early New Year's gift as one of the camera traps in the national park captured a tiger crossing a dry riverbed. And three days later, on December 31, the tiger was captured at night, on a different camera.

The previous sighting, on December 12, 2021, was after 23 years of the big cat going missing from the tiger reserve. Experts



Caught on camera trap on December 28



are now hopeful that the tiger has returned for good, and what could follow is relocation of villages from inside the core area.

Experts say an increase in its

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**Apni khushiyon ko roz thoda samay dena hai zindagi ki SIP****Zindagi ke liye SIP**

Adhik jaankari ke liye apne MFD/RIA se sampark karen ya scan karen

**SIP ke fayde**

Market ki timing se azadi



Nivesh raashi chunne ki azadi

**An Investor Education and Awareness Initiative****SIP - Systematic Investment Plan.** Visit <https://www.hdfcfund.com/information/key-know-how> to know more about the process to complete a one-time Know Your Customer (KYC) requirement to invest in Mutual Funds. Investors should only deal with registered Mutual Funds, details of which can be verified on the SEBI website ([www.sebi.gov.in/intermediaries.html](http://www.sebi.gov.in/intermediaries.html)). For any queries, complaints & grievance redressal, investors may reach out to the AMCs and / or Investor Relations Officers. Additionally, investors may also lodge complaints directly with the AMCs, if they are unsatisfied with the resolutions given by the AMCs they may raise complaint through the SCORES portal on <https://scores.gov.in>. SCORES portal facilitates investors to lodge complaint online with SEBI and subsequently view its status. In case the investor is not satisfied with the resolution of the complaints raised directly with the AMCs or through the SCORES portal, they may file any complaint on the Smart ODR on <https://smartodr.in/login>.**Mutual Fund investments are subject to market risks, read all scheme related documents carefully.**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Thrissur, Kerala. PTI

**What Sebi is probing: 12 foreign portfolio investors, short sellers**ANANTHAKRISHNAN G  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

THE TWO aspects of the Hindenburg Research allegations against the Adani Group which market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India is still probing are: ownership of 12 Foreign Portfolio Investors

EXPLAINED

(FPIs) who hold stake in the companies of the group; and short sellers in Adani shares during January 18-31 last year (around the time of the release of the Hindenburg report).

Refusing to hand over the probe into allegations of the Hindenburg report on Adani Group to a SIT, the Supreme Court asked SEBI to continue with its investigations and complete the

probe within three months.

Last August, SEBI had told the Supreme Court that it is gathering details pertaining to "economic interest shareholders" of 12 FPIs which are public shareholders of the Adani Group companies. This investigation is being conducted by the regulator to find out if there has been a violation of Section 19A of the Securities

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**DEMOLITION MAN**

Mohammed Siraj's 6/15 helped India bowl out South Africa for 55 in the first innings of the Cape Town Test. After India managed 153, South Africa were 62/3 at stumps. Reuters

REPORT, PAGE 17

EXPRESS NETWORK

**SC DENIES INTERIM RELIEF TO MAHUA, NEXT HEARING IN MARCH PAGE 5**NAYONIKA BOSE & ZEESHAN SHAIKH  
KALYAN, JANUARY 3

A DAY after Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said that he is committed to the "liberation" of the centuries-old Haji Malang Dargah, which right-wing groups claim is a temple, the off-grid shrine in Thane dis-



The Haji Malang Dargah in Thane district. Deepak Joshi

trict was on Wednesday abuzz with activity – but not because of the storm building around it.

Located on the lowest plateau of Malanggad, a hill fort 3,000 feet above sea level on the Matheran hill ranges, the dargah is preparing for the death anniversary of Haji Abd-ul-Rahman, a 12th century Sufi saint from Yemen who is known

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**Temple claim for political mileage, says dargah's 14th-generation Hindu trustee**

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**HDFC****MUTUAL FUND****BHAROSA APNO KA**

# Kundu to stay Himachal DGP as SC stays HC order to shift him

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

THE SUPREME Court on Wednesday stayed the December 26, 2023, order of the Himachal Pradesh High Court to shift the state police chief Sanjay Kundu from the post to ensure a fair probe into a businessman's complaint about a threat to his life.

A three-judge bench presided by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud noted that the HC is set to hear the matter again on January 4 and said Kundu could approach the HC with an application to recall the December 26 order.

Asking the HC to dispose of the recall application within 2 weeks, the bench, also comprising Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, ordered that "till the recall application is disposed of, the direction for the transfer of the peti-

tioner out of the post of Director General of Police, Himachal Pradesh shall remain stayed".

Senior Advocate Mukul Rohatgi, who appeared for the IPS officer, informed the court that on January 2, 2024, Kundu "has, in compliance with the order of the High Court, been posted as Principal Secretary (Ayush), Government of Himachal Pradesh". Taking note, the SC said in its order that "since the above posting (as Principal Secretary (Ayush)) is in pursuance of the impugned order of the High Court, we also direct that pending the disposal of the recall application, no steps shall be taken to enforce the order dated 02 January 2024".

Rohatgi contended that the HC had passed the order, directing Kundu's transfer, without him being impleaded in the suo motu proceedings or being given an opportunity of being heard to rebut the allegations made

against him through an email by the complainant.

The Himachal Pradesh HC had in its December 26 order directed the state government to shift Kundu and Kangra SP Shalini Agnihotri so that they don't influence a probe into a comprehensive investigation... no apparent regulatory failure can be attributed to SEBI based on the material before this Court. Therefore, there is prima facie no deliberate inaction or inadequacy in the investigation by SEBI."

"The Hon'ble Supreme Court's judgement shows that: Truth has prevailed. Satyameva Jayate," Gautam Adani, Chairman, Adani Group, said on social media platform 'X'. "Our humble contribution to India's growth story will continue," he said.

The Bench said, "SEBI's wide powers, coupled with its expertise and robust information-gathering mechanism, lend a high level of credibility to its decisions as a regulatory, adjudicatory and prosecuting agency."

Referring to the impact of short selling on the stock market, the Bench, also comprising Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, cited the International Organisation of Securities Commission recommendation that short selling be regulated but not prohibited with an aim to increase transparency. It recorded Solicitor General Tushar Mehta's statement that measures to regu-

## FROM PAGE ONE ■ FULL REPORTS ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

# SC rejects pleas for CBI probe into allegations against Adani Group

Hindenburg Research report, a three-judge bench presided by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud said, "SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) has prime facie conducted a comprehensive investigation... no apparent regulatory failure can be attributed to SEBI based on the material before this Court. Therefore, there is prima facie no deliberate inaction or inadequacy in the investigation by SEBI."

Short selling refers to the practice of selling shares without owning them. Short sellers take a view that share prices will fall. They borrow shares to sell, and later on purchase the same shares at a lower price, and profit from the transaction.

Hearing the petitions, the SC had in March 2023 asked SEBI to continue the probe initiated by it in the wake of Hindenburg report and to examine "whether there was any manipulation of stock prices in contravention of existing laws" and whether Rule 19(A) of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules 1957 mandating a minimum 25 percent public shareholding was flouted.

Status reports filed by the SEBI thereafter were challenged by some petitioners on grounds including delay. But the SC noted that SEBI had submitted a "comprehensive" report on August 25, 2023 providing details about all the investigations carried out by it. "Therefore, there is a delay of only ten days in filing the report", the court said adding that "such a delay does not prima facie indicate deliberate inaction by SEBI, particularly, as the issue involved a complex investigation in coordination with various agencies, both domestic and foreign".

The judgement pointed out that SEBI has completed 22 out of the 24 investigations into the Adani group and the remaining two are pending due to inputs being awaited from foreign regulators.

The judgement also termed "allegations of conflict of interest against" some of the "members of the Expert Committee... unsubstantiated and... rejected" them.

Some petitioners had relied on a report published by Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP) and various newspaper reports that referred to the OCCRP report, to suggest that SEBI was lackadaisical in conducting the investigation.

Rejecting this, the Bench said the "petitioner's case appears to rest solely on inferences from the report by the OCCRP". Such reports by "independent" groups or investigative pieces by newspapers may act as inputs before SEBI or the Expert Committee. However, they cannot be relied on as conclusive proof", it said.

The petitioners also relied on a January 31, 2014, sent by the DRI to the then SEBI Chairman purporting to alert SEBI "about inter alia potential stock market manipulation by the Adani group through over-valuation of the import of power equipment from a UAE-based subsidiary". The issue had already been settled by concurrent findings of the DRI's Additional Director General, the Customs, Excise and Service Tax Appellate Tribunal (CESTAT) and the SC itself and that the petitioners were only re-agitating it, the judgement said.

changes".

SEBI, in its response, however said it faced no disability in its investigation into the Adani Group due to the FPI Regulation changes. The challenge to obtaining information on FPIs "arises due to differing regulations in jurisdictions where entities with economic interest in an FPI operate", it said.

The ambiguity lies in beneficial ownership identification, which is based on control or ownership in some jurisdictions, potentially overlooking entities with economic interest but no apparent control. Consequently, investment managers or trustees, utilising arrangements like voting shares, may be recognised as beneficial owners, leading to a potential failure in identifying the actual investing entities with economic interest, especially when holdings are distributed across multiple FPIs", SEBI said.

Finding merit in the SEBI's submissions, the Bench said, "No valid grounds have been raised... to direct SEBI to revoke its amendments to the FPI Regulations and the LODR Regulations which were made in exercise of its delegated legislative power. The procedure followed in arriving at the current shape of the regulations does not suffer from irregularity or illegality. The FPI Regulations and LODR Regulations have been tightened by the amendments in question."

They contended that "the amendments to the two regulations amount to regulatory failure on the part of SEBI and... accordingly prayed that SEBI be directed to revoke the amendments to the FPI Regulations and LODR Regulations or make suitable

in which the ruling CPM in Kerala and Opposition Congress are partners, Modi said both parties have ruled the state for long. "They are two parties only in name. They are united in corruption, crime and family rule. By forming INDIA alliance, they have declared that there is no ideological difference, no difference in policies of the two parties. People of Kerala have realised that if there is any party that can ensure Kerala's development, it is the BJP, the NDA. In Kerala, the BJP will defeat the Left, the Congress, the INDIA alliance."

The BJP-led NDA government, he said, not only ensured that women's reservation became law but also gave "Muslim sisters freedom from triple talaq". He said these were "Modi's guarantee".

The BJPs led NDA government, the Prime Minister said, only "four castes" matter and it has been working for their development: the country's poor, youth, farmers and women.

Referring to the INDIA bloc,

in which the ruling CPM in Kerala and Opposition Congress are partners, Modi said both parties have ruled the state for long. "They are two parties only in name. They are united in corruption, crime and family rule. By forming INDIA alliance, they have declared that there is no ideological difference, no difference in policies of the two parties. People of Kerala have realised that if there is any party that can ensure Kerala's development, it is the BJP, the NDA. In Kerala, the BJP will defeat the Left, the Congress, the INDIA alliance."

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in which the ruling CPM in Kerala and Opposition Congress are partners, Modi said both parties have ruled the state for long. "They are two parties only in name. They are united in corruption, crime and family rule. By forming INDIA alliance, they have declared that there is no ideological difference, no difference in policies of the two parties. People of Kerala have realised that if there is any party that can ensure Kerala's development, it is the BJP, the NDA. In Kerala, the BJP will defeat the Left, the Congress, the INDIA alliance."

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# THE CITY

PWD removes shrine, temple from Rani Jhansi Road

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

AS PART of its ongoing drive against encroachments, the Public Works Department (PWD) has demolished two religious structures — a temple and a mazaar (shrine) — situated on Rani Jhansi Road. The shrine was on the PWD road right of way and was creating hindrance for pedestrians movement, according to a notice issued by the department earlier this week.

The PWD did not respond to calls and messages seeking comment.

According to the PWD notice to the mazaar on January 1: "It is noticed that the above mentioned property (has been) identified as infringing in PWD road right of way... This encroachment creates hindrance in pedestrian movement... It is requested to remove the unauthorised encroachment from the PWD land latest by January 2, 2024, from your end otherwise (it) shall be removed by government authority without further notice."

Meanwhile, police confirmed the demolition. DCP (Central) Sanjay Kumar Sain said the demolition drive started around 4 am and ended at 8 am Wednesday, adding two companies of police personnel were deployed to assist PWD officials.

"There were structures — a temple and a mazaar," said another police officer.

Naturally, a demolition and anti-encroachment drive has been underway for the past few months to remove encroachments from roadsides and footpaths to prevent traffic jams.

**After truckers, taxi drivers now protest in Delhi against new law**

SAMAN HUSAIN  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

A DAY after the truck drivers' nationwide protest against a new penal provision in hit-and-run cases caused panic buying of fuel in several states, associations of taxi drivers took to the streets in the national capital Wednesday and staged protests despite assurances received from the Home Ministry Tuesday.

Hundreds of transporters reached the protest site at Jantar Mantar to express objections to the newly proposed section in the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita bill. As per the new clause, an individual could face a maximum penalty of 10 years if they flee the scene of an accident.

The protest was attended by multiple transport unions, including the Delhi Auto Taxi Transport Congress, All Drivers' Kalyan, Safety Driver Sangathan from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, All Driver Kalyan Sangh, Maharashtra Rickshaw Panchal, and All India Auto Taxi Transport Sangathan.

"We will not get back to work until the government officially withdraws the law, we have families to support and some of us have kids aged 2-3 years old, neither do we have Rs 10 lakh to pay as penalties," Parvez Alam, a commercial vehicle driver present at the protest, said.

"A black law has been made on the drivers.. due to which an

## 3 MEN, INCLUDING HOTEL OWNER, ARRESTED

# Out on bail in fake encounter case of Haryana gangster, former model killed in Gurgaon hotel

AISWARYA RAJ  
GURGAON, JANUARY 3



(L-R) The three accused Abhijeet Singh, Omprakash, and Hemraj; (left) CCTV footage showed two men purportedly carrying a body wrapped in a blanket around 10.44 pm Tuesday

his photos from her phone, said police.

However, when Pahuja refused to disclose her phone's password, Singh shot her, said police.

Singh then, along with Hemraj and Omprakash, placed Pahuja's body in his BMW car. Subsequently, Singh summoned two more accomplices, handed over his car to them, and instructed them to dispose of the body, police said, adding they are looking for the duo.

Pahuja was arrested on July 14, 2016, along with her mother Sonia and officials of Haryana Police who were accused of killing Gadoli in the fake encounter. She was granted bail by the Mumbai High Court in June last year. Police claimed Pahuja was accompanying Gadoli to Mumbai and, through her mother, was passing on information about him to the Haryana Police.

According to ACP (City) Mukesh Kumar, Pahuja's family alleged she had gone to meet Singh Tuesday following which her phone was unreachable.

Police checked CCTV footage at the hotel and registered a case at Sector 14 police station on the complaint of her sister. CCTV footage showed two men purportedly carrying a body wrapped in a blanket around 10.44 pm on Tuesday.

A resident of Baldev Nagar, Naina stated that when she went to the hotel, she saw Pahuja's belongings, such as her debit and PAN cards, shoes and a ring in the room where she was staying. "We are trying to locate the body

of the victim, and it seems like the accused has tried to destroy evidence," said the ACP.

The case has been transferred to the crime branch team at sector 17. "We are checking with Hisar police to see if Singh has any criminal antecedents," an official said.

The accused and the victim met around three months ago, police said.

During preliminary questioning, Singh told police that he had been running City Point Hotel on lease. Recently, Pahuja had allegedly demanded a substantial amount from Singh and the latter had called her to his hotel to convince her to delete

## Divya wanted to study law, 'not go back to prison again'

SADAF MODAK  
MUMBAI, JANUARY 3

DIVYA PAHUJA, 27, who was shot dead in a Gurgaon hotel on Tuesday months after she was released on bail in a case of an alleged fake encounter of gangster Sandeep Gadoli in Mumbai in 2016, was only 18 when she was arrested by the Mumbai police on July 14, 2016. She was granted bail in June 2023 by the Bombay High Court on the ground that she had spent six years in jail and the trial will take time to conclude.

A first-year BCom student in Gurgaon at the time of her arrest, Pahuja also worked as a model. In the chargesheet filed by the police in September 2016, it was alleged that Pahuja was giving information through code words to her mother, Sonia, also arrested in the case.

Pahuja was arrested on July 14, 2016, along with her mother Sonia and officials of Haryana Police who were accused of killing Gadoli in the fake encounter. She was granted bail by the Mumbai High Court in June last year. Police claimed Pahuja was accompanying Gadoli to Mumbai and, through her mother, was passing on information about him to the Haryana Police.



Divya Pahuja

transcript.

Pahuja was lodged in Byculla women's jail from 2016 till her release on bail in 2023.

A teenager once hooked on to social media, Pahuja often spoke about how she felt that life had come to a standstill for her, while others her age were moving on.

During a hearing in August 2017, Pahuja broke down before the court and said that she was stuck between police and a gangster, and that the jail time was taking a toll on her mental health.

Speaking to *The Indian Express* after her release, Pahuja had said that she was most affected about being an accused when she was asked to strip for a search while entering jail. She said that while authorities ensured she got access

to a hospital, being incarcerated had taken a toll on her physical and mental health, adding that it was the loss of dignity in jail that affected her most. While in jail, she was often visited by her younger sister, who was in school at the time of the arrest.

Pahuja's co-inmates in jail included former media executive Indrani Mukerjea. They, along with other inmates, were part of a protest in 2017 demanding action against prison officials for allegedly assaulting a convict, who later died. Pahuja had also complained of being assaulted by prison officials in 2018 but in 2022, she herself faced allegations of bullying and running a prison gang by another inmate.

In January 2023, Pahuja moved an application for pleabargaining stating she wanted to accept the guilt of having passed on information to police about Gadoli, "in order to save her family as he had threatened to kidnap her father and sister". A few days later, she withdrew the plea stating she had filed it under duress due to her "state of mind".

After her release, Pahuja said she was getting used to living outside the jail. "I read a lot of books on law to understand my case better. It has left me interested in the profession. I will enroll to study law soon," Pahuja had said.

## HEALTH MINISTER FLAGS LACK OF FUNDS FOR FARISHTEY SCHEME

# 'Denied treatment' at 4 govt hospitals, man who jumped out of a moving PCR van dies

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

Miya Khan said a joint team of Beta 2 and Ecotech 1 police stations raided factories associated with Kana Tuesday. "During the raids at Shri Krishna Steels and Prime Processing Tools Private Limited, two trucks laden with scrap, 20 empty trucks, 2 tractors, 3 motorcycles, 10 computers with printers, and other items were sealed. The estimated value of the sealed scrap material and other items is around Rs 100 crore. The other accused in the case will be arrested soon," said Khan.

Kana was once associated with gangster Anil Dujana and used to do illegal scrap business for the latter. But the two had a fallout weeks before Dujana was killed in an encounter with UP Police last May.

Incidentally, Kana was given police security after his brother, Harendra Pradhan, was shot dead in Greater Noida in February 2015. "After investigation, his security was removed on July 25, 2023," said Ashok Kumar ADCP (Greater Noida).

Officials said Kana's gang would stop trucks heading to construction sites and, in collusion with the drivers, unload rebar at a select location. "They reaped undue financial benefits by selling rebar at the market price to traders. They would also bag contracts for scrap material at the desired rate by threatening owners of establishments," said a senior police officer.

Bharadwaj also said that the Farishtey scheme been fully functional in Delhi, the man could have been taken to a nearby private hospital, having

requisite medical services. "This issue has been raised by me several times that due to non-payment of bills of private hospitals amounting to crores, they are now reluctant to admit road accident victims under the Farishtey scheme, wherein they are mandated to provide cashless treatment," he said.

The AAP government has alleged that funds are not being released for the scheme.

### What transpired

According to police, they received a PCR call on January 2 at 9.03 pm wherein the caller stated that a man in an inebriated condition was causing a ruckus. A police team reached the spot and found the caller, a 21-year-old woman, who alleged that the man, Pramod, had molested and abused her. Police took him into custody.

A senior police officer said two personnel were in the vehicle at the time. Just as they were about to reach the police station, Pramod, sitting in the rear seat, opened the window and jumped out. He was rushed to hospital after hospital — four in total — but was denied treatment at all allegedly due to a lack of facilities. The man eventually succumbed to his injuries.

Following the incident, Health Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj Wednesday sought a response from three Delhi government hospitals involved. "It has been brought to my notice by a media query that a victim of a road accident was allegedly refused admission by three Delhi government hospitals namely, GTB Hospital, JPC Hospital & Lok Nayak Hospital and one central government hospital namely, RML Hospital. The patient was not provided timely emergency medical treatment and succumbed to his injuries," he said.

Bharadwaj also said that the Farishtey scheme been fully functional in Delhi, the man could have been taken to a nearby private hospital, having

As a CT scan was unavailable at the latter, he could not be admitted there and was referred to Lok Nayak Hospital, police said. "However, because of the unavailability of ICU ventilator beds, he could not be admitted there too," said DCP (Northeast) Joy Tirkey.

The man was then taken to the RML Hospital but authorities allegedly denied him admission.

"The man was brought back to JPC Hospital where he was declared dead at 5.45 am. A medical board has been constituted to conduct the post-mortem," added the DCP.

According to officials at GTB Hospital, the CT scan machine is non-functional and repairs have been initiated on an urgent basis. "In the meantime, arrangements for an emergency CT scan is in place wherein a team from the Radiology department is sent to Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality Hospital," said an official.

A senior official from Lok Nayak hospital said ventilator beds are not available most times but other hospitals should have escorted the man after contacting the administration.

JPC and RML hospital authorities remained unavailable for comment.

Pramod is survived by his wife and three children.

## FONDLY REMEMBERED BY FORMER COLLEAGUES FOR 'CHARISMATIC PERSONALITY, OUT-OF-THE-BOX THINKING'

# Prof Uberoi, instrumental in establishing Sociology discipline in India, dies

ARJUN SENGUPTA & MALLICA JOSHI  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

AN "ECCENTRIC" yet charismatic figure, a sociologist who insisted on theorising not from the point of view of an Indian scholar but a global thinker, and an inspiration for his students — JPS Uberoi, who taught at Delhi School of Economics for three decades, passed away at 90 Wednesday.

"He was a charismatic figure... as a teacher, he had a way of pointing things out that completely arrested you. And

he could do that because of his original way of thinking, totally at odds from the received wisdom and conventional thinking that one is used to... He was brilliant at taking what seemed to be self-evident, and completely shredding it apart. And making you do the job of figuring out what to replace it with," said sociologist Amita Baviskar.

Baviskar was his student between 1986 and 1988 and a colleague 1994 onwards, when she started teaching at D-School.

"Indian Sociology... was very much a product of post-

colonial thinking, that we need to understand our own society, as it changes and modernises... But, at the same time, it led to what has been called Indian exceptionalism... He was unique in that, from the very beginning, until his work on Sikhism in the 1980s and beyond, he did not work on India at all. His attitude was, 'I might be Indian in origin but my work should address classical questions in anthropology'." Baviskar added.

A stalwart instrumental in establishing the discipline of Sociology in India, Uberoi was born in Lahore in 1934 and stud-



JPS Uberoi taught at Delhi School of Economics for three decades

ied at the University College, London, and University of Manchester, returning to India in the late 1960s.

His colleague of many years, Rajni Palriwala recalls the several discussions the two had over a cup of coffee or in some departmental activity.

"I never really knew him as a teacher, but could imagine what it was like for the connections he made took you out of the box. Our offices were next to each other for several years. Our approaches were different and we would get into arguments often. But I would leave knowing there was something

I had to think about..." she said.

"He was not an easy person but what was amazing was the way he made you think and how he would think with you... Every department trying to make good its intellectual claims needs a mad professor and he was ours," she said.

Palriwala believes the depth of creativity and contribution in Uberoi's sociological and intellectual work have not been sufficiently recognised. "It may be partly because he questioned so many dominant paradigms, he did not let you stay in your comfort zone, he made it a point to provoke. I also must say that I

don't know how much of what he accomplished would have been possible without his wife, Patricia, who has also been an intellectual companion," she said.

Professor Satish Deshpande, who also worked with Professor Uberoi, said, "He was one for the few anthropologists with field-work outside India. His very important work in Afghanistan is an example of that."

Deshpande further said, "He was very inspirational for his students and spent a lot of time with them. He was completely dedicated to the institution and teaching. He also had a lovely sense of humour and the ability

to laugh at himself."

Baviskar, meanwhile, spoke about Uberoi's ability to think about how two opposing things would come together. "He took us on a walk through the walled city of Shahjahanabad.. he had this remarkable way of seeing the city. It wasn't how a historian would take you around... he made you aware of how the city of Shahjahanabad nested between the hills of the Ridge, and the river Yamuna. He used the structuralist approach to great effect, showing how opposing things came together to create a unity in diversity," she said.



## BRIEFLY

**GOA**  
UK woman's body found near Goa church

Panaji: A woman (46) from the UK was found dead in Agonda in South Goa's Canacona on Tuesday night, said police, adding that the deceased has been identified as Emma Louise. Some local residents spotted the woman's body lying on the compound wall of a church in Agonda near the beach and informed the Canacona police around 8 pm on Tuesday. South Goa Superintendent of Police Abhishek Dhania said, "We have registered a case of unnatural death. Inquest proceedings are underway." **ENS**

**UTTAR PRADESH**  
Man arrested over 'divisive' online post

Lucknow: The Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) of UP Police arrested a man from Jhansi for his allegedly "divisive and inflammatory" post on the Babri mosque-Ram Temple issue on X. The accused has been identified as Jibran Makrani (24), said police. "The post said 'revenge for Babri mosque will be taken, and Ram Temple will be destroyed'... It was clear that the man intended to disturb communal harmony..." said a statement by the UP police, adding that he later deleted the post. **ENS**

**KARNATAKA**  
10th pass poses as 'Lokayukta officer', held

Bengaluru: The Central Crime Branch (CCB) in Bengaluru has arrested a man (31) for posing as a 'Lokayukta officer' and extorting money from over 60 government officials in Karnataka, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh since 2019. The accused – identified as Srinath Reddy, a resident of Bagepalli in Chikkaballapura district – is a 10th pass, said CCB on Tuesday. His arrest came after Ramdas, a government official, filed a police complaint after receiving an extortion call from Reddy. **ENS**

**NEW DELHI**  
EC to visit TN, Andhra Pradesh

New Delhi: The Election Commission of India is set to visit Tamil Nadu (with 39 Lok Sabha seats) and Andhra Pradesh (25) next week, marking the beginning of the three-member panel's review of election preparedness across the country. Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar and Election Commissioners Arun Goel and Anup Chandra Pandey are scheduled to visit Tamil Nadu on January 7 and 8, and Andhra on January 9 and 10, said a source. **ENS**

**ANAND MOHAN J**  
BHOPAL, JANUARY 3

THREE CUBS were born to the Namibian cheetah Aasha at Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh's Sheopur district, wildlife officials said Wednesday.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) Aseem Shrivastava told *The Indian Express*, "Aasha is currently in a larger enclosure and is being monitored by a team. She is totally wild in nature and is taking care of the cubs. We had our suspicions that she may have been pregnant; it was confirmed today after photographic evidence."

The cheetah arrived in Kuno on September 17, 2022 in a crate marked "Aasha – The Hope". It is said to be a confident animal that has travelled over 200 km after

being released into the wild in March last year.

Wildlife officials had suspected in the beginning of the project that Aasha was pregnant after an interaction with a male cheetah, Pawan, on February 1 last year. Both remained together till March 11, but Aasha did not deliver any cubs, officials said.

The cheetah has also given the wildlife monitoring team a fair bit of trouble in the past – after it ventured into Shivpuri district, a team which tracked it down to a village was attacked by angry villagers who mistook them for dacoits.

Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav took to social media to break the news: "Thrilled to share that Kuno National Park has welcomed three new members. The cubs have

among the guests. The event is representative of the entire country," VHP president Alok Kumar told *The Indian Express*.

The guest list, which includes 4,000 saints and around 2,500 eminent persons, was prepared in a manner to ensure all sections of the Hindu society, especially the marginalised ones, are adequately represented, sources said.

The VHP's plan dovetails into the RSS's "samajik samrasta (social harmony)" campaign which was launched last year to counter the Opposition's narrative around caste census. With the Opposition falling back on "Mandal" to take the BJP on, the Sangh is aggressively pushing "Kamandal" to create a narrative of disparate castes in the Hindu society being one.

"More than 150 communities will be represented from every district in the country. The list includes a large number of saints from the Dalit and tribal communities. Apart from them, 10 people from the poorest families, who live in huts but contributed Rs 100 for the Ram Mandir Nidhi and workers who constructed the temple are also

VHP spokesperson Vinod Bansal said, "When the Shila puja for the Ram temple was being discussed (in 1984), everyone thought either Jagatguru Shankaracharya or (late international working president of the VHP) Ashokji (Singhal) would

perform it. However, Ashokji refused and it was performed by a person from the community for which Lord Ram fought for 14 years. Hence, Kameshwar Chaupalji was chosen," he said. Chaupal, a Dalit VHP leader, was also picked to lay the foundation stone for the temple in November 1989 at the then disputed site.

"Though we do not divide

saints on the basis of caste, we

have to ensure that every com-

munity, region and language is

represented as we talk of uni-

versality of the event..." he said.

The list of eminent personali-

ties was also drawn up with the

aim to ensure representation of

as many professions as possible

and includes politicians, artists,

poets, sportspersons, etc. "Among

the Padma awardees, care was

taken to pick invitees from among

those who are considered to have

faith in Ram," he said.

The VHP also has elaborate

plans to create a national fervour

surrounding the inauguration of

the temple. According to VHP

leaders, an akshat (sacred rice) distribution campaign has already been launched to reach out to Hindus across the world while Sangh workers have fanned out across the country to ensure people from all towns and villages gather in nearby temples to perform an aarti at 12.20 pm on January 22, the same time as PM Narendra Modi participates in the Pran Prathista in Ayodhya.

The VHP has roped in Residents' Welfare Associations (RWAs), vyapar mandals and other groups to assist it in the installation of 5 lakh LED screens in temples to enable people to watch the ceremony live. "We have also asked bigger temples to subsidise smaller ones. We are ensuring people of a village, across caste lines, gather in one temple. This will strengthen mandir samitis," Bansal said. VHP leaders say this is an extension of the Sangh's "one village, one temple, one cremation ground and one well" campaign.

**FULL REPORT**

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

## BABRI DEMOLITION-LINKED VIOLENCE CASE

## Karnataka CM slams BJP for protest over 'kar sevak' arrest

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
BENGALURU, JANUARY 3

PROTESTING THE arrest of a party worker and "kar sevak" in a 1992 case linked to Babri Masjid demolition violence in the state, a delegation of Karnataka BJP leaders Wednesday submitted a memorandum to Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, seeking his intervention in the alleged targeting of BJP activists by the Congress government.

Hitting back, the Congress government alleged that the BJP was supporting a "criminal suspect". Srikanth Poojary, 60, was arrested on December 29, 2023 by the Hubballi police in connection with a case registered in Hubballi on December 24, 1992. Poojary filed a bail application in a Hubballi court Wednesday.

The BJP's leader of the opposition in the Assembly R Ashoka and deputy leader of opposition and Dharwad MLA Arvind Bellad were among those taken under preventive custody as they marched towards the office of the Hubballi-Dharwad police commissioner Renuka Sukumar.

Ashoka said the party will intensify its agitation in the city till the case against Poojary is withdrawn and he is released. The BJP demanded that the police inspector, who arrested Poojary, be suspended. "... Srikanth Poojary was in his 20s at the time of the Ram



Karnataka BJP chief B Y Vijayendra, MPP C Mohan and party leaders during a protest in Bengaluru, Wednesday. PTI

Mandir-Babri Masjid demolition. While the Hubballi Dharwad police commissioner has labelled it a routine police procedure there are apprehensions this is a clear attempt to harass BJP activists..." BJP Karnataka president B Y Vijayendra, who led the party's protest in Bengaluru, said in the memorandum to the Governor.

"They (BJP) are desperately clinging to the arrest of a criminal suspect in Hubballi to lead their baseless charge. BJP leaders need to understand that assigning caste and religious labels to criminals is extremely dangerous," Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah said.

Apart from arson and rioting, Poojary was an accused in nine cases involving illicit sale of liquor, was under preventive arrest thrice and was also an accused in a gambling case, according to the CMO.

On Wednesday Shivakumar said he had not received any notices from the Lokayukta. **ENS**

**Karnataka refers**  
**Dy CM's DA case**  
**to state Lokayukta**

**Bengaluru:** The Karnataka government, which had withdrawn CBI sanction given by the previous BJP government to investigate a corruption charges against deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, has now referred the case to the Karnataka Lokayukta.

The Congress government has written to the Karnataka Lokayukta to probe into allegations of accumulation of disproportionate assets against Shivakumar following I-T and ED cases from 2016-2019, government sources said.

On Wednesday Shivakumar said he had not received any notices from the Lokayukta. **ENS**

**Karnataka chief killing: NIA raids 31 places, 1 more held**

revealed his suspicious role in the case and his association with notorious gangster Rohit Godara, an accused who had allegedly motivated the 2 shooters to murder Gogamedi," the spokesperson said.

Gogamedi, along with another person, was killed and two persons were injured in a daylight shootout at his Shyam Nagar residence in Jaipur on December 5. One of the injured also succumbed to injuries later.

The case, originally registered by the Rajasthan Police, was taken over by the NIA on December 11.

According to the NIA, two armed assailants – Rohit Rathore of Jhotwara in Jaipur and Nitin Fauji of Dogra Jatt from Mahendragarh in Haryana

shot Gogamedi, triggering widespread protests and outrage in Rajasthan last month. One Naveen Shekhwat died on the spot during the firing and later Ajeeet Singh, one of the two injured, succumbed to injuries. Both Rathore and Fauji were arrested on December 9 from Chandigarh.

"Sustained interrogation of the arrested accused and suspects revealed the involvement of hardcore criminals and members of organised criminal gangs based out of Haryana and Rajasthan in the murder," the spokesperson said.

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# A tale of hope: 17-year search for missing brother leads jail official to Surat undertrial

KAMAAL SAIYED  
SURAT, JANUARY 3

IT'S A story that begins with a familiar script. Boy fails Class 10 exams, walks out of home, never to return. After a futile search for him, the family gives up hope.

And ends with a fairytale twist. The boy's younger brother grows up to be a jail sepoy, looks up prison records and finds his long-lost brother — he is lodged in another jail in a narcotics case.

In 2006, Bharatbhai Patel alias Bharat Chaudhary, a resident of Golvi village in Diyodar taluka of Banaskantha, left his house as a 15-year-old. He had failed his Board exams and his parents had given him a tongue-lashing. Bharat, the eldest of five siblings, came down to Surat and started



Dashrat Patel (left) tracked down his brother Bharatbhai Patel after 17 years. Express

working in a diamond unit, cutting off all contacts with his family, who had by then given up hopes of ever reuniting with him.

Talking to *The Indian Express*, Surat Jail Superintendent JM Desai said, "Bharat left his house in 2006 when he was around 15 years old and came to Surat, where he started working in a diamond unit. He later moved to Ahmedabad, where he started working first as a helper in a luxury bus and later as the driver of the bus."

Sometime in 2021, Bharat was driving on NH-48, returning from Jalgaon in Maharashtra, when the Surat Rural Police, acting on a tip-off, waved down his bus at Kamrej and recovered 55 gm of ganja from him. He was booked under sections of the Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substance Act and sent to judi-

Department in 2017. A few years ago, he was posted as a sepoy in Ahmedabad's Sabarmati jail.

Dashrat Patel said, "For many years, we searched for Bharatbhai in Ahmedabad, Surat, Saurashtra... everywhere, but failed... Some days ago, during a conversation, I brought up my brother's case and one of my colleagues said I look for Bharatbhai on the e-prison portal... just in case he is lodged in some jail. I immediately went to our jail office and checked the portal."

The search threw up a result: Bharatbhai Ekmabhai Patel, an undertrial prisoner (32) lodged at Surat Central Jail, Lajipore. "I checked the prisoner's details and found that everything matched — the name of our village, taluka and district. I immediately got in touch with my friends at Surat Central Jail and they confirmed that the

prisoner was indeed my elder brother Bharatbhai."

A few days ago, Dashrat reached Surat Jail with his father, uncle and cousins for an emotional reunion with Bharat. "My mother could not come due to her ill health. We all cried a lot. Some of the jail officials too were emotional. Bharatbhai said he should have come back home much earlier," said Dashrat. "He told us about his wife and daughter... When we did a video call with our mother Rukmaben and sisters, Bharatbhai started crying loudly."

Bharat's lawyer K D Shela迪ya said, "After the Surat sessions court denied our bail application, we have applied for it in the High Court. The hearing will be held in the next few days."

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

## India to use SpaceX rocket to launch communications satellite

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

UTILISING THE services of SpaceX for the first time, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will deploy its heavy communication satellite GSAT-20 through the Falcon-9 rocket of the private space agency towards the middle of this year.

GSAT-20, which can enable telecom providers to offer very high-speed Internet services, weighs about 4,700 kg, much heavier than launch capacity of ISRO's most powerful rocket, LVM-3. For its heavier satellites, weighing more than 4,000 kg, India had

been depending on the European launch provider Arianespace.

Arianespace's heavy launch vehicle Ariane-5, however, was retired in July last year and its successor Ariane-6 is yet to make its debut.

Falcon-9, a reusable rocket, can carry double that weight, over 8,300 kg, to GTO. It has made 285 flights to different locations in space. The Indian satellites flight on Falcon-9 has been facilitated by the NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), the commercial arm of ISRO, that entered into a launch agreement with SpaceX last year.

"GSAT-20" will be launched on-board Falcon-9 under a launch service contract between NSIL and SpaceX," the NSIL said in a

statement on Wednesday.

GSAT-20, which would plug the high-speed connectivity gaps in rural and remote parts of the country and enable in-flight internet services as well, was initially scheduled to be launched in 2018 and then in 2020. According to NSIL, the satellite would offer high data transmission capability over the entire country, including the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep.

GSAT-20 will be the second "demand driven" satellite launch enabled by NSIL. Last year, it facilitated the launch of GSAT-24 whose entire capacity was bought by Tata Play, a Direct-To-Home broadcaster.

## 2 more get death penalty in 2005 Shramjeevi train blast

MANISH SAHU  
LUCKNOW, JANUARY 3

A JAUNPUR court on Wednesday awarded capital punishment to two more convicts in connection with the 2005 Shramjeevi Express blast case that killed 12 people and injured 18. Last month, the court held the accused Hilal alias Hilaluddin and Nafikul Biswas — both in their 50s — guilty and said the pronouncement of judgment would be done in January.

Hilal is a Bangladeshi national and Nafikul is from West Bengal.

The accused, who have been in jail since their arrest, are linked to militant group Harkat-ul-Jihad-al-Islami (HuJI). On Wednesday,

Hilal and Nafikul were brought to the court from Jaunpur jail amid tight security arrangements.

"Death sentence was awarded to Hilal and Nafikul. The court also imposed a fine of Rs 10.20 lakh on Nafikul and 10.70 lakh on Hilal," said Satish Kumar Pandey, District Government Counsel, Jaunpur. They were convicted under 302 (murder), 307 (attempt to murder), 148 (rioting, armed with deadly weapon), Foreigners Act, Explosive Act and Railway Act, he added. Two more accused were awarded the death penalty earlier.

On July 28, 2005, a blast took place in a compartment of the New Delhi-bound Shramjeevi Express near Harpalganj railway station in Jaunpur district.

# Got permit to run sand mines in BJP's time: Soren aide raided by ED

Raids come a day after Jharkhand CM skips ED summons

ABHISHEK ANGAD  
RANCHI, JANUARY 3

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate (ED) on Wednesday raided various places linked to Abhishek Prasad alias Pintu, Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren's press advisor, deputy commissioner of Sahibganj Ram Niwas Yadav and architect Vinod Pratap in connection with the alleged illegal sand mining case, sources said.

The ED raids come a day after Soren, for the seventh time, ignored the agency's summons which asked him to join the ongoing probe in a land related case. The agency had said the latest summons was the CM's last chance to join the probe.

However, in a January 2 letter, Soren said he would legally challenge the probe, according to sources.

Incidentally, Pintu had been called in for questioning in the same case after allegations were levelled against him that he too owned mines in Sahibganj area.

Speaking to *The Indian Express* earlier, Pintu had said: "Yes, I do own mines, but the consent to operate was given to me during Raghubar Das's tenure."

The press advisor's name had popped up in August last year too when the ED had sought details of FIRs and charge sheets filed against persons from the Jharkhand Police. Pintu's name



CRPF personnel stand guard as ED officials search premises linked to architect Vinod Singh in Ranchi, Wednesday. PTI

was one among the many featured in anonymous letters to the agency.

Proprietor of Grid Consultant Architect Company, Singh, was featured in one of the letters too.

"It is alleged that Kumar... is very close to CM Hemant Soren and his media advisor Abhishek Prasad. He has acquired illegal properties..." the ED had said.

Meanwhile, Yadav has been on the agency's radar since his name featured in its prosecution complaint earlier. The agency said telephonic conversations of Pankaj Mishra — Soren's aide who is in jail in connection with the illegal sand mining case — from one number were 'lawfully intercepted'. The agency said Yadav had exerted dominance and misused his power over Commissioner of Dumka zone,

Chandra Mohan Kashyap.

In his conversation, Yadav said he was operating ferries in Jharkhand and insisted not to pursue a report from the collector of Sahibganj on an inland vessel's accident where 'several trucks were drowned and resulted in loss of several lives'.

The agency said Yadav's report was not satisfactory and hence Kashyap had sought clarifications, including on the possible causes of the accidents and the persons responsible for it.

"Kashyap said Mishra called him and told him he owned the vessel and also insisted him not to seek any further clarification on the collector's report.

Sources in the ED said the raids are being conducted to probe the alleged nexus between Yadav, Mishra and others.

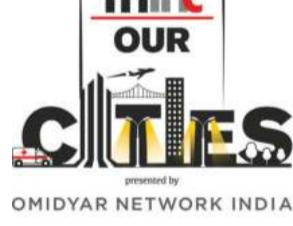
IE THINC FIRST EDITION: OUR CITIES

# 'We need optimal solutions for emissions'

In this edition of IE-Thinc, experts talk about the surging pace of urbanisation, the need for census towns, masterplans for economic growth and why municipalities need more governance power. The session was moderated by Udit Misra, Associate Editor, *The Indian Express*



### On urbanisation in India and globally



M GOVINDA RAO  
EX-DIRECTOR, NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC FINANCE AND POLICY

have article 243-W, which says that the state government may, at its discretion, devolve 18 functions to them. It is left to the State Government to decide what it wants to devolve and what not. So there is no clarity in assignment. One of the basic implementable rules of fiscal decentralisation is that you should have clarity in assignments; there should be sufficient funds that are allocated for it and urban local bodies should have their own funds and functionaries. Even when the state government says that these are the functions that you may do, they may not have the sufficient funds. So they have an unfunded mandate.

When we come to our own resources, in most cases the major source is the property tax. This constitutes less than 0.14 per cent of the GDP.

The problem is that you have poor levels of public service. Property tax is partly a user charge and partly a tax. There are models in fiscal federalism which say the people choose the level of public services and taxes which are most closely aligned with their preferences. But when you have low levels of services, there is a vicious circle — poor services, low levels of property tax collection, leading to poorer services — which is a very serious issue.

#### On what ails urbanisation in India

**SRIKANTH VISWANATHAN:** The diagnosis so far is that we've seen urbanisation and urban governance reforms in India from a national perspective. I think everybody is discovering there are at least 35 different diagnoses that are needed. This is not a Union Government issue, it is a state level issue.

You need a single point of political accountability like you have at the Union level or at the provincial level. The ministers for water and for each of the other

Finance Commission — and the alacrity with which they analyse those recommendations and present an action report to the state legislature will make a substantial difference to the financial viability of the third tier institutions. Digitisation of land records, conformity with certain rules and frameworks in assessing the value of the land and making it available in an orderly manner remain a challenge for investors and economic development.

**DR NK SINGH:** The relationship between emissions and urbanisation is far more adverse in developing and emerging economies than those which have matured. The first challenge is for regulatory institutions to find the most optimal solution between the demands of urbanisation and attendant emissions.

I find that one of the very big challenges that the third-tier government will face is a paucity of resources. If we want to ensure that the financial autonomy and flexibility of the third tier remain, more thought needs to be given beyond what property tax can do to enhance the resources of the third tier of governance. The full adherence to the constitutional requirement of forming a State Finance Commission in a timely way in the same fashion — with almost identical functions as the Central

ice delivery and infrastructure, more precisely as an aggregation of different services and infrastructure. We look at grievances that citizens have without thinking of them as a human development agenda that is place- and people-based, which we often do at the Union and state level. Our state Vidhan Sabhas are quite inactive.

We've studied the number of amendments to municipal laws and they are few and far between. They have not kept pace with amendments to municipal laws. That's why town and country planning laws have not kept pace with contemporary needs of urban India.

This is also partially on account of slightly meta issues like the anti-defection law, where there is no chance for the urban representative to put forward their agenda forcefully. That said, it is not that there has not been any movement. In the last 10 years, there is a 488 per cent increase in the allocation at the Union level for 2009-10 and 2021-22.

If there has been a 488 per cent increase in funding allocation, perhaps a little more can be done on thought leadership. But every additional rupee that you are going to lay out at the Union level is not necessarily going to give you returns.

On the political level, there is a lot of focus on the state and urban bodies. Today everything gets analysed in 10 metres or 15 social media posts. Absolutely, the compulsion for performance is high.

I can tell you my experience from the national and state levels. First, it's more positive than negative. Cities are labour markets, they are not anything else.

Whether you are a Union government or a State government, a GIS-based master planning will not change everything. But somewhere the conversation has to start. Urban planning in some states did very well. Gujarat has been the pioneer of it whether we like it or not. Ahmedabad and Surat are the cities where slums have gone down from 30 per cent and 25 per cent to 11 per cent and five per cent.

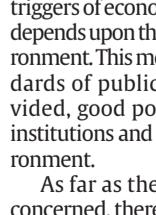
The political leadership, which was there at the state level, is now at the country level. It was the Prime Minister who drew

the blueprint of urban planning. Urban planning is not an expert-driven exercise, it is a political exercise; the political leadership has to take the call. Urban planning is not just about regulation. It is pure economics where a citizen has to win along with the city.

### On rise in the number of census towns

**PROF DEBOLINA KUNDU:** According to projections by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, 50 per cent of the country will be urbanised by 2047. By the middle of this century, 53 per cent of the population (877 million) are expected to be living in urban areas.

The National Account Statistics had pegged the economic contribution of urban areas likely to decline.



**SHILPA KUMAR:** PARTNER, OMIDYAR NETWORK INDIA  
**Cities are drivers of growth that need to provide an ease of earning livelihood and be sustainable**

Cities are the leading edge of economic dynamism and they create agglomeration economies. They enable productive interactions with people, which lead to competitiveness, innovation and improvement in productivity. But whether we can harness their potential as triggers of economic dynamism depends upon the enabling environment. This means basic standards of public services provided, good policies, quality institutions and a tolerant environment.

As far as the functions are concerned, there is a concern in the 74th amendment to the Constitution. The seventh schedule to the Constitution basically says local governments are the state's responsibility and you

have a single point of political accountability like you have at the Union level or at the provincial level. The ministers for water and for each of the other

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**ON PUBLIC FINANCE AND FISCAL DEVOLUTION**

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A few days ago, Dashrat reached Surat Jail with his father, uncle and cousins for an emotional reunion with Bharat. "My mother

# The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY  
RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

## AN ELUSIVE CLOSURE

Even as SC expresses faith in SEBI's investigation in Adani matter, important questions have not been fully answered

**I**N THE ADANI-HINDENBURG saga, the Supreme Court, on Wednesday, declined to hand over the probe into the allegations to the CBI or a Special Investigation Team. The Court expressed faith in SEBI, noting that the regulator's conduct "inspires confidence" that it is "conducting a comprehensive investigation". It said that based on the information available before it, "no apparent regulatory failure" can be attributed to SEBI. The verdict, in fact, asked the Centre to investigate if short sellers of shares in the Adani Group companies had violated any law causing investors losses due to the volatility caused by their short positions. It also said the material relied upon by petitioners can at best be inputs, not credible evidence. With the SEBI having completed its investigation in all but two matters in connection with the allegations raised, the Court directed it to complete the pending inquiries "preferably" within three months. This raises questions.

This is because not one of the allegations, such as deals of related party transactions, market manipulation, ownership of FPIs and foreign entities, has been addressed completely in the last one year. Despite the progress made by the market regulator in its investigations, some of the arguably more contentious issues surrounding the episode remain unanswered. It appears there are doubts about globally accepted market practices such as short selling; indeed the Court takes into account the Solicitor General's statement that measures to regulate short selling will be considered by the government and SEBI. As reported in this paper, two aspects of the probe that are currently ongoing deal with the actual ownership of the foreign portfolio investors who have significant stakes in the Adani Group companies, and the unusual trades around the period the Hindenburg report was released. In its status report, SEBI is reported to have said that "as many of the entities linked to these foreign investors are located in tax haven jurisdictions, establishing the economic interest shareholders of the 12 FPIs remains a challenge". However, the expert committee set up by the Supreme Court had noted that while the regulator may well suspect "wrongdoing", it has "drawn a blank" because its "legislative policy" stance has moved in the opposite direction of its "investigation and enforcement".

While it would have served little purpose were the Supreme Court to order a large-scale probe into the Hindenburg allegations, it might have been prudent to allocate more resources, draw in more expertise, and give the ammunition that SEBI really requires to expedite the probe in a time-bound manner. The volatility in the market, or more specifically in the stocks of the Adani Group of companies after the Hindenburg report, comes from the concerns in the market about SEBI's ongoing investigation not coming to fruition. Market regulator SEBI must take its investigations to their logical conclusion.

## A CRIME ON CAMPUS

Arrest of accused in IIT-BHU sexual assault case is a first step towards justice. The case will be watched, much is at stake

**T**HIS STUDENT WAS taking a walk near her hostel with a friend when three men waylaid and sexually assaulted her, all the while documenting the crime on their phones. The incident, which took place on November 1 on the IIT-BHU campus, once again brought to centre stage the spectre of sexual violence that haunts many women, on college campuses, at workplaces, on the daily commute. That the three accused in the IIT-BHU case were arrested on December 30, nearly two months after the assault, offers hope that in this case, justice may be served. That the police investigation has linked the men to three previous cases of molestation at IIT-BHU underlines that it must be served without fear or favour.

A political row has broken out over the affiliation of the three accused with the BJP's IT cell — the association ended in November, according to the BJP Varanasi (Mahanagar) president. It is of utmost importance that the police conduct its investigation professionally. This would help reassure citizens that crimes against women are taken seriously by the authorities and that culprits, regardless of their political connections, will be brought to book. The rise in women's mobility, their growing visibility in public spaces and contribution to the economy and increased participation in all fields, from politics to sports to entrepreneurship, has been a remarkable feature of Indian life in the 21st century. But the picture is often marred by persisting questions about how safe women really are as they step out in a society that remains patriarchal in many ways. The echoes of past crimes that drew the nation's attention — the December 2012 gang rape in a moving bus in Delhi, the gang rape of a photographer in 2013 in Mumbai's Shakti Mills, the 2019 rape and murder of a vet on her way home after work in Hyderabad — have still not faded.

Making women's safety a priority helps the larger cause of enabling them to claim their rightful place, whether it's at work, on the streets and in public parks or in Parliament. It is for the government at every level to ensure that women's safety does not come at the cost of their hard-won freedoms — which means rejecting the impulse to impose dress codes, curfews and other restrictions. This requires a different imagination of what women's safety and freedom means, and it can no longer be postponed.

## MICKEYS AND MINNIES

Release of copyrighted characters in the public domain offers a chance for new creativity and fresh takes

**A**S OF JANUARY 1, 2024, also celebrated annually as Public Domain Day, many iconic characters are now free to use. Examples include Mickey and Minnie from the 1928 short films *Steamboat Willie* and *Plane Crazy*, Winnie the Pooh's companion Tigger, and Peter Pan. With the liberation of these popular characters, comes the chance for fresh creativity.

For instance, Pooh and Tigger could be on a quest to discover they are queer and in love. Peter Pan could be reimagined as a man held responsible for his actions, forced to adult in the real world. Even Disney — which held onto its copyrights with dear life, so much so that the Act passed in 1998 to extend the copyright term was named the Mickey Mouse Protection Act — has seen the value of subverting expectations. After all, for the 2023 live-action reboot *The Little Mermaid*, it cast the black actor Halle Bailey to play Ariel and queer-coded Ursula, the evil sea witch.

Unfortunately, experience has shown that the opportunities presented by the release of copyrighted content are not always squeezed for all that they can yield. Those who seek to reimagine seem limited by their understanding of what that means and have, so far, gone in mostly for the horror twist. No doubt there is some shock value in a horror-action reboot of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* (2016's *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*). And cuddly Winnie the Pooh turning bloodthirsty in *Winnie the Pooh: Blood and Honey* (2023) may be exciting for a second. But throwing Pooh's companion Tigger into the gut-and-gore mix — as threatened by *Winnie the Pooh: Blood and Honey* 2 — is too predictable. The freedom to use characters and stories comes with responsibility. Peter Pan may have been able to evade it, but creators hoping to engage and entertain can do better.

# THE EDITORIAL PAGE

## WORDLY WISE

ONLY ONE THING IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR GOD:  
TO FIND ANY SENSE IN ANY COPYRIGHT LAW  
ON THE PLANET. — MARK TWAIN

# Reset the growth priority



AMARTYA LAHIRI

To create high-value jobs at scale, India needs combined strength of manufacturing and service sectors

INDIA IS AWASH with discussions about where it is headed economically and how it might achieve its desired development goals. Some of this discussion is unfortunately a distraction. One example of this is the spectacle of myriad commentators tying themselves in Gordian knots while projecting India's march towards a \$5 trillion economy by 2025. Leaving aside the incredulousness of some of the assumptions underlying the projections, this exercise itself is a distraction because it focuses on aggregate GDP. The development challenge is to make the average citizen better off. Hence, the relevant target should be GDP per person, not total GDP.

A recent book by Raghuram Rajan and Rohit Lamba, *Breaking the Mould: Reimagining India's Economic Future*, has tried to frame the debate in more relevant terms. The book asks whether India can grow and develop by prioritising service sector growth rather than industrial growth. The backdrop to the question is that the currently developed economies had gradually switched their economic resources from agriculture to manufacturing to services as they developed. This pattern of structural transformation has also characterised the more recently industrialising Asian economies like China, Korea and Taiwan.

India has had difficulties in expanding the share of the manufacturing sector in its economy. Instead, it has witnessed a somewhat different development path wherein most of the growth has happened in the service sector. Manufacturing's share of both output and employment in India has plateaued at or below 20 per cent. In other words, India appears to be jumping a stage in the development process by going from a primarily agrarian to a mainly service economy. Is this sustainable in the long run?

Growth of the service sector typically occurs through rising demands for medical, legal, entertainment, accounting and other personal services. Growth in these demands is the result of rising personal incomes of residents as well as increasing outsourcing of business processes by firms as they grow. Rapid industrial growth creates ideal condi-

tions for growth in domestic demand for both of these components. Since industrial growth in India has been tepid at best, where will the demand for the service sector come from?

Rajan and Lamba spy an opening for India in the world business service growth that has been facilitated by the increasing sophistication of information technology. Firms globally are outsourcing parts of their business service requirements. This is becoming an increasingly important part of the global supply chain. The book provides examples of service business back offices that India is becoming a part of. The challenge of course is to do this at scale.

The problem facing India though may be difficult to solve using a service-led model alone. India is adding around 8-10 million new workers to its labour force every year. This pace will continue for at least a decade. Moreover, a majority of these new workers are arriving in the labour market armed with high school or better educational attainment levels. Hence, their aspirations are commensurately high and further buoyed by the general national narrative of India finally arriving at the international stage of accomplishment.

India is currently failing to meet the aspirations of young Indian workers. Monthly statistics from CMIE show that while the overall unemployment rate itself is very high at over 8 per cent, the unemployment rate for youth in the age-group 15-24 is above 40 per cent! Dealing with this looming employment crisis requires expedited measures to incentivise job creation at scale by private employers.

It is in this context that one needs to evaluate both the service sector-led development model versus the more conventional manufacturing-led model. The current service sector in India is very segmented. Its output growth is primarily in high-tech services, while its job creation is mostly in low value-added, low skill services. Thus, the current service sector job creation does not generate income streams that the young aspire to.

The back-office led service sector vision stressed by Rajan and Lamba, may be able to generate a substantial number of jobs in due course. However, it will still take 10-15 years

for it to become a viable alternative. The problem is India's skill deficit. India currently produces about 2.2 million STEM graduates, post-graduates and PhDs. Unfortunately, a majority of them are unemployable with the training that they receive.

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What happens in the interim though? One might be able to find some employment opportunities by expanding innovative health and education outreach programmes like anganwadi workers. But there are limits to these. Plus, it is also unclear whether these programmes meet the aspirations of a majority of the young. One interpretation of the government's PLI scheme is that it is an attempt to meet the political economy challenge of generating jobs now. If domestic and international businesses do indeed set up production centres in India that create jobs, then some of the jobs deficit may be corrected. The concern with the scheme is that it is production linked, not employment linked. Current component assembly-based production models in decentralised global supply chains do not necessarily create many jobs. Additionally, there are concerns about whether these businesses will stay or leave after the incentive schemes end.

India's jobs problem is real. With a median population age of 28, the problem will only get worse over time unless things change quickly. The country needs to combine the manufacturing and service sector models. It needs to go beyond the PLI schemes by incentivising private industry to scale up. Key for this are land and labour regulatory reforms. The good news is that these are fiscally costless though they do entail political costs. At the same time, India needs to address its skill deficit by raising its investment in higher education. India's demographic dividend will become a demographic curse if the country fails to create relatively high value-added jobs at scale. It needs to act quickly and comprehensively.

The writer is Royal Bank Research Professor of Economics, University of British Columbia



SWAPNA LIDDLE

A CONTROVERSY HAS arisen recently, with the New Delhi Municipal Council calling for public objections and suggestions regarding a proposal to demolish a certain Mughal-era mosque in the heart of New Delhi.

A bit of historical background may be useful to understand how this building came to be located where it is. Till about a hundred years ago there was a major road, the Qutub Road, which led from the north-western end of the Mughal city of Shahjahanabad to the Qutub Minar, and beyond to Gurgaon. Like many other highways of its time, this road had several gardens located beside it. In the days before motorised transport, when travel by road was a slow affair, these would have served as resting stages. One of these gardens was Sunehri Bagh, which had a mosque in it.

In 1912, the British government in India decided to build the city of New Delhi at and around Raisina, through part of which this road passed. The land was acquired, the population there was relocated, and most of the buildings on it were demolished. While many of these buildings were the relatively recently built homes, there were also a large number of older buildings — palaces, tombs and places of worship, built over the centuries. The government gave the Archaeological Survey of India the task of listing these historical buildings, with a view to identifying which should be preserved and which might be demolished.

Finally, most were cleared away, with a few exceptions. Among those spared were structures of special historical or architectural significance, such as Jantar Mantar, Humayun's

Tomb, Safdarjung's tomb, Agrasen ki Baoli, etc. Historical significance was not the only criterion for preserving a structure. Several old places of worship were spared because they were still in use. These included Gurdwara Bangla Sahib, Gurdwara Rakab Ganj, the Zabita Ganj mosque on the Central Vista greens, the Hanuman Mandir on what is now Baba Kharak Singh Marg and a couple of Jain temples across the road from it, and the mosque in Sunehri Bagh.

Incorporating these structures into the town plan of the new city required some degree of creativity. Clusters were incorporated into green areas — such as the Lodi and Syed tombs into Lodi Gardens, and a number of Mughal tombs into the Golf Course. Some major roads were aligned so as to feature these monumental buildings as focal points on vistas — Safdarjung's tomb at the end of Prithviraj Road is a notable example. Other alignments were modified — the curve in Sher Shah Road to accommodate Lal Darwaza makes it stand out among the otherwise straight roads radiating from the C Hexagon on which India Gate stands. Stray structures were left to stand on pavements and smaller green areas. The Sunehri Bagh mosque was placed on one of many roundabouts that were built.

This makes the Sunehri Bagh masjid of interest not only as a Mughal-era mosque, but for what its location on a roundabout tells us about the town plan of New Delhi. The street plan made up of intersecting radial roads and roundabouts was laid on land that was already dotted with historical structures. Not only did

## MOSQUE ON THE ROUNDABOUT

*Sunehri Bagh masjid represents the complex and layered history of the city*

SWAPNA LIDDLE

Today, the roundabout and the mosque on it represent the complex and layered history of the city. Moreover, this city of New Delhi (more or less coterminous with the NDMC area) has a very distinctive town plan, characterised by low-rise, low-density development, full of trees, that acts as a lung within a metropolis that faces a crisis of air pollution. This itself is a good reason to maintain the low densities and a moderate volume of traffic that is served quite well by the roundabouts.

The writer is a Delhi-based historian



JANUARY 4, 1984, FORTY YEARS AGO

### ASSAILANT ARRESTED

SUKHDEV SINGH, ARRESTED following the robbery and shootout in Connaught Place, is a deserter from the army. He was enlisted as a jawan in 1977 and he left in 1981. He is reported to have told the police that he received further training in the use of arms and commando methods at the Guru Ram Das Sarai in the Golden Temple complex.

### ROLE OF SCIENCE

PRIME MINISTER INDIRA Gandhi declared that science "must permeate the whole of our national life, all areas of endeavour and all

regions". Inaugurating the 71st session of the Indian Science Congress at the Birla Institute of Technology, Mesra, Mrs Gandhi said that otherwise it would only accentuate disparities within the country, as it "had done between nations over the past two centuries."

### ISRAEL'S ATTACK

FOUR ISRAELI WARPLANES bombed and set ablaze a Palestinian guerrilla base and an ammunition depot in a retaliatory strike southeast of Beirut drawing intense ground fire from the Syrian-held area. In the capital, a lone motorcycle gunman shot and seriously wounded the French consul's driver in the

Mreibeh waterfront residential neighbourhood. Beirut Radio said in a retraction of its earlier report that the driver was killed.

### NO PRESIDENT'S RULE

THE ELECTION COMMISSION has decided not to pursue its recent recommendation for imposition of the President's rule in states before holding assembly elections. The Chief Election Commissioner, R K Trivedi, told UNI that the recommendation had created a lot of confusion among political parties. He regretted that the suggestion had been read in the context of centre-state relations and the recent assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

# THE IDEAS PAGE

## Sports maharajas & their fiefs

In the dog-eat-dog world of sports administration, playing the cards right could lead to unquestioned power. Virtually every sporting body fights tooth and nail against any restriction on tenure of officials



SANDEEP DWIVEDI

THERE'S A TRUE story about a Delhi cricket administrator's single-minded obsession with holding on to power. It is hard to believe for those who haven't spent enough time in Feroz Shah Kotla's dark and dingy corridors of intrigue. It so happened that on the eve of a crucial local election, the wife of the incumbent eyeing to retain his influential position at the DDCA complained of stomach ache and had to be admitted to a hospital. Citing an emergency, the doctors planned a minor surgery for the next morning. Mr administrator was in a fix.

Those present at the hospital that night recall a sickening conversation between the restless cricket administrator keen to be at Kotla on voting day and the outraged doctor. "He was informed that the operation would need general anaesthesia and his wife would regain consciousness after two hours," recalls an old Delhi cricket veteran. "His reply blew us away. Without batting an eyelid, he asked the doctor, 'Any chance you can administer anaesthesia for four hours as that would allow me that much more time at the Kotla as our panel needs to be re-elected?'"

By late evening, he was part of the victory celebration at Kotla. Around him were men with garlands around their necks, a bunch drunk on power. Visceral battle cries would hit the Kotla air. While an outsider is sure to get outraged by the mixed-up priorities of the DDCA administrator, in the brotherhood of Indian cricket administrators, an example had been set. At Kotla, they still speak about the supreme sacrifice of one who chose cricket over family.

To understand this absurd pull that can drag someone from a spouse's hospital bed to the stadium, one needs to understand the dog-eat-dog world of administrators where playing the cards correctly could lead to a life of unquestionable power and endless perks. That's why virtually every sporting body in the country — starting with the BCCI — fights tooth and nail against any clause that restricts the tenure of officials.

Recently, former president of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh's dream of being de facto chief hit a hurdle. After his tenure expired earlier last year, Brij Bhushan's aide, Sanjay Singh, was elected WFI president. But within days of the selection, the new body was suspended. Brij Bhushan "appears to be in complete control", was the sports ministry's reasoning.

The life of a seasoned sports administrator, with a serious disregard for rules, can be divided into three phases. It starts with the struggle to get into a federation that is a closed club. This is followed by the tough climb to the hot seat. Winning back-to-back elections, the kind the DDCA official managed when his wife went under the knife, is a sure sign of consolidation of power and the forming of a coterie.

That's the career-high for most administrators, but a handful manage to take that extra step. The true legends, mind you it's not a virtue, manage to keep controlling a sports body without being part of it. To rule



CR Sasikumar

by proxy, one needs to be a seasoned politician. You need to be Brij Bhushan, a five-time BJP MP. He fits the bill to be a ringmaster without being in the ring.

The other day at the Indian Olympic Association headquarters, at the end of the wrestling federation elections, Brij Bhushan's supporters thought that he had swung it. Once it was clear that the odds-on favourite Sanjay Singh had been elected president, the members raised both their hands and let out triumphant shouts. They looked like MLAs outside an Assembly after a show-of-strength head count.

In their glee at crossing the last high hurdle of administrative immortality, nuance went out of the window. Now they were openly announcing to the world that their "netaji" — facing sexual harassment charges by top women wrestlers — was back. They had seen it coming. Within minutes, several tackily-designed colour posters with "Dabda hai, dabda rahega" (our authority will remain) printed on them magically appeared on the scene. Like at Kotla that day, Brij Bhushan was drowned in garlands and surrounded by men drunk on power.

However, there was an anti-climax. The government intervened and Sanjay Singh's panel, with Brij Bhushan's blessings, lasted barely three days. So does it mean this is well and truly the end of Indian wrestling's Netaji Era? Unlikely.

See the voting pattern of the WFI election to get the answers. The lone wrestler in the fray, Commonwealth Games gold medallist Anita Sheoran, lost by a margin of 40-7 to Brij Bhushan's man Sanjay Singh. The detailed FIRs, the statement to the magistrate by those alleging sexual harassment by Netaji, didn't move the 40 members who voted for Brij Bhushan. The members were

The power to decide the future of the country's elite wrestlers, to be in the frame with national heroes at their time of glory, the authority to use funds and the lure to have a fiefdom of one's own are the few obvious benefits that come with the turf. Brij Bhushan's reign at WFI was a throwback to a time of kings. Sitting on the stadium dias like a maharaja, he would announce special gifts to winners and even snub referees. It was a power trip.

So when Brij Bhushan was announcing the tournament schedule and showing V signs to the cameras within hours of his man winning the election, it was obvious that he wasn't going to walk away from his home — his MP residence and the WFI had the same address.

In a year when Olympic medalist Sakshi Malik was dragged through the streets of the capital and ended up hanging her boots in disgust, 40 voting units chose to trust a politician with sexual harassment charges. For all its traditional facade of values, Indian wrestling remains an insensitive body run by compassionless sports officials — the kind for whom their "dabda" is more important than the ailing wife in the operation theatre or long-suffering women wrestlers.

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the CAPF are just para-dropped as heads of that force. This has happened in the past and, unfortunately, is continuing even today. Senior I/B officers, who are not able to reach the top level in the organisation they have served for decades, are accommodated as directors general in one of the CAPFs. It is very unfair to the CAPFs to be saddled with an officer who has not worn the uniform for nearly three decades. The officer is at sea with the problems he faces and he does not command the loyalty or respect of the men he is expected to lead. The government's concern for the rehabilitation of such officers is understandable. It would be better if they were accommodated in some ministry where they have to do desk jobs. CAPFs should not become a dumping ground for officers who could not reach the top in the organisation they worked in.

Another matter which has been causing heartburn among the senior officers is the delay in posting a successor to the top post after the retirement of an incumbent. There are numerous instances — a few examples should suffice. The post of DG BSF remained vacant after the retirement of VK Johri in 2020 and there was no regular incumbent for five months until Rakesh Asthana was posted. The SSB had no regular DG for five months after the transfer of SL Thaosen in 2022 until Rashmi Shukla was posted.

## Don't neglect the force

Adhocism in selection of heads of central armed police forces takes a high toll

All is not well with the central armed police forces. The Government of India has been increasing their manpower (women power also now), giving them better equipment and resources and augmenting their annual budgets, but certain vital aspects of their functioning have not received the government's adequate attention, and this is harming their discipline, morale and combat potential.

It would be difficult to cover all the points in this article. Here, I would specifically deal with the issue of selecting leaders for the top level. There appears a lot of adhocism in the process. The CRPF has today 246 battalions, BSF has 193 battalions, ITBP has 56 battalions, and the SSB has 73 battalions. The NSG is a small formation but it is a very specialised, elite unit. These are mega forces and require absolutely first class leaders who would lead from the front, inspire and motivate the personnel and look after their welfare. The government should frame guidelines for posting officers to the rank of Director General of these CAPFs. Thus, it could be laid down that unless an officer has served as DIG/IG in the field for at least two years in any of the CAPFs or held charge of the armed police formation in the state for at least two years, he should not be considered for elevation to the Director General in any CAPF. There is a lot of resentment in the forces when officers with no experience in

the Home Ministry seems to be under the

impression that these top posts can be filled up in due course, that there is no harm if they remained unfilled for a couple of weeks or even months, that officers could be asked to hold additional charges and that the CAPF machine would work smoothly even then. Have you ever heard of the country being without its Army, Navy or Air Chief? These are fighting formations and are therefore always in a state of preparedness to deal with any emergency. The CAPFs are dealing with internal security problems and securing the international borders every day of the year. They should not be headless even for one day. The dates of retirement of all the officers are known. It only requires planning and timely decisions at the highest level.

Yet another factor affecting the performance of the CAPFs is their almost complete deployment around the year with the result that training is being neglected. One company in every battalion used to be earmarked for training purposes and it was not utilised under normal circumstances. However, the abnormal has become normal these days, partly because the state police are either incapable of handling their law and order problems or the state government prefers to abdicate its responsibility and insists on reinforcements from the Centre. Sometime back, the Centre increased the strength of every battalion by one company in some CAPFs with the assurance that it

The writer is former Director General, BSF

## WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"It is heartening that the NPC, the specialised apex advisory body of the federal government, is working on a suicide prevention strategy. It should make a pitch for a drastic increase in the money going into mental health, from the current level of around two percent of the total health budget." —THE KATHMANDU POST

## Restoring the balance

SC verdict in Adani-Hindenburg case is a reaffirmation of strength and resilience of India's regulatory and judicial frameworks



HITESH S JAIN

THE START OF 2023 witnessed a seismic event in India's financial sector, triggered by Hindenburg Research's allegations against the Adani Group. This event not only shook the stock market but also raised serious questions about the integrity of corporate governance and regulatory oversight in India. The Supreme Court's ruling on this matter has become a landmark in India's legal and financial governance, highlighting the resilience of the country's institutional frameworks against manufactured sensationalism and unsubstantiated reports.

The Hindenburg case is a textbook example of how sensationalism, driven by unverified and potentially biased reporting, can wreak havoc in financial markets. The report's timing, coinciding with India's increasing prominence on the global stage, notably during its G20 presidency, suggests a deliberate attempt to undermine the nation's growing international stature. Such tactics not only mislead investors but also unfairly damage the reputation of established corporations.

India's response to this episode, particularly through its judiciary and regulatory bodies, has been exemplary. By prioritising methodical investigation over sensational claims, these institutions have demonstrated their commitment to procedural integrity and factual accuracy. The Supreme Court's ruling, in particular, stands as a bulwark against the trend of using unverified reports to influence market perceptions and legal outcomes.

The handling of the Hindenburg crisis has broader implications for India's image on the world stage. The country's ability to manage such a crisis internally, with a transparent and robust legal process, sends a strong message about its commitment to just and transparent governance. It reassures international investors and global partners of the reliability and maturity of India's financial and legal systems.

The Supreme Court of India's verdict in the Adani-Hindenburg case is more than a legal judgment; it is a reaffirmation of the strength and resilience of India's regulatory and judicial frameworks. In an era where sensationalism and unverified reporting are increasingly used to manipulate markets and public opinion, this verdict serves as a reminder of the importance of basing decisions on solid evidence and thorough investigation.

As India continues to rise on the global stage, its ability to uphold the principles of justice and transparency in the face of baseless accusations will be crucial to shaping its future economic and political trajectory.

The writer is Managing Partner, Parinam Law Associates and Vice President, Mumbai BJP

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### PERFORMANCE REPORT

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Staying in the lane' (IE, January 3). It would be a noteworthy achievement if the government adhered to its fiscal deficit target this year. When the world is witnessing two wars and the government's capex is averaging more than 30 per cent, respecting fiscal prudence is challenging.

The rising average GST collection is a result of the government's prompt corrections in the GST ecosystem resulting in better tax compliance and vigilance. As the formalisation of the economy picks up the pace, direct taxes will uplift the revenue side further. This might have triggered the government's stance of foregoing import duties on contested items in forging new FTAs. For the most part, India's economy has been ticking all the right boxes.

Kiran B Ransing, Ahmednagar

### POWER OF NARRATIVE

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'The leader's storytelling' (IE, January 3). Today, the world is yet again facing humanitarian and environmental crises that have the potential to derail much of the progress made so far after the Second World War. To bring back the world on the right course, we need successful storytellers and compassionate leaders who put humanity above any religious, provincial or selfish considerations. Only if the art of storytelling has compassion, will it have great healing powers.

Manish Mishra, Bhopal

### FORCE OF THE DOLLAR

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Why the West endures' (IE, January 3). It's more about a rising east than a declining west. It's also about how well the US establishes the theory of democracy amidst its proxy war in Ukraine and Gaza. India articulated its stance clearly when it reminded Europe that it shouldn't think its problems are the world's problems. As long as the US isn't complacent when forums like BRICS thinks of launching its own currency — which, if used instead of the petrodollar could significantly impact several financial sectors — it can rest on its dominance. US hegemony anchored on the dollar being the world currency allows the nation to consolidate its position in negotiations to limit the power of regional hegemons.

Madhusree Guha, Kolkata



PRAKASH SINGH

ALL IS NOT well with the central armed police forces. The Government of India has been increasing their manpower (women power also now), giving them better equipment and resources and augmenting their annual budgets, but certain vital aspects of their functioning have not received the government's adequate attention, and this is harming their discipline, morale and combat potential.

It would be difficult to cover all the points in this article. Here, I would specifically deal with the issue of selecting leaders for the top level. There appears a lot of adhocism in the process. The CRPF has today 246 battalions, BSF has 193 battalions, ITBP has 56 battalions, and the SSB has 73 battalions. The NSG is a small formation but it is a very specialised, elite unit. These are mega forces and require absolutely first class leaders who would lead from the front, inspire and motivate the personnel and look after their welfare. The government should frame guidelines for posting officers to the rank of Director General of these CAPFs. Thus, it could be laid down that unless an officer has served as DIG/IG in the field for at least two years in any of the CAPFs or held charge of the armed police formation in the state for at least two years, he should not be considered for elevation to the Director General in any CAPF. There is a lot of resentment in the forces when officers with no experience in

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impression that these top posts can be filled up in due course, that there is no harm if they remained unfilled for a couple of weeks or even months, that officers could be asked to hold additional charges and that the CAPF machine would work smoothly even then. Have you ever heard of the country being without its Army, Navy or Air Chief?

These are fighting formations and are therefore always in a state of preparedness to deal with any emergency. The CAPFs are dealing with internal security problems and securing the international borders every day of the year. They should not be headless even for one day. The dates of retirement of all the officers are known. It only requires planning and timely decisions at the highest level.

The writer is former Director General, BSF

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# E. EXPLAINED

EXPLAINED GLOBAL

## WHO WAS HAMAS LEADER AL-AROURI, KILLED IN BEIRUT DRONE STRIKE?

ALIND CHAUHAN  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

ONE OF Hamas's most senior officials, Saleh al-Arouri, was killed in a drone strike in Beirut, Lebanon, on Tuesday. The drone hit a Hamas office, located in Beirut's southern suburb of Dahiyeh, a Hezbollah stronghold.

The Israeli government is yet to publicly claim responsibility for the attack but Israel and two US officials told Axios that Israel was behind the strike.

### Who was Saleh al-Arouri?

Al-Arouri, 57, was from a village near Ramallah, West Bank, and joined Hamas in 1987. He helped establish the group's military wing, the Izzedine al-Qassam Brigades, and remained deeply involved in its operations. Al-Arouri also founded the West Bank headquarters of Hamas.

He spent 15 years in an Israeli prison, after which he was deported to Jordan in 2010. In recent years, al-Arouri resided in Beirut, where he acted as a Hamas ambassador to Hezbollah, the Lebanese Islamist militant organisation backed by Iran. He was one of the best-connected Hamas leaders to both Iran and Hezbollah.

In 2014, Israel accused al-Arouri of planning the kidnapping and murder of three Israeli teenagers, which led to a 51-day war in Gaza. The same year, Israel also accused him of plotting to overthrow Mahmoud Abbas, the president of the Palestinian Authority, which governs parts of the Israeli-occupied West Bank.



Saleh al-Arouri speaking in Cairo, Egypt, October 12, 2017. Reuters

Three years later, Saleh al-Arouri was elected deputy chairman of Hamas's political bureau. Observers saw the development as a sign of the growing influence of Iran over Hamas.

In 2015, the US designated Saleh al-Arouri a "Specially Designated Global Terrorist" and has for years offered a \$5 million reward for information leading to his capture.

### What does his killing mean for the Israel-Hamas conflict?

Saleh al-Arouri was one of the top-ranking officials of Hamas and his death comes as a major blow to the group. However, Hamas's political leader Ismail Haniyeh on Tuesday said the organisation's operations would not be affected.

Analysts believe that the fighting between Israel and Hezbollah would escalate as Saleh al-Arouri was killed in the heart of Lebanon. Soon after the incident, Hezbollah vowed to not let the assassination go without "retaliation or punishment".

## THIS WORD MEANS

### CYBER KIDNAPPING

A Chinese student 'cyber kidnapped' in Utah has been found safe. His parents paid \$80,000 in ransom

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

A CHINESE exchange student who was a victim of 'cyber kidnapping' has been found in rural Utah, unharmed. The 17-year-old was reported missing on December 28. By the time the police traced him, his parents back in China had paid \$80,000 in ransom.

He was found in a tent about 40 km north of Brigham City, where he seems to have self-isolated.

### What is cyber kidnapping?

Cyber kidnapping refers to a crime where the 'kidnappers' convince their victim to hide, and then contact their loved ones for ransom. The victim is also made to send pictures that make it look like they are being held captive – showing them bound or gagged. These are then shared with the family. Both parties believe their loved ones will be harmed if they don't do as the kidnappers ask.

The 'kidnappers', though not physically present, monitor the victim online through video-call platforms. In the Utah

boy's case, his parents were sent a picture indicating he had been kidnapped.

According to the FBI's website, "Although virtual kidnapping takes on many forms, it is always an extortion scheme—one that tricks victims into paying a ransom to free a loved one they believe is being threatened with violence or death. Unlike traditional abductions, virtual kidnappers have not actually kidnapped anyone. Instead, through deceptions and threats, they coerce victims to pay a quick ransom before the scheme falls apart."

Experts believe that with the rise of Artificial Intelligence (AI), such crimes can rise, as scammers can send people voice notes that sound exactly like a loved one in distress. Last year, an Arizona woman testified in the US Senate about receiving such a call. When she picked up a call from an unknown number, "her daughter", crying, told her some "bad men" had kidnapped her. A man then demanded ransom. After she cut the call, she called up her daughter, and realised she was safe.

While there is no clear data yet on how many such crimes occur each year, law enforcement experts say they are on the rise.

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The 'kidnappers', though not physically present, monitor the victim online through video-call platforms. In the Utah

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 2024



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If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to [explained@indianexpress.com](mailto:explained@indianexpress.com)

EXPLAINED ECONOMICS

## How (and why) DBT works

Be it NREGA, PM-KISAN, or the Congress promise of NYAY, why do politicians rush to give direct benefits — cash — to the poor? Traditional thinking suggests it is better to teach a man to fish rather than to merely give him a fish to eat. But that may not always be the best choice, for politics or economics

UDIT MISRA  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

CONGRESS PRESIDENT Mallikarjun Kharge told an election rally on December 28 that if voted to power, the party would implement the NYAY scheme under which women would receive "at least Rs 60,000-70,000" annually.

NYAY, an acronym for Nyuntam Aay Yojana or Minimum Income Scheme, was the centrepiece of the Congress' 2019 Lok Sabha election manifesto. The party had promised a guaranteed annual payout of Rs 72,000 to the poorest 20% — roughly 5 crore families in the country under NYAY.

Before that, in 2018, the Narendra Modi government had rolled out the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) to provide "income support of 6,000 per year in three equal installments to all land holding farmer families". PM-KISAN was billed as the world's largest direct benefit transfer (DBT) scheme for farmers.

Then, in 2023, the Congress government of Ashok Gehlot rolled out a scheme of minimum guaranteed income — not a minimum income guarantee — in Rajasthan.

### Are schemes like NYAY and PM-KISAN the same as Universal Basic Income (UBI), the social welfare idea in which people unconditionally receive a fixed sum of money at pre-decided intervals?

Not quite. Under UBI, a government provides a "basic" income to every member of a population, from the richest to the poorest, regardless of whether they are employed or not. However, the government withdraws all subsidies — from food to fertilisers to train tickets to medical bills.

The idea is to give everyone a minimum income, cut the bureaucratic costs of running a large number of welfare programmes, and to tax everyone in a way that the UBI is funded. It is expected that the truly needy will get help, while anyone who doesn't actually need the UBI will find it taxed away.

The proposed NYAY and the existing PM-KISAN are different.

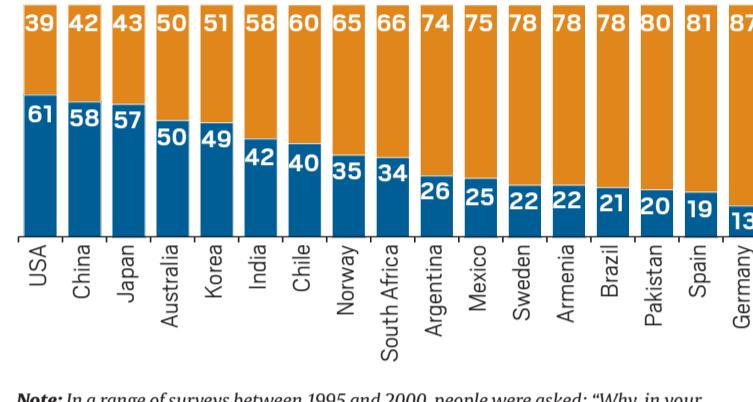
One, they are not accompanied by the removal of existing subsidies or benefits of other social welfare schemes for their beneficiaries.

Two, the amount is much smaller than what can be considered a minimum or basic income needed to live a decent life.

Three, these schemes are targeted at specific groups of Indians; they are not universal.

### WHY ARE PEOPLE IN NEED?

■ Per cent of respondents answering that poor people are poor because of laziness and lack of will power



**Note:** In a range of surveys between 1995 and 2000, people were asked: "Why, in your opinion, are there people in this country who live in need?" Source: World Values Survey

### Why has a UBI not been attempted in India, and is not popular elsewhere?

As an idea, UBI has captured imaginations on both the left and the right of the economic ideological spectrum. But the hard fact is that no country can afford it.

In rich countries such as Switzerland, which considered and dropped the idea, the UBI amount would be quite a lot, even though the beneficiary population may be small. And in poorer countries, the amount would be smaller, but the population perhaps too large.

Also, cutting existing subsidies and raising taxes to fund the UBI would be politically unpopular ideas almost everywhere.

The Congress-led UPA government enacted laws to provide income support (National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005) and subsidised food (National Food Security Act, 2013).

The Modi government, despite criticising the so-called politics of dole of the Congress, persisted with the schemes, and repeatedly used them to alleviate economic distress — during the demonetisation episode and the Covid-19 pandemic, for example. PM-KISAN is a logical extension of NREGA and NFSA.

### What is the argument for direct benefit (or cash) transfers?

Traditional thinking on helping the poor is often captured in a well known saying: "If you give a man a fish, you feed him for a day; if you teach a man to fish, you feed him for a lifetime."

Two, the amount is much smaller than what can be considered a minimum or basic income needed to live a decent life.

Three, these schemes are targeted at specific groups of Indians; they are not universal.

However, what if this man is too hungry on the first day to learn anything — or so weak that he needs to be fed for a few days before he can summon enough strength to learn? What if the choice is between feeding him a fish today (and ensuring he lives for another day to learn fishing) and risking his life (and his ability to learn fishing tomorrow)?

Perhaps the answer would be to give the man a fish before insisting he learns how to fish. This would be based on the realisation that (i) a feeble man can't learn much on an empty stomach and, (ii) the man would be motivated enough to learn provided he is in a situation to learn.

In 2010, social scientists Joseph Hanlon and development economists Armando Barrientos and David Hulme wrote a book called *Just Give Money to the Poor: The Development Revolution from the Global South*, which flagged the four paradigm shifts in thinking about the well-being of the poor and the vulnerable. Each of these stages built on the preceding stage.

In 16th-century England, the government for the first time accepted the responsibility for ensuring subsistence for all.

In late 19th-century Europe, government social spending increased, and pensions and sickness and old-age insurance were introduced.

In the mid-20th century, an adequate standard of living became a human right and a government responsibility, and the rich

North accepted a responsibility toward the poorer South.

At the beginning of the 21st century, countries of the Global South took the lead in construing cash transfers as a right, and in using them as a way to end poverty and promote development.

The authors argued that "simply giving money to the poor — no strings, no conditions, no kidding — may be the most promising approach not just for avoiding hardship and reducing poverty, but for long-term development as well." They gave examples from Mexico, South Africa, Namibia, Brazil, Indonesia, and India (NREGA) in support of their thesis.

Also, such transfers can create a virtuous cycle of development, the book argued: "Families with an assured, though small, income begin to take small risks by investing in their future: buying better seeds to try to increase farm production, purchasing goods that can be resold locally, or even spending more time looking for better jobs... When they have a bit of extra income, most families spend the money locally, buying food, clothing, and inputs. This stimulates the local economy, because local people sell more, earn more, and buy more from their neighbours, creating the rising spiral."

### What about fears that giving cash can make people lazy and dependent?

The table alongside, sourced from the book by Hanlon, Barrientos, and Hulme, shows that before the turn of the century, the majority of Indians surveyed felt that the poor were victims of an unfair society. It is possible that the majority no longer feels this way.

The authors write: "...You cannot pull yourself up by your bootstraps if you have no boots. And giving 'boots' to people with little money does not make them lazy or reluctant to work; rather, just the opposite happens. A small guaranteed income provides a foundation that enables people to transform their own lives. ...Many people are trapped in poverty because they have so little money that they cannot buy things they know they need, such as medicines or schoolbooks or food or fertilizer. They are in a hole with no way to climb out; cash transfers provide a ladder."

This also explains why DBT does not mean governments can forget about providing other services such as health care or education. In fact, developed countries too provide cash transfers, be it in the shape of child support, housing benefits, or winter fuel payments.

**LONGER VERSION**

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

## VVPATs and the fresh debate over them

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

Officials commissioning EVMs and VVPATs in Agartala in Feb 2022. File

constituency of Nagaland in 2013, after which it was introduced elsewhere in a phased manner. The 2019 Lok Sabha elections became the first General Election to have 100% of EVMs having attached VVPATs.

### What percentage of VVPAT slips are counted at present?

The EC asked the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) in 2018 to come up with a "mathematically sound, statistically robust and practically cogent sample size for the internal audit of the VVPAT slips with electronic result of EVMs", the EC had told the Supreme Court last year.

The EC also met political parties to discuss the issue, where demands for 10% to 100% counting emerged. In February 2018, the EC mandated the counting of VVPAT slips of one randomly selected polling station per Assembly constituency.

This was increased to five polling stations per Assembly seat, following an SC judgment in April 2019 on a petition filed by TDP leader Chandrababu Naidu.

Meanwhile, the ISI report to the EC in March 2019 recommended that a random sample of 479 EVMs be selected for counting of VVPAT slips.

### What has the EC said on 100% counting?

Last year, the EC told the Supreme Court that verification of VVPATs of five randomly selected polling stations per Assembly seat, with more than 4,000 total Assembly seats in India, translated to 20,600 EVM-VVPAT systems — well above the ISI's recommendation of 479.

In Lok Sabha and Assembly elections so far, the EC said, 38,156 VVPATs have been checked randomly. "Not a single case of transfer of vote meant for candidate 'A' to candidate 'B' has been detected," the EC said.

The EC said pressing for 100% verification was a "regressive thought and tantamount to going back to the days of manual voting using ballot system". It said manual counting of all VVPAT slips would take time and introduce the potential of human error.

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## Why has the 110-yr-old Indian Science Congress been postponed?

ANONNA DUTT & AMITABH SINHA  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

FOR THE first time since its inception in 1914, the Indian Science Congress, the annual gathering of scientists and students, is not being held this year.

The five-day event that takes place between January 3 and 7 annually had to be put off due to disagreements between the Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA), the organisers, and the central government's Department of Science and Technology (DST), the main funder.

SENSEX: 71,356.60 ▼ 535.88 (0.75%) NIFTY: 21,517.35 ▼ 148.45 (0.69%) NIKKEI: 33,464.17 ▼ 7545 HANG SENG: 16,646.41 ▼ 142.14 FTSE: 7,656.72 ▼ 64.80 DAX: 16,597.59 ▼ 171.77



GOLD

₹ 63,970



USD RATE

₹ 83.28



OIL

\$ 77.51



SILVER

₹ 78,400

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as of January 2

International market data till 1900 IST

**DESPITE A LOSS OF GROWTH MOMENTUM, THE SECTOR STILL EXPANDED STRONGLY**

## Dec manufacturing PMI at 18-month low on slower pace of orders, output

**ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU**

MUMBAI, JANUARY 3

INDIA'S MANUFACTURING sector activity slowed to an 18-month low in December due to softening of output and new orders, a monthly survey said on Wednesday.

The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) fell to 54.9 last month from 56 in November. A PMI reading above 50 indicates an overall expansion in manufacturing activity compared to the previous month and a print below 50 shows an overall decrease.

Despite a loss of growth momentum, the manufacturing sector still expanded strongly in the month. There were softer, albeit sharp, increases in factory orders and output, while business confidence towards the year-ahead outlook strengthened, S&P Global said.

"India's manufacturing sector continued to expand in December, although at a softer pace, following an uptick in the previous month. Growth of both output and new orders softened, but on the other hand, the



New orders placed with Indian manufacturers rose sharply but to a lesser extent in December. File

future output index rose since November. Rates of increase in input and output prices were broadly unchanged," said Pranjal Bhandari, Chief India Economist at HSBC.

During the reporting month, new business gains, favourable market conditions, fairs and expositions collectively induced another sharp increase in manufacturing production.

However, the rate of expansion softened to the weakest since October 2022 even as it re-

mained above its long-run average. Growth was reportedly curbed by fading demand for certain types of products, S&P Global said.

New orders placed with Indian manufacturers rose sharply but to a lesser extent in December. The pace of expansion was the slowest seen in a year-and-a-half.

December data showed a twenty-first consecutive increase in international order receipts at goods producers in

### EXPLAINED **E** Subdued demand hits

AS DEMAND for certain types of products faded, the pace of expansion of both output and new orders took a hit. It, however, continued to be above long-run trend. For the year-ahead outlook, Indian manufacturers in Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) survey for December responded that they were upbeat for three months.

India. Companies noted gains from clients in Asia, Europe, the Middle East and North America. New export sales expanded at a moderate pace that was the joint-slowest in eight months.

Goods producers signalled a further uptick in purchasing costs at the end of the 2023 calendar year. Among the items reported to have been up in price were chemicals, paper and textiles.

Little-changed from November, however, the rate of

inflation was negligible by historical standards and was the second-weakest in just under three-and-a-half years, the survey said.

For the fourth month in a row, the rate of charge inflation surpassed that of input prices. Survey participants that hiked their fees in December mentioned the pass-through of recently absorbed cost burdens to clients, it said.

Employment was largely stable in December, with the respective seasonally adjusted index registering only fractionally above the 50 no-change mark.

In terms of stocks, the latest results showed a further increase in input holdings alongside another decline in inventories of finished products. The latter was attributed to the fulfilment of orders from warehouse items.

When assessing the year-ahead outlook for production, S&P Global said, Indian manufacturers were at their most upbeat for three months.

The HSBC India Manufacturing PMI is compiled by S&P Global from responses to questionnaires sent to purchasing managers in a panel of around 400 manufacturers.

## India Ratings raises FY24 GDP growth estimate to 6.7%

**ENR ECONOMIC BUREAU**

MUMBAI, JANUARY 3

INDIA RATINGS and Research (Ind-Ra) has revised upwards India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth estimate for FY24 to 6.7 per cent from earlier 6.2 per cent, citing a number of factors including the resilience of the Indian economy, which grew 7.6 per cent in the second quarter of FY24.

According to Ind-Ra, the other factors that will boost the growth are: sustained government capex, deleveraged balance sheet of corporates/banking sector, the prospect of a new private corporate capex cycle, and sustained momentum in business and software services exports, coupled with remittances from the rest of the world despite global headwinds.

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**WAY AHEAD**

- IMF expects the global growth to slow down to 2.9% in 2024
- RBI expects the FY24 GDP to come in at 7%
- NSO will release the first advance estimates for GDP for FY24 on January 5

All these risks will continue to weigh on and restrict India's GDP growth to 6.7 per cent in FY24 (FY23: 7.2 per cent). The quarterly GDP growth, which came in at 7.8 per cent and 7.6 per cent in Q1 of FY24 and Q2 of FY24 respectively, is slated to slow down sequentially in the remaining two quarters of FY24," said Sunil Kumar Sinha, Principal Economist, Ind-Ra.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) also expects a sequential slowdown in the GDP growth in the remaining two quarters and expects the overall FY24 GDP to come in at 7.0 per cent. The National Statistical Office is slated to release the first advance estimates for GDP for FY24 on Friday. The first advance estimates of GDP, obtained by extrapolation of data of the first seven-eight months of the ongoing financial year (FY24), are released early to help officers in the Ministry of Finance and other departments in framing the broad contours of Union Budget for the next financial year which is presented in Parliament on February 1.

Ind-Ra expects the private final consumption expenditure (PFCE) to grow 5.2 per cent in FY24 (FY23: 7.5 per cent). The PFCE growth which increased to 6.0 per cent in Q1 of FY24, declined to 3.1 per cent in Q2 of FY24 (first half of FY24: 4.5 per cent).

**FULL REPORT ON**  
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## EPFO extends deadline for employers to upload details of those opting higher pension

**ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU**

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

THE EMPLOYEES' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) on Wednesday gave a five-month extension till May 31 for employers to upload wage details online for those opting for higher pension.

At least 17,49 lakh applications for validation of option or joint option have been received from members till July 11, 2023, a Labour Ministry statement said. More than 3.6 lakh applications for validation of option or joint option are still pending with the employers for processing, it said.

The EPFO had kept the deadline to apply for higher pensions till July 11. Following this, it gave further three months to employers till September 30 and then an-

other extension till December 31, while employees were given time till July 11 to submit their applications.

"In view of representations received from Employers & Employers' Associations wherein requests were made to extend the time period for uploading wage details of applicant pensioners / members, the employers were also given a further period of three months to submit wage details etc. online latest by 30.09.2023. This time was further extended till 31.12.2023 because many representations were received from Employers & Employers' Associations wherein requests were made to extend further time period for uploading wage details of applicant pensioners / members," it said. **FULL REPORT ON**  
[www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

## Office space demand up in top eight cities: Report

*The surge in flexible workspaces would play a pivotal role in fostering growth-oriented businesses in India, as per Knight Frank India report*



**LEASING OF OFFICE SPACE IN 2023**  
59.6 million square feet Rise of 15% compared to 2022

*"The impetus behind India's recent dominance in office absorption is attributed to its strong economic fundamentals," said Shishir Bajaj, Chairman and Managing Director, Knight Frank India.*

**GROWTH OF TOP EIGHT CITIES IN 2023**

MUMBAI	7.4 million square feet	16%
DELHI-NCR	10.1 million square feet	14%
PUNE	6.7 million square feet	9%
CHENNAI	6.7 million square feet	92%
HYDERABAD	8.8 million square feet	32%
KOLKATA	1.4 million square feet	20%
BENGALURU	12.5 million square feet	14%
AHMEDABAD	1.8 million square feet	15%

Source: Knight Frank India

## Danger of cheap goods invading Indian markets, says Jaishankar

**RAVI DUTTA MISHRA**

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS Minister S Jaishankar on Wednesday called for greater use of locally manufactured products by Indian consumers at a time when cheap and highly subsidized imported items are "invading" Indian markets.

India is trying to curb cheap quality imports from countries such as China with the use of several policy measures including quality control orders (QCOs).

This comes as China continues to be India's top import source with imports registering a 4 per cent jump to a record \$98.51 billion in FY23. While India is dependent on imports of several items, most importantly, Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients

(APIs), trade with China lacks transparency. China's exports to India have risen consistently but India's export to China faces multiple non-tariff barriers resulting in a sharp decline over the years.

"To me, particularly because there is a danger of cheap goods or subsidized goods invading our markets, we have to instill pride in the producer but also pride in the consumer. We must consciously say that we should make in India and buy in India and buy what is made in India," Jaishankar said at the Atmanirbhar Bharat Utsav celebration organised at Bharat Mandapam.

On the importance of One District-One Product (ODOP), which aims to select, brand, and promote at least one product from each district, the minister said, "ODOP is part of our person-

ality. This is very important because in the era of globalisation, various societies and cultures begin to lose their identity and personality".

Meanwhile, commerce minister Piyush Goyal said that India is not anti-imports.

"The idea is not to close our doors or that imports are bad. We are not anti-import. Atmanirbhar Bharat also means we will also increase our exports and for that if we need to import, we will not stop those. We will leave India's impression on the cost, competition, and quality front," Goyal said.

In 2023, India's goods imports far outstripped the exports.

Moreover, exports declined amid slowing global demand in the backdrop of demand slowdown in the west and in China, the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said.

## Haven't told OMCs to slash fuel prices: Puri

tive, but I would also turn around and say, slightly mischievous. I have clarified that there have been no discussions with OMCs (in this regard)."

The OMCs have kept fuel prices unchanged since April 2022.

Addressing the media here, the minister also said: "We are in a highly turbulent situation. There are two areas on the global map which are in conflict situation."

He emphasised on the current turbulence in the global oil markets, including the disruption of major shipping routes, the Red Sea, and said that India

is navigating through the situation very carefully.

"This is a highly volatile situation and our primary responsibility is to ensure availability and affordability," the minister said.

Puri's comments come after reports suggested that fuel prices, which are deregulated, may be cut in the range of Rs 4-6 per litre, and a proposal under consideration involves government and OMCs to bear equal burden of it (the former via excise/cess cuts and the latter, via retail price cuts).

The minister, however, explained that the government's

approach is to keep fuel prices under control compared with the steep rise in prices in South Asian and Western countries.

"In South Asian countries, the prices of petrol and diesel increased by around 40-80 per cent. In the Western industrialised world, the prices have gone up...but here (in India), the prices have come down," the minister said, highlighting the cuts in central excise duty by the government in November 2021 and May 2022. "We will lead a very stable, positive, forward-looking situation where everything is available and affordable," Puri said. **FE**

## Vedanta gets bondholders' nod to restructure four series of bonds

RAJESH KURUP

MUMBAI, JANUARY 3

LONDON-HEADQUARTERED Vedanta Resources (VRL), the parent company of Indian mining major Vedanta, received bondholders' approval to extend the maturity period of four series of bonds worth \$3.2 billion due in the next three years.

The bondholders approved extension of the deadline with votes ranging between 97 per cent and 100 per cent in favour of the proposal, in contrast with the minimum 66.7 per cent required.

The results came after the voting for the proposal ended on Tuesday. VRL said in a regulatory update on Wednesday.

Following the nod, it will meet bondholders on Thursday to pass an extraordinary resolution for

dollar bonds, even as it secured \$1.25-billion new funding to repay part of the debt. VRL also offered to pay \$779 million by early February for the three bonds – due in January 2024, August 2024 and March 2025 – and has sought extending their maturity periods for as much as four years through a consent solicitation exercise.

The company intends to repay the bonds using a mix of cash and new bonds. **File**

each bond. The bonds are listed on the Singapore Exchange Securities Trading (SGX-ST). If the consent conditions are not satisfied by January 29, 2024, the solicitations will be terminated. Earlier on December 14, VRL sought investors' approval to extend the maturity date of its \$3.15-billion



The company intends to repay the bonds using a mix of cash and new bonds. **File**

**MoU—HUDCO**

Sanjay Kulshrestha, CMD, HUDCO has executed the MoU with the State Govt. of Gujarat in the presence of CM Bhupendrabhai Patel for an investment up to Rs.14,500 crs for financing the Housing & Urban Infrastructure projects in the State of Gujarat. The Govt. of Gujarat intends for overall development of the State by implementing various housing & infrastructure projects.

**BOOK FESTIVAL—NBT**

In a poignant conclusion, the Pune Book Festival 2023 gracefully wrapped up, leaving behind a tapestry of literary memories and a collective longing for future editions. The festival's triumphant success has ignited a fervent desire to organize such enriching literary gatherings on a yearly basis. The special exhibitions, as well as Selfie points, drew a lot of crowd, as well as many celebrities & dignitaries.

**MoU—INDIAN COAST GUARD**

In a significant move towards providing employment opportunities to its veterans, the Indian Coast Guard has signed a MoU with M/s Amazon, recently, at the Coast Guard Headquarters. The agreement aims to provide career opportunities for retired personnel of the ICG in the global e-commerce giant, Amazon.

**CONVENTION—NBCC**

Om Birla Speaker Lok Sabha graced the Northern Region Student Convention as Chief Guest at Scope Complex, New Delhi recently for newly Qualified CMA on "Role of CMA In Rashtra Nirman" organised by NIRC of ICMAI. Smt. B Kaur Sokhey Dir.(Fin.), NBCC, graced the program as a Guest of honour along with several other distinguished personalities.

**ACHIEVEMENT—THDCIL**

THDCIL has achieved a significant milestone with the successful Boxing up of the Second unit (U#6- 250 MW variable speed pump turbine) of 1000 MW Tehri Pumped Storage Project on 26th Dec. 2023. RK Vishnoi, CMD, THDCIL, congratulated the PSP team, emphasizing that this major achievement marks a crucial step towards commissioning the Nation's first Variable Speed Pumped Storage Project (1000 MW).

**INAUGURATION—CIL**

PM Prasad, Chairman Coal India Limited, inaugurated the state-of-the-art MRI machine at the Institute of Neurosciences (I-NK) Kolkata recently in the presence of Pramod Agrawal, former Chairman CIL. Coal India Limited a Maharatna Company has extended financial support of Rs. 15.98 crs for the procurement of the MRI machine, which will help diagnose and monitor a wide range of medical conditions.

**MEETING—SER**

Anil Kumar Mishra, General Manager, South Eastern Railway held a meeting with Members of National Commission for Safai Karamcharis at SER Headquarters, Garden Reach. Dr. PP Vava, Member of National Commission for Safai Karamcharis chaired the meeting. Principal Head of the Departments of South Eastern Railway also attended the meeting.

**FOUNDATION DAY—CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA**

Central Bank of India celebrated its 113th Foundation Day on 21st Dec.2023 across India. On this auspicious occasion M V Rao MD & CEO, Vivek Wahi, ED, M V Murli Krishna, ED, Mahendra Dohare, ED & other Executives of the Bank paid floral tributes to the Bank's Founder "Sir Sorabji Pochkhanawala" at Mumbai. Granddaughter of our founder Dr. Piloo Hakim was also present along with other Top Executives.

**HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT****NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

Sealed item rate tenders are hereby invited by the Executive Engineer, Hamirpur Division HPPWD, Hamirpur in form No. 6 & 8, on behalf of Governor of H.P. for the following works from the contractors of appropriate class enlisted with HP PWD. The tender shall be opened in the presence of the contractors / firms or their representative who wish to be present.

**TIME SCHEDULE OF TENDER:-**

1. Date and time of receipt of application for tender form:- 10.01.2024 up to 04.00 P.M.

2. Date and time of issue of tender form :- 12.01.2024 up to 03.00 P.M.

3. Date and time of receipt of tenders:- 16.01.2023, up to 10.30 A.M.

4. Date and time of opening of tenders:- 16.01.2023 at 11.30 A.M.

The request for issue of tenders should be on the PRESCRIBED APPLICATION FORM which can be obtained from the office of undersigned and tenders will be issued to only those contractors who qualify the criteria after the scrutiny of application forms by the Committee constituted for this purpose.

Sr. No. Name of Work Estimated cost EMD Time Limit Cost of tender Eligible class of contractor

1 Construction of link road from Primary School Batali to Baba Bherhani km 0/0 to 0/500. (SH:- Providing and laying cement concrete pavement in km 0/0 to 2/40);

2 Construction of link road from Primary School Batali to Baba Bherhani km 0/0 to 0/500. (SH:- Providing and laying cement concrete pavement in km 0/280 to 0/380);

3 Repair and maintenance of HRTC Bus Stand Hamirpur. (SH:- C/o Cement concrete pavement in damaged portion of yard, MS Chamber, repair of plastering and painting work);

4 Restoration of rain damages on Khaneu Pandola Dugli Nohara road km 0/0 to 2/337. (SH:- C/o Wire Crate, Retaining wall at RD 0/95 to 0/969);

5 Restoration of rain damages on Khaneu Pandola Dugli Nohara road km 0/0 to 2/337. (SH:- C/o Wire Crate, Retaining wall at RD 0/95 to 0/969);

6 Restoration of rain damages on Khaneu Pandola Dugli Nohara road km 0/0 to 2/337. (SH:- C/o Wire Crate, Retaining wall at RD 1/370 to 1/420 to 0/993);

7 Restoration of rain damages on Matani to Sastar Balhi road km 0/0 to 2/790. (SH:- C/o Retaining wall RD 0/450 to 0/462);

8 Construction of Residential Accommodation Type-IV Quarters 4 Nos and Type-II Quarters 12 Nos of SV & ACB in Police Line Hamirpur at Dosarka. (SH:- C/o Retaining wall km 0/021 to 0/031 of approach road for Police Station and other works);

9 C/o link road to Syalan Di Balhi km 0/0 to 1/0. (SH:- ROFD in km 0/020 to 0/300, C/o 900mm dia RCC Hume Pipe Culvert at RD 0/150, C/o Retaining wall at RD 0/250 to 0/255.70);

10 AMP for the year 2023-24 for the village road under HPPWD Sub-Division Lambiyo (i) link road to village Dugha Chowki km 0/0 to 0/250 (ii) link road Kishan Bhawan Baroja to Dugha Kallan km 0/0 to 0/800. (iii) link road lower Baroja to upper Baroja km 0/0 to 0/750 (iv) link road to village Harsen to Lohar village Kohin upto Ajit Singh house km 0/0 to 0/600 & Kakri Taropka road km 0/0 to 4/36. (SH:- P/L Thermoplastic);

11 A/R & M/O Baru Tapri road km 0/0 to 5/265. (SH:- P/L Thermoplastic layer in km 0/0 to 4/200);

12 AMP on various roads under Nadaun Sub-Division. (SH:- P/L Thermoplastic paint on various roads);

13 Repair and maintenance of various Bridges under Nadaun Sub-Division. (SH:- Bridge on Jaliyan Parwan bridge, bridge over Kunji River Km 3/433 to 3/530, repair of wearing coat and bitumen mastic asphalt);

14 Repair and maintenance of various Bridges under Nadaun Sub-Division. (SH:- Painting, distempering, finishing wall with water proofing cement paint (Apeand other minor repair);

15 Development and beautification in ground Gasota Mahadev Temple at Gasota Tehsil & Distt. Hamirpur. (HP). (SH:- C/o Septic Tank with Soak pit);

16 A/R & M/O Mechanical Sub Division Matani at Hamirpur (HP). (SH:- C/o Civil work, water supply and sanitary installation);

17 C/o HPMC Juice Counter in Distt. Hamirpur (HP) (SH:- C/o Civil work, water supply and sanitary installation);

18 C/o Lab Shed in Dr. RKGMC Hamirpur. (SH:- C/o Balance work);

19 C/o Helped at Kohla in Tehsil Nadaun Distt. Hamirpur. (SH:- Filling work between crate walls and RCC wall of Helped) from Beas river side between distance of RCC wall);

20 C/o link road to village Dehran km 0/0 to 2/0. (SH:- C/o Wire Crate at RD 0/0 to 0/005 and 0/005 to 0/020 Both side);

21 C/o link road to village Dehran km 0/0 to 2/0. (SH:- C/o Wire Crate at RD 0/810 to 0/860);

22 S/R on link road Patta to Jaliari km 0/0 to 4/650. (SH:- C/o P/C Breast wall at RD 2/855 to 2/878 Length:- 23.00 metre);

**CORPORATE BRIEFS****AWARD — ENGINEERS INDIA LIMITED (EIL)**

Chairman & Managing Director, Engineers India Limited (EIL), Ms. Vartika Shukla has been bestowed with the prestigious "CMD of the Year" award under the Navratna category at the 13th PSE Excellence Awards, hosted by the Indian Chamber of Commerce in New Delhi on December 20, 2023. This recognition is a testimony to the outstanding leadership of Ms. Shukla who has exemplified inspired leadership, policy advocacy, fostering strategic alliances, and innovation in the realm of energy, environment, and sustainability. Ms. Shukla's leadership acumen has steered EIL towards numerous triumphs and her experience has been instrumental in the successful implementation of prestigious projects in high-impact sectors. In the 13th PSE Excellence Awards, EIL also emerged as runner up in four categories: "Operational Performance Excellence", "Corporate Governance," "Corporate Social Responsibility & Sustainability," and "Inclusivity- Contribution of Women and Differently-Abled In".

**CERTIFICATION—SAIL**

SAIL is proud to announce that it has been certified as a "Great Place To Work" for the period of December 2023 to December 2024 by the Great Place To Work Institute, India. The "Great Place To Work" certification is a global recognition reflecting SAIL's commitment to being a respected and sought-after employer. This recognition is a testament to SAIL's sustained focus on fostering a workplace of trust, collaboration and employee empowerment. The Great Place To Work Institute is an internationally renowned organization which recognizes employers who create an outstanding employee experience through a rigorous evaluation process. SAIL has secured the certification following a thorough survey conducted by the Great Place to Work Institute, which relied on direct feedback from employees at SAIL. SAIL has continuously implemented various employee-centric initiatives, focusing on enhancing the employee experience and nurturing a supportive and collaborative work environment.



**NDMC** The New Delhi Municipal Council is all set to paint the capital city in a variety of colors as it embarks on a transformative journey, planting 2 Lakhs tulip bulbs sourced from Holland under the vision of PM for clean, green growth & Viksit Bharat@2047, it is informed by VC Satish Upadhyay while kickstarted the initiative by planting tulip bulbs at Shanti Path, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi underscoring NDMC's commitment to enhancing New Delhi's beauty, positivity, & overall experience. Highlighting global collaboration, Upadhyay disclosed the acquisition of 3 lakh tulip bulbs from Holland, with 1 lakh designated for the Delhi Development Authority & the remaining 2 lakhs allocated to adorn public spaces across New Delhi.

**LAUNCH—CASIO**

The heart of Mumbai pulsated with excitement as G-SHOCK, the trailblazing force in unbreakable watches, in collaboration with Vh1 India, brought SHOCK THE WORLD to India, recently. This global phenomenon, which was held in major cities around the world throughout the yr, concluded 2023 in Mumbai. Marking G-SHOCK's 40-year legacy of resilience and innovation, the event was led by Bollywood actor & G-SHOCK brand ambassador Vicky Kaushal, & witnessed the convergence of the emerging youth street cultures with innovation, resilience, & style, creating an unforgettable experience for the G-SHOCK loyalists, fans, watch enthusiasts and audiences alike. Four decades ago, a visionary named Kikuo Ibe dared to dream of crafting an indestructible timepiece.



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**APPOINTMENTS**

**POWERGRID** Ravindra Kumar Tyagi has joined as CMD of POWERGRID, a Maharatna CPSU under Ministry of Power, GOI. Prior to this, he was serving as Dir. (Operations) of the company. He has over 33 yrs of rich experience in the power sector at various key positions in leading CPSUs. He has handled multi-disciplinary work in various business areas of POWERGRID such as Asset Management, Engineering, Business Development (domestic & overseas), Telecom, Load Despatch & Communication, NTAMC, DMS etc. & Head of POWERGRID's North Eastern Region. Tyagi is an Electrical Engineer from Punjab Engineering College, Chandigarh & M. Tech. in Energy Studies from IIT, Delhi. He is a "Fulbright Scholar" from Carnegie Mellon University, USA. He is an author of more than 50 technical papers presented in National & Int'l conferences. He has represented India in many International technical committees for preparing various Technical Standards. Tyagi is a recipient of various national & int'l recognitions.



**OIL INDIA** Anfor Ali Haque assumed the charge of Resident Chief Executive, of Oil India Ltd., Field Headquarters, Duliajan on January 1, 2024. Haque joined OIL as an Executive Trainee in Feb. 1989 in the Production Department at Duliajan. Born to Late Smt Hasna Jahan Haque and Late Abdul Haque, Anfor Ali Haque hails from Dibrugarh, Assam. He did his schooling from Nowgong Higher Secondary School and passed his intermediate from Cotton College, Guwahati & graduated in Mechanical Engineering from Assam Engineering College, Guwahati. He served the Production Department of Oil India Ltd. for more than two decades & later headed the department in 2015. Subsequently, Haque moved to the Central Asset Department for a period of two yrs till Nov. 2019. Later on, he was promoted to the position of Chief GM in the Petroleum Engineering & Statistics Department. He took over the charge of ED (KGB & MBP) in 2022 & later transferred to Duliajan as ED (Production) in 2023. His expertise spans various critical areas, including Well Completion, Artificial Lift Systems, & Surface Production Facilities.



**CISF** On 29.12.2023, Smt Nina Singh, an Indian Police service officer of 1989 batch, Rajasthani Cadre, assumed the charge of DG, Central Industrial Security Force at CISF HQs, New Delhi. She is the first woman officer to hold this post in CISF. Prior to her appointment as DG, CISF, she was serving as Special DG, CISF. She has Master of Arts degree from JNU, New Delhi, & a Master's in Public Administration from Harvard University, USA. She is also trained in the evaluation of social programs at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA. Smt. Nina Singh is a trailblazer, holding the distinction of being the first woman IPS officer of Rajasthan.

**CAMP—NCC**

The NCC Republic Day (RD) camp 2024 commenced at the Cariappa Parade Ground, Delhi Cantt recently. The camp started with Sarv Dharam Pooja. Lt. Gen GURBIRPAL SINGH, AVSM, VSM, DG National Cadets Corps (DG NCC) addressed the cadets and officials on the occasion and called upon the cadets to participate wholeheartedly & derive maximum benefits from each activity in the camp. The Republic Day Camp holds the fundamental aim of instilling a profound sense of patriotism, discipline, and leadership qualities among the participating cadets. This annual event serves as a platform to offer cadets valuable opportunities for training, engaging in cultural activities, and participating in social service initiatives, thereby nurturing unity and pride.



1. The earnest money in the shape of National Saving Certificate, Time deposit account in any of the post office in HP / FDR of any Bank duly pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, Hamirpur Division, HP.PWD. , Hamirpur must be accompanied with the application for receipt of tender form along with cost of form Tender application received without earnest money will be rejected.  
(i) The contractors / firms should possess the following documents (photo copy to be attached with application for obtaining the tenders documents):-  
(ii) Latest enlistment / renewal orders with application for obtaining the tenders documents.  
(iii) GST Number issued by the Sale Tax Department.  
(iv) PAN (Permanent Account Number) issued by the Income Tax Department.  
Shall contain scanned copies of EPF issued from competent authority.  
3. The Executive Engineer, Hamirpur Division HPPWD., Hamirpur reserves the right to reject any tender without assigning any reasons (s).  
4. The Cess Charge @ 1% will be deducted from the gross amount of work done by the Contractor.  
5. The work will be completed by the contractor in the stipulated period.  
6. The contractor /firms are required to insert the rate of each item in wards as well as in figures failing which Executive Engineer reserves the right to accept/rejects any over all tender.  
7. The tender shall be issued to only those contractor /firms who are eligible, suitable and competent.  
8. The tender forms shall be issued to eligible contractors depending upon their past performance and work experience which shall be duly evaluated by the technical evaluation committee.  
10. The Contractor who have failed to start/Complete the work in hand with in reasonable time shall not be issued tender forms.  
12. A contractor enlisted in a particular class shall be eligible to tender for his own class and one step below.  
13. If 16.01.2024 happens to be holiday the tender shall be opened on next working day at 11.00.  
14. GST will be deducted as per rates fixed by the Govt.

Executive Engineer, Hamirpur Division, HPPWD, Hamirpur, Pin Code 177001 Telephone No. 01972-222510 e-mail: ee-ham-hp@nic.in  
On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh. HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAMPAK

4764/HP

## OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER AGRA CIRCLE, P.W.D AGRA

### E-Tender Notice inviting

Letter No. :7036/ 14M-A.C/2023-24 Date :- 23.12.2023

1. The Superintending Engineer Agra Circle, U.P.P.W.D. on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the percentage rate bids online from the eligible and approved registered Contractors. The contractors bidding for this work must be registered in Road work with UP PWD. Bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 4 of the Instructions to Bidders to qualify for the award of the contract.

SL No	Name of Work	Estimated cost (Rs. in Lac)	Cost of maintenance (5 year)	Total	Bid Security (Rs in Lacs)	Cost of Document (in Rs.)	Time of completion	Address of Executive Engineer executing the work	Address of Superintendent Engineer	Address of Chief Engineer	Category of Contractor	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1	Mathura	New Construction work of Raya Sadabah Road to Nagri haria Via Jagatpuri Murensingh Road in District Mathura	165.00	16.58	181.58	11.08	Rs. 2000.00 STC +300.00TC+ 54.00GST = 2336.00	Six Month	Executive Engineer, Construction Division-I, P.W.D., Mathura	Superintendent Engineer, Agra Circle, P.W.D., Agra	Chief Engineer, Agra Zone, P.W.D., Agra	Class A & B
2	Mathura	New Construction work of Remaining Portion of main Branch Nahri ki Patni to Talgarhi Road (Ghatkopur) Road in District Mathura	53.00	5.33	58.33	4.92	Rs. 2000.00 STC +300.00TC+ 54.00GST = 2336.00	Three Month	Executive Engineer, Construction Division-I, P.W.D., Mathura	Superintendent Engineer, Agra Circle, P.W.D., Agra	Chief Engineer, Agra Zone, P.W.D., Agra	Class A, B & C
3	Mathura	New Construction work of road from Village Manargarhi upto Mithiboli Village via Chhawali road in District Mathura	263.00	26.00	289.00	16.45	Rs. 2000.00 STC +300.00TC+ 54.00GST = 2336.00	Six Month	Executive Engineer, Construction Division-I, P.W.D., Mathura	Superintendent Engineer, Agra Circle, P.W.D., Agra	Chief Engineer, Agra Zone, P.W.D., Agra	Class A
4	Mathura	New Construction work of road from Village Name Nagarjana upto Javas Canal via Garhi Asha in District Mathura	130.00	12.94	142.94	9.15	Rs. 2000.00 STC +300.00TC+ 54.00GST = 2336.00	Six Month	Executive Engineer, Construction Division-I, P.W.D., Mathura	Superintendent Engineer, Agra Circle, P.W.D., Agra	Chief Engineer, Agra Zone, P.W.D., Agra	Class A, B

- Time allowed for completion is including Rainy Season.
- Bid document with detailed terms and conditions will be available online on website <http://etender.up.nic.in> and Prahari (<http://wms.upppwd.gov.in/Prahari>) From 06-01-2024 to 12-01-2024. Bids must be submitted online only at e-tendering portal of <http://etender.up.nic.in> and Prahari App with all documents as per GO No 14/2020/879(1)/ 23-7/2020/879(1) Dt 25-08-2020 on or before 12:30 Hours Dt. 12-01-2024 Technical Bid received online will be opened on 12-01-2024 at 01:00 Hours.
- The prospective bidders who do not possess Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) must get the same issued from approved agencies before submission of bids.
- Contractor should quote their rates without G.S.T. which shall be paid extra as per applicable at the time of payment.
- Labour Cess @ 1.00% will be Deducted from contractors bill at the time of payment.
- Maintenance Period of work will be 5 year.
- Original MM-II forms proof of royalty shall have to be produced at time of every running bill in accordance to Principal Secretary, Directorate of geology & mining under Pradesh Letter No- 2146/86-2019-S2(emr) 2019 Dt. 30.09.2019, G.O. No- 115(1)/86-2020 dated 15.01.2020 and other relevant Government orders, circulars for all the materials procured from the quarries.
- The bidders are required to submit Original receipt of Internet Banking of E-tender portal Account as per G.O. No.-74/278-2-2018-42 I.T., I.T. & Electronics Section-Dated- 03-12-2018 follows as : (1) Online Tender Cost towards the cost of bid document (As per Column 6) by Internet Banking of E-tender portal Account (Non Refundable). (2) Online Bid security (As per Column 5) in favour of designation of Column 8 by Internet Banking of E-tender portal account.
- (3) Original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B (ii) of ITB as per G.O. No. 3070/78-2-2018-42I.T./2017(22) I.T. and Electronics Anubhag-2 Lucknow Dt. 03.01.2018.

(Anand Kumar)  
Executive Engineer  
Construction Division-I,  
P.W.D., Mathura

UPID NO.200087 DATE-02.01.2024  
WWW.UP.GOV.NIC.IN

## Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development Board

Department of Tourism and Civil Aviation Government of Himachal Pradesh  
P57133-001-Sustainable and Inclusive Tourism Development Project in Himachal Pradesh

### INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Date : 04.01.2024  
OCB Invitation for Bids No. : SITDP-HP\_W03/2023-24/  
Contract Package No. : SITDP-HP\_W03  
Deadline for Submission of Bid : 01/02/2024 at 11:00 Hrs

- The Government of India as the "Borrower" has applied for financing from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of Sustainable and Inclusive Tourism Development Project in Himachal Pradesh. Part of this financing will be used for payments under the Contract named above. Bidding is open to Bidders from eligible source countries of the ADB.
- The Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development Board (HPTDB), under Department of Tourism and Civil Aviation, Government of Himachal Pradesh ("the Employer"), invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the "Rafting Complex and Way Side Amenities at Nadaun , District Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh".
- The details of Contract Package are as follow:-

S.No.	Name of Work	Bid Security	Period of completion
1.	Rafting Complex & Way Side Amenities at Nadaun , District Hamirpur (HP) - Civil, WS & SI, Fire Fighting, Fire Alarm system and Surveillance System etc.)	6.15 million	24 Months

To be qualified under this package, the Bidder should meet the following requirements:

Qualifying Criteria	Minimum Value (INR)
1. Minimum Average Annual Construction Turnover (AACT) for the last Five(5) Financial Years [FYs, 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23]	Equal to or more than INR 615 Million
2. Must demonstrate availability of <b>Financial Resources</b> (less its financial obligations for current contract commitments), meets or exceeds the total requirement for the subject contract, as detailed below;	
Sole Bidder	INR 77 million
i) For JV: One Partner must meet or exceed its required share of 40%	INR 31 million
ii) For JV: Each Partner must meet or exceed its required share of 25%	INR 19 million
iii) The combined financial resources of the Joint Venture must	INR 77 million
3. Contracts of Similar Size and Nature:	
1. Participation as a contractor, Joint Venture partner, or Subcontractor, in at least one contract that has been satisfactorily and substantially completed* within the last 7 years and that is similar to the proposed works, where the value of the Bidder's participation exceeds INR 492 Million.	
2. Participation as a contractor, Joint Venture partner, or Subcontractor, in at least two contract that has been satisfactorily and substantially completed* within the last 7 years and that is similar to the proposed works, where the value of the Bidder's participation exceeds INR 308 Million.	

Further details are indicated in the Section 3 – Evaluation and Qualification Criteria of the Bidding Document.

4. Open Competitive Bidding (OCB) will be conducted in accordance with ADB's "Single-Stage, Two-Envelope" bidding procedure and is open to all Bidders from eligible countries of ADB.

5. To obtain further information and inspect the Bidding Documents, bidders should contact:

The Project Director  
Sustainable and Inclusive Tourism Development Project in Himachal Pradesh

Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development Board (HPTDB)  
Department of Tourism and Civil Aviation

First Floor, U.S. Club Shimla – 171 001, HP, India

Tel: +91-177-2659962, 2659926, Fax: +91-177-2659925

Email: projectdirector.adbhp@gmail.com , Website: www.himachaltourism.gov.in

6. For bid submission:

- Participating bidders should be registered in e-procurement portal [www.hptenders.gov.in](http://www.hptenders.gov.in).
- Cost of Bid document in form of Demand Draft (DD) in favor of Project Director, Sustainable and Inclusive Tourism Development Project in Himachal Pradesh, payable at Shimla
- Interested and eligible bidders may submit their complete proposal as prescribed in the Bid Document along with the receipt of requisite Bid Security Amount and non-refundable Bid Document Cost.
- Bids received without the payment of Bid Document Cost and/or Bid Security Amount shall be summarily rejected.
- The Employer will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by Bidders in connection with the preparation or submission of Bids.
- Bids must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before the date and time specified in the Bidding Document. Late bids will not be admitted by the e-procurement system. The Employer will not be responsible for any delay in submission of bid due to any reason.

### • Key Dates

S.No.	Event	Date / Time
1.	Online Publication	04.01.2024 at 18:00 Hrs
2.	Start Date of downloading of Bid document	06.01.2024 at 18:00 Hrs
3.	Pre-bid Meeting	15.01.2024 at 15:00 Hrs
4.	Date & time for start of online submission of Bids	30.01.2024 at 18:00 Hrs
5..	Deadline for online submission of Bids	31.01.2024 at 17:00 Hrs
6.	Deadline for Physical submission of the following original documents Bid Security (in form of Demand Draft)	01.02.2024 at 11:00 Hrs
7.	Date of opening of technical bids	02.02.2024 at 11:30 Hrs
8.	Date of opening of Price bids.	(Will be later intimated to all technically responsive bidders)

- Any addendum, clarification to the bidder's queries and corrigendum etc. will be published on the e-proc web site [www.hptenders.gov.in](http://www.hptenders.gov.in), and will not be published in Newspapers. If any date specified herein is a holiday, then the next working day will be considered for the activity and the time will remain the same.
- Right to revise or amend this notice and / or the Bid Document, fully or partially, prior to the last date notified for submission of Bids or on any subsequent date is reserved by the Employer.
- Pre-bid meeting with the Bidders will be held at Office of the Project Director (Address given below) at [Insert Time] on [Insert Date of Pre-bid meeting]. Bidders interested in participating in the bids are advised to attend the same. Bidders are encouraged to visit the site, at their own cost, before the pre-bid meeting / submission of bid.

(--SD--)  
The Project Director  
Sustainable and Inclusive Tourism Development Project in Himachal Pradesh  
Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development Board (HPTDB)  
Department of Tourism and Civil Aviation  
First Floor, U.S. Club Shimla – 171 001, HP, India

Tel: +91-177-2659962, 2659926, Fax: +91-177-2659925

Email: projectdirector.adbhp@gmail.com , Website: www.himachaltourism.gov.in

1063/HP

## TAMIL NADU TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process)

SNo	Tender Inviting Authority	Specification No	Total
1	CET/TP4/Chennai	TFI-77/2023-24	1
2	CET/OT/Chennai	ET-17, ET-17	2
3	CE/C/Transmission	T-55, T-56	2
4	SE/GCC/Chennai-II	ST-01/2023-24	1
5	SE/Transmission-II	T-2297, T-2298, T-2299, T-2300	4

For details of Works / Procurement / Due date of submission / opening, viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit websites: [www.tantransco.gov.in](http://www.tantransco.gov.in), [www.tenders.tn.gov.in](http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in), [www.tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app](http://www.tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app)

DIPR/10/Tender/2024

132 केवी एन्ड टेंडरिंग्स लिमिटेड

कार्यालय द्वारा आमंत्रित विवरण मॉडल

132 केवी एन्ड टेंडरिंग्स लिमिटेड

विवरण मॉडल



## MUMBAI RAILWAY VIKAS CORPORATION LIMITED

## REQUEST FOR TENDER: MRVC/W/138R1

(One Envelope e-Procurement Tender Process)

Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation Ltd. (MRVC) having its corporate office at Second Floor, Churchgate Station Building, Mumbai-400020, invites e-Tenders for the "Signal & Telecommunication infringement removal works for construction of new station building, bridges, platforms, track works and other utilities at station sections in connection with Quadrupling work between Vilar - Dahana Road section of Mumbai Division of Western Railway Balance Two Lots". Details of Tender and Tender document are available on e-procurement website <https://www.eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>. The last date for completed e-Tender submission at website <https://www.eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> is 18.01.2024 up to 12:30 hours. Corrigendum, if any, will be posted on the website only. <https://mrvc.indianrailways.gov.in>

## SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General public is hereby informed that a girl (depicted in the photo), **Name:** Roshi D/o Ram Naresh Singh, R/o S-146/609, Adarsh Basti, Mohammadpur, New Delhi has been missing/kidnapped since 03.11.2023 from the her house. In this regard a case vide FIR No. 339/23 dated 03.11.2023 U/s 363 IPC has been registered at PS R.K. Puram, New Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

**ROSHNI**

**Age :** about 16 years, **Height :** 5'1", **Complexion :** Shallow, **Face :** Long, **Built :** Thin, **Wearing :** White colour suit, Black colour salwar and shoes in feet.

Any person having any information/clue about this missing/kidnapped girl, may inform SHO, R.K. Puram, New Delhi at E-mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) or website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

**SHO**  
P.S. R.K. Puram, New Delhi  
South-West Distt., Delhi  
Phone: 011-24368638, 24368641  
Fax No. 011-24368639  
DP/13694/SW/2023

**SHRI LAL BAHADUR SHASTRI NATIONAL SANSKRIT UNIVERSITY (CENTRAL UNIVERSITY)**  
B-4, QUTAB INSTITUTIONAL AREA, NEW DELHI-110016

F. 7(134)/LBNSU/UWD/2023-24 Date: 21.12.2023

## NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed percentage rate tenders are invited for the under mentioned work from the approved and eligible CPWD contractors. NIT No. 04/2023-24/LBSU/UWD (T.I.D. No. 2023\_SLBS\_738909\_1) Upgradation of smart classroom etc. of Shaikhanli Sadan of the University during 2023-24 (S.H. Distempering, Aluminium work, Wooden Paneling, PVC Flooring & Electrical work etc. complete). **Estimated Cost:** Rs. 21,02,493/-, **Earnest Money:** Rs. 42,05/-, **Time Allowed:** (60) Sixty Days, **Tender Fee:** Rs. 1180/- (Non-Refundable).

Last date & time of receipt of applications: 10/01/2024 up to 4.00 P.M. Last date & time of issue of tenders: 12/01/2024 up to 4.00 P.M. Last date & time of Submission of tenders: 16/01/2024 up to 3.00 P.M. Date & time of opening of tenders: 16/01/2024 from 3.30 P.M. For eligibility criteria, other details & corrigendum, if any, please visit websites: [www.slbsrv.ac.in](http://www.slbsrv.ac.in) & [www.eprocure.gov.in](https://www.eprocure.gov.in)

CBC 21371/12/0004/2324

REGISTRAR

## SEARCH FOR MISSING



General Public is hereby informed that a person namely **Sunil Singh** S/o Tegchand, R/o E-74/201, Gali No.8, Gandhi Nagar, Dharmputra, Delhi. **Age:** 42 years, **Height :** 5'8", **Complexion-Fair**, **Built-Thin**, **Face-Round**, **Wearing:** Black colour Sweater and Gray colour Pant & Blue colour Shoes in his feet has been missing from his home since 27.12.2023 at 11.00 AM. In this regard a vide DD No. 27A dated 30.12.2023 has been lodged at P.S. Gandhi Nagar, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing person but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this person please inform undersigned.

E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
Ph : 011-24368638, 24368641  
Fax : 011-24368639  
DP/62/SHD/2024

**SHO**  
P.S. Gandhi Nagar, Delhi  
Ph. : 8595895116, 7065030824

**U.P. RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD.**  
Anpara Thermal power project

## E-Tender Notice

1. E-Tender Notice No:17/CAD/DTPS/2023-24, Online e-Bids are invited for the Work of "Repairing & fabrication work of various pumps spare of DTSP Anpara. E-Tender Has been uploaded on 03.01.2024 on <http://etender.up.nic.in>, Estimated cost of Work: Rs. 3,74,538.00 only, E.M.D cost: Rs. 7500.00, Last date of Tender: 31.01.2024 at 18:00 Hrs.

2. E-Tender Notice No: T-42/PD-I/DTPS/2023-24, Online e-Bids are invited for "Supply of 48V Battery bank for BTPS, Anpara." E-Tender Has been uploaded on 29.12.2023 on <http://etender.up.nic.in>, Estimated cost: Rs. 16,50,000.00 only, E.M.D cost: Rs. 20,000.00, Last date of Tender: 20.01.2024 at 14:00Hrs.

3. E-Tender Notice No: T-41/PD-I/ATP/2023-24, Online e-Bids are invited for "Supply of smart positioner for DTSP, Anpara." E-Tender Has been uploaded on 22.12.2023 on <http://etender.up.nic.in>, Estimated cost: Rs. 10,00,000.00 only, E.M.D cost: Rs. 15,000.00, Last date of Tender: 10.01.2024 at 14:00Hrs.

4. E-Tender Notice No: 04/CMD-I/ATPS/2023-24, Online e-Bids are invited for the "Physical verification of coal at Anpara, Obra, parichha and Harduaganj." E-Tender Has been uploaded on 30.12.2023 on <http://etender.up.nic.in>, Estimated cost of Work: Rs. 14,04,000.00 only, Time Period: 12 Months, E.M.D cost: Rs. 28,00,000.00, Last date of Tender: 22.01.2024 at 17:00 Hrs.

5. Short Term E-Tender Notice No: 72/PD-II/ABTPS/CF-226/2023-24, Online e-Bids are invited for "Supply of HCL 30%." E-Tender Has been uploaded on 28.12.2023 on <http://etender.up.nic.in>, Estimated cost of Work: Rs. 100,200.00 only, E.M.D cost: Rs. 1500.00, Last date of Tender: 16.01.2024 at 16:00 Hrs.

6. Short Term E-Tender Notice No: 73/PD-II/ABTPS/CF-69/2023-24, Online e-Bids are invited for "Logbook & stationery." E-Tender Has been uploaded on 28.12.2023 on <http://etender.up.nic.in>, Estimated cost of Work: Rs. 3,83,687.00 only, E.M.D cost: Rs. 4000.00, Last date of Tender: 16.01.2024 at 16:00 Hrs.

7. E-Tender Notice No: 03/CTD-I/ATP/2023-24, Online e-Bids are invited for "Work of coal transportation by road/RCR mode from various mines of M/S NCL to ATP Kakri wharf wall and ATP Primary yard." E-Tender Has been uploaded on 03.01.2024 on <http://etender.up.nic.in>, Estimated cost of Work: Rs. 33,38,16,000.00 only, E.M.D cost: Rs. 66,00,000.00, Last date of Tender: 23.01.2024 at 17:00 Hrs.

Total quality of work/supply, Tender specification and other term & condition is as per tender document available on the E-tender portal. Concerned Officer reserves the right to cancel the e-bids without assigning any reason. Corrigendum, Addendum, Extension if any shall be uploaded only on the above website. Bidders are advised to visit the website regularly for updated information from time to time.

पत्रक: 2438/प्रयोगशीलन-1/जाता/योग/कला अनु- दिनांक 03.01.2024

Save Electricity for Nation

## NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

## E-TENDERING TENDER NOTICE

Divisional Railway Manager (Works) N.C. Railway, Jhansi for and behalf of President of India invites sealed " Open Tender" through on Line (E-Tendering) for the following work.

**E-Tender No.: JHS-ENGG-N-2023-177** **Description of work:** Jhansi division: Widening & Pucca approach road at Sank goods shed.

**Approx Cost : 2684322.45** **Earnest Money: 53700.00**

**Date of completion/period from issue acceptance letter : 04 Months.**

**Date of closing Tender : 24.01.2024 at 15:00 hrs.** Tender on line can be submitted up to 15:00 hrs on 24.01.2024, For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in) 04/24(P)

06844 North central railways @ www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @northcentralrailway X @CPRONCR

## NORTHERN RAILWAY

## INVITATION OF TENDERS THROUGH

## E-PROCUREMENT SYSTEM

Tender Notice No. Inj. Medicines Date : 03.01.2024

Principal chief materials manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi - 110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:-

S. No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Closing Date
1	CITICOLINE 500 MG TAB	274730 Nos.	24.01.2024
2	SITAGLIPTIN 50 MG AND METFORMIN 1000 MG TAB	711880 Nos.	24.01.2024
3	TAB. SITAGLIPTIN 50 MG	627890 Nos.	24.01.2024
4	SAROGILTAZAR 4 MG	136140 Nos.	24.01.2024
5	SACUBITRIL 24 MG AND VALSARTAN 26 MG	313360 Nos.	24.01.2024

**Note -1.** Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in) for details. 2. No Manual offer will be entertained.

22/24

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

## NORTHERN RAILWAY

## E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution, DRM's Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi & on behalf of President of India, invites open e-tender for the under noted work:-

Name of Work with its location	Design, supply, erection, testing & commissioning of 25 KV AC OHE in connection with Electrification of all Six Washing cum Pit Lines HNZM Depot to facilitate maintenance of upcoming Vande Bharat Train
Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 1,64,79,697.07/-
Ernest Money Deposit	Rs. 2,32,400/-
E-Tender Bid Online Submission Period	15.01.2024 (00:00 Hrs.) to 29.01.2024 (15:00 Hrs.)
E-Tender Bid Submission End Date & E-Tender Open Date & Time	29.01.2024 (15:00 Hrs.)
Fund Allocation	Capital (20427103)
Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	<a href="http://www.reps.gov.in">www.reps.gov.in</a>
E-Tender No. : 25C-TRD-NLDS-2023-24 Dated 02.01.2024	20/2024
Serving Customers With A Smile	

## NORTHERN RAILWAY

## Invitation of Tenders through E-procurement system

Principal chief materials manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi -110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:-

S. No.	Brief description	Qty.	Closing date
1.	Metformin 1000mg SR/ER	3491470 Nos.	25.01.2024
2.	Erythropoietin Human Recombinant Inj 10,000 IU in PFS	8630 Nos.	25.01.2024
3.	Erythropoietin Human Recombinant Inj 4,000 IU in PFS	33210 Nos.	25.01.2024
4.	tab. Ticagrelor 90 mg	468000 Nos.	25.01.2024
5.	Sacubitiril 49 mg and Valsartan 51 mg	189222 Nos.	25.01.2024

**Note:-1.** Vendors may visit the IREPS websites i.e. [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in) for details. 2. No Manual offer will be entertained. Tender Notice No. Inj. Medicines Date :-03.01.2024 25/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

## APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one male was found dead at Near Turkman Gate Market Near Badi Masjid Chandni Mahal, Delhi on 31.12.2023. In this regard a DD No. 43-A Dated 31.12.2023 has been lodged at P.S. Chandni Mahal, Delhi. The description of the dead body is given as under:

**Name:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** about 50 years, **Height:** 5'7" Approx, **Face:** Long, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Jersey & Lower.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the information about the dead male but no

## Classifieds

## PERSONAL

I Mohammad Aslam S/o Mushtaq Ahmed H.no. 68 Gali No 21 M N Model Public School Jaijrabad Delhi-110053 have to change my name "Mohd Aslam" for all Purposes 005023713-1

It is for general information that I, Satender Singh Negi S/o Ranjeet Singh Negi R/o C-2/61 Shiv Vihar Colony, Karala, Delhi-110081, declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as Ranjeet Singh in my 10th Certificate. The actual name of my father is Ranjeet Singh Negi, which may be amended accordingly. 0070881450-1

It is for general information that I, Mrityunjay Kumar Verma S/o Shri Bhagwan Prasad R/o H.No.-f-40, Gali No-81, New Delhi, Mahavir Enclave Part-3, Binda Pur, West Delhi-110059 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Mrityunjay Verma in my minor daughter namely Vaishnvi Verma aged 16 years in her 10th class educational documents. The actual name of mine is Mrityunjay Kumar Verma, which may be amended accordingly. 0040706482-1

I, hitherto known as SUMEDHA, W/O,SANJAY KUMAR GARG, R/O,B-1/42,Phase-2,Ashok Vihar,Delhi-110052, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME and shall hereafter be known as SUMEDHA GARG. 0040706551-10

I,VIKAS SAWGAN,S/O SUNIL, R/O,FLAT NO.1701,TOWER-4,M-3 M,MERLIN,SECTOR-67, GURGAON-122001,HARYANA HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO VIKAS SANGWAN. 0040706543-3

I,VANDANA AGGARWAL,W/O SUNIL GUPTA R/O,HNO.72, KALYAN VIHAR,VIJAY NAGAR,MODEL-TOWN,DELHI-110009.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO VANDANA GUPTA, FOR ALL PURPOSES. 0040706549-9

I,T.Sneha, D/o,G.Thippeswamy, R/o:C4F/214,Second Floor, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058 Have Changed My Name to Sneha Thippeswamy. 0040706543-5

I,Sujata Tamang,W/O Guddu Tamang,R/O H.NO-187,Basant Nagar,Vasant Vihar Delhi-110057,Have Changed my Name to Sujata Pahari. 0040706551-1

I,Subhash Chandra Sachdeva alias Subhash Chand,S/o-Matwal Chand,R/o-4/25, Jaivdev Park,East Punjabi-Bagh,Delhi-26,have changed my name to Subhash Chander Sachdeva. 0040706552-5

I,Shivani Rajput w/o Shri Ashutosh Verma r/o,H.No.89, VPO:-Chetru,Tehsil-Dharmshala, Dist Kangra, Himachal Pradesh-176209, have change my name to Shivani Verma,for all purposes. 0040706549-10

I,VIPIN S/O HARVIA SETIA, R/O 238, SFS FLATS RAJOURI APPT MAYA PURI,NEW DELHI-110064,have changed my name to VIPIN SETIA. 0040706552-8

I,Shakila,W/o-Jamil Ahmed, R/o-C-29/A, Gali No.9,Near Loha Mill,Rajiv Nagar Mandoli Delhi-110093,have changed my name to Shakila Begum. 0040706558-2

I,Satyendra Prakash Mor S/o Jai Lal Mor,R/0-39/12,Shakti Nagar, Delhi-110007,have Changed my name to Satya Parkash Mor all purpose. 0040706553-2

I,Sandhya Agarwal,W/O-Shri Adarsh Goel,R/o-103-A,Gali No.68,Deva Ram Park,Tri Nagar, Delhi-110035,have changed my name to Sandhya Goel. 0040706558-1

I,SUSHIL KUMAR JAISWAL,S/O-SH. RAM NIHAL,R/O-H.NO-B-9, BALAJI APARTMENT,PLOT NO-7,SECTOR-3,DWARKA,NEW DELHI-110078,Inform that in my son's(KRISHAN) school record my name has been wrongly-written as SUSHIL KUMAR instead of correct-name SUSHIL KUMAR JAISWAL,both names are same-person. 0040706551-3

I,SURESH BABU,S/O SHRI RAM YADAV, H.No.11,Block-K-1,MOHAN GARDEN,UTTAM NAGAR,DELHI-110059,have changed my name to SURESH BABU YADAV,for all future purpose. 0040706543-6

I,SEERAT DAHIYA,D/O VIKAS DAHIYA R/O HOUSE NO.1135, NEAR POLICE CHOWKI, SEC-6, BAHADURGARH,JHAJJAR, HARYANA -124507,have changed my name to SEERAT. 0040706549-2

I,SEEMA W/O MANOHAR KUMAR, ADD-E44/4,1ST-FLOOR, BPTP PARK ELITE SECTOR 85, FARIDABAD, HARYANA-121002, changed my name to SEEMA KUMAR,for all,future purposes. 0040706552-3

I,SAYMA W/O MOHD IMRAN R/O 2555, GALI DHARMSHALA WALI,SITA RAM BAZAR, DELHI-110006, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SAYMA FAROOQ. 0040706568-3

I,Hereby known as ROHIT,S/o. MR SUNDER KHAN R/O-K-59,Dakshin puri, Amedkar Nagar,South Delhi,New-Delhi-110062, have added surname "Kumar" on my name and shall hereafter be known as ROHIT KUMAR for all future purposes. 0040706550-1

I,SAIRA D/O HARVIAS SETIA,R/O 238 SFS FLATS RAJOURI APPT, MAYA PURI NEW DELHI-110064, have changed my name to SAIRA SETIA. 0040706552-9

I,RITika w/o Gulshan Gulati,R/o G-10,Rani Garden Shastri-Nagar,Delhi-110031,have changed my name to Ritika Gulati, permanently. 0040706554-4

I,Reema Bajaj,W/o Neeraj Kumar,R/o 228, Ambica-Vihar Paschim-Vihar Delhi-110087, have changed my name to Reema,for all purposes. 0040706552-4

I,RAMANAND S/O,GAYA PRASAD VERMA R/O,HOUSE NO.285-D, RAIPUR RAJA,JAIL ROAD, BAIRAHAT,UTTAR PRADESH-271801,have changed my name to RAMANAND VERMA. 0040706551-9

I,RAKESH JAIN,S/O NIHAI CHAND JAIN,R/O,C-46,SHARDA PURI,SHREEMATI NAGAR,DELHI-110015, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RAKESH KUMAR JAIN. 0040706549-8

I,RAJU BAITHA,S/O MOTI LAL BAITHA,R/O HOUSE NO.324, GALI NO.19,DHIRPUR DR. MUKHERJEE-NAGAR,DELHI-110009,have changed my name to RAJU KANOJIA. 0040706551-8

I,Priyadarshini Anand Arya, D/o, Anand Kumar Arya,R/o OD-66, Third-Floor, Malibu Town Sector-47, South City-II, Gurgaon (Haryana)-122018, have changed my name to Priyadarshini Arya. 0040706543-9

I,Prabhkeerat Singh Kohli,S/O Rajinder Pal Singh Kohli,R/O T-7410,Tata-Primanti, Sector-72,Gurgaon,Haryana-122101, have changed my name to Keerat Kohli,for all purpose. 0040706543-7

I,PUSHPA DEVI,W/O DESRAY DHINGRA,R/O A-17,SECOND FLOOR SHIV MANDIR MAJILIS-PARK BLOCK-A,LTC:ADARSH NAGAR,DELHI-110033,have changed my name to PUSHPA DEVI DHINGRA. 0040706543-3

I,PREETI W/O SUNIL MITTAL R/O HNO.G-1/72,GROUND-FLOOR, SECTOR-11,ROHINI,DELHI-110085, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO PREETI MITTAL. 0040706551-7

I,NEHA PAUHUA,W/O Sh.KAMAL KANT,R/O F-102,Sagar-Sadan Apartment,Plot.No. 113,I.P. Extension Delhi-110092,have changed my Minor Daughter's Name,From KYNA VERMA to KYNA NEHA PAUHUA,for all purposes. 0040706551-4

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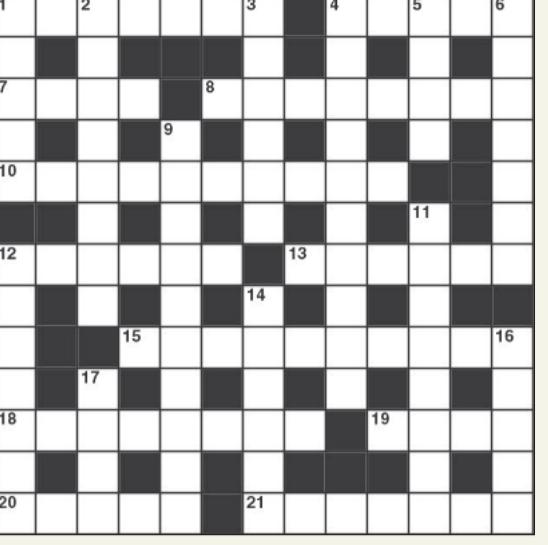
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## CROSSWORD 5252



## ACROSS

- 1 Rosy set about the fish course (7)  
4 Girl going out (5)  
7 Darned bad news (4)  
8 Taken in by a fence? (8)  
10 They reveal the stars in all their splendour (10)  
12 Many move up being bright (6)  
13 Part of barrel to break into we hear (6)  
15 Final notices (10)  
18 Male bird and plant (8)  
19 Not working one gets led astray (4)  
20 Cannib sort of girl? (5)  
21 Finished work so went to bed (7)

## DOWN

- 1 Good place for a date? (5)  
2 Operator understood dice (8)  
3 Santa's vehicle broke his leg (6)  
4 Sugar loaf? (10)  
5 It's everything for some; nothing for others (4)  
6 Language course after a do-it-yourself setback (7)  
9 One of the fruits of advanced age? (10)  
11 Confuse by suggesting that one should be less calm (8)  
12 One who once lived a hollow life (7)  
14 He makes things hot for his employer (6)  
16 Horse stepped very softly out (5)  
17 An outside number that's unidentified (4)

Solutions Crossword 5251 Across: 1 Lightweight, 9 Astride, 10 Camel, 11 Caws, 12 Stamp out, 14 Prison, 16 Grille, 18 Railhead, 19 Deal, 22 Still, 23 Faction, 24 Close the gap Down: 2 In tow, 3 Heir, 4 Wreath, 5 In camera, 6 Ham roll, 7 Catch phrase, 8 Clothesline, 13 Toeholds, 15 Initial, 17 Saw fit, 20 Erica, 21 Aché

## OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry &amp; T Lewis



## CALVIN &amp; HOBBS by Bill Watterson



## MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



## JUMBLED WORDS

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

There is some pleasure even in words, when they bring forgetfulness of \_\_\_\_\_.

- Sophocles (7,8)

CMEEE  
INSTEP

VEIRR  
AIMPSS

Miseries - Shopkeepers. There is some pleasure even in words, when they bring forgetfulness of present

SOLUTION: EMECE-NERVER SPINN: PASSIN

## SUDOKU 5431

## Difficulty Level 5s

**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.

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

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

## SOLUTION SUDOKU 5430

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

**CORRIGENDUM**  
PMGSY  
Superintending Engineer, 4<sup>th</sup> Circle, HPPWD, Winterfield, Shimla H.P., 171003  
Himachal Pradesh Public Works Department  
UNDER PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY-III)  
e-Procurement CORRIGENDUM Notice

The 3 nos. tenders UNDER PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY-III) were invited vide this office letter NO. SE-IV-CTR-TENDER-PMGSY/2023-15618-38 Dated:-11.12.2023 through e-procurement notice. The following amendment have been made in the e-procurement notice:-

## No.1:- Changes in Dates :-

Sr. No.	Description	Dates as mentioned in previous notice	Dates as amended
1.	Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement	15.12.2023	05.01.2024
2.	Last Date/ Time for receipt of bids	08.01.023 at 1700 hours	24.01.2024 at 1000 hours
3.	The technical bids will be opened on	09.01.2023 at 1100 hours	24.01.2024 at 1100 hours

## No.2:- Other Changes :-

Sr. No.	Description	As mentioned in previous notice	As amended
1.	Period of Completion for Construction Part for all Packages	510 Days	540 Days

Also, the bidder is not required to quote his rate for routine maintenance. The rates to be paid for routine maintenance are indicated in the Bidding Document. Further, the payment for routine maintenance to the contractor shall be regulated based on his performance of maintenance activities as per e-Marg.

All other terms and conditions shall remain the same as issued vide this office letter NO. SE-IV-CTR-TENDER-PMGSY/2023-15618-38 Dated:-11.12.2023 through e-procurement notice.

4762/HP Superintending Engineer, 4<sup>th</sup> Circle, HPPWD, Shimla-3.

## DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

## ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

You may imagine that your loyalty and devotion have been misplaced, but you really have very little to worry about. Today's stars place the emphasis on friendly gatherings and unusual solutions; the answers to old questions are closer than you think.

## TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

Certain events can boost your confidence, but you may also risk over-reaching yourself. You must make one last final effort to complete an outstanding task, but whether you complete everything now, or are obliged to wait until your next chance is another matter.

## SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

Once certain facts or items of information come to light, you will be able to get a grip with difficult or highly-charged situations. The family remains the main area of operations, so tread carefully, for you know how touchy people can be when there's a long history.

## SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

What transpires during the early part of the coming week should set you on a new course, so you have plenty to look forward to. You really must spare as much time as you need to talk over your plans with anybody and everybody who is likely to be involved.

## CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

Venus may act as the catalyst for joint financial arrangements and you must be quick off the mark if you are to get the very best out of prosperous developments. In many ways, this is the best moment for agreement, mainly because you're prepared to countenance a break with your routine.

## LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

You may feel apprehensive and insecure, and quite right too. Unless you question your own motives you will fail to smarten up your act and make the necessary improvements in intimate relationships. You might also make a major financial blunder, so avoid rash promises.

## VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

It is time for some light relief, but you'll be busy at work. You'll therefore have to keep all the balls in the air at the same time, juggling the different options with your usual consummate skill. You should be happiest when other people leave you alone to get on with your personal schemes.

## PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

You're not in full possession of the facts, so keep your emotions and temper in check a while longer and give yourself plenty of time to show that work is going as planned. If you can clear up a mystery in the process, so much the better. Don't forget to share your new insights with the people who need to know.

You may have spent the last few months trying to avoid some sort of showdown, but you may now consider allowing secret evidence and suppressed feelings to come to the surface. It will be useful to clear the air, even if home truths do make you feel uncomfortable.

It is time for some light relief, but you'll be busy at work. You'll therefore have to keep all the balls in the air at the same time, juggling the different options with your usual consummate skill. You should be happiest when other people leave you alone to get on with your personal schemes.

Tender documents are available on e-procurement platform tender.approcurement.gov.in. Tenders will be opened in the presence of company representatives who attend the evaluation. For further details contact: 0866-2499699.

No : 2586PP/CL/ADVT/1/2021-22  
Sd/- Vice Chairman and Managing Director

HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRONICS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED

Tender No.: HPSEDC/RC-FW/2K24-19128

E-TENDER NOTICE

e-Tenders are invited from eligible bidders for Rate Contract for Firewall. Pre-Bid meeting will be held on 10/01/2024 (11:30AM) through Video Conferencing. Last date for online e-bid submission is 30/01/2024 (upto 02:30 PM) and shall be opened on 31/01/2024 at 2:30PM. Detailed Tender Document containing Technical Specifications and Terms & Conditions are available on HPSEDC website www.hpsedc.in and https://htptenders.gov.in.

1069/HP General Manager (Technical)

## PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

## See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Kashif, S/o. Jameel, R/o. T-12, DDA Flat, Turkman Gate, Delhi**, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 168/2015, U/s 342/323/34 IPC registered at P.S. Chandni Mahal, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said **Kashif** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Kashif** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Kashif** accused of FIR No. 168/2015, U/s 342/323/34 IPC P.S. Chandni Mahal, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 20.02.2024

By Order  
Ms. Meena Chauhan,  
Metropolitan Magistrate -08,  
Central Room No. 272,  
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

## DP/14646/CD/2023

## PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

## SEE SECTION U/S 82 Cr. P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Kulbhushan S/o Shyam Dular R/o. H.No. J-512 Mangolpuri Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in Case FIR No.547/2018 U/s 288/328 IPC P.S. Mangolpuri, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused **Kulbhushan** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Kulbhushan** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Kulbhushan** of FIR No.547/2018 U/s 288/328 IPC P.S. Mangolpuri, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 20.02.2024.

By Order  
Sh. Rishabh Kapoor,  
LD MM, Court No.105, North-West  
Distt. Rohini Court, Delhi

DP/15173/OD/2023(Court Matter).

**कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय**  
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, लोहरदगा  
(rdsd.lohdarga@rediffmail.com)

अतिअल्पकालीन ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

E-RDSD/JSR/09/2023-24/RE/4<sup>th</sup> Call

1. कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी :-

क्रम संख्या	कार्य का नाम	प्राकलित राशि	अग्रधन की राशि	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1.	पूर्ण सिंहभूम जिला के मानगो जाकिरनगर अवैरस कर्मचारी नियुक्त होने के पास कालीन नाला पर पुल निर्माण।	1,03,40,900.00	2,07,000.00	10,000.0	

## LESSONS FROM 23-WICKET DAY

## How not to bat in Test matches

## DAY ONE'S OPENING ACT

**Mohammed Siraj bowled nine overs on the trot — 2nd to 18th — for figures of 9-3-15-6.**

**1st over (2nd of innings):** 1 run  
0 0 0 1 0 0

**2nd over:** Wicket maiden  
0 W 0 0 0 0  
**MARKRAM (5/1)**

**3rd over:** 1 wicket, 1 run  
0 0 W 0 1 0  
**ELGAR (8/2)**

**4th over:** 1 run  
0 0 0 0 1 0

**5th over:** Wicket maiden  
0 W 0 0 0 0  
**ZORZI (15/4)**

**6th over:** 2 runs  
1 0 0 1 0 0

**7th over:** 4 runs  
0 0 0 0 3 1

**8th over:** two wickets, maiden  
0 W 0 0 W 0  
**BEDINGHAM/JANSEN (34/5, 34/6)**

**9th over:** 1 wicket, 6 runs  
2 0 0 4 W 0  
**VERREYNNE (45/7)**

Mohammad Siraj's 6 for 15 is the third best by an Indian bowler in SA. Reuters



KL Rahul's dismissal, when on 8 from 33 balls, triggered India's collapse on Day One. PTI

## INDIA LOSE SIX WICKETS FOR NO RUN — 4/153 TO 153 ALL OUT

With Virat Kohli and KL Rahul in the middle, India were just four down with a 98-run lead before the collapse.

W	O	W	O	W	O	O	W	O	W	W
RAHUL	I	JADEJA	I	BUMRAH	I	KOHLI	I	SIRAJ	I	KRISHNA

back of length that induced a hard push and an edge to the slips.

Until Rahul's decision, Ngidi had a relatively ordinary day, with Shaun Pollock sighting about his lack of match practice. Everything would change in a Cape Town minute for him, for South Africa, for India, and for the fans. A game-turning triple strike in an over.

There was one telling statistic that told the story of the two batting units. Despite numerous shouts and DRS reviews, there was no lbw dismissal in the 23 wickets that fell. It spoke about the bounce on the pitch - the main devil, really - but it also showed how the techniques have withered away. And perhaps some cricketing intelligence as well.

Those numbers tell that batsmen could have been leaving the balls on a length, not easy but improbable but made to seem impossible by the relentless plonking on the front foot without a second plan. There was some irony in their unceasing surprise at the extra bounce that kept ramming into their bat splice.

The day, however, was perfect to rant about the falling standards of Test batting.

First, there was Pakistan's shenanigans on a flat track pre-dawn in Australia before a tailender rescued them. This was followed by South Africa's implosion in the afternoon before India sealed it by spontaneously com-

busting in the evening.

There was unintentional dark humour too.

Soon after the innings's turning point — KL Rahul getting possessed by a mysterious force to swipe at a Lungi Ngidi short ball to make it 153 for 5 in the first ball of the 34th over — Virat Kohli had got involved in the game.

He shepherded the incoming batsman Ravindra Jadeja, while muttering a string of instructions. Jadeja lasted 2 balls, stabbing a Ngidi bouncer to gully. Kohli then went a long way to usher in Jasprit Bumrah, once again he constantly chatted with the newcomer. Bumrah also lasted 2 balls, undone by a kicker that burst off his bat splice.

Then Kohli turned his attention to Mohammad Siraj. In four balls, he had spoken to three teammates; no one can say he was alone in the middle and lacked some company. There were no Kohli conversations to be had further as Kagiso Rabada packed him for the fifth time in Tests with a lifter from

Two Indian batsmen saved the day, Rohit Sharma and Kohli. Rohit primarily because the bowling at that point, barring Rabada, was erratic but he had the sense of mind and purpose to cash in.

## Kohli's class

The best innings belonged to Kohli who

these days blends aggression without boiling over in intensity as he could do. He was relatively relaxed, smiling with Elgar, mimicking a run of a South African on the field, chatting with the umpires. He would cuss himself a couple of times, at scoring opportunities lost as he re-alised its importance on such a pitch.

There was a sequence of shots in the 27th over of the innings against Rabada that captured the essence of his knock. He pounced on a slightly short ball to unfurl a glorious one-legged pull, a shot that he doesn't play too often. He usually swat-pulls with his bottom-

bat harder and the stumps.

Shubman Gill, whose weight transfer has been an issue in Test cricket, was trying to press back but couldn't do it in time. He was



Virat Kohli with 46 was the top-scorer from both teams. PTI

handed wrist taking over but this was as conventional a pull as he has unfurled. A couple of balls later, he creamed a gorgeous cover drive right out of the trademark Kohli gif and soon strode forward for an immaculate defense that brought David to mind.

It was all soon to change, though as a 43-run partnership in just over 10 overs ended with Rahul's impulsive decision to counterattack after he had anaesthetised over

30 balls for 8 runs. Perhaps the pulled four in the previous over from Rabada had emboldened him. Maybe.

The younger Indians were served a harsh crash course about the physics of the bouncing ball. Yashasvi Jaiswal defended a rising ball and on Indian pitches, it

would have fallen near his toes, but here the ball hit the rolled back to fall on the

stumps.

Shubman Gill, whose weight transfer has been an issue in Test cricket, was trying to press back but couldn't do it in time. He was

stuck there in an internet-loss buffering video, but the ball had rammed into his bat splice and swallowed by waiting palms.

Shreyas Iyer had already stationed himself behind the crease, close to the stumps - that isn't the ideal back-foot play of say someone like Michael Slater who would actively go back and across, creating his own length and time to play balls. Here Iyer had nowhere to go, and he hung his bat out.

India were shot out for 36 in Adelaide a couple of years ago but that was drastically different. There, barring Kohli, no one chased a ball away from their body. Not one. Their hands didn't betray them. Neither did their minds; not one threw away his wicket. They were brutally brushed aside by two craftsmen Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood at the peak of their powers, with a little bit of something beyond the mortals on the green. And it was a Pink ball.

But this was different. For a long while in the day, South Africa had just one bowler in Rabada, then Burger stepped up, before Ngidi went berserk at the delightful turn of events.

Luckily, for India though, South African batsmen were woeful in the morning, and their game didn't really change much in the evening either as they lost three wickets for not much on the board.

Much depended on the man playing his last Test innings, the man who had told his father on the eve of his remarkable match-winning knock in 2022 against the Indians: "If they want to get me out, they would have to break something in my body to drag me out of there, dad. They are not going to get me by hitting me on the body. No way in hell."

He did seem determined to hang on in the paradise on Wednesday evening, but couldn't hold himself from poking an angler from Mukesh Kumar to Kohli at slips. Most Indians, including Kohli, ran to congratulate him and they would also have sighed in relief. The question now swirling in the air is: how much is too much for India to chase down?

## SCORECARD

## SOUTH AFRICA vs INDIA

NEWLANDS, CAPE TOWN

Toss: South Africa, chose to bat

## SOUTH AFRICA 1ST INNINGS

A Markram c Jaiswal b Siraj 2(10b)

D Elgar b Siraj 4(15b)

T de Zorzi c Rahul b Siraj 2(17b)

T Stubbs c Sharma b Bumrah 3(11b)

D Bedingham c Jaiswal b Siraj 12(17b, 2x4)

K Verreyne c Gill b Siraj 15(30b, 1x4)

M Jansen c Rahul b Siraj 0(3b)

K Maharaj c Bumrah b Kumar 3(13b)

K Rabada c Iyer b Kumar 5(13b)

N Burger c Jaiswal b Bumrah 4(11b, 1x4)

L Ngidi not out 0(0b)

■ Extras (b 4, lb 1) 5

■ Total (all out; 23.2 Ov) 55

■ FoW: 1-5 (Aiden Markram, 3.2 ov), 2-8 (Dean Elgar, 5.3 ov), 3-11 (Tristan Stubbs, 8.3 ov), 4-15 (Tony de Zorzi, 9.2 ov), 5-34 (David Bedingham, 15.2 ov), 6-34 (Marco Jansen, 15.5 ov), 7-45 (Kyle Verreyne, 17.5 ov), 8-46 (Keshav Maharaj, 19.6 ov), 9-55 (Nandre Burger, 22.6 ov), 10-55 (Kagiso Rabada, 23.2 ov)

■ Bowling: Jasprit Bumrah 8-1-25-2,

Mohammed Siraj 9-3-15-6, Prasidh Krishna 4-10-0, Mukesh Kumar 2.2-2-0-2

## INDIA 1ST INNINGS

Y Jaiswal b Rabada 0(7b)

R Sharma c Jansen b Burger 39(50b, 7x4)

S Gill c Jansen b Burger 36(55b, 5x4)

V Kohli c Markram b Rabada 46(59b, 6x4, 1x6)

S Iyer c Verreyne b Burger 0(2b)

KL Rahul c Verreyne b Ngidi 8(33b, 1x4)

R Jadeja c Jansen b Ngidi 0(2b)

J Bumrah c Jansen b Ngidi 0(2b)

M Siraj run out (Burger) 0(1b)

P Krishna c Markram b Rabada 0(3b)

M Kumar not out 0(0b)

■ Extras (b 4, lb 10, w 5, w 5) 24

■ Total (all out; 34.5 Ov) 55

■ FoW: 1-17 (Yashasvi Jaiswal, 2.1 ov), 2-72 (Rohit Sharma, 14.2 ov), 3-105 (Shubman Gill, 20.6 ov), 4-110 (Shreyas Iyer, 22.2 ov), 5-153 (KL Rahul, 33.1 ov), 6-153 (Ravindra Jadeja, 33.3 ov), 7-153 (Jasprit Bumrah, 33.5 ov), 8-153 (Virat Kohli, 34.1 ov), 9-153 (Mohammed Siraj, 34.4 ov), 10-153 (Prasidh Krishna, 34.5 ov)

■ Bowling: Kagiso Rabada 11.5-2-38-3, Lungi Ngidi 6-1-30-3, Nandre Burger 8-2-42-3, Marco Jansen 9-2-29-0

## SOUTH AFRICA 2ND INNINGS

A Markram batting 36(51b, 6x4)

D Elgar c Kohli b Kumar 12(28b, 2x4)

T de Zorzi c Rahul b Kumar 1(7b)

T Stubbs c Sharma b Bumrah 1(14b)

D Bedingham batting 7(6b, 1x4)

■ Extras (lb 1, nb 4) 6

■ Total (3 wickets; 17 Ov) 62

■ FoW: 1-37 (Dean Elgar, 10.2 ov), 2-41 (Tony de Zorzi, 12.1 ov), 3-45 (Tristan Stubbs, 15.2 ov)

■ Bowling: Jasprit Bumrah 6-0-25-1, Mohammed Siraj 5-2-11-0, Mukesh Kumar 6-2-25-2

## NUMBER PLATE

55

This was South Africa's lowest score in a Test innings when being all out, since February 1932 when they made 36 and 45 against Australia in Melbourne.



Dean Elgar, South Africa's rock, was out for 4 and 12 in his farewell Test. Reuters

he is focused, his balance is fine, and he is going to be okay" Richard had told this newspaper. The opportunity came in the fourth ball he faced, the first from Bumrah. But

Elgar's attempted nudge turned into a shovel and the ball ballooned just over midwicket. Was that a sign of what was to come?

More curlers came from both seamers, and Elgar would try his best, but couldn't effect any jail break.

The man who had dazzled everyone in the first game with his picture-perfect inside-out cover drives wasn't getting anything there. But dogged as he is, he seemed to hunch down in the pit, shovelling away.

Then came a series of Siraj deliveries on that leg and middle line, and Elgar would do his hop-and-stab or stand-and-tuck. Siraj then threw the bait, a length delivery outside off. In his mind's eye, Elgar must have seen acres of empty spaces on the off-side and tuck at it like a real-estate agent.

But it wasn't just temptation but deception too that Siraj had thrown in: this ball straightened a touch and suddenly Elgar was cramped for room. He tried to stab it out, but after being so intent on his pads for a long while, the off-side game wasn't quite there yet. And unsurprisingly, he dragged it on to his stumps.

Siraj, meanwhile, was working over the dredlocked Tony de Zorzi. Unlike Aiden Markram, who continued to be a walking

wicket unable to pick length early and was playing at everything down the line and to noone's surprise edged Siraj behind, Zorzi was leaving balls on lengths. Siraj tightened down quickly, started to go for the leg and middle, at his legs. Eventually, Zorzi went

Cummins takes 5 wickets but Pakistan rally on Day 1

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
SYDNEY, JANUARY 3

AUSTRALIA CAPTAIN Pat Cummins took 5-61 for his third consecutive five-wicket haul as Pakistan's brittle top order was again exposed before a combative lower order rally helped the tourists to 313 on Day 1 of the third and final cricket test.

At 96-5 shortly after lunch Wednesday, Pakistan was in danger of being bundled out cheaply after it had won the toss and chose to bat under bright, blue skies at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

But an enterprising counterattack led by wicketkeeper Mohammad Rizwan with a brisk 88, followed by a half-century from Agha Salman and a stunning maiden test half-century by Aamer Jamal helped Pakistan recover to a respectable total.

Australian pair David Warner, playing his final test, and Usman Khawaja had to survive one over from spinner Sajid Khan under fading light before stumps.

Warner (6 not out) in characteristic style smashed the first ball for four but was lucky later in the over as he somehow survived the ball bouncing over the stumps from a defensive shot. Australia was 6 without loss at stumps. Much of the pre-match attention may have been on Warner's last test for Australia, but it was the pace bowlers who stole the spotlight early. Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood set the tone by each taking a wicket in the first two overs, before Cummins, coming off a ten-wicket haul in the Boxing Day test at Melbourne, snared two wickets including the prize scalp of Babar Azam as Pakistan batters crumbled.

Star (2-75) struck with the second ball, teasing Shafiqe into an uncontrolled swipe which the opener could only edge through to Steve Smith at second slip. Hazlewood (1-65) struck in the next over when he had test rookie Saim Ayub edging through to Alex Carey in his debut innings. From 4-2, Babar and Masood started the rebuild for Pakistan, with Babar especially attacking the Aussie quick bowlers.

But the rally was short-lived as Cummins removed Babar (26) with a ball that came back at the right-hander and struck him on the pad. Umpire Michael Gough turned down the initial Australian appeal, but the TV umpire overturned the decision. Saud Shakeel was Cummins' second wicket, edging behind to Carey to leave Pakistan's first innings in tatters at 47-4. Captain Shan Masood (35) and Rizwan shared a 49-run stand either side of the lunch break to steady Pakistan. Mitchell Marsh (1-27) ended that partnership by teasing an edge from Masood which flew through to Smith.

Rizwan went on the attack and made an enterprising half-century off 74 balls. He continued to play his shots but eventually holed out to Hazlewood as Cummins' brought himself back in to the attack to take his third wicket.

"If you look back at all the best bowlers in the history of cricket, they've always had that in them — the ability to come on and take a wicket when the team needs to," Marsh said of Cummin's uncanny knack of choosing the right time to bowl.

**BRIEF SCORES:** Pakistan 313 all out (Mohammad Rizwan 88, Aamer Jamal 82; Pat Cummins 5/61) lead against Australia 6/0 (David Warner 6 not out) by 307 runs.



De Minaur snaps Djokovic run

Perth: Novak Djokovic crashed to his first defeat of the season and first in Australia for six years with a 6-46-4 loss to Alex de Minaur who put Australia on course for a 2-0 win over Serbia in their United Cup quarter-final on Wednesday. Djokovic was hampered by a right wrist problem in Serbia's victory over Czech Republic on Tuesday and the world number one had it worked on again by a trainer before De Minaur earned a late break and went on to clinch the opening set. Australian Open champion Djokovic dropped serve yet again to hand De Minaur a 4-3 advantage in the second set and saved three match points later, but was unable to prevent the shock loss ahead of the year's first Grand Slam. Djokovic was on a 43-match winning streak in Australia and preparing for a tilt at an 11th title having last lost in the country to Chung Hyeon in the fourth round of the 2018 edition when he was plagued by an elbow issue. REUTERS

VINAYAK MOHANARANGAN  
JANUARY 3

WHILE THE two Test match wins brought a certain sense of joy to the Indian women's cricket team, concerns remain in the formats that truly matter. Red-ball cricket remains rare in the women's game, and while the wins against strong teams were memorable, white-ball cricket is where the context lies.

Harmanpreet Kaur and Co have plenty of work to do with two subcontinental World Cups coming up in the next 18 months. The three ODIs against Australia laid bare the concerns that new head coach Amol Muzumdar and Harmanpreet must address. Alyssa Healy-led visitors won two of the three matches by comfortable margins while India were left to rue their missed chances in a three-run defeat in the second ODI. The 3-0 result saw Australia maintain their unbeaten bilateral run against India, with 9 wins out of 9.

#### Fielding follies

Throughout the ODI series against Australia, fielding was a common concern surrounding India. It was less than ideal in the series-opener as India struggled to defend 282, their highest total in this format against Aussies. The third ODI too saw India drop a crucial catch of Phoebe Litchfield who went on to score a century. But it was the second ODI where fielding was alarmingly poor as India dropped at least seven catches in a low-scoring affair.

It is an age-old problem for India, and one that continues to linger despite captains and managements pointing it out as an area of concern repeatedly. There is certainly an awareness that fielding and fitness have to improve but the proof remains in the pudding.

"We've not played to our highest potential, especially in the fielding department, I think a lot of work remains to be done. We have been working on it, but it's not of the standard expected for the Indian women's team. I can assure you that we will work on it and come back stronger," Jemimah said after the third match, echoing the thoughts of Harmanpreet.



Richa Ghosh's promotion to No 3 was an interesting experiment but remains to be tested further. Sportzpics

#### Batting experiment

But while fielding remains a concern, India looked well off the pace when it comes to batting in the last two matches. The 282 in the first ODI was a solid team effort, with Jemimah — the most consistent batter among Indians — leading the way despite being ill and fatigued.

Promoted to No 3, Richa Ghosh's 96 was a bright spot in the second match that nearly got India home. It seems Muzumdar is set on trying out the keeper-bat in that position. "Richa is our No.3, we believe that she can be a good top-order player. We believe in her talent and you've seen what kind of shots she can play. And if she can use the first 10 overs and then play according to the situation, that

is the best spot for her. At least now we feel that Richa at No.3 will be a very good choice," the coach had said.

But the problem with this idea is that in a team of top-heavy batters, Richa has seemed like the natural choice for a finisher for a while now. While Jemimah seems a solid choice for either No.3 or No.5, promoting Richa means India are left with fewer options for the finisher's role. Deepi Sharma struggled in the second match, and historically, hasn't set the stage on fire lower down the order when there is scoreboard pressure. And Harmanpreet's three single-digit scores in the series added more pressure on an already underperforming department.

While there is merit in Richa being tried

out in the top order India — despite the feeling of having a deep lineup — appear well short in the department.

Add to that, Shafali Verma's technical issues seem to be catching up to her as she was dropped after the first ODI.

#### Shreyanka emerges a positive

Not defending 282 and conceding 338 in two of the three matches is not a good look for the bowling department, but there were some positives here for India. Shreyanka Patil, making her debut in the second match, returned impressive figures in both her outings. Deepi Sharma was sensational with the ball in the second game too when she became the first Indian

#### Lack of game-time

While all three departments need working on evidently, off the field too there are worries. India played a total of five ODIs in 2023, two of those in the last week against Australia. After the

third ODI on Tuesday, there are no more 50-over matches on India's Future Tours Program till December this year. India were supposed to host South Africa and New Zealand in the backend of 2023 but those two series didn't take place due to their last-minute call to send a team to the Asian Games in Hangzhou. As things stand, these two series haven't been rescheduled.

What that means is that, officially, the Indian players only have the Women's Premier League on their agenda for high-level competition till the T20 World Cup in Bangladesh later this year. And very few ODIs lined up, 18 months out of the 2025 World Cup they are hosting. Muzumdar spoke about having camps in his first press conference but they can help only so much in the squad's quest to level up. The lack of competitive international assignments is a serious area of concern that the management and Board must address because only more matches can help the team iron out the many creases.

woman to pick up a five-for against Australia in this format. And Pooja Vastrakar's early spells deserved better returns, with some help from the fielders.

But death bowling is an area to work on as India conceded plenty of runs in the last five overs. "That's one area where I feel we need to have a look in and improve ourselves going forward, is the death overs, whether it is batting or bowling. We'll be working hard on that," Muzumdar noted.

## Sakshi says WFI minus Sanjay okay; claims mother getting threats

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 3

RIO OLYMPICS bronze medalist Sakshi Malik said that she would have no issues with the newly-elected Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) provided its president Sanjay Singh, a loyalist of former president Brij Bhushan Sharai Singh, is kept out. Sakshi had announced her retirement on December 21 during a tearful press conference after the election results.

Sanjay Singh had defeated former CWG gold medalist Anita Sheoran 40 votes to 7. Anita had the backing of wrestlers, including Sakshi, who had protested demanding the arrest of Brij Bhushan after six women wrestlers had complained about sexual harassment.

"We don't have any issues with the new federation except for one man, Sanjay Singh. We don't have any issue if the new body comes back without Sanjay Singh. We do not have any issue with the ad-hoc committee as well," Sakshi told reporters.

Brij Bhushan was found liable for prosecution for sexual harassment, molestation and stalking of women wrestlers in the chargesheet of Delhi Police.

Sanjay Singh's first decision as newly-elected WFI president was to announce that the Under-15 and Under-20 nationals will take place in Nandini Nagar, Gonda, the pocket burough of the former chief.

The sports ministry suspended the WFI and an ad-hoc committee is running the day-to-day affairs of the WFI.

"The government is like parents for us and I would request them to make wrestling safe for the upcoming wrestlers. You have seen how Sanjay Singh has been behaving. Sanjay Singh should not be allowed to interfere in the federation," she added.

Sakshi said that if the sports ministry can ensure that Sanjay Singh is not part of the WFI, then there won't be abuse of power.

"I can only make a request. If the ministry says he won't come back it will be better. Everybody saw the kind of power abuse by Brij Bhushan after the WFI elections. He announced junior nationals at his home with-

out consulting others."

Sakshi also requested the ad-hoc panel to conduct age group nationals at the earliest. "I don't want any young wrestler to suffer because of us. The ad-hoc committee has already announced senior nationals and I request the ad-hoc committee to announce the Under-15, Under-17 and Under-20 nations."

**Family being threatened**

Sakshi also said that her mother had received threatening calls from people connected to Brij Bhushan.

"For the past two-three days, Brij Bhushan's goons have become active. My mother is getting threats via phone calls. People are calling and saying that a case will be registered against someone in my family."

She also requested those using social media to abuse her and other wrestlers, who were part of the protest not to do so.

"People on social media are abusing us but they should remember that they have sisters and daughters at their home."

Asked if she would consider becoming an officer bearer of the WFI, Sakshi said: "I am disturbed. We just want that junior wrestlers to not suffer. As of now I don't have it in my mind. We are being blamed for junior wrestlers' loss and that's incorrect."

#### U15, U20 c'ships

The ad-hoc panel, managing wrestling affairs in the country, on Wednesday announced the organisation of the Under-15

and Under-20 National championships within six weeks, hours after junior wrestlers held a protest at Jantar Mantar and demanded dissolution of the IOA-constituted committee.

The panel "acknowledged the concerns" of the young wrestlers who have been hit hard by the year-long protests by top India grapplers. Neither the National camps nor the junior nationals have been held since January 2023. Hundreds of junior wrestlers lost one full year due to the stalemate.

Blupender Singh Bajwa, chairman of the three-member panel, assured the junior wrestlers that he would soon organise the sub junior and junior Nationals in Gwalior.

Hundreds of junior wrestlers assembled at Jantar Mantar for a symbolic three-hour protest against the loss of one crucial year of their careers, a situation for which they blamed top grapplers Bajrang Punia, Sakshi Malik and Vinesh Phogat, who had protested against WFI president Brij Bhushan.



## Ferrando sacked by Bagan; Habas returns

Kolkata: Mohun Bagan Super Giant parted ways with their head coach Juan Ferrando after the club's poor run of form in the Indian Super League. Technical director Antonio Habas was made the interim head coach, starting with the Kalinga Super Cup next week, the Indian Super League franchise announced. Ferrando was appointed the Mariners' head coach in December 2021, joining the Kolkata heavyweights from FC Goa. Under him, Mohun Bagan won the ISL title last season and made the AFC Cup inter-zonal semi-finals. Mohun Bagan also won the Durand Cup with Ferrando at the helm of affairs this season. "Thanks to Juan Ferrando for winning this year's Durand Cup and ISL 2022-23," Mohun Bagan said in a brief statement. The club's performance dipped this season as they made a group stage exit from the AFC Cup, and slumped to fifth in the ISL standings. Habas previously managed ATK Mohun Bagan and was the first coach to win two ISL titles. PTI

## [ SPORTS BAR ]



Jaipur Pink Panthers in action on Wednesday. PKL

### Gymnastics Nationals: Dipa tops event

Bhubaneswar: Olympian Dipa Karmakar hogged the limelight on the second day of the Artistic Gymnastics Senior National Championship as she topped the all-around performance with a total of 49.55 points here on Wednesday. Railways emerged champions in the women's team category with 182.60 points while Maharashtra finished second with 169.95. West Bengal were third with 166.80 points at the Gymnastics Centre in Kalinga Stadium here. Hosts Odisha finished fourth with 164.65 points. Dipa, representing Tripura, aggregated 49.55 points. She recorded 13.40 on Vault, 10.65 on Uneven Bars, 13.10 on Balance Beam and 12.40 on Floor Exercise. PTI

### Vandana to miss FIH Olympic qualifiers

New Delhi: The Indian women's hockey team received a setback in their quest to qualify for Paris 2024 as star forward Vandana Katariya was ruled out of the squad for FIH Hockey Olympic Qualifiers taking place in Ranchi. With their sights set on a Olympic berth, Vandana was expected to play a key role in India's campaign. But the veteran, who became the first Indian woman to earn 300 international caps during the Asian Champions Trophy, will be missing in action due to an injury suffered in training, chief coach Janneke Schopman said. "She sustained a fracture in her chevron bone during a training session, and she has been advised to rest," said Schopman. ENS

### Panthers beat Haryana Steelers

Noida: Defending champions Jaipur Pink Panthers rode on Arjun Deshwal's raiding brilliance to beat Haryana Steelers 45-34 in a Pro Kabaddi League Season 10 match here on Wednesday. Arjun (14 raid points), Reza Mirbagheri (7 tackle points) and Ankush (5 tackle points) were the top performers for Jaipur Pink Panthers, while Chandran Ranjith (11 raid points) and Mohit Nandal (5 tackle points) were Haryana Steelers' best players on the night. Chandran was off to a good start as he struck in each of his initial raids. It was only a matter of time before Arjun Deshwal joined the party, and when he did, he quickly swung the momentum in Jaipur Pink Panthers' favour. Rahal then tagged Rahal Sethpal soon after to put his side ahead 17-13 with a little over four minutes to go. He then completed his Super 10 within the first half as his men went into the break with a lead. Haryana Steelers got off to a superb start in the second half and some solid work from Mohit and Chandran got the side within the cusp of an all out, but super tackles from Lucky Sharma and Reza helped the Jaipur Pink Panthers stay afloat. However, Chandran produced a multi-point raid in the 29th minute to grab the all out. The Haryana Steelers trailed only by one point at this stage and were within a comeback, but Arjun dashed their hopes. PTI

### McIlroy says he was too judgmental of LIV

London: Rory McIlroy says he regrets being too quick to judge players who joined the Saudi Arabia-backed LIV Golf and now accepts it is part of the sport. The Northern Irishman has been a vocal critic since the breakaway tour launched in 2022 and signed up a host of big names, causing a rift that threatened to tear golf apart. McIlroy previously accused some of those who jumped ship as being duplicitous and that he would rather retire than join LIV. But the 34-year-old says it is no longer his job to fight the battle. "I think at this point, I was maybe a little judgmental of the guys who went to LIV golf at the start, and I think it was a bit of a mistake on my part because I now realise that not everyone is in my position or in Tiger Woods' position," he said. REUTERS

### Red-hot Thunder, Shai roll into Atlanta

Atlanta: Fresh off an impressive win over the team with the best record in the NBA, the Oklahoma City Thunder bring a five-game winning streak into Atlanta on Wednesday when they begin a four-game road trip against the Hawks. The Thunder beat Eastern Conference-leading Boston 127-123, giving Oklahoma City its eighth win in its last nine games. Gilgeous-Alexander has been on a hot streak for the Thunder and is averaging 31.4 points after his 36-point effort against the Celtics. His final two points, a pair of free throws, iced the win with 2.1 seconds remaining. AP