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Rahul Gandhi in Guwahati on Tuesday. PTI

Rahul, others booked over yatra scuffle in Assam

SUKRITA BARUAH
GUWAHATI, JANUARY 23

AN FIR was registered against Rahul Gandhi and other Congress leaders on Tuesday after a scuffle broke out between people taking part in the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra and the Assam Police when the yatra tried to enter Guwahati city.

Several people were injured in the incident, including Congress's Assam chief Bhupen Borah.

"With reference to wanton acts of violence, provocation, damage to public property and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

DAY AFTER CONSECRATION, RAM TEMPLE OPENS TO PUBLIC

Five lakh visitors and counting: On Day 1, rush for 'first darshan'

CM takes stock;
system being put in place to have a holding area for crowd, says DGPMAULSHREE SETH
AYODHYA, JANUARY 23

The crowd at the main gateway leading to the Ram temple in Ayodhya on Tuesday. Vishal Srivastav

seen trying to ensure a smooth flow of pilgrims.

At 4.40 pm, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath reached the temple town. He first did an aerial survey of the crowd from a helicopter and then reached the temple to take stock.

"Exercise restraint and co-operate, Ram Lalla will give darshan to everyone," the CM said in an appeal to pilgrims.

He also called senior police

and administrative officers and held a review of crowd management efforts on the premises. The administration, on the instructions of the CM, will increase barricading, officials said.

Later, Director General of Police Vijay Kumar said, "A system is being put in place to have a holding area for the crowd. So, if 50,000 people come at a time, they can be stopped at different

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BJP BID TO BLUNT JD(U)-RJD SOCIAL JUSTICE PITCH

Bharat Ratna for ex-Bihar CM, 'Jan Nayak' Kapoori Thakur

SANTOSH SINGH
& VIKAS PATHAK
PATNA, NEW DELHI, JAN 23

SOCIALIST ICON and Bihar's former Chief Minister Kapoori Thakur has been awarded the Bharat Ratna posthumously, the Rashtrapati Bhavan announced Tuesday.

The BJP-led Centre's decision to confer the country's highest civilian honour on Thakur comes at a time when Bihar is

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Kapoori Thakur. Archive

EXPLAINED
Behind the move

BY EVOVING former Bihar Chief Minister Kapoori Thakur just months before the Lok Sabha polls, the BJP has sought to counter the Opposition's caste census pitch, and made a direct appeal to the non-Yadav/OBC politics that Nitish Kumar has come to represent.

OUR GOVT WALKED ON HIS PATH
BY NARENDRA MODI PB

Two days after communal clash, 15 shops demolished in Mumbai suburb

ZEESHAN SHAIKH,
VIJAY KUMAR YADAV
& SIVA GANESH
MUMBAI, JANUARY 23

TWO DAYS after a clash broke out between members of two communities in Mira Bhayander, a city in Maharashtra's Thane district, the Mira Bhayander Municipal Corporation used bulldozers Tuesday afternoon to demolish about 15 structures in

After the demolitions at Mira Road in Thane district on Tuesday. Sankhadeep Banerjee

the Muslim-dominated Haidary Chowk area in Mira Road.

The police picked up 15 more persons Tuesday, in addition to 13 who were held the previous day. Of these 13, nine were arrested; four were minors.

On Sunday night, a group passing by in vehicles with saffron flags and chanting "Jai Shri Ram", was stopped by some locals people from another community. An argument broke out,

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GEM 6th International Sustainability Conclave & Expo 2024

Scaling newer heights in built infrastructure through resource efficiency and circular economy

The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) and the Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India (CREDAI) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to foster collaboration and contribute to long-term development in the Indian business landscape in the real estate sector during the ASSOCHAM GEM 6th International Sustainability Conclave and Expo 2024 at New Delhi.

According to the Memorandum of Understanding, ASSOCHAM and CREDAI are committed to collaborating in areas of mutual interest to promote long-term growth and development, leveraging both organisations' collective strengths and expertise for the benefit of their members and the industry as a whole. The key objective of this relationship is the creation and promotion of training and educational programmes focused on sustainability and related topics. These projects seek to improve industry knowledge and skills while also actively contributing to the larger goal of encouraging sustainable practices in the corporate community.

Mr Milind Bhikanrao Deore, Secretary, BEE, Ministry of Power GOI addressed



L-R: Ms. Rachna Vats, Ar. Anupam Mittal, Mr. Gaurav Jain, Mr. Milind B. Deore, Mr. Atul Bagai, Mr. Pankaj Dharkar, Mr. Gaurav Gupta & Mr. Sanjay Kaul at the Conclave

the GEM conclave by saying India's commitment to sustainable infrastructure is a noble cause, underscored by its vital need for and importance of the current global scenario. As a developing nation experiencing robust economic growth of 6-8%, India faces a unique challenge. By 2030, its urban population is expected to swell to 600 million, necessitating the creation of additional infrastructure. This includes 3 lakh square feet of commercial space, contributing 6-7% to its GDP. Remarkably, the valuation of this sector in India is among the world's



"Governments, industries, and communities worldwide are recognizing the urgency to transition towards greener practices, emphasizing renewable energy, eco-friendly transportation, and resilient urban planning to create a more sustainable future."

Atul Bagai
Head UN Environment Programme, Country office India

"India's commitment to sustainable infrastructure is a noble cause, underscored by its vital need for and importance of the current global scenario. As a developing nation experiencing robust economic growth of 6-8%, India faces a unique challenge."

Milind Bhikanrao Deore
Secretary, BEE, Ministry of Power GOI



the demand for built infrastructure is expected to increase. Therefore, there is an urgent need to transform the built infrastructure sector towards more resource efficiency and circular economy principles, in order to reduce its environmental footprint.

In his concluding remarks Mr Ar. Anupam Mittal, Chairman ASSOCHAM GEM UP said eco-friendly buildings hold larger significance for sustainability. In-



Exchange of MoU between ASSOCHAM and CREDAI

largest. Buildings in India account for 34% of electricity usage and are the second-largest source of emissions, with the country's total emissions standing at around 2500 million metric tons.

Mr Atul Bagai, Head UN Environment Programme, Country office India in his address showcased the current need for CO2 emissions reduction and sustainable infrastructure which is imperative to address climate change and ensure environmental resilience. As global carbon levels rise, sustainable infrastructure becomes essential for minimizing ecological impact, promoting energy efficiency, and fostering long-term socio-economic stability. Governments,

Acknowledging the contribution of participants

industries, and communities worldwide are recognizing the urgency to transition towards greener practices, emphasizing renewable energy, eco-friendly

increased partnerships between stakeholders and green principles should be followed for infrastructure development for lowering operational costs, he added.



"Decarbonization and buildings account for 40% of global energy consumption. The remaining carbon emissions come from the embodied carbon during construction, renovation and demolition of buildings."

Gaurav Jain
Vice President, NAREDCO
Under the aegis of MoHUA, GoI



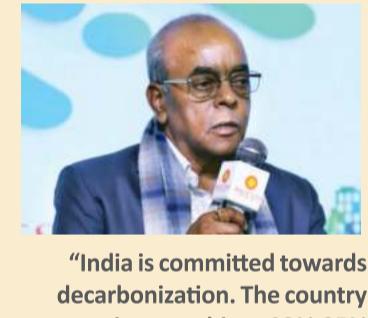
"There is an urgent need to transform the built infrastructure sector towards more resource efficiency and circular economy principles, in order to reduce its environmental footprint."

Pankaj Dharkar
Chairman, GEM Green Building Council, ASSOCHAM



"The building sector is responsible for a significant amount of carbon emissions with operational emissions accounting for 28% of global carbon emissions".

Amit Kakkar
Chief Engineer, Department of Information Technology & Communication (DOITC), Government of Rajasthan



"India is committed towards decarbonization. The country aims to achieve 33%-35% reduction in its carbon intensity by 2030".

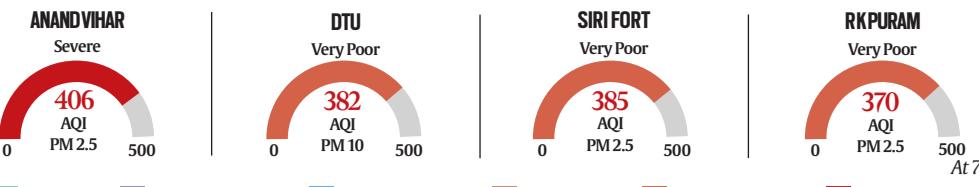
Ar. Gian. P. Mathur
Managing Director
Gian P. Mathur and Associates

Glimpses of GEM Conclave & Expo 2024



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During a yatra in Delhi to celebrate the consecration of the Ram temple in Ayodhya on Monday. Amit Mehra

BJP plans to send its workers, their kin on two-day Ayodhya trip

GAYATHRI MANI
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 23

EYE ON the upcoming Lok Sabha polls, the BJP is planning to organise a two-day devotional trip for its party workers, their families and people from different constituencies to Ayodhya for a *darshan* of the Ram Temple.

Special trains will be booked for the purpose and devotees will be charged a nominal amount, said party members.

According to a senior party member, the trips will be organised constituency- and district-wise, and schedules will be made accordingly. "Planning and arrangements for the trip are underway. The primary plan is to take party workers but it is not limited to them only. A worker can take his family and people from their neighbourhood who want to do *darshan* in Ayodhya and have a glimpse of Ram Lalla... The trips will begin after Republic Day," said a party member.

Meanwhile, AAP, which already has a special "Teerthyatra" scheme for the elderly, said it has not put out any request for train bookings to Ayodhya as of now.

At next meeting, BJP to discuss names for each LS seat in Delhi

JATIN ANAND
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 23

A CALL on candidates it intends to field from Delhi in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections on its agenda, the second meeting of the BJP's state election committee is scheduled over the coming days.

According to sources, when it comes to the capital, however, the party will follow the opposite approach from what it does in most other states. Instead of seeking suggestions from its state unit on probable candidates, the party's Central Election Committee will suggest up to three candidates from each of Delhi's seven Parliamentary seats to the former for consideration.

The meeting is supposed to be held before the end of January; BJP sources said the party could begin releasing lists of finalised candidates during the Union Budget Session in early February.

Presided over by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the BJP's Central Election Committee is a 15-member body which includes other senior leaders such as BJP national president Jagat Prakash Nadda, Union Ministers Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, Bhupender Yadav, national general secretary (organisation) BL Santhosh and representatives from units

such as its National Mahila and OBC morthas among others. "The meeting will include all of Delhi's seven incumbent MPs, the cluster in-charge for the city, state unit president Virendra Sachdeva, Delhi in-charge Baijayant Panda and former Delhi BJP presidents," a party source said.

"Unlike other states, the meeting will see a discussion on the names that the Central leadership wants it to consider instead of the other way around. The Central leadership is also likely to appoint a senior leader, most likely a serving or former Union Minister, to take the exercise forward," the source added.

After the names suggested by the national leadership are discussed, according to insiders, the list of probables will go to the Core Committee — which has more representation from the state unit and its Delhi leadership — to be narrowed down from three to two or from two to one probable candidate for each seat, as the case may be.

Sources said the final call on candidates will be taken at a last meeting between the Core Committee and the Central Election Committee in early February; in addition to senior party leaders, representatives from RSS, both local and national, will be part of this meeting before candidates are announced.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 23

SEVERAL PARTS of Central Delhi and other areas in the Capital saw a traffic logjam Tuesday in view of the Republic Day rehearsals, with areas like Rajpath and Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg reporting severe congestion.

According to an advisory issued by the Delhi Traffic Police, prominent roads that were affected included Rajpath, Janpath, India Gate, Tilak Marg, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg and Ashoka Road where access was minimal or completely restricted.

Commuters were asked to avoid these routes between 9.30 am and 1 pm, as per the advisory.

Senior traffic officers said no vehicular movement was allowed on Kartavya Path from Vijay Chowk to India Gate from 6 pm on Monday till the end of rehearsals on Tuesday. ITO and IP Estate saw traffic jams in the afternoon and evening. At 3.38

HC recalls its order allowing widow to end her pregnancy

Notes medical board opinion: No abnormality, foeticide neither justified nor ethical

MALAVIKA PRASAD
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 23

THE DELHI High Court Tuesday recalled its January 4 order wherein it had permitted a woman, who lost her husband in October last year and is currently 32 weeks pregnant, to terminate her pregnancy.

A single-judge bench of Justice Subramonium Prasad took note of the AIIMS medical board's opinion that "since the foetus does not show any abnormality, foeticide in this case is neither justified nor ethical".

The medical board consists of gynaecologist, radiology (sonology) etc. It is pertinent to mention here that...who is a psychologist and has evaluated the petitioner (woman), has also participated in proceedings and he has also opined that the ongoing pregnancy of the petitioner and delivery will cause a grave injury to the petitioner's mental health," the HC said.

On January 4, the HC had permitted the termination of pregnancy after noting that the woman had lost her husband on October 19, 2023, and had found out about her pregnancy on October 31. The woman had decided not to continue with her

The Centre filed a plea asking the HC to recall its order, saying it is "imperative" for the court to "consider protecting the right to life of the unborn child so that the child has a fair chance of survival"

pregnancy in December.

The HC had observed that her psychiatric evaluation indicated she was suffering from "extreme trauma" due to her husband's death. It opined that continuing the pregnancy could "impair her mental stability as she is showing suicidal tendencies".

The Centre then filed a plea asking the HC to recall its order, saying it is "imperative" for the court to "consider protecting the right to life of the unborn child so that the child has a fair chance of survival". The Centre had referred to the Supreme Court's judgment of October 16, 2023, where it had recalled its earlier order allowing termination of a 26-week pregnancy.

After the January 4 order, AIIMS

had also filed an application seeking necessary instructions, saying that a review meeting held on January 13 found it "advisable" to continue the pregnancy "for another 2-3 weeks for the betterment of the health of the mother and the child".

On Tuesday, the HC said the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's guidelines of August 14, 2017, provide for termination of pregnancy "beyond 20 weeks in case of minor children who are victims of rape and had approached the court or where the foetus showed abnormalities."

"A perusal of the guidelines shows that the medical board which examines the patient has the responsibility to determine if the foetal abnormality is substantial enough to qualify as either incompatible with life or associated with significant morbidity or mortality in the child if born, and unless such abnormalities are shown, foeticide cannot be permitted. In the present case, no such circumstances exist, and therefore, the said guidelines cannot be pressed for permitting foeticide," Justice Prasad said.

The HC also took note of medical reports filed by AIIMS which, it said, indicated that a

"preterm induction of labour has a high chance of failure and may lead to caesarean section which may have serious implications on her future pregnancies".

The reports also indicate that a child born after preterm induction of labour can have physical and mental deficiencies which will have "drastic effect" on the child's future and the NICU-ICU care in such cases is about 30-45 days with "reasonable risk of physical and mental handicap of the newborn", the HC said.

"The judgment dated 04.01.2024 is hereby recalled," Justice Prasad said. The woman, if so advised, can go to AIIMS, and it is for the medical board to decide how they want to go ahead with the delivery at the appropriate time, the court said.

The HC further said it is for the petitioner to decide "where the delivery" will take place, adding that the Centre or the state government would "bear all medical expenses and incidental charges of the delivery", depending on whether she goes to a central or state hospital.

It said that if the petitioner wanted to give the child up for adoption, the Union government would aid the process.

the same case went before a larger three-judge bench headed by CJ D Y Chandrachud, it had also said "we can't kill a child".

The opinion of doctors is crucial since the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act allows termination of pregnancy only on advice of doctors. Legal experts argued that despite India's liberal stance on abortion, the MTP Act doesn't place a woman's reproductive right at the centre but only draws red lines for doctors to follow.

IPC Section 312 makes abortion (induced miscarriage) a criminal offence. The MTP Act is as an exception to this provision, ensuring only abortions allowed by doctors are not criminal acts.

While the MTP Act regulates pregnancies at different stages, foetal viability is not a standard that it explicitly adopts. In contrast, several state legislations in the US peg foetal liability, that is, the time after which a foetus can survive outside the womb, as a standard to allow abortion. The Act also deals with termination of pregnancies up to 24 weeks. After this, the Act requires a medical board to be set up in "approved facilities", which may "allow or deny termination of pregnancy" only if there is a substantial foetal abnormality. The process to set up such a board is often cumbersome, which leads to women moving court.

E.
EXPLAINED

Medical expert nod is key to courts deciding late-term abortions

APURVA VISHWANATH
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 23

MEDICAL EXPERTS seeking a specific judicial directive to stop foetal heartbeat for termination of pregnancy: this is the question before courts to decide pleas of women seeking late-term abortions.

In the last 3 months, when faced with this query, the courts, in two cases, declined to allow termination of pregnancy. In both, the Centre supported the doctor's stand and made efforts to persuade the women to carry the pregnancy to term. It was this question posed by doctors at AIIMS that caused the Delhi High Court Tuesday to recall its January 4 order allowing a widow, 32 weeks pregnant, to undergo abortion.

On October 10 last year, a doctor from AIIMS wrote to the Supreme Court in the case of a 27-year-old married woman seeking to end her 26-week pregnancy, seeking a directive on whether foeticide must be performed to give effect to the judicial order allowing termination. After receiving the AIIMS report, the same two-judge SC bench was split on allowing the abortion. One of the two judges, Justice Hima Kohli, had asked which court will say "stop the foetal heartbeat". When

Woman gets over Rs 1 crore relief for delay in getting flat

NIRBHAY THAKUR
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 23

THE NATIONAL Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) awarded a woman Rs 1.16 crore as compensation after a real estate firm, Raheja Developers, failed to give her possession of her flat even after a 9-year delay.

The complainant, Minaksi Choudhary, had booked a flat in Raheja Revanta in Sector 78, Gurgaon, in 2012 by paying an initial deposit of over Rs 43 lakh. According to the buyer's agreement, she was to begin possession of the flat in 3 years.

The opposite party (Raheja Developers) has clearly defaulted in its contractual obligations of completing the project, to obtain the occupancy certificate, offer possession of the flat within the time stipulated in the Agreement [or within a reasonable period thereafter], noted the NCDRC.



At the R-Day parade rehearsal; (below) traffic snarl near IP Metro station. Praveen Khanna

Traffic crawls in Capital due to Republic Day parade rehearsal

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 23



pm, traffic police issued an update that traffic was heavy on Rafi Marg, Maulana Azad Road, K Kamraj Marg, Dr Rajendra Prasad Road and Vijay Chowk.

Meanwhile, three zonal officers of the traffic police in Gurgaon were suspended after

commuters on the Delhi-Gurgaon expressway faced massive traffic jams till noon, an official said. There was a ban on entry of heavy vehicles from Gurgaon to Delhi till 12 pm due to Republic Day preparations.

(with PTI inputs)

Scuffle in Kalindi Kunj during Ram temple ceremony; 7 detained

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 23

TWO GROUPS got into a scuffle near a mosque in Southeast Delhi's Kalindi Kunj while the Ram Temple consecration ceremony was underway in Ayodhya on Monday. The Delhi Police said they have detained seven people involved in the clash and seized at least nine bikes.

Police maintained that the clash was "minor" and nobody was hurt.

The incident took place around 4.5 pm. A group of bikers, carrying saffron flags, held a rally in Khadda Colony during the day. A purported video shows them passing through a lane and chanting "Jai Shri Ram". However, later during the rally, the men allegedly reached a mosque where they were stopped.

Locals said a fight broke out as many of them didn't want the rally to be held in front of the mosque. Soon, police were called

and the bikers fled the scene; many left their bikes behind.

Another video of the incident shows locals gathering in the lane and calling police to the spot. Bikes could be seen on the road. While locals alleged the men were carrying weapons, police denied the claims.

DCP (Southeast) Rajesh Deo said it was a minor scuffle. "A video is circulating in which some bikers are seen creating a ruckus. The incident took place at 4.30 pm when some bikers were in Khadda Colony. At that time, some people had gathered near a masjid and objected to this. A minor scuffle took place and some bikers ran away, leaving their bikes behind. Nobody was injured and we didn't receive a complaint. However, based on a daily diary entry, an FIR was registered."

Police said the FIR is against unknown persons. "A peace committee meeting was held in the area. The situation is normal in the locality," added Deo.

AAP & BJP spar over de-sealing of shops

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 23

Park, Hauz Khas, South Extension and Defence Colony – within 100 hours.

"The Commissioner, being the executive in charge of affairs of the corporation, was directed to immediately implement the orders of the JCC. However, to the utter dismay of the under-signed, the Commissioner has acted in complete defiance of the said resolution and filed an SLP challenging the order of the judicial committee," claimed Oberoi in her letter.

Last week, the AAP had claimed the commissioner was "refusing to abide by orders to de-seal shops at the behest of the BJP-led Centre".

In response, BJP's Leader of Opposition in the MCD, Raja Iqbal Singh, alleged the AAP-led MCD was engaged in political maneuvering instead of resolving sealing issues: "The government is more interested in collecting money from businesses before polls under the pretext of sealing..."

ID PROOF NOT MANDATORY FOR ADMISSION: CIVIC BODY

No Aadhaar card? No entry for homeless at night shelters in Gurgaon

AISWARYA RAJ
GURGAON, JANUARY 23

LYING DOWN beneath a pile of blankets outside a porta cabin doubling up as a night shelter in Sohna Chowk, run by the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG), Krishna, in her 60s, complained she was not let in as she didn't have an ID. "We always sleep by the roadside. Once when I tried to go in, staff told me my kids would dirty the place. I don't have an Aadhaar card nor does my son. Only my husband has it, but that is not enough to get us entry," Krishna, who is from Uttar Pradesh, said. Last Friday night, she shared the space by

facilities at Kadipur and Bhim Nagar, both boasting of adequate space, to ascertain if anyone was being denied entry. Both shelters had registries with details of all those seeking shelter — their names, emergency phone number, entry and exit timings as well as their Aadhaar card number.

Deshraj Verma, who manages the Bhim Nagar shelter, said around 15 people come every night. The shelter has bedding and blankets without cots, four toilets, a bathroom, and a separate wing for women.

On how people are permitted to sleep at the shelter, Verma said most people have Aadhaar cards.

"Most occupants are labourers seeking a roof at night and have ID



Krishna and her family claimed they were denied entry and had been sleeping on the road. Express

proof. Sometimes, when someone says they don't have one, we ask for a house number or their

phone number. When they can't produce any, we send them to Sheetla Mata Mandir," he said.

The temple, situated around 2 km away, does not have any facilities for the homeless. The next nearest shelter is a porta cabin at the railway station.

Verma, however, said they let in most people: "We inspect their mannerisms and if they look harmless, we let them in."

He also said there has been a decrease in the number of people seeking shelter — while there were around 35 people per night last year, the number has not crossed 18 this year even on peak winter nights.



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Bhagwant Singh Mann
Chief Minister, Punjab



Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, PARTH RAI S/O SHELKA GUPTA R/O D-01, GHARONA APARTMENT SHRESHTH VIHAR, DELHI-110092 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM PARTH RAI TO PARTH GUPTA. IN FUTURE, I WILL BE KNOWN AS PARTH GUPTA FOR ALL PURPOSES AND PARTH RAI AND PARTH GUPTA IS THE NAME OF SAME PERSON. 0040709696-1

I, Nagme Jahan W/o Shahid Ali R/o 124, Village-Madapur Mustafabad, Pilakhuwa, Hapur have changed my name to Nagme Jahan. 007088413-1

I, NEEMA DEVI W/O NO.4086031A RANK L/NK PANKAJ JOSHI R/O PLOT NO-2 C, ROAD NO.6 Z BLOCK NEAR KHATU SHYAM MANDIR, SHYAM VIHAR PHASE-1 DINNDARUPUR DELHI-43 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO NEEMA JOSHI VIDE AFFIDAVIT DATE 23.1.24 BEFORE DELHI 0070884832-1

I, Mohd Zakwan,S/o Mazahir Raza,R/o-6562/5,Main Chamelian Road,Ahata Kidara, Delhi-110006,have change my name Zakwan Raza for future 0040709760-5

I, Maya Kumari Gupta D/o Biswanath Prashad Gupta R/o Villa No.-E-246, Paramount Golforest, Plot No.-BGH-A, UPSIDC Housing, Sector-ZETA, Surajpur Site-C Extension Road, Greater Noida, Gulistan, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201306 have changed my name to Maya Singh for all purposes. 0070884815-1

I, MEENAKSHI S. DEVGAN alias MEENAKSHI SHARMA DEVGAN alias. MEENAKSHI SHARMA alias MEENAKSHI GYANDEV SHARMA D/O GYAN DEV SHARMA w/o SANDEEP DEVGAN R/o E-95. ANAND NIKETAN, DELHI-110021 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MEENAKSHI SHARMA DEVGAN FOR ALL PURPOSES 0070884834-1

I, Jitender Popli S/O Rakesh Kumar Popli, R/o H.No. B-273 B Mohan Garden, Uttam Nagar, Delhi-110059, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Shiva Nand Bhairava. 0070884766-1

I, HITHERTO KNOWN AS DIYA WASAN W/O DEEPAK RESIDING AT 1726/125, SHANTI NAGAR, TRI NAGAR, DELHI-110035 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HEREAFTER BE KNOWN AS POOJA. POLICY NO- 11070950. 0070884808-1

I, HARDIK AGARWAL S/O SUNIL KUMAR R/o H/NO 530A, SECTOR- 21C, FARIDABAD, HR-121001 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO HARDIK AGGARWAL FOR ALL PURPOSES. 0070884828-1

I, Ghia Pankaj Manikchand, S/o Manikchand Shiv Lal Ji Jain,R/o-B-1201,flat,floor,vivek vilhar,phase-I Delhi-110095,have changed my name to Pankaj Jain 0040709760-4

I, Arpita Biswas, W/O Suroj Ghosh Employ as Constable in Border Security Force R/o Putimari, Nadia, West Bengal-741103. have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Arpita Ghosh Biswas 0070884837-1

I, hitherto known as POOJA MITHOO alias POOJA SAPRA D/O GYAN CHAND W/O DUSHYANT SAPRA R/O FLAT NO-16, VISHAL PALACE SAHIBADAD DAULATPUR, DELHI-110042 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as POOJA SAPRA 0070884844-1

I, TARUN GARG ALIAS TARUN R/o A- 717, G.D. Colony, Mayur Vihar Phase III, Delhi-96, have changemy name to TARUN KUMAR for all purpose 0040709790-2

I, VARUN GARG ALIAS VARUN AGGARWAL R/o A- 717, G.D. Colony, Mayur Vihar Phase III, Delhi-96, have to VARUN KUMAR for all purpose 0040709790-3

I, Seema W/O, Dinesh Jindal R/o A-1/80 Sector 8 Rohini New Delhi-110085 have changed my name to Seema Jindal. 0040709756-1

I, Rakhee Verma D/o Sandeep Kumar R/o 107, Hirai Khetra Majre Namamau, Mauhar, Nama Mai, Fatehpur, Uttar Pradesh-212665, have changed my name to Nimita Patel 0070884817-1

I, Mamta Patawari W/O, Vishal Dhawan R/o A-20, 2nd Floor, Anand Nagar, Delhi-110092 have changed my name to Mamta Dhawan. 0040709750-1

I, Jannat Sedeqi D/o Jeet Singh Lama R/o RZ-321, 2nd Floor, Right Side, Gali No-20, Tughlakabad Extension, Kalkaji, Delhi-110019, have changed my name to Jannat Lama. I have changed only my name not my Religion 0070884807-1

I, Tan Seean W/o Ausaf Ali R/o 124, Village-Madapur Mustafabad, Pilakhuwa, Hapur have changed my name to Tamisran. 0070884812-1

I,Jamshead Ahmad fahimuddin Ansari S/O Fahimuddin ansari R/O B131/2, Vijay Vihar Phase 2, Rohini sector 4, north west Delhi 110085 have changed my name to Jamshead Ahmad 0070884754-1

I Devdutt S/o Sh. Ram Bichar R/o 2945, Sant Nagar, Rani Bagh, West Delhi-34 have changed my name from Devdutt to Devdatt Yadav for all future purposes. 0040709752-1

I Asif Ahmad Chasti S/o Mohamad Aslam Chesti R/o 232A 3rd floor Prakash Mohalla East of Kailash New Delhi-65 have changed my name to Asif Chesti 0070884768-1

I,VISHAL KUMAR,S/OVINOD KUMAR, ADD-B-60,PATEL-GARDEN,KAKROLA MOD SOUTH-WEST,DELHI-110078,changed my name to VISHAL KUMAR SINGH,for all,future purposes. 0040709699-8

I, It is for general information that I, HIMANSHU W/o RAJESH, R/o House No.- 728, Khadyan Parva, Khanak Kalan (131), Kharak Kalan, Bhiwani, Haryana-127114, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as HEMA in my minor son ADITYA PARMAR aged 17 years in his 10th Class School Certificate Cum Marksheets. The actual name of mine is HIMANSHU, which may be amended accordingly. 0070884815-1

I,hitherto known as SANJAY RATHOR alia SANJAY RATHORE,S/B-OANSI LAL RATHORE,R/o-20-G,DIZ AREA,SECTOR-4,RAJA BAZAR GOLE MARKET,NEW DELHI-110001,have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SANJAY RATHORE. 0040709762-1

I,Zubeda,W/o,Mohammad Ahmed,R/o-C-216,gali,number-7,Near-Heena S.T.D,Chauhan Banger Jaffrabadi,North-East Delhi-110053,have Changed my name,from Jubaide to Zubeda, for all future Purposes 0040709796-2

I,Virender Singh Yadav,S/o Charan Singh Yadav,R/o-P-96,uppal Southend gurgaon haryana,have change name to virander Singh Yadav,for all purposes. 0040709796-1

I,Vijay Kumar kaushik,S/O- Brahjeet Sharma,Address-100-B,DDA-MIG flats Shivam enclave,Jhilmil Shahdra, Delhi-110032,changed my name to Vijaikumar Kaushik. 0040709761-6

I,USHA HASIJA W/O RAMESH CHAND HASEEJA R/O HNO.33, NAWANDI NAGAR,SONIPAT,HARYANA-131001.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO USHA RANI. 0040709761-2

I,TANU VISHWAKARMA,W/O ASHISH KUMAR VISHWAKARMA,R/o Flat-No.301, H-Block,H-14th Avenue, Gaurya-2, Greater Noida West,Gautambudh Nagar (P)-201318 have changed my name to TANU,for all,future purposes. 0040709758-2

I,NEERAJ Kour Karamvir Singh,W/o Karamvir Singh,R/o-130,Dera,Asran Ali Compound,Police-Chowki Bazar,Ghaziabadi, 201001,have changed my name to Devesh Bisheshwar Bhattacharya. 0040709758-3

I,DIXIT S/O RAMESH CHAND HASEEJA R/O HNO.33, NAWANDI NAGAR,SONIPAT,HARYANA-131001.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO DIXIT HASEEJA. 0040709759-9

I,DEEPALI KALRA,W/O GULSHAN KUMAR,D/G YOUNDER NATH TRIPATHI,R/o,H.N.2015,GROUN D-FLOOR,SECTOR-57,GURGAON HARYANA PIN-122003,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO DEEPALI TRIPATHI. 0040709762-2

I,Chetna,D/o Mr.Harikesh Vashist,R/o F3/30,Fir st-Floor,Vatika City Sector-82, (Gurgaon),Haryana-122004,have changed my name to Chetna,for all Purposes. 0040709733-6

I,Arkey Gupta,W/o Anshul Goel.R/o-78A Sector-14,near-agarsen bhanwan, Sonipat,haryana,have changed my name to Arkey Gupta,for all purpose. 0040709761-7

I,Ankush S/O Anand,R/o VPO Dholka, Jind ,Haryana-126125, have changed my name to Ankush Mudgil permanently. 0040709761-8

I,Alit Singh Bhaduria,S/o Satveer Singh,R/o-L-101/4, Gali no-4,Jai prakash Nagar Delhi-110053,have changed my name to Ajeet Singh 0040709760-2

I,ATIF S/O Nazar Mohammad,R/o-2336,Gali Chamre Wali,Turkman Gate,Delhi-110006,have changed my name to ATIF ALI, permanently. 0040709699-2

I,ANURAG SINGH RATHEE,S/O-HAWA SINGH,R/o-H.NO-787/218,PREM NAGAR ROTHTAK,HARYANA-124001,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ANURAG RATHEE. 0040709760-3

I,TEJ RAM S/o Parmanand R/o D-2/28, Sector-15, Rohini, Delhi, do affirm that on school certificates of my son Dharam Vir Singh my name has been mentioned incorrectly as JAJ RAM. I declare that both the names are related to me and are same person. 0070884744-1

I, Samina Begum,W/o Mazahir Raza,R/o-6562/5, Main No.106/8, 2nd-Floor, Rajapuri, Sector-9, Rohini, Delhi-110085 have changed my name to Samina Raza for future 0040709760-6

I,SAUMYA, D/O Sunil Kumar Pathak, R/o C-306, Metro Vihar, Noida, New Delhi-110043 have changed my name from SAUMYA to SHRIYANSHI PATHAK vide Affidavit dated 28/12/2023 at District Magistrate Court, East Delhi. 0040709733-10

I, Ranjeet Kushwaha S/O Bhola Nath R/o Chotpur Colony, Near Chetram Hospital, Sector-63, Noida, U.P.-201301, have changed my name from RANJEET to RANJEET KUSHWAHA for all future purposes. 0070884809-1

I,RAVI GOYAL S/O DURGA PRASAD R/o H.NO. A-93 GROUND FLOOR DUGGAL COLONY, DEVLI ROAD KHANPUR, SOUTH DELHI 110062, CHANGE MY NAME TO RAVI PRAKASH GOYAL FOR ALL PURPOSES. 0040709414-1

I, RAM ALIAS RAM TARGHOTRA S/O MANGAL SINGH R/o H.NO. A-145/76, GALI NO. 1, KRISHNA PURI, NIKEET URJA VIHAR, MANAWALI FAZALPUR, SHAKAR PUR BARAMAD, DELHI-110092 have changed my name to RAM TARGHOTRA for all Purposes. 0070884830-1

I,ANIL KUMAR SHARMA,S/O JAGDISH CHANDER,R/o-B-330,PRASHANT VIHAR, SECTOR-14,ROHINI,DELHI-110085,CHANGED MY NAME TO ANIL KUMAR. 0040709759-8

I,ABHINAV AGGARWALS/O RAVINDER TAYAL R/o A-2/6,SECTOR-8,PKT-2,ROHINI,DELHI-110085.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ABHINAV TAYAL. 0040709761-4

I, Tan Seean W/o Ausaf Ali R/o 124, Village-Madapur Mustafabad, Pilakhuwa, Hapur have changed my name to Tamisran. 0070884812-1

I,RAMESH CHAND KALRA,S/o ROSHAN LAL KALRA,R/o-7/1,Block-7,Vijay-Nagar, Double Storey,GTB Nagar,Delhi-110009,have changed my name to RAMESH CHANDER KALRA,for all future purposes. 0040709754-1

I,Prasant Kumar Pankaj S/o. Hareram Pandey R/o. Tower-2, F.No-704, Royal Nest, Amrapali Dream Valley Greater Noida West G.B.Nagar,Uttar Pradesh-201306,have changed my name to Prashant Kumar Pankaj. 0040709756-8

I,Kiranjeet Kaur,W/O Devinder Singh Anand R/o JG1/62, Vikas Puri, New-Delhi-110018,have changed my name to Kiranjeet Kaur Anand,for all purposes. 0040709760-3

I,Komaljeet,S/o Jeevdhan Chauhan,R/o-91, Near Sabji Mandi,Jhandapur, I.E Sahibabad, Ghaziabad,U.P-201010,have changed my name to Kamaljeet Singh. 0040709699-1

I,PAYAL HASIJA W/O DIXIT HASEEJA R/o HNO.33, NANDWANI NAGAR, SONIPAT, HARYANA-131001.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO PAYAL HASEEJA. 0040709761-1

I,Komal Kant,S/O Late Om Pal,R/o-273B, Pocket-C,Mayur Vihar,Phase-2,East Delhi, Delhi-110092,have changed name of minor son Aarav to Aarav Kant,forever. 0040709760-8

I,Kalpana Kumari,D/o Deepak Kishore,R/o House-no.F-232-233,Lal Kuan Badarpur New-Delhi-110044,Have Changed my name to Kalpana, Permanently. 0040709699-7

I,Jagdish Kumar S/o Hira Lal,R/o H.No.A-360,J.J.C colony, Tigris,New Delhi-110062,have changed my name to Jagdish Kumar Verma. 0040709759-4

I,HUNNY KALRA,S/o RAMESH CHANDER KALRA,R/o-7/1,Block-7,Vijay Nagar,Double Storey,GTB Nagar,Delhi-110009,have changed my name to HUNNY KUMAR KALRA,for all future purposes. 0040709758-5

I,GURPREET SINGH NOTA,S/o KULDIP SINGH,R/o,WZ-26,B/SRI NAGAR,SHAKUR SARASWATI-VIHAR,DELHI-110034,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO GURPREET SINGH. 0040709759-1

I,Devesh Bhattacharya,S/o Subhash Krishna,Chauhan,R/o-B-175,Pocket-1,Kendriya Vihar-2,Sector-82,Noida,G.B.Nagar-201304,have changed my name to Devesh Subhash Bhattacharya. 0040709758-3

I,DIXIT S/O RAMESH CHAND HASEEJA R/O HNO.33, NANDWANI NAGAR,SONIPAT,HARYANA-131001.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO DIXIT HASEEJA. 0040709759-9

I,NEERAJ AHMED,S/O ISMAIL KHAN,R/o KHITAULI, SAHAWAR,KASGANJ,UTTAR PRADESH-207245.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO NEERAJ KHAN. 0040709759-7

I,NEERU KHURANA W/O SATISH CHANDRA R/o HNO.84,TAFORE-PARK,KINGSWAY-CAMP,DELHI-110009.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO NEERU SAMRAT. 0040709759-5

I,NAVEEN MITTAL S/O MADAN KUMAR MITTAL R/o ED-67C,MADHUBAN CHOWK, PITAMPURA,DELHI-110034.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO NAIVEEN KUMAR MITTAL. 0040709759-1

I,Subhash chand s/o Vishan Dass r/o E-8 DCR University of Science & Technology Murthal Sonipat have changed my name to Subhash chand Batra for all purposes. 0040709733-9

I,SWATI D/o Ram Nath Kovind R/o 12,Janpath, New Delhi-110011,have changed my name from SWATI to SWATI KOVIND for all future purposes. 0040709788-1

I,SULOCHANA DEVI, W/O,PAWAN KUMAR R/o 375,UPPER ENCLAVE,PASCHIM VIHAR,DELHI-110087.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SULOCHNA DEVI. 0040709759-5

I,Rummanuddin Siddiqi Kalai,S/O Shamsuddin,R/o-218/84,Third-floor,KH no-45(Old,no-84A)Lane-no-7, Ghaffar Manzil Jamia-Nagar,Okhla,New Delhi-110025,have changed my name to Rummanuddin Siddiqi,Permanently. 0040709733-7

I,LALIT TEHLAN,S/O KRISHAN TEHLAN R/o-120/Village and Post,Office Ujwa,Delhi-110073,have changed my,minor Son name KAVYA TEHLAN alias HARDIK TEHLAN aged-13,years to HARDIK TEHLAN. 0040709733-11

FATHER ALLEGES NEGLIGENCE BY HOSPITAL, DOCTORS

Beaten up by school seniors after he bumped into them, 12-year-old boy dies a week later

JIGNASA SINHA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 23

"WHAT WAS his fault? He was only playing in his school..."

Rahul Sharma, who works at a courier company, is inconsolable as he remembers his 12-year-old son Kintan Saraswat, three days after his death on January 20.

Saraswat, a Class 6 student at a Delhi government school in North Delhi, died a week after he was allegedly thrashed and assaulted by senior boys in his school after he accidentally hit them while playing with his friends during recess.

"He loved running and playing slide games with his friends.

He accidentally hit a senior while sliding his way back to the classroom. The senior kid called others and they beat him up. My son was brutally assaulted and thrown to the ground," said Sharma.

"Kintan told us the boys got very angry... When he reached home, he was crying and limping. When his condition deteriorated, we rushed him to Deep Chand Bandhu Hospital," Sharma added.

Sharma also holds "negligence" by doctors and staff at the hospital responsible for Kintan's death. "The staff told us the doctors (orthopaedic specialists) were on leave and asked us to come back after 2-3 days... We then took him to a doctor in Rohini who

"My son never got into any fights. He told us those boys were seniors and were stronger."

— RAHUL SHARMA
FATHER OF KINTAN SARASWAT

asked us to get a few other medicines. When Kintan took those, his condition further deteriorated. On January 19-20, we had to rush him to Deep Chand Bandhu again because he had fainted. He died later in the night... It all happened because of the negligence of doctors," said the father.

Deep Chand Bandhu Hospital Medical Superintendent Dr Vatsala Aggarwal said, "The patient had first come on January 11 and upon seeing his condition, which was not severe at the time, he was attended to at the OPD. His X-ray was taken and a painkiller was given to him. He was asked to come back a few days later but he did not do so and came directly on January 20. He reached the hospital at a very critical stage with high fever, vomiting and a high BP. Physicians, Paediatricians and Orthopaedic doctors saw him but the child could not be revived."

Kintan's family members said they also visited the school and requested the principal and the class teacher to investigate the matter.

The principal could have called police..."

"I have been there at least thrice in the last 10 days. Isn't it their responsibility to book the accused for hurting my son? My son never got into any fights. He told us those boys were seniors and were stronger. The principal could have called the police or at least suspended the boys... It's been three days since he died. We are suffering..." said Sharma.

The school authorities could not be contacted for comment.

Sharma remembers Kintan – his older child – as someone who

loved making video reels and would often use his mother's Instagram account to post his photos and videos. "He was inspired by Bollywood movie Shershaah and wanted to join the Indian Army," said Sharma.

DCP (North) Manoj Kumar Meena confirmed the incident and said the police are awaiting a postmortem report before initiating legal action.

Meanwhile, the Delhi government said the incident took place outside the school campus. "Our heart goes out to the bereaving family, who lost their child in such a tragic incident. A prompt inquiry has been ordered already in the matter..." it said in a statement.

Not available: Land for AAP national party office at key location in Delhi

DAMINI NATH & MALLICA JOSHI
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 23

AAP's state unit office in New Delhi. Archive

A REPRESENTATIVE of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) went scouting for vacant land for its national party office, especially on the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, with officials of the Land and Development Office, but vacant land could not be traced, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

The AAP, in a response, said the party was not shown any parcels of land and was informed that there was no land available as per its requirement.

After the Election Commission recognised it as a national party on April 10, 2023, AAP became eligible for allotment of land for building its party office as per the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs' (MoHUA) policy for land allotment to national parties.

AAP national secretary Pankaj Gupta then wrote to the Land and Development Office (L&DO), which comes under the MoHUA, on April 17 and 20, 2023, regarding the allotment. The party had requested for land on DDU Marg

or other centrally-located areas, where the BJP and Congress have been allotted land for their respective offices. On June 26, 2023, the L&DO wrote back to Gupta saying the matter had been examined and a joint visit of an AAP representative and officials had been carried out to identify any vacant land, "especially on DDU Marg", it is learnt. No such vacant land was found, and allotment could not be made, the L&DO told the AAP.

Replies to another letter from Gupta on August 23, the L&DO informed him on September 15 that the matter had been examined again and no vacant land in the centrally-located area of New Delhi was available for allotment. While sources in the ministry

'Salary cut, payments delayed': Burari hospital sanitation workers on strike

New Delhi: Protesting over a delay in payment of salaries and a pay cut, sanitation workers of the Delhi government-run Burari hospital have been on an indefinite strike for eight days.

Babli, a contractual sanitation worker, said they have not been getting the minimum wage of Rs 17,494 per month. "I got only Rs

JNU students' union polls to be held in March

New Delhi: The Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union (JNUSU) elections, which have not been held since 2019, will take place in March.

In a notification, the university said, "This is to bring to the kind notice of all concerned that the JNU Students Union Elections 2023-24 will be held between

six to eight weeks after the commencement of the academic session for PhD students i.e. February 2, 2024."

Detailed guidelines for holding elections will be issued by the Office of Dean of Students in due course, it added.

The notification came hours after the JNUSU called for a 'university strike' on January 30 demanding to notify the elections at the earliest. ENS

available for comment. According to Safai Kamgar Union member Mandvi Mishra, a delegation of workers Tuesday met the OSD to Delhi Labour Minister Raj Kumar Anand and was assured of action in 24 hours. The Delhi government did not respond when asked for a comment. ENS

जिला निर्वाचन कार्यालय, रेवाड़ी

दूरभाष- 01274-222779 ई-मेल elt_rwr@yahoo.in

दिनांक :- पृष्ठ० निर्वाचन-2024/

-: निवाद सुचना:-

लोक सभा विधान सभा आम चुनाव 2024 के दौरान पोलिंग पार्टिज को ईवीप्प व वीवीपैसर के वितरण व जमा करवाने, पोलिंग पार्टिज को प्रशिक्षण देने से सम्बंधित कार्य खाताने के लिये टैन्ज की आवश्यकता है। अतः उक्त कार्य नेतृत्वात् 24.01.2024 प्रातः 10:00 बजे से दिनांक 05.02.2024 को साथ 3:00 बजे तक इनिवादा आमंत्रित की जाती है जो कि दिनांक 06.02.2024 को साथ 11:00 के बाद खोली जायेगी।

आनलाईन निवादायें दो बोली प्राणली (Two Bid System) के आधार पर खोली जायेंगी। वेबसाइट के रोजर्सड यूजर ड्राग <https://etenders.hry.nic.in> वेबसाइट से निवादा भरी जा सकती है।

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- EMD राशि के रूप में रुपए 50000/- रिफेंडबल है।

इच्छुक फर्म/एंजेनी दिनांक 24.01.2024 को प्रातः 10:00 बजे से दिनांक 05.02.2024 को साथ 3:00 बजे तक वेबसाइट <https://etenders.hry.nic.in> पर भरी जा सकती है। निवादा दिनांक 06.02.2024 को साथ 11:00 के पश्चात आनलाईन खोली जायेगी। निवादा से संबंधित अन्य आवश्यक जानकारिएं एवं निवाद उपरोक्त वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध हैं।

हस्ता,-

कृते: उपायुक्त एवं जिला निर्वाचन अधिकारी,

रेवाड़ी।

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Ref No: NFL/FPS/PDM/2024-25/01 Date : 24.01.2024

e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Bids are invited from the prospective bidders for the procurement of Potash Derived from Molasses (Granulated) for further marketing in various states. For details, visit website: <https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app> (e-tendering) & www.nationalfertilizers.com (Homepage). E-Tender No. 2024_NFL_182389_1. The last date of the Bid submission/date of opening of the Technical Bid document is 15.30 Hrs on 07.02.2024 / 15.30 Hrs on 08.02.2024. Any Corrigendum (s) to this tender shall be published only on our websites.

SBI

State Bank of India STRESSED ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH, JORHAT

Na-Ali, M G Road, Jorhat, Opp. ASEB Building, PIN-785001 (Assam)

Tel No : 0376-2300193 / 2300204

Appendix - IV-A

[See Proviso to rule 8 (6)]

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF MOVEABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of movable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 6(2) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described movable property hypothecated/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of State Bank Of India, the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is Where is", As is What is" and Whatever there is" basis on 09.02.2024, for recovery of Rs. 78,30,769.00 (Rupees Seventy eight lac thirty thousand seven hundred sixty nine only) as on 09.11.2022 + further interest, cost, charges & other expenses etc thereon due to the secured creditor from Chetna Thakur. The reserve price will be Rs. 44,00,000.00 and the earnest money deposit will be Rs. 4,40,000.00

Short Description of Movable Property

Property ID : SBIN400058581224

1) Vehicle (AMMANN APOLLO SENSO PAVER FINISHER MODEL AP 1000) bearing Engine No : 6H.2484/2020025 Chassis No. A1N41101E2012519.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in State Bank of India, the secured Creditors website:

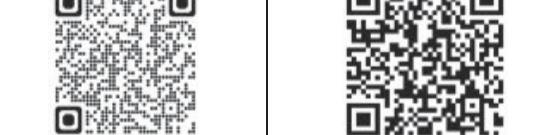
<https://sbi.co.in/web/sbi-in-the-news/auction-notices/sarfaesi-and-others>

https://ibapi.in/Sale_Info_Home.aspx

SBI Website E Auction Website Property Location



Photographs Videos



Date: 20.01.2024 Authorised Officer

State Bank of India, SARJHAT

EXPRESS Careers

MURGAGAN PATTAN PRAKASH KARAN

सामाज्य प्रशासन विभाग

हेल्पलाइन सर्डा

नियुक्ति

मुरगांव पत्तन प्राधिकरण, गोवा में सीधी भर्ती द्वारा नियमित आधार पर नियन्त्रित पदों को भरने के लिए पात्र उमीदवारों से आवेदन आमंत्रित किए जाते हैं।

पद का नाम वेतनमान पदों की संख्या अनावश्यक अधिकारी

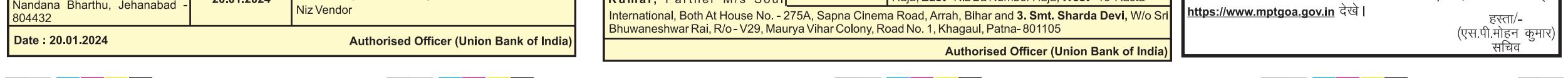
1. प्रशिक्षण पायलट Rs. 70000-200000 03 1 02

2. लेखा अधिकारीप्रैग्र-1 Rs. 50000-160000 01 - 01

पात्र उमीदवारों से सभी तरह से पूर्ण आवेदन प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि 04-03-2024 अधिक जानकारी के लिए हमारी वेबसाइट

<https://www.mptgoa.gov.in> देखें।

हराता- (एस.पी.मानु कुमार) सचिव



'Our govt has walked on the path of Karpoori Thakur Ji ...implemented his vision as effective governance model'



NARENDRA MODI

TODAY IS the birth centenary of Jan Nayak Karpoori Thakur Ji, whose relentless pursuit of social justice created a positive impact in the lives of crores of people. I never had the opportunity to meet Karpoori Ji but, I heard a lot about him from Kailashpati Mishra Ji, who worked closely with him. He belonged to one of the most backward sections of society, the Nai Samaj. Overcoming numerous obstacles, he achieved a lot and worked for societal betterment.

Jan Nayak Karpoori Thakur Ji's life revolved around the twin pillars of simplicity and social justice. Till his last breath, his simple lifestyle and humble nature resonated deeply with the common

people. There are numerous anecdotes that highlight his simplicity. Those who worked with him recall how he preferred to spend his own money for any personal matter including his daughter's wedding. During his tenure as Chief Minister of Bihar, a decision was taken to build a colony for political leaders but he himself did not take any land or money for the same. When he passed away in 1988, several leaders went to his village to pay tributes. When they saw the condition of his house, they were moved to tears—how can someone so towering have a house so simple!

Another anecdote of his simplicity dates back to 1977 when he just took over as CM of Bihar. The Janata Government was in power in Delhi and Patna. That time, Janata leaders had gathered in Patna to mark Loknayak JP's birthday. Among the galaxy of top leaders walked in Chief Minister Karpoori Thakur Ji, with a torn kurta. In his own style, Chandrashekhar Ji asked people to donate some money so that Karpoori Ji could purchase a new

kurta. But, Karpoori Ji was Karpoori Ji—he accepted the money but donated it to the CM Relief Fund.

Social justice was most dear to Jan Nayak Karpoori Thakur Ji. His political journey was marked by monumental efforts to create a society where resources were distributed fairly, and everyone, regardless of their social standing, had access to opportunities. He wanted to address the systemic inequalities that plagued Indian society.

Such was his commitment to his ideals that despite living in an era where the Congress Party was omnipresent, he took a distinctly anti-Congress line because he was convinced very early on that the Congress had deviated from its founding principles.

His electoral career began in the early 1950s and since then, he became a force to reckon with in the legislative chambers, powerfully voicing the struggles of the working class, labourers, small farmers and youngsters. Education was a subject very close to his heart. Throughout his political career, he worked to improve education fa-

cilities for the poor. He was a proponent of education in local languages so that people from small towns and villages could climb the ladder and attain success. As CM, he took many measures for the welfare of senior citizens as well.

Democracy, debate and discussion were integral to Karpoori Ji's personality. This spirit was seen when he immersed himself in the Quit India movement as a youngster and it was again seen when he resisted the Emergency tooth and nail.

His unique perspectives were great admired by the likes of JP, Dr. Lohia and Charan Singh Ji.

Perhaps one of Jan Nayak Karpoori Thakur Ji's most significant contributions to India was his role in strengthening the affirmative action apparatus for the backward classes, with the hope that they were given the representation and opportunities they deserved. His decision was met with heavy opposition but he did not bow to any pressure. Under his leadership, policies were implemented that laid the groundwork for a more in-

clusive society, where one's birth did not determine one's fate. He belonged to the most backward strata of society but he worked for all the people. He had no trace of bitterness in him, which is what makes him truly great.

Over the last ten years, our Government has walked on the path of Jan Nayak Karpoori Thakur Ji, reflected in our schemes and policies that have brought transformative empowerment. One of the biggest tragedies of our polity has been that barring a few leaders like Karpoori Ji, the call for social justice was restricted to being a political slogan. Inspired by Karpoori Ji's vision we implemented it as an effective governance model. I can say with confidence and pride that Jan Nayak Karpoori Thakur Ji would have been very proud of India's feat of freeing 25 crore people from the clutches of poverty in the last few years. These are people from the most backward sections of society, who were denied basic facilities nearly seven decades after freedom from colonial rule. At the same time, our efforts towards

saturation — of ensuring every scheme reaches 100% coverage — echo his commitment to social welfare. Today, when people from OBC, SC and ST Communities are becoming entrepreneurs due to MUDRA Loans, it fulfils Karpoori Thakur Ji's vision of economic independence. Likewise, it was our government which had the privilege of extending SC, ST and OBC reservation. We also had the honour of setting up the OBC Commission (which was opposed by Congress, sadly), which is working on the path shown by Karpoori Ji. Our PM-Vishwakarma Scheme will also bring new avenues of prosperity for crores of people belonging to OBC communities across India.

As a person belonging to the backward classes myself, I have much to thank Jan Nayak Karpoori Thakur Ji for. Unfortunately, we lost Karpoori Ji at a relatively young age of 64. We lost him when we needed him the most. Yet, he lives on in the hearts and minds of crores of people due to his work. He was a true Jan Nayak!

PARAKRAM DIWAS



PM Narendra Modi and Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge at the Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan, in New Delhi, Tuesday.

PM: It's time to devote oneself to Rashtra Kaaj from Ram Kaaj

DIVYA A

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 23

A DAY after the Ram temple inauguration in Ayodhya, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said that after the world has witnessed a cultural consciousness awakening in India, it is time to devote oneself to Rashtra Kaaj from Ram Kaaj (from Ram's work to nation's work).

He said that today's India is busy connecting the entire world as "Vishwa Mitra" and it is working forward to provide solutions to the world's challenges. PM Modi reiterated that while on the one hand, India is trying to forge a path from war to peace for the world, the nation is also prepared to protect national interests.

Modi, however, lamented the attack on Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's ideology post-Independence, as he mentioned how nepotism and favouritism made in-roads into Indian democracy, which slowed down the country's development. Pointing out that a huge section of society was deprived of opportunities and basic necessities for their uplift, Modi said the clout of a handful of families on political, economic, and development policies led to women and youth of the country suffering huge losses.

He recalled the difficulties faced by the women and youth of the time and emphasised the spirit of "Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas" since 2014. "Everyone can see the results of the last 10 years," Modi said.

"In line with the vision of the PM, the birth anniversary of Netaji was started being celebrated as Parakram Diwas in 2021," the PMO said in a statement.

Bose won freedom, Gandhi movement a non-event: TN Gov

ARUN JANARDHANAN

CHENNAI, JANUARY 23

SPEAKING ON

the

127th

birth

anniversary

of

Netaji

Subhash

Chandra

Bose,

Tamil

Nadu

Governor

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Congress

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Mahatma

Gandhi

for

compelling

the

British

to

leave

India

in

1947.

It was the fear among the British of being insecure in India following the revolt of the Navy and the rebellion of the Air Force that influenced their decision, the Governor said. "Having spent a considerable period in the Intelligence Bureau, a successor of British intelligence, I delved into archival data from February and March, 1946. I was amazed to see the dispatches sent from India to Britain. Every day brought a frightening report. The Central Intelligence, as it was called in those days, reported that anything could happen anytime. Besides the Indian military, they realised that even the Indian police could not be trusted. Within a month of this revolt, they decided they would make India free. It was the consequence of what Netaji did," he said.

Delivering a speech at Anna University in Chennai, Ravi also claimed that for a long period after the British left, systems were in place that ignored India's cultural, spiritual, and civilisational heritage. According to him, this neglect extended to the freedom fighters and martyrs, including those from Tamil Nadu who he said significantly contributed to Bose's Indian National Army (INA).

Arguing that Bose's role in Independence has been misunderstood and under-appreciated, Ravi highlighted Bose's progressive vision, including the formation of a women's battalion.

He also described the post-1942 period as a time of inaction in the national freedom movement led by Gandhi, which, in his

Bharat Ratna for socialist icon who gave Bihar its quota model

SANTOSH SINGH

PATNA, JANUARY 23



Karpoori Thakur

PRESIDENT DROUPADI Murmu on Tuesday announced that the Bharat Ratna would be awarded to socialist icon Karpoori Thakur, posthumously.

A two-time CM of the state, Thakur was a towering socialist icon often invoked by the state's politicians and popularly referred to as Jannayak or people's leader. Some of the schemes rolled out by CM Nitish Kumar bear the mark of Thakur's socialist politics – whether it is the waiving of school fee for girls until their post graduation or providing 50% quota to women in panchayats.

Thakur's life can be divided into three phases: when he was a freedom fighter and a staunch socialist who worked under the guidance of stalwarts such as Jayaprakash Narain, Dr Rammanohar Lohia and Rammanand Mishra (1942-67); as the state's CM and tallest socialist leader (1970-79); and his later years (1980-88) when he was trying to re-establish his identity.

Thakur was the deputy CM and education minister in the Mahamaya Prasad Sinha Cabinet from March 5, 1967, to January

28, 1968. In December 1970, Thakur went on to become the state's CM for the first time with the Samyuktha Socialist Party, a coalition of ideologically similar outfits. However, political instability rocked the state from 1967-72, and the stint barely lasted six months until June 1971.

He later became the Janata Party's CM in June 1977 and held power for close to two years, until differences with its main ally, the Bharatiya Jan Sangh, the BJP's precursor, alongside other reasons, led to the government's fall.

As CM and deputy CM, his policies were wide-ranging: promotion of Hindi language in government offices, declaring Urdu as the second official language, waiving school fees, strengthening Panchayati Raj system, among others. But his most significant contribution was in the sphere of reservation, a model still followed. The system provided 20% reservation model in which OBC communities got 12% of the share; EBCs from among OBCs got 8%; women got 3%; and economically backward classes from amongst the upper castes also got 3%.

Talking to *The Indian Express*, Ramnath Thakur said: "Getting the news of my father being conferred with Bharat Ratna on the eve of his 100th birth anniversary is the biggest news of my life. Saying that we are overwhelmed could be an understatement. It is a huge honour for all the poor and deprived and all those for whom

my father worked all his life. I profusely thank PM Narendra Modi." This is not the time to react to who is saying what. Nor should we ascribe any political motive. It is a very special day that comes rarely in life... it feels like a dream coming true," he said.

Ramnath's daughter Namita Kumari said: "We are all overwhelmed. It is an honour for all Bihar people and all those believing in democratic values."

At Dr Birendra K Thakur's house in Patna, similar feelings

echoed. "It feels like a dream being realised. We always knew my father was a special person. This honour is for all the downtrodden people of Bihar. We are greatly thankful to the PM for recognising his contributions," he said.

Dr Thakur's wife Kanaklata Thakur said: "It's like another Diwali in our lives. I am fortunate to have got Karpoori Thakur's blessings as father-in-law. I still remember the silk sari he had got me after my wedding. Bharat Ratna has elevated us all."

The PM, in the presence of Union Culture Minister G Kishan Reddy and Ministers of State Meenakshi Lekhi, Arjun Meghwal, and Ajay Bhatt, said, "In the last 10 years because of the efforts and encouragement of the entire country, about 25 crore Indians have come out of poverty. India, today is achieving goals, which were not even imagined to be achieved earlier."

"Our aim is to make India a developed nation by the year 2047. Our goal is to make India economically prosperous, culturally strong, and strategically capable. For this, it is important that within the coming five years, we become the third-largest economic power in the world. And this goal is not far from our reach," he said.

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"In line with the vision of the PM, the birth anniversary of Netaji was started being celebrated as Parakram Diwas in 2021," the PMO said in a statement.

Better had Rahul yatra been INDIA event: JDU

SANTOSH SINGH

PATNA, JANUARY 23



Bihar Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar and CM Nitish Kumar, Tuesday.

THE JANATA Dal (United) on Tuesday played down speculation of turbulence in the Bihar Mahagathbandhan and INDIA bloc. But it said the Congress's Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra event in Purnea on January 30, where party president and Bihar CM Nitish Kumar is scheduled to share the stage with senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) founder Lalu Prasad, should have been held under the banner of the Opposition alliance and not the Congress.

"Our main focus is ensuring a grand success of the Karpoori Thakur centenary celebrations on Wednesday. People should stop making speculation about our alliance," said JD(U) national spokesperson K C Tyagi. "Had it (January 30 event) been an INDIA bloc rally, it would have given a very good message about our unity. It is not important if allies

join Rahul Gandhi's Nyay Yatra or not, it is important to hold joint INDIA bloc meetings from district to state levels."

Asked if the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance looks better prepared for the Lok Sabha elections, Tyagi said, "The BJP does look better prepared even though they too have not done seat-sharing. They have been also trying to encash the Ayodhya Ram Temple consecration wave. The BJP must realise that Ram represents India's cultural and re-

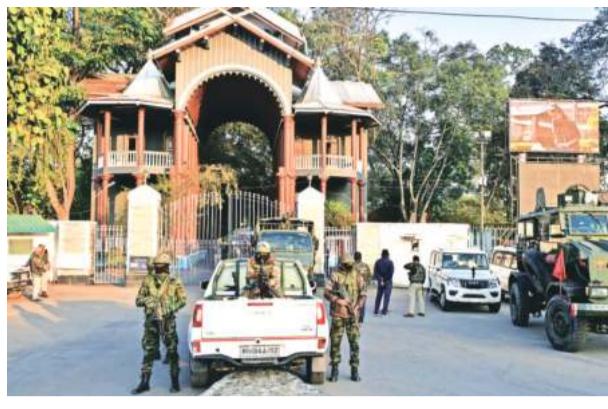
ligious ethos and does not belong to any party or ideology."

The JD(U) leader's clarification that there was no sign of any rift in the Bihar alliance or the national INDIA bloc came on a day when Nitish Kumar visited the Raj Bhavan to meet Governor R V Arlekar, triggering buzz that all was not well in the ruling coalition in Bihar. Nitish, accompanied by state finance minister Vijay Kumar Choudhary, held discussions with Arlekar for more than 40 minutes. Later in the day, government sources clarified that the CM met the Governor to discuss pending appointments of vice-chancellors in at least six universities in the state. The governor is the ex-officio chancellor of the universities.

Sources in the RJD said they were not "overtly worried about what is being said and written". An RJD leader said, "We know for sure that the Mahagathbandhan is intact. We are also in an advanced stage of seat-sharing talks. One should also ask the NDA about seat sharing."

Hyderabad: Yet another YSRCP MP, the third this month, has quit the party over seat allocation differences. Lavu Srikrishna Devarayalu, MP from Narasaraopet in Palnadu, resigned from the LS and YSRCP on Tuesday. Devarayalu, a first-time MP, said he was "disillusioned

and confused" after he was told that he was being shifted to Guntur LS constituency as the party had decided to field a Backward Classes candidate from Narasaraopet. Kurnool MP Sanjeev Kumar and Machilipatnam MP Vallabhaneni Balashowry quit citing the same reason.



Paramilitary troops stand guard outside the Kangla Fort in Imphal, Tuesday. Reuters

Manipur: Security tightened as radical group 'summons' Meitei MLAs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GUWAHATI, JANUARY 23

RADICAL MEITEI group Arambai Tenggol has issued "summons" to Manipur's Meitei MLAs for a meeting at Imphal's Kangla Fort Wednesday, prompting the state to increase security in the area.

In a statement, the Superintendent of Police, Imphal West, detailed the security arrangements in and around Kangla, and confirmed that the Arambai Tenggol — a radical group with a large number of volunteers in valley areas — "has summoned all the ministers and MLAs belonging to the valley districts at Kangla at 10 am".

The SP said "they are planning to enter Kangla with arms before the programme". Kangla Fort served as the royal seat of the Manipur kingdom till 1891.

As per the statement, police officers and personnel including VDF (village defence force), Home Guards, CAPF (Central Armed Police Forces) and Army/Assam Rifles personnel have been deployed in and around Kangla since Tuesday morning "in order to deny and stop the entry of armed Arambai Tenggol members at Kangla".

Deployments have been made inside the fort and at all four gates of the complex.

Meanwhile, on Tuesday, a Facebook page purportedly run

Right-wing activists enter FTII, 'assault students over Babri banner'; 2 FIRs filed

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PUNE, JANUARY 23

MEMBERS OF Hindutva outfits entered the Film and Television Institute of India premises on Tuesday afternoon and allegedly assaulted students over a banner put up by the FTII Students' Association, which said the Babri masjid demolition was against the Constitution.

The police said the banner was set on fire by the members of the right-wing outfits. After the incident, heavy police deployment was made inside and outside the campus. The police also deployed riot-control vans and quick response teams.

"Preliminary probe has revealed that a banner was displayed on the campus by the FTII Students' Association. Our information also suggests that screening of a film and an exhibition of photos related to the Babri Masjid-Ram Janmabhoomi issue was org-

3 HELD FOR REPLACING MOSQUE FLAG IN UP

Lucknow: Three men were arrested on Tuesday in UP's Shahjahanpur district for allegedly removing a flag from a mosque and replacing it with a saffron one last evening, police said.

The three accused were identified as Ankit Katheria, Rohit Joshi and Rohit Saxena, all aged 20. Their associate Pankaj Saxena is absconding, the police said.

EWS

ganised," said an officer from Deccan Gymkhana police station.

Based on the complaint filed by Sanjay Jadhav (54), a security officer posted at FTII, an FIR was registered against 12 to 15 persons. "Investigation has revealed that the members of the group belong to multiple Hindutva groups based in Pune," he said.

Court rejects Azam Khan's plea against conviction

Lucknow: A Special MP/MLA court in Rampur on Tuesday rejected an appeal filed by senior Samajwadi Party (SP) leader Azam Khan against a lower court's order convicting him in a hate speech case and sentencing him to two years of imprisonment last year.

"The special court on Tuesday rejected the appeal filed by Azam Khan against his conviction," said Joint Director (Prosecution), Rampur, Shiv Prakash Pandey.

Azam's lawyer Nasir Sultan said they would move the Allahabad HC against the special court's order rejecting the appeal.

The senior SP leader was booked in a hate speech case registered in Rampur in the run-up to the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

ENS

RUPSA CHAKRABORTY
MUMBAI, JANUARY 23

ASHE lay in bed at Mumbai's Tata Memorial Centre in 2018, weak after a round of chemotherapy to treat a tumour that had rendered him visually impaired. Jagbeer, 4, refused to believe that actor Salman Khan was sitting next to him, on his hospital bed. Until he ran his little fingers first over the actor's chiseled face and then, Khan's bracelet.

During their 30-minute meeting, Salman made Jagbeer a promise: they would meet again if he fought cancer like a champion. Five years later, both Salman and Jagbeer kept their word.

In a heartwarming reunion at the actor's Bandra house in

December last year, Jagbeer, 9, laid his eyes on Salman for the first time after he was declared cancer-free following nine rounds of chemotherapy and four of radiation.

His mother Sukhbir Kaur, 42, said Jagbeer was a little over three years old when he lost his sight suddenly. Doctors discovered a coin-sized cancerous tumour in his forehead that exerted pressure on a nerve, leading to his abrupt visual impairment. They suggested taking him to Delhi or Mumbai for treatment.

Sukhbir said her husband Pushpinder Singh, 42, and she were at a loss over how to explain their little son his diagnosis. They told him they were headed to Mumbai and Jagbeer assumed they were going to meet Salman.

"Looking at his excitement over meeting Salman, we decided not to tell him the truth. Even after he was admitted to the hospital, we would keep promising him a visit from Salman," she said.

Soon, the paediatric ward officials heard about his wish. Since the doctors were concerned that Jagbeer might never regain his sight, the hospital's Improving Paediatric Cancer Care and Treatment (ImPaCCT) Foundation and NGO Arjeze Charitable Trust partnered to reach out to Salman.

They made a video about Jagbeer's wish and sent it to Salman, but we were sceptical," said Sukhbir. When Salman turned up at the hospital to meet Jagbeer, the boy thought his parents were still bluffing.

"He touched the actor's face and shoulders, but was still unsure. Salman tried to convince him too, but he was still not convinced. Then, Jagbeer touched the actor's bracelet, something Salman always wears. He was so excited that he burst into laughter," recalled the mother.

What happened next, she said, left everyone astonished. "Jagbeer had undergone chemotherapy the previous day. He was feeling weak and itchy. When Salman asked him about his wish, Jagbeer said he wished for the actor to scratch his back and shoulders. Salman told him to keep fighting and promised to meet him again if he obeyed him," she said.

Talking about the reunion, Salman said, "Being Human Foundation (his charitable trust)

and I are always happy to support cancer patients being treated at Tata Memorial Centre."

Shalini Jatia, the officer in-charge of the hospital's ImPaCCT Foundation, said, "Such encounters have a profoundly positive impact on children."

Sukhbir said her son is now cancer-free after undergoing a rigorous regimen of chemotherapy. "He regained his sight partially. Though his visual impairment registers at 99% in all eye tests, he can see everything. He attends regular school," she said.

Jagbeer told The Indian Express, "At first, I could only make out when the lights were turned on and off. I can read now if words are large in size. I could not recognise the colour green initially, but that has also improved."

FULL REPORT
www.indianexpress.com

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FULL REPORT
www.indianexpress.com

Kheda flogging: Power to tie people to poles under what law, SC asks cops

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 23

THE SUPREME Court on Tuesday asked the four Gujarat Police personnel sentenced over the public flogging of Muslim men in Gujarat's Kheda district in 2022, from where they drew the authority to tie people to poles and beat them up.

"So you have an authority under law to tie people to poles and beat them?" asked Justice B R Gavai, presiding over a two-judge bench hearing an appeal by the four police personnel.

The four policemen — A V Parmar, D B Kumawat, Laxmansinh Kanaksinh Dabhi and Rajubhai Dabhi — have chal-

lenged an October 14, 2023 order of the Gujarat High Court sentencing them to 14 days imprisonment for alleged contempt of court for violating the guidelines laid out in the D K Basu judgment on the conduct of policemen when taking custody of accused. The HC had stayed the execution of its order for three months to enable the policemen to appeal..

The SC bench, also comprising Justice Sandeep Mehta, admitted the policemen's statutory appeal and stayed the contempt proceedings before the HC. But, making the court's displeasure evident, Justice Mehta remarked: "What kind of atrocities!...Tying the people to poles, beating them in public view."

According to a police com-

plaint, around midnight October 3, 2022, a mob of 150-200 people allegedly attacked a garba event at Undhela village by pelting stones in a Swaminarayan temple and "hurting religious sentiments". Seven persons, including a policeman, were injured.

Videos surfaced on social media of the police flogging several of the detained men the next day at the village square. Five victims of the police action had moved a contempt petition before the Gujarat HC, submitting that the flogging was in violation of guidelines that police are required to follow while making arrests.

Tuesday, appearing for the policemen, Senior Advocate Siddharth Dave told the SC bench, also comprising Justice Sandeep

Mehta, the finding that the men were detained illegally beyond 24 hours was subject to trial and could be the subject for contempt of court. He said the police personnel were also facing criminal prosecution and departmental proceedings, and that the NHRC was also looking into the matter.

On Dave's contention that there was no wilful disobedience of the D K Basu judgment, Justice Gavai wondered whether ignorance of law can be a valid defence.

"So, ignorance of law is ok?", he said, adding that "it is the duty of every police officer to know what is the law laid down in D K Basu". "We have been hearing about D K Basu even as students of law..." Justice Gavai said.

WITH ENS, AHMEDABAD

Army deploys more troops, steps up vigil in Rajouri-Poonch

AMRITA NAYAK DUTTA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 23

THE ARMY has significantly ramped up its troop strength in the Rajouri-Poonch sector and heightened surveillance of the area in the wake of multiple attacks on its personnel in the last three years, officials told The Indian Express.

The latest measures — after three major attacks on Indian security forces in the region last year — stall the earlier plan to reduce the strength of Rashtriya Rifles (RR) battalions from six to four companies. RR is the counter-terrorism force deployed in J&K.

According to sources, over three brigades of additional troops are being inducted in the sector from various reserve and strike corps formations. A brigade comprises approximately 3,500 personnel.

The additional deployment will not increase the density of troops in the area and fill the voids left by the withdrawal of an RR force in 2021, but will strengthen Road Opening Parties (ROP) for better protection against ambushes. An ROP comprises troops responsible for safe passage of military vehicles.

"An enhanced deployment is aimed at putting pressure on the terrorists and increasing the likelihood of contact," said a source.

The recent attacks on Army vehicle convoys have led to a recalibration of the ROP and an increase in the number of security pickets.

In another major change, 48 RR — the unit which was deployed in the sector — will be sent to the Corps Battle School in Sardar to retrain and regroup under a new commanding officer.

As reported by The Indian Express, three officers — the brigade commander, commanding officer of the unit and company commander — were moved out after three civilians were allegedly tortured to death during questioning.

This comes days after Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu hit out at India for "bullying", and set a March 15-deadline for India to withdraw its military personnel from the country.

From Kashmir to Rajouri-Poonch
EXPLAINED

THE ADDITIONAL deployment comes in the wake of high-impact terror incidents in the area. According to the Army, 20 soldiers were killed in the Rajouri-Poonch belt in the last three years, while seven were killed in Kashmir.

voy in Poonch on December 21.

Additionally, increased use of satellite imagery and more helicopter and drone sorties by the latest Israeli Heron Mk 2 alongside other smaller UAVs are being carried out to strengthen surveillance of the Rajouri-Poonch area.

Last week, Army Chief General Manoj Pande had said the security situation in the Rajouri-Poonch belt was a cause for concern. "With the situation in the Valley getting normal, this is one area our adversaries have been active in, in terms of abetting terrorism, encouraging proxy tanzeems to operate," he had said.

He had said terrorism was wiped out from the area in 2003, and the region saw peace till 2017-18. But, in the last three years, while seven soldiers were killed in Kashmir, 20 were killed in ambuses in the Rajouri-Poonch belt.

He had said the Army's focus was on strengthening the existing intelligence network, including human and technical intelligence, in coordination with other agencies, and outreach to the local population.

Speaking about changes in troop deployment in the region, Gen Pande had said the Army has increased deployment in these areas and reoriented some units which were operating there.

As reported by The Indian Express, the Army has launched Operation Sarvashakti in the region — on the lines of Operation Sarvapinch — to flush out militants/terrorists. As per sources, the region has more foreign terrorists than local militants.

AMU surrendered denominational character in 1920, can't claim it now, Centre tells SC

ANANTHAKRISHNANG
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 23

THE CENTRE ON Tuesday told the Supreme Court that AMU had surrendered its denominational character at the time of its establishment by an Act of the British Parliament in 1920 and hence couldn't claim the minority status.

A seven-judge Constitution bench, presided by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud, is hearing a reference made to it by a three-judge bench in February 2019.

During the day-long hearing, Justice Chandrachud asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who is representing the Centre, about the status of AMU under the 1920 legislation and on the eve of the adoption of the Constitution.

The CJ asked, "What are the indicia to indicate that when it was conferred with a university status, that it surrendered its minority status? The mere fact that it is given university status does not amount to a surrender of minority status prior to Independence. We have to independently see whether by the 1920 Act, AMU's denominational character was lost".

The SG pointed out that communications between the British officers and MAO college "show that from the very inception, the Imperial Government was clear that the demand for establishing a University by way of an enactment would only be accepted if the control substantially vests with secular/non-minority authorities".

FULL REPORT
www.indianexpress.com

work environment, ill-treatment by seniors, or no leaves granted to go home. PG medical students work in hospitals associated with their medical colleges as junior residents as part of their training.

Resident doctors are the backbone of medical college hospitals and take on most of the clinical workload.

On behalf of the National Medical Commission's Anti-Ragging committee I am requesting you to kindly review the seat leaving bond policy in medical colleges in your state at your level and do away with the seat leaving bond policy... An action taken report by your government on this issue will be highly appreciated," says a letter to the principal health and medical education secretaries of all

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and shoulders, but was still unsure. Salman tried to convince him too, but he was still not convinced. Then, Jagbeer touched the actor's bracelet, something Salman always wears. He was so excited that he burst into laughter," recalled the mother.

What happened next, she said, left everyone astonished. "Jagbeer had undergone chemotherapy the previous day. He was feeling weak and itchy. When Salman asked him about his wish, Jagbeer said he wished for the actor to scratch his back and shoulders. Salman told him to keep fighting and promised to meet him again if he obeyed him," she said.

Talking about the reunion, Salman said, "Being Human Foundation (his charitable trust)

and I are always happy to support cancer patients being treated at Tata Memorial Centre."

Shalini Jatia, the officer in-charge of the hospital's ImPaCCT Foundation, said, "Such encounters have a profoundly positive impact on children."

Sukhbir said her son is now cancer-free after undergoing a rigorous regimen of chemotherapy. "He regained his sight partially. Though his visual impairment registers at 99% in all eye tests, he can see everything. He attends regular school," she said.

Jagbeer told The Indian Express, "At first, I could only make out when the lights were turned on and off. I can read now if words are large in size. I could not recognise the colour green initially, but that has also improved."

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The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

KEEP IT POROUS

Sealing border with Myanmar is no solution to complex problems of Northeast. The answer lies in greater engagement

THE CENTRE SHOULD rethink its decision to fence the country's 1,643-km border with Myanmar. Announcing the move last week, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that plans to formally end the Free Movement Regime (FMR) regime, suspended since September 2022, are also on the government's anvil. The FMR, which came into effect in 2018, allowed people living along the border of either side to travel up to 16 km into the other country without any visa. Admittedly, the situation along the Indo-Myanmar border has deteriorated after the Tatmadaw seized power in Yangon in February 2021. The junta has persecuted the Kuki-Chin people and the turmoil has resulted in an influx of Myanmarese refugees in the country's Northeast. The instability has sparked security concerns in Delhi. The trafficking of arms and drugs is also worrying. But sealing borders could complicate matters in parts of the Northeast that bear the scars of insurrections and ethnic strife, past and present. Undermining people-to-people relations can cause heartburn amongst tribal groups like the Kukis in Mizoram and Manipur who share kinship ties with Myanmar's Chin community. Mizoram's Chief Minister Lalduhoma — like his predecessor Zoramthanga — has opposed the fencing and civil society groups in the state have also criticised the move.

The junta has ruled Myanmar for all but five years since 1990. Unlike Western powers, which have made democracy the sole prism of their Myanmar policy, India has chosen to do business with the military regime, and that also has to do with the latter's help in the denial of a safe haven to insurgents from the Northeast. Myanmar has also been a part of India's Look East Policy. The strategy to do business with Yangon worked to a large extent till the latest military takeover three years ago. Since February 2021, the country's Chin province which shares a border with Mizoram has become a major battleground in the conflict between the junta and its opposition. Entire villages have reportedly been burnt down for failing to comply with the Tatmadaw's writ. In August last year, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar told his counterpart in Myanmar that "India's border areas have been seriously disturbed and any action that aggravates the situation should be avoided". That, however, was a rare admonition. Delhi has, by and large, failed to restrain Yangon from acting against Indian interests. Instead, the Union Home Ministry now seems to be picking on the junta's victims.

Mizoram has provided a sanctuary to the refugees. In neighbouring Manipur, however, the Biren Singh government has framed the crisis in ways that help him gloss over his own government's failures to stanch the state's nearly nine-month-long ethnic strife. Singh has accused the chiefs of the Kuki community of "illegally settling immigrants" from Myanmar. Such hostility is part of a playbook that fails to acknowledge and address the complex nature of the frontiers in the Subcontinent, many of which are a creation of the colonial state. India's border with Myanmar cuts through villages and divides families in Mizoram, Nagaland and Manipur. It should remain porous.

A LIMITED GROWTH

Centre's capex push and residential housing drive investment activity. But there are few signs of a broad-based pick-up

AS PER THE first advance estimates of national income, released by the National Statistical Office in early January, the Indian economy is expected to grow at 7.3 per cent in the ongoing financial year. This growth estimate has surpassed even the most optimistic assessments by analysts. Now, a study by economists at the RBI notes that this stronger than expected growth is "underpinned by a shift from consumption to investment". Investments, as measured by gross fixed capital formation, are estimated to grow at 10.3 per cent in 2023-24. Growth this year will push the investment to GDP ratio (at current prices) to 29.8 per cent in 2023-24, up almost one percentage point from 28.9 per cent in 2021-22.

The study says that investment activity is driven by the government's sustained push on capex, which is beginning to crowd-in private investment, and investments by households in residential housing. The Centre's capital spending is up around 31 per cent in the first nine months (April-November) of the year. And till November, it had sanctioned Rs 97,374 crore under the scheme for special assistance to states for investment as per the study. (This is roughly 75 per cent of the Rs 1.3 lakh crore allocated for the financial year). However, investment spending by state governments has been slower as per a study by economists at Bank of Baroda. Of the Rs 7 lakh crore of capex projected by 26 states, by November only Rs 3.18 lakh crore or 45 per cent had been spent. Household investments in real estate, though, continue to grow at a brisk pace. As per the study, the housing market "is seeing its highest sales in more than a decade".

On private corporate sector investments, the study notes that public sector spending is beginning to crowd-in private investment, "as high corporate profitability... has begun to induce creation of fixed assets". However, as per a report by economists at Bank of Baroda, new investment announcements during April-December were at the lowest levels in recent years (excluding 2020). Moreover, of all the new investments announced, almost half of them can be traced to the aviation sector, where airlines have placed large orders for new aircrafts. Gross inward foreign direct investments have also fallen by 4.1 per cent to \$47 billion during April-November. So while private investments may have picked up in some sectors, there is little indication of a broad-based pick-up in corporate investment activity.

FINDING GRACE

Filmmaker Norman Jewison's diverse oeuvre was marked by a sense of place and deep empathy for his characters

NORMAN JEWISON'S NEO-NOIR classic, *In the Heat of the Night*, adapted from John Ball's eponymous novel, opened in theatres weeks after the 1967 Detroit riot, one of the worst instances of racial violence in the US. On screen, the murder mystery set in Sparta amplified the pernicious ramifications of racism, brought alive by Sidney Poitier and Rod Steiger's sterling performances. But it was also a crowning moment for Jewison's directorial vision — his depiction of the claustrophobic unease and distrust between communities in the American south won the film five Oscars. Jewison died on Saturday at the age of 97.

Even though he was known for musicals such as *Fiddler on the Roof* (1971), or the tender *Moonstruck* (1987), experiences of discrimination on account of his Jewish-sounding surname and observation of racism during his youth had made Jewison sensitive to causes of social justice, his liberalism further shaped by activists such as Martin Luther King Jr. It explained Jewison's sense of place, his empathy for his characters and the diversity of his oeuvre. Born in Toronto in 1926, Jewison made his way up the ranks of television. His break came in 1962 with *40 Pounds of Trouble*. It would be followed by films as diverse as *Send Me No Flowers* (1964), *The Crown Affair* (1968) and *Only You* (1992).

As a director who worked with some of the biggest actors of his time — Poitier and Day, but also a young Steve McQueen, Cher, Nicholas Cage, and Marisa Tomei — Jewison's skill lay in bringing out the vulnerability of his actors to their advantage. Playing a black cop accused first of a murder and then tasked with solving it alongside a white, prejudiced, colleague in *In the Heat of the Night*, Poitier's valiant assertion of his identity — "They call me Mister Tibbs" — remains one of the finest cinematic renditions of grace under fire.

Challenge for Modi-Macron

Questions going beyond ideas of 'strategic autonomy' and 'multipolar world' must be addressed



RAJA MANDALA
BY C RAJA MOHAN

WILL THERE BE anything more than pomp and show during French President Emmanuel Macron's visit to India this week? To be sure, the two leaders could do with some uplifting pageantry. For Macron, struggling to reinvent his presidency, the enthusiastic reception in India would be a relief. The royal Rajputana welcome in Jaipur to Macron should look good back in France. The French presidency is Republican by nature but imperial in style.

For PM Modi, who is riding high at home, Macron's visit marks continuing high-level political engagement from the Western chancelleries at a time when the liberal Anglo-Saxon media is going ballistic about his temple project and India's retreat from secularism. It is always wrong to conflate Western geopolitical interests with the media articulation of liberal ideology. In any case, you can't be more secular than the French in the East or the West.

But what about substance? The leaders had met last July when Modi travelled to Paris to participate in the Bastille Day celebrations. They had issued an ambitious new framework — Horizon 2047 — to advance cooperation in defence, nuclear energy and other areas. It is not easy to top up that expansive agenda in six months. But it should be possible to showcase progress in implementing those plans. What about the in-principle deals announced on India buying 26 Rafale Marine aircraft and building three Scorpene submarines, or plans to transfer jet engine technology to India? It is not clear if sufficient progress could have been made either on these deals or on advancing defence industrial collaboration. Unlike the US, the French executive is strong and can push through agreements purposefully. In Delhi, the Modi government does not see itself as a lame duck before the impending elections and can get things done.

Irrespective of the concrete outcomes of the visit, Modi and Macron have something to ponder over — the rapidly changing regional and international context since the two leaders met in Paris. That discussion could lend greater urgency to the implementation of their plans. It could also help the two leaders go beyond the traditional slogan of "strategic autonomy" that has long provided an ideological bond between Delhi and Paris.

Three new features stand out in the international situation. First, Ukraine's counter-offensive against Russia has stalled, and the question of war and peace in the heart of Europe is back in debate. Many of the recent assumptions are up for reconsideration.

Second, the Middle East, which appeared quiet six months ago, is now on fire. The terrorist attacks on Israel on October 7 last year by Hamas and the massive retaliation by Israel have enhanced the prospects for a wider war in the region. The attacks on Red Sea shipping — one of the most important commercial arteries of the world — by the Houthis of Yemen are having a big effect on the global economy.

Third, the prospects of the return of Donald Trump have generated fears of renewed political chaos and radical redirection of policies in Washington. US domestic politics has become a major variable in international politics.

Adapting to the new dynamic in the US will be a great challenge for Europe, which is worried about renewed hostility in Washington to the trans-Atlantic military alliance NATO. Equally worrisome for Europe is the Republican Party's opposition to further military support for Ukraine and Trump's presumed predilections for deal-making with Russia.

Although Modi had a decent working relationship with Trump, Delhi will have challenges managing the consequences of Trump's regional and global policies. Trump has promised to junk the focus on climate change, introduce across-the-board tariffs on imports, and demand a renegotiation of the terms of engagement with allies in Europe and Asia. His style of governance is also likely to generate problems for India. Trump's America First policies will test two big ideas that have traditionally bound India and France. One is the idea of a multipolar world, and the other is the notion of strategic autonomy.

Well before Russia and China championed the idea of a multipolar world, France pushed for it in the late 1990s. Describing the US as an unconstrained "hyperpower", French leaders called for coalitions to limit the dangers of American unilateralism. India, too, was anxious about the dangers of a unipolar world and the potential harm that the US could do to India. US activism on Kashmir and its declared

objective of rolling back India's nuclear weapons programme dispelled all doubts in Delhi. France, in contrast, suggested that isolating India made no sense and that it should be integrated into the global nuclear order. After India's nuclear tests in 1998, Paris helped India deflect the non-proliferation pressures from the other members of the United Nations Security Council, including Russia. More recently, France has extended rock-like support in the UNSC in blocking China's attempt to internationalise the Kashmir dispute in 2019.

The notion of strategic autonomy is also dear to the foreign policy establishments in Delhi and Paris. It has symbolised many things, including an independent foreign policy and maintaining political distance from the US. But what sense do the two concepts make if the US retreats from an expansive international role in the increasingly likely second presidential term of Trump? It is not that American power has declined in real terms, but domestic politics could compel American retrenchment in many areas.

Defining their core foreign policy identities with reference to the geopolitical orientation of the US would make little sense for Delhi and Paris. The challenge for Modi and Macron does not lie in abstract conceptions like "multipolarity" and "strategic autonomy". It is about addressing the real questions at hand.

How to bring peace to Ukraine and arrange a stable security order in Central Europe? How can India contribute to European security? How can France boost India's capabilities for deterring war in Asia? How to protect the SLOCs in the waters of West Asia in case the US, which is doing the heavy lifting now, pulls back? Trade through the Red Sea is more important for India and Europe than the US.

For nearly a century, the distant power, America, has underwritten the security of Eurasia. If the Trump phenomenon is about the US rethinking the costs and benefits of that role, regional powers in Europe, the Middle East, and Asia must step up in addressing the current crises and develop long-term plans to stabilise Eurasia and its waters.

The writer is a contributing editor on international affairs for The Indian Express



VANDINIYA SHUKLA

SOMEWHERE IN THE depths of X (formerly Twitter), an American engineer turned children's novelist in Texas called "cool dude frank" has an "important political message". Unexpectedly, it is delivered in fluent Hindi. Scroll down the thread and you will find that this is a translated video made using HeyGen — an AI-powered video generator that not only translates the spoken language but perfectly matches the voice and lip movements, making it impossible to imagine that "cool dude frank" doesn't speak Hindi. Examples like this are no longer experiments but viral content reshaping the future of politics — from PM Modi's digitally rendered voice being used to serenade us in Tamil and Telugu to The Indian Deepfaker company using voice cloning to deliver "personalised messages" from politicians to party workers.

Seventy-six countries will head to the polls in 2024, with an estimated four billion people voting in presidential, legislative, and local elections globally. India is on the frontline on this. However, this grand march to the ballot box doesn't imply a triumph of democracy. While generative AI supercharges online disinformation campaigns to manipulate and micro-target voters, civil society worldwide is increasingly cornered. With political and technological forces dehumanising and monetising our identities, we need a return to people-powered grassroots movement building to create a more resilient civic infrastructure.

AN AI-ERA IN POLITICS

This moment calls for an overhaul of the core design of how our civil society functions

With the growth of funded organisations replacing people's movements or community-based collectives, civil society organisations are implementing programmes instead of mobilising people's power to challenge systems. The antidote to AI-powered elections includes better platform safety and government regulation.

Democracy feels like a lofty ambition when the truth is easier to distort than ever before. The generative AI boom has made the production and distribution of misleading fake content cheaper, faster, and hyper-realistic. From Pakistan's Imran Khan deploying an AI clone from prison for a "virtual rally" to artists experimenting with an AI-driven political party in Denmark called The Synthetic Party, democracy is witnessing its AI-era in full force. Today, it is easier to make fake reality. But it is also easier to dismiss reality altogether.

Meanwhile, civil society has been forced or incentivised to refrain from pursuing political questions about power imbalances. The silencing of civic space is intentional and targeted. This silencing will cost us if we, as citizens, forget that we have more power than just our vote. We are citizens and not clients of our democracies. We build power by coming and acting together. The year of elections reminds us that democracy is a verb — something that needs collective doing and redoing.

With the growth of funded organisations replacing people's movements or community-based collectives, civil society organisations are implementing programmes instead of mobilising people's power to challenge systems. The antidote to AI-powered elections includes better platform safety and government regulation. But the true and long-lasting inoculation will come from our capacity for civic association to represent our voices, needs and experiences.

Social media has created a platform for us to aggregate our communities to protest or distribute our opinion, but it has yet to create the conditions for relational community building and leadership. In 2008, Obama for America organised 2.2 million volunteers into a grassroots army. Scholars have studied how Barack Obama's field campaigns were not made of the usual staffers, consultants, and paid canvassers. Instead, the campaign's strength came from unpaid local citizens who organised their own neighbourhoods for years ahead of Election Day. This is different from simply mobilising in big numbers because relational leadership inherent in this community organising model offers the crucial context of articulating and acting on our shared values especially when our identities, cultures, and religions are pitted against each other.

India has its own rich tradition of building power for the most vulnerable. Contemporary models like CORO India, SEWA, and Community Youth Collective are just a few of many community-based organisations driving justice. We need to create, join, and fund more people-powered models of civic action. Electoral threats may seem concentrated online, but the ammunition to fight them lies in the vibrancy of our own collective power.

The writer is a Practicing Democracy Project fellow at Harvard Kennedy School



JANUARY 24, 1984, FORTY YEARS AGO

CENTRE'S INTERVENTION

THE CONGRESS (I) has demanded "timely intervention" of the Centre in Jammu and Kashmir to check the "loss" of the state to India for ever. In a memorandum submitted to President Zail Singh, a five-member Congress (I) study team said that any delay on the part of the President in taking action would bring irreparable damage to the state.

AKALIS DISSATISFIED

SGPC PRESIDENT GURCHARAN Singh Tohra scoffed at the reported offer by PM Indira

Gandhi to the Akali Dal of negotiations on the Punjab problem. Tohra said there was no use keeping the "doors open when they are heavily guarded against the acceptance of Punjab's demands." He alleged that Mrs Gandhi was showing indifference and double standard towards Punjab's demands.

RAILWAY FARE ISSUE

A DECISION IS yet to be taken on whether railway fares and freight rates are to be raised in the railway budget next month. Meanwhile, a fierce debate is raging in the Railway Board about whether high fares are proving counter-

productive. Financial officials feel there is an imperative need for the railways to mobilise resources and this can only be done through another stiff dose of freight and fare hikes.

BUS MISHAP KILLS 40

AS MANY AS 40 persons were killed on the spot and 27 injured when an Asiatic bus of the Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation carrying a marriage party fell into a ditch at Kasara Ghat in Thane district. The newly-married couple and the driver of the bus were killed. The dead also included 11 children and 11 women.

11 THE IDEAS PAGE

Why Mayawati walks alone

Behind BSP chief's refusal to enter an alliance to fight Lok Sabha election is the instinct of self-preservation, and preparation for a future bout of Dalit assertion



SUDHA PAI

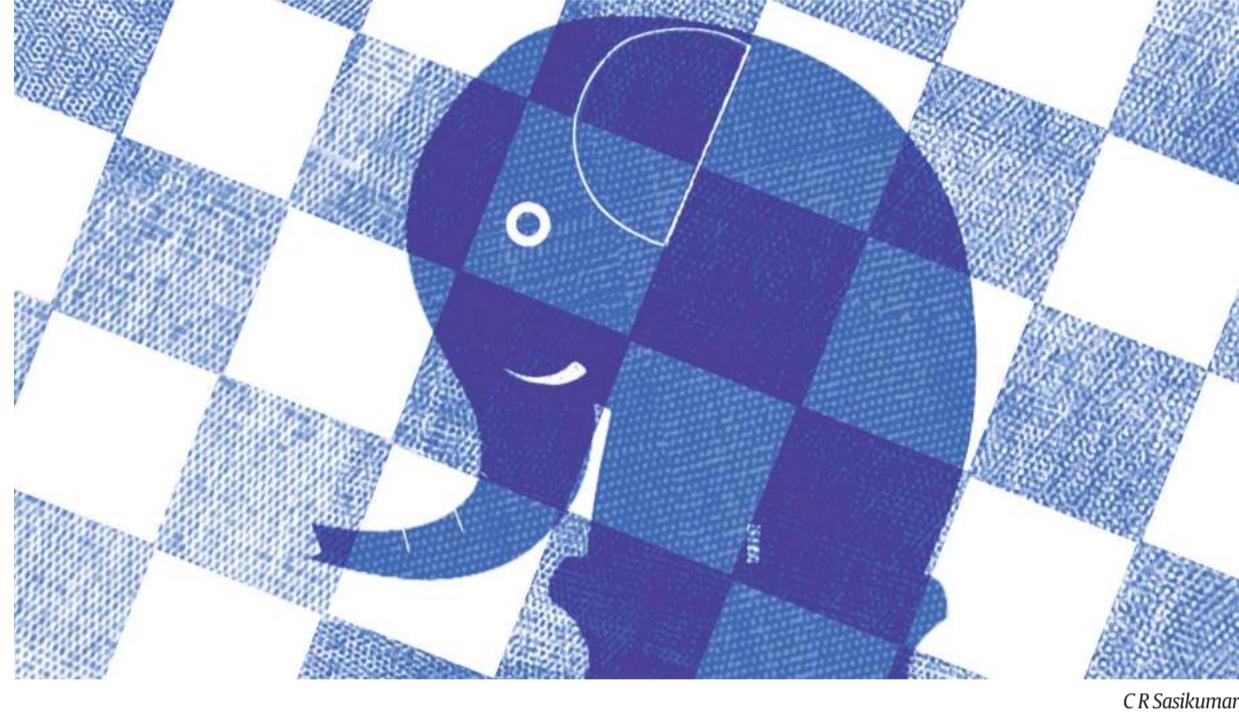
AT A PRESS conference on January 15 — her birthday — Mayawati made it clear that the BSP would not align with any party or alliance, including INDIA, and would fight the 2024 Lok Sabha election alone in UP. This has led observers to argue that a three-cornered contest in UP would benefit the BJP, and, aware of this, Mayawati has decided to help the BJP.

However, Mayawati is a master strategist and it is necessary to understand the reasons underlying her decision. Two factors seem to be driving it: Like many observers, she feels that the BJP will return to power under Narendra Modi in 2024 as the INDIA alliance is facing problems within its own ranks. Second, given this calculation and the weakened position of her party, she feels that if she joins the INDIA alliance, the BJP and SP will be able to take away much of her remaining social base, including her core Dalit constituency.

The long-term reason lies in the animosity-ridden rivalry that has driven the relationship between the SP and BSP in UP. Both are "lower-caste" parties with a narrow sectarian base that overlap each other. With the Scheduled Castes (SCs) forming about 20 per cent of the UP population, the BSP has, under Mayawati, attempted to gain the support of sections of the non-Yadav OBCs, together with the Dalits. Similarly, the SP has attempted to unite all sections of backward classes and obtain some Dalit support. The two parties also compete for the support of the Muslim community as well as that of the upper castes. This contestation between the SP and the BSP to widen their social base is visible throughout the 1990s, particularly following the breakdown of the "Bahujan coalition" formed after the 1993 assembly elections. The Guest House incident in 1995 created personal enmity between Mayawati and Mulayam Singh.

The revival of the BJP in the 2000s has sharpened the rivalry between the two parties. Since 2014, the BJP has, over successive national and assembly elections, taken away a large chunk from the BSP and the SP base of the smaller non-Jatav Scheduled Castes and non-Yadav backward castes, respectively. As a result, both are facing decline, but it is the BSP that is facing an existential crisis with its seat/vote share falling in national and assembly elections.

Following the 2017 assembly elections in which the BJP gained a huge majority, fearing a further loss of their base, the two parties decided to bury their differences and join hands to fight three by-polls in 2018. The victory of the SP-BSP alliance by a high margin in March 2018 in the seats vacated by CM Adityanath and Deputy CM Keshav Prasad Maurya in Gorakhpur and Phulpur, and in Kairana in May 2018 in western UP, provided them with a template for a political alliance in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. But the experiment failed. The core constituencies of the alliance partners supported the alliance, but it could not defeat the new voting bloc built by the BJP of



CR Sasikumar

non-Jatav, non-Yadav and non-Muslim voters, a sizeable number across the state. The SP-BSP-RJD alliance won barely 15 seats, despite getting 38.92 per cent vote share; while that of the BJP increased from 42.63 per cent to 49.55 per cent.

The defeat by the BJP sharpened the hostility between them, making them conscious of the need to guard their core constituencies from further depletion by the BJP, but also by each other, in the run-up to the 2022 UP assembly. With the organisational breakdown in the BSP and exodus of its prominent leaders to other parties including the SP, the major battle in 2022 was fought between the BJP and a resurgent SP. Akhilesh Yadav attempted to harness the expansion of Mandal forces to include the smaller OBCs — the Kushwahas, Kurmis, Patels, Nishads and others — who had become politically conscious and demanding. He made efforts to shed the SP's image of a Muslim-Yadav party by creating an anti-BJP front of smaller OBC and Dalit parties with the RLD in western UP. By positioning himself as the leader of the "pichhde", he shifted the election discourse into a battle between Hindutva and social justice. This did not help the SP defeat the BJP, but it did make considerable gains in seat and vote share and managed to dent the BJP's western UP citadel. The BJP's seats decreased from 312 in 2017 to 255 seats (-52) but it increased its vote-share by 3 per cent. For the first time since 2014, the SP was able to challenge the BJP's hegemonic position in UP, rendering the election so sharply bipolar that the alliances led by the BJP and SP polled over 80 per cent of the votes and shared 398 of the 403 seats among them.

In contrast, the BSP was the biggest loser among all caste/ sub-caste groupings and Muslims. The BJP made significant gains among the non-Jatavs and an impressive inroad among Jatavs, securing nearly a fifth of their votes, more than double of that obtained in 2017. The SP (including the RLD) increased its vote share among all sections of the Dalit community, though the increase was only slightly more than that of the BJP in the case of the other SC communities, and less than the

Following the 2022 assembly election, the SP has made considerable efforts to increase its share of Dalit votes, leading to increased bitterness between Akhilesh Yadav and Mayawati. By retaining his assembly seat and giving up his Lok Sabha seat, Akhilesh Yadav signalled that the SP, as the strongest opposition party in UP, was preparing to confront the BJP in 2024. Putting forward the idea of constructing a PDA or "Pichhde (backward classes), Dalit and 'Alpsankhyak' (minorities)" alliance, he has consistently held that the SP should be the fulcrum around which the INDIA alliance in UP should be constructed for the 2024 election.

BJP in the case of Jatavs.

Following the 2022 assembly election, the SP has made considerable efforts to increase its share of Dalit votes, leading to increased bitterness between Akhilesh Yadav and Mayawati. By retaining his assembly seat and giving up his Lok Sabha seat, Akhilesh Yadav signalled that the SP, as the strongest opposition party in UP, was preparing to confront the BJP in 2024. Putting forward the idea of constructing a PDA or "Pichhde (backward classes), Dalit and 'Alpsankhyak' (minorities)" alliance, he has consistently held that the SP should be the fulcrum around which the INDIA alliance in UP should be constructed for the 2024 election.

It is against this backdrop that Mayawati's choice of going alone for the 2024 elections must be understood. For her, it is a matter of survival of the BSP and of the Dalit movement in UP. By not joining the INDIA alliance, she would like to protect her core constituency from further encroachments by the SP and the BJP. Viewed in a larger perspective, the Dalit movement in UP has passed through phases of resurgence and decline with periods of hiatus in which Dalit assertion has continued, giving it a complex nature. The presence of a dominant, upper-caste party, which affords little space for narrower, sectarian formations, is a key reason for the periods of decline. In the early years of Independence, it was the Congress party with its leadership from the upper castes that did not allow room for a Dalit party to grow. Now, it is the BJP, once again an upper-caste party but with a broad spectrum of Hindu social support, that constitutes a strong political force. While recognising all the failures of the BSP's leadership, it is important to understand that the Dalit movement in UP and in the Hindi heartland, today operates under the shadow of a hegemonic, right-wing Hindu majoritarian party, espousing Hindutva. These factors underlie the decision of Mayawati to bide her time and keep her flock safe for another round of Dalit assertion.

The writer is the author (with Sajjan Kumar) of Maya, Modi, Azad: Dalit Politics in the Time of Hindutva (2023)

The most powerful safeguard

How Basic Structure doctrine became something India cannot do without



ABHISHEK SINGHVI

IN ANY DEMOCRACY, sovereignty is deemed to reside in the people and hence a parliament of their elected representatives represents the sovereignty of the people. But precisely because majority is the heart of democracy and because it is equally a universal truth that power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely, anti-majoritarian safeguards are vital. The highest bulwark of such safeguards is the Indian Constitution. Hence, the best way to institutionalise tyranny and constitutionalise dictatorship would be to amend the Constitution at the will of the majority.

That is the significance of *Kesavananda Bharati* (KB), India's longest argued case with the largest bench. This 703-page judgment, spread over 11 judicial opinions, established a one-line permanent bulwark against tyranny and dictatorship: Even a constitutional amendment, validly passed by Parliament's special majority, can be declared unconstitutional, if it violates the Basic Structure (BS) of the Constitution. Basic Structure makes it impossible to constitutionalise gross aberrations or institutionalise tyranny, even if Parliament so decrees by a 100 per cent affirmative vote. Since the superior courts have the last word on a case-by-case basis to decide what is or is not BS, making them its final arbiter, this seemingly anti-democratic, anti-sovereignty device, administered by unelected judges, has become the most powerful permanent safeguard for enduring democracy.

The story starts with *Shankari Prasad* (1951) which upheld the validity of the first constitutional amendment making inroads into property rights by the legislature unchallengeable.

The Court held Parliament's amending power under Article 368 to be plenary and declined to fetter it by any limitations. *Sajjan Singh* (1964) followed and upheld the 17th amendment, which had immunised from challenge a large number of state enactments by putting them in the Ninth Schedule.

Here sprouted the seeds of the future and as yet unborn Basic Structure doctrine. Two Nagpur judges — M Hidayatullah and JR Mudholkar — in *Sajjan Singh* questioned whether fundamental rights could be the "plaything of the majority". Mudholkar was the first to use the phrase "basic features" in *Sajjan Singh* and questioned whether they could all be taken away. Ironically, he traced this approach to an earlier dissent from the *Fazlul Chowdhury* case in the Supreme Court in Pakistan — a country which has more than twice accepted and then rejected the Basic Structure theory — which had used the phrase "essential features".

In *Golaknath* (1967), a 6-5 majority of India's largest bench till then, held the entire Part 3 unamendable, while overruling both *Shankari Prasad* and *Sajjan Singh* and asserting that "the core rights in our foundational assembly (cannot) be altered by changes."

Professor Dieter Conrad of the University of Heidelberg, an Indophile, pushed the theory of implied limitations on the Constitution at a lecture at BHU in 1965, which reached Prof T S Ram Rao at Madras University and was read by Senior Advocate M K Nambyar (father of former Attorney General, K K Venugopal). Conrad forcefully argued that the amending power could not abolish Article 21 or intro-

duce monarchy by a constitutional amendment. He drew heavily on the disastrous consequences from the Weimar Constitution applying unlimited amending powers in his own country. Nambyar argued it in *Golaknath* but implied limitations were rejected in that case.

Parliament enacted the 24th to 26th constitutional amendments in 1971 to overrule the Bank Nationalisation case, to provide that *amount not compensation* is sufficient for acquisition, to oust judicial review of any law stated to be in furtherance of the Directive Principles and to overrule the *Privy Purse* judgment.

These amendments were challenged in the name of the head of a mutt in Kerala, Kesavananda Bharati, who never met his lawyer Nani Palkhivala and did not ever personally participate in the apex court proceedings.

It is this implied limitation doctrine which was reincarnated and blossomed when six judges on the KB bench followed *Golaknath*, accepted that Parliament's amending powers had inherent and implied limitations and did not allow alteration of the Basic Structure. Six others dissented.

The 13th judge, Justice H R Khanna, carried the day. He held fundamental rights amenable, rejected implied limitations, but said, "The power of amendment... does not include the power to abrogate the Constitution nor does it include the power to alter the Basic Structure or framework of the Constitution." Importantly, he specifically approved the core of the Conrad doctrine. The rest is history, with 13 proving lucky for India.

Since KB did not hold Part 3 unamendable, it was actually a defeat of the petitioners and a regression from the *Golaknath* high, but from that retreat, Palkhivala snatched a lasting victory for a nuanced Basic Structure-based unamendability doctrine.

KB could not have been better entrenched than by the unsavoury episode of Chief Justice A N Ray attempting to unilaterally review the judgment in October 1975 and then, seeing the antipathy of his colleagues, abruptly and sheepishly dissolving the Bench. H R Khanna described Palkhivala's arguments on those two days thus: "It was not Nani who spoke. It was divinity speaking through him". Prashant Bhushan's eyewitness account of how and what Palkhivala argued that day and T R Andhyarujina's research on what transpired behind the closed doors of the SC, should be read by all to learn about the momentous Basic Structure doctrine. Case after case has thereafter applied BS. It remains India's pride and the world's envy. Bangladesh, and others in the Commonwealth have imported this Indian judicial invention. It brought out the worst in constitutional politics, governance, intra-judicial divisiveness but also the best in advocacy, ideology and independence amidst great pressure.

Long live Basic Structure, despite the attempt of constitutional pygmies to jettison, dilute or ignore it. Love it or hate it, India cannot do without it.

The writer is a jurist, MP and national spokesperson, INC. This article is the first in a series marking 75 years of India's Independence

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"[Modi] described the consecration as 'the beginning of a new era'. It is not merely that thousands more mosques are being targeted nor that Muslims in Ayodhya and beyond feel more vulnerable than ever. Many believe that the prime minister will rewrite the constitution..."

— THE GUARDIAN

The ideal ruler

We look for him in our leaders, but we need to look for Ram in ourselves as well



AMISH

came to be most associated with *pu-tramoha* — an excessive affection for his child. He was a ruler who put his family above the nation. I am not saying that we have to judge this, it is simply a different model of leadership.

In India, for the common people, a king who puts them above his own family is loved and revered much more. That is what Lord Ram represents. And that is why most Indians to this day, have, what I call, a Ram obsession.

This obsession touches our political lives, too. As director of the Nehru Centre, I lived in London for a little over four years. In the West, the kind of politicians who are the most popular are the ones who resemble their electorate. Voters like to see a politician who is like them — a man or a woman who has a full family, a wife or a husband, children, perhaps even a dog. During my time there, I have often heard Westerners say that they want to vote for a leader they can have beer with. It is an alien concept for us in India because that's not what we're looking for in a leader. We are not looking for a leader who is like us. What we are looking for at a deep level is a leader like Ram, who will put us, his people, above everything else. In that, Indian voters are very different. One can see its reflections in our political life at the state and national level in the last 75-odd years — many of our most powerful leaders have been single.

One can understand voters who want a leader who puts the nation above everything else. But the message that the Ram Janmabhoomi ji temple sends out is that all of us should also put the nation first. Only when all 1.4 billion of us start believing that *desh sarvopari* — the nation is above everything else — that we will create a Ram rajya. All of us have multiple identities. But if all of us have an attitude that whatever religion we practise, whatever caste we are from, whatever language we speak, whatever community we are from, the nation comes before anything else, then India will certainly rise again to take its place in the comity of nations, a position our land held for most of human history. That is what we need to learn from Lord Ram. We look for him in our leaders, but I say that we need to look for Ram in ourselves as well. The temple gives us an opportunity to explore that.

As Lord Ram had said, *Janani janmabhumi swargadapi gariyasi* (Mother and Motherland are greater than heaven). Jai Shri Ram. Jai Siya Ram.

Amish is a bestselling author, former diplomat, and TV documentary host

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

UNITED, WE RISE

A PARTISAN IDEA

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'A seminal milestone, the journey ahead' (IE, January 23). The general convention is that politicians stay away from religious activities to ensure the secular nature of politics and governance, but nowadays almost every political party attempts to garner the support of religious personalities and appease communities. Politicians assist in conversions, deliver derogatory comments about a particular religion, and don't hesitate to label a community as terrorists, all for the vote bank. At the consecration ceremony of the Ram temple on January 22, Prime Minister Narendra Modi prudently advised all parties, civil society, NGOs, and communities to remain united, strengthen democracy and contribute their might towards the peace, progress and prosperity of the nation. Nobody gains by driving wedges among communities — it is only our country and communities that suffer the consequences.

Subhash Vaid, New Delhi

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'A seminal milestone, the journey ahead' (IE, January 23). The monumental moment of the consecration ceremony of the Ram Mandir urges us to consider the intricate balance between triumph and the responsibility to forge a harmonious future. The call for a "new self-description" on January 22 signifies not only a political shift but a challenge to bridge historical divides. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's assertion that Ram belongs to everyone and the temple symbolises a new chapter for the entire nation is noteworthy. However, the transition from slogans like "sabka saath, sabka vikas, sabka vishwas" to the reality of "sabka mandir" necessitates diligent efforts. January 22, 2024, marks a historic juncture demanding a delicate balance between acknowledging history and charting a path towards a more inclusive future.

Suchismita Agarwal, Bangalore

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'First, listen' (IE, January 23). One nation, one election isn't a new concept. Between 1952 and 1967, under Congress rule, India observed simultaneous elections every five years to the Lok Sabha and state assemblies, which led to the dissolution of assemblies before scheduled terms. But the rise of regional parties has made that a challenge. Pertinently so, regional and national issues aren't the same and the dynamics are ever-evolving, which if brought under one umbrella will invite friction. A majoritarian government will favour this idea as it serves its political interest. Frequent elections, though a burden on the exchequer, favour the electorate. They make political representatives more accountable with increased interaction with voters and are able to do justice to both the ideals of democracy and federalism.

Madhusree Guha, Kolkata