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J&K panchayat, Assembly polls likely after Lok Sabha elections

5-yr term of panchayats ends, term of urban local bodies ended last Nov

ARUN SHARMA & NAVEED IQBAL
JAMMU, SRINAGAR, JAN 9**E**
EXPLAINED

DDCs only elected J&K body

ELECTIONS TO panchayats, urban local bodies and the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly will likely be conducted only after the general elections, set to be held after a few months this year.

After towns and cities, the rural areas in Jammu and Kashmir will cease to have the traditional grassroots-level elected representatives as the five-year term of 4,892 elected village panchayats came to an end Tuesday.

A new governance structure – District Development Councils, elected directly by people – however, continues to be in place since the standalone elections held in 2020.

Just about two months ago, the term of urban local bodies, including two municipal corpo-

rations, 19 municipal councils and 57 municipal committees, ended on November 14, 2023. These were constituted through elections held on party symbols after 13 years.

According to sources in the government, elections to urban

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Ahead of LS polls, IT minister flags social media influence on 'democratic processes'

Calls for stronger legal structure, more accountability of platforms & users

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 9

FLAGGING CONCERNs regarding the "influence" that social media platforms can have on democratic processes, Union Minister of Communications, IT and Railways, Ashwini Vaishnav, said that while India currently has a regulatory framework that can deal with the issue to an extent, a "much more comprehensive legal structure" was needed.

Speaking at The Indian Express Idea Exchange event on Tuesday, Vaishnav also emphasised that the context in which legal immunity from third party content – or "safe harbour" protection – was offered to social

NewsClick has been accused of acting with the intention to disrupt the sovereignty and territorial integrity of India and to cause "disaffection" against India.

In August, the Delhi Police

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



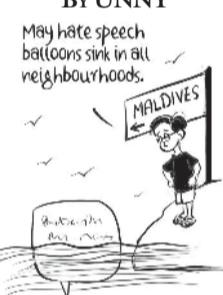
ROADSHOW WITH THE GUEST

Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a roadshow with UAE President Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan in Ahmedabad on Tuesday, on the eve of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit. PTI

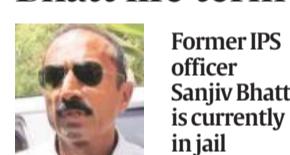
REPORT, PAGE 6

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY

**CUSTODY DEATH**

Gujarat HC upholds Sanjiv Bhatt life term

SOHINI GHOSH
AHMEDABAD, JANUARY 9

A DIVISION bench of the Gujarat High Court on Tuesday upheld the life sentence awarded to former IPS officer Sanjiv Bhatt and police constable Pravinsinh Zala in a 1990 case of custodial torture and death.

Bhatt, a 1988-batch IPS officer, and Zala had appealed against the verdict of a Jamnagar sessions court, which in June 2019 sentenced both to life imprisonment after finding them guilty of murder under IPC Section 302.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Ashwini Vaishnav at the Idea Exchange. Abhinav Saha

media platforms has "changed", and there is a need for these platforms to be subjected to increased accountability.

Vaishnav's comments are significant as India heads towards general elections over the next few months.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

'Land-for-jobs': ED names Rabri, two daughters; RJD calls it political vendetta

NIRBHAY THAKUR
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 9

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate (ED) on Tuesday named former Bihar Chief Minister Rabri Devi and her daughters, Rajya Sabha member Misa Bharti and Hema Yadav, in its first chargesheet in a money laundering case linked to the alleged land-for-jobs racket.

The chargesheet has been filed before a special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA)

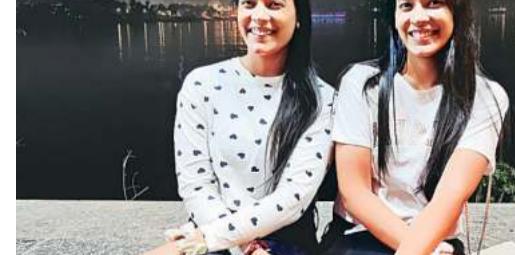


Former Bihar Chief Minister Rabri Devi

Court in Delhi, which listed the matter to be heard on January 16.

The ED has also named Hridayan Chaudhary, a former Railways employee, and Amit Katyal, director of A K

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Sanskruti (right) ranked second; Shruti was eighth

Music maestro, 'assurance for the future', went beyond classical realm

SUANSHU KHURANA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 9

EVERY TIME Ustad Rashid Khan sat down to perform anywhere in the world, those present had one demand – "Yaad piya ki aaye, ye dukh saha na jaaye, haaye Ram" (The memories of my beloved haunt me, alas, I cannot bear this grief) – the famed thumri by Kasur-Patiala gharana doyen Ustad Bade Ghulam Ali Khan that remains the leitmotif to his mention.

For years, many vocalists attempted to sing the lament that

USTAD RASHID KHAN
1968-2024

was created after Bade Ghulam Ali lost his wife. But if anyone managed to enter the vicinity of

the pain and yearning in that iconic rendition and then executing it with a sense of ownership, it was perhaps only Ustad Rashid Khan, the torchbearer of Rampur-Sehsawan gharana.

Every time, he sang this love song, one felt that he surrendered himself to the intrinsic sorrow of the piece the moment he began to unfurl it; colouring it with his own flourishes often, finding notes that one sometimes didn't think could even stick, merging gharanas and astounding people with a brilliance that is the stuff of lore.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**PAGE 1
ANCHOR**

Common dream: Mumbai twins break into all-India top 10 in CA exam

PALLAVISMART
MUMBAI, JANUARY 9

last year. While Sanskruti secured second rank, her twin Shruti was ranked eighth.

Madhu Jain from Jaipur secured the all-India topper's position. The third rank was shared by Tikendra Kumar Singhal and Rishi Malhotra, both from Jaipur again.

With Sanskruti and Shruti passing the final exam with flying colours in their first attempt, the Parolia household in Kandivali's Thakur village has reason to celebrate. The family of six now has five chartered accountants – the 22-year-old twins, their father, elder brother and sister-in-law.

"We can definitely be called a

family of CAs now," said Sanskruti, laughing as she shared Shruti's result.

No surprise that the twins decided on their career choice early, the inspiration being their father.

With their brother and sister-in-law also being from the same field, the two said they had a great guidance system at home to prepare for CA.

"Shruti and I would study together which helped us in planning and focusing. And we always had support at home in case of doubts. Apart from guidance in academics, this kind of support system also helps in keeping morale up in tough competitive

exams like the CA," said Sanskruti.

Their higher education plans, however, do not end here. Both want to pursue MBA.

"We are planning to work for a couple of years before we appear for the Common Admission Test (CAT). Candidates with work experience have better prospects during and after MBA," said Sanskruti.

The two sisters have been following the same path since childhood. They went to Mary Immaculate School in Borivali's C Colony and graduated in B.Com from H R College in 2022. They even bagged CA articleship in the same corporate house.

"We both have the same interests and likes," said Shruti, adding how their friends' circle and social life is also common.

The only time when their paths could have gone separate ways, perhaps, was in school. For a brief period, when they were in class 10, Shruti entertained thoughts of pursuing medicine in higher education. But she decided to go with Sanskruti, realising that she loved mathematics more than biology.

"Sanskruti was always sure of pursuing CA even before she could actually understand what it included. Maybe we inherited our father's genes," said Shruti.

Both are aware of various other career options. But, according to Shruti, with their love for numbers, "CA offers more scope and opens up more opportunities".

During their free time, apart from playing badminton and watching Korean dramas, they love dancing. According to Shruti, they took Bharatanatyam lessons for a few years in childhood but later moved to Bollywood dance sessions. The twins also love to go to movie theatres, like most youngsters their age.

The only thing they missed out, the sisters said, was campus fun during the pandemic.



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**ICAI CA FINAL RESULTS: 'I LOST FATHER, GRANDPARENTS IN COVID; THEY ARE MY GUIDING ANGELS,' SAYS (AIR 3) RISHI MALHOTRA**

Rishi wanted to pursue medical field but since his parents wanted him to stay in Jaipur, he opted for Commerce. Although he scored 95.4% in Class 12 board exams, he was unable to get a spot in top 3 DU colleges.

ENTERTAINMENT**ON LETTING LOOSE, PLAYING 'WOMAN CARD'**

Sajni Shinde's shame isn't her own, it's one we have all shared.

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EXPRESS AUDIO

SC on Bilkis convicts, the largest radio telescope, ED attacked

In 3Things, we discuss the SC decision to strike down remission granted to Bilkis Bano convicts, India's participation in the Square Kilometre Array Observatory, and the attack on ED officials in Bengal.

Karnataka Lokayukta raids unearth Rs 50-cr assets from 6 officials

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, JANUARY 9

THE KARNATAKA Lokayukta Tuesday conducted search operations in connection with disproportionate assets cases registered against six government officials in Bengaluru City and Ramanagara police stations and seized assets worth Rs 50.2 crore.

Simultaneous searches were conducted at the residences and offices of the relatives of the accused officials across 35 locations, a Lokayukta press release stated.

Sleuths found assets worth Rs 6.3 crore from M L Nagaraj, the chief general manager with Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Ltd in Bengaluru. Raids were conducted at seven places and the search yielded 13 sites, two houses, 12-30 acres of agriculture land and Rs 16 lakh's worth of jewellery.

The Lokayukta police seized Rs 25 crore's worth of assets from H S Suresh, a member of Channenahalli gram panchayat at Tavarekere Hobli in Bengaluru south taluk. Searches were conducted at six places during which 16 sites, a house, 7.6 acres of agriculture land and Rs 2 crore's worth of vehicles were seized.

The Lokayukta police also seized assets worth Rs 5.9 crore from D M Padmanabha, the panchayat development officer of gram panchayat at Devanahalli taluk in Bengaluru. Eight acres of agricultural land, an industrial shed, a farmhouse, Rs 28 lakh's worth of vehicles were seized.

Searches at five places in connection to N Satish Babu, a superintendent engineer with the PWD, at Building Circle in Bengaluru, found assets worth Rs 4.5 crore, which included agricultural land, cash, and jewellery.

Sleuths also recovered assets worth Rs 5.4 crore from Syed Munir Ahmed, an assistant executive engineer with Karnataka Rural Infrastructure Development Limited in Ramanagara. Assets worth Rs 3.1 crore were seized from Manjesh B, member secretary and joint director of Town & Country Planning, Anekal Planning Authority in Bengaluru.

FROM PAGE ONE

FULL REPORTS ON
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

J&K panchayat, Assembly polls likely after LS elections

local bodies and panchayats are unlikely before the Lok Sabha elections, although the J&K Administrative Council had, on December 28, 2023, amended the J&K Panchayati Raj Act that allows Other Backward Class (OBC) reservation in urban and rural local bodies.

The State Election Commission could not have extended OBC reservation to J&K since there was no such provision.

Therefore there was a constitutional issue in conducting these polls," a top source told *The Indian Express*.

With the passing of the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment Bill), 2023 in the Winter Session of Parliament, "the OBC reservation can now be provided for elections in J&K", the source explained.

However, two issues that

come in the way of holding local body and panchayat elections immediately, according to government sources, are: identification of municipal constituencies to be reserved, and the transfer of mandate to conduct the municipal electoral processes to the State Election Commission from the Chief Electoral Officer now, in accordance with Constitutional provisions.

Further, elections to the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly need not be held along with the Lok Sabha polls, the sources said, citing the Supreme Court deadline of September 2024 for the same while delivering its judgment on the Constitutional validity of the J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019.

The EC has, this week, started visits to all states and UTs for Lok Sabha polls, with Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. It is yet to announce when it will travel to J&K.

Meanwhile, State Election Commissioner B R Sharma announced that the special summary revision of electoral rolls of Panchayat elections for enrolment of voters who turned 18 years by January 1, 2024, and also for correction in details of already enrolled voters, will be held from

Sources said it would take

'Land-for-jobs': ED names Rabri

Infosystems who was arrested in November last year in connection with the case. Two private companies, AK Infosystems and AB Export, have been named.

The case pertains to Group-D appointments made in the West Central Railway Zone in Jabalpur (MP) when Lalu Prasad was the Railways Minister, from 2004 to 2009, allegedly in return for land parcels transferred to his family and associates. The ED has alleged that several such land parcels were acquired by Katyal, following which the shares of AK Infosystems were transferred to Lalu's family members.

The money laundering case stems from a complaint lodged by the CBI, which filed a chargesheet in the case earlier. The CBI has alleged that Rabri and son Tejaswi Yadav took control of AK Infosystems in 2014 for just Rs 1 lakh, at Rs 10 per share.

AK Infosystems allegedly owned land worth Rs 1.77 crore. According to the CBI chargesheet, the company, in 2017, "suddenly" paid back Rs 1.35 crore to the promoter-director at a time which coincided with an Income Tax raid on Lalu.

The CBI chargesheet further alleged that Lalu, by "virtue of his status as Minister of Railways", exerted influence on West Central Railway (WCR) officers

for a list of candidates to be appointed as "substitutes" in the Railways.

It was alleged that Lalu acquired land parcels in Mahuabagh village in Patna from some of these candidates at highly discounted rates as quid pro quo for granting them Grade D jobs in the Railways.

The CBI pointed out that most of the candidates who were selected were from a few districts in Bihar "wherein Lalu had political/financial interest". Of the 117 candidates that the CBI looked into, 113 were from Bihar. Of these, 108 were still working in the Indian Railways, the CBI said.

ENS adds from Patna: The RJD said the ED action was a "sheer act of political vendetta" and an attempt to "weaken" the Opposition ahead of Lok Sabha elections.

"It is a malicious intention to target and tarnish the image of Lal Prasad, Rabri Devi and Tejaswi Prasad Yadav. The Narendra Modi government knows that it does not have a sound narrative for the general elections. They want to win the elections by chargesheeting Opposition leaders in false cases and conducting raids at their places," RJD national spokesperson Subodh Kumar Mehta told *The Indian Express*.

SP Valsan, said, "The hotel staff advised her to take a flight since the cab fare would be expensive, but she insisted on a cab. The taxi (Innova) was arranged by the hotel staff and she checked out around 1.30 am with her luggage."

Police said that on Monday, around 10 am, when the hotel staff went to clean the service apartment, they noticed bloodstains on the floor and immediately informed Calangute police.

The hotel staff told the police that the woman's son was not accompanying her when she left.

The police inspector from Calangute police station contacted the taxi driver and spoke to him and the woman over the phone. When the inspector enquired about the whereabouts of her son, she claimed she had left him at a friend's house in Margao and shared an address. The police inspector contacted the in-charge of Fatorda police station and asked him to enquire at the address," said SP Valsan. "That address was found to be fake, which raised suspicion. So, the police inspector called the cab driver again. This time, speaking to him in Konkani, the police asked him to discreetly drive to the nearest police station. The driver drove to Aimgangla police station in Chitradurga district of Karnataka. When Karnataka police checked her suitcase, her son's body was found stuffed inside," said SP Valsan.

Police said the woman's husband was in Indonesia at the time of the incident and arrived in Bengaluru on Tuesday evening.

On the complaint of the hotel supervisor, Goa police have registered an FIR against Seth under IPC Sections 302 (murder), 201 (causing disappearance of evidence of offence) and section 8 of The Goa Children's Act.

The facility manager of Hotel Son Banyan Grande declined to comment. A staffer said Seth remained confined to her room on January 6, the day she checked in. Seth's company, The Mindful AI Lab, works in the field of ethical AI. She was also an affiliate with the Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society, a research centre at Harvard University that focuses on the study of cyberspace. The alum page describes her as "an AI ethics expert and a data scientist".

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Proposal to rename Ghaziabad: Civic body puts 3 options on table

ENS & PTI
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 9

THE GHAZIABAD Municipal Corporation on Tuesday passed a proposal to rename Ghaziabad, officials said.

Corporation mayor Sunita Dayal said the proposal as well as the suggestions, which include three names – Harnandi Nagar, Gaj Prastha and Doodheshwernath Nagar – will be sent to UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath who will take a final call on the matter.

A change in the name will finally require the Centre's nod.

"A proposal to change the name of Ghaziabad was passed by an absolute majority of councillors," Dayal told reporters.

"Many people have been demanding that the name be changed and that a better name be used. Based on the proposals, and after discussion with the board, a proposal will be sent to the CM. It will be his (CM's) decision to change it," she added.

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLA from Sahibabad constituency Sunil Sharma said last



Proposal passed by municipal corporation mayor, UP CM will take a final call. Archive

year he had tabled a proposal in this regard in the state Assembly, suggesting that Ghaziabad be renamed as Gaj Prastha.

Meanwhile, the head priest of Doodheshwar Nath temple, Mahant Narayan Giri, told PTI that he had suggested the three names to the chief minister last year.

These names are related to the Mahabharata as present-day Ghaziabad was a part of Hastinapur, according to Giri.

This area used to be a dense forest inhabited by elephants, which are called 'Gaj' in Hindi. Therefore, Ghaziabad was called Gaj Prastha, Giri claimed.

ACCIDENT TOOK PLACE IN SONIPAT

On official duty, 2 Delhi cops killed after car rams into truck

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 9

CHASING A lead in a case, two Delhi Police inspectors en route to Sonipat died after their car rammed into a stationary truck near the Kundli border on Monday night.

Police said Inspectors Dinesh Beniwal and Ranbir Singh Chahal, both in their late 30s, were on official duty when the accident took place around 11.30 pm. The impact of the collision crushed the car, killing the men on the spot, said police.

Delhi Police has registered an FIR under charges of causing death by negligence and rash driving against the truck driver and searches are on to find him. Though the reason behind the accident is still unclear, police said the victims might not have seen the truck due to the fog. The Haryana Police, however, are investigating if the truck was already parked on the road or braked suddenly.

DCP (Northwest) Jitendra Kumar Meena refused to reveal further details of the case, stating that it's sensitive, and added that the investigation is ongoing.



Dinesh Beniwal and (R) Ranbir Chahal were killed on the spot, according to police. Manoj Dhaka

Police were looking for the accused and had declared a reward of Rs 25,000 on his arrest.

The inspectors were posted in the Northwest district. While Beniwal was the Special Staff in-charge, Chahal was an Anti-Terrorist Operation (ATO) inspector at Adarsh Nagar police station. Police sources said the duo had left at night after receiving a "lead" in an important case.

Police said Beniwal was at the wheel. He is survived by his wife and their two children, aged 10 and 6. He and his team had recently apprehended the leader of the Panchal/Joga gang which is involved in several highway robberies, extortion, and assault cases. The Delhi and Rajasthan

unit and later in the security unit. He was recently transferred to Adarsh Nagar police station. During his service, he earned three commendation cards and a commendation roll for his "extraordinary work in policing".

He is survived by his parents, wife, and two children. He was the sole breadwinner of the family.

His relative, Ramkumar, who is posted in the Finance Ministry, alleged, "We found out that Chahal and Beniwal were driving behind the accused (truck driver) who was driving rashly. He braked suddenly and Beniwal couldn't stop the car in time... It was the driver's fault. We want action against him."

Woman, 2-yr-old son killed in West Delhi hit-and-run

ARNABJIT SURI
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 9



Seema (32) was on her way to catch a bus.

returning home to Nangloi when the offending vehicle hit me from behind and I fell on the road, injuring my hand... when I looked back, I saw that the accused's bike had hit a woman and her child as well... the biker also fell but he quickly got on the bike and fled."

Said her brother Abhilash Singh, "She used to travel at least twice or thrice to the village where our family lives. On Monday evening, she left her home in Madipur with the children... she usually boarded a bus near the Madipur Metro Station... we were informed about the incident by Aditya... he called us from Seema's phone."

Seema and her husband, Raju (32), used to run a grocery store near their house. "Seema liked working there as she could take her younger son along to the shop," the brother added.

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BRIEFLY

'22k new govt staff in 1.5 yrs'

New Delhi: With 398 fresh appointment letters handed over to new recruits by Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena on Tuesday, as many as 22,000 permanent government employees have been recruited in Delhi government departments and civic agencies over the last year and a half, L-G House officials said. ENS

Policy for stray, pet cremation

New Delhi: The MCD will soon come out with a "uniform policy" for cremation of pets and stray animals, Mayor Shelly Oberoi said on Tuesday after visiting Delhi's "first animal crematorium" at Dwarka. PTI

NOTICE OF INTENDED MARRIAGE

Mr. A. NAVEEN MATHEW
S/o, ANDRE LAWRENCE LOUIS
ADDRESS : NO: 62, LAPORTE STREET,
PUDUCHERRY - 605001

MISS. R.C.P. VIJAYA CHANDINI
D/O. JOSEPH LAZARUS RICHARD
ADDRESS : NO: 560, ROMANO,
MAHAGUN MASCOT, CROSSING REPUBLIC,
GHAZIABAD - 201016

ABOVE MENTIONED PERSONS HAVE GIVEN NOTICE OF INTENDED MARRIAGE BETWEEN THEM UNDER THE SPECIAL MARRIAGE ACT, 1954. IF ANYONE HAS ANY OBJECTION TO THE PROPOSED MARRIAGE HE/SHE SHOULD FILE THE SAME WITH THE UNDERSIGNED ACCORDING TO THE PROCEDURE LAID DOWN UNDER THE ACT/RULES WITHIN THIRTY DAYS FROM THE DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

(G. SATYANARAYANAN)
THE SUB-REGISTRAR (ADMIN)
O/0 THE DISTRICT REGISTRAR
Kamaraj Salai, Saram,
Puducherry - 605013
Ph.No.0413-223127
Email.regn.pon@nic.in

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH, TIRUPATI

An Autonomous Institute of National Importance under the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India

RECRUITMENT FOR COUNSELLOR ON CONTRACT BASIS

IISER Tirupati invites online applications from Indian nationals having excellent academic record and relevant work experience for the posts of "Counsellor - 02 Nos (01 Female & 01 Open)" purely on contract basis. For detailed advertisement, please visit www.iisertirupati.ac.in and click on the link "Careers-Administration".

The last date for submission of online applications is **17.00 Hrs. on January 31, 2024**.

Sd/-
Advt. No. 01/2024/IISER-T/Recr./10.01.2024
Registrar (i/c)

IRCON INTERNATIONAL LIMITED

NAVARTANA COMPANY
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
Website: www.icon.org.in - L45203DL1976GOI008171

e-Procurement Notice

e-Tender No: IRCON/1200028/WPO-SER/BNDM/PH-II/e-Tender/PEB Date: 10.01.2024 e-Tender for and on behalf of IRCON International Limited is invited from bidders meeting qualifying requirements for the work of "Design and construction of Industrial Sheds with Pre-Engineered Steel Structures (PES)" excluding its civil works in connection with the Setting up of Detachable Free Rake Examination Facilities (Phase-II) at Exchange Yard of Bondamunda, South Eastern Railway".

Estimated Cost of the Work Rs. 3385.23 lakhs

Last Date & Time of e-Bid Submission 02.02.2024 & 15:00 hrs.

For further details, visit website <https://etenders.gov.in/procurement/app>, Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted only on the website.

Flat-203, Arshad Manzil, Gafoor Colony, Udit Nagar, Rourkela, Distt-Sundargarh, Odisha-769012

A/C No. -211000010292

Date: 09.01.2024
Place: GAYA.

Sd/- Authorised Officer (Indian Bank)

Government of India
Central Public Works Department

O/o Special Director General (Chennai) Rajaji Bhawan "G" Wing,
1st Floor, Besant Nagar, Chennai - 90. Ph: 044-24910531,
E Mail : chcoord-sdgp@cpwd.gov.in

DEPUTATION NOTIFICATION

Coordination Region, SDG, Chennai, CPWD, MoHUA, Government of India invites applications to fill up 15 existing vacancies of Stenographer Grade - I on Deputation basis from Officers holding the post of Stenographer under Central or State Government or Union Territory Administrations or Public Sector Undertakings or Universities or Recognised Research Institutes or Semi-Government or Statutory or Autonomous Bodies or who are holding analogous post on regular basis. The candidates may refer the departments website: <https://cpwd.gov.in> under Circumstances for Notification No.9/2(3)/2023/CE(W cum TLQA)/ 3314/H dated 06.12.2023 uploaded on the above website on 05.01.2024 for details. Last date for receipt of applications is 16.02.2024.

जिला कार्यक्रम अधिकारी,
महिला एवं बाल विकास विभाग, फरीदाबाद
विज्ञापन

सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है की महिला एवं बाल विकास विभाग, फरीदाबाद में एक महिला एवं बाल विकास परियोजना में कार्यालय प्रयोग के लिए एक महिला एवं बाल विकास परियोजना की आवश्यकता है। जो कोई

भी महिला एवं बाल विकास परियोजना अधिकारी, बल्लभपुराड़ शहरी के कार्यालय प्रयोग हेतु मासिक किराये पर 2500 K.M./Month गाड़ियां देना चाहता है वह आवेदक सील लिफाके में अपनी कोटेशन जिला कार्यक्रम अधिकारी, महिला एवं बाल विकास कर्मान नंबर 205, दूसरा तल, लेवर कॉर्ट, सेक्टर-12, फरीदाबाद के कार्यालय में दिनांक

17.01.2024 को प्राप्त: 10 बजे तक जमा करवा सकता है।

हस्ता. -

जिला कार्यक्रम अधिकारी,

महिला एवं बाल विकास, फरीदाबाद

24044/HRY

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH CHANDIGARH

CORRIGENDUM

Ref: Global Tender Enquiry Notice No. PI(EP)/23-24/G/03

Following changes are made:-

Sr. No	Equipment/ Item Name	Original Bid submission Date	Revised Bid Submission Date	Original Bid Opening Date	Revised Bid Opening Date	Dept. Name
10	Biplane DSA	08.01.2024	10.01.2024	09.01.2024	11.01.2024	Radiodiagnosis

All other details shall remain the same.

Professor In-Charge (EP)

Where as

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

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

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Indian Bank (e-Allahabad Bank) an amount and interest thereon. Along

with legal expenses and other expenses already incurred/to be incurred by the bank

Name of the branch: SHEIKHPURA

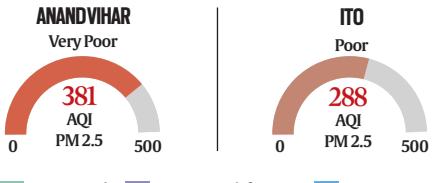
Name of the accounts: Shri Subhash Prasad, S/o Late Shiv Kumar Prasad & Smt Kiran Kumari , W/o Sri Subhash Prasad both resident of Katra Chowk, Sheikhpura, Bihar - 811105.

Name of the Proprietor / Guarantor / Mortgagor: 1. Subhash Prasad, S/o Late Shiv Kumar Prasad, Katra Chowk, Sheikhpura, Bihar - 811105
2. Smt Kiran Kumari , W/o Sri Subhash Prasad, Katra Chowk, Sheikhpura, Bihar - 811105

Date of Demand Notice: 18.10.2023 Date of Possession Notice: 06.01.2024

Amount Outstanding as on the demand notice: ₹ 10,79,788/- (Rupees Ten Lakh Seventy Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty Only) as on 18-10-2023 along with legal and other expenses incurred & to be incurred by the bank.

Detailed description of the Property: Equitable mortgage of land and building along with present and future construction thereon in the name of Sri Subhash Prasad S/o Late Shiv Kumar Prasad, located at Katra Chowk, Mouza-Sheikhpura, Anchal-Sheikhpura , Thana no -176, Khata No-76, Plot No-1584, Area-2.50 Decimal, Bihar - 811105 within Sub-Registration District of Sheikhpura and Registration District of Sheikhpura. Boundary-North: Shilbu Parkhi, South: Gali, East: Joint Rasta, West: Galli



S K Y W A T C H
FORECAST: January 10
 Mainly clear sky. Cold day conditions likely at isolated places.
AQI: Very poor
MAX: 16 3°C below normal
MIN: 8 1.1°C above normal

HOSPITAL SAYS PATIENT BROUGHT IN CRITICAL CONDITION

Man dies in Lok Nayak hospital lift; was denied admission, alleges kin

ANKITA UPADHYAY
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 9

THREE DAYS after a man accused of sexual assault, who had sustained injuries after an escape bid from a police van, died on being denied admission at four government hospitals, another patient lost his life at Lok Nayak Hospital after his family was told that there was no facility to conduct the upper GI endoscopy test that they were seeking.

The incidents have brought the issue of lack of key facilities in government hospitals under the scanner.

While the hospital director said the 46-year-old patient was brought in a very critical condition, the Delhi government said only one of its hospitals has a gastroenterology department and that there was an overall shortage of doctors.

According to the patient's brother, he died in the hospital's lift. He said his brother was suffering from chronic liver disease and was first admitted to GTB Hospital for six days. On January 5, he said, doctors asked him to take his brother to GB Pant or Lok Nayak Hospital for the upper GI (gastrointestinal) endoscopy test. "We reached GB pant where we were told the testing facility is not available in the emergency department and that he can visit Lok Nayak," said the brother.

The family then rushed him to Lok Nayak hospital where, the brother said, his condition deteriorated. He alleged that doctors did not admit him or provide him care, citing that UGI endoscopy facility is not available on the premises.



The family was told there was no facility to conduct a test — upper GI endoscopy — that they were seeking at Lok Nayak hospital. Archive

The medical report of the deceased at Lok Nayak hospital, accessed by *The Indian Express*, read: "Patient's attendants have (been) explained the prognosis and non-availability of UGI endoscopy facility in LNJP... Patient referred to Safdarjung/RML..."

According to a senior doctor at Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS), an emergency endoscopy is needed for any patient with GI bleeding.

According to Lok Nayak Medical Director Dr Suresh Kumar, the patient's only option was a liver transplant, which was not possible at this stage. "Prognosis was explained to the family but he later passed away..." said Dr Kumar.

Officials from GTB Hospital said they have been sending patients to other hospitals for an endoscopy.

On Monday, the Delhi High Court had expressed its displeasure over the lack of medical infrastructure in the national capital to treat patients requiring critical care.

Responding to queries by *The Indian Express* on lack of facilities and care in the present case, the Delhi government said among its hospitals, only GB Pant has a gastroenterology department.

"Rajiv Gandhi Super Specialty Hospital was envisaged to have a gastroenterology department. However, presently all posts of gastroenterologists are lying vacant. Since filling up vacant posts of doctors comes under the ambit of the Services Department, which reports directly to the Hon'ble L-G, hence, they should expedite the recruitment of doctors through UPSC."

On January 2, after being picked up in a sexual assault case from Northeast Delhi, the 47-year-old man was being taken to the police station in a PCR van when he suddenly opened the window and jumped out. He was rushed to hospital after hospital — four in total — but was denied treatment at all of them, allegedly due to lack of facilities.

Terminate doctor's service: Health dept to GTB hospital MD

Action after death of sexual assault accused who was refused treatment

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 9

THE DELHI health department has asked GTB Hospital's Medical Director to terminate the services of a senior resident doctor from the neurosurgery department in connection with the death of a sexual assault accused, who, after sustaining injuries following an escape bid from a police van, was refused treatment by four different hospitals.

The show cause notice, a copy of which has been seen by *The Indian Express*, has also asked Dr Asmita M Rathore, Medical Director at GTB Hospital, to explain the reason for the said "lapse on her part" within three days of receipt of the notice.

On January 2, after being picked up in a sexual assault case from Northeast Delhi, the 47-year-old man was being taken to the police station in a PCR van when he suddenly opened the window and jumped out. He was rushed to hospital after hospital — four in total — but was denied treatment at all of them, allegedly due to lack of facilities.

Initially, police took him to Jag Pravesh Chandra (JPC) Hospital and later to Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital (GTB) in an ambulance. As a CT scan was unavailable at the latter, he could not be admitted there and was referred to Lok Nayak Hospital, police said. "However, because of the unavailability of ICU ventilator beds, he could not be admitted there too," said DCP (Northeast) Joy Tirkey.

The man was then taken to RML Hospital but authorities allegedly denied him admission. "The man was brought back to JPC Hospital where he was declared dead at 5.45 am. A medical board has been constituted to conduct the post-mortem," the DCP had said.

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

Meanwhile, GTB Hospital authorities could not be contacted for a comment on the show cause notice.

Armed Forces personnel rehearse for the Republic Day Parade on a cold and foggy morning at Kartavya Path, Tuesday. Praveen Khanna

Cold day in Capital: Icy winds blow as max temp dips to 13°C

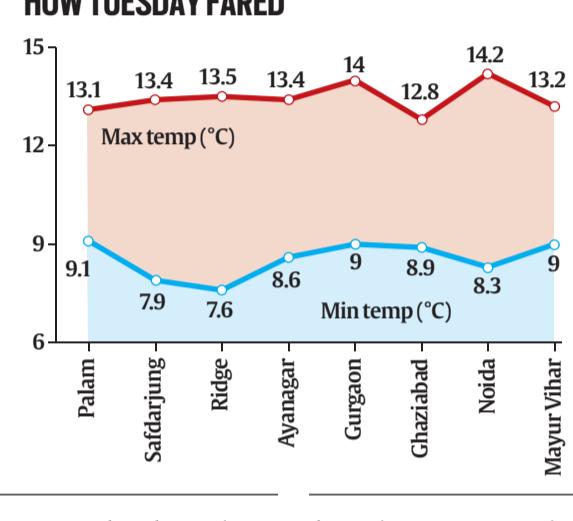
EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 9

ICY WINDS left Delhi shivering on Tuesday, with the maximum temperature dipping to 13.4 degrees Celsius, which is six degrees below normal for this time of the year. A fresh western disturbance, which brought snowfall to parts of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, is behind the dip in mercury in the region, IMD officials said.

While the temperature at the Safdarjung station, which is Delhi's official observatory, was 13.4 degrees Celsius, Palam, Mayur Vihar and Lodhi Road were colder, as was Ghaziabad in NCR.

According to IMD officials, cold day conditions are expected to persist and the temperature is expected to be low on Wednesday as well, with the mercury expected to settle at around 8 degrees Celsius in the morning and 16 degrees during the day.

Delhi's coldest day of the season so far was recorded on



January 4, when the maximum temperature was 12.5 degrees Celsius, 7 degrees below normal.

Some respite is expected Thursday onwards, with the cloud cover expected to scatter. The temperature is expected to be around 17 degrees Celsius, and will then increase to 19 degrees Celsius by the weekend.

the maximum temperature is 6.5 degrees or more below normal.

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Weeks after he was 'set on fire', Bittu Bajrangi's brother dies at AIIMS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
FARIDABAD, JANUARY 9



Panchal had received around 50-60% burn injuries on Dec 13. Archive

WEEKS AFTER he sustained burn injuries, after allegedly being set on fire, Mahesh Panchal, the younger brother of cow vigilante Bittu Bajrangi, died while undergoing treatment at AIIMS on Monday.

Panchal had received around 50-60% burn injuries on December 13. In his complaint to police, he had alleged that a few men had poured petrol and set him on fire in Faridabad. Panchal said he had jumped into a canal to save himself. According to police, the FIR in the case still stands, but no arrest has been made so far as the investigation is ongoing.

Earlier, police had said a forensic report stated that hydrocarbons of petroleum (petrol, kerosene, and diesel fractions) could not be traced from the samples collected from the spot. The samples also did not contain any trace of diethyl ether, ethyl alcohol and acetone, the report said.

Panchal was admitted to BK Hospital in Faridabad and was referred to Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital. However, he was taken to a private hospital in Faridabad instead, police said. He was brought to AIIMS Delhi 8 days ago when his condition deteriorated at the private hospital, police said. The post-mortem was carried out Tuesday, police added.

Panchal and Bittu had lodged a complaint against seven men, claiming they beat up the former and set him on fire after pouring petrol. Panchal had named one of them, a man who used to run a juice shop in the area, as one of the accused.

"We questioned the man but found no leads. In CCTV footage from near the suspect's house, three men, including him, can be seen at his home during the time of the incident," police had said. However, they had said the footage was not very clear.

A police officer, on condition of anonymity, said a polygraph test will be carried out on the suspect to verify the allegations against him.

Panchal's body was taken to his Faridabad home Tuesday and the family conducted his last rites. Police said a group of 20 men had gathered in the area but they were dispersed. "There is no law and order situation. The SDM had visited the area and spoke with Bittu," said the senior police officer.

Bajrangi, chief of the Faridabad wing of the Gau Raksha Bajrang Force, was arrested last August for his role in the July 31 Nuh violence that left six people dead. Bajrangi, who was released on bail the same month, has multiple FIRs against him for delivering alleged hate speeches.

Roads to drains: Delhi govt nod for projects to develop villages

New Delhi: In a bid to uplift living standards in Delhi's villages, the Village Development Board has greenlit projects worth Rs 1,000 crore focusing on amenities such as roads, drains, water bodies, community centres, parks, cemeteries, and sports grounds for the ongoing fiscal year.

Presiding over a meeting of the board at the Secretariat, Development Minister Gopal Rai said the board approved Rs 250

'Sub-standard bandages, syringes': ACB searches Lok Nayak Hospital

Items were bought from Centre's portal, says Delhi govt

JATIN ANAND
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 9

rules which make it mandatory that government departments buy products from the portal.

"Only if they (such items) are not available on GeM, can they be bought from open market through tenders. It is surprising that the central government is allowing such vendors on its portal who are giving sub-standard products... such products are being supplied not just to the Delhi government, but also other state governments and the central government," the ACB added.

During verification, the ACB stated, 13 manufacturers, suppliers and traders, of which six were based in Delhi, three in Haryana, two in Uttar Pradesh and one each in Punjab and Kerala, were alleged to be part of a cartel behind the operation with the collusion of government officials.

"This group of 'Cartel' supplies sub-standard surgical items at exorbitant prices, thereby threatening lives of patients undergoing treatment/surgery even in ICUs... it is also reliably learnt that the thread used for manufacturing cotton bandages, rolled bandages, absorbent cotton and gauze etc. has to be an IS Certified Cotton," the FIR stated.

According to the ACB, after the Delhi government's vigilance department filed a complaint in the matter last August, the anti-graft body formed various teams to collect samples of such items from hospitals. These were then sent to authorised government testing labs for testing.

At the LBS Hospital, according to the ACB, cotton bandage and delux infusion sets of syringes were found "not of standard quality"; at Lok Nayak, this was the case with rolled bandages, absorbent cotton and latex examination gloves as well as infusion sets.

Similarly, at DDU, non-sterilised bandages, absorbent cotton, disposable surgical rubber gloves, hand sanitiser and syringes

were found below standard; at Sanjay Gandhi, this was the case with cotton bandage and surgical rubber glove samples, according to the ACB.

At JSS Hospital, the problem was witnessed with cotton bandage while at GTB, absorbent cotton wool and non-sterilised rolled bandage were found to be sub-standard, the ACB added.

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Kirtans to diyas, city's markets plan for Ram Mandir ceremony

SAMAN HUSAIN
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 9

AHEAD OF the Ram Mandir consecration ceremony on January 22, prominent markets across Delhi have been making arrangements to mark the occasion.

At Khan Market in Lutyens' Delhi, saffron flags have been hung up across shops and a range of events have been planned. Said Sanjiv Mehra, president of the Khan Market Traders Association, "A Sant Kirtan will be held at 11 am on January 21 and will continue until 11 am the following day. Then, a rath yatra will cover all three markets in the locality. This will be followed by an *aarti* and a grand *langar bhoj*."

On the evening of January 22, there will be a Deepmala event, he added.

At Chandni Chowk, the traders' body has decided to light diyas. "We have asked people to light five diyas in front of their shops," said Sanjay Bhargava, president of the Chandni Chowk Sar Vyapar Mandal.

Other trade associations, meanwhile, are yet to arrive at a decision. Atul Bhargava, president of the Connaught Place Traders' Association, said, "We don't have any programmes planned. Personally, I am in favor of a celebration; it's definitely a milestone, but we would like

to be non-political in whatever we do."

Bhargava claimed as the market comprises 14 enormous structures and an outer radius of 1.75 km, it would be expensive to deck up the entire area.

Sanjeev Aneja from the Kailash Traders Association said celebrations will take place at a Shiv mandir inside the market. "I am personally holding a langar outside my shop... A meeting will be held tomorrow to take a final decision while being cognizant of the fact that we have a neutral market," he said.

Head of the Lajpat Nagar 4 Market Association, Manohar Chawla, said the body will not make any special arrangements, while Sanjeev Madan of the cen-

tral market stated a meeting to discuss plans will be held today.

Meanwhile, the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) will launch a grand outreach initiative in Delhi, called Shri Ram Samvaad Abhiyaan, starting Wednesday till January 21. In this regard, heads of all trade associations have been called for a meeting.

"On an appeal by the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Trust and VHP to celebrate January 22 like Diwali, CAIT has decided to... organise a series of events to encourage traders and the general public to celebrate the occasion in a 'never before' manner... CAIT national president BC Bhartia and secretary general Praveen Khandelwal said.

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"On an appeal by the Shri



Punjab Land of
Unlimited Opportunities

Taking Rapid Strides in the Power Sector

Bhagwant Singh Mann

Chief Minister, Punjab



- Over 90% of the households got Zero Power Bill
- Free Power for 100% Tubewells in Punjab
- Uninterrupted power supply for irrigation to farmers
- History made by acquiring a Private Thermal Power Plant, resulting in Cost Savings of ₹350 Crores per annum
- Resolution of power issues for Industries on a priority basis
Helpline WhatsApp Number: 9646119141 and email: industrial-cell@pspcl.in
- PSPCL registered a profit of ₹564.75 Crore from April 1, 2023 to September 30, 2023

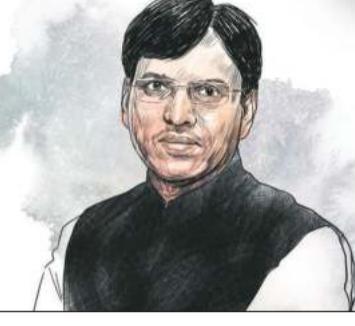


GOOD INTENTIONS
HONEST GOVERNMENT

Department of Power, Punjab



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



DIVINE SERVICE

UNION HEALTH Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said at an event that patients are considered "God in our culture and hospitals are the temples, hence doctors would have to be equated with priests who serve the God". Inaugurating various services at Central government hospitals in Delhi on Monday, the Minister said there was a need to reorient doctors towards wellness and prevention of diseases. Emphasising that healthcare is considered a service in India; he said the "country gave Yoga to the world instead of patenting it".

NO DISTRACTIONS

THE CENTRAL leadership of the BJP does not seem to be in a mood to tolerate any kind of difference of opinion in its Karnataka unit, a state where it wants to repeat its 2019 Lok Sabha election record of 25 out of 28 seats. The party recently called Karnataka leader Basangouda Ramangouda Patil Yatnal, who had made some remarks against senior party leaders including B S Yeddyurappa, to the national capital. Senior BJP leaders held a meeting with him and apparently asked him to avoid making public comments against the party leaders. Another rebel leader, V Somanna, also reached Delhi to meet the leaders and apprise them of his grievances, according to party sources. However, the central leadership seems to have conveyed the message clearly that it does not want any distraction in the state unit, which, according to sources, is "on track" for the Lok Sabha election preparations.

MHA seeks report from Bengal govt over attacks on ED officials

TMC slams move, accuses Centre of acting against Opp-ruled states

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 9

THE UNION Home Ministry has asked the West Bengal government to send a detailed report on the attack on a team of Enforcement Directorate (ED) officials in the Sandeshkhali area of North 24 Parganas district on January 5 that left three officials injured. The Centre has also sought to know the action taken by the TMC government so far, sources said on Tuesday.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has asked the West Bengal government to send a detailed report on the incident, the circumstances leading to the attacks that left ED officials injured. The MHA also asked the state government to send details of the action taken following the attacks, sources in the ministry said.

The Union ministry's communication to the state government came on a day when Enforcement Directorate (ED) chief Rahul Navin reached Kolkata and met with his officers. "On Tuesday, Acting Director of ED, Rahul Navin, visited West Bengal to take stock of

the situation following the attacks on the agency officials. He will also review the probe into the alleged public distribution and paddy procurement scam in West Bengal and discuss security concerns of the local ED establishment in the backdrop of the attacks on the agency officials," the sources said.

They said only three members of Rajya Sabha including panel chairman Hariharan attended Tuesday's meeting. They said complaints of breach of privilege against TMC MP Derek O'Brien and AAP MP Sanjay Singh, besides 11 other members are pending before the privileges committee.

The panel is also looking into complaints against 11 MPs referred to it for causing disrespect to the House through their protests in Winter Session. PTI

On Monday, West Bengal Director General of Police (DGP) Rajeev Kumar had said that strong action would be taken against those who took the law into their hands. "A comprehensive inquiry will be initiated against those who broke the law," Kumar said on Monday.

The ED, on the other hand, alleged that the state police registered a case against the arsonists under "weak bailable and non-scheduled offences" and did not provide it with a copy of the FIR.

Reacting to the MHA seeking a report from the state government, the ruling TMC criticised the Centre, accusing it of being "very prompt" in seeking reports on any issue from governments in states ruled by non-BJP parties, but "astonishingly sluggish" in doing the same when there are law and order issues in BJP-ruled states. PTI

'We have no copyright on Ram Bhakti... I'll tell Opp, rid yourself of fear, attend event.... And I'll tell BJP, rid yourself of arrogance'

A FORMER Union Union Minister and among the key faces of the Ram Janmabhoomi movement, BJP leader UMA BHARTI has been away from the thick of political action for quite some time now. She was present in Ayodhya on December 6, 1992, as Babri Masjid was demolished and was among the 32 accused of the act. All of them were acquitted by a special CBI court in 2020. She speaks to VIKAS PATHAK days before she heads to Ayodhya to attend the consecration ceremony of the Ram Lalla idol on January 22. Excerpts:

How did you get associated with the Ram Janmabhoomi movement?

Mahant Ram Chandra Das took me there for a discourse when I was a child. I saw a lock there and also saw prayers taking place. I asked him why there was a lock there. He told me the temple



THE EXPRESS

INTERVIEW

WITH
UMA BHARTI
BJP LEADER

the podium was atop that building. (Murti Manohar) Joshi Ji, (L R) Advani ji, Rajmata Vijayalakshmi Scindia were there. We were asked to speak one after the

other. Coincidentally, when I was speaking, I saw kar sevaks climbing the structure. I stopped. I was standing and could see them. Others were sitting and could not. I told the others that kar sevaks had climbed the structure. Advani ji appealed to them over the microphone to come down. But such were the cries of Jai Shri Ram' that none listened.

Advani ji told me to go there. He also told the additional SP posted there, Anju Gupta, his own aide Deepak Chopra, and Pramod Mahajan to accompany me. We went in a car and the crowd surrounded us. The kar sevaks physically lifted me and left me at the podium. We soon heard that the Kalyan Singh government had been dismissed and paramilitary forces had gathered in larger numbers. I stayed there. The Babri Masjid had come down...

Who do you think was

most active in the movement? The first credit goes to the kar sevaks who demolished the structure that day. That is why the Archaeological Survey of India could excavate the place...

The Supreme Court considered the findings. The ones responsible for bringing down the structure were the kar sevaks. But we — Advani ji, myself and others — were charged in 2017. We were named as accused and turned into criminals. But I did not worry at all. I wanted to die that very day if firing had taken place on the kar sevaks to save them. When finally Modi ji as PM attended the shilanyas that happened in Ayodhya, the way he did it without any Hindu-Muslim rancour taking place made us hold our heads high in the world... The way Amit Shah ji as Home Minister, and Yogi (Adityanath) ji as CM conducted themselves made us proud.

And I will also tell BJP members — rid yourself of the arrogance that only you can do bhakti of Ram. I will tell the Opposition — rid yourself of the fear that you must not go there. Free of arrogance or fear, we should all take part happily.

What do you think about the invitations to Opposition leaders, industrialists, celebrities, etc, for January 22?

Invitations are a decision of the (Ram Temple) Trust and not a political call. We have no copyright on Ram Bhakti. Bhagwan Ram and Hanumanji are not BJP leaders. They are our national honour. In the pran pratishtha of their Mandir, anyone can take part and anyone can be invited. I will also tell all politicians — don't see this politically... Attend it. Don't be afraid that you will lose votes.

And I will also tell BJP members — rid yourself of the arrogance that only you can do bhakti of Ram. I will tell the Opposition — rid yourself of the fear that you must not go there. Free of arrogance or fear, we should all take part happily.

FULL INTERVIEW
www.indianexpress.com

INAUGURATES GLOBAL TRADE SHOW, ALSO MEETS CEO OF CHIP GIANT MICRON

Day before Gujarat summit, PM holds roadshow, bilateral meets

PARIMAL DABHI &
SOHINI GHOSH

AHMEDABAD, JANUARY 9

A DAY before the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit (VGGS) begins in Gandhinagar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a three-kilometre roadshow along with United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, inaugurated the Global Trade Show and held meetings with various heads of states and the CEO of Micron Technology in Ahmedabad Tuesday.

Nahyan, who will be among the several heads of states to attend the inaugural function of VGGS Wednesday, was received by PM Modi upon his arrival at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport in Ahmedabad Tuesday. The duo then embarked on the roadshow from the airport till Indira Bridge in the city.

The two leaders, who were in a car, were escorted by huge security cover as people, mobilised from different parts of the city, flanked both sides of the barricaded road. Jamalpur resident Shaheen Shaikh, an office bearer of the BJP, said she got around 300 people to witness the road-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Timor-Leste President José Ramos-Horta in Ahmedabad on Tuesday. Express

show and greet the two leaders.

A number of Ahmedabad Municipal Transport Service (AMTS) buses were seen bringing people to the road show. "I have come to see Modi saheb. Since the UAE president is our guest, I came to greet and welcome him," said Bapunagar resident Salma Shaikh who was among the many people who came to the roadshow. Similarly, Jagdish Prajapati, who lives near Indira bridge, had come with his daughter Snehal to see Modi.

Elaborate arrangements were also made on the route

with banners of the two leaders and posters welcoming the UAE president to Gujarat. The entire stretch of the roadshow was also dotted with 15 stages with dancers performing various dance forms of the country.

Later, a bilateral meeting was held between the PM and Nahyan where several MoUs were signed.

Earlier in the day, Modi held separate bilateral meetings with Timor-Leste President José Ramos-Horta and Mozambique President Filipe Jacinto Nyusi. Horta was the first head of state

to arrive in Ahmedabad for the summit on Monday night.

The Prime Minister offered assistance to Timor-Leste in capacity building, human resource development, IT, fintech, energy and healthcare, including traditional medicine and pharma. He also invited the nation to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), a government statement said.

Horta expressed "strong support for India's permanent membership of the UN Security Council", the statement added.

While Modi congratulated Horta for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN's) in-principle decision to admit Timor-Leste as its 11th member and expressed hope for its attainment of full membership soon, the latter sought New Delhi's support to meet its development priorities, particularly in the areas of healthcare and capacity building in IT. The leaders also discussed regional issues and developments in the Indo-Pacific.

After the meeting, Modi took to X to announce that he "had an excellent meeting" with Ramos-Horta at Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar. Earlier in the day, Raut had said that Sena (UBT) has staked claim on 23 seats and they will get 23 seats to contest in the LS polls since the party has been contesting from the 23 seats for many decades.

"We will get 23 seats from the state that include seats from Mumbai and Thane, which have been our bastions. If there are any differences, we will sit and discuss. Our senior leaders, Uddhav Thackeray, Sharad Pawar, Malikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi will meet and decide if there are any issues. I don't see any clashes here. This is our fight against the dictatorship going on in the country. Under the leadership of Uddhav Thackeray, we have selected 23 seats after testing our base in 48 constituencies. You will see a new candidate for the post of Prime Minister in 2024," Raut said.

A meeting in Delhi Tuesday, INDIA and MVA members decided to include Prakash Ambedkar's Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA) in the Opposition alliance, and in another huddle of the bloc members, the Congress and the SP formally started discussions on seat sharing to be worked out in Uttar Pradesh for the Lok Sabha polls.

In the earlier meeting, a decision to include VBA in the Opposition's INDIA alliance and Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) has been taken in a meeting of MVA leaders held in the national capital, Shiv Sena (UBT) Sanjay Raut said Tuesday after the meeting.

A meeting of leaders of the Congress, NCP and Sena (UBT) was held at the residence of Congress leader Mukul Wasnik in Delhi to discuss the seat sharing for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls. After the meeting, Raut said discussions on seat sharing were positive but the formula will be decided later.

"As you can see we all have come out of the meeting. We all sat down to discuss seat-sharing... I want to assure everyone that we will fight elections together. We have no differences about seat sharing... We discussed in detail about each seat," Raut said in Delhi.

"We had a detailed discussion about including VBA and Prakash Ambedkar in the Opposition bloc and after that all partners of MVA and INDIA have agreed to include the VBA in MVA and INDIA," Raut said, adding that seat sharing with VBA will be decided later.

"Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed to declare a holiday in educational institutions across the state on January 22, considering the emotional significance attached to the eagerly awaited consecration ceremony of the new idol of Ram Lalla in Ayodhya Dham. Terming this special occasion as a "national festival", the Chief Minister has said that liquor shops in the state should remain shut on January 22," an official spokesperson said.



RAJNATH IN UK

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inspects the Guard at London's Horse Guards Parade ahead of his meeting with UK counterpart Grant Shapps on Tuesday. Reuters

Ram Temple event a 'rashtra utsav', says Yogi, orders holiday for schools, liquor ban on Jan 22

MAULSHREE SETH
LUCKNOW, JANUARY 9

REFERRING TO the consecration ceremony of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, slated for January 22, as a "rashtra utsav" (national festival), Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday directed all educational institutes across the state to observe a holiday on January 22. He also said that sale of liquor would not be allowed across the state on the day.

Adityanath was in Ayodhya on Tuesday to review the preparations for the consecration ceremony, in which Prime Minister



UP CM Yogi Adityanath with Ram Temple trust president Mahant Nritya Gopal Das in Ayodhya on Tuesday. PTI

Narendra Modi along with several other dignitaries from across the country would be participating.

The CM, who offered prayers to Ram Lalla and also visited Hanuman Garib temple in Ayodhya,

reviewed development works and held a meeting with sadhus. He also met Nritya Gopal Das, Chairman of Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust.

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The CM, who offered prayers to Ram Lalla and also visited Hanuman Garib temple in Ayodhya,



Congress leaders Ashok Gehlot, Mukul Wasnik and Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut with other INDIA bloc leaders after a meeting in New Delhi, Tuesday. PTI

SEAT-SHARING FOR LS POLLS Cong begins talks with SP, MVA partners

Next Cong-SP meet on Jan 12; Raut says discussions positive, formula later

MANOJ G
WITH VALLABH OZARKAR
NEW DELHI, MUMBAI, JAN 9

IN A meeting in Delhi Tuesday, INDIA and MVA members decided to include Prakash Ambedkar's Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA) in the Opposition alliance, and in another huddle of the bloc members, the Congress and the SP formally started discussions on seat sharing to be worked out in Uttar Pradesh for the Lok Sabha elections.

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Centre: Coaching centres cannot make claims of 100% success

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 9

COACHING INSTITUTES cannot make claims like 100% selection or 100% job guarantee or guaranteed success in civil services preliminary or mains examination, said the Department of Consumer Affairs on Tuesday.

The statement came after department officials and stakeholders deliberated draft guidelines with respect to misleading advertisements in the coaching sector. "The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) conducted the first meeting of the committee constituted to prepare guidelines with respect to misleading advertisements in the coaching sector on 8th January, 2024. The committee discussed a draft of the guidelines," the statement said.

"The guidelines shall be applicable to all the coaching institutes, online or physical. Coaching institutes shall not claim 100% selection or 100% job guaranteed or guaranteed preliminary or mains... The Committee observed that there is an urgent need to issue the guidelines and the draft as discussed in the meeting should be issued at the earliest," it said.

WESTERN RAILWAY-VADODARA DIVISION

SIGNAL & TELECOMMUNICATION
TELECOM WORK

TENDER NOTICE NO. S&T/BRC/23-24/34/TELE Dtd. 03.01.2024 Sr. DSTE/ Vadodara acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against Tender No. SandT BRC_23-24_34_TELE. Bidders will be able to submit their original / revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. (1) Name of the Work with its location: TELECOM Work in connection with "(1). Vadodara-Goraj Section- Elimination of 05 Nos. of Level Crossings by provision of Road Under Bridge (LC No.253, 262, 266, 268 & 297), (2). Vishwamitri-Dabholi Section- Elimination of 05 Nos. of Level Crossings by provision of Road Under Bridge. (LC No. 10, 13, 16, 17, 18, 24, 30, 33); (2) Approx. cost of the work : ₹ 69,19,522/- (3) Bid Security to be deposit : ₹ 1,38,400/- (4) Date & Time for submission of e-tender and opening of e-tender : 02.02.2024 @ 15.00 Hours and 02.02.2024 @ 15.30 Hours. (5) Website particulars and notice for location where complete details can be seen etc.: <http://www.ireps.gov.in> Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, 2nd Floor-Annex Building, DRM's Office, Western Railway, Pratapnagar, Vadodara- 390 004.

Like us on: facebook.com/WesternRly

HC suspends mining around KRS Dam

Bengaluru: The Karnataka High Court has suspended all mining licenses for stone quarrying within a 20-km radius of the Krishna Raja Sagara (KRS) Dam in the Mysore-Mandya region under provisions of the Dam Safety Act, 2021, stating that "courts cannot turn a Nelson's Eye to the possible danger/damage posed to the dam of this size". The HC issued the order in a plea filed by a mining license holder against the suspension of his license. ENS

Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited
(प्रति संस्कार का उत्कर्ष / A Govt. of India Undertaking), योग मंत्रालय / Ministry of Defence
Regd and Corp Office: GRSE BHAVAN, 61, Garden Reach Road, Kolkata - 700 024
Web: www.grse.in, CIN: L3511WB1934GOI007891

E-TENDER NOTICE FOR ONLINE BIDDING
NIT NO. SC/NIC/OT/RC/SHIPCLEAN/035/ET-2024 DATED: 05 JAN 2024
Sub: Biennial Rate Contract for SHIP BUILDING ACTIVITY of
Ship Cleaning & Associated Works for Various Projects of GRSE

Date of Pre-bid Meeting: 15 Jan 2024 (10:00 am)

Date Due: 31 Jan 2024 (12:00 Noon)

1. Details will be available in e-procurement portal [https://eprocuregrse.gov.in](http://eprocuregrse.gov.in); Central Public Procurement Portal [https://eprocure.gov.in/cppp/](http://eprocure.gov.in/cppp/) and GRSE Website <http://www.grse.in/index.php/tender.html>

2. Any addendum/corrigendum to this tender enquiry will be published in above websites only.

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File No.: TP-ULB-11011/5/2021-DIR-TP-ULB-TP (E-26926)/2024-38

शहरी कार्य विभाग/Department of Urban Affairs
अरुणाचल प्रदेश सरकार/Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh
अरुणाचल प्रदेश सिविल सचिवालय /Arunachal Pradesh Civil Secretariat
ईटानगर/Itanagar

Dated Itanagar the 27th December 2023

Sub: Filling up of one post of Senior Town Planner on deputation basis under Directorate of Town Planning, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar.

Applications in prescribed performance (as per Annexure -A) are invited from eligible Town Planner (TP) for filling up of one post of Senior Town Planner (STP) in the pay matrix Rs. 78,800-2,90,00/- PM, Level-12 on deputation basis under Directorate of Town Planning, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar initially for a period of three years as per details given below:-

1. Name of Post : 1(One) Un-reserved.
2. Group of Post : Group 'A' (Gazette)
3. Level in pay matrix : Level-12 of the pay matrix.
4. Period of deputation : Initially for 3 (three) years. Extension of deputation will be considered as per prescribed rules of deputation.
5. Age Limit : The maximum age limit for approval on deputation shall not exceed 55 years as on 30.11.2023.
6. Eligibility criteria : (i) The applicant should have 10 (ten) years' experience in Town/Urban Planning and preparation of Master Plan and experience in handling urban affairs. (ii) Should be an Officer from Central Govt./State Govt./ Unit of Authorities/Bodies having minimum total service experience of 15 years in the respective organization. (iii) Applicant should have 5 (five) years of regular service in the grade of Town Planner in the department of any state Govt./Central Govt./semi-Govt. of India. (iv) Complete application should be sent through proper channel in the prescribed Performance to Commissioner/ Secretary to Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Department of Urban Affairs, Mowb-II, Itanagar 791111. The duly completed application should be sent along with,

 - a. Upto date copy of ACRs/APARs last 5 (five) years duly attested on each page by a Gazette officer.
 - b. Cadre Clearance
 - c. Vigilance Clearance.
 - d. Details of minor/major penalty imposed on the officials by the competent authority for last 10 (ten) years, if any.
 - e. Statement of bio-data in the prescribed Performance (as Per annexure-A) in Duplicate through proper channel.

7. How to Apply : Complete application should be sent through proper channel in the prescribed Performance to Commissioner/ Secretary to Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Department of Urban Affairs, Mowb-II, Itanagar 791111. The duly completed application should be sent along with,

 - a. Upto date copy of ACRs/APARs last 5 (five) years duly attested on each page by a Gazette officer.
 - b. Cadre Clearance
 - c. Vigilance Clearance.
 - d. Details of minor/major penalty imposed on the officials by the competent authority for last 10 (ten) years, if any.
 - e. Statement of bio-data in the prescribed Performance (as Per annexure-A) in Duplicate through proper channel.

8. Pay and Allowances : As admissible to employees of Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh.

Applications of interested and eligible official may be forwarded latest by 1500 hrs of 30.01.2024. Cadre controlling Authorities are requested that the applications of only those officials are to be forwarded, who can be spared on being selected.

It would be mandatory to serve the deputation terms and premature relieving would not be considered except in rare or exceptional circumstances.

Sd/-
(Pawan Kumar Sain) IAS
Commissioner to the Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh
Department of Urban Affairs
Itanagar

Application Performance for the post of Senior Town Planner in the Department of Town Planning, on deputation.

1	Name & Designation			
2	Date of Birth			
3	Gender			
4	Education Qualification			
5	Mobile No.			
6	E-mails ID			
7	Service/Batch			
8	Details employment in the chronological order. Enclosed a separate sheet duly authenticated by the head of Department, if space below is insufficient.			
Department/Institute Organization	Post held	Form	To	Pay Level with present basis pay
				Nature of duties performed

Signature with date of candidate with address

It is certified that particulars furnished above are correct and no disciplinary cases is either pending or contemplated against the official and no minor or major penalty was imposed on the official during the last 10 (ten) years and his/her integrity is beyond doubt.

DIPR/ARN/ 9751 - 53

Signature of Head of office with seal

Jharkhand Cabinet clears SOPs for notices from probe agencies

ABHISHEK ANGAD
RANCHI, JANUARY 9

THE JHARKHAND Cabinet on Tuesday approved guidelines to deal with notices or summonses issued by external investigating agencies, making it mandatory for state officials to inform the nodal head or the head of department concerned and not send documents directly to the agencies.

According to the Cabinet note detailing the new Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), once the summonses are sent, the Department of Cabinet Secretariat and Vigilance will "obtain appropriate legal advice for follow-up action" in the light of the facts presented. The department will then provide necessary cooperation to the investigating agency outside the state.

The decision has been taken at a time

when Chief Minister Hemant Soren and a number of state government officials are facing summons from the Enforcement Directorate (ED). Soren has refused to appear before the ED for the seventh time.

The Cabinet meeting on Tuesday, chaired by the CM, decided that there is a need to lay down a "well-organised and clear procedure" to provide cooperation to the probe agencies and to present "relevant documents or records" before them.

According to the Cabinet note, the current procedure is not in accordance with the prevailing rules. "This not only creates confusion in the concerned office but also disrupts government work. There is also a strong possibility that the information being provided may be incomplete or inconsistent. This adversely affects the activities of the state government and the investigation..."

Chlorine leak in Dehradun leaves residents breathless

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
DEHRADUN, JANUARY 9

RESIDENTS OF Jhajhria Tuesday complained of dizziness and breathing difficulties after chlorine gas engulfed the area. The gas spread after two of the six cylinders of chlorine that were kept in a vacant land started leaking. Authorities promptly evacuated the residents from the neighbourhood that falls under the jurisdiction of Prem Nagar police station in Dehradun and relocated them to a safer location. No casualty has been reported.

Soon after getting the information, State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (CBRN) teams reached the spot with detectors and rescue equipment.

The district police, fire service, NDRF, and the CBRN teams were at the spot. "Efforts are being made by everyone to stop the gas leak and remove the cylinders from the spot," the SDRF statement read.

Dehradun Senior SP Ajay Singh said action is being taken to remove the cylinders from the spot. "A detailed investigation is being conducted to know why the cylinder



NDRF and fire department personnel at Jhanjra in Dehradun, Tuesday. ANI

ders were kept at the vacant land," he said.

An FIR has been registered against the owner of the plot and its caretaker for endangering lives and personal safety of residents.

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has instructed officials to effectively control the Prem Nagar incident. He has asked officials of the Industry and Labour Department to exercise special caution. The CM also asked officials to ensure that such incidents do not occur in the industrial areas of the state.

सूचना एवं जन-सम्पर्क विभाग
पुनर्निवाद आभासन सूचना

(केवल ई-टेंडर पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

1. कार्यों की विवरणी- राज्य स्तर पर संचालित योजनाओं/उपलब्धियों का पुरस्क, फोल्डर एवं कॉफी टेलर बुक के रूप में संकलन
2. महत्वपूर्ण तिथियाँ :-

 - i. विज्ञापन निर्गत करने की तिथि दिनांक:-09.01.2024
 - ii. प्री बीटिंग की तिथि दिनांक:-11.01.2024 समय 11:00 बजे पूर्वाहन तक।
 - iii. निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय दिनांक:-22.01.2024 समय 05:00 बजे अपराह्न तक। (सिफ वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)
 - iv. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय दिनांक:-23.01.2024 समय 03:00 बजे अपराह्न। (सिफ वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)
 - v. निविदा को खोलने का स्थान सिफ वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर ।
 - vi. निविदा की वैधता अवधि 120 दिन

3. निविदा केवल ई-निविदा पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर निष्पादित किया जाएगा।
4. विसर्तुत जानकारी सूचना एवं जन-सम्पर्क विभाग के वेबसाइट-state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar पर भी देखा जा सकता है।

नशे से बनानी दूरी है, क्योंकि परिवार जरूरी है।

Govt. of Bihar

Public Health Engineering Department.

(Bihar State Water and Sanitation Mission)

Vishwamitri Bhawan Complex, Bailey Road, Patna:800015

Web: <http://state.bihar.gov.in/phed> and <http://bswsmptna.org>

SHORT TENDER NOTICE
Invitation of Request for Proposal (RFP)
for
Hiring of Services of Tax consulting firms.

Notice No.: PH/BSWMS/GST Consultant:105/2023/02

1. Request for proposal is being invited in TWO bid (Technical and Financial) system by the Engineer-in-chief-Cum-Special Secretary, P.H. Engineering Department, Bihar, Patna on behalf of Public Health Engineering Department (PHED), Government of Bihar from eligible bidders (as per eligibility criteria mentioned in the RFP) for hiring the Service of Tax consulting firm, the Terms of Reference is attached in subsequent sections.
2. Prospective Bidders may visit office mentioned in 4(ii) for details of terms and conditions of eligibility of bidders, scope of work, bidding procedures, bidding documents, etc.
3. Earnest money deposit (Online/ Bank Guarantee) shall be paid in the favour of Administrative Officer, A&F Wing, BSWSM.
4. Details of Work

S#	Name of Work	Bid Security/ Earnest Money	Cost of bid document (Non- refundable)	Eorc 2.0 processing fee	Service Contract Period
1.	Service of Tax consulting firm for taxation related advisory for Public Health Engineering Department for filing, monitoring & verification of GST payments & IT returns to Contractors/ Vendors, etc. & Settlement of VAT & GST claims.	50,000.00	5,000.00	1180.00	Two (02) years from the date of agreement + two (02) years extension based on service performance and mutual agreement

- Note: The Earnest Money will be refunded subject to the following criterion and the successful bidder has to submit 2% of their Bid as Performance Guarantee in form of Bank Guarantee before agreement.
1. Bidders shall submit, along with their Bids, EMD of INR 50,000.00 (fifty thousand only) in the form of Bank Guarantee issued by any Scheduled bank.
 2. The bid / proposal submitted without EMD, mentioned above, will be summarily rejected.
 3. The EMD of unsuccessful bidders shall be refunded.
 4. The EMD may be forfeited:
 - a) If a bidder withdraws its bid during the period of bid validity.
 - b) In case of a successful bidder, if the bidder fails to sign the contract in accordance with this RFP.
 - c) If it fails to start work within 15 days after issue of work order.
 - d) Complaints are received from the department/ Divisions / offices for not following the terms and conditions of RFP.
 - e) Other conditions as specified in the RFP
- The Schedule of bidding**
- (i) Date of issue of invitation of bid : 12/01/24
 - (ii) Place & Date of Pre-bid meeting : eproc 2.0
 - (iii) Period of Sale of Bid documents : From 12/01/24 to 29/01/24
 - (iv) Last date and time for submission of Bid : 30/01/24 up to 3:00 PM
 - (v) Time and date of opening Technical Bid : 30/01/24 at 4:00 PM
 - (vi) Time and date of opening Financial Bid : to be decided by authority
 - (vii) Date and place of pre bid meeting : 19.01.24 at 12.00 PM in the office of Engineer-in-chief cum Special Secretary.
 - (viii) Place of opening bid : as mention in 4(ix)
 - (ix) Period of bid validity : 180 days
 - (x) Office inviting bid : Engineer-in-Chief cum Special Secretary Public Health Engineering Department, Bihar, Patna.
5. The detailed bid documents can be downloaded online from eproc 2.0 website post registration to the eproc website after payment of eproc registration fee.
6. The cost of tender document/RFP document as mentioned in the above notice shall be paid in form of demand draft in favor of Administrative Officer, A&F Wing

EXPRESS NETWORK

BRIEFLY

NEW DELHI

Rajiv Mani is new legislative dept secretary

New Delhi: The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet on Monday appointed Rajiv Mani – currently additional secretary in the Department of Legal Affairs – as the secretary of the Legislative Department, under the Union Law and Justice Ministry, for two years. In the same order, the ACC approved the upgradation of the joint secretary & legislative counsel's position in the Legislative Department to additional secretary for two years. It also appointed Manoj Kumar, the founder and managing partner of the law firm Hammurabi & Solomon Partners, as additional secretary, Legislative Department on contract for two years. **ENS**

KARNATAKA

Prostitution racket: Turkish woman arrested

Bengaluru: The Bengaluru city police have arrested nine persons, including a Turkish national (40), for allegedly running a prostitution racket on Telegram and other mobile apps. The arrested accused were identified as Bioinyaz Swamy Gowda, Akshay J (32), Govindraj (34), Vaishak V Chatloor (22), Prakash K (32), Manoj Das (23), Pramod Kumar (31), and Jithendra Sahoo (43) – from different places. Police have arrested seven women including five foreigners, said officials. **ENS**

TAMIL NADU

South Zone V-Cs meet on NEP conducted

Chennai: The Southern Zone Vice Chancellors' Conference on implementation of National Education Policy (NEP), 2020, was held at SASTRA University, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu. UGC Chairman M Jagadesh Kumar said that the capacity building of teachers across higher education is one of the foremost thrust areas to be concentrated on in the implementation of NEP-2020. Considering this, the UGC has launched "Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya National Mission on Teachers and Teaching" and set up 11 centres across the country. **ENS**

JAMMU & KASHMIR

Mirwaiz in Delhi on personal visit

Srinagar: For the first time since the abrogation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status in 2019, senior separatist leader and Hurriyat chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq along with his family is on a two-week visit to New Delhi. Mirwaiz – who was put under house detention on August 4, 2019 – has recently been released from house detention. "I am on a personal visit to Delhi with my family, including my mother," he told *The Indian Express*. **ENS**

DIPANITA NATH

KOLKATA, JANUARY 9

"THE FIRST time I saw a rugby ball, as a 10-year-old, I was so excited because I thought it looked like a dinosaur's egg. I couldn't stop laughing," says Akash Balmiki.

Balmiki, a member of India's national rugby team, has just completed a magical personal arc – on Monday, the 26-year-old from a basti in Kolkata joined American rugby club Dallas Harlequins. Previously, players have mostly joined clubs while

studying in the US. Harlequins is part of the organised Rugby League in the US, where the sport is big in colleges. Balmiki was selected after the club watched videos of his games, where his position is as a fly-half or one of the main attacking players who links the forwards (made up of the bigger and stronger players who chase and claim the ball) and backs (the smaller and swifter players). He will be with the club for three months.

On the first weekend of the new year, Balmiki celebrated on the dry Maidan field, under the

HEARING ON MINORITY STATUS OF AMU BEGINS

Decision inconsequential to govt change... AMU has to be non-minority: Centre to SC

ANANTHAKRISHNANG
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 9



AS A seven-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court on Tuesday began hearing petitions on the question of the minority status of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), the BJP-led government at the Centre told the apex court that its decision to withdraw the challenge to the judgment of the Allahabad High Court in 2016 was "based upon Constitutional considerations alone" and the change of governments was "inconsequential".

In January 2006, the Allahabad High Court had struck down amendments made to the AMU Act by which the university was accorded the minority status. The Congress-led UPA government at the Centre, as well as the AMU, moved an appeal in the top court against the Allahabad High Court order. After the BJP came to power in the Centre, the government told the Supreme Court in 2016 that it was withdrawing the appeal filed by the previous government.

In written submissions before the Constitution Bench, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said, "The stand taken earlier by the government to file SLP challenging the judgment of the High Court was contrary to the original stand of the Centre taken in Azeez Basha case... The stand taken to file SLP was also against the public policy of reservation for SCs/STs/OBCs/EWSs as applicable to central universities, therefore, against public interest. It is, therefore, submitted that the prayer for withdrawal of appeal has been made after due consideration of the legal position".

The respondent (AMU), unfortunately, has made an attempt to give a political hue to the matter by stating under para 14 of their affidavit that the decision taken after the change of the government at the Centre is based on political consideration. It is unfortunate

that a factual issue which has already been authoritatively decided by a Constitution Bench of this Hon'ble Court is being politicised and contorted on misconceived grounds," said the SG.

The bench presided by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud and comprising Justices Sanjiv Khanna, Surya Kant, JB Pardiwala, Dipankar Datta, Manoj Misra and Satish Chandra Sharma is hearing a reference made to it by a three-judge bench in February 2019.

The government strongly opposed AMU's prayer that the judgment in the Azeez Pasha case needs to be reconsidered, saying it is settled law. It pointed out that AMU "has so far not challenged any of the amendments, namely the first amendment in 1951, the second amendment in 1965, the third amendment in 1972, and the fourth amendment in 1981, in the Aligarh Muslim University Act, 1920. The university can thus not re-agitate the factual and facts-based legal controversies already decided by a five-judge bench which is clear from the present reference..." the Centre said.

The Centre said the founding fathers made the non-minority character of "AMU and BHU crystal clear". "It is clear that a university that was and is clearly an institution of national importance, has to be a non-minority university... The resultant effect of the said exemption would be drastic as AMU is... a large institute... and an enormous amount of students studying in various courses. It is submitted that a large national institute like Aligarh Muslim University ought to maintain its secular origins and serve the larger interest of the nation first," it said.

"Article 30 (which deals with the right of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions) uses the expression establish and administer. Now, there is no absolute standard of administration that you must administer 100 per cent because 100 per cent will be an illusory standard. So, to make Article 30 effective, we do not have to postulate that the administration by the minority has to be an absolute administration," Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud, presiding over a seven-judge Constitution bench, observed as Senior Advocate Rajeev Dhavan representing the University made his submissions.

"In that sense today, in a regulated state, nothing is absolute. Virtually every aspect of life is regulated in some way or the other. So, merely because the right to administer is regulated by a statute and, to certain extent is not untrammelled, does not

SC: Regulation doesn't take away character of minority institution

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 9

THE MERE fact that the administration of a minority educational institution is regulated by a statute would not detract from its minority status, the Supreme Court observed Tuesday as it began hearing petitions on the minority status of the Aligarh Muslim University.

"Article 30 (which deals with the right of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions) uses the expression establish and administer. Now, there is no absolute standard of administration that you must administer 100 per cent because 100 per cent will be an illusory standard. So, to make Article 30 effective, we do not have to postulate that the administration by the minority has to be an absolute administration," Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud, presiding over a seven-judge Constitution bench, observed as Senior Advocate Rajeev Dhavan representing the University made his submissions.

"In that sense today, in a regulated state, nothing is absolute. Virtually every aspect of life is regulated in some way or the other. So, merely because the right to administer is regulated by a statute and, to certain extent is not untrammelled, does not

detract from the minority character of the institution," Chandrachud added.

"That's the point we were making. That's the essential point," Dhavan responded, adding "it can't be that it will all be Muslim, Muslim, Muslim. It simply cannot be because after the constitution, all the universities have a liberal element in them".

The CJI pointed out that what is clear is that "you don't have to be administering only religious courses. You can be administering a purely secular education institute. The law is not that you have to admit only students of your community... And, therefore, a minority institution does not lose that character, according to your submission, because various aspects of its existence are regulated by statute including aspects relating to the administration of the institution."

He added, "the state in public interest is entitled to regulate, or the state legislature or the Parliament as the case may be, is entitled to regulate administration in public interest to ensure that the conditions of service of teachers are fair, that the staff of the institution is not maltreated or deprived of basic conditions of service".

The arguments remained inconclusive and will resume on Wednesday.

Religious procession 'pelted with stones' in MP; eight arrested

overpowered us."

After the incident, a large number of workers of Hindu organisations reached the police station on Monday night. The protesters demanded that the accused be arrested immediately and that their houses be bulldozed. Local MLA Arun Bhimawad also turned up at the police station and addressed the protesters, assuring strict action against the accused.

Police registered an FIR against 24 identified people and 152 unidentified people.

Dewas MP Mahendra Solanki reached Shahapur on Tuesday and had a series of discussions with the senior police officers, following which he said the administration would "take any action necessary, including bulldozing homes of the accused", an officer said.

"This was a planned conspiracy. Strict action will be taken against those who pelted stones on the yatra. Eight accused have been arrested, the search for the rest is on. If necessary, they will also break the houses of the accused," Solanki said.

The Congress has called for a fair investigation into the incident, with its spokesperson alleging that the BJP may have been behind the incident.

"There should be a fair investigation into the incident. Whoever is the accused should be unmasked. But before the elections, why was there a riot? Who did this? There should be an investigation. We have our doubts that the Sangh Parivar and the BJP are involved in this incident.

"The city is peaceful. We have also set up multiple patrolling parties to maintain peace in the city. Restrictions have been imposed under Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure in three areas of Shahapur city – Magaria, Kachhiwada and Lalgupura," the SP said.

Lalit, one of the injured, said, "I was part of the rally of 30 people and were raising 'Jai Shri Ram' slogans. Then suddenly, they started pelting stones and raising their own slogans. They caught hold of me, and they

were behind the incident.

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Once a Maoist hotbed, Odisha's Malkangiri now gets air service

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
Bhubaneswar, JANUARY 9

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Tuesday inaugurated an airport in the state's southernmost district of Malkangiri, which was once a Maoist hotbed.

Patnaik said the airport would usher in an era of development in the region and open up new avenues of communication, tourism and trade in Malkangiri and nearby areas. He had arrived at the airport on a plane just before the inauguration.

Regarding the importance of the new airport, a senior state government official said, "Smooth travel to the district has been a major challenge given its distance from the state capital and absence of railway network. It is a major infrastructure push completed in a record 14 months. It also has one of the longest runways."

The airport is likely to first see

the operation of nine-seater aircraft, before it expands into handling bigger planes in subsequent phases. With the new airport coming up, the journey from the state capital, Bhubaneswar, to Malkangiri can be completed in just two hours. Earlier, it would take 14-16 hours by road.

"It will be a major boost for the movement of forces to Malkangiri, where the BSF has a significant presence in view of the Maoist presence. Also, the airport will be a great catalyst for the Mukhyamantri Yavu Swasthya Seva (Air Health Services) to provide quality health service to people in the remotest part of the state," the official said.

A total of Rs 70 crore has been spent to develop the airport.

2 rangers among four killed in accident at Rajaji Tiger Reserve, warden missing

AVANEESH MISHRA
DEHRADUN, JANUARY 9

UTTARAKHAND FOREST Minister Subodh Uniyal on Tuesday ordered a high level inquiry after four people, including two forest rangers, were killed and another official went missing in an accident at the Chilla range of Rajaji Tiger Reserve.

Uniyal said the Chilla canal was being searched for the Tiger Reserve's wildlife warden Aloki Devi, who fell into the canal following the accident Monday. The accident occurred when an e-vehicle being trialed for patrolling and animal rescue hit a tree and crashed into the parapet of the canal, flinging out those aboard.

Those who were killed were identified as forest rangers Shailesh Ghildiyal and Pramod Dhyani, driver Saif Ali Khan and Kulraj Singh, an employee of a vehicle manufacturing firm.

Five people – Dr Rakesh Nautiyal, Himanshu Gosai, Amit Semwal, Ashwin Biju, and Ankush – were injured in the accident and were rushed to AIIMS, Rishikesh.

Such a long journey: From Kolkata basti to rugby club in Dallas

DIPANITA NATH
KOLKATA, JANUARY 9

"THE FIRST time I saw a rugby ball, as a 10-year-old, I was so excited because I thought it looked like a dinosaur's egg. I couldn't stop laughing," says Akash Balmiki.

Balmiki, a member of India's national rugby team, has just completed a magical personal arc – on Monday, the 26-year-old from a basti in Kolkata joined American rugby club Dallas Harlequins. Previously, players have mostly joined clubs while

studying in the US. Harlequins is part of the organised Rugby League in the US, where the sport is big in colleges. Balmiki was selected after the club watched videos of his games, where his position is as a fly-half or one of the main attacking players who links the forwards (made up of the bigger and stronger players who chase and claim the ball) and backs (the smaller and swifter players). He will be with the club for three months.

On the first weekend of the new year, Balmiki celebrated on the dry Maidan field, under the



Balmiki is the first player from a basti in India to be invited by an American rugby club to play. Partha Paul

workers' community in Kolkata's Bhawanipur, where he still stays with his parents and brothers. His father used to work as a sweeper and his mother is a homemaker.

"Many of the older people (from his community) were alcoholic and, when I was 10, a lot of my friends had started drinking. My mother and father were scared to send me out," he says. Balmiki had his first experience of harsh reality when a close family member turned alcoholic and plunged the house into turmoil.

Balmiki attended Hindi Vidyalaya High School, but was

more interested in sports. In 2007, his friend came home with a rugby ball and told him about an initiative that taught rugby to underprivileged children for free. "In a basti, you can run anywhere. I was lucky to have a field near my house, so I was already fit," he says.

He began to skip school to attend morning practice, and his parents didn't know this for two years. The sessions were part of Khelo Rugby, an initiative that began with Paul Walsh, a Welshman who came to Kolkata in 2002 as the Deputy Head of Mission at the British High Commission.

FULL REPORT ON

www.indianexpress.com

THE RIGHT THING

Apex court verdict on Bilkis Bano upholds primacy of due process, is a message to all those whose job it is to uphold it

THE SUPREME COURT verdict Monday is enormously welcome and reassuring. Quashing the remission granted by the Gujarat government to those convicted of rape and murder in the Bilkis Bano case, the highest court has, in the words of Bilkis, "lifted a stone the size of a mountain." I can breathe again, she said, this is what justice feels like. Since 2002, her struggle and that of her husband and children, has been heartbreakingly arduous — for them, justice itself seemed to shrink when the 11 convicted in 2008 were allowed to walk free on August 15, 2022. Succour has also been provided by the apex court to all those who fought alongside Bilkis, indeed, to all those who believe in the primacy of due process and the need to insulate it from the abuse of political power. As the bench of Justice BV Nagarathna and Justice Ujjal Bhuyan said, what needed to be protected is the "rule of law", so essential for meeting the constitutional promise of equality before law or equal protection of law. Going ahead, the SC has ensured that the Bilkis Bano case will be seen not just as emblematic of the horrific communal violence that swept Gujarat in 2002, but also of the highest court's efforts in the aftermath to guard against a wayward justice.

Of course, this may still not be the end of the matter. Since the SC has scrapped the remission on the ground that it can only be granted by the "appropriate" government within whose territorial jurisdiction the conviction took place, not where the crime happened, the convicts may now petition Maharashtra for relief. But the distinction that the SC has made is not just a technical one. Following the Gujarat violence, it had intervened to hand the investigation in some cases, including this one, to the CBI in 2003 and transferred the trial from Gujarat to Maharashtra in 2004. This was amid fears of possible evidence tampering and absence of a conducive climate for a fair trial in Gujarat. The Court's emphasis on the violation of due process in granting remission is, therefore, not merely procedural — the Gujarat government, which is usurping power that does not belong to it, "acted in tandem and was complicit with the convicts", it says. It also asks: Why did the Gujarat government not file a review petition seeking correction of the May 2022 order by another SC bench, which was misled into letting Gujarat decide on remission?

To be sure, the apex court erred too. It did not ask the probing questions that it should have, when it was petitioned by one of the convicts in 2022. If it had, it would not have to now set aside its own verdict that paved the way for the Gujarat government's remission to the convicts. But having said that, Monday's verdict must also be heralded as a much-needed rebuke to those who had felicitated the convicts when they walked out of jail early. That hero's welcome did not just offend basic principles of humanity and justice, it also mocked constitutional morality and the rule of law. Days after their release, Maharashtra's Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis rightly flagged this wrong — "a convict is a convict," he said, "and they cannot be felicitated." If and when his government receives a fresh remission request, hopefully those words will ring louder than ever.

K-SHAPED QUESTIONS

SBI report is far too quick to dismiss evidence of growing underlying inequality. The case it makes is unpersuasive

A NEW RESEARCH report by the State Bank of India (SBI) seeks to "debunk" claims of India's "K-shaped" economic recovery and asserts that the repeated use of the phrase is "flawed, prejudiced, ill-conceived and fanning interests of select quarters to whom India's remarkable ascendance... is quite unpalatable". A K-shaped recovery essentially suggests that there has been a stark difference in the way different sectors of the economy recovered after the pandemic. It indicates that while the overall economic growth numbers look robust, there is a growing underlying inequality. The SBI report's arguments against it are far from persuasive.

The report says that the "patterns emanating from income, savings, consumption, expenditure and policy measures aimed at empowering the masses — from Ujjwala to Ayushman Bharat and from Awas Yojana to maternal/neo-natal welfare — question the efficacy of using ages-old proxies like low two-wheeler sales or fragmented land holdings to support some pre-destined narratives of India not doing well". It argues that the muted post-pandemic sales of two-wheelers "could reflect households reconfiguring their savings towards physical assets (real estate) and a not too small buyers' percentage shifting to used/entry-level cars (substitution effect)". It cites data from Zomato as an example of rising disposable income in non-metro areas. And looks at the income tax data for FY22 to note that the Gini coefficient had declined significantly from 0.472 to 0.402 between FY14 and FY22. The decline in income inequality is because of a "Great Migration" at the bottom of the pyramid; 36.3 per cent of individual tax return filers belonging to the lowest income in FY14 had left the lowest income group and shifted upwards, finds the report.

The SBI report suffers from some fundamental flaws. If the government has been forced to extend the scheme of subsidised food grain to 800 million Indians, does it not suggest deep economic distress? In a country where a minuscule percentage of people pay direct income tax, how reasonable is it to draw conclusions from tax data about broader inequality? Isn't income tax data nominal and as such affected by overall inflation? Why are tractor sales a better representative of the rural (not farm) economy than two-wheeler sales? The list of questions is longer than the report's conclusions.

THE EMPEROR'S LEGACY

If the Germans knew how to win in football, it was because Franz Beckenbauer taught them

FRANZ BECKENBAUER, WHO died Monday aged 78, redefined football. When he played, to quote Uruguayan writer Eduardo Galeano, "nothing escaped him, not one ball, not a fly, not a mosquito could get through." The libero was his creation and remains an influential position, not just in football but also hockey, even today. "The Kaiser" is also the inspiration for sport's biggest truism: "Football is a simple game. Twenty-two men chase a ball for 90 minutes and at the end, the Germans always win." Gary Lineker was, of course, referring to the legendary Germany team, coached by Beckenbauer, which won the 1990 World Cup.

Curiously, it was a slap that changed the course of history and turned Beckenbauer from just another teenage supporter of a local football club — 1860 Munich — into a player who transformed their cross-town rival, Bayern Munich. The story goes that a 1860 player, Gerhard König, slapped a teenaged Beckenbauer, who was on the verge of joining the club, for reasons that remain a mystery. Beckenbauer decided to turn back on his childhood team, which was among Germany's finest back then and joined the then nondescript Bayern. Over the years, as 1860 fell from grace, Bayern rose to become a super club.

His single-minded defiance and headstrong enabled Germany, never the most talented but always the toughest, to beat one of the greatest sides of all time, Johan Cruyff's Netherlands. It was also a big reason why, later as manager, Beckenbauer could stop the Maradona juggernaut at Italia 1990. These two moments bookend a fairytale career. Stylish as he was, his teams weren't always pleasing to the eye. They were, however, unfailingly effective. If — to paraphrase Lineker — the Germans knew how to win, it was because Beckenbauer taught them. And that will be the Emperor's enduring legacy.

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

WORDLY WISE

IF WE ARE TO KEEP OUR DEMOCRACY, THERE MUST BE ONE COMMANDMENT: THOU SHALT NOT RATION JUSTICE. — SOPHOCLES

America's big rematch



RAJA MANDALA
BY C RAJA MOHAN

Whatever the results of its election, the US is too diverse to allow one person to impose a radical political agenda

IN A YEAR of elections around the world, here is one where the incumbent president calls his predecessor a Nazi. The former president accuses his successor of stealing the previous election. The current establishment is hounding the former president with criminal cases. The Opposition accuses the government of weaponising law to keep the former president off the ballot and is retaliating by preparing to impeach the president. The top court has got into the act, but whatever its decision, a large section of the deeply polarised society will see it as illegitimate and politically motivated.

We are not talking of a banana republic in the Third World, but the US. The American foreign policy elite sees itself as the champion of democracy. It routinely passes judgements on the broad political orientation of other countries and on the micro trends. Washington punishes foreign governments for presumed transgressions against democratic norms. But what about American democracy?

It is both tempting and pointless for political elites around the world who are at the receiving end of American criticism to call out its unabashed, if unconscious, hypocrisy. The US is deeply self-absorbed and self-referential. What matters, though, are the outcomes of America's internal dynamics. After all, notwithstanding the quality of its democracy, the choices its polity makes affect the world.

To be sure, the many structural problems of American democracy are there out in the open in the 21st century, starting with the first election in 2000 when the Supreme Court had to step in to resolve a dispute over counting votes in Florida. Those problems have sharpened. As the primaries — the state-by-state competition to pick the presidential nominee of the two main parties — begin next week in the mid-Western state of Iowa, the *New York Times* has declared that American democracy and its constitution are in danger. The *Times* declared Trump "utterly unfit for office" and decried that he presents America with a "fateful choice" — "between the continuance of the United States as a nation dedicated to 'the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity' and a man who has proudly shown open disdain for the law and the protections and ideals of the Constitution."

The characteristic stentorian tone of the *Times* does not impress all Americans. Not a few of them think the *Times* and the liberal media are part of the problem — the demonisation of traditional values and the imposition of woke culture on ordinary people. Many are convinced that the liberal media is out to get Trump. In any case, the US media does not claim to be neutral in political battles. Even the so-called fact-checkers tend to be partisan.

The primary process usually runs well into the summer. It frequently throws up surprises.

Unknown candidates often capture the imagination of the party and its nomination.

Bill Clinton, the governor of a small southern state,

Arkansas, was a little-known political commodity at the national level until he swept the

1992 primaries to win the nomination and the

presidency. The rise of Barack Obama, a first-term Senator, in 2008 was quite dramatic

— he defeated the formidable Hillary Clinton

to win the nomination. On the Republican

side, outsider Donald Trump defeated better-established names like Jeb Bush (son and brother of two former presidents) and won

the nomination in 2016 and went on to defeat

the Democratic nominee, Hillary Clinton.

This time though, the primary process ap-

pears a mere formality. Trump is leading his

Republican rivals by a huge margin. Whether

he can contest for the presidency or not, he is

set to emerge as the Republican nominee.

Incumbent presidents rarely face a serious

challenge for the party nomination for a sec-

ond term; that applies to President Joe Biden.

But many in the Democratic Party are con-

cerned about his age and fitness. Some of

them hoped that Biden would step aside and

let a new generation of leadership take charge.

What we now have is two old white men —

Biden (81) and Trump (77) — joining the bat-

tle again to lead a nation known for youth,

vigour and diversity.

Trailing behind Trump in key battleground

states, Biden is taking gloves off to attack

Trump as a threat to American democracy.

Trump responded by mocking the Presi-

dent's stutter and called him a real threat to democ-

racy. Watch out for more personal insults,

attacks and counter-attacks, dirty tricks, and money

power — the great joys of democratic

politics everywhere — to shape this

year's most consequential

election. What happens in

the US will certainly not stay

within the US.

Trailing behind Trump in key battleground states, Biden is taking gloves off to attack

direction, an effective strategy is still required.

First, these guidelines are only an "advi-

sory", though the phraseology of a few guide-

lines is in mandatory language. For instance,

guidelines under the disability-inclusive com-

munication head use words like "should" and

"shall" before and after the instructions.

However, other guidelines, especially under

the inclusion within the political party frame-

work, are still incorporated in discretionary

terms, for example, using "may". A uniform

mandate under all three heads is needed.

Second, it is understood that these guide-

lines are still not part of the Model Code of

Conduct. The advisory mentions that the

breach of guidelines related to disability-in-

clusive communication would make political

parties and their members prone to action un-

der section 92 of the RPwD Act. It's unclear

whether a breach of other guidelines will also

invoke this provision. Section 92 is a punish-

ment provision for atrocities against PwDs.

These guidelines must be given teeth by in-

cluding them within the MCC on the lines of

general mandates for PwDs.

Third, there is some ambiguity within the

guidelines with respect to the usage of spe-

cific phraseology. For instance, it cites words

like "blind", "deaf" and "dumb" as examples

of wrong terminologies. Although their trans-

lation in Hindi or another language might be

derogatory, these are technical words to refer

to people with visual, hearing, and speech dis-

ability. A detailed list of disability-sensitive words and phraseology under the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy can guide the ECI.

Fourth, the draft National Policy for PwD released last year for public consultation didn't have any chapter on political inclusion. The ECI advisory says that "political parties must endeavour to include PwD at all levels as members and party workers". It also prescribes adherence to accessibility norms by political parties, which are the first instance of access to political space for PwDs. As these guidelines are expected to catalyze the political inclusion of PwDs, a chapter on political inclusion in the national policy should be incorporated. This will align with the principles of Article 29 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Lastly, we still have no data on the number of legislators with disabilities. The ECI still doesn't have any column on disability in the nomination forms and affidavits filed by contestants during elections. The lack of data has contributed significantly to the political exclusion of PwDs. It is hoped that the ECI will also correct this anomaly. The 2024 elections are an opportunity to address this lack. It can be the second step towards the political inclusion of PwDs.

The writer is a lawyer and policy consultant on disability law. He is also a founder of the Politics and Disability Forum



SHASHANK PANDEY

ON DECEMBER 21, the Election Commission of India released an advisory for political parties to follow disability-sensitive terminologies. The 11 guidelines can broadly be put into three categories: Disability-inclusive communication by political parties and their members, accessibility of information and inclusion within party frameworks. The guidelines on communication relate to the usage of ill-health terminologies for persons with disabilities (PwD), dehumanising or using PwDs to depict incapacity or perpetuate stereotypes. The guidelines around accessibility relate to information accessibility on political party websites and holding events at accessible places. The third head provides for the development of training modules on disability for party workers and endeavours to include PwDs at all levels of a political party.

Recent instances have underlined the need for these guidelines; for example, in September 2023, Tamil Nadu leader A Raja compared Sanatan Dharma to people with leprosy and HIV in a derogatory manner. National leaders have also used disability in a demeaning manner, especially during election speeches. Such instances dehumanise PwDs and perpetuate stereotypes, resulting in an "attitudinal barrier" under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

Political inclusion is an ignored aspect within the Indian realm of disability. Although these guidelines are a reformative step in that

Recent instances have underlined the need for these guidelines; for example, in

September 2023, Tamil Nadu leader

THE IDEAS PAGE

A note to security planners

Conflicts in the past two years, whether Ukraine-Russia or Hamas-Israel, illustrate the necessity to anticipate out-of-the-box security exigencies



C UDAY BHASKAR

IT IS SAID that history does not repeat itself, but often rhymes. This truism, usually ascribed to Mark Twain, may provide some cues about the kind of security challenges that India would have to prepare for in 2024. The last two years are too recent to be consigned to "history" but some of the most significant punctuations of 2022 and 2023 in the strategic domain could be extrapolated to the composite Indian national security challenge in the year ahead.

2022 first. The Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 upended the long-held belief that in the post-Cold War era, major nations would not go to war — much less over territory. The wisdom gained after the German reunification was that the spirit of the 1976 Helsinki Agreement, which made borders sacrosanct in Europe, would not be violated.

Citing long-held historical grievances and the betrayal by the US-led West over the eastward expansion of NATO, Russian President Vladimir Putin justified his military invasion, and the war in Ukraine will soon enter its third year. Thus the 2022 distillate is that nuclear weapon states can enter into conventional warfare over contested territory, and when pushed to the wall, they may rattle their nuclear sabre.

India had a similar experience when China chose to violate the 1993 agreement to maintain peace along the LAC and moved into Galwan in the Ladakh region — though both nations have not escalated the stand-off to a shooting war. Will this restraint be maintained by Beijing in 2024?

As regards 2023, the October 7 Hamas terror attack and the brutal reprisal by Israel have stoked a conflict with little or no light at the end of a tragic tunnel. The Palestine issue has come back into global focus and many layers of Israeli oppression, occupation and apartheid policies have been illuminated.

From a purely military perspective, Hamas, a non-state entity (albeit with covert state support), stunned Israel with its audacious attack. The manner in which the operation was mounted in complete secrecy till the moment of the attack and the innovative use of rockets exuded considerable tactical acumen. Whether this will lead to any meaningful resolution of the tangled Palestine issue is moot.

In December, the little-noticed Houthi rebel group in Yemen, another non-state entity, picked up the Palestine gauntlet and embarked upon a daring attack on merchant shipping with Israeli linkage. The impact on global shipping and supply chains has been disruptive, compelling the USA to cobble together a naval task force of like-minded nations to ensure safety and stability in the Red Sea region. This has been a mixed bag since the politics surrounding the relentless Israeli attacks on Palestine have led to divergent views among US allies and there is visible reticence among the latter to uncritically support Washington in this matter.

What is germane is how another non-state entity (again, with covert state support), with no naval capability worth mention, has exploited low-cost technology — unmanned



CR Sasikumar

drones — to attack merchant shipping and cause considerable disruption in one of the world's most critical shipping routes. Missiles have been used by the Houthis making this challenge more formidable than piracy. India has also been adversely impacted by this pattern of attacks and one of them took place just 200 miles off the country's west coast, triggering a stern warning to the perpetrators by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

In alluding to the rhythms of history, the strand to be highlighted is how the target of each attack (Ukraine, Israel or merchant shipping) was caught by surprise, revealing the inadequacy of both actionable intelligence at the tactical level and the ability at a higher planning level to anticipate out-of-the-box security exigencies based on technological trends.

India has a patchy track record in this regard. The October 1962 border war with China, Kargil in 1999, the Mumbai terror attack of 2008 and most recently Galwan in 2020 are cases in point. The surprise element left Indian apex security planners (cabinet committee on security) and the operational force commanders bewildered, and more often than not an arduous reactive response was mounted to overcome the setback.

India enters 2024 with a complex set of security challenges, both on the external front and the LIC-IS (low-intensity conflict - internal security) domain. The security postures of China and Pakistan individually and the strategic cooperation between them, as well as their support to non-state entities, is an abiding challenge for Delhi. Furthermore, the probability that the current Hamas-Houthi churn could embolden groups in the Subcontinent to advance their anti-India agenda remains high. The spike in terrorist violence in Jammu is illustrative.

Recent developments in Myanmar and their spillover into the Indian northeast and the pro-China orientation in the politics of the Maldives could unspool in a manner that is inimical to Indian interests. Currently, the electoral dynamic in Pakistan has the potential to unleash dormant anti-Indian fervour.

India's overall security index will remain relatively parlous in 2024 due to a combination of factors that include electoral compulsions in the early part of the year where rhetoric may be removed from reality and the funding constraints that have hobbled the

India enters 2024 with a complex set of security challenges, both on the external front and the LIC-IS (low-intensity conflict - internal security) domain. The security postures of China and Pakistan individually and the strategic cooperation between them, as well as their support to non-state entities, is an abiding challenge for Delhi. Furthermore, the probability that the current Hamas-Houthi churn could embolden groups in the Subcontinent to advance their anti-India agenda remains high. The spike in terrorist violence in Jammu is illustrative.

The writer is director, Society for Policy Studies, New Delhi

much-needed induction of platforms and modernisation of old inventory. It merits recall that after the Khadur report was tabled in Parliament in March 2018, there has been no objective review of the status of India's military preparedness. Rhetorical assertions are periodically made about the capability of the Indian military, but these are not borne out in the bean counting of tangible combat assets.

The more serious challenge is that institutionally, the Indian *fauj* is going through a radical re-wiring both at the apex, by way of the intent to move towards theatre commands, and at the bottom of the pyramid because of the pattern of recruitment. Appointing a retired three-star officer as the second CDS was a radical decision by the Narendra Modi government that has dented the apolitical nature of the armed forces. Its impact on the combat efficiency of the military and the higher defence management remains indeterminate at this stage. The more significant policy shift has been the introduction of the Agniveer scheme for young recruits — this has resurrected many of the misgivings that were earlier voiced after the excerpts of former army chief General M N Naravane's memoir were made public. The impact on the Gorkha regiments could reduce the combat level of the army in the long run.

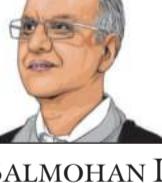
Perhaps the most difficult challenge for security planners worldwide will be to study the tea leaves of 2023, which are yet to settle, and arrive at an informed decision about further acquisitions of conventional platforms (tanks, aircraft carriers, fighter aircraft) and determine their efficacy/vulnerability in the emerging battlefield environment. This will be further modified with the gradual introduction of AI and related technologies. Security planners will have to factor in exigencies that go beyond traditional conflict scenarios, wherein states may be pitted against opaque non-state entities and their hidden support structures that could include market forces and shady corporate power brokers.

The rhymes of history may chime at a quicker pace than envisaged and the security challenges for India in 2024 and beyond will test the nimbleness and bench strength of the next government and the higher defence management team.

The writer is director, Society for Policy Studies, New Delhi

Scientist and the song

Oppenheimer drew on the Gita to grapple with the consequences of his creation



BALMOJAN LIMAYE

OPPENHEIMER, DIRECTED BY Christopher Nolan — one of the most critically acclaimed films of 2023 — has all but swept the Golden Globes, winning five awards including for best actor, director and film. J Robert Oppenheimer, an American physicist, is considered the father of the atomic bomb. He was born into a Jewish family in New York. In 1927, he received his doctorate in Physics from the University of Göttingen in Germany. After working at various universities in Europe, and later at Harvard as well as Caltech in the US, Oppenheimer started teaching at the University of California, Berkeley. He had been interested in Indian philosophy for a long time. He studied Sanskrit with Arthur Ryder, a Professor of Sanskrit at Berkeley, so that he could read the original texts, instead of merely reading their translations. He was particularly fond of the Shrimad Bhagavad Gita. He believed that the Gita was the most beautiful philosophical song that existed in any language of the world.

After entering World War II, the US began major efforts to develop the atomic bomb. The Manhattan Project began in 1942 and General Leslie Groves was put in charge of it. In addition to the work of the scientists at various places like Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and Hanford, Washington, a new laboratory was established in April 1943 at Los Alamos, New Mexico, under Oppenheimer.

Oppenheimer invited several eminent scientists to stay and work at Los Alamos. It was

a huge challenge to come up with new discoveries and engineer them into the atomic bomb. Moreover, this had to be accomplished before Germany could do the same. In the summer of 1945, Oppenheimer's group succeeded in making two atomic bombs, one by fission of Uranium-235, and another by implosion of Plutonium-239. By then, Germany had conceded defeat, but the US was still at war with Japan. At 5:30 am on July 16, 1945, the Trinity Test — so named by Oppenheimer — took place in Alamogordo, New Mexico. Soon after the detonation, a very bright light was produced, and intense heat was created.

Oppenheimer then remembered the following verse from the Gita, which reads as follows when rearranged in prose form: *Yadi surya-sahasrasya bhaah divi yugapat utthita bhavet, saa tasya Mahaatmarah bhaasah sadhshii syaat.* (If a thousand suns would shine at once in the sky, then the brilliant glow would be like that of the Great One.)

In the 11th chapter of the Gita, titled *Vishwaroopadharshana*, Arjuna requests Shri Krishna to reveal his divine form. Krishna endows Arjuna with a special vision of his radiant yet terrifying form. The above-quoted verse is how Sanjaya, the narrator, describes it to Dhritarashtra. Oppenheimer must have felt the same way when he saw the first explosion of the atomic bomb.

After the success of the Trinity Test, Oppenheimer was, of course, proud of his achievement but he soon realised the pro-

found consequences of this act. The roar of the explosion spread a hundred miles in forty seconds, and the resulting mushroom cloud reached a height of seven and a half miles. The detonation released an energy which was more than the explosive energy of twenty kilotons of the chemical compound TNT (trinitrotoluene). Everything nearby was destroyed. It was clear to Oppenheimer that such nuclear weapons would be produced, and used in the near future. The possibility of destroying the entire world could not be ruled out. Oppenheimer must have felt responsible, at least partially, for such a bleak future. He recalled the first line of another verse from the 11th chapter of the Gita. To him, it meant "I am Death, the destroyer of worlds". The entire verse, rearranged in prose, reads as follows: *Lokashayakrt pravrddhah kaalah (aham asmi) jihva loakaan samaahartum pravrtaah (asmi) ye pratyanikeshu yodhaah (te) sarve twaa te api na bhavishyanti.* (I am Death, the destroyer of peoples, grown wildly. Here I am ready to demolish people. Even if you were not present, all the warriors in the opposing armies will [eventually] be no more.)

Shri Krishna uttered this verse while exhibiting his divine form to Arjuna. The purpose of this verse was to remove Arjuna's hesitation to battle his teachers and relatives and to encourage him to follow his duty as a Kshatriya warrior. In the Gita, Arjuna follows the "natural duties" (*swadharma*) of a Kshatriya, and leaves the responsibility of his

actions to Shri Krishna. Oppenheimer had followed the *swadharma* of a scientist to discover new things and was forced to leave the consequences of his discovery to US President Harry Truman.

Devdutt Pattanaik, a commentator on Indian mythology, said in an interview (IE, July 24, 2023) that Oppenheimer's reference "I am become death" is nowhere to be found in the Gita. He says that "Kalo smi" in verse 11.32 means "I am time". I know at least three meanings of the word "kaal" — the colour black, time, and death or Yama. Which of these meanings is intended depends on the context. If we see the adjective "lokakshayakrit" (meaning the destroyer of people), which occurs immediately after, we must take "kaal" here to mean death. The traditional commentators of the Gita have given the same meaning.

Late in life, Oppenheimer was asked which 10 books had the most profound influence on him. On his list were Shakespeare's *Hamlet* and T.S. Eliot's *The Waste Land*, along with the Gita and Bhartrihari's *Shatakatraya*. In the Bradbury Science Museum of the Los Alamos Laboratory, is the US National Security Research Center. There are only two personal items of Oppenheimer in their collection: One is his office chair, and the other is his copy of the Gita; its cover page bears his initials at the top right.

The writer is former Professor of Mathematics at IIT-Bombay

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"The privatisation of the Royal Mail, and its separation from the Post Office, is also part of the backdrop to the scandal. How this change affected the organisation's culture is also worth considering. While these cruel past events cannot be undone, at last they are gaining wider recognition."

— THE GUARDIAN

Doing justice, reinforcing trust

In holding the premature release of convicts in the Bilkis Bano case as illegal, the Supreme Court has lived up to the constitutional promise



REKHA SHARMA

THE JUDGMENT OF the Supreme Court quashing the Gujarat government's order prematurely releasing 11 persons sentenced to life imprisonment for gang-raping a five-month pregnant Bilkis Bano, and killing 14 members of her family, including her three-year-old daughter, in the 2002 Gujarat riots has come as a breath of fresh air. The verdict has kindled hope in many hearts. It assures us that all is not lost and that there are judges who not only swear by the Constitution but see to it that no injustice is done. The verdict ensures that those who violate the law of the land are suitably dealt with.

Bilkis Bano was living in the comfort of her home with her husband, and a child playing in the courtyard. Her world turned upside down on the day her body was repeatedly brutalised and 14 members of her family including a three-year-old daughter were killed in organised violence. But she rose from the ashes and fought a long-drawn battle in the courts, ultimately resulting in the conviction of the accused, and their being sentenced to life imprisonment. She thought that it was the end of her ordeal. But she was mistaken. In a rare order, the Gujarat government citing the good conduct of all the accused in jail, their age, and the fact that they had spent more than 14 years in prison released them prematurely. The truth was that even during their so-called incarceration, the convicts were out of jail for more than a thousand days on parole.

Ironically, it was on August 15, 2022, that they walked free from the prison. The Gujarat government, as well as the Centre, disregarded dissenting voices from the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), and the Special CBI judge while releasing the convicts. The CBI had opposed their release on the grounds that the offence was heinous, grave and serious, and that no leniency should be shown to them. The Special Judge, on the other hand, noted that "the crime was committed only on the ground that the victim belonged to a particular community." As if their premature release was not enough, a former Gujarat minister and a six-time MLA from Godhra rubbed salt on the wounds of Bilkis Bano. He made an outrageous state-

against this background, the Supreme Court's judgment holding the premature release of Bilkis Bano's tormentors as illegal, and ordering them to be deprived of their unwelcome and undeserved liberty will go a long way in restoring the confidence of the people in the judiciary as a whole and the apex court in particular. The judgment not only speaks of the "rule of law" but also reminds us, in the words of Oliver Goldsmith, that "our greatest glory is not in never failing, but in rising every time we fall". The nation salutes the judges, and hopes that there will never again be a time to repeat what Mark Twain said in desperation, "There are times when one would like to hang the human race and finish the farce".

The writer is a former judge of the Delhi High Court

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LEARN FROM HISTORY

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Sheikh Hasina Again' (IE, January 9). Sheikh Hasina's victory in the elections might indicate stable ties with India, but it raises concerns about an allegedly autocratic leader in the neighbourhood. The incarceration of Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus and opposition leaders in Bangladesh reeks of the putrefying democratic fabric in the country. The ruling dispensation would be well advised to restore democracy in its true essence lest there be serious upsurges in the future. In the words of Winston Churchill, "those that fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it".

Vinay Saroha, New Delhi

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Sheikh Hasina again' (IE, January 9). The Opposition in Bangladesh stayed away from the election process stating that polling would not be free and fair. Many leaders of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) were arrested, which doesn't augur well for a democracy. People's participation in the voting was at a measly 40 per cent. Sheikh Hasina must balance China's dominant influence in the economy such that India's interests are kept intact. All border issues are resolved, which indicates a current climate of peace and prosperity in Indo-Bangla ties. The people of the region will benefit from the progress of close and cordial relations between the two nations.

Shaswat Jena, Ghaziabad

FIGHT FOR GOOD

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'An extraordinary judgment' (IE, January 9). No one is above the law as was conveyed by the Supreme Court in its unprecedented judgment. It overturned the Gujarat High Court's decision and sent heinous culprits back to jail. Such swift instances of intervention through judicial review are vital to uphold the legal process and its integrity, a facet which is long lost and is the need of the hour. Bilkis Bano's perseverance in the arduous fight for justice is exemplary. Even so, the grave oversight of law, involving suppression of facts and the high court upholding a remission order is a serious matter which requires further scrutiny.

Raja Bandopadhyay, Vadodara

ISRO'S FEAT

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Here comes the sun' (IE, January 8). Since the launch of SOHO (Solar and Heliospheric Observatory) in 1995 by NASA, India is now the eighth country to join the big league and perhaps the first among developing nations to study the sun's atmosphere from up close. ISRO is already the first to land on the dark side of the moon after Chandrayaan 2.0 failed to put Pragyan on the lunar surface. If failures are the stepping stones to success, ISRO is indeed going from strength to strength. Though it's not the time to steal its thunder, concern about the numerous satellites crowding space is growing. Space programmes would in the future, have to deal with a lot of space debris.

Raja Bandopadhyay, Vadodara



A Royal Mail Post Office in London. AP

UNITED KINGDOM
Ex-Post Office boss gives back royal honour

London: The former head of Britain's state-owned Post Office said Tuesday she will hand back a royal honour in response to mounting fury over a miscarriage of justice that saw hundreds of postmasters wrongfully accused of theft because of a faulty computer system. The government is considering whether to offer a mass amnesty to more than 700 branch managers convicted of theft or fraud between 1999 and 2015, because computers wrongly showed that money was missing. Ex-Post Office chief executive Paula Vennells said she would relinquish the title of Commander of the Order of the British Empire that she received in 2018. AP

SRI LANKA
House okays Bill to set up office for national unity

Colombo: The Sri Lankan Parliament on Tuesday passed a bill to establish a national unity and reconciliation office, in a key step towards post-conflict reconciliation with the minority Tamil community. The bill to set up the 'Office for National Unity and Reconciliation' was passed with a majority of 48 votes, while 7 Members of Parliament voted against it. The seven votes against the bill came from Tamil parliamentarians who claimed it served no purpose as the already established reconciliation mechanisms had failed to provide any redress to the community. PTI

ECUADOR
Emergency declared amid prison chaos

Quito: Ecuadorian President Daniel Noboa has declared a state of emergency for 60 days a day after the country's most-wanted prisoner disappeared from jail. The state of emergency and surrounding events are among the first big security tests for Noboa, a young businessman who took office in November. Ecuador's prison agency said there were "incidents" on Monday at six of the country's overcrowded prisons, where clashes between rival gangs are frequent and have left more than 400 prisoners dead since 2021. On Sunday, Adolfo Macias, leader of the Los Choneros criminal gang, disappeared from the prison. REUTERS

UNITED STATES
Explosion at historic Texas hotel injures 21

Texas: An explosion at a historic Texas hotel in Fort Worth on Monday blew out windows, littered downtown streets with large sections of debris from the building and injured 21 people, including one critical condition. Authorities said they believe a gas leak caused the explosion and said the hotel had been undergoing construction. AP



THE WORLD

With a message from Arab leaders, Blinken in Israel to seek planning for post-war Gaza

Quietly working to encourage Israel to get out of Gaza: Biden

AGENCIES
TEL AVIV, JANUARY 9

US SECRETARY OF STATE Antony Blinken faced tough talks with Israeli leaders on Gaza's post-war future Tuesday, while Israel's military pushed ahead with its offensive in the beleaguered territory.

Heavy bombardment shook refugee camps, sending Palestinians scrambling to find safety and hampering aid groups' efforts to get relief to people.

Blinken said he was coming to Israel with promises from four Arab nations and Turkey to help in rebuilding Gaza after the war. But those nations also want to see an end to the fighting in Gaza and concrete steps toward the eventual creation of a Palestinian state alongside Israel, something Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has vowed not to allow. US officials have called for the Palestinian Authority, which currently governs parts of the Israeli-occupied West Bank, to take the reins in Gaza. Israeli leaders have rejected that idea but haven't put forward a concrete plan.

At the same time, Blinken is



Palestinians wait to collect drinking water in Rafah, Gaza Strip, on Tuesday. AP

trying to prevent an all-out war between Israel and Lebanon's Hezbollah. After a presumed Israeli strike last week hit Beirut, killing Hamas's deputy leader, the two sides have stepped up their exchanges. On Tuesday, Hezbollah said its drones targeted the Israeli army northern command in the town of Sufad—deeper into Israel than previous fire by the group. The Israeli military said a drone fell at a base in the north without causing damage.

Israel has vowed to keep going until it has destroyed Hamas. Still,

after three months of fighting, Hamas continues to put up a fierce fight. "The fighting will continue throughout 2024," military spokesman Daniel Hagari said.

Throughout the night and into Tuesday morning, warplanes struck multiple areas in and around Khan Younis and in central Gaza. The U.N. humanitarian office, known as OCHA, warned that the fighting was severely hampering aid deliveries.

Britain's foreign minister David Cameron said he was worried that Israel might have

breached international law in Gaza. Asked during a question-and-answer session with lawmakers if Israel could be vulnerable to a challenge at the International Criminal Court over whether their actions were proportionate, Cameron said the stance was "close to that."

US president Joe Biden, confronted on Monday by protesters shouting "Ceasefire now!" while visiting a church, said he had been "quietly" working to encourage Israel to ease its attacks and "significantly get out of Gaza".

'Fauda' actor injured in Gaza

Jerusalem: Israeli actor-singer Idan Amedi, best known for starring in Netflix series "Fauda", was seriously injured while fighting as a IDF reservist in Khan Younis in the Gaza Strip. Israeli diplomat Avia Levi shared the news of Amedi's injury

in a post on X.

Amedi, 35, was airlifted to a hospital on Monday where he was sedated and received treatment. His father later told an Israeli news outlet that his son was no longer in danger. PTI

SINGAPORE, LANKA TO JOIN RED SEA OP

Singapore will contribute troops to a US-led international security force formed to respond to attacks by Yemen's Houthis against merchant vessels in the Red Sea, Defence Minister Ng Eng Hen said on Tuesday. Sri Lanka's navy is also preparing to join a US-led operation in the Red Sea. PTI



WINTER HALT

A truck driver sweeps snow from the roof of a truck at Polish-Ukrainian border in Poland, on Tuesday. Ukraine's power grid operator said severe winter weather left more than 1,000 towns and villages without electricity in nine regions. Reuters

People's Democratic Party returns to power in Bhutan

ASSOCIATED PRESS
THIMPHU, JANUARY 9

THE PEOPLE'S Democratic Party won the most seats in Bhutan's parliamentary elections on Tuesday and will form the new government as residents hope politicians make good on promises to fix the economic crisis in the Himalayan nation.

Latest figures from the Bhutan Broadcasting Service, a national broadcaster, showed the PDP had won 30 of the 47 National Assembly seats to return to power, and the Bhutan Tendrel Party had secured 17.

It was the country's fourth general elections since its transformation from a traditional

monarchy to a parliamentary form of government in 2008.

Candidates on Tuesday's ballot represented only the PDP of former Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay and the BTP led by former civil servant Pema Chewang.

The US State Department, in

UN, US, UK say Bangladesh polls 'not fair'; China skips Hasina name

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DHAKA/NEW YORK, JAN 9

EVEN AS India, Russia, China and several nations from Asia, Africa and South America greeted Sheikh Hasina for securing a historic fourth term as prime minister, the United States and the United Kingdom expressed their reservations terming the polls as "not free or fair."

Hasina's Awami League (AL) won 223 seats in the 300-member Parliament on Sunday in the polls boycotted by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), the main opposition.

The US State Department, in

a press statement Monday, said that Washington remains concerned by the arrests of thousands of political opposition members and by reports of irregularities on election day in Bangladesh. UN Human Rights Chief Volker Turk called on Bangladesh's newly elected government to take steps to renew the country's commitment to democracy and human rights, voicing distress that the environ-

ment for poll was marred by violence and repression of opposition candidates and supporters.

In contrast, there were greetings and applause that were showered on Hasina by India, China, Russia and several other countries from across Asia, West Asia, Africa and South America on Monday and Tuesday.

China on Tuesday congratulated the Awami League party in Bangladesh for winning the general elections. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning reacting to a question spoke about Beijing's relations with Dhaka, especially its infrastructure projects, but any reference to PM Hasina was conspicuously absent.

During the hearing of the cases, police sought physical remand of the 71-year-old founder of the GHQ attack case, however, ATC Judge Malik Ajiaz Asif turned down the request. The judge directed the police to interrogate Khan in Adiala prison, it added.

On Monday, the special court formed to hear cases under the

AMID TENSIONS WITH RUSSIA OVER UKRAINE

US CITIZEN HELD IN MOSCOW ON DRUG CHARGES

Moscow: A US citizen has been arrested on drug charges in Russia, officials said on Tuesday, a move that comes amid soaring Russia-US tensions over Ukraine. The arrest of Robert Woodland Romanov was reported by the press service of the Moscow courts.

MACRON SEEKS RESET

France gets its youngest, first openly gay PM

Seen as Macron bid to move beyond unpopular immigration reforms

REUTERS
PARIS, JANUARY 9



majority shortly after being re-elected in 2022. "By appointing Gabriel Attal ... Emmanuel Macron wants to cling to his popularity in opinion polls to alleviate the pain of an interminable end to his reign," said Jordan Bardella, the 28-year old leader of Le Pen's National Rally party. "Instead, he risks taking the short-lived Education Minister with him in his fall."

Other opposition leaders were quick to say they did not expect much from the change in prime minister, with Macron himself taking on much of the decision-making. "Elisabeth Borne, Gabriel Attal or someone else, I don't care, it will just be the same policies," Socialist Party leader Olivier Faure said.

But MP Patrick Vignal, who belongs to Macron's Renaissance party, said Attal is "a bit like the Macron of 2017", referring to the point at which the President first took office as the youngest leader in modern French history, at the time a popular figure among voters. Attal "is clear, he has authority", Vignal said.

After release order in Cipher case, Imran held over attack on Army HQ



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD, JANUARY 9

JAILLED FORMER prime minister Imran Khan was Tuesday arrested in a case related to the attack on the Pakistan Army headquarters in Rawalpindi on May 9 last year, soon after his release warrant was issued in the cipher case.

An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Rawalpindi had summoned the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder, who is already behind bars in cipher and graft cases, in May 9 cases on Tuesday. However, Khan attended the court's proceedings via video link as he could not be produced in the court by Adiala jail authorities owing to security concerns.

During the hearing of the cases, police sought physical remand of the 71-year-old founder of the GHQ attack case, however, ATC Judge Malik Ajiaz Asif turned down the request. The judge directed the police to interrogate Khan in Adiala prison, it added.

On Monday, the special court formed to hear cases under the

Official Secrets Act had issued its release orders in the cipher case. Despite having the order, Khan remains behind bars due to being arrested in the Toshakhna and 190 million pound Al-Qadir Trust scandal.

Relief for Nawaz Sharif

After securing swift relief from Pakistani courts in different corruption cases since his return from exile, former prime minister Nawaz Sharif on Tuesday got another one as the national anti-graft body closed a major corruption investigation against him and his daughter Maryam Nawaz.

The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) announced closing a mega corruption probe against 74-year-old Nawaz Sharif and his other family members in the Sharif Trust case. The development comes ahead of the February 8 polls.

WARNING FROM TAIWAN ABOUT SATELLITE, ERRONEOUSLY CALLED MISSILE IN ENGLISH, RAISES CONCERN DAYS BEFORE POLLS

A missile, a rocket or a satellite? China launch sows confusion in Taiwan

DAMIEN CAVE
TAIPEI, JANUARY 9

TAIWAN'S DEFENSE ministry issued an urgent alert Tuesday about a Chinese satellite launched on a rocket flying over the island, an alarming message that interrupted the final days of campaigning before a major election and spurred accusations of a political ploy.

The alert was sent to mobile phones across the island of 23 million people, where presidential and legislative assembly elections will be held Saturday. In English, the initial alert cautioned there was a missile fly-



A mobile phone showing an air raid alert about a Chinese satellite. Taiwan's defense ministry later apologized for an error in the English alert that called it a missile. Reuters

over—an error quickly corrected by Taiwanese officials.

"It was a satellite, not a missile," President Tsai Ing-wen said during a campaign stop in the southern city of Kaohsiung. "Don't worry."

Taiwan's defense ministry issued a statement about an hour later, apologizing for the mistake. But by then, the warning had created an awkward scene for the governing Democratic Progressive Party or DPP.

Over the past few months, Chinese officials have framed the race as a choice between peace and war, suggesting that another D.P.P. victory after eight years in power would intensify the risk

of conflict. But the alert on Tuesday seemed to carry a greater degree of concern.

With just days to go before the election, however, the mistake created a stir for voters and rival parties. The leading opposition party—the National Party, Kuomintang, or KMT—is issued its own rapid-fire response. "I think the Ministry of National Defense is trying to mislead the public by issuing such an alert," said Eric Chu, the K.M.T.'s chairman. Alexander Chieh-cheng Huang, an adviser to the opposition Nationalist Party, said "it's all part of the campaign," he said.

The DPP sought to distance itself from the move. NYT

KJM VARMA
BEIJING, JANUARY 9

CHINA TUESDAY sent a new astronomical satellite shaped like a lotus into space to observe mysterious transient phenomena in the universe that flicker like fireworks.

The satellite named Einstein Probe (EP), which uses new X-ray detection technology inspired by the functioning of a lobster eye, was launched by a Long March-2C carrier rocket at 3:03 p.m. (Beijing time) from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in south-



Einstein Probe. ep.bao.ac.cn

two stamens, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

The 12 "petals" are 12 modules consisting of wide-field X-ray telescopes, while the two "stamens" consist of two modules of follow-up X-ray telescopes. These telescopes form a space observatory which is aimed at helping scientists capture the first light stemming from supernova explosions, search for pinpoint X-ray signals accompanying gravitational wave events, and discover dormant black holes and other celestial objects at the far reaches of the universe.



13

E. EXPLAINED

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2024



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If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to explained@indianexpress.com

The long-running legal dispute over the minority character of AMU

RITIKA CHOPRA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 9

A SEVEN-JUDGE Bench of the Supreme Court on Tuesday started hearing the matter pertaining to Aligarh Muslim University's (AMU)'s minority character. This is a dispute that dates back almost 57 years — and has been adjudicated upon multiple times by different courts.

What is the 'minority character' of an educational institution?

Article 30(1) of the Constitution empowers all religious and linguistic minorities to establish and administer educational institutions. This provision reinforces the Union government's commitment to foster growth and development of minority communities by guaranteeing that it will not discriminate in giving aid on the basis of their being 'minority' institutions.

When and how was AMU set up?

AMU's origins can be traced back to the Muhammadi Anglo-Oriental (MOA) College, established by Sir Syed Ahmad Khan in 1875 to help Muslims overcome educational backwardness and prepare for government services. MOA not only imparted Western education but also emphasised Islamic theology. Sir Syed also advocated for women's education.

In 1920, the institution was conferred university status, and all assets of MOA College were transferred to it. The long title to the AMU Act read: "An Act to incorporate a teaching and residential Muslim University at Aligarh."

When did the university's minority character come under dispute?

The legal dispute over AMU's minority status dates back to 1967 when the Supreme Court (in *S. Azeem Basha and another versus Union of India*), led by then Chief Justice of India KN Wanchoo, was reviewing changes

made in 1951 and 1965 to the AMU Act of 1920. These amendments affected how the university was run. For instance, originally, the 1920 Act said that the Governor General of India would be the head of the University. But in 1951, it was changed to replace 'Lord Rector' with 'Visitor', and this Visitor would be the President of India.

Further, a provision that said only Muslims could be part of the University Court was removed, allowing non-Muslims to join. Additionally, the amendments reduced the authority of the University Court and increased the powers of the Executive Council of AMU. As a result, the Court essentially became a body appointed by the 'Visitor'.

These alterations in the AMU's structure faced a legal challenge in the Supreme Court. The petitioners argued primarily on the grounds that Muslims established AMU and, therefore, had the right to manage it. It was

while considering the challenge to these amendments that the top court held on October 20, 1967, that AMU was neither established nor administered by the Muslim minority.

The highest court determined that in 1920, Muslims could have set up a university, but that would not have guaranteed the degrees from that university would be officially recognised by the Indian government. Hence, the court emphasised, AMU was established through a central Act to ensure the government's recognition of its degrees. So while the Act may have been passed as a result of the efforts of the Muslim minority, it does not imply that the University, under the 1920 Act, was established by the Muslim minority, the SC ruled.

Additionally, according to the 1920 Act, the SC stated, the university was not solely operated by Muslims. Instead, its administration was entrusted to the Lord Rector and

other statutory bodies. Even the University Court, which had only Muslim members, was elected by an electorate which was not exclusively Muslim, the Supreme Court noted.

Why does the dispute continue?

The SC ruling triggered nationwide protests from Muslims. In response, political authorities yielded in 1981 and introduced an amendment to the AMU Act, explicitly affirming its minority status. The amendment introduced Section 2(l) and Subsection 5(2)(c), which stated that the university was "an educational institution of their choice established by the Muslims of India" and "subsequently incorporated" as the AMU.

In 2005, the AMU implemented a reservation policy, reserving 50% of seats in post-graduate medical courses for Muslim candidates. This was challenged in the Allahabad High Court, which, in the same year, overturned the reservation and nullified the 1981 Act. The court reasoned that the AMU could

not maintain an exclusive reservation because, according to the Supreme Court's verdict in the *S. Azeem Basha* case, it did not qualify as a minority institution.

Subsequently, in 2006, a set of eight petitions, including one from the Union government, contested the High Court's decision before the Supreme Court.

In 2016, the NDA government informed the SC that it was withdrawing the appeal filed by the government, saying, "as the executive government at the Centre, we can't be seen as setting up a minority institution in a secular state".

On February 12, 2019, a three-judge Bench presided over by then Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi referred the matter to a seven-judge Bench. On Tuesday, the Bench, comprising Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud, and Justices Sanjiv Khanna, Surya Kant, J B Pardiwala, Dipankar Datta, Manoj Misra, and Satish Chandra Sharma, started hearing the case.

EXPLAINED GLOBAL

WHO IS GABRIEL ATTAL, FRANCE'S NEW, 34-YR-OLD, FIRST OPENLY GAY PM?

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 9

PM Attal during the handover ceremony on Tuesday. Reuters

Why a new PM in France?

Picking a fresh face seems to be part of Marcon's attempts to infuse new life into his government ahead of the European Union Parliament elections in June, where his ratings are down.

Macron was re-elected President in 2022, but his government lost parliamentary majority that same year. Last year began with a massive backlash against his pension plans, and ended with protests against changes in the immigration law.

Before Attal, Laurent Fabius was the youngest French PM, appointed at age 37 by President François Mitterrand in 1984. Attal was appointed after Elisabeth Borne resigned as Prime Minister on Monday.

Who is Gabriel Attal?

Attal held the education portfolio in Borne's government. Suave and well-spoken, he has been polled the most popular minister in the outgoing government, according to *The Associated Press*. He is also France's first openly gay Prime Minister.

In many ways, Attal's rapid rise mirrors that of Macron himself, who won his first term amid much adulation for his youth and seemingly clear and articulate vision. Attal left the Socialist Party, which

he had joined at the age of 17, in 2016 to back Macron's presidential bid.

As education minister, Attal banned *abayas*, the long, loose robes worn by Muslim women, pushed a proposal for mandatory uniforms in schools, and sought to stamp out bullying.

Attal's parents worked in film production. His father, Yves Attal, was also a lawyer. Attal attended the private *École alsacienne* school, and then the Sciences Po university in Paris. Some critics have pointed to his elite background to claim he is out of touch with the reality of France's provinces.

What changes in France?

Not much. In France's political system, the President is the leader with the greater powers. The Prime Minister is appointed by the President and is in charge of implementing domestic policy.

The PM is also supposed to ensure coordination among the various ministries. While some believe Attal will have a tough time taking more senior cabinet colleagues along, others point out that his personal popularity and energy can help the Macron government shake off the setbacks of the last two years and forge a more constructive path ahead.

EXPLAINED SCIENCE

India & giant radio telescope

India has decided to join the Square Kilometer Array (SKA) project. What is this international scientific collaboration, what will it do, and how will joining it with full member status help India's scientists?



AMITABH SINHA

INDIA HAS decided to formally join the Square Kilometer Array (SKA) project, an international scientific collaboration working to build the world's largest radio telescope.

India had already been contributing to the project for several years, but full member status, which offers greater scientific opportunities to use the upcoming facility, requires countries to sign and ratify an international treaty meant for this purpose, and also make a financial commitment. India has approved Rs 1,250 crore for the project, which includes its funding contribution for the construction phase.

The decision to join SKA as a full member ensures India's participation in yet another international mega science project in the most advanced areas of scientific research. India has already decided to build a gravitational wave detector to join the international LIGO (Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory) network, and is a full member of the ITER project, which is working to harness energy from nuclear fusion. It also has a strong participation in the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), the world's largest and most powerful particle accelerator that is running some of the most exciting experiments in particle physics.

The Square Kilometer Array

The SKA will not be a single large telescope, but a collection of thousands of dish antennas operating as a single unit. The name, Square Kilometer Array, comes from the original intention to create one square kilometre (one million square metre) of effective area for collecting radio waves. This was meant to be achieved by installing thousands of smaller antennas in a specific array design that would make them function like a single radio telescope. As of now, it appears that the US\$ 2.4 billion project (2021 prices) would eventually have a lesser collecting area than one square kilometre, but the orig-

inal name has been retained.

The antennas, about 200 of which are in South Africa and more than 130,000 in Australia, are being installed in sparsely populated locations, chosen to ensure they are as far away from human activities as possible. This has been done in order to minimise signal interference from undesirable Earth-based sources. Construction at both the sites began in December 2022, and the first phase of the project is expected to be completed by next year.

Once operational, SKA would be between 5 and 60 times more powerful than the most advanced existing radio telescopes functioning in comparable frequency ranges.

What's in it for India

Though none of the SKA facilities would be located in India, there are immense science and technology gains for the country by participating in the project as a full member. In this regard, SKA offers opportunities similar to the LHC or the ITER, which too are located on foreign soil but have brought rich dividends to the Indian scientific community.

Radio astronomy is something in which India already has highly developed capabilities. The Giant Meterwave Radio Telescope (GMRT) near Pune is one of the most advanced — and sought-after — facilities in the world, which has been producing remarkable scientific results. There are other similar facilities in Ooty, Nainital and Bengaluru. The SKA, which will become the most promising tool for research in the most pressing sci-

tific questions in astronomy, offers the next logical step forward for Indian scientists working in this area.

Full member status would provide India preferential access to the SKA facilities. Most existing telescopes operate under an open-use policy which allows research groups from any country to get time on the facility through competitive bidding by making a scientific case. This is how the GMRT also works. But there is a growing argument that countries that contribute to building any large international project should have priority access to that facility. This is likely to be the case with the SKA. Member countries will get preferential allocation of time on the radio telescope, roughly in proportion to their contribution to the project, and only limited time slots would be available through competitive bidding.

There are technology benefits as well. The SKA would work on highest-end technologies, including electronics, software, materials science and computing. The intellectual properties generated by the project, though owned by the SKA Observatory, would be accessible to all the member countries. This can offer huge learning opportunities for scientists, academics and even private industry.

Participating in the project is also expected to result in expanding the science and technology base in this area, along with capacity building and training opportunities. The Indian participation in the project is being led by Pune-based National Centre for

Radio Astrophysics (NCRA), but 22 institutions are collaborating on SKA-related activities in the country. These include not just leading research institutions and some IITs and IISERs, but also a couple of universities and colleges. A few private companies are also involved.

India's involvement

India has been involved in the SKA project right from its inception in the 1990s, and contributed to the design and development of the telescope as well as in negotiating the SKA Observatory Convention, the international treaty that established the facility as an intergovernmental organisation. The main contribution has come in the development, and operation, of the Telescope Manager, the 'neural network' or the software that will run the entire facility.

There are plans to set up an SKA regional centre in the country that will be part of the global network to process and store data and make it available for the scientific community.

Indian scientists have identified several areas of research for which they want to use the SKA telescopes. These include studies relating to the evolution of the early universe, the formation and evolution of galaxies, neutron star physics, and solar sciences. More than 150 scientists, researchers, and students from over 30 different Indian institutions, including a few private companies, have been participating in ongoing science activities related to the SKA.

Prototype antennas for the SKA-Low telescope being installed at the Murchison Radio-Astronomy Observatory (MRO) in Australia. ICRAR. (Right) SKA-MPI, the Max Planck Society-funded prototype dish, is assembled at the South African site. SARAO



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Why 2023 was the warmest year on record, and what happens now

ALIND CHAUHAN
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 9

2023 WAS the warmest year since records began in 1850, beating the previous record of 2016, Europe's Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) said on Tuesday. The announcement said temperatures in 2023 likely exceeded those of any year-long period in at least the last 100,000 years.

Last year was 1.48 degree Celsius warmer than the average of the 1850–1900 pre-industrial level and 0.17 degree Celsius warmer than 2016.

The announcement was confirmation of what scientists have known for a few months. The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) had said in November last year that 2023 was set to emerge as the warmest year on record, based on data until October. The gap with 2016 was so large that data from November and December were unlikely to change this situation.

Rising temperatures contributed to a large number of extreme weather events around the world in 2023, including heatwaves, floods, droughts, and wildfires.

Tumbling records

Climate records fell like dominoes in the

exceptional heat spell witnessed last year.

2023 marked the first time that every day within a year exceeded 1 degree Celsius above the 1850–1900 pre-industrial level.

About 50% of days were more than 1.5 degree Celsius warmer than the 1850–1900 level — and two days in November were, for the first time, more than 2 degree Celsius warmer.

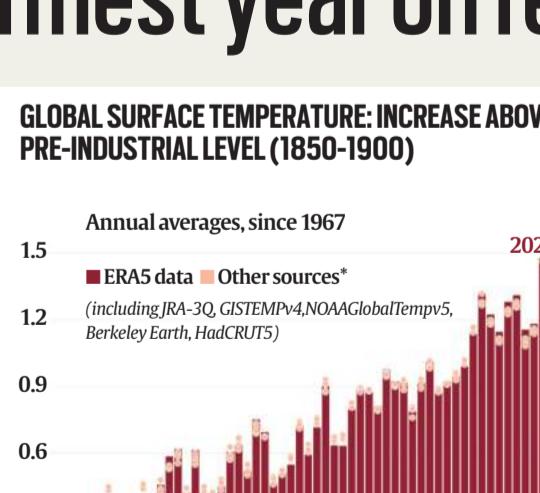
This, however, does not mean that the planet has breached the 1.5 degree and 2 degree Celsius thresholds set by the 2015 Paris Agreement. Those thresholds refer to long-term warming — which means global temperatures over a period of 20–30 years, on average, must not exceed 1.5 degree or 2 degree Celsius.

Global daily average sea surface temperature (SST) also went off the charts. Since mid-March 2023, the daily average SST has been the highest ever, according to Climate Reanalyzer, a website produced by the University of Maine, which provides visualisations of publicly available datasets and models.

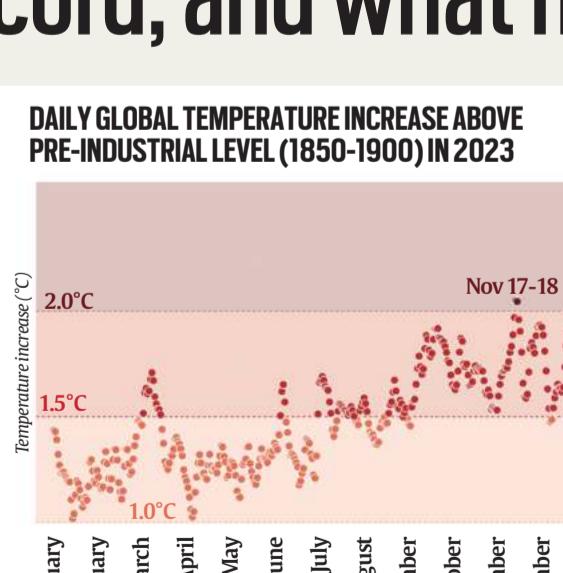
Sea ice extent in Antarctica plummeted to a new low. In September, it reached an annual maximum 16.96 million sq km, which was 1.03 million sq km less than the previous record low set in 1986.

Why was it so hot?

GLOBAL SURFACE TEMPERATURE: INCREASE ABOVE PRE-INDUSTRIAL LEVEL (1850-1900)



DAILY GLOBAL TEMPERATURE INCREASE ABOVE PRE-INDUSTRIAL LEVEL (1850-1900) IN 2023



oil, and gases have released unprecedented levels of such gases. As a result, the planet has warmed rapidly, especially in recent decades.

In 2023, greenhouse gas concentrations reached the highest levels ever recorded in the

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA CORRIGENDUM

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	OLD REFERENCE/NIT NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	THE ROHTAK COOP MILK PRODUCERS UNION LTD	2023_HBC_338169_1	DATE EXTENDED 15.01.2024 & OPENING ON 16.01.2024	https://etenders.hry.nic.in http://vitaindia.org.in	9996577829 vitarohtak@gmail.com

24055/HRY FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / END (APPROX. IN RUPEES)	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HSAMB SIRSA	04.01.2024 18.01.2024	3.17 CRORES	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416178720 xersirsa.hsm23@gmail.com

24051/HRY FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

**GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, PWD (ROADS),
CITY ROAD CIRCLE, BAMUNIMAI DAN, GUWAHATI-21
PRESS NOTICE / IFB**

No. CS/SOPD-G/FM/11/2023-24/2
The Superintending Engineer, PWD, (Roads), City Road Circle, Ghy-21 on behalf of the Governor of Assam invites item rate Bid from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Assam PWD (Roads) for 7 (Seven) nos. of Group of works under Flood Mitigation (FM) for the year 2023-24 for improvement/ construction of Guwahati City Roads /drain works in Kamrup (M) district of Assam. Details may be seen at website <http://assamtenders.gov.in> and also at the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Schemes are not yet sanctioned by the competent authority. In the event of non-sanctioning of the schemes, the bids may be treated as cancelled and no claim what so ever on this account shall be entertained.

Superintending Engineer, PWD (Roads)
City Road Circle, Guwahati-21

JANASANYOG/CF/4707/23/10-JAN-24

झारखण्ड सरकार

ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग कार्यपालक अधिकारी का कार्यालय
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, जमशेदपुर

ई-अति अल्पकालिन पुनर्निवाद संख्या:- 05/2023-24/RJ/RWD/EE/JSR दिनांक :-08.01.2024
कार्यपालक अधिकारी, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, जमशेदपुर द्वारा निम्न विवरण के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति से निवादा प्राप्ति की जाएगी है।

क्र. सं०	आईडी-टीफीकेशनसं० ख्या/पैकेज संख्या	कार्य का नाम	प्राप्तिलित राशि (रुपये में)		कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि	टेंडर कोड सं०
			अंक में	अंक में		
1.	RWD/JAMSHEDPUR/12/2023-24	गंगा-गंगड़म राजांगा से बाकाई भाया शासनधूर, मोहनाली, चुकटा विवरणगांडा तक पथ निर्माण कार्य। (रु.10,19,32,500.00 की रुपये में)	10,19,32,500.00	दस कोड उनीस लाख वर्षी हजार पीछे सी ८० मात्र	15 माह	द्वितीय
2.		वेबसाइट में निवादा प्रकाशन की तिथि :-10.01.2024।				
3.		ई-निवादा प्राप्ति की अतिंत तिथि एवं समय :-18.01.2024 अप्राह्ण 5.00 बजे तक।				
4.		निवादा शुरू एवं अप्राह्ण की राशि jharkhandtenders.gov.in के माध्यम से ऑनलाइन मोड में स्वीकार की जाएगी।				
5.		निवादा खोलाए की तिथि एवं समय :-20.01.2024 अप्राह्ण 11.00 बजे।				
6.		निवादा आमंत्रित करने वाले प्राधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :-कार्यपालक अधिकारी, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, जमशेदपुर, लॉक-करणडी, थाना-परसुरामी, जमशेदपुर, झारखण्ड, पिन-831002।				
7.		ई-निवादा प्रक्रोक्त का दूरभाष सं०-0657-2298902।				
8.		विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाइट jharkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है।				

PR 315462 REO(23-24)D

**office of Superintending Engineer
Moradabad Circle, P.W.D. Moradabad**
E-Procurement Notice Inviting Tender

No.- 6206 /Nivida-Moradabad/23-24 Dated :-18-12-2023

On behalf of the Governor of UP, tender for following work are invited by the Superintending Engineer, Moradabad Circle, PWD Moradabad online on website <http://etender.up.nic.in> from registered contractors in Column no-8 from **12.01.2024 at 10.00 am to 18-01-2024 at 12:00 pm**.

Amount mentioned in column no. 5 & 7 shall be mandatory deposited by Net Banking Only through E-tender portal. Technical bid /Prequalification of tenders shall be opened on **18-01-2024 at 12.30 pm** in office of undersigned by tender committee in presence of authorised representatives/bidders who wish to be present. Financial bid of the tenders who qualify in technical bid shall be opened on date and time as specified by a notice in the office of undersigned. In case of Government holiday the required process shall be carried out on next working day.

Sl. No.	DIST-ICT	Name of Work	Estimated cost (Rs. in lacs)	Bid Security (Rs.in lacs)	Time of completion of the work (Including rainy season)	Cost of tender documents including GST (RS.)	Category of road contractor eligible	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	MBD	Repair and improvement work on Atayan to Mankua road.	56.20	4.81	3 Month	300+2000+ 54=2354	A,B,C Road Category								
2	MBD	Repair and improvement work on Sirsa Thath Marg.	41.90	4.10	3 Month	300+2000+ 54=2354	A,B,C Road Category								
3	MBD	Repair and improvement work on T0-3 to Sihali Mustakam road.	72.00	5.60	4 Month	300+2000+ 54=2354	A,B,C Road Category								
4	MBD	Moradabad Bypass Part-II. Repair and improvement work in Km 1 and 3. (ODR)	83.00	6.15	5 Month	300+2000+ 54=2354	A,B Road Category								
5	MBD	Repair and improvement work in Pakbada to Guretha link road.	67.80	5.39	3 Month	300+2000+ 54=2354	A,B,C Road Category								
6	MBD	Repair and improvement work in the link road from Matlapur railway station to Chetrampur.	42.30	4.12	3 Month	300+2000+ 54=2354	A,B,C Road Category								
7	MBD	Repair and improvement work on Matlapur Railway Crossing to Rasulpur Chaihra road.	59.30	4.97	3 Month	300+2000+ 54=2354	A,B,C Road Category								
8	MBD	Moradabad Bypass Part-II. Repair and improvement work in Km 6,7,8,9,10,11.	169.50	10.48	12 Month	300+2000+ 54=2354	A,B Road Category								
9	MBD	Repair and improvement work on TM Marg to Eyer Marg.	52.40	4.62	3 Month	300+2000+ 54=2354	A,B,C Road Category								
10	MBD	Repair and improvement work on Alampur to Sumalkeda road.	55.90	4.80	3 Month	300+2000+ 54=2354	A,B,C Road Category								
11	MBD	Repair and improvement work in Rajpur Kesariya (TM) to DDK road via Sahaspuri- Dhakwala-Kundesla road.	148.30	9.42	12 Month	300+2000+ 54=2354	A,B Road Category								
12	MBD	Repair and improvement work in Maisuwala road from Km 50 of NST road.	56.70	4.84	3 Month	300+2000+ 54=2354	A,B,C Road Category								
13	MBD	Repair and improvement work in Thakurdwara Rajwaha service link road.	111.80	7.59	12 Month	300+2000+ 54=2354	A,B Road Category								
14	MBD	Repair and improvement work in Chakmevaladharu link road from Dalpatpur-Aliganj road.	56.70	4.84	3 Month	300+2000+ 54=2354	A,B,C Road Category								
15	MBD	Repair and improvement work on Veerpur to Kukurjhundi road.	88.10	6.41	5 Month	300+2000+ 54=2354	A,B Road Category								
16	MBD	Repair and improvement work on Minority Inter College Road in Thakurdwara Tehsil Headquarters.	50.80	4.54	3 Month	300+2000+ 54=2354	A,B,C Road Category								

CORRIGENDUM PMGSY Superintending Engineer, 4th Circle, HPPWD, Winterfield, Shimla H.P., 171003 Himachal Pradesh Public Works Department UNDER PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY-III) e-Procurement CORRIGENDUM Notice						
The 2 nos. tenders UNDER PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY-III) were invited vide this office letter NO. SE-IV-CTR-TENDER-PMGSY/2023-15672-92 Dated:-11.12.2023 and further corrigendum NO. SE-IV-CTR-TENDER-PMGSY/2023-17077-095 Dated:-03.01.2024 through e-procurement notice. The following amendments have been made in the e-procurement notice:						



UJVNL LIMITED
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharan Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006,
Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508,
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: <a href="http://

PSPCL
Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
Regd. Office.: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001
CIN: U40109PB2010SGC033813; Website: www.pspcl.in
(Contact No. 96461-18774)
RFP/TENDER ENQUIRY No. MQP-225/2023-24/PO(M) Dated: 08.01.2024
Chief Engineer/Metering, C-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites E-tender for procurement of LT Ring Type, Resin Cast, Metering Current Transformers (CTs) of ratio 100/5A, 200/5A and 400/5A of Accuracy Class-0.5s conforming to IS: 16227 Part-I & II with latest amendments. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification, please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 08.01.2024 from 06.00 PM onwards.
NOTE:- Corrigendum and amendments, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>
31258/Pb C-19/24

Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited
Regd & Corp Office: GRSE Bhaven, 61, Garden Reach Road, Kolkata - 700024
(भारत सरकार का उपलब्ध / A Govt. of India Undertaking)
राज्यीय विदेशी विकास मंत्रालय / Ministry of Defence
Web: www.grse.in, (CIN: L35111WB1934GOI007891)

E-TENDER NOTICE FOR ONLINE BIDDING
NIT NO. PUR/PRESS/ASK/OT/FLANGE/LTA7/STOCK/N.RA-2041
SUB: SUPPLY OF COMPOSITE FLANGES FOR LONG TERM AGREEMENT

Due Date : 21 days from date of publication

1. Details will be available in e-procurement portal <https://eprocuregse.co.in> and websites <http://www.grse.in> & <https://eprocure.gov.in/cpppl>
2. Any addendum/corrigendum to this tender enquiry will be published in above websites only.

"In pursuit of Excellence and Quality in Shipbuilding"
Visit us at : www.grse.in

NORTHERN RAILWAY**OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE**

No. 128-W/280/Tender Notice/23-24/W-NIT-45 & 46] Dated: 09.01.2024
Sr. Divisional Engineer-II/Northern Railway, New Delhi for and on behalf of President of India invites e-tender on the prescribed form for the under noted work.

Name [1] Provision of Cover Shed and Balance works including water proofing of Treatment of LHS at Level Crossing No. 24, 28, 29, 31, 32, 33, 35, 37, 38, 51 & 53 on JH-PNP section under SSE/W/PNP under ADEN/PNP.
[2] Provision of Cover Shed and Balance works including water proofing of Treatment of LHS at Level Crossing No. 19, 20B, 28, 31, 48 & 59 on DUK PNP section under SSE/W/PNP under ADEN/PNP.

Approx. Cost 1) Rs. 6653090.67/- 2) Rs. 39704251.98/-
Earnest Money 1) Rs. 482700/- 2) Rs. 348500/-
Earnest Money should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway only. Note : FDR or Demand Draft will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter No. 2015/CE-II/CT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016

Completion Period 12 Months
Date and time of submission of tender and opening of tender Upto 15.00 hrs on 02.02.2024 opening of e-tender at 15.00 hrs on 02.02.2024.

In this regard a DD No. 24A dated 05.01.2024 has been lodged at Janakpuri, New Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far. If any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following.

SHO
P.S. Janakpuri, New Delhi
Ph: 011-25527736, 8750871129

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that this person (depicted in the photo) Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: about 55 Years, Sex: Male, Height: approx 5'8" Complexion: Fair, Built: Thin, Face: Round, Wearing: Black Pant found dead at district Center, Rain Basera near CNG Petrol Pump, Janakpuri, Delhi on 05.01.2024 under area of P.S. Janakpuri, New Delhi.

If any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following.

NOTE : All attachment must be self attested by the tenders and the affidavit should be submitted in the new format attached with tender conditions as per Annexure-XVII is compulsorily.

94/24

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

WESTERN RAILWAY**MATERIAL MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT****E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE NO. S/02/2024 DATE 04.01.2024**

SR.No.	Short Description of item	Quantity	T.O.D.	Tender No
7	23 TEETH PINION	150 Nos	24-Jan-24	2235119
8	SNUBNER ARRANGEMENT COMPLETE	251 Nos	29-Jan-24	16230605B
9	Compact Silicon Rectifier Block.	3 Set	29-Jan-24	2235157
10	Manufacturing and supply of Pre stressed Mono-Block Concrete sleeper (Pre- tensioned type) for Switch Expansion Joint for long welded Rails B.G. 52kg/60kg UIC for BG Alt. (latest) as per RDSO Drg. No. T-4149	2764 Nos	30-Jan-24	26239133
11	INSTALLATION LEVER ASSEMBLY	1675 Nos	30-Jan-24	09232634C
12	Set of Thermoplastic polyurethane spring pads	33 Set	31-Jan-24	2224017
13	ANEROBIC MICROBIAL	467850 Ltr	01-Feb-24	4231713
14	Wiper Motor Complete RH and LH	186 Set	01-Feb-24	22233186
15	EOT CRANE CAPACITY 10/3T	1 Nos	02-Feb-24	11235013B
16	EOT CRANE CAPACITY 10/3T AS PER ANNEXURE-RB-R1.	1 Nos	02-Feb-24	11235014
17	HIGH CAPACITY SIDE BUFFER	240 Nos	02-Feb-24	22235150
18	Lateral Damper 200 Kg.	980 Set	06-Feb-24	09232202A

REVERSE AUCTION

2	Improved Switch Expansion Joint - 60 Kg to RDSO Drg No. T-6902	464 Set	24-Jan-24	26239115RT
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CORRIGENDUM

Please read quantity as " 363 K.M " for tender notice no. S/38/2023 dtd 21/12/2023 at Sr. No. 770
Please read description as " SET OF AXLE BOX ASSEMBLY " for tender notice no. S/32/2023 dtd 09/11/2023 at Sr. No. 700

Regarding detailed notice EMD, Purchase restrictions and detailed tender conditions, please visit website www.ireps.gov.in and www.wr.indianrailways.gov.in

For Principal Chief Materials Manager

Like us on: facebook.com/WesternRly • Follow us on: [@westernrly](https://twitter.com/WesternRly)

STATE HEALTH SOCIETY, Mumbai**National Health Mission**

NHM Procurement Cell, 2nd Floor, Arogya Bhavan, St. Georges Hospital Compound, MUMBAI - 400 001.

E-mail - nrh.madv2012@gmail.com Tel.No. 022-22717538, 022-22717537

TENDER NOTICE

Date :- 09.01.2024

1. Commissioner (Health Services) & Mission Director, National Health Mission, Mumbai, Maharashtra, (NHM Procurement Cell), Mumbai invite tenders by Online Get-Way systems from the eligible bidders for the following subject.

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Description	Type	Period of sale, & preparation of bid	Pre bid meeting	Date of Bid Closing	Bid Opening
1	NHM/E-06/Services/ Hotel booking and Hire Vehicles/ 2023-24	Empanelment of agency for Hotel booking and Hire Vehicles	Tender Notice	10.01.2024 to 23.01.2024	Up to 2:00 pm	Up to 23.01.2024 2:00 pm	Up to 24.01.2024 2:01 pm to 5.00 pm

2. For detailed information, the interested Service Provider may visit the website <https://mahatenders.gov.in>, arogya.maharashtra.gov.in, nrhm.maharashtra.gov.in

3. The Mission Director State Health Society, (NHM Procurement Cell), Mumbai reserves the right to increase or decrease the tendered quantity and also reserves the right to cancel all the tenders without giving any reason.

For e-tendering help/ information, please contact.

Website: - <https://mahatenders.gov.in>

Contact No. 1800-233-7315, 91-7878107985,

+91-7878107986, +91-7878007972 and +91-7878007973,

Email - eproc.support@maharashtra.gov.in

Joint Director (Technical)

National Health Mission,

Mumbai, Maharashtra

Van Bhawan, Doranda-834002

e-mail: apccf-campa@gov.in, Phone : 0651-2481466 (O)

CORRIGENDUM

Reference- PR. No. 315288 Dated 07-01-2024

RFP No. 01/2024 dated 07-01-2024

Notice inviting RFP for selection of Agency for Third Party Evaluation of works undertaken under Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) in Jharkhand for the year 2022-23 and 2023-24

Sealed RFP (Request for Proposal) is invited for selection of Agency for Third Party Evaluation of works done under Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) in Jharkhand for the year 2022-23 and 2023-24. The salient features of the assignment, eligibility criteria and instructions on bidding process and other details are available in the RFP document uploaded on the website of Forest Department, Jharkhand at: <http://forest.jharkhand.gov.in>

Interested applicants are requested to submit their complete proposals (Technical and Financial) comprising the documents and forms as specified in the RFP. The proposal needs to be submitted in a sealed envelope through registered post/speed post/courier service or by hand superscribing RFP No. 01/2024, "Selection of Agency for Third Party Evaluation of works done under Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) in Jharkhand" on top of the envelope at the submission address outlined below on or before 06th February, 2024 13:00 hrs.

The sealed envelope of RFP superscribed "Proposal for Selection of Agency for Third Party Monitoring and Evaluation of works undertaken under Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) in Jharkhand for the year 2022-23 and 2023-24" shall contain two separate sealed envelopes: (a) the sealed envelope containing Technical Proposal along with all supporting documents, and (b) the second sealed envelope containing only the Financial Bid in the prescribed format.

Critical DataSheet

Date and time for pre-bid conference 17 January, 2024, 13:30 hrs.

Last date and time for submission of complete proposal 6th February, 2024, 13:00 hrs.

Date and time for opening of opening of Technical Proposal 6th February, 2024, 15:00 hrs.

Date for presentation by the Team Leader 7th February, 2024, 11:30 hrs.

Date for opening of Financial Proposal 7th February, 2024, 15:30 hrs.

The proposal must be addressed to: Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, CAMPA, Department of Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department, Van Bhawan, Doranda, Ranchi-834002, Jharkhand.

Additional PCCF, CAMPA, Department of Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department, Jharkhand, Ranchi

PR 315513 Forest, Environment and Climate Changes(23-24)D

Directorate of Ports & Inland Water Transport, Paribahan Bhawan

(2nd Floor), A.G. Square, Unit-II, Ashok Nagar, Bhubaneswar-9

JJ-55 Phone-0674-2390355, Fax-2396885 Email: portsniwt.od@nic.in

e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE

SI No	Name of Work	Approximate Value of Work (In Rs.)
1	Improvement of Passenger Jetty at Mahesha in Chilika Lake under Krishnaprasad Block of Puri District, Odisha	Rs.12.85 Crore
2	Improvement of Passenger Jetty at Brahmapur in Chilika Lake under Krishnaprasad Block of Puri District, Odisha	Rs.9.22 Crore
3	Period of completion	18 (Eighteen) Months
4	Date & Time of availability of Bid Document in the portal	12.01.2024 to 30.01.2024 up to 17.00 Hours
5	Date & Time of submission of Bid Document in the portal	12.01.2024 to 30.01.2024 up to 17.0

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I Eshu Chaudhary S/O yogendra kumar rathi R/o 193 first floor street no 48 Durgapuri extension shahdara Delhi 93.Have changed my name to Ishan rathi for all purposes.

0070882420-1

I BHAGWAT SAHU S/o Munnu, R/o Sherpur Teh Pataudi Gurgaon Haryana have changed my name to BHAGWAT SAHU for all future purposes.

0040707483-1

I BARSLI F.A. KUJUR W/o-Late F.R.Kujur,R/o-F-83,Phase-6,Gali No.11,Aya Nagar,New Delhi-110047,have changed my name to BARSLI KUJUR for all purposes.

0040707527-3

It is for general information that I,Mohd.Ikhlas,S/o Mohd.Akhlaq,R/o House.No.H-52,Street.No.4,Brahmpuri, Seelampur,North East-Delhi-110053,declare that name of mine and my father has been wrongly-written as Mohd.Ikhlas Siddiqui and Late Mohd Akhlaque in my-10th class certificate.The actual name of mine and my father are Mohd. Ikhlas and Mohd.Akhlaq respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

0040707520-3

I,ASHA W/O Shri DUDEKULA BABAIAH residing at P-185, Anju vihar, Shankar vihar, Delhi cantt-110010 have changed the name of my minor son aged 16 yrs from D ABHISHEK BABU to DUDEKULA ABHISHEK BABU which may be amended accordingly.

0070882421-1

I,Tabeen Haji Mohd,s/o Mohammad Rafiq, R/o.H.no.336,Katra budhan Rai Bazar,delhi date,Yarya, Rohini,Delhi-11002,have changed my name to Tabin,for all,future purposes.

0040707516-3

I,TAPAS BANERJEE,S/o TAPAN BANERJEE,ADDRESS,K-1001, ANTRIKSH KANBALL APARTMENT,SECTOR-77,NOIDA,GAUTAM BUDH NAGAR,U.P.201301,changed my name to TAAPAS KUMAR BANERJEE.

0040707516-6

I,Sanjay Kumar,S/o Om Parkash,R/o H.No.-367,Bhim Nagar,Gurgaon (Haryana) -120001,have changed my name to Sanjay.

0040707522-6

I,SHWETA SHARMA,W/O AISHISH TRIPATHI,R/o,FLAT,530,2ND-FLOOR,NITI KHAND-2,INDIRAPURAM GHAZIABAD UTTAR-PRADESH-201014,CHANGE MY NAME TO SHWETA

TRIPATHI,permanently

0040707520-4

I,SHVETA LAROIYA MAKKAR,W/O,PANKAJ MAKKAR,R/o,D-801,PEARLS GATEWAY TOWERS,SECTOR-44,NOIDA,GAUTAM BUDH NAGAR,U.P.201301,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SHVETA LAROIYA.

0040707520-3

I,SHVETA LAROIYA MAKKAR,W/O,PANKAJ MAKKAR,R/o,D-801,PEARLS GATEWAY TOWERS,SECTOR-44,NOIDA,GAUTAM BUDH NAGAR,U.P.201301,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SHVETA LAROIYA.

0040707520-2

I,M Gulftam S/o.Mohammad Ibrahim,R/o.2719,3rd-floor,Gali Badliyan,Sita Ram-Bazar, Delhi-110006,have changed my name to MOHAMMAD GULFAM, permanently.

0040707516-4

I,Rekha Kumari,W/O Rajender Kumar,R/o RZ-1119B,Gali-No.14/6,Sadh-Nagar Palam-Colony,Delhi-110045,have changed my name,from Rekha Kumari to Rekha Devi,for all,future purposes.

0040707519-1

I,NagRaj pandey,Son Of, Jag Narayan Pandey,R/o Hardev-Nagar Kherauna Amethi U.P.-227405,Have been changed my name to NagRaj Pandey, permanently.

0040707520-1

I,Mehraj Alam,S/o Sh.Mehtab Alam,R/o 552 E.Old.No.A-27,Gali No.3,Masjid Wali,Gali, East Babarpur,North-East-Delhi-110032,have changed my name,from Mehraj to Mehraj Alam,for all,future purposes

0040707522-8

I,Mamta,W/o-Shri Suresh Kumar Gupta,R/o-B-1/7A,Aman Vihar,Kirari Suleman Nagar,Delhi-110086,in my Son Virat School Record my and my son name wrongly mentioned as Ruchi Varma and Ishan Verma but our correct name is Mamta And Virat.

0040707527-4

I,MANSI,D/O SH.NARESH KUMAR R/o B-310,AYUR VIGYAN NAGAR,NEW DELHI-110049,have changed my name from MANSI to MANSI KUMAR,for all purposes.

0040707516-10

I,LITU DEVI, W/O VIKRAM SHARMA ADD GM-37 GULMOHAR-MARG,DLF PHASE-II GURGAON 122008,HARYANA,have changed my name to LALITA RANI,for all,future purposes.

0040707522-2

I, AARTI D/O Mrs. ANITA VERMA R/O B-6/90 Sector-17 Rohini, Delhi-110089 have changed my name to AARTI VERMA for all future purpose.

0070882346-1

I,Krishna, S/o Manglu, R/o C-318 J.J. Colony, Inderpuri I.A.R.I., Delhi-110012, have changed my name Krishan Lal to Krishan.

0040707543-3

I, Komal, D/o-VK Sobti is legally wedded spouse of Raj Mongia, presently residing at House No.142, DK-I, Daula Kuan, Delhi Cantt., New Delhi, have changed my name from KOMAL to KOMAL MONGIA, vide Affidavit dated:-09/01/2023, before Patiala House Court, Delhi.

0040707520-9

I,Km Adeeva Khanam,D/o Amir Ahmad,R/o H.No.-35/259, Block-35,Trilok Purdi,Delhi-110091,have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Adeeba Khanam.

0040707516-7

I,BARSILA F.A. KUJUR W/o-Late F.R.Kujur,R/o-F-83,Phase-6,Gali No.11,Aya Nagar,New Delhi-110047,have changed my name to BARSILA KUJUR for all purposes.

0040707527-3

It is for general information that I,Mohd.Ikhlas,S/o Mohd.Akhlaq,R/o House.No.H-52,Street.No.4,Brahmpuri, Seelampur,North East-Delhi-110053,declare that name of mine and my father has been wrongly-written as Mohd.Ikhlas Siddiqui and Late Mohd Akhlaque in my-10th class certificate.The actual name of mine and my father are Mohd. Ikhlas and Mohd.Akhlaq respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

0040707520-7

SENSEX: 71,386.21 ▲ 30.99 (0.04%) NIFTY: 21,544.85 ▲ 31.85 (0.15%) NIKKEI: 33,763.18 ▲ 385.76 HANG SENG: 16,190.02 ▼ 34.43 FTSE: 7,687.99 ▼ 6.20 DAX: 16,634.71 ▼ 81.76



GOLD

₹63,200



USD RATE

₹83.11



OIL

\$77.36



SILVER

₹76,750

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as of January 8

International market data till 1900 IST

SECTOR WATCH INSURANCE

Indian insurers may have to pay ₹33 crore for Japan air crash claim

GEORGE MATHEW
MUMBAI, JANUARY 9

INDIAN INSURANCE companies may have to pay out Rs 33 crore as claims for the accident involving Japan Airlines (JAL) aircraft and a Japanese Coast Guard plane last week. Public sector GIC Re will be paying around Rs 18 crore while three other PSU general insurers — New India Assurance (NIA), Oriental Insurance Company (OIC) and National Insurance Company (NIC) — will have to shell out Rs 5 crore each to meet their part of liabilities in the JAL policy, an insurance sector source said.

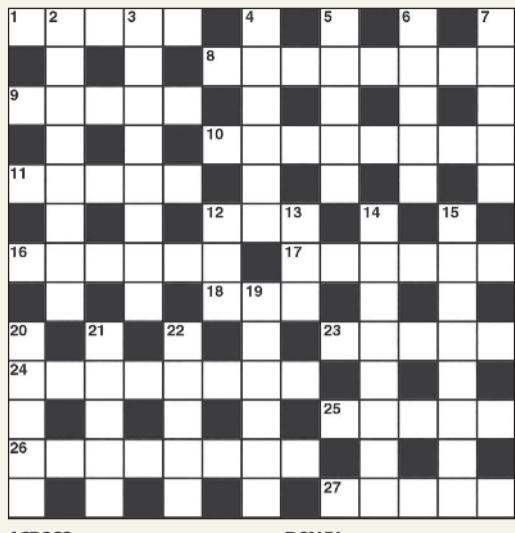
While the total claim was reportedly Rs 1,100 crore for the Japan Airlines airplane which collided with another plane at Tokyo's Haneda airport on January 2, the JAL policy covers damage to the hull.

US insurer AIG was the lead insurer on a \$130 million all-risks policy for the Japan Airlines airplane. While all 379 people aboard the Japan Airlines Airbus A350 escaped after the collision, five of six crew on the Coast Guard aircraft were killed.

As a matter of fact, big commercial insurance deals involving factories, planes and ships are divided among a number of insurers and reinsurers to minimise the financial risk arising from a claim.

GIC Re is the leader of the Indian consortium and along with other Indian general insurers provide capacity to the international aviation market from the London market. JAL is one of the policies where this consortium, which almost generates Rs 500 crore of annual premium, has three per cent of airlines insurance policy. [FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com](#)

CROSSWORD 5257



ACROSS

- Way to make money (5)
- Exist on next to nothing being humble (8)
- Gets a kick out of river craft (5)
- Articulate lie about extravagant treat (8)
- Table bird with top dressing (5)
- Drink out of social expediency (3)
- Recompensed for sending back baby linen (6)
- Deserts for growing things (6)
- One's objective at one in the morning (3)
- Palindromically disinclined (5)
- Key worker in army uniform (8)
- Start court proceedings (5)
- Thought one needs a spare sovereign (8)
- Very light for example (5)
- Shattered through being bankrupt? (5)

DOWN

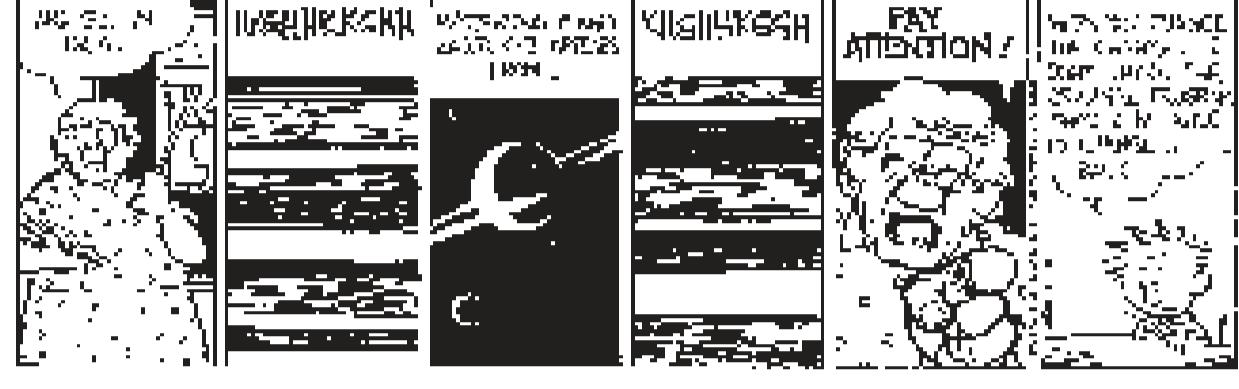
- Trained cadet due for promotion (8)
- Fair verdict on an improved performance (3,2,3)
- A broken romance? (6)
- Filled with zeal but still sacked (5)
- It should include these mountains (5)
- One who may be seen mending a drain (5)
- Cut the first man short (3)
- It has branches in steel manufacturing (3)
- Leave-taking from a passenger in good spirits (8)
- Won't such a crook give anything away? (8)
- Anne is so unbalanced (6)
- What's this about grass-cutting (5)
- Characteristic skill rises with it (5)
- Shattered through being bankrupt? (5)

Solutions Crossword 5256 Across: 1 Nectarines, 6 Plug, 10 Usurp, 11 Champagne, 12 Stands up, 13 Latin, 15 Classes, 17 Esparto, 19 Reddins, 21 Dresses, 22 Aesop, 24 East wind, 27 Off-colour, 28 Refter, 29 Lead, 30 Etherally, Down: 1 Noun, 2 Court card, 3 Aspen, 4 Incises, 5 Example, 7 Light, 8 Greenhouse, 9 Apple pie, 14 Score a goal, 16 Sheepdog, 18 Resentful, 20 Step out, 21 Deserve, 23 Sofia, 25 Worse, 26 Fry

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLED WORDS

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

You can forget a lot of things, but you cannot forget a _____ and claim to love her. - Gordon Atkinson (6,4)

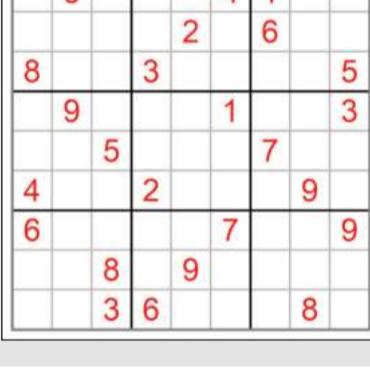
CPAAE AENRMN

BDNOS ALLOMW

Answers: You can forget a lot of things, but you cannot forget a woman's name and claim to love her - Gordon Atkinson (6,4)

SOLUTION: APACHE, BONDS, MANNER, MARLOW

Difficulty Level 4s
Instructions
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.



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

SOLUTION SUDOKU 5436



NBCC (INDIA) LIMITED

(A Government of India Enterprise)
CIN : L7499DL1960G003335

SALE THROUGH E-AUCTION

NBCC offers freehold commercial space at Grande Rue, Ayurvyan Nagar, New Delhi through e-auction. The auction document with Terms & Conditions is available at NBCC's website: www.nbccindia.in

The sale open date is 09.01.2024

The last date of application is 18.01.2024 up to 3.00 PM

The auction is scheduled for 23.01.2024

The addendum/concurred if any, shall be uploaded on the above website only.

REDEVELOPMENT OF AYURVYAN NAGAR BY: NBCC (INDIA) LTD. (A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ENTERPRISE)

CORPORATE OFFICE : NBCC BHAWAN, LODHI ROAD, NEW DELHI-110003

Call @ 9205929699, 920592970, 920592971

WANTED

NADEEM
General public is here by informed that on 08.06.2023, Dacoits committed Dacoity in a House which is situated at Gali No. 5, Ambedkar Basti, Majipur, Delhi and they looted Jewellery and cash from there and killed the Landlad during this dacoity. In this regard a case FIR No. 274/23 dated 08.06.2023, u/s 302/307/394/396/397/120B/34 has been registered at P.S. Jafraabadi, Delhi. One accused namely Nadeem is absconding in the case and he is wanted in the Case. During the investigation it was found that he lives near the area of Seelampur, Delhi and Umanpur, Delhi.

If anybody have any information about this accused person may kindly inform to the following. The name of the informer will be kept secret and will be rewarded suitably:-

E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in SHO - P.S. Jafraabadi, Delhi
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> Tel. No. : 011-22560191, 08750870732, 08750870772
Fax: 24368639, Tel. No. : 011-22560192, 08750870772
Tel.: 24368638/24368641 DP/1510/NE/23

No.: VVCMC/VAV/2219/2024
Dt. : 09.01.2024

Vasai Virar City Municipal Corporation (VVCMC)
Dist. Palghar, Maharashtra 401305
Medical Health Department
Re-Tender Notice

MEDICAL Health Department of Vasai Virar City Municipal Corporation hereby invites Tender from reputed and experienced bidders to participate in the competitive bidding process for following work.

1. Supplying and Refilling of Oxygen, Carbon Di-Oxide, Nitrous Oxide & Other Gases and Supplying Accessories & Repairing.

For the detailed Tender document, interested Bidders shall visit <https://mahatender.gov.in> Tender submission would be online and the Deadline to submit the tender is Dt. 31.01.2024 <5:00 PM>

Sign/-
Deputy Commissioner (Health)
Vasai Virar City Municipal Corporation

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

Sr. DEE-TRS-GZB acting for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tender against Tender No. 230-TRS-GZB-2023-24-27. The details are as under:

- Name of the Work: Relocation the '4' isolating cock of unloader valve of CP-1 & CP-2 at the approachable area along the body side in three phase locomotive as per Addendum-1 to RDSO Modification sheet No. RDSO/2012/EL/MS/0412, Rev. '0' dated 08.07.2020, Qty. 230 Nos. for a period of 24 months at Electric Loco Shed, Ghaziabad.

2. Approx. Cost of Work Rs. 22,66,252.10

3. Earnest Money to be deposited Rs. 45,300.00

4. Last Date & Time of submission of tender bid of tender. 31.01.2024 (11:00 Hrs.)

5. Date & Time of Opening of tender document 31.01.2024 (After 11:00 Hrs.)

6. Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen. www.ireps.gov.in

Note: (i) The tenderer's must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for participating in e-tender system. (ii) For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. (iii) No manual offers are acceptable. (iv) Cost of Tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only.

No. 230-TRS-GZB-2023-24-27 Dated: 08-01-2024

86/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

(See Section 82 Cr.P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused (1) Ashok Yadav, S/o Satish Kumar, R/o WZ-25, Khyala, Delhi and (2) Santosh, S/o Ram Phal, R/o RZC-39, Gali No. 3, Vishnu Garden, Delhi has committed (or are suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 781/2023 dated 13.11.2023 U/S 307/324/341/377/34 IPC PS Khyala, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused (1) Ashok Yadav and (2) Santosh can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused (1) Ashok Yadav and (2) Santosh have absconded (or are concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused (1) Ashok Yadav and (2) Santosh of FIR No. 781/2023 dated 13.11.2023 U/S 307/324/341/377/34 IPC PS Khyala, Delhi are required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 21.02.2024.

By Order

Shagun

Metropolitan Magistrate-04 (West)

Room No. 268, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

(See Section 82 Cr.P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused (1) Kayum, S/o Khalid, R/o Village Mathepur, PS Hathin District Palwal, Haryana, (2) Sahid, S/o Ramjan and (3) Sahud, S/o Ramjan, both are R/o Village Umara, PS Nagina, District Nooh, Haryana has committed (or are suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 508/2023, dated 21.10.2023, U/S 407 IPC, PS Mayur Vihar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused (1) Kayum, (2) Sahid and (3) Sahud can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused (1) Kayum, (2) Sahid and (3) Sahud have absconded (or are concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused (1) Kayum, (2) Sahid and (3) Sahud of FIR No. 508/2023, dated 21.10.2023, U/S 407 IPC, PS Mayur Vihar, Delhi are required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 15.02.2024.

By Order

Arvind Dev

Metropolitan Magistrate

Court No. 26, Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSONS

(See Section 82 Cr.P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused (1) Chameli, W/o: Harish Chand, (2) Renu, W/o: Pramod, R/o: Jhuggi Station Paharganj, Delhi have committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 359/2019, U/s 379/511/34 IPC, P.S.: Mahendra Park, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrants of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused (1) Chameli, (2) Renu could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused (1) Chameli, (2) Renu have absconded (or are concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused (1) Chameli, (2) Renu accused of FIR No. 359/2019, U/s 379/511/34 IPC, P.S.: Mahendra Park, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 26.03.2024.

By Order

Ms. Neeti Suri Mishra

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate

North, Room No. 117, Rohini Courts, Delhi

DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

In spite of the current calm, the seeds of a major dispute have already been sown, but it's never too late to head off a confrontation that is far from inevitable. Use all your social skills to spread peace and harmony, and make up for recent arguments. Family pressures are still strong.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

There is much to be gained from compromise, so if partners are being awkward then it's important not to rise to the bait. It's much more useful to get on with your own affairs; no good is served by muscling in on differences of opinion which do not concern you.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Under Mercury's invigorating and imaginative presence, short journeys will prove most successful if you invite others to come along, or team up with people you meet along the way. Partners will be happy to help out with routine details and to check practical instructions.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

Although pressures are few, the week continues on a busy note with plenty to keep you occupied. In addition to which, friendly meetings could compensate for an upset that is still fresh in your mind. Do your best to make up, and ensure that a friend knows you meant no harm.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

Seize the opportunity to spend some time enjoying your own company rather than always chasing around after other people. If partners have unrealistically high expectations, they'll just have to learn to alter them. After all, you're unlikely to change, first.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

Partners still have the advantage whether you like it or not. So, why not relax for a while and let them seize the reins? Allow others to take the responsibility they crave and trust them to do their best. Younger relations and children deserve your trust as well.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

Positive planetary influences are bringing a chance of serious co-operation between friends and associates. Even if not directly involved, you may be working behind the scenes for reconciliation between people who have fallen out, or just refuse to get on.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

Associates have a habit of disagreeing with your way of doing things, even if you're convinced you are right. You really should take criticism seriously as it could help improve your performance in future. And the future is now very much what you're concerned about.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

Your mood seems to be changeable, and the best experiences will come from mixing with family members, taking trips to beautiful places and indulging in cultural entertainments. It's important for the overall quality of your life that you give such activities a higher priority.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

Associates have a habit of disagreeing with your way of doing things, even if you're convinced you are right. You really should take criticism seriously as it could help improve your performance in future. And the future is now very much what you're concerned about.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

Associates have a habit of disagreeing with your way of doing things, even if you're convinced you are right. You really should take criticism seriously as it could help improve your performance in future. And the future

BRIEFLY

With eye on England Tests, Iyer to turn up in Ranji Trophy

Mumbai: India's middle-order batsman Shreyas Iyer has been included in Mumbai's Ranji fixture against Andhra that will be played from January 12-15 at Bandra Kurla Complex. The Indian Express understands that Iyer was given an option by the BCCI's selection committee to feature in the India A series against England Lions in Ahmedabad. Instead, Iyer has chosen to play in the Ranji Trophy to prepare for the upcoming Tests against England and informed his availability to the Mumbai Cricket Association on Tuesday morning. And the MCA has now included Iyer in the squad for the second round of Ranji fixtures that begins on Friday. The right-handed batsman, who was part of the Test team's tour to South Africa, didn't have a good series with the bat and will be looking to find some runs ahead of the five Tests against England, starting January 25 in Hyderabad.

ENS

Aus, Uzb will test

India's level: Chhetri

Doha: Talismanic captain Sunil Chhetri has no qualms in admitting that India's group opponents Australia and Uzbekistan are notches above his side in quality but playing against them in the upcoming Asian Cup will be a marker to test the country's level of the game. Drawn in Group B in the continental showpiece, India face Australia on January 13, before taking on Uzbekistan (January 18) and Syria (January 23). "It's a massive tournament for us, purely because we get to rub shoulders with the best in Asia. Teams like Australia and Uzbekistan are probably of the World Cup level, so you can test yourself against them," Chhetri said.

PTI

Rudrankksh, Mehuli combine to win gold

Jakarta: The pair of Rudrankksh Patil and Mehuli Ghosh won the 10m air rifle mixed team event to maintain the Indian shooting contingent's dominance in the Asian Olympic Qualifiers here on Tuesday. Rudrankksh and Mehuli triumphed after prevailing over China's Shen Yufan and Zhu Mingshuai 16-10 in the final. In the 10m air pistol mixed team event, however, India settled for the silver medal with the duo of Arjun Cheema and Rhythm Sangwan finishing second behind Vietnam's Thu Vinh Trinh and Quang Huy Pham in the battle for the top prize. They lost 11-17.

PTI

PCB part ways with foreign coaches

Karachi: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has decided to amicably part ways with its foreign coaches Mickey Arthur, Grant Bradburn and Andrew Puttick after the senior team's poor run of form in recent times, including a forgettable World Cup campaign. A senior official of the board said on Tuesday that PCB chairman Zaka Ashraf and chief operating officer Salman Naseer would negotiate a final settlement with the trio.

PTI

DAY OF REWARDS AND RECOGNITION



● Mohammed Shami greets President Droupadi Murmu ahead of the national awards ceremony.



● Para archer Sheetal Devi receives the Arjuna Award.



● Asian Games silver medallist long jumper Sreeshankar Murali with his family.

Pics: PTI/Express

Bayern mourning death of club icon Beckenbauer

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BERLIN, JANUARY 9

THE EMPEROR is dead, long live the emperor. Bayern Munich is mourning the death of "der Kaiser" Franz Beckenbauer, at the age of 78, the soccer great who led it through its golden era and arguably did more than anyone to shape the club into what it is today.

"The biggest personality that FC Bayern ever had," honorary president Uli Hoeneß said. "Nobody will ever reach him. People can say they saw football in the times of Franz Beckenbauer." "Our emperor is dead," Germany's best-selling tabloid Bild said on its front page on Tuesday.

As an elegant player, successful coach and distinguished president over six decades, Beckenbauer helped turn Bayern from a modest club in the shadow of 1860 Munich into a global powerhouse, by far Germany's most successful.

And it all started with a slap.

Born in the working-class Munich district of Giesing, the highly-talented Beckenbauer was set to join 1860, the team he supported as a child, after playing in a youth tournament for boyhood club SC Munich 1906.

But Beckenbauer's team was pitted against 1860's youth side in the final. He got into a disagreement with one of his opponents, who allegedly struck him in the face when the referee wasn't looking.

Irate, the young player decided to snub 1860 and join city rival Bayern's youth setup instead. It was 1959.

He was promoted to the first team in 1964 and helped steer his club to Bundesliga promotion the following year. Aided by teammates Gerd Müller and Sepp Maier, Beckenbauer led Bayern into third place in its first season, then claimed the first of 32 German league titles in 1969.

Bayern previously won the German championship in 1932 but had to wait for Beckenbauer's arrival before enjoying its golden era.

As captain, he claimed four Bundesliga titles with Bayern, three straight European Cups from 1974 to 1976, four German Cups and the 1976 Intercontinental Cup.

He led West Germany to the 1974 World Cup title, two years after winning Euro 1972. He twice won the Ballon d'Or.

And he did it all with elegance, style and grace. Beckenbauer reimagined his role at the back and personalized the position of "libero," the free-roaming nominal defender who moved forward to threaten the opponent's goal, a job that has virtually disappeared from modern soccer and was rarely seen before his days.

Elementary lesson helps old master

Coach Kashyap's timely net-play advice helps Srikanth down World No.5 Jonatan Christie at Malaysian Open

SHIVANI NAIK
MUMBAI, JANUARY 9

LOST IN the dazzling whirl of his breathtaking stroke-play was a 'basic of the game' that Kidambi Srikanth seems to have revisited of late. Catching the shuttle higher at the net, what coaches drill into 13-year-olds Srikanth, soon-to-turn 31, revised that elementary lesson on court to record a 12-21, 21-18, 21-16 victory over sixth seed Jonatan Christie at Kuala Lumpur.

Dubbed a washed-up talent, with 10 blink-and-miss first round exits to match the whole of last year, Srikanth lined up against Indonesian World No 5 Christie on Tuesday at the Super 1000 Malaysia Open. He promptly lost the opener 12-21, playing from the less-preferred side, and was 7-11 and 15-17 down in the second, with another loss loading.

All this time, he had been attempting - in Srikanthesque fashion - the most complicated sharp shots from below the net, that Christie was pouncing on with glee even while playing from the disadvantageous side. At 7-11, coach P Kashyap started yelling out to him what 13-year-olds are told - to keep the racket up and not drop it down defensively.

The coach was thinking ahead to the next 5-6 times Christie would need to play Srikanth this year, and how a tame capitulation would fill the Indonesian with confidence. Sow a seed doubt or two, even if the match looked a goner. For the preparation that has gone in, he expected Srikanth to drag this season-opener into a decider, nothing more. But Srikanth went the distance.

On points, 11, 12 and 13 of the second, Srikanth would bring out the aggressive attitude, going for the shuttle nicely high and early at the net, to ambush Christie.

The World No 24 from Guntur would grit out the midcourt rallies and start pinning Christie towards baseline, denying him leverage at the net. There was a wonderful backhand deception at 14-14, and a reflex defensive round the head recovery over his left shoulder, at a stubborn juncture of 15-17. At 17-18 when he hit a smash into the top net, all Srikanth nightmares resurfaced. But taking 7 of the last 8 points



Srikanth next plays Ng Ka Long Angus, and has Victor Axelsen in his path in the quarters.

BAI

of Set 2, with high racquet shots, he fought out the tosses and pushed the decider.

Srikanth's stamina for the third was untested, but he was game for a fight even after trailing 0-5 and 9-14 in the decider. At 2-5 in a single rally, he pulled out another round-the-head scramble defense and a weaving hip-level reflex, as defensive solidarity paved the way to attacking confidence.

Then taking 6 straight points from 8-14 down, with a fantastic reverse slice push, he sowed the doubt in Christie's head, puncturing his confidence. Srikanth in fact ended up with 11 of the 12 points from the 9-14 juncture.

The Indonesian is one of the strongest returners from the forehead corner. But Srikanth had him stuttering there on the back-running lunge. Perhaps the most dogged of points came at 18-15, in 32-shots, where patience that has eluded him all his life, and refusal to give in gleamed from the frenzied exchanges and he outlasted Christie. He was willing to fight off the impulse to be impetuous and win with basics. He would eventually down the Top 5 opponent, to start off the year on an optimistic note.

No one is rekindling Olympic qualification dreams just yet - that's still HS Prannoy and Lakshya Sen territory. And Tuesday's match could just as easily have flipped the

other way. But Srikanth looks on the mend, a month after he went out in Round 1 disappointingly at Syed Modi Lucknow.

The long haul back

Srikanth, the 2016 Olympian, approached Kashyap, the 2012 Olympian around the time of China Open asking if he would coach in his corner while the latter took up the responsibility of a bunch of u19s and u17s assigned by Pullela Gopichand. "It had been a tough year for him. While Asian Games was good for the team, in individuals, Srikanth was capable of much more. He immediately asked me when I started. He's just very coachable, doesn't say no to training, and we started off," Kashyap recalls.

Small niggles nagged. The long years on the circuit since 2013 had seen him lose track of some basics. There were a bunch of bad career choices Srikanth had made, some stubborn calls, some rank bad decisions, which Kashyap says happen with everyone, but need stemming. In a qualification flux, time always seems racing against you, and he was not upto the mark at Syed Modi. "Sometimes you have to back off from running the race and focus on basic things that help you win matches instead of waiting to find a lucky run with good draws," the coach says.

A few immediate tweaks worked

against Christie, who's had a fine backend of 2023, but most changes take time to yield results. Tuesday's third set showing hints at improving fitness, and the biggest change over the last 8 weeks has been higher-intensity training sessions.

Srikanth's sparring quality has improved, his timing on strokes is up too, though shot selection needed the biggest work - both choosing the best shots, and eschewing the ones that played into the hands of opponents, the likes that Srikanth is notorious for.

Kashyap has drilled into Srikanth that experience can only take him so far, and he will still need to put in the physical work to match step with much younger opponents. "It's not easy as age catches up. The game is there but we are working on a thin line. Match intensity and stamina can be 5x practice. The belief comes with improved stamina," he says.

Srikanth next plays Ng Ka Long Angus, and has Axelsen in his path in quarters. The sporting world is desperate to move onto Lakshya Sen and Priyanshu Rajawat. They are also quick to tag him an under achiever, for the sheer talent he once possessed but didn't encash. Though it's difficult to dismiss the reality that India's men's singles players typically peak late. Against Christie, whom he's beaten the last three times, Srikanth showed he still can fight it out.

Kashyap to retire as player, focus on guiding Srikanth

SHIVANI NAIK
MUMBAI, JANUARY 9

WITH INJURIES piling up and resuming his playing career looking difficult, former CWG champion and Olympian Parupalli Kashyap has decided he will announce retirement from the game soon. He was in Kidambi Srikanth's coaching corner at the season-opening Malaysian Open, and said he will consult BAI president Himanta Sarma, his employers Indian Oil Corporation, sponsors Yonex and down the shutters on an impressive career, hopping into coaching full-time.

"The injuries are forcing me to quit though I haven't officially announced retirement. Meantime I wanted to start working with Gopi sir because it would be foolish not to learn from his experience. I started with a batch of u17 and u19s for a month, and he gave me freedom to coach whoever I wanted to. Then Srikanth approached me to help him, and I'm thankful to Gopi Sir for giving me the opportunity to work with Srikanth," he said.

The quarterfinalist from London Games and 2014 CWG gold winner, was one of Gopichand's first students alongside academy mate Saina Nehwal and Guru Saidutt. While he picked a couple of Grand Prix titles and made finals of 2019 Canada Open, his results on the circuit in a period coinciding the best years of Lin Dan and Lee Chong Wei, saw him battle valiantly but without title runs.

He was a precursor to the current generation of Indian men's singles players who met with greater success, though amongst the first to employ a physically sturdy game to make quarters and semis and the earliest of Gopichand's successes.

A technically astute shuttler, who didn't mind the hard rigour of fitness, Kashyap had some impressive scalps. He beat World No 3 Chen Long at Indonesia in 2012, No 6 Wang Zhengming in 2014, No 3 Jan O Jorgensen at Denmark the same year and No 4 Kenichi Tago and No 9 Tian Houwei at French Open. He beat Viktor Axelsen twice in 2015, and reached a career high ranking of World No 6 in 2013.

While he has been in Nehwal's corner for a couple of seasons even as he juggled a playing career, this will be his first foray into full-time coaching. As a new coach, he carries forward the philosophies and tactical acumen of Gopichand, joining buddy Guru Saidutt in helping out elite shuttlers.

Vidit looking for upwards of Rs 1 cr for Candidates training

AMIT KAMATH
MUMBAI, JANUARY 9

SOMETIMES during the past month, as Vidit Gujrathi huddled with his trainers to map a course towards the Candidates tournament in Toronto in April this year, one of his coaches suggested that he take time out before the tournament and go visit the Niagara Falls.

It was an intriguing suggestion, one that would take the 29-year-old out of his usual pre-tournament comfort zone. In the haze of an impending tournament, he is usually wired with only matters of the chequered squares occupying his mindspace.

"We'll land in Toronto just five or six days before the Candidates starts. The idea to see Niagara Falls (before the Candidates) is that it will just put me in a good mood before a big event. I've never done something like this. I hate sightseeing; I absolutely hate going out around tournaments. Playing in events is so exhausting that I have no energy left. But I



Vidit says he will have a three- or four-member team of trainers and seconds in place for the Candidates bid.

te against Ding Liren.

The magnitude of the tournament is different. The stakes are very high. It's unlike any other tournament. The Candidates comes around once in two years and for that

also you have to sweat a lot to get in. This is why any player will use all the resources possible to prepare for the Candidates. For a closed-door event, players will have one coach. But for the Candidates there will be a big team of trainers," he says. "In any other tournament, second place is acceptable. At the Candidates, it's not."

As per Vidit's estimates, he will be spending upwards of Rs 1 crore over the next four months to prep for the Candidates: this includes trainers' fees for four months (some foreign trainers charge as much as \$500 per hour), flight and boarding costs for the trainers in India for long training camps, and then also flight and boarding costs to Canada for the entourage, which is going to be a month-long affair.

While he has sponsors like Bharat Forge and Lakshya who have backed him for a decade, he is yet to get state sponsorship from Maharashtra or from the central government. Pragg and Gukesh both will be backed financially by the Tamil Nadu government. AICF, the Indian governing body

for chess, has pledged financial assistance of Rs 2 crores to be divided between the five Indian players.

"If the government could step in and financially aid this training process, it would be one less thing to worry about for me as a player. I'm the first player from Maharashtra at the Candidates. I'm really hoping the Maharashtra government helps out financially. I'd be very happy. I'd want to focus on my craft," he says.

Need massive team

While this is the first time Vidit will compete in the Candidates, he has experienced the intense prep that goes into training for an event before this: he was part of Anish Giri's team for the Dutch player's Candidates bid in 2016.

"For one month, we worked for like 12 hours daily in the Netherlands. And it was just one of the training camps that Giri and his coaches held before the Candidates that year. The amount of preparation that goes into the Candidates is huge. You need a mas-

sive team," he says.

Vidit says he will have a three- or four-member team of trainers and seconds in place for the Candidates bid. While he prefers to keep the names of two of these trainers close to his chest, he revealed that Surya Shekhar Ganguly and Italian GM Daniele Vocaturo would be part of this team. Besides a team of trainers, Vidit will also have in place specialists like a nutritionist, a physical trainer and a psychologist.

"Daniele and Surya have helped me over the past year or so. I'm very grateful to them for helping me achieve everything I have in the last year. The rest of the team I am not revealing yet," he says.

Ahead of the Candidates, Vidit will be in contention in two events: Wijk Aan Zee (Tata Open Chess in the Netherlands) and the Prague Masters in February-March.

"I feel warmed up if I play events. For me, the neurons in the brain start to fire only when I am in competition," says Vidit. "I know what I am doing. At least I think I do!" chuckles Vidit.