



'Not a case for interference': SC refuses to entertain former ICICI Bank MD & CEO Chanda Kochhar's petition seeking release of her retirement benefits, **FLAP OPP**

Telangana ex-CM K Chandrasekhar Rao undergoes hip replacement surgery after suffering a fall at his farmhouse. Recovery could take 6-8 weeks, doctors say, **P 12**

In a move that will impact Indians, Canada will ask int'l students to show Canadian \$20,635 in their a/cs, from Can \$10k earlier, for study permit from Jan 1. This is in addition to travel & tuition costs, **FLAP OPP**

Taiwan says it spotted a Chinese balloon and 12 jets crossing the median line that bisects the sensitive strait, separating the island from China, **P 21**

US justice dept files new criminal charges against President Joe Biden's son Hunter, accusing him of failing to pay \$1.4m in taxes while spending millions on a lavish lifestyle, **P 21**



Lalduhoma is CM, Mizoram gets first woman minister

Former IPS officer Lalduhoma, who led his fledgling party to an electoral win against ruling MNF, was sworn in as CM of a 12-member Zoram People's Movement government in Mizoram that includes the state's first woman cabinet minister. The government has seven cabinet ministers. **P 12**

**Fire at Pune candle unit claims 6 lives**

At least six persons died and 10 were injured after a fire broke out at a sparkling candle manufacturing unit in Pune district's Pimpri Chinchwad on Friday. **P 19**

**6 cops suspended for farmer's death**

Six policemen and four others were booked for allegedly beating a 48-year-old farmer, whom they suspected to be a gambler, to death in Bareilly. **P 14**

**Cop's gun goes off, injures woman**

A woman suffered a head wound after a sub-inspector's gun "accidentally went off" inside Aligarh police station Friday. The SI fled after the incident. **FLAP OPP**

**Pet dog attack on power dept team**

A family in Bulandshahr unleashed two pet dogs on power department officials who were visiting to collect dues of Rs 3.4 lakh and beat them up Thursday. **P 19**

# Mahua expelled from LS, says 'hanged by kangaroo court'

Not Allowed To Speak, Removed By Voice Vote

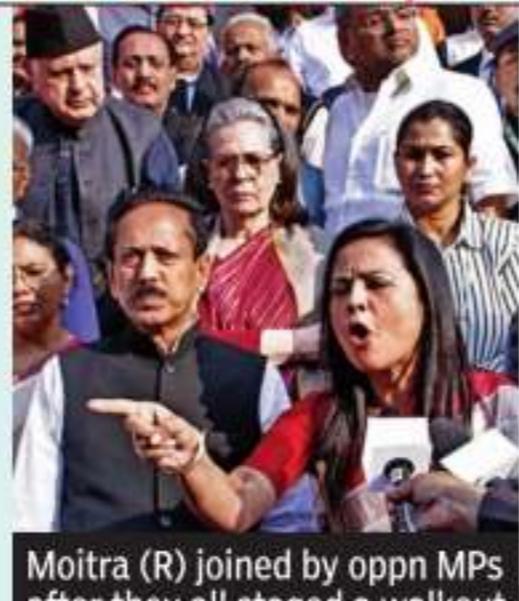
Mohua.Chatterjee @timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Lok Sabha on Friday expelled Trinamool Congress' Mahua Moitra after adopting the ethics committee's report that found the MP from West Bengal guilty of "unethical conduct" for accepting cash and gifts from businessman Darshan Hiranandani in lieu of asking questions in the House targeting his rival, the Adani Group.

Parliamentary affairs minister Pralhad Joshi moved the motion to expel the Krishnanagar MP on grounds of

**PANEL CITES NAT'L SECURITY; VENDETTA, SAYS MAMATA**

> Ethics committee says Moitra's conduct 'prima facie has an impact on national security', the 'serious misdemeanours' call for 'severe punishment' not less than immediate expulsion  
> Panel says alleged cash transactions between the MP and businessman Darshan Hiranandani should be investigated by the government



Moitra (R) joined by oppn MPs after they all staged a walkout

They (BJP) can't defeat us in the election, so they have resorted to vendetta politics. It is a sad day and betrayal of Indian parliamentary democracy... But she (Moitra) will return to Parliament with a bigger mandate"

— MAMATA BANERJEE | TRINAMOOL

In 2005, when 10 MPs were expelled, the report was presented on the same day... Moitra herself admitted to receiving gifts (from Darshan Hiranandani). What other proof is required now?

— PRALHAD JOSHI | BJP

FULL COVERAGE | P 20

"unethical conduct", which was adopted by a voice vote. There were heated exchanges during the hour-long debate from 2pm. Moitra was vigorously supported by her own party and all INDIA allies. Disallowed from speaking by the Speaker who cited pre-

cendents, Moitra later likened the action to "hanging by a kangaroo court" and claimed that a parliamentary panel was being weaponised by the government to force the opposition into submission. "This report has broken every rule in the book. In essence, you

are finding me guilty of breaking a code of ethics that does not exist," she told reporters outside Parliament House, surrounded by opposition leaders, including Sonia Gandhi, who had staged a walkout.

► Somnath ruling, P 20

**Don't preach: SC on HC's 'sexual urges' remarks**

Judges must decide cases on basis of law and facts and not resort to preaching, the Supreme Court said Friday on the Calcutta high court's observations that adolescent girls must control their sexual urges instead of giving in to two minutes of pleasure, reports Amit Anand Choudhary.

Noting that the accused has been under incarceration for 13 months and trial has not yet commenced, a bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and S V N Bhatti said, "This is not proper. You cannot keep people in pre-trial detention for so long."

► Claims contradictions, P 10

**'Can't keep in jail for long': SC bail to excise accused**

## IN THE COURTS

> Neither legislature nor any law limits a woman's right to be 'karta' (head) of a Hindu undivided family, 'societal perceptions' can't be a reason to deny it, says Delhi HC | P 7  
> Poco court in UP's Shamli gives man 'imprisonment till last breath' for raping his 14-year-old stepdaughter | P 19  
> Calcutta HC raps cops for not filing murder FIR in 2021 death of a BJP worker and ignoring complaint | P 14  
> HC notice to Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan, daughter over alleged deals between pvt co and her IT firm | P 19

**In minor rejig, Atishi gets law & justice portfolio**

AP government has given the portfolios of law, justice and legislative affairs, which were with minister Kailash Gahlot, to Atishi. Gahlot has been given charge of the women and child development department, which was earlier

► AAP vs LG tussle over Farishte scheme in SC, P 2

with Atishi. With 14 departments under her, Atishi is the busiest minister in Kejriwal's cabinet, followed by Raaj Kumar Anand with seven, Saurabh Bharadwaj with six, Gahlot with five, Gopal Rai with three and Imran Hussain with two. **P 2**

'Return every paisa', PM slams Cong as I-T raids net ₹300cr

Ashok.Pradhan @timesgroup.com

PM Modi on Friday hit out at Congress over the seizure of around Rs 300 crore by the income tax department from the premises of liquor companies linked to its Jharkhand MP Dhiraj Sahu, saying that the massive haul had exposed the opposition party's hypocrisy over corruption, and vowing to recover the money "they have looted from people".

The countrymen must first see the bundles of these (currency) notes and then listen to the speeches of honesty being made by their (Cong) leaders. (They) will have to return every penny that they have looted from the people, this is Modi's guarantee

— PM Modi

ging a newspaper report which had photographs of almirahs stuffed with cash on the premises of Boudh Distillery Private Limited and Baldev Sahu & Group of companies spread over Odisha, Jharkhand and West Bengal.

► '156 gunny bags', P 17

**UPI limit raised to ₹5L for edu, hosp payments**

The reserve bank on Friday announced an increase in the limit of UPI transactions for payments to hospitals and educational institutions to Rs 5 lakh per

► RBI ups GDP forecast to 7%, holds rates, P 23

**17% wage hike for employees of PSU banks**

The Indian Banks' Association and unions have agreed to a 17% wage hike for all public sector banks, a move that will benefit around nine lakh employees, including 3.8 lakh officers. Besides, the employees will receive arrears for the previous 12 months as the five-year wage revision takes effect from November 2022. **P 23**

**Assam cabinet OKs 'indigenous' Muslim count**

The Assam cabinet Friday approved a socio-economic survey of the state's indigenous Muslim population, reports Prabin Kalita. Muslims comprise more than 34% of Assam's population of 3.1 crore. Only about 40 lakh are native; the rest are Bangladeshi-origin, Bengali-speaking immigrants. **P 11**

**Missile testing paused in Odisha to save sea turtles**

Bhubaneswar: In Aesop's fable, the hare pauses to slight the tortoise. India's premier agency for military R&D, the Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO), will pause missile testing at Wheeler Island off Odisha coast during the mass nesting season of Olive Ridley sea turtles from January to March next year to ensure the endangered species wins the race for survival, reports Riyaz Ramzanath.



About 5 lakh Olive Ridleys nested at Wheeler Island this year

Missile testing, mechanised boats, and movement of people adversely impact the mass nesting and breeding of sea turtles off the island. Around five lakh Olive Ridleys nested there this year.

► Tests affect turtles, P 20

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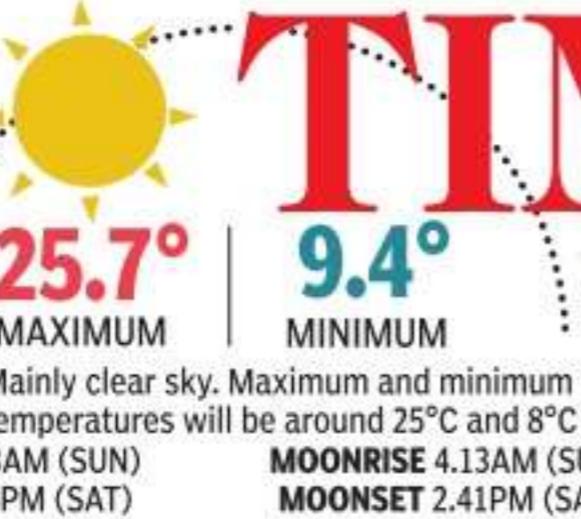
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Hundreds of bonsais on display at three-day fest in south Delhi | 4



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3 2 4

AQI IN DELHI ON FRIDAY AT 4PM (VERY POOR CATEGORY)

Air quality worsens further as wind speed slows | 4



## HC to med council: Crack down on quacks operating as doctors

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** The high court on Friday asked the Delhi Medical Council (DMC) to crack down on the menace of quacks in medical practice, while hearing a PIL that highlighted the recent case of a fake medical centre in south Delhi's Greater Kailash.

Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Mini Pushkarna issued notice to the National Medical Commission (NMC) and DMC on the PIL on the issue of fake and unqualified doctors. "This is a problem that the society is facing at large... DMC has to be more effective. Corrupt practices should be prevented. The fact that DMC is not having the desired impact is a problem," observed the bench.

"Your control at the ground level is not there it seems... Today your presence is not felt at ground. Don't wait for a complaint. Give us instances of how many cases you have taken action in the past," said the court, while issuing notice to Delhi government and the Centre on the public interest litigation (PIL) by five persons, including a minor boy who suffered brain injury at birth due to "unqualified" doctors.

The court said the council has to supervise all doctors and suggested that their names can be published in public domain so that "everyone can cross-check" their credentials. "We are inclined to direct that verification can be done by a committee," the bench said, adding, "You have to see that the degree of the doctor actually matches

the practice. He may be having an MBBS degree, but the practice field may be different, which cannot be allowed".

However, the court recorded the submission of the counsels for DMC and NMC that certain litigation was ongoing between the authorities and some of the petitioners. The petitioners' counsel, stating that all details have been mentioned, argued that unqualified doctors were committing a crime and the process of verification must be directed to be undertaken. "People are dying in top hospitals of Delhi. Quacks are sitting," the lawyer argued.

Petitioners include the minor, his mother and another person who is a class IV employee of NDMC who said he lost his daughter to medical malpractice.

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# Another Govt Vs LG Tussle Reaches SC, This Time It's Farishte Scheme

Court Issues Notice To LG's Office, Asks Why One Wing Of Govt Fighting Another

AmitAnand.Choudhary  
@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** Another legal tussle between Delhi's AAP government and lieutenant governor reached the Supreme Court for adjudication and this time it is on implementation of 'Farishte Dilli Ke' scheme. The court on Friday agreed to hear the plea of the elected government and issued notice to LG office and officers who are allegedly blocking its implementation.

Senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing for the NCT government, told a bench of Justices B R Gavai and Sudhanshu Dhulia that the scheme is one of the most humanitarian and welfare schemes of the government, to provide free-of-cost treatment in road accident cases but the officers are creating obstacles in its implementation and funds are not released.

Singhvi said that the scheme comes within the ambit of health services on which



AT LOGGERHEADS AGAIN

the elected government has jurisdiction and not the LG and the officers should follow the direction of the government. The petition said that lives are being lost on the streets for want of timely and effective treatment as the scheme has been de-operationalised by bureaucrats.

Agreeing to examine the plea, the bench asked, "Why one wing of the government is fighting with another wing

of the government". The notice has also been issued to the secretary of health and family welfare department and the director to directorate general of health services.

The government in its petition sought court's direction for (a) immediate re-operationnalisation of the 'Farishte' scheme by release of pending bills and timely payments to private hospitals and (b) initiation of disciplinary action

and suspension proceedings against Dr. Nutan Mundecha, the then Director General of Health Services (DGHS) and Dr. S.B. Deepak Kumar, Secretary, Health & Family Welfare (H&FW), who are allegedly responsible for deliberately orchestrating the de-operationnalisation of the scheme.

"Ever since the enactment of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Act, 2023 which seeks to, inter alia, remove 'Services' from the jurisdiction of Delhi govt and the constitutionality of which is pending before SC, the 'permanent executive' of GNCT of Delhi, that is, the officers responsible for policy-enforcement, have exhibited continuous insubordination and non-cooperation with respect to the implementation of the schemes and policies of the petitioner government. As a result, the people of NCT of Delhi have been deprived of their fundamental right to essential public amenities such as the right to health and life. The government has also been rendered functus officio, as its implementation of its policies has effectively been paralysed," the petition said.

It said that 23,000 road accident victims have been provided cashless treatment in private hospitals under the welfare scheme and the hospitals were reimbursed by the Delhi Arogya Kosh.

"However, the hospitals are now reluctant to accept accident victims and this scheme has practically become defunct for more than a year since payments to the majority of the hospitals have not been made. This has had a catastrophic impact on the medical aid available to victims of road accidents, and lives are being lost on the streets for want of timely and effective treatment. Very recently, on 01.11.2023, a 30-year-old victim lay bleeding in Panchsheel Park for 30 mins before he succumbed to his injuries three days later," the petition said.

## In minor rejig, Atishi gets law & justice portfolio

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** The AAP government has given the portfolios of law, justice and legislative affairs, which were with minister Kailash Gahlot, to Atishi, and given Gahlot the charge of the women and child development department, which was with Atishi.

The portfolios Gahlot now holds are transport, administrative reforms, information and technology, home and women and child development.

With 14 departments under her, Atishi is the busiest minister in Kejriwal's cabinet, followed by Raaj Kumar Anand with seven, Saurabh Bharadwaj with six, Gahlot with five, Gopal Rai with three and Imran Hussain with two.

Atishi is the only woman in the seven-member cabinet. She was inducted in March with Bharadwaj after former deputy CM Manish Sisodia and former health minister Satyendar Jain tendered their resignation following their imprisonment.

In March, Gahlot was given charge of eight departments, in addition to all the others that were not specifically allotted to any of his colleagues.

He was at that time in charge of the home, revenue, finance, law, justice and legislative affairs, transport, administrative reforms, information and



SWAPPING RESPONSIBILITIES: Women and child development department, which was earlier with Atishi, has been given to Gahlot

technology and planning departments, in addition to all the other departments not specifically allotted to any minister. In June Atishi was given additional charge of revenue, planning and finance.

On August 12, the LG had approved a rejig when services and vigilance were given to Atishi as proposed by CM Arvind Kejriwal on August 8. The portfolios of services and vigilance were with Saurabh

Bharadwaj at that time.

In June, Atishi was given the additional charge of revenue, planning and finance, earlier held by Gahlot.

Friday's development comes a day after lieutenant governor VK Saxena directed that all files pertaining to courts, judicial infrastructure, expeditious justice delivery and the judicial administration be submitted to him within three days. He said there were "inexplicable delays" by the AAP government in clearing them. The government rejected the LG House allegations and said that it had made the "maximum investment" in judicial infrastructure in Delhi's history.

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# Book Of Job: Number Of Women In Workforce Dips

**DELHI DATA:** Employment Among Women Lower Than National Average, Seeing A Consistent Decline Over The Years

Abhinav Rajput, Ridhima Gupta & Siddhivin Singh | TNN

New Delhi: The number of women in the working population of Delhi has dipped, while the number of men has gone up marginally. The 'Women and Men in Delhi 2023' report published by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics on Friday said that Worker Population Ratio (WPR) in the age group of fifteen years and above for women went down from 16% in 2018-19 for three consecutive years to reach 11.5% in 2021-22. In the case of men, it rose from 67.3% in 2018-19 to 68.9% in 2021-22.

Maliwal added, "Women also continue to encounter difficulties in accessing fundamental amenities such as transportation and safety. Issues like child marriages and a lack of educational opportunities for girls are significant barriers too. It is imperative to focus on enhancing safety in urban areas, as well as improving the affordability and accessibility of transportation and education in rural India."

The unemployment rate has improved in the case of both genders over the years. For the age 15 and above age group, the unemployment rate was 9.2% for males against 10.7% for the female population in 2017-18. In 2021-22, the rate was 5.1% for men and 6% for women.

In 2021-22, 33.1% of the male workers were self-employed, 63.3% were wage or salary earners and 3.5% were casual labourers. Among women, 17% were self-employed, 83% were in regular wage or salaried employment and none in casual labour. Casual labour comprises intermittent, sporadic or short-period work. The figure seems to indicate that more women switched from casual

Swati Maliwal, head of Delhi Commission for Wo-

men, responded to the gender skew saying, "While India recently achieved the status of the fifth-largest economy globally, the active involvement of women in the labour force remains limited. The adverse effects of the Covid pandemic have exacerbated the challenges they have faced in recent years."

Maliwal added, "Women also continue to encounter difficulties in accessing fundamental amenities such as transportation and safety. Issues like child marriages and a lack of educational opportunities for girls are significant barriers too. It is imperative to focus on enhancing safety in urban areas, as well as improving the affordability and accessibility of transportation and education in rural India."

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Swati Maliwal, head of Delhi Commission for Wo-

## Paradiso collapse: Chintels MD gets bail from CBI court

Gurgaon: A CBI court on Friday granted bail to Chintels India CMD Ashok Solomon, contractor Bhayana's project manager and three others who are among the eight accused in the case related to the vertical collapse of five floors at a Sector 10 society in the city last year.

Two women died after falling from the floor of a flat's living room at tower D caved in, triggering a collapse down to the first floor, at Chintels Paradiso in February 2022.

Gurgaon police initially filed an FIR and later constituted

a special investigation team (SIT) to probe the case. The Haryana government subsequently transferred the case to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which registered an FIR in January this year.

The CBI court of special judicial magistrate Vinod Kumar in Panchkula had summoned all the eight accused to appear before it on Friday.

The case will be taken up on January 6. The court directed CBI to issue fresh summons to the three accused who were not at the hearing on Friday. TNN

Kushagra.Dixit  
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: It is a riot of uplifting colours at the Garden of Five Senses in south Delhi's Saidulajabat on the Bonsai and Chrysanthemum Festival. The three-day event, which began on Friday, has been organised by Delhi Tourism and has on show hundreds of shawdy heads and pampered bonsais, mostly submitted as entries for the festival by government and private organisations, city nurseries and individual green thumbs.

The multicoloured chrysanthemum, mum for short and commonly called guldauri, blooms at this time of the year in Delhi and its seasonal emergence prompted Delhi Tourism for the first time to hold a festival exclusively to extol its beauty. Delhi Tourism otherwise organises the Delhi Garden Festival in spring, which this year was themed on the G20 summit and, therefore, had brought together the national flowers of the countries participating in the global conference. In April, Delhi Tourism also organised the boudinville festival at the Garden of Five Senses with over 1,000 floral entries.

According to bonsai artist Renu Vaish, who is a judge in

the ongoing flower fest, the chrysanthemum is an important flower for the capital. "In a city like Delhi, we don't have many flowers around December and January. So, the chrysanthemum imparts colour to the city at such a time. They are very colourful with multiple varieties. Because of this they are the season's choice for the masses," said Vaish, who is a founding member of the Indian Bonsai Association. "Also, while the flower is a seasonal pleaser, in countries such as Japan, the chrysanthemum has deeper social aspects. We can see this reflected in old Japanese paintings."

A lot of work goes into exhibit-worthy chrysanthemums. Vaish said the plants have to be trained according to the style one has chosen, including an individual bloom, cascade style or trunk style. "The ultimate aim is to get the maximum flowers to bloom, whether they are bushy or on a single stem," she said.

According to Laxmi Thakur, a horticulture expert and one of the judges, the chrysanthemum is a sun-loving plant and contrary to its image of blooming in winters only, the plant can be saved for another season by pruning the plant correctly. "While it needs a full sun, it

cannot bear overwatering and has to have at least two sessions of manuring every year. However, the manure it requires is half as much as needed by other seasonal plants," said Thakur.

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# A Woman Can Be 'Karta' Of HUF, Says HC

Upholds Single-Judge Ruling Of 2016

Abhinav.Garg@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** In a significant ruling, Delhi High Court has said that a woman can be the "karta" (head) of a Hindu Undivided Family (HUF). The ruling upheld a landmark verdict by a single judge in 2016 that had extended the meaning of Section 6 of the Hindu Succession Act, which brings women on par with men on matters of inheritance.

The latest verdict by a bench of justices Suresh Kumar Kait and Neena Bansal Krishna quashed Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a former judge of the Supreme Court of the United States, to point out that "real change happens one step at a time."

The high court, in a recent verdict, underlined that "neither the legislature nor the traditional Hindu law in any way limits the right of a woman to be a karta. Also, societal perceptions cannot be a reason to deny the rights expressly conferred by legislature."

Citing a 2005 amendment in the Hindu Succession Act that gave equal rights to women in property, the court pointed out: "To say that a woman can be a coparcener but not a karta, would be giving an interpretation which would not only be anomalous but also against the stated object of introduction of amendment."

It declared a woman Sujata, the granddaughter of the patriarch of the family, as karta, after taking note that all his sons had passed away. The dispute arose among the grandsons who opposed Sujata being declared as karta. The court noted that Sujata's candidature was opposed on "myriad hy-

ptheses justifying why it would be incorrect for a woman to become a karta from the societal standpoint."

Brushing aside the objections by one of the grandsons, the court underlined that "any culture or practice that is ingrained in the society is bound to face some apprehension and resistance by the society when systemic changes are made to it. But with passage of time it becomes a tool of social change". "Test of popular acceptance does not furnish a valid basis to disregard statutory rights that are conferred with the sanctity of constitutional protection," it stated.

The court added that the claim that the husband of a female karta would have an indirect control over the activities of the HUF of her father's family is "only a parochial mindset."

The bench also observed that men and women historically were born equal but over a period of time "with the advancement of civilisation and hierarchical division of society, women have been pigeonholed according to gender roles which progressed into an act of prelation that has relegated them to a secondary position in society."

It lamented that the once egalitarian society "became a breeding ground for chauvinism and discrimination in the form of sati, child marriage, sexual harassment, domestic violence, dowry harassment and such like disparities" which is why laws had to be brought to "overcome this bigotry and free women from the shackles of such specious fetters devised by mankind."

## Shooter gets HC relief in judicial appointment case

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Delhi High Court has set aside cancellation of the candidature and recommendation for the appointment of Disha Langan, a national-level shooter, to Delhi Judicial Service. The division bench of Justice Vibhu Bakshi and Justice Amit Mahajan found merit in her contention that the court could not adopt a pick-and-choose policy in such

matters and granted her relief. A recommendation to appoint Langan to the judicial services was cancelled by the high court administration in July on the ground that she had concealed information about a pending criminal case against her in her exam application form. Langan submitted that another candidate with a pending criminal case had also responded to the query in negative, but no action was taken against him.

## PM: Initiatives like India Art must be institutionalised

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** India's economic growth translates into growth opportunities for the world, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said while inaugurating the central government's maiden India Art, Architecture and Design Biennale (IAADB) 2023 at Red Fort on Friday.



PM Modi at India Art, Architecture and Design Biennale at Red Fort

cal significance of hosting the biennale at Red Fort, Modi said the fort's courtyards had stood witness to the rich architectural heritage of India, and which were among the many symbols that narrated the story of India's art, culture, past and its values to the rest of the world.

The PM underscored the government's efforts to set

designers in design development as well as innovative, tech-savvy marketing. "Whatever may be the form of art, it is born close to nature. Therefore, art is pro-nature, pro-environment and pro-climate."

He also highlighted India's rich tradition of art and design, reflected in the design of stepwells, forts and temples, and cited the example of Patwa ki Haveli in Jaisalmer, a group of five mansions built in a way to work like natural airconditioning. "All this architecture was not only long-lasting but also environmentally sustainable."

While inviting people to visit the week-long biennale and the three-month-long exhibition until March 31, Modi said, "Art, architecture and culture flourish when there is freedom of thought and freedom to work in one's own way. With this tradition of debate and dialogue, diversity automatically flourishes. We welcome and support every kind of diversity."

The PM also underlined India putting global good before self-interest, adding that with India emerging as the biggest economy in the world, everyone sees a better future. "Its vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat brings new opportunities. Similarly, India's revival in the field of art and architecture will also contribute to humanity."

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## Signature Apartments residents meet DDA, demand rent payment

Vibha.Sharma@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** The Residents' Welfare Association of Signature View Apartments in Mukherjee Nagar has claimed to have met DDA officials to demand a safe evacuation for residents if the authority immediately pays the rent to those vacating the apartments.

The meeting was organised by DDA on Thursday.

Amarendra Kumar Rakshesh, RWA president, said: "We assured DDA that if they start paying the rent, residents will immediately leave." If DDA does not agree, then RWA will approach a court.

IIT in its report said these towers were severely damaged. Rakesh said.

A senior DDA official said that the authority has no right to get the flats evacuated. "It is the municipal body which can declare it unsafe or dangerous.... These are sold-off flats and we have no right to ask people to vacate them. However, we have requested them to vacate because of the condition of the flats," the official said.

Regarding the RWA's demand that DDA should consent to paying rent immediately to those who vacate the flats, officials said they had no instruction.



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# Shoot & Scoot: Extortion Link Confirmed

2 Of Bishnoi-Brar Gang Held For Firing At Bizman's House For Refusing To Pay Protection Money

Rajshekhar.Jha@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Delhi Police's Crime Branch has cracked the case of shooting at liquor baron Deep Malhotra's house in Punjabi Bagh and arrested two shooters of the Goldy Brar-Lawrence Bishnoi syndicate in Haryana.

The men had demanded protection money from Malhotra, who is also a former Shiromani Akali Dal MLA from Faridkot in Punjab, and fired 7-8 rounds at his house when he refused to pay.

Brar, based in the US, intended to extort Rs 5 crore from Malhotra, sources said.

On Tuesday, TOI was the first to report that the Bishnoi-Brar gang was the prime suspect in the shooting. Special commissioner (crime) Ravindra Yadav told TOI on Friday that after receiving instructions from Bishnoi, Brar had contacted shooters on the Signal application and asked them to execute the task. Malhotra and his family, who enjoy police security, had a narrow escape as the shooters managed to breach their cordon and strike.

Brar had been demanding the extortion money for a few months and even got two of Malhotra's shops burnt down after being refused in the past. When the cops started the probe in the case, they stumbled

## MASKED ACCUSED SEEN ON CCTV

### THE INCIDENT

WHEN  
December 3  
6.45PM

CCTV shows two masked men on foot approaching and fleeing the house



## HOW BISHNOI- BRAR SYNDICATE OPERATES

- Agents and middlemen are tasked with identifying rich and vulnerable targets on the basis of their financial condition and paying capacity
- The targets range from bookies and gamblers to real estate dealers, builders, land grabbers, jewellers and other businessmen
- The syndicate hires recruits from the rural areas of Haryana, Rajasthan and Delhi in the age group of 16-22 years

- Provides them with logistics to execute crimes on their behalf while they stay abroad or in jail

**YOU READ IT HERE**  
Cops probe possible Bishnoi-Brar angle to W Delhi shooting

upon a voice note sent by Brar, threatening Malhotra.

Malhotra had filed a complaint in this regard at the local police station, after which security was deployed at his residence. Additionally, Punjab Police provided him with two securitymen. Malhotra also has a few private guards at the house, a senior police officer said.

On Monday, CCTV footage surfaced showing two shooters on foot, firing at the house. One of them had a towel wrapped around his face. Both were seen firing together. No one was injured in the firing.

Special CP Yadav formed multiple teams comprising inspector Rampal and Sis Hemant, Pramod and Mukesh under DCP Amit Goel to track down the shooters. "CCTV footage of dozens of cameras were analysed. Human as well as technical surveillance was mounted. The teams got crucial inputs that led to the identification of the shooters," special CP Yadav said.

Police found out that one of the shooters, Aakash (22), was in Sonipat after which a search was conducted and he was caught. He led the police to the other shooter, Nitesh (19), from Charkhi Dadri in Haryana. Two pistols and seven cartridges, besides a stolen bike, were found on them. The bike had been stolen

from Palam village in 2019.

An interrogation revealed that the shooters did not know each other and had met a week before their assignment. Brar had deployed a middleman — who the police is looking for — to provide them with the weapons and a bike. The weapons were collected from near a milestone on the highway, whose photo and location had been sent to them. The bike was already parked at the shooters at Madipur metro station when they arrived in Delhi, sources said.

Aakash disclosed that he was lodged in jail in an attempted murder case where he met some Brar-Bishnoi gang members and joined them. The duo was promised Rs 1 lakh each for the task, besides other favours, including assistance in a revenge killing.

Brar knew the target had a high paying capacity and decided to target him to send a message to the business community in Delhi and Punjab. Malhotra is an established liquor baron in Punjab, and the chairman and managing director of the Oasis Group, which deals in manufacturing and distribution of alcohol.

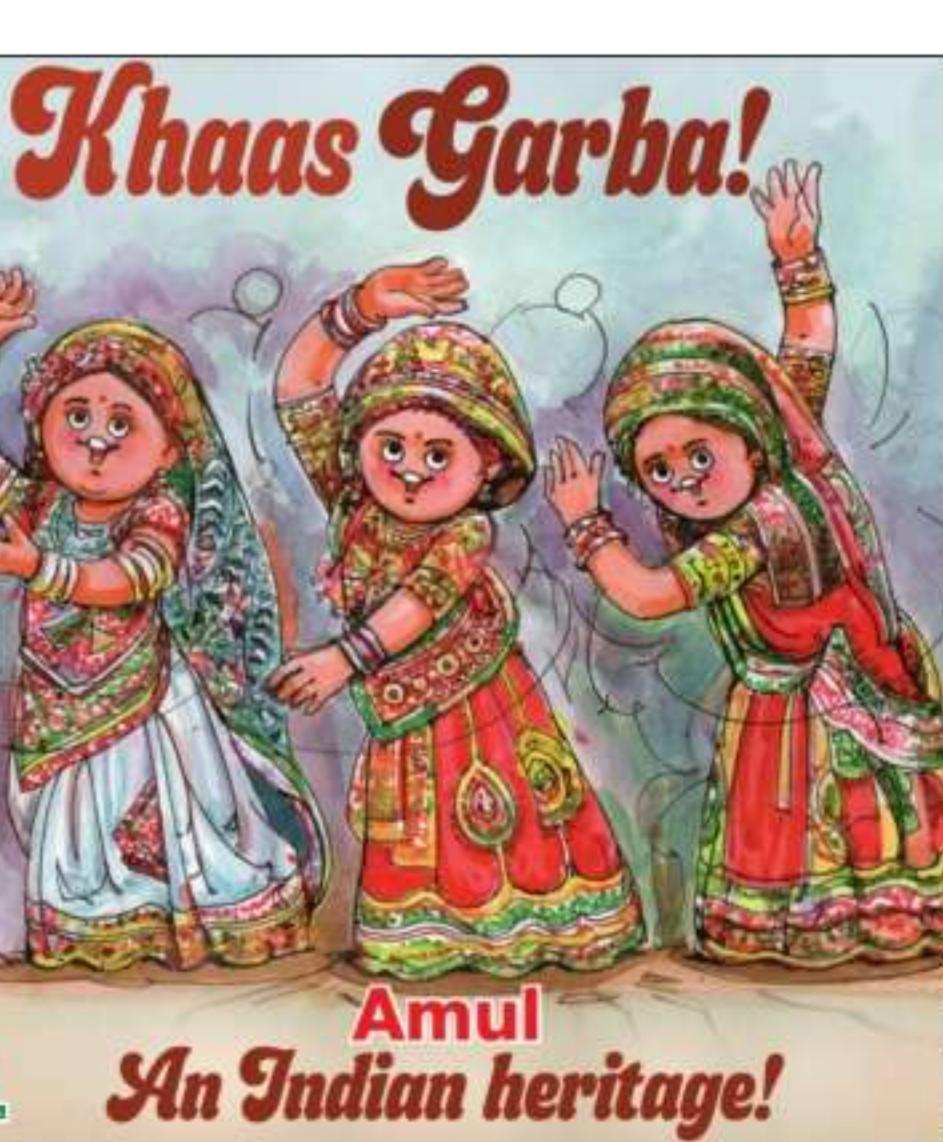
In May, the income tax department had searched Malhotra's premises. In February, his son, Gautam Malhotra, was arrested by ED in the alleged Delhi excise scam case.

labels missing.

Based on his complaint, a case of theft was registered at Kalkaji police station. During the investigation, the movement of two passersby, including Pawan Kumar, was found to be suspicious. The cops zeroed in on them and Pawan was subsequently arrested. Over two dozen cassettes were seized then.

Each police station has a team to trace proclaimed offenders. In Pawan's case, it was hard for cops to trace him as they had no photograph or no idea about how he looked in today's times. A police team led by two head constables had been working on the case and travelled to Himachal Pradesh a few times in the last 6-8 months.

"The good part was that his name was the same so at least we could ask people in his village in Kangra about him. He is now married and residing with his children aged 20 and 22. He was arrested from Kandwal," Meena added.



## 34 yrs later, man accused of stealing cassettes held

Sakshi.Chand@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Thirty-four years after he was declared a proclaimed offender, a 60-year-old man who was booked for the theft of cassettes was arrested by the Shahdara district police.

Police said the accused hails from Himachal Pradesh.

"The accused has been identified as Pawan Kumar (60). After the cassettes were stolen in 1989, he was arrested and released on bail, but he did not appear post that. In 1997, he was declared a proclaimed offender by a court," said Rohit Meena, DCP (Shahdara).

An incident of theft of audio cassettes was reported in September 1989. The complainant, a cassette seller, told police that he had locked his shop on September 12 and left for some work outside Delhi. When he returned on September 22, he found his shop open and approximately 300 cassettes of famous brands and music

shoppers are also asked to recce the target's house or office or shop," DCP (crime) Amit Goel said.

Once the recce is done, they are told the date and time when they have to complete the task. Once the crime is committed, the shooters are kept in a safehouse and their locations are changed to dodge police. The henchmen are asked to change multiple vehicles to get away from a crime spot to dodge CCTVs. In the latest case, the shooters took an auto to get rid of any trail.

"The whole machinery works in a synchronized manner with no communication between the different operatives. The handler operates from abroad using international numbers. He coordinates with different gang members — whether it is the recruiting agent or the logistics provider. The phones and SIMs are frequently changed," the officer said.

The threat call had cops alerted and they mounted technical surveillance after analysing the call detail records (CDR). The investigation led them to Tejpal Solanki, a resident of Najafgarh. He was arrested and confessed to have made the call after his family left him. The inebriated Solanki was taken into custody.

A case under sections 336 (acting rashly to endanger lives of public) 505 (causing fear or alarm to public and 182 (false information) of IPC was registered at IGI Airport. TNN

## Business of fear: Well-oiled machinery with clear roles

Rajshekhar.Jha@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The interrogation of two Bishnoi-Brar syndicate shooters, who had fired at liquor baron Deep Malhotra's home in Punjabi Bagh recently, has opened up the operations of the group carrying out extortions in Delhi, NCR, Punjab, Chandigarh, Haryana and Rajasthan.

Since the top gang members are overseas, it has become difficult for agencies to track their movements and funds.

Special commissioner (crime) Ravindra Yadav said the extortion racket is run with professionalism. Roles and responsibilities are strictly defined for each member.

An investigation has revealed that the syndicate engages agents and middlemen who identify vulnerable targets based on their financial

condition and paying capacity. The targets are bookies, gamblers, real estate dealers, builders, land grabbers, jewellers and businessmen.

"After the selection of targets, the syndicate sends its demand for protection money. The demand is made either by a phone or video call, through a letter or verbally through a visit by henchmen," Yadav said.

The gang warns the targets that their family members could be abducted or shot. Bishnoi and Brar's names are dropped to instil fear.

The middlemen try to negotiate if the businessman is willing to pay. The amount is transferred abroad through hawala channels. In case there is no response from the businessman, foot soldiers are recruited and trained to scare the target.

These new recruits are mainly juveniles or youth from rural areas of Haryana, Rajasthan or Delhi in

**AN OFFICER SAYS**  
The handler operates from abroad using international numbers. He coordinates with different gang members — whether it is the recruiting agent or the logistics provider. The phones and SIMs are frequently changed

the age group of 16-22 years. Most of the immature youths join for a kick out of being members of the gang," special CP Yadav added.

The young recruits feel they will be able to make a name in their peer group by joining the gang. Once they commit a crime, there is no escape. The rest of their short-lived life is spent behind bars or in cour-

trooms. Their families have no option but to abandon them as they would not like to face prosecution for their illegal activities. They never get any part of the extorted money and lead a hand-to-mouth existence, begging for their daily expenses, while the kingpins and handlers amass wealth and enjoy a luxurious life abroad," the special CP said.

The police have found out that the shooters were being contacted through internet-based services and were told to reach a location and wait for directions for logistics. Their locations are changed frequently and they are never given the identities of persons providing the logistics.

"Weapons are supplied to them through masked people or those with fake identities, or they are told to collect firearms and bikes from a remote location such as a landmark tree in a field or a milestone. The

shooters are also asked to recce the target's house or office or shop," DCP (crime) Amit Goel said.

Once the recce is done, they are told the date and time when they have to complete the task. Once the crime is committed, the shooters are kept in a safehouse and their locations are changed to dodge police. The henchmen are asked to change multiple vehicles to get away from a crime spot to dodge CCTVs. In the latest case, the shooters took an auto to get rid of any trail.

"The whole machinery works in a synchronized manner with no communication between the different operatives. The handler operates from abroad using international numbers. He coordinates with different gang members — whether it is the recruiting agent or the logistics provider. The phones and SIMs are frequently changed," the officer said.

The threat call had cops alerted and they mounted technical surveillance after analysing the call detail records (CDR). The investigation led them to Tejpal Solanki, a resident of Najafgarh. He was arrested and confessed to have made the call after his family left him. The inebriated Solanki was taken into custody.

A case under sections 336 (acting rashly to endanger lives of public) 505 (causing fear or alarm to public and 182 (false information) of IPC was registered at IGI Airport. TNN

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# A heartbreaking story of social change and escape

## CINEMA OF THE WEEK

**Kastoori (Social Drama) ★★★**  
**Cast:** Samarth Sonawane, Shravan Upalkar  
**Direction:** Vinod Kamble  
**Duration:** 1 hour 42 minutes  
**Language:** Hindi, Marathi with English subtitles (UA)

Gopi, a 13-year-old boy exuding wisdom beyond his years and his best friend Adim, find escape in attar (aromatic essential oils) that offers them momentary escape from their poverty-ridden grim world plagued by death and dirt. After watching his dreams being crushed by everyone around him, it dawns upon Gopi that his real escape is not the fragrance of Kastoori (musk) but his right to education and a better life.



Nadine Labaki's poignant Lebanese drama 'Capernaum' sees a young boy suing his abusive parents for giving him a life riddled with misery and despair. Even if one overlooks the lack of basic needs, care, and respect, why would adults bring children into the world if they can't even make them smile or allow them a moment of peace? Co-written by Shivaji Karde, director Vinod Kamble's heartbreaking yet uplifting film on the intricacies of class and caste disparity treads a similar path. He reminds you that you don't have to be a slave to your surroundings or situation.

Gopi is a Dalit and belongs to a family of sweepers and manual scavengers. The sight of his drunk father burying rotten unclaimed bodies, performing PM (post-mortem) as directed by a local doctor or mother cleaning drained toilets makes his stomach churn. The privilege of choice is not for the needy. Adim is the son of a butcher. Rotten flesh, blood and waste is all the two friends are subjected to. They find solace in the fragrance of an attar; that transports them to a happy place, away from the suffocating stench that engulfs and erodes their existence and dreams.

Despite being one of the brightest talents in his class, Gopi's mother reminds him that books

don't satiate hunger and like his family, he too needs to follow the role assigned to him by society.

The topic is not for the faint-hearted and can be triggering if you too went through a similar trauma. Despite the suffering you witness, what stays with you is Gopi's resilience, optimism and heartening friendship with Adim. Kamble keeps the hope alive and reminds you that you are the captain of your ship, you define your destiny. Change is possible. The two children brave the physical and mental hardships to keep going. Some decisions to live is an act of courage. *Kastoori* salutes this human spirit.

Lead performances by Samarth Sonawane (as Gopi) and Shravan Upalkar (as Adim) are powerful and heart-wrenching. They give the film everything it needs – innocence, little joys and hope for a better tomorrow. *Kastoori* is great filmmaking that demands social change without begging for it.

— Renuka Vyavahare

To review any movie and check show timings visit [times.in](#)

## RATING SCALE

TRASH ★	BELOW AVERAGE ★★	AVERAGE ★★★
ABOVE AVERAGE ★★★	GOOD ★★★★	VERY GOOD ★★★★
OUTSTANDING ★★★★	MASTERPIECE ★★★★★	

## This Delhi man is on 21,000km mission

**Karojkumar.Sharma**

@timesgroup.com

**Imphal:** A Delhi-based social worker who is on a 21,000km walk across three countries to spread awareness about blood donation, reached Manipur's capital Imphal on Wednesday.

**Kiran Verma,** 38, said, "So far, I have covered 17,800 km



through 230 districts across 18 states/Union territories."

He began his walk on December 28, 2021 from Thiruvananthapuram.

"This walk is going to be the longest blood awareness campaign ever by an individual in the world," Verma said, adding that "nobody should die waiting for blood in India after December 31, 2025".

To support his walk, more than 9000 individual donors have donated blood across India and abroad, he added.

construct a footpath and install road signage to avoid pedestrian accidents. The intersection saw 13 fatal crashes in 2020.

At Peeragarhi Chowk, the work has started to fix the railing on the central verge and the footpath of a service lane between Main Rohtak Road and the intersection. At Bhalswa Chowk, which has consistently featured in the most accident-prone zone list, PWD is rectifying a footpath, and putting in place proper signage and road markings.

According to officials, these spots have been taken up in the first phase of the project and the design changes suggested by the transport department will be implemented to reduce the number of accidents.

At Madhuban Chowk, which is among the top 10 black spots in the city, PWD will

make the tokens locally, so their price also dropped substantially. We stopped the circulation of red tokens and later introduced souvenir tokens for commuters to take back home," Dayal said, adding things gradually streamlined and token leakage also cooled down.

The souvenir tokens in-

roduced by DMRC in 2008 were exact replicas of the regular ones and came at a nominal price of Rs 4. The red-coloured return-journey tokens were discontinued from May 11, 2004.

Souvenir tokens are sold at the Metro Museum at Patel Chowk metro station and some selected stations. Accor-

vel policy interventions were discussed. The decision was taken after it had come to light that 47% of the fatal crashes occurred on national and state roads, which accounted for just 10% of the road network.

According to a recent study by the School of Planning and Architecture on the accident black spots for 2020 and 2021, the areas around the existing black spots have also turned dangerous for commuters, converting them into complete "black spot corridors".

In March, chief minister Arvind Kejriwal had reviewed the road safety measures in Delhi and several high-le-

## PWD begins work on fixing 4 key accident spots

**Siddhanta.Mishra**

@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** The Public Works Department has started fixing the city's four accident-prone zones — Madhuban Chowk, Peeragarhi Chowk, Bhalswa Chowk and Mangolpuri flyover — that witness heavy traffic movement.

According to officials, these spots have been taken up in the first phase of the project and the design changes suggested by the transport department will be implemented to reduce the number of accidents.

At Madhuban Chowk, which is among the top 10 black spots in the city, PWD will

make the tokens locally, so their price also dropped substantially. We stopped the circulation of red tokens and later introduced souvenir tokens for commuters to take back home," Dayal said, adding things gradually streamlined and token leakage also cooled down.

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## UNDER SCANNER

**WHAT IS A BLACK SPOT** Area of around 500 metres in diameter reporting three or more fatal accidents or 10 or more total accidents in a year is called an accident-prone zone or black spot

### Changes planned

- Design improvements at junction level
- Traffic signal synchronisation

### Status

- 896 traffic intersections in the city being studied by PWD
- In 2020-21, 103 black spots were identified by SPA






### GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

#### JALPAIGURI ZILLA PARISHAD

#### JALPAIGURI

#### Memo. No. 1367/Eng Date: 08.12.2023

#### e-Tender Notice

#### e-Tender of NIT No. WBZP/52-DE/JLP/23-24 (2nd, 4th & 5th Call) for nos. works vide Tender ID no.2023\_ZPHD\_618322\_1 to 5 is invited. Details may be seen in our website: [www.wbtenders.gov.in](http://www.wbtenders.gov.in) and simultaneously this office Notice Board during working hours.

#### Sd/- District Engineer Jalpaiguri Zilla Parishad

#### Memo No.: 163(3)/ADVT/DICOJUL Date: 08.12.2023

### GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

#### PWD TENDER NOTICE

Executive Engineer, Barasat Division, PWD, invites online e-Tender for the work of "Construction of campus road along with drain & development of ground surrounding of ASDR building at Haldi, Barasat, Noida Sector-1, Noida, during the year 2023-2024" - e-NIT No. WB/PWD/BDT/EE/NIT40e/23-24

Tender ID : 2023\_WBZP/52-DE/JLP/23-24 (2nd, 4th & 5th Call) for nos. works vide Tender ID no.2023\_ZPHD\_618322\_1 to 5 is invited. Details may be seen in our website: [www.wbtenders.gov.in](http://www.wbtenders.gov.in) and simultaneously this office Notice Board during working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Jhargram Zilla Parishad

Memo No.: 117(2)/Adv/JICA Date: 08.12.2023

### GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

#### e-Tender Notice

e-NIT is invited by the Executive Engineer, Jhargram Zilla Parishad, Ref. - JGM-WBZP/5-N/2023-24 (S1.No. 1 to 2) Tender ID: 2023\_ZPHD\_618202\_1 to 2, For different PS area under Jhargram Zilla Parishad. Technical and Financial bid submission closing date & time 22.12.2023 upto 16:00 Hours. All details can be obtained from the website: [www.wbtenders.gov.in](http://www.wbtenders.gov.in) & [www.jhargram.gov.in](http://www.jhargram.gov.in).

Sd/- Executive Engineer Jhargram Zilla Parishad

Memo No.:117(2)/Adv/JICA Date: 08.12.2023

### WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED

#### (A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)

#### Regd. Office: Vidyut Bhawan, Block-D, Sector-II, Bidhannagar, Kolkata - 700 091

#### CIN: U40109WB2007SC13473, www.wbsedcl.in

#### WBSEDCL invites e-Tender as follows:

#### NIT No.: WBSEDC/CE/EMD/2023-24/e-tender/22 Dt: 30.11.2023 of the Chief Engineer, Estate Management Department, WBSEDC. Estimated Cost: ₹ 1,43,29,734/- for the work of Thorough renovation, repair and painting of exterior surface of Vidyut Bhavan Building'

#### For details, visit [www.wbtenders.gov.in](http://www.wbtenders.gov.in) & [www.wbsedcl.in](http://www.wbsedcl.in)

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#### CIN: U40109WB2007SC13473, www.wbsedcl.in

#### WBSEDCL invites e-Tender as follows:

#### NIT No.: ZML/SLG/E-Tender/2023-24/22, Dt: 04.12.2023 of the Zonal Manager, Siliguri Zone, WBSEDC. Estimated Cost: ₹ 1,15,50,850/- for the work of "Construction of Control Room Building including electrical wiring, light lighting, sanitary plumbing, land development, boundary wall, switchyard fencing equipment foundations, cable trenches bore well, erection of electrical equipment and other allied works for a new (outdoor spread-out type) 33/11 kV Sub-Station at Ethelbari Industrial Park under Alipurbar Division, WBSEDC."

#### For details, visit [www.wbtenders.gov.in](http://www.wbtenders.gov.in) & [www.wbsedcl.in](http://www.wbsedcl.in)

### GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

#### TENDER NOTICE

West Bengal Transport Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (An Undertaking of Govt. of West Bengal under Transport Department)

No. IN-WBTIDCL-378714-GO-RFB

Dated: 08/12/2023

### TENDER NOTICE

The Government of West Bengal (GoWB) through the Government of India has received a loan from the World Bank (WB) for implementation of the West Bengal Inland Water Transport, Logistics and Spatial Development Project (WBWITLSDP). WBTIDCL now intends to apply a portion of the loan for: 1) "Design, Build, operation and maintenance of hybrid electric ferries under the WBWITLSDP Project, Transport Department, Government of West Bengal in the KMA" (200 PAX). The State Project Director (SPD), WBTIDCL at State Project Management Unit, WBTIDCL, Transport, Paribahan Bhawan-II, CSTC Complex-Ground Floor, Kolkata-700107, West Bengal, India. Tel. No. 033-24429081/82/83/84. mail: [wbtidcl@yahoo.com](mailto:wbtidcl@yahoo.com) now invites eligible bidders to bid, latest by 14 January 2024. Further details please visit our website [www.wbmdfc.org](http://www.wbmdfc.org) and [www.wbtenders.gov.in](http://www.wbtenders.gov.in). Tender No. 1800-120-2130

Sd/- OSD & EO Managing Director

ICA- T24958(3)/2023

## Excise case accused claims contradictions in ED, CBI allegations

AnilAnand.Choudhary@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** Senior advocate Harish Salve, appearing for Pernod Ricard official Benoy Babu, submitted that unlike other accused, his client was not an accused in a corruption case and that he, in fact, was CBI's prosecution witness in the case. He said there was apparent contradiction between the ED and the CBI case regarding the role of his client who met key accused Vijay Nair for the first time only after the excise policy was changed. He said the ED case is "completely bogus".

Salve said Babu was just an employee of the company and he was neither on the board of the company nor a part of the firm's decision-making process and he, having already spent 13 months in jail, should be given bail as charges have still not framed in the case. He said the apex court order on former deputy CM Manish Sisodia's bail plea works in favour of his client.

After a brief hearing, the bench granted relief to him. "Trial has not commenced in the sense that charges have not been framed... Having regard to the aforesaid fact, including the period of incarceration already suffered by the appellant, we allow the present appeal and direct that he be released on bail," the court ordered.

Delhi high court had in July rejected Babu's bail plea, after which he moved SC.



# TIMES NATION

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2023



RAHUL GANDHI'S WEEK-LONG OUTREACH TRIP TO SOUTH-EAST ASIA CALLED OFF | 12

INDIA HAS BECOME 5TH LARGEST ECONOMY FROM 11TH IN 10 YEARS UNDER PM MODI, SAYS SHAH | 14

## Assam Cabinet approves census of native Muslims

Will Guide Steps For Socio-Political, Educational Uplift: Himanta

Prabin.Kalita@timesgroup.com

**Guwahati:** The Assam cabinet Friday approved a socio-economic survey of the state's indigenous Muslim population. The decision comes a year-and-a-half after the Himanta Biswa Sarma government recognised five communities as "indigenous Assamese Muslims".

The Directorate of Char Areas Development, which will be renamed as Directorate of Minority Affairs and Char Areas, will carry out the socio-economic assessment of "indigenous" Muslims, a cabinet note stated.

According to 2011 Census, Muslims comprise more than 34% of Assam's population, the third highest after Lakshadweep and J&K. Of the state's population of 3.1 crore, over 1 crore are Muslims. However, only about 40 lakh are native, Assamese-speaking Muslims, a cabinet note stated.

According to 2011 Census, Muslims comprise more than 34% of Assam's population, the third highest among all states and UTs after Lakshadweep and J&K. Of the state's total population of 3.1 crore, over 1 crore are Muslims. However, only about 40 lakh are native, Assamese-speaking



According to the 2011 Census, Muslims comprise over 34% of Assam's population, the third highest after Lakshadweep and J&K. Of the state's population of 3.1 crore, over 1 crore are Muslims. However, only about 40 lakh are native, Assamese-speaking Muslims.

are Bangladeshi-origin, Bengali-speaking immigrants.

In October, the Himanta government had announced plans to carry out the socio-economic assessment of the indigenous Muslim communities. "These findings will guide the government to take suitable measures aimed at the comprehensive socio-po-

litical and educational upliftment(sic) of the state's indigenous minorities," the CM had said in a post on X.

The state government had categorised Goria, Moria, Jolah (only the ones living in tea gardens), Desi and Syed (only the Assamese-speaking) communities as native Assamese Muslims, who converted to Islam between the 13th and the 17th centuries. Unlike the Bengali-speaking migrants, their mother tongue is Assamese and their cultural practices and traditions are similar to native Hindus. The Gorias and Morias worked for the Ahom kings and the Desis were originally Koch-Rajbongshis, who converted to Islam.

## Constant tussle over who gets ultimate control over appointment of judges: CJI



**Mumbai:** Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud said on Friday that there is a constant tussle over who will get the ultimate control over appointment of judges even as vacancies arise and appointments are kept pending for long period of time. He was speaking at the inauguration of the new premises of the Mumbai bench of the Central Administrative Tribunal.

CJI Chandrachud said tribunals in the country play a very important role in helping

unglog delays in courts and in aiding the overall dispensation of justice. "One of the objectives of tribunals was to combat and battle the delays faced by our courts and it was hoped that these tribunals, which are untethered by strict rules of evidence and procedure, would help unlog the courts and aid overall in the dispensation of justice," he said.

He said members of the bar & bench (lawyers & judges)

problems and then we ask ourselves was it really necessary to constitute so many tribunals, he added. "Because you do not get judges, when you get judges, vacancies arise which are kept pending for a long period of time...and then there is this constant tussle about who will get ultimate control over appointment of judges," CJI Chandrachud said.

He said members of the bar & bench (lawyers & judges)

**INTER UNIVERSITY ACCELERATOR CENTRE**  
(An Autonomous Body of University Grants Commission, MoE, Govt. of India)  
ARUNA ASAFAI MARG, NEW DELHI-110 067.

### Advertisement No. - 07/2023

Inter University Accelerator Centre (IUAC), an Autonomous Centre of University Grants Commission under Ministry of Education, Govt. of India invites application for the following positions purely on contract basis:  
1. Consultant (Internal Audit) - 01 Position  
2. Hindi Translator - 01 Position

The engagement will be for one year which can be extended further subject to satisfactory appraisal of performance of the incumbent by the Competent Authority.

For other details related to Advt., please refer [www.iuac.res.in/vacancies](http://www.iuac.res.in/vacancies).

Last date of receipt of applications will be 31.12.2023. Addendum, Corrigendum, Updates, if any, will be available only on the website of IUAC.

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Administrative Officer  
(Personnel)

**IIAC INDIA INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION CENTRE**  
Plot No. 06, Institutional Area, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070  
Advt. No. A-60011/145/2023-Administration-IIAC Date: 09.12.2023  
Advt. No. A-60011/152/2023-Administration-IIAC

**Advertisement for the post of Chief Executive Officer (On Direct Recruitment Basis) and for the post of Assistant Registrar (on Contractual Basis)**

IIAC, a statutory body established by an act of Parliament, invites applications from Indian nationals for filling up the following posts:

Sr. No.	Name of the Post	Number of Post	Pay Level of Post
1.	Chief Executive Officer (CEO) (On Direct Recruitment Basis)	01	Level-15 (Rs. 1,82,200 - 2,24,100)
2.	Assistant Registrar (On Contractual Basis)	01	Rs. 85,000/- (Consolidated Pay Per month)

Details of eligibility conditions, application and other terms and conditions may be found on the website [www.indiacac.org](http://www.indiacac.org)

Registrar

**EMpanelment of Vendors for Local Purchase / Price Agreement of Medical Stores at Military Hospital Meerut**

- Applications are invited from reputed wholesalers/authorized dealers or original manufacturers for empanelment for supply of Drugs/Lab reagents & Kits/Radiological/Surgical/Ophthalmic supplies/Medical gases/Narcotics to MH Meerut for the FY 2024-2025 for local purchase/Price agreement through DGPL/ECHS funds.
- Application form with detailed terms & conditions can be requested by sending an e-mail at [mhmeerut20@gmail.com](mailto:mhmeerut20@gmail.com) or collected physically from Officer-in-Charge Medical Stores of Military Hospital Meerut on or before **26 Dec 2023**. Forms are available free of cost. No form will be given without submitting copy of valid drug licence.
- Last date for submission of application is **1400hrs on 15 Jan 2024** in Tender box kept at office of Sr Registrar of MH Meerut. No application will be accepted after due date & time.
- Firms already registered in MH Meerut also need to re-apply.

Commandant  
MH Meerut

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**VACANCY NOTICE**  
Advt. No. Estt./26/2023

National Book Trust, India invites applications for the following post on deputation basis for its Head Office, New Delhi, as per details here under:

S.No.	Name of Post	No. of Post & Level
1.	Joint Director (Administration & Finance) New Delhi	01 Post Level-12

Last date of submission of the applications will be 14.12.2023

Candidates who have submitted their application against Advt.No. 18/2023 need not apply again.

For further details visit NBT Website [www.nbtindia.gov.in](http://www.nbtindia.gov.in)

Registrar

**Advertisement no. 61/2023**  
**Government of India Public Enterprises Selection Board**  
invites applications for the post of  
**Director (Personnel)**  
in  
**SJVN Limited**

Last date of submission of application by applicants is **02<sup>nd</sup> January, 2024**

Last date of forwarding of applications by the Nodal Officers to PESB is **11<sup>th</sup> January, 2024**

For details login to website <http://pesbnew.nic.in>

**Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI)**  
(Under Department of Pharmaceuticals, Govt. of India)

E-1, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Videocon Tower, Jhandewalan Extn., New Delhi-110055

Telephone: 011-49431800 | Website: [janashadhi.gov.in](http://janashadhi.gov.in)

### WALK – IN – INTERVIEWS IN PMBI

Advt. No. 08/2023

Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI) is the implementing agency for Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janashadhi Parivojana of Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Government of India. The objective of the scheme is to make available quality generic medicines at affordable prices to all. PMBI is expanding its operations and has urgent requirement in different departments. Walk-in-Interviews for such positions shall be held as follows:

Name of Posts & Department	Total Posts	Place of Posting	Date & Time of Interviews	Venue (Place/Address) of Walk-in-Interviews
Assistant Manager (Sales & Marketing)	02	Delhi & NCR	18.12.2023, (MONDAY) (10:30 AM to 01:00 PM)	
Senior Executive/Executive (Sales & Marketing)	03	Delhi & NCR	18.12.2023, (MONDAY) (02:00 PM to 05:00 PM)	
Sr. Executive (Quality Control)	02	All India	19.12.2023 (TUESDAY) (10:30 AM to 01:00 PM)	Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI), E-1, 8 <sup>th</sup> Floor, Videocon Tower, Jhandewalan Extn., New Delhi-110055
Sr. Executive (Logistics & Supply Chain)	01	All India	19.12.2023 (TUESDAY) (02:00 PM to 05:00 PM)	
Assistant Manager (IT & MIS)	01	All India	20.12.2023, (WEDNESDAY) (02:00 PM to 05:00 PM)	

Eligible candidates may appear for Walk-in-Interviews on the above-mentioned dates on given venue. For the application form, salary structure and detailed terms & conditions visit at our website: [janashadhi.gov.in](http://janashadhi.gov.in).

CEO

Karnataka plans cess on fuel to fund BPL family health insurance

Sandeep.Moudgal  
@timesgroup.com

Nawab is untouchable, but what about Praful, Ajit: UBT  
Opposition Accuses Fadnavis Of Double Standards

Chaitanya.Marpakwar  
@timesgroup.com



**Nawab on treasury benches on Day 2 too**

**N**CP MLA Nawab Malik attended the second day of the winter session of the legislature on Friday and once again sat on the treasury benches, on the seat allotted to him by the speaker, reports Chaitanya Marpakwar. Malik was allotted seat number 49, part of the treasury benches.

Malik also sat in NCP office on the legislature premises, which is occupied by Ajit Pawar faction and the nameplate has the name of Ajit Pawar, faction's chief whip Anil Patil.

On the first day of the winter session on Thursday, controversy had broken out at NCP party office. A nameplate with Ajit Pawar's and Patil's name was put up. Later, Sharad Pawar faction MLA Jitendra Awhad's name was also put up, but soon it was removed.

### Ajit says Malik seat decided by speaker

**Nagpur:** Maharashtra deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar said on Friday that only Nawab Malik can decide which side he is on, and the speaker has decided his seating arrangement, reports Chaitanya Marpakwar.

"Nawab Malik's stand will have to be decided by him. I will only comment on it after he makes his stand clear. This is the first time Malik came to the legislature after NCP joined the government. Let us know his view on this. I don't decide the seating arrangement, the speaker does, and it is his authority. I will do what I have to do with Devendra Fadnavis' letter," Pawar said. The deputy chief minister said he would first speak to Malik to understand his position about his political affiliation before explaining his group's stand.

Bengaluru: The Karnataka government is considering imposition of a 50-paise to Re 1 cess on every litre of petrol and diesel sold in the state. The aim is to generate funds for an ambitious plan — providing Universal Health Scheme for the entire 1.8 crore below-pocket (BPL) cardholders.

Following the launch of a social security scheme for gig and transport workers, the labour department is gearing up to pitch this extensive health plan. Envisioned to cover the 1.8 crore BPL cardholders, the scheme proposes an estimated Rs 25 lakh in health and accident coverage per person.

Labour minister Santosh Lad told TOI that it will have minimal impact on consumers, stating, "While the current prices may be on the higher side, a hike of mere 50 paise to Re 1 will have no bearing on the consumers if it will help get back a coverage of Rs 25 lakh in accident and health coverage."

The proposed cess on petrol and diesel, as per preliminary department data, is expected to generate a substantial Rs 1,200 crore to Rs 1,500 crore per year for the state government, facilitating the implementation of the health scheme.

Lad said the initial focus will be on unorganised sectors not covered by existing boards like Karnataka State Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board, or the newly formed Transport Board for transport workers. "We've identified 43 unorganised sectors in the state where there is an urgent need for social security. As a result, we are trying to identify avenues wherever possible to generate funds and provide the same," Lad added.

The department is working on the proposal, with plans to submit it to the CM and the government in the coming weeks.

### SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
TENDER NOTICE  
Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

N.I.T. No.	37/23-24/WE	Approx. Cost of work
Name of Work with its location	Extension and Renovation of badminton hall in S.P. Marg Railway Club and other allied work in the s/o/sse/W/S.P. Marg under ADEN/E-II	Rs. 1,71,94,064.33
Earnest Money	₹2,36,000/-	Completion period of the work 06 Months
Date and Time for submission of tender and opening of tender	29.12.2023 at 15:00 hrs.	Closing date of tender on 29.12.2023 at 15:00 hrs.
Website particulars notice board location	complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc.	Above tender available on website i.e. <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>

Tender No.: 128-W/269/OET/23-24/WE/NIT/37 Dated : 06.12.2023 3850/2023

**RajCOMP Info Services Limited (RISL)**  
C-Block, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Yojana Bhawan, Tilak Marg, C-Scheme, Jaipur

RISL invites e-bids from the eligible bidders for the following:

N.I.B. No./ Date/ Unique bid no.	Particulars	Estimated Cost/ EMD	Start of sale /Last date
6026/06.12.2023 (RIS234SLOB00075)	RFP for Selection of Technology Partner for Development and Maintenance of Application Software for State Resident Data Repository under Rajasthan Jan Aadhar Yojana. (Before Pre-Bid)	Rs. 25.00 Cr/ Rs. 50 Lacs	06.12.2023 03.01.2024

Details can be seen on the websites <http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://doitc.rajasthan.gov.in>. Bids are to be submitted through <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>. Raj.Samwad/C/23/11405 Technical Director

### अधिकारी प्रविष्टियाँ

- निम्नलिखित कोर्सों के लिए आवेदन आमंत्रित किए जाते हैं:-  
(क) 63वाँ अल्पसेवा कमीशन (तकनीकी) कोर्स (पुरुष) एवं 34वाँ अल्पकालिक सेवा कमीशन (तकनीकी) कोर्स (महिला) अक्टूबर 2024 के लिए।  
(ख) 56वाँ अल्पसेवा कमीशन एन सी सी विशेष भर्ती कोर्स (पुरुष एवं महिला) (युद्ध में हताहत सेवा कार्यकों के आश्रितों सहित) अक्टूबर 2024 के लिए।
- ऑनलाइन आवेदन निम्नलिखित अवधि तक खुले रह

## KCR undergoes hip surgery after fall in farmhouse

**Hyderabad:** Telangana former CM K Chandrasekhar Rao underwent a hip replacement surgery at a private hospital here on Friday after he had a fall in the bathroom at his Erravelli farmhouse in the early hours of the day.

The condition of KCR (69) is

said to be stable, Yashoda Hospital said in a bulletin. KCR was shifted to the Somajiguda-based hospital by his family members. The hospital said the former CM suffered a left hip fracture. "He required left hip replacement and the recovery in such

cases is normally six to eight weeks," the hospital said.

KCR has been staying in the farmhouse since his party tasted a defeat at the hands of Congress in the election. PM Modi led several politicians in wishing for KCR's speedy recovery. TNN

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## tender & notices

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9513111574  
8549999493

www.ecocrystal.in  
info@ecocrystal.in

### tender & notices

### PUBLIC NOTICE

General public at large is hereby informed that all the original title and related documents pertaining to my property, i.e., DDA SFS Category-II Flat No. 190, Pocket B, Sukhdev Vihar, New Delhi, measuring 79 square meters ("Flat"), including the following documents, 1. Allotment/Allocation Letter bearing File No. F-78 (72)/82/SFS/VII dated 15.07.2018 issued by DDA in favour of Shri K. Satyamurthy son of A.N. Krishnasamy, 2. Offer of Possession dated 29.08.1985 issued by DDA, 3. Possession Slip Certificate dated 12.09.1985 indicating handing over of possession of the Flat to Shri K. Satyamurthy son of A.N. Krishnasamy, 4. NOC for Electricity and Water Connections issued by DDA, 5. Conveyance Deed dated 05.03.2001 executed by President of India in favour of Shri. Satyamurthy son of A.N. Krishnasamy, registered at the office of Sub Registrar-VII, New Delhi, as Document No. 4240, Book No. 1, Volume No. 485, Page Nos. 78-79 on 05.03.2001; 6. Sale Deed dated 10.02.2003 executed by Shri K. Satyamurthy son of A.N. Krishnasamy in favour of Dr. Namita Verma wife of Dr. Praveen Chandra, registered at the office of Sub Registrar-V, New Delhi, as Document No. 190, Book No. 1, Volume No. 3219, Page Nos. 109-116 on 10.02.2003; 7. Sale Deed dated 09.01.2007 executed by Dr. Namita Verma wife of Dr. Praveen Chandra in favour of Smt. Alka Thapar wife of Shri Rajeev Thapar, registered at the office of Sub Registrar-VI, New Delhi, as Document No. 220, Book No. 1, Volume No. 144-151 on 09.01.2007; 8. Sale Deed dated 20.02.2007 executed by Smt. Alka Thapar wife of Shri Rajeev Thapar in favour of Mrs. Ishrat Haque wife of Tajir Haque and Ms. Hina Haque daughter of Tajir Haque, registered at the office of Sub Registrar-V, New Delhi, as Document No. 1795, Book No. 1, Volume No. 7017, Page Nos. 141-148 on 20.02.2007; 9. Sale Deed dated 02.01.2013 executed by Mrs. Ishrat Haque wife of Dr. Tajir Haque and Ms. Hina Haque in favour of Smt. Shalini Singh wife of Shri Vishakha Varma, registered at the office of Sub Registrar-V, New Delhi, as Document No. 76, Book No. 1, Volume No. 12,621, Page Nos. 114-123 on 10.01.2013; have been misplaced from my residence and the undersigned has already lodged a police information report bearing LR No. 891218/2023 dated 15.09.2023 at Police Station: Crime Branch, New Delhi.

The undersigned requests the general public that in case any person finds the above documents he/she shall contact the undersigned and deliver the documents.

Sd/-

Shalini Singh W/o Shri Vishakha Varma

2/14, First Floor, Sarvapriya Vihar, New Delhi

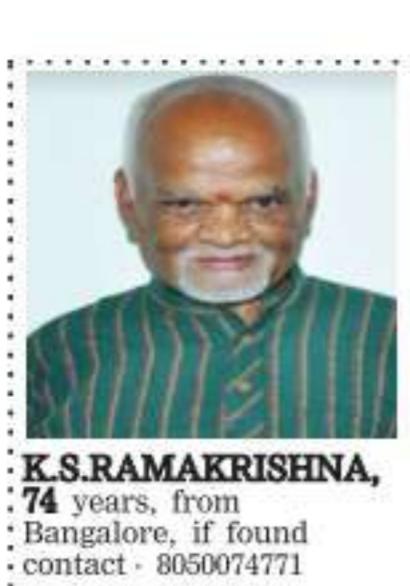
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### TENDERS

### MISSING

### MAHAVIR CANCER SANSTHAN PHULWARISHARIF, PATNA-801505

**TENDER No. - 1714**  
Quotations are invited from the reputed suppliers/manufacturers for Maintenance Work of OT of MCS within 7 days from the date of publication of tender. For details, visit hospital's website : [www.mahavircancersansthan.com](http://www.mahavircancersansthan.com)  
Director (Admin.)



K.S. RAMAKRISHNA,  
74 years, from  
Bangalore, if found  
contact - 8050074771



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### TENDER CONSTRUCTION

Required good construction companies for Infrastructure projects like roads, buildings, irrigation, dams, airports, industries, etc. on PAN INDIA basis, work will be allocated on basis to profile companies wanting JV are also entertained contact: [priceprakash@gmail.com](mailto:priceprakash@gmail.com)

PRICE  
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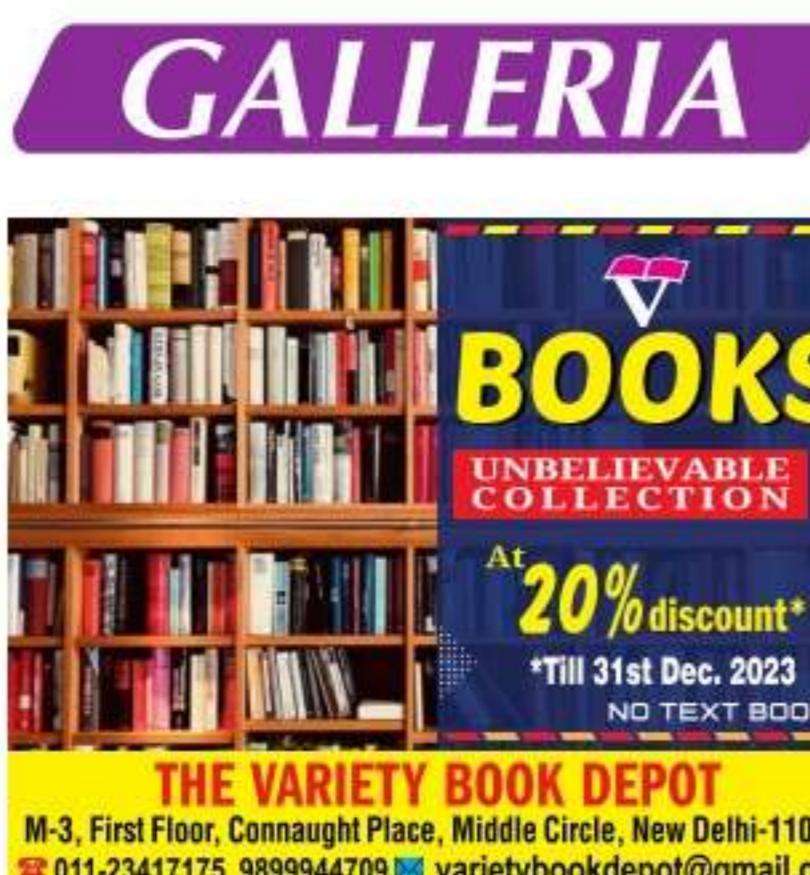
### personal

I, hitherto known as Mary Gnanambal Rajan Mani Bothaga Rajan alias Mary Rajan, Spouse of Mani Bothaga Rajan, resident of P-144/504, Sekhon Vihar, Prahladpur, Delhi Cantonment, New Delhi – 110001, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Mary Gnanambal Rajan.

I, KM Vandana Devi D/o Sh. Krishan Pal, R/o 804, Main Gali, VTC: Khizarpur, PO: Budhwan, Dist. Muzaffarnagar, UP-251309, have changed my name to Vandana Kumari for all future purposes.

### LOST & FOUND

LOST all original documents of our property plot no GH-3 Sector 5 Jankipuram Vistar Yojna Lucknow. Registration No. 4705, dated 16/05/2007, in favor of M/s New Engineers India at AD 115B Pitampura, Delhi-34 FIR has been lodged in crime branch Delhi vide LR No. 1186671 / 2023 dated 01/12/2023. Finder may send to Ruhil Naz w/o Syed Farhatullah at above address or Ph No 9559192192



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NIMT / COLLEGE OF LAW

SP-3/1, RILCO Keshwana, Kotputli, Jaipur

Approved Affiliated to ALU Jaipur

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ADMISSION OPEN 2024-25

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The general public is hereby informed that inquiry under section 7A of the Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Act, 1952, which is a quasi-judicial process within the meaning of section 193 and 228 for the purposes of Section 196 of Indian Penal Code, is on going before the undersigned to determine the amount payable by the M/S Chief Engineer Thermal Power House, H.S.E.B. NIT, FARIDABAD-121001 (HR/FBD/766) for the period 04/1995 TO 03/1999.

It is informed to the general public that if any employee, whether employed directly by M/S Chief Engineer Thermal Power House or through any of their contractors, has any claim for non-deposition of the provident fund by the said establishment for the work done by them during the period 04/1995 TO 03/1999. Such persons are requested to appear before the undersigned on any working day within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice with proper evidence for concluding ongoing investigation under section 7A of the EPF and MP Act 1952. No cognizance will be given to any information which is provided beyond the given time.

sd/-  
**Uday Gupta**  
Regional P F Commissioner-II

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON****See Section 82 Cr.P.C.**

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Ravi @ Neeraj @ Pannipad, S/o. Harphool, R/o. R-558, Mangolpuri, Delhi**, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 258/2011 U/s 379/411/482/34 IPC** registered at P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Ravi @ Neeraj @ Pannipad** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Ravi @ Neeraj @ Pannipad** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Ravi @ Neeraj @ Pannipad** accused of **FIR No. 258/2011 U/s 379/411/482/34 IPC** P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **20.01.2024**.

By Order  
**Sh. Navdeep Gupta,**  
Metropolitan Magistrate, North-West,  
Room No. 109, First Floor,  
Rohini Courts, Delhi

DP/14035/RD/2023

**National Highways Authority of India**  
(Ministry of Road Transport & Highways)

**भर्ती सूची/RECRUITMENT NOTICE**

गारा.रा.प्रा. निम्नलिखित पद के लिए भर्ती हेतु आविदन आमंत्रित करता है—  
NHAI invites applications for recruitment to the following post:

Post	Post	Method of Recruitment
महाराष्ट्र मन्त्रालयकर्ता (प्रौद्योगिकी शिविरिंग)	01	प्रतिनिधित्व द्वारा खोज-सह-चयन समिति के माध्यम से चयन Selection through Search-Cum-Selection Committee by Deputation

2. भारा.रा.प्रा. की वेबसाइट ([www.nhai.gov.in](http://www.nhai.gov.in)) पर उपलब्ध विस्तृत विज्ञापन में दी गई प्रक्रिया के अनुसार आवेदन (**08.01.2024** (साप्त 6:00 बजे तक) ऑनलाइन आवेदन जगा करना सुनिश्चित करें।

The applicant is required to ensure submission of online application as per the procedure indicated in the detailed advertisement, available on NHAI website ([www.nhai.gov.in](http://www.nhai.gov.in)) on **08.01.2024** (upto 6:00 PM).

3. पे.लंब, आयु लीडा, योग्यता भावन, अय्य शरां आदि से संबंधित विस्तृत विज्ञापन भारा.रा.प्रा. की वेबसाइट पर देखे जा सकते हैं।

Details regarding Pay Level, age limit, eligibility criteria, other conditions etc. may also be accessed on NHAI website.

4. इस विज्ञापन के लाभव में यूनिव्यू/अनुवृत्ति/निस्तरीकरण, यदि कोई होगा तो, उसे केवल भारा.रा.प्रा. की वेबसाइट पर प्रकाशित किया जाएगा।

Corrigendum/Addendum/Cancellation to this advertisement, if any, shall be published on NHAI website only.

BUILDING A NATION, NOT JUST ROADS

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON****See Section 82 Cr.P.C.**

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Irfshad S/o Aas Mohd. R/o Vill. Buraka, Teh. Hatin, Distt. Palwal, Mewat, Haryana** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 140/19 u/s 25 Arms Act. P.S. Special Cell, New Delhi** and warrant of arrest issued by this court have been returned mentioning that the said **Irfshad** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Irfshad** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Irfshad** accused of **FIR No. 140/19 u/s 25 Arms Act. P.S. Special Cell, New Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **09.01.2024**.

By Order: **Ms. Snigdha Sarvaria**  
Chief Metropolitan Magistrate,  
Room No. 26, Annex Building,  
Patiala House Courts, New Delhi

DP/14104/Spl. Cell/23

**SEARCH FOR MISSING**

General Public is hereby informed that a person namely **Ramesh Chand Sharma** S/o Hari Shankar Sharma, R/o H.No. 70, Ward No.3, Water Works Colony, Distt. Bhind, Madhya Pradesh. Age: 65 years, Height : 5'3", Complexion-Sallow, Built-Thin, Face-Round, Wearing: White Pink Short Check Shirt and Blue colour Pajama has been missing from Ward AB-4, AIIMS Hospital, Delhi since 29.11.2023 at 4.30 PM. In this regard a vide DD No. 13A dated 30.11.2023 has been lodged at P.S. Hauz Khas, Delhi.

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

E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
Ph : 011-24368638, 24368641 SHO  
Fax : 011-24368639 P.S. Hauz Khas, Delhi  
DP/13940/SD/2023 Ph. : 011-2686788, 8750878555

**SEARCH FOR MISSING**

General Public is hereby informed that a lady namely **Sarita**, W/o Rajiv Kumar, R/o A-Block, Gali No. 16, H.No. 67, Part 4, Sonia Vihar, Delhi, Age: 35 years, Height: 4'4", Complexion: Sallow. Built: Strong, Face: Round, Wearing: Green Colour Suit, Salwar and Blue Colour Bata Chappal in her feet has been missing from her home since 01.11.2023 at 09.00 am. In this regard a vide GD No. 77A dated 02.11.2023 has been registered at P.S. Khajuri Khas, Delhi.

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

E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
Ph : 011-24368638, 24368641 SHO  
Fax : 011-24368639 P.S. Khajuri Khas, Delhi  
DP/13550/NE/2023 Ph. : 011-22966851, 22962735 8750870727

**बिहार लोक सेवा आयोग**  
15, नेहरू पथ (बेली रोड), पटना - 800001**आवश्यक सूचना**

विज्ञापन संख्या - 65/2020 कला संस्कृति एवं युगा विभाग, बिहार के अंतर्गत साहाय्यक संग्रहालयाध्यक्ष / शोध एवं प्रकाशन परामिकारी / साहाय्यक निदेशक (विभार संस्कृत संग्रह) के रिक्त 12 (बारह) पदों पर नियुक्ति हेतु पूर्व से निर्धारित ऑनलाइन आवेदन की तिथि - 09.12.2023 के स्थान पर दिनांक - 12.12.2023 से प्रारंभ की जायेगी एवं Edit करने हेतु लिंक दिनांक - 12.12.2023 से उपलब्ध रहेगा।

स्थान:-  
पर्याप्त नियंत्रक  
बिहार लोक सेवा आयोग, पटना

**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
E-Tendering Notice Agra Division (Gati Shakti)

E-Tendering Notice No. DYCE/GS/AGC/2023-21 dated 07.12.2023 Deputy Chief Engineer (Gati Shakti), N.C. Rly. Agra for and on behalf of the President of India invites "Open Tender" through online mode only (E-Tendering) for the following work. The details of the tender are as under:

**Description of work:** Construction of 02- lane road over bridge in lieu of level crossing no. 550 at km. 1444/17-19 in Agra-Palwal section in Agra Division of North Central Railway.

**S.N. 1. Tender No.:** DYCE-GS-AGC-2023-33, **Approx Cost (in Crores):** ₹ 32.78 Cr., **Bid Security:** ₹ 1788900/-, **Completion Period:** 18 months. For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website "[www.irps.gov.in](http://www.irps.gov.in)". Tender can be submitted through web portal "[www.irps.gov.in](http://www.irps.gov.in)" up to 15.00 hrs. on 29.12.2023 1995/23 FA

No. North central railways @CPNRCN @northcentralrailway www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

For & on behalf of the President of India, Chief Workshop Manager, N.Rly. C&W workshop, Jagadhri Workshop/Yamuna Nagar invites open e-tender for the following work:

**1. Name of work**: Repair and overhauling including cost of incidental spares/material for "Shearing, Punching, Notching Machine ID No-512101140, L.No- PS-14", of Black Smith Shop of Northern Railway/Jagadhri Workshop".

**2. Location**: Northern Railway, Carriage & Wagon Repair Shop, Jagadhri Workshop, Yamuna Nagar, Haryana-135002

**3. Tender Value**: Rs. 442264

**4. Quantity**: As per scope of work

**5. Cost of Tender form**: Rs. 0/-

**6. Earnest money amount**: Rs. 8900/-

**7. Completion period of the work**: 03 months from the date of issuance of Letter of Acceptance

**8. Date & Time for submission of tender form**: 29.12.2023 till 15:30 hrs.

**9. Opening**: 29.12.2023 till 15:35 hrs. Tender opening will be done any time after the tender closing time. The tenders are not required to be present during the opening. Railway reserves the right to open the tender any time after closing of tender.

**10. Website particulars**: [www.irps.gov.in](http://www.irps.gov.in)

No. 6-S/54/Tender/2023-24 dt. 06.12.2023 3864/2023

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

**POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF UTTARAKHAND LTD.**  
(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Enterprise)

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER (OPERATION & MAINTENANCE), GARHWAL ZONE, 26-28 LINES, ROURKE

**E-TENDER NOTICE**

Power Transmission Corporation of Uttarakhand Ltd. invites e-tender for "Annual Routine Maintenance (Preventive & Shutdown) of 220 KV Transmission lines associated with 220 KV O&M Division, Chamba, Tehri Garhwal" against e-tender specification No.CE/GZR-14/2023-24. Last date of submission of online/offline e-tender is 10.01.2024 upto 15.00 hrs which shall be opened on 11.01.2024 at 15.00 hrs. Details of e-tender can be obtained from e-tender website [www.utktenders.gov.in](http://www.utktenders.gov.in) and information of e-tender can be seen from PTCUL website [www.ptcul.org](http://www.ptcul.org). For any assistance on e-tendering, please contact on Mb. No.+91-8889989000.

**CHIEF ENGINEER (O&M)**

No. 2136/CE(O&M)/GZR/Advt. Dated: 08/12/2023

"SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF NATION"

Raja Singh

General Public is hereby informed that one male **Raja Singh S/o: Unknown, Address: Unknown** was found dead at 154/469, Apna Ghar Ashram, Khurd, Bawana Road, Delhi in the area of P.S. Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi on **07.12.2023**. The body has been preserved in Sabzi Mandi Hospital Mortuary, Delhi for 72 hours. In this regard a case has been lodged vide DD No. 32A U/s 174 Cr.P.C. dated **07.12.2023** at P.S. Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi. The description of the dead male is as under:- **Age:** About 65 years, **Sex: Male, Height: 5'7", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Oval, Injury: Swelling on body, Built: Medium, Wearing: Yellow colour chadar.** If any one having any information about this dead male please inform undersigned.

SHO P.S. Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi Ph.: 011-23961522, 8750871302

DP/14125/RLY/2023

**UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY**

Raja Singh

General Public is hereby informed that one male **Raja Singh S/o: Unknown, Address: Unknown** was found dead at 154/469, Apna Ghar Ashram, Khurd, Bawana Road, Delhi in the area of P.S. Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi on **07.12.2023**. The body has been preserved in Sabzi Mandi Hospital Mortuary, Delhi for 72 hours. In this regard a case has been lodged vide DD No. 32A U/s 174 Cr.P.C. dated **07.12.2023** at P.S. Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi. The description of the dead male is as under:- **Age:** About 65 years, **Sex: Male, Height: 5'7", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Oval, Injury: Swelling on body, Built: Medium, Wearing: Yellow colour chadar.** If any one having any information about this dead male please inform undersigned.

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# Shah: Development has replaced graft

Minister Urges Youths To Live For The Nation Now

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Home minister Amit Shah on Friday said a golden future awaited the country's youth as corruption, nepotism and casteism had been replaced with growth and development in the last 10 years.

Speaking at the inauguration of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad's (ABVP) national conference in Delhi, Shah said India had become the fifth largest economy from 11th in the last 10 years under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi.

"We have also attained 7.5% growth rate and the goal of providing 60 crore people with basic amenities," he added.

The minister said Kashmir, north-east and areas affected by left-wing extremism were known as hot-spots of insurgency 10 years ago but Article 370 had been abrogated and no one could stop anyone from hoisting the national flag in Kashmir, leading to cheers from the crowd of nearly 10,000 ABVP members and party workers.

On insurgency, he said most insurgent groups had surrendered their arms and



India has become the fifth largest economy, up from the 11th slot, in the last 10 years under PM Narendra Modi's leadership, Shah said

left-wing extremism was on its last legs. Talking about the Modi government's initiatives for the youth, Shah said reforms made in the digital space, games and animation sector, space sector and self-reliance in the security sector, among others, had opened new opportunities for the youth.

"Today, our nation is number one in digital transactions and LED bulb manufacturing, we can boast of the largest cleanliness drive, vaccination drive, and the number one place in production of pulses, jute, milk and railway engines, second position in mobile, cement, steel cotton and tea, and

third place in startup economy and vehicle manufacturing and will soon occupy the first place," he said.

Shah said there was no need to struggle for freedom any more as India was an independent nation but there was still a lot of work left.

"We need to direct our energy towards the constructive field of nation-building. There is no need to lay down your lives for the nation now. But there is still the need to live for the nation. In the conference held during Amrit Kaal, the Vidyarthi Parishad karyakartas need to pledge to make Bharat the number one nation and a great nation by 2047," he added.

**Bareily:** Six policemen and four others were booked for allegedly beating a 48-year-old farmer whom they "suspected" to be a gambler, to death. The Akhil Bhartiya Brahmin Mahasabha has warned of a "massive protest" if the accused cops are not arrested before the end of this week.

Though an FIR was registered under IPC section 302 (murder) against the accused cops, an ambulance driver and three other unidentified men on November 10, details of the case are now surfacing after Akhil Bhartiya Brahmin Mahasabha said it would launch an agitation if action against the cops responsible for the death of farmer Santosh Sharma is not taken immediately.

SSP Sushil Ghule Chandroshan suspended the six cops, including two sub-inspectors. An inquiry has been initiated. Sate president of Akhil Bhartiya Brahmin Mahasabha, SK Pandey, said, "We're forced to exert pressure on the administration due to negligence of the state police. If the accused cops are not arrested, we'll be forced to gherao the SSP office on December 13. Despite a non-bailable warrant issued against the accused, police are yet to make an arrest.

## 1 cr people have joined yatra flagged off by PM

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra received encouraging reception in J&K with over 9 lakh people participating till date

**With approval rating of 76%, Modi most popular global leader: Morning Consult**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has again emerged as the most popular world leader with an approval rating of 76%, according to Morning Consult.

The finding released on Tuesday is in line with findings of the tracker over past several months. According to the latest results, Modi was followed by Mexico's Andres Manuel Lopez with a rating of 66%. The latest approval ratings are based on data collected from November 29 to December 5. The approval ratings are based on a seven-day moving average of adult residents each country, with sample sizes varying by country.

Alain Berset of Switzerland was in third place with 58% while Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has a rating of 49% and 44% recording their disapproval. Australian premier Anthony Albanese had a rating of 47% and 42% disapproval and Italy's Georgia Meloni had a 41% rating with 52% disapproving. TNN

(IEC) vans that call upon people to utilise government schemes for their benefit.

A focal point of the Yatra has been raising awareness about women-centric schemes, leading to over 46,000 beneficiaries enrolling for the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana scheme. Health camps have also proved to be a big draw and till date 22 lakh individuals have been screened.

**Cal HC pulls up police for delay in FIR on BJP worker murder**

Subrata Chattoraj & Sujoy Khanra | TNN

**Kolkata:** The Calcutta high court on Friday pulled up police for not filing an FIR based on a murder complaint made by the family of a West Midnapore BJP worker, who died on August 20, 2021. The SDPO had instead initiated a probe into an "unnatural death" case.

"Why was an FIR not lodged following a murder complaint? You didn't find a cognizable offence?" Justice Jay Sengupta asked the state counsel, and noted that action should be taken against the cops concerned.

The next hearing in the case is scheduled on Monday.

The family of Srikanta Patra from Dantan had lodged a police complaint three months after the assembly poll results were declared, stating that the Trinamool Congress goons killed the BJP worker.

The family alleged that they had been getting threats even before Patra's murder, and when they went to police to register a complaint, they were pressured to join TMC.

In its petition to the High Court, the family said that the cops came to their house a day after Patra's death and forced them to sign a blank paper to make out a case that he had died in an accident.



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## The Grand Union: The Meteoric Rise of India's Wedding Industry

According to industry reports, the estimated worth of the Indian wedding market is set to surpass USD 50 billion by 2025

Aanchal.Mathur  
@timesgroup.com

In a country renowned for its vibrant culture, diverse traditions,

and lavish celebrations, the Indian wedding industry stands as a testament to the grandeur and opulence that define this momentous occa-

sion. Over the years, this industry has not only witnessed a tremendous surge in scale and spectacle but has also become a significant contributor to the nation's economy. The factors that have propelled the evolution and growth of the Indian wedding industry is worth exploring.

### HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

Traditionally, Indian weddings have been elaborate affairs, deeply rooted in cultural and religious rituals. However, the shift from intimate gatherings to extravagant celebrations gained momentum in the late 20th

industry has evolved into a robust economic sector, encompassing various segments such as venue management, catering, photography, attire, jewellery, and event planning. Recently Prime Minister Modi in his Mann ki Baat also expressed his concern on destination weddings and motivated people to "celebrate the festivities of marriages on Indian soil, amid the people of India so the country's money will remain in the country." According to the survey conducted by the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT), between November 23 and December 15, 2023, India is expected to host approximately 3.5 million weddings across the country. In

Delhi alone, more than 350,000 weddings are expected to take place, between these dates in India – generating about ₹1 trillion for businesses in this sector. Reflecting on the economic prowess of the wedding industry, Samarpreeet Singh Vaid, founder and CEO of The Moment Monks, a Delhi-based wedding photography firm says, "From a robust market for event services to a flourishing ecosystem of fashion, photography, hospitality, and

ancillary businesses,

weddings have become

a powerful engine propelling economic growth.

As couples invest in creating unique and extravagant experiences, the industry not only fulfills their dreams but

also generates substantial employment,

contributing significantly to the nation's

economic tapestry."

### FACTORS DRIVING GROWTH

From the renaissance of cultural practices to the economic boom buoyed by a burgeoning middle class, the factors driving the growth of India's wedding industry are as diverse as the nation itself. Speaking about the meteoric growth, Vaid added, "The exponential growth of India's wedding industry is propelled by a confluence of cultural richness, economic prosperity, and a contemporary shift in consumer preferences. There is a shift in consumer behaviour where couples are looking for personalized experiences."

This is perhaps why destination weddings have gained immense popularity as well.

This stands true for not only couples within India but also for a significant number of international couples.

Echoing the same thought, Pallave of Amohaa Events, a wedding planning firm says, "Couples are increasingly opting for exotic locations, both within India and abroad, for their special day. This shift has given rise to a niche market of destination

wedding planners and services, contributing to the globalization of the Indian wedding experience."

With a rising middle class and changing social norms, there is an increased emphasis on creating memorable experiences as well. One of the prime examples of this is the catering business. Catering has undergone a transformative evolution today. Arjun Arora of Food Wheel, a catering company, says "From curated menus that blend traditional flair with contemporary elements, to the rise of specialized cuisines and experiential dining, caterers have become architects of gastronomic journeys." No wonder one can sample everything from Sambar to Sushi and Gajrela to Ganache at a big fat Indian wedding.

The advent of technology is another factor that has changed the wedding planning process. From virtual consultations to online invitations, technology has streamlined various aspects, making it easier to plan dream weddings.

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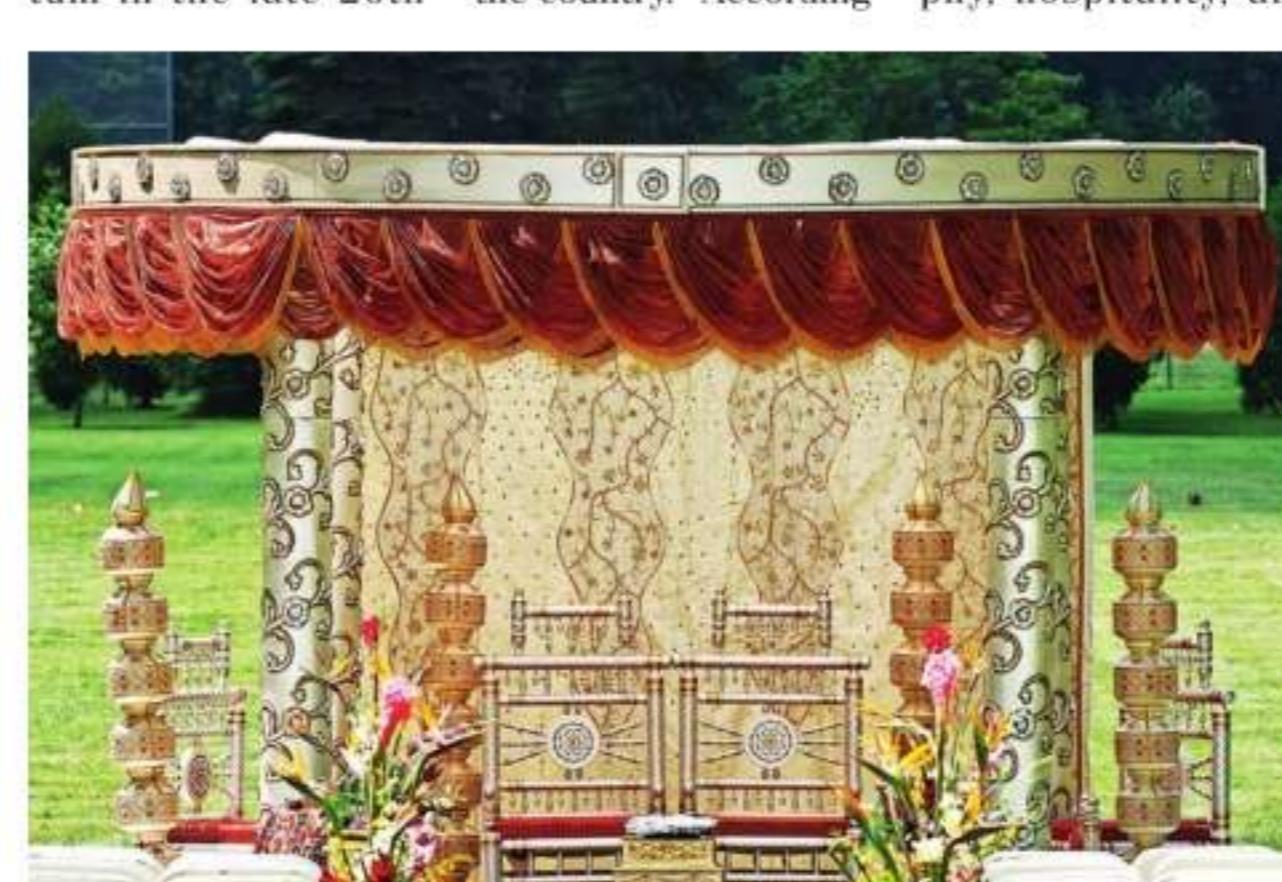
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century. The economic liberalization of the early 1990s in India brought about increased disposable income, leading to a change in the spending patterns of families. As a result, today weddings have transformed into larger-than-life events with a focus on luxury, creating a burgeoning demand for specialized services.

### THE ECONOMIC ENGINE

The Indian wedding



to industry reports, the estimated worth of the Indian wedding market is set to surpass USD 50 billion by 2025, making it one of the largest and fastest-growing wedding industries globally. Not just this, according to a survey conducted by the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT), between November 23 and December 15, 2023, India is expected to host approximately 3.5 million weddings across the country. In

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3	वित्तीय शीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	तकनीकी खोलने के बाद अनुमोदन के बाद।	तकनीकी खोलने के बाद अनुमोदन के बाद।

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# Seized cash filled 156 gunny bags: Officials

**BJP Seeks CBI Probe, BJD Reply On Seizures**

►Continued from P1

The remark also appeared to be a riposte to Congress MP from Wayanad Rahul Gandhi's claim that he was fighting a battle against corruption.

Sources in the I-T department which, starting Tuesday has carried out raids at several places, said the value of the pile, in denominations of Rs 500 and 200 and said to be one of the biggest, is likely to go up. Several counting machines have been deployed and have been working round the clock to estimate the haul, said sources.

The family of Sahu, a three-term Congress member of the Rajya Sabha, dominates the liquor business in a huge swathe of the eastern region, especially in the tribal-dominated pockets of Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal. He was elected to the RS from Jharkhand in 2018.

PM Modi's tweet came in the wake of BJP's success in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, where it had made corruption a major issue against Congress governments. It is supposed to have been a major factor in the outcome, especially in Chhattisgarh where Congress had appealed all set to retain office.

Modi had campaigned vigorously on the anti-corruption plank in both states and, post-election, had vowed to take his probity push to its logical culmination, saying that central probe agencies would not



In one of the largest cash seizures by the income-tax department due to alleged tax evasion, more than ₹300 crore was recovered from two liquor trading companies, linked to Jharkhand's Congress MP Dhiraj Sahu, in Odisha

be deterred by attacks on them by opposition parties.

During its raids, the income tax department seized cash in Balangir and Sambalpur districts of Odisha along with "incriminating" documents in various places.

The bulk of the cash was recovered stashed in a distillery at Sudpara in Balangir district on Thursday and Friday. "The quantity was so huge that it filled 156 gunny bags. Around 15 bags had been counted till 5pm on Friday. These had Rs 45 crore. Fifteen money counting machines are being used," an I-T officer said.

The counting of cash is underway at State Bank of India branches in Balangir and

Sambalpur for the past two days. "It will take some days," said SBI DGM Mammooh Swain. Sources said 15 bank staff members were deployed for the counting in two shifts.

Significantly, while Sahu is a member of Congress, BJP functionaries in Odisha also highlighted his alleged links with the governing BJD.

Addressing a news conference, BJP spokesperson Manoj Mohapatra alleged that many BJD politicians in western Odisha had close ties with the traders and money was parked by them. The Odisha unit of BJP demanded a CBI probe into the entire episode and sought BJD's clarification on the issue.

In Ranchi, former Jharkhand CM Babul Marandi demanded Sahu's arrest, while saying the cash could also be linked to Hemant Soren, the Jharkhand CM whose coalition includes Congress. "Soren has been evading ED's summons for questioning for some time now and thinks he is above the law. The air is beginning to clear gradually," Marandi claimed.

"I have apprehensions that the money was stashed to influence the outcome of the elections. Crores of rupees have been recovered in ED raids in Jharkhand in the past and rumours were afloat that the money was moved in ambulances to Chhattisgarh, West Bengal and Odisha. An FIR should be registered against him at once and Sahu should be arrested for questioning," he added.

# Gogamedi's killers were in Jaipur days before murder: Cops

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



medi. Singh was shot dead in a police shootout back in 2017, and she said Gogamedi had always supported her family.

Police said they were yet to investigate to find out her role, if any, in the murder. "Until the two shooters are arrested, we cannot say anything... We have many theories, but cannot confirm them yet," said a senior officer.

The high-profile murder and escape of the killers amid a heavy security cordon has left the state police in a bind. The DGP formed a SIT, with the task cut out for them to track down the shooters. However, no breakthrough has been made so far, despite a reward of ₹5 lakh announced for information on the whereabouts of each of the two shooters.

## Govt steps up measures to rein in food prices

Dipak.Dash@timesgroup.com

25 million tonnes of FCI wheat in the open market.

With this decision, import of almost all pulses is free and this comes at a time amid concerns over the fall in tural production and progressive sowing of chana during the rabi season compared to last year; though the government is "comfortable" with the stock of chana, moong and masur. The government also imposed a ban on onion export till March 2024.

New Delhi: The government on Friday stepped up measures to check the prices of food items and increase their availability as it removed all restrictions for import of yellow peas till March 2024 and announced a 50% reduction in the stock of wheat that wholesalers, retailers and big chains can hold at any given time. It also announced its plan to offload additional

## MUNICIPAL CORPORATION CHANDIGARH TENDER NOTICE

### EXECUTIVE ENGINEER - Roads Division No. 2

1. Reconstruction of Internal Streets at Pipilwala Town Manimajra, Chandigarh (Improvement of Road Parking places & Infrastructure facilities)	07.12.2023 To 14.12.2023 upto 12.00 noon	14.12.2023 at 12.00 noon
Estimated Cost: Rs. 164.96 Lacs	Earnest Money: Rs 3,29,919/-	Time Limit : 08 Months

Note :- 1) Tender Notice alongwith detailed terms and conditions is available/uploaded on website at [www.chandigarh.gov.in](http://www.chandigarh.gov.in) or tenders.chd.nic.in

Executive Engineer

Roads Division No.2, Room No. 303, M.C. Chandigarh

## KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD (A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)

# 49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru – 560 001.

Phone No. 080-22265383, website : [www.kiadb.in](http://www.kiadb.in)

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-23/378/2022-23 Date: 07.12.2023

### NOTICE INVITING TENDER

(Through GOK e – Procurement Portal Only)

Item rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors holding valid Class-I (Civil) issued from KPWD, Government of Karnataka who have got adequate financial resources, state of the art technology, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the following work of Establishment of Electric Manufacturing Cluster at Kotur-Belur Industrial Area, Dharwad Taluk & District.

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : 09.01.2024 upto 04:30 pm.

Applicants may download bidding documents from Karnataka Public Procurement Portal, <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>.

Sd/-

Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru

## Farmers block NH to protest onion export ban

Nashik: The Centre banned the export of onions with immediate effect until March 31, 2024, much to the chagrin of Nashik district farmers, reports Tushar Pawar.

Farmers blocked Mumbai-Agra highway and announced a strike against the auction of the crop across the 15 APMCs in the district.

<b>NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY</b>	
Corrigendum No.: 01/2023-24/TMC/HQ/NCR/PRY Date: 06.12.2023	
<b>CORRIGENDUM-1<sup>st</sup></b>	
Corrigendum of Tender No. TMC0032324 Date of opening 11.12.2023 against Tender Notice No. 03/P-69/2023-24/TMC/HQ/NCR/ALD Dated: 16.11.2023.	
All the related tenderers are hereby informed that due date of opening of tender no. TMC0032324 has been re-fixed as 28.12.2023 in place of earlier date 11.12.2023. All other terms & conditions shall remain unchanged. Corrigendum for the same is available on website <a href="http://ireps.gov.in">http://ireps.gov.in</a> & <a href="http://www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in">www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in</a> . This has approval of CEC/TMC/NCR. 1871/23 (A)	
North central railways   OPRNOK	

<b>KERALA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.</b>		
(Department of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of Kerala)		
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Tele:0471-2945646, 2945600		
website: <a href="http://kmsc.kerala.gov.in">www.kmsc.kerala.gov.in</a> , e-mail: tenders.kmsc@kerala.gov.in		
CIN No. U2423KL2007SGC021616		
No. KMSCL/EP/21194/2023 Dated : 08.12.2023		
<b>e-TENDER NOTICE (Running Contract)</b>		
Online bids are invited for the supply and installation of the following equipment for various Government healthcare institutions across Kerala.		
Sr. No. Tender No. Description Online Pre-Bid Meeting Last date of Online submission		
1. T520/2023	Point of Care Test For Sickle Cell	14.12.2023 26.12.2023 11.00 a.m. 5.00 p.m.
2. T521(R)/2023	Operating Microscope ENT Model C, TMT Machine Model B, Septoplasty Set, Dry Bath, Micro Centrifuge, Micro-Ear Surgery Instruments, Arthroscopy Camera, Instruments and Shaver System Model B, Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation Machine	N.A. 27.12.2023 5.00 p.m.
Tender documents and all other information related to tender and bidding process can be downloaded from the website <a href="http://www.etenders.kerala.gov.in">www.etenders.kerala.gov.in</a> .		
Sd/- Managing Director (Tender Inviting Authority)		

<b>PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON</b>	
See Section 82 Cr.P.C.	
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely <b>Vikas, S/o. Babu Lal, R/o. B-54, Gali No. 39B, Molarband Extension, Badar Pur, New Delhi</b> , has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case <b>FIR No. 50/2019 U/s 33 Delhi Excise Act registered at P.S. Pul Prahlapur, New Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said <b>Vikas</b> cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said <b>Vikas</b> has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said <b>Vikas</b> accused of <b>FIR No. 50/2019 U/s 33 Delhi Excise Act</b> P.S. Pul Prahlapur, New Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before <b>22.01.2024</b></b>	
By Order	
Sh. Himanshu Tanwar, Metropolitan Magistrate -10, Room No. -307, 3rd Floor, Saket Courts, New Delhi	
DP/13810/SE/2023	

<b>CHITTARJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS</b>	
E-TENDER NOTICE	
Tender Notice No: PCMM/CLW/HWH/E-Procurement/23/62 Dated: 05/12/2023, PCMM/CLW/HWH on behalf of the President of India invites electronic bids from established reliable manufacturer for supply of the following. The following E-Tender/s are for supply of materials for manufacture of Electric Locomotive. The Prospective/ likely suppliers are requested to look up the website <a href="http://ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> for detailed instructions. These are E-Tenders only electronic offer bids shall be accepted. SL. No.: <b>Tender No.; Description of Stores; Quantity; Due On; Tender Cos</b> are as follows: [275]; 29232803; Hardened Steel GRIT-SAE, Size G16, Screen Opening (1.18mm), Conforming to Spec No. SAE J / 444, HSN CODE: 72051021; As per tender documents; 26/12/2023; ₹ 0.00, [276]; 34232503; Multiple Core Cable 9 X 0.5 Twisted As Per Spec. No. CLW/ES/3/0459/C; As per tender documents; 27/12/2023; ₹ 0.00, [277]; 34232513A; Resistor Harmonic Filter For WAG-HC Locomotive to CLW Spec. No. CLW/ES/3/0015/B; As per tender documents; 02/01/2024; ₹ 0.00, [PR-1-24] PCMM/CLW/HOWRAH Like us on: <a href="http://www.facebook.com/clwrailways">www.facebook.com/clwrailways</a>	
<b>WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY</b>	
OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE	
NO. BPL/TRD/DRG/WC/414RT DATE-08.12.2023, Sr. DEE/ TRD/WCR, Bhopal acting for and on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders against following work upto 11.00 hrs. on the date mentioned against tender. The complete tender documents and detail information regarding tender, are available on the website <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">http://www.ireps.gov.in</a> . Manual offers are not allowed against this tender. For any correction, in this tender, if necessary, corrigendum will be uploaded on website prior to tender opening date which may be seen up to the date of tender opening. (1) <b>Tender No.:</b> BPL/ TRD/ DRG/ WC/ 414 RT <b>Description of work:</b> OHE work due to Bina yard remodeling work in Bhopal Division. <b>Completion period:</b> 18 months. <b>Estimated Cost:</b> ₹ 93992696.32/- <b>EMD:</b> ₹ 62000/- <b>Closing Date and Time for submission of Tender:</b> 01.01.2024 at 11.00 Hrs.	
S DEE (TRD) West Central Railway, Bhopal	
सरकारी भाष्य भारत अधिनियम की ओर	
CIBC 22202/11/0005/2324	

## MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING SHASTRI BHAWAN, NEW DELHI

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### ON WEBSITE OF MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING

##### SOLICITING SUGGESTIONS/FEEDBACKS/COMMENTS/ INPUTS/ VIEWS FROM GENERAL PUBLIC/ STAKEHOLDERS

##### ON THE DRAFT

##### "BROADCASTING SERVICES (REGULATION) BILL, 2023"

In response to the representations received from the various quarters with reference to Ministry's Public Notice dated 10.11.2023 on the subject cited above, this Ministry has decided to extend the deadline for furnishing suggestions/feedback/comments/ inputs/views by any person/stakeholders on the draft "BROADCASTING SERVICES (REGULATION) BILL, 2023" upto 15.01.2024.

(Sanjiv Shankar)

Joint Secretary to the Govt. of India

Please visit the link for more details on draft bill, Annexure-I, II & III [https://mib.gov.in/sites/default/files/Public%20Notice\\_07.12.2023.pdf](https://mib.gov.in/sites/default/files/Public%20Notice_07.12.2023.pdf)

## GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR HOME DEPARTMENT

\*\*\*\*

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Imphal, 7th December, 2023

No. H-3608/2/2023-HD-HD(Pt): Pursuant to the directions of the three member Committee chaired by Justice Gita Mittal (Retd.), constituted by Hon'ble the Supreme Court of India vide its order dated 07th August, 2023 in SLP (Civil) Diary No. 19206 of 2023 and connected matters, Manipuri students studying outside Manipur, dependent on parents/guardians who stand displaced/ properties destroyed/ inhabiting relief camps are hereby informed that in case of any difficulty regarding security, education, residence, or any other issues, should get in touch with the officers/authorities in the respective States, for assistance. The details of the officers identified have been given on the link given below:  
<https://manipur.gov.in/?p=29569>

2. For State(s) not included in the above List, the concerned Students may get in touch with the Resident Commissioner whose details are furnished hereunder:

State	Name of the Resident Commissioner	Contact details
Delhi	Shri Devesh Deval,	

# It's 40 years since India became permanent resident of Antarctica

Newton.Sequeira  
at timesgroup.com

**D**ecember 1983 was a landmark month because it gave India its first people's car, the Maruti 800. But something else of great significance was afoot then. On December 3, the Finnpolaris, a chartered ice-class vessel, had sailed out of Mormugao, Goa, with an 81-member team on board. Their mission was to set up Dakshin Gangotri, India's first permanent base in Antarctica.

It wasn't India's first mission to the White Continent. A 21-member team had sailed on December 6, 1981 and stayed a fortnight after arriving on January 9, 1982. Another team had arrived on December 28, 1982 and spent two months "focused on geological experiments to assess the continent's mineral and oil potential," TOI had reported then.

Why December every time? Because that's when Antarctica, like Sydney, Rio, Johannesburg and other places in the southern hemisphere, has its summer. There's a brief window of two months to get work done before the continent freezes up again.

The 1980s was a time when every major country was racing to explore and claim the mineral and marine wealth of Antarctica, so India could not have remained a seasonal visitor. "India realised that a permanent base was an absolute necessity for round-the-year observations in the icy continent," says Harsh Gupta, who led the 1983-84 expedition that went on to establish Dakshin Gangotri.

#### Do-Or-Die Resolve

The 1983 mission was called Project Gangotri. Finnpolaris reached Antarctica on December 26, and the team went to work. Their goal was to set up the permanent base in 60 days. "No country has built a permanent station in Antarctica in one Antarctic summer, and wintered there. This was a record India created in 1983-84 and it is still unbroken," says Gupta.

But the project nearly got derailed by an accident on the third day. "On December 29, a load was hooked to a helicopter," recalls Gupta. "The helicopter did not rise adequately. The under-stung load became entangled with the railing of the ship and the rotors

The Tricolour was unfurled in Antarctica in January 1982 but India did not have a permanent base there till its third expedition arrived in December 1983 and set up buildings where scientists could live year-round

**CAMPAIGN ON ICE:** The Dakshin Gangotri station as photographed in 1984 by Pavan Nair, who was then a Major in the Indian Army and led the construction team



## Panaji post office is gateway to polar base

**F**reezing Antarctica and sunny Goa could not be more different, but they are united by a pin code. All letters to Maitri, India's current base in Antarctica, are addressed to the National Centre

brought under Goa's department of posts on January 26, 1988.

"We used to carry loads of letters from India and I cancelled them in Antarctica with a special stamp," professor Sudipta Sengupta, who was part of Project Gangotri and the first postmaster at Dakshin Gangotri, told TOI from her home in Kolkata.

A different expedition member was made honorary postmaster every year at the base until it was abandoned in 1988-89 after it was buried in ice. Since then, the new post office at Maitri has borne Panaji's pin code.

— Newton Sequeira



**SNOW MAIL:** Letters to Maitri, currently India's Antarctica base, are routed via the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research in Vasco

of the helicopter hit the ship's crane."

The chopper with five crew members on board started drifting and sinking in the icy waters. "A Chetak helicopter was launched to rescue them," says Gupta, but the first two men it scooped up could not hold on to the harness as their arms had become numb. They tumbled into the water again and a boat had to be rushed to rescue all five.

Professor Sudipta Sengupta, a core geologist, and oceanographer

## Indians again on Antarctica

**N**EW DELHI, December 27. **TOI** took another look at the news when the third scientific expedition to Antarctica began on Sunday. "Today, 'Time Polar' is carrying the Indian flag across the continent, marking the 40th anniversary of the first Indian expedition to Antarctica and the 10th anniversary of the Indian Antarctic programme," says Prof. Sudipta Sengupta, Director of the Indian Institute of Oceanic Development here that the high priority. While the last report said

Aditi Pant were the only women on the mission. "For a few minutes we were horrified by the prospect of the team members dying. To our great relief, they were alright," says Sengupta.

With one of their four helicopters lost, and five men fighting hypothermia, the mission was in jeopardy. Gupta remembers the tension in the air when they

briefed the Prime Minister's office from the bridge of the ship. Soon, they received a call from PM Indira Gandhi, whose first question was about the wellbeing of the survivors. Then she asked, "Can you still do it?"

"If I don't do it, I don't come back," Gupta says he replied without a thought. There was a pause, and then the PM said, "Go ahead and do it."

"From that moment, 'We don't go back if we don't complete Dakshin Gangotri' became our war cry," says Gupta.

#### Mission Accomplished

Although scientific exploration was the chief aim of the mission, the team had more defence personnel than scientists. As against 16 scientists, there were 29 Army personnel, and 12 each from the Air Force and the Navy. All had been trained on the Machoi Glacier in Jammu & Kashmir.

As TOI reported on December 28, 1983, the defence establishment had a big role in setting up the permanent base at Dakshin Gangotri. The prefabricated huts for the base were made by the Defence Research and Development Organisation. They were insulated and heated and could withstand wind speeds of up to 200kmph. "To give (the scientists) a touch of their familiar home atmosphere, there will be taped music, an enormous collection of books and video cassettes," the TOI report said.

When the Finnpolaris left Goa, it was loaded with 900 tonnes of construction material and 1,000 oil barrels. To move crew and things around quickly, there were two Mi-8 medium twin-turbine helicopters and two Chetak light helicopters, besides two bulldozers and several snow scooters.

As the ship neared Antarctica, designations and ranks melted away. Officers, soldiers, and scientists worked as one to build the 620sq-m two-storey structure equipped with laboratories, living quarters for 12 wintering team members, a medical room, a communications room, a gymnasium and a recreation room. Although it was 'summer', some days were lost to whiteouts and blizzards. Yet, the 60-day deadline for building the permanent base was met.



**FREEZE FRAME:** Dakshin Gangotri pictured in Jan 1988 with a member of the 7th Indian Antarctic Expedition on the roof of the ice-laden base

## Tricolour travelled like Bond first time

Newton.Sequeira@timesgroup.com

**I**ndia's first mission to Antarctica in December 1981 was conceived in secrecy, and the 21 crew members weren't allowed to talk about it even with their families. Amitava Sengupta, one of the youngest members of that mission, recalls that the air of strict confidentiality before departure made them feel like they were in a "James Bond movie".

"The initial meetings were held behind closed doors and involved only top officials, including cabinet secretaries and the Indian Navy chief," says Sengupta. The team's military trainers were also clueless about the mission, and they thought they were training a bunch of spies. "The real challenge was that the trainers did not know what we were preparing for. They thought we were part of a secret offensive mission, hence the weapons training," says Sengupta.

All the team members were young, with their average age around 30 years "so that they could be associated with the taxing Antarctic expeditions on a continuing basis for one or two decades and, if necessary, in setting up a permanent station on the continent," TOI reported on January 12, 1982.

They were trained at the Army's High Altitude Warfare School in Gulmarg, and then taken to Drass, "the second coldest inhabited place in the world, where the temperature falls to -56°C," another TOI report on March 29, 1982 said, adding, "The training schedule included instruction in crossing of crevasses, prevention of frostbite and rescue operations." Later, a Navy warship acclimated the scientists to rough sea conditions, but even the vessel's commander didn't know what their goal was.

Finally, the team embarked on the Norwegian ship Polarsirkel because India's lone oceanographic research vessel Gaveshini was too small for the team and its equipment that included two choppers. It also lacked ice-breaking capabilities. "There were a lot of backchannel talks with Norway to request it not to tell other nations of our plans," says Rahul Mohan, project director of the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) at Vasco.

Ten days after leaving Goa, the Polarsirkel picked up equipment and supplies in Mauritius. Team leader and marine biologist Syed Zahoor Qasim also boarded the ship there. He had the honour of unfurling the Tricolour for the first time in Antarctica, marking the start of the Southern Ocean expeditions under the environmental protocol of the Antarctic Treaty (1959).

The first expedition spent only two weeks on the continent. "When we returned, it was almost like coming back from the moon," says Sengupta.

## Here from Iran to score Hajar goals

Rayson.Tennyson@timesgroup.com

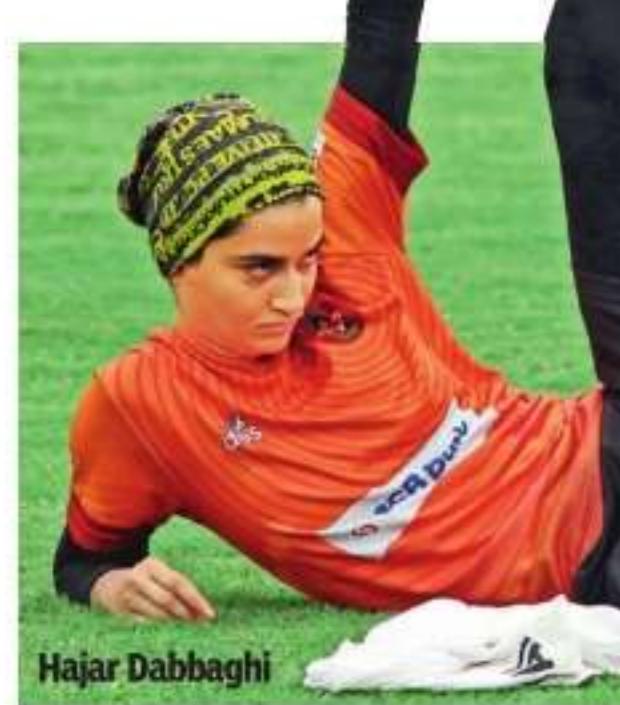
**I**ranian director Jafar Panahi's 2006 film 'Offside' is about the struggles of a group of Iranian girls who try to watch a Fifa World Cup qualifier despite a ban on women watching men's sports in stadiums. Hajar Dabbagh, who is from Iran, has not seen the film, but if you follow women's football you have probably seen her football chops.

The 24-year-old signed up with Gokulam Kerala football club in September and has made her mark in matches. For example, she scored one of the goals that helped Gokulam pip Bangalore FC in the AFC Women's Club Championship last month. While eminent Iranian footballers like Majid Bishkar and Jamshid Nassiri have vowed fans in India before, Hajar is the first woman from Iran to play for an Indian club. How does she feel about playing before men, and for a club outside Iran? "I don't think that's an issue for me," she says.

Nor was the ban on watching men's matches ever an issue for her. "Yes, women were banned from watching men play, but there are no restrictions on us for playing football," she says about women and football in her country.

Hajar was drawn to the game at a very young age after watching kids play for the Iranian football club Sepahan in her neighbourhood of Khomeyni Shahr in Isfahan province. Her parents Ali Reza-yo and Isatho encouraged her despite knowing she could face difficulties. "They have supported me so much, I will always be grateful to them," says Hajar.

Hajar wants to leave her mark on India's football maidans like Nassiri and Bishkar. She's already been noticed, not only for her skills but also the fact that she is the first professional footballer in India who plays with a headscarf and stockings in Indian Women's League. She says she will play wearing her hijab not because of Iran's strict rules but to follow Muslim traditions. "I want to show that you can uphold Muslim traditions and live the life of a true Musalman even after taking up professional football."



Hajar Dabbagh

Adjusting to spicy Indian food has taken longer, but she is resigned to it as her own experiments with Iranian dishes in her room have been less than successful. "After trying to cook some Iranian food, I realised that my culinary skills are poor," she says, smiling.

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**Catching Them Young**

With thousands of children aiming to join

## For youngsters in Simdega, hockey is a ticket out of poverty

**J**harkhand district has 3 players in women's senior national team, and 3 others in U-21 side. Thousands of kids train hard every day to follow in their footsteps

Arnav.Seal@timesgroup.com

**W**hen Sangita Kumari scored a hat-trick against Thailand at the Women's Asian Champions Trophy in Ranchi on October 27, nobody felt more proud than her father Ranjit Manjhi. India's star forward had once again vindicated his decision to back her in the face of dire poverty.

At Gokulam, women's team head coach Anthony Andrews was impressed by Hajar's skills and convinced her to join. "Her inclusion can be a huge booster for Gokulam. She is someone who can play both as second striker and attacking midfielder," he says.

Last year, Hajar had played a match against India in the AFC Women's Asia Cup at Navi Mumbai. "Despite our lower ranking, we were able to hold a strong side like India," she remembers cheerfully. But Keralam was new ground for her. Her joining was delayed due to visa issues and she was playing for Gokulam before she had settled in.

Communication proved to be a major barrier as Hajar spoke Farsi and knew hardly 15 words of English when she arrived. But Google Translate and her teammates Harmilan Kaur and Asem Roja Devi came to her aid. "All the team-mates are so supportive, we became friends quickly. They help me a lot," says Hajar.

Adjusting to spicy Indian food has taken longer, but she is resigned to it as her own experiments with Iranian dishes in her room have been less than successful. "After trying to cook some Iranian food, I realised that my culinary skills are poor," she says, smiling.

Hajar wants to leave her mark on India's football maidans like Nassiri and Bishkar. She's already been noticed, not only for her skills but also the fact that she is the first professional footballer in India who plays with a headscarf and stockings in Indian Women's League. She says she will play wearing her hijab not because of Iran's strict rules but to follow Muslim traditions and live the life of a true Musalman even after taking up professional football."

**To School With Sticks**

Father Benedict Kujur also helped Simdega's children raise their game. While teaching at RC Upgraded Middle School, Karanaguri, in 2003, he made it mandatory for every child to bring a hockey stick to school.

In the beginning, I faced a lot of obstacles, but with time people accepted my decision. The kids used to bring bamboo sticks and even tree branches shaped like hockey sticks," says Father Benedict, who was Sangita's first coach. "I made them train early

**SWEEPSTAKES:** Father Benedict Kujur made it compulsory for students to carry a hockey stick to school. He was the first coach for Sangita Kumari (below), the senior national team's star forward



the national side, competition is fierce and it shows every time the government-run hockey academies hold trials. The district has two residential hockey academies and eight day-boarding centres for girls, with 25 students placed in each. The selected players get meals and a monthly stipend of Rs 500, besides coaching.

Former player Pratima Barwa coaches at the SS Girls' High School residential campus. Her own hockey journey was cut short by a knee injury in 1995, but she has been helping others, including Sangita, Beauty and Salima, since 2008. And she's had to fight for facilities on the way.

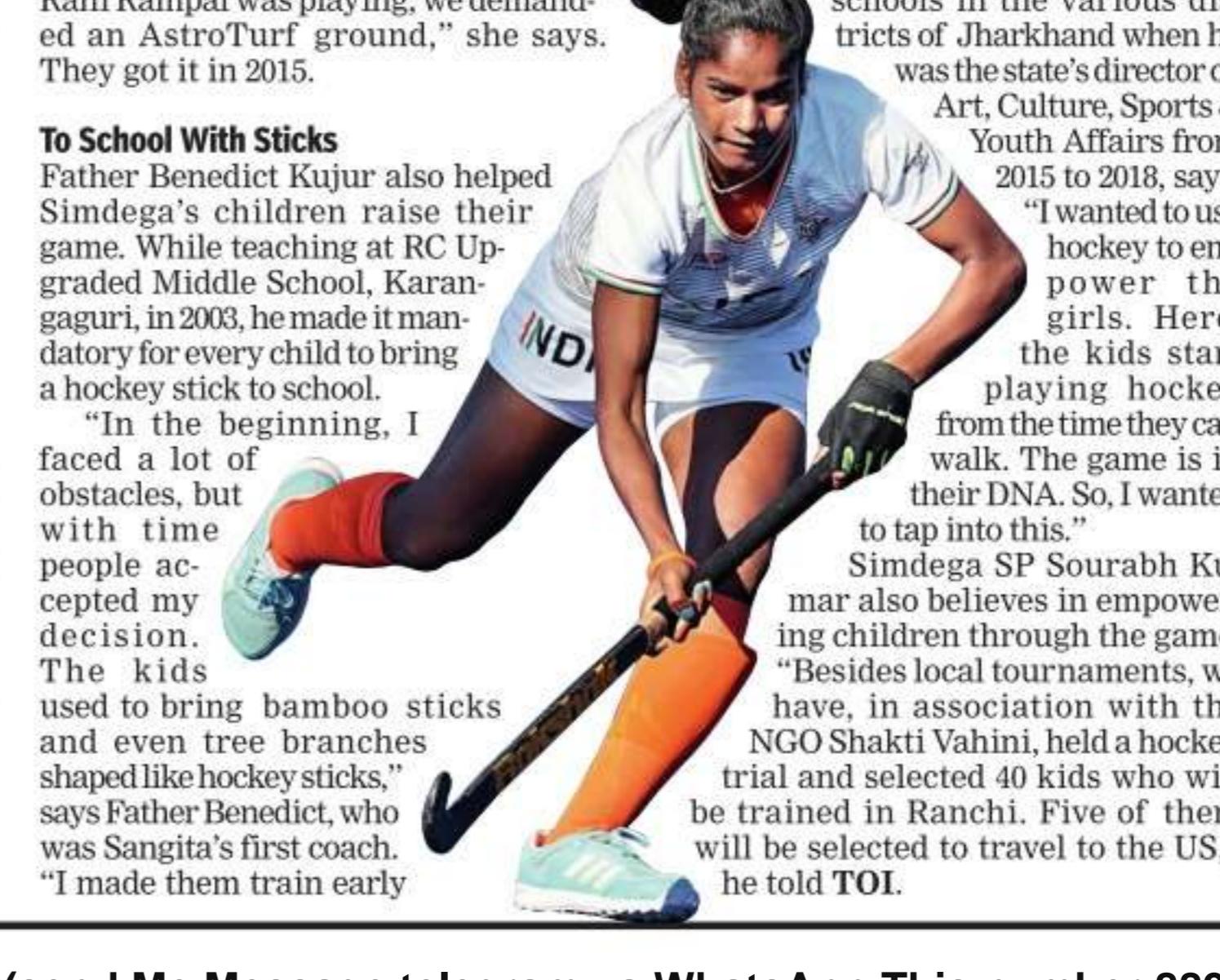
"We didn't have an AstroTurf, but after we lost the Nehru Girls' Hockey Tournament (U-17) final in 2010 by nine goals to Govt Girls Sr Sec School Shabad where (former India captain) Rani Rampal was playing, we demanded an AstroTurf ground," she says. They got it in 2015.

**A Blow To Traffickers?**

If hockey is a carrot for Simdega's kids, it seems to be a stick for human traffickers. Although causation is hard to prove, the rising popularity of hockey has been accompanied by a fall in trafficking cases. In 2017, Simdega recorded 27 cases of human trafficking and 31 traffickers were arrested. Last year, when only five cases were recorded, eight traffickers were caught. This year, only two cases of trafficking have been recorded.

IAS Ranendra Kumar, who decided to set up day-boarding schools in the various districts of Jharkhand when he was the state's director of Art, Culture, Sports & Youth Affairs from 2015 to 2018, says, "I wanted to use hockey to empower the girls. Here, the kids start playing hockey from the time they can walk. The game is in their DNA. So, I wanted to tap into this."

Simdega SP Sourabh Kumar also believes in empowering children through the game. "Besides local tournaments, we have, in association with the NGO Shakti Vahini, held a hockey trial and selected 40 kids who will be trained in Ranchi. Five of them will be selected to travel to the US," he told TOI.



## INQUIZITIVE

by JOY BHATTACHARJYA

**1** Which Burmese word, meaning strength and resilience, has been in the news recently, especially in the southern states of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh?

**2** On Nov 27, 1895, Alfred Nobel signed his last will, leaving most of his fortune to establish a series of annual prizes. Which Nobel Prize was not part of his original bequest and started only in 1968?

**3** Who started the Bhoojan movement at Pochampally in 1951 in which thousands of acres of land was donated? He was also the first winner of the Ramon Magsaysay Award?

**4** Which drink, originating in a western state and made from cashew or coconut, is the first alcoholic beverage in India to get a Geographical Indication registration?

**5** Which phrase, often used with respect to examination results, originates from the custom of naval ships displaying their flags after winning a battle?

**6** Which American engineering marvel was inaugurated in San Francisco in May 1937 and is actually painted orange, although another colour is part of its name?

**7** The longest Rajdhani route in the country – over 3,000km in length – is from Delhi to which southern city?

**8** The state of Uttarakhand is one of the few to have its high court in a different city than the capital. In which place is the Uttarakhand High Court located?

**9** Which four-letter word, meaning style, charm or attractiveness, went viral after actor Tom Holland used it in an interview? It's Oxford's Word of the Year 2023.

**10** The 2032 Summer Olympics are scheduled to be held in Brisbane. Which was the first

# India: Need clear definition of 'climate finance' for trust

**'Finance Flow Has To Be Along With Tech Access'**

Vishwa.Mohan  
@timesgroup.com

Dubai: Calling out rich nations for their failure to mobilise adequate resources for developing countries, India on Friday asked for clarity in the very definition of 'climate finance' and said the absence of it leads to lack of trust and transparency.

"In my view, the minimum short-term action that we need to prioritise and



work together for is the very definition of 'climate finance'. I strongly feel that it is the most fundamental outcome we all can aim for that will automatically lay out the pathways for subsequent action towards appropriate climate financing," said environment minister Bhupender Yadav while articulating India's views during high-level ministerial dialogue on climate finance at the UN climate summit (COP28) in Dubai.

The issue has been a major irritant during the ongoing negotiation process where the developing countries pointed out how the rich nations failed to fulfil their promise of mobilising \$100 billion per year for climate action in poor countries. The rich nations, on the other hand, quoted OECD's estimates and claimed to have mobilised

## 6 dead, 10 hurt as fire breaks out at candle factory in Pune

Pune: At least six persons died and 10 sustained injuries after a fire broke out at a sparkling candle manufacturing unit in Pimpri Chinchwad area of Pune district on Friday, an official said.

The fire brigade received a call about the blaze at the factory located at Talawade around 2.45pm, said Pimpri Chinchwad municipal commissioner Shekhar Singh. The factory manufactured sparkling candles which are generally used for birthday celebrations, he said.

"The fire has been doused. The cause is yet to be ascertained," Singh added.

The owner of a nearby unit alerted the fire brigade to the incident, after which a team rushed to the site, doused the blaze and sent the injured to the hospital, an official from the Pimpri Chinchwad civic body's disaster management cell said.

The six bodies have been charred beyond recognition, while the injuries sustained by 10 persons, comprising nine women and a male who is the owner of the ill-fated unit, are serious, he said.

Maharashtra deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar expressed grief at the incident and assured a high-level inquiry to fix responsibility. PTI

## Man gets 'jail till last breath' for raping minor stepdaughter

Shamli: A special Poco court in Shamli district has handed down a life sentence, maintaining it would be "imprisonment till his last breath", to a man found guilty of sexually assaulting his 14-year-old stepdaughter, reports Sachin Sharma. The court also imposed a fine of Rs 23,000 on the accused.

On August 14, 2023, the minor girl filed a complaint accusing her stepfather of physical assault and sexual harassment, said Sanjay Chauhan, the district government counsel. Subsequently, police registered a case under relevant sections of the IPC and the Poco Act.

Following the survivor's medical examination and her statement being recorded in court, police arrested the accused on August 15.

### INDIA IN TOP 10 FOR 5TH YR IN A ROW

Where do countries stand in CCPI ranking in 2023

Rank	Country
1	None achieved 1-3 rank*
2	Denmark
3	Estonia
4	Philippines
7	India
8	Netherlands
9	Morocco
10	Sweden

\*No country performs well enough in all four assessed categories to achieve perfect score on CCPI

### India's track record



(Source: CCPI 2024)

enough finance to begin with. It was, however, contested by developing countries' negotiators who pointed out that the OECD estimated even loans as climate finance.

According to the OECD, the estimate of climate finance provided and mobilised by developed countries in 2020 was about \$83 billion whereas Oxfam in its 'climate finance shadow report' noted that the amount was merely \$21.24.5 billion.

Citing this example, Yadav said, "The lack of definition leads to a lack of trust and transparency on a matter that should be as clear as crystal... The definition of climate finance that takes into account climate specificity, new and additional flows at highly concessional terms is imperative."

Emphasising on the need to scale up the resource flow "several times" through enhanced provision and mobilisation by the developed countries, the minister said, "The flow of finance has to be

along with access to technology... In the absence of these, it would not be possible for the developing countries to meet their commitments on the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement."

In an intervention during COP28 plenary, India aligned itself with the common position of the developing countries, including China, and pitched for an ambitious global goal on adaptation (GGA) to help billions of climate-vulnerable people. The GGA is meant for developing a framework that can drive political action and mobilise finance for adaptation on the same scale as mitigation (emission reduction).

The COP28 presidency, meanwhile, started ministerial pairing, giving responsibilities to different countries (two each) to come out with suggestions on different contentious issues, including language on the role of fossil fuels, which may be acceptable to all for the final negotiated text.

## India a rank up, now 7th on climate change performance

Dubai: India this year further improved its global Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) ranking by securing seventh position, which is one position up from the last edition, shows the latest Index released by Germanwatch on the sidelines of COP28 on Friday, reports Vishwa Mohan.

India's performance shows significant improvement from 31st rank in 2014 to seventh in 2023. The country maintained its top 10 position, figuring among the highest performers for the fifth year in a row. Technically, only three countries—Denmark, Estonia and Philippines—are above India as no country performs well enough in all four assessed categories to achieve a perfect score on CCPI. India's rank is the best amongst the G20 countries.

The biggest current polluter China figured at 51st most current emitter and highest historical polluter; the US, secured 57th position. The host of COP28, the UAE, secured 65th position while the other big oil producing country Saudi Arabia got the last rank. Among other big emitters, Germany is at 14th position, the UK at 20th, France at 37th, Japan at 58th, Canada at 62nd and Russia at 63rd.

On the four categories on which countries are ranked, "India receives a high ranking in the GHG emissions and energy use categories, but a medium in climate policy and renewable energy", Germanwatch said.

"Though charges were framed in the present case on 30.10.2021, for the last more than two years, only 90 witnesses have been examined," the single judge bench of Justice S Vishwanath Shetty said. PTI

## Family sets pet dogs on officials collecting power dues in UP

Meerut: A routine visit by power department officials to collect overdue electricity bills spiralled into chaos when a family beat them up with sticks and unleashed their two large pet dogs upon them in UP's Bulandshahr on Thursday evening, reports Rahul Singh. The family even pulled out a gun to chase the team away.

A team from Pashchimanach Vidyal Vitan Nigam Limited had visited Rajendra Chaudhary in Gyan Lok colony to recover a pending bill exceeding Rs 3.5 lakh.

Junior engineer Jyoti Bhaskar Sinha, who sustained injuries, told TOI: "We had asked the family to pay the dues, but instead they started abusing us and got into a brawl with my team. They unleashed their dogs on us, which pounced on me and bit my hand. As I fell, the family attacked me with sticks and iron rods. They even chased us with a gun in hand."

An FIR has been registered and police teams are pursuing the accused who are on the run.

## Man gets bail in Gauri Lankesh murder case

Bengaluru: Mohan Nayak N, the 11th accused in the murder of journalist Gauri Lankesh, has been granted bail by the Karnataka high court.

He is the first accused in the case to obtain bail. One of the grounds on which Nayak was granted bail was the delay in the trial.

"Though charges were framed in the present case on 30.10.2021, for the last more than two years, only 90 witnesses have been examined," the single judge bench of Justice S Vishwanath Shetty said. PTI

## HC sends notice to Vijayan, daughter over her co's 'deals'

Kochi: The Kerala high court on Friday issued notice to chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan, his daughter T Veena and some other political leaders in connection with alleged financial transactions between a private mineral company and her IT firm.

HC judge Justice K Babu also issued notice to Congress leader Ramesh Chennithala, Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) leaders PK Kunhalikutty and VK Ibrahim Kunju, as well as Veena's firm Exalogic Solutions, among others.

The court had earlier appointed a lawyer as amicus curiae to argue for and on behalf of the petitioner—social activist Gireesh Babu of Kalamassery—who had died during pendency of the case.

### CMRL PAY-OFF CASE

The HC was hearing a revision petition by Gireesh challenging the order of the vigilance special court, Mavattupuzha which had dismissed a plea for an investigation into the alleged illegal financial transactions between Cochin Minerals and Rutile Ltd (CMRL) and Veena's firm and the suspected political leaders involved, for want of evidence.

When reporters asked the CM about the HC notice at a press conference held here, Vijayan Friday dismissed the question and told the journalists not to worry about it as the notice was issued to him.

Meanwhile, leader of opposition in the state assembly VD Sathesesan Friday alleged the ED was not looking into the allegations as the Left party and the CM have a "deal" with BJP.

A controversy had erupted after a Malayalam daily reported a few months ago that CMRL had paid a total of Rs 1.72 crore to the CM's daughter between 2017 and 2020. The report cited the ruling of an interim board for settlement, and said CMRL previously had an agreement with Veena's IT firm for consultancy and software support services. It also alleged that although no service was rendered by her firm, the amount was paid on a monthly basis "due to her relationship with a prominent person".

The vigilance court had said that apart from the general allegations made, the complainant had not furnished any material facts which would show the political leaders had done favours to CMRL in return for the alleged payments. It also noted that the order of the interim board for settlement on June 12, 2023 "does not show a prima facie punishable under the Prevention of Corruption Act 1988". PTI

### 3 terror suspects arrested in J&K's Reasi, cash seized

Three terror suspects were arrested in J&K's Reasi district and unaccounted cash was seized from them, officials said Friday, adding that the money was likely meant to fund acts of terror in the Union Territory, reports Sanjay Khajuria. Acting on a tip-off, a joint team of the Army and police intercepted an SUV heading to Mahore and apprehended the trio.

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL AUTONOMOUS STATE MEDICAL COLLEGE SULTANPUR  
Last Date for Receiving Application for Faculty Position at ASMC Sultanpur for Advertisement no.A.S.M.C/Sultanpur/ 2023/1227 Dated-04/11/2023 is extended till 21 December, 2023.  
Principal  
Autonomous State Medical College Sultanpur

Advertisement No. 62/2023  
Government of India  
Public Enterprises Selection Board invites applications for the post of  
Director (Operations)  
In  
Oil India Limited (OIL)  
Last date of submission of application by the applicant is  
**01<sup>st</sup> January, 2024**

Last date of forwarding of applications by the Nodal officers to PESB is  
**10<sup>th</sup> January, 2024**  
For details login to website  
<http://www.pesbnew.nic.in>

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL, MATHURA CANTT  
INVITES QUOTATIONS FROM REPUTED VENDORS FOR THE FOLLOWING:-  
1. PRINTING OF STUDENT DIARY.  
2. PRINTING OF SCHOOL MAGAZINE.  
DESIROUS VENDORS/ FIRMS TO SEND/ DROP THEIR QUOTATIONS IN A SEALED ENVELOPE PROPERLY LABELLED BY 29 DEC 2023 (1300 HRS) AT APS MATHURA, NEW RATC LINE MATHURA CANTT 281001. FOR MORE DETAILS PLEASE VISIT SCHOOL WEBSITE [www.apsmathuracantt.edu.in](http://www.apsmathuracantt.edu.in)

कार्यालय अधीक्षक रानी दुर्वासिती विक्रितालय जबलपुर म.प्र.  
पाता मालगढ़दाम चौक के पास सातवें मीलवाल लाइन जबलपुर टेलीफोन नं. 0761-2625622  
website [www.elginhospital.com](http://www.elginhospital.com) में भेजें [elginhospitalbp@gmail.com](mailto:elginhospitalbp@gmail.com)

जबलपुर दिनांक 05.12.2023

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER FOR Supply of S5L Platelet Set Fresenius Kabi Plasma Apheresis Kit

Superintendent Rani Durgawati Hospital Jabalpur (M.P.) invites below mention tenders online <https://mtptenders.gov.in> bid from eligible service providers for Supply of S5L Platelet Set Plasma Apheresis Kit as given document for the period from: Schedule of Events

S. No	Tender Reference Number :	Tender ID	Publishing & Bid Submission Start Date*	Pre Bid Meeting Date*	Bid Submission Closing Date*	Bid Opening Date*
1	1697	2023_DHS_317945_1	13-12-2023	20-12-2023	30-12-2023	02-01-2024

G-21366/23  
Sd-  
Superintendent  
Rani Durgawati Hospital  
Jabalpur

NOTICE INVITING TENDER  
ODISHA POWER GENERATION CORPORATION LIMITED  
(A Government of Odisha undertaking)  
AT-IB THERMAL POWER STATION, PO: BANAHARALI, DIST: JHARSUGUDA, ODISHA-768234  
Phone no.: (Land Line No. 06645-289232/221/355/356/245)  
NOTICE INVITING TENDER  
OPGC invites sealed bids from bona fide and financially sound Registered Agencies/Firms/Companies for execution of the following Works & Supplies for its Thermal Power Plant at Banharpali. Works Tenders: NIT No. ITPS/CC-22/2023-24/16, Date: 08/12/2023

SL. DESCRIPTION BID SALE DATE  
1 Transfer of usable HFO from HFO Tank-2 to HFO Tank-1 at ITPS, OPGC 12.12.23 to 27.12.23  
2 AMC services for HVAC system, OPGC II 12.12.23 to 27.12.23  
3 Overhauling of Ducts (Flue Gas, Secondary & Primary Air) Gates & Damper-U-II 10.12.23 to 25.12.23  
4 AMC of CCTV Maintenance at ITPS for 03 years 11.12.23 to 02.01.24  
5 AMC for Cleaning and Housekeeping at ITPS Colony for 02 years (2024-26) 12.12.23 to 26.12.23  
6 Floor Tile work at DAV Public School 12.12.23 to 26.12.23  
Supply Tenders:  
1 Flow/DPT, Pressure and Level Transmitter ITPS/Pur/23/47 11.12.23 to 01.01.24  
2 Steel material for erection of Platform ITPS/Pur/23/48 12.12.23 to 27.12.23  
The detailed NITs along with Terms and Conditions are available for download at OPGC website at [www.opgc.co.in](http://www.opgc.co.in). Addenda/ Corrigenda/ Extensions, if any, will be notified on the OPGC website only and will not be published in any other media. Interested companies or entities may visit OPGC website for the tender timeline and other details.

Sd-  
GM - SCM  
OPRC-0406711/0022/23-24

office of Superintending Engineer, Moradabad Circle, P.W.D. Moradabad

E-Procurement Notice Inviting Tender

No.- 5681 /Niveda-Moradabad/2023-24 Dated :- 25-11-23

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 12.12.2023

# 'Fossil fuels, finance and inequality profoundly shape climate action. COP28 saw progress here'

**Sunita Narain** is director general of the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE). Speaking to Srijana Mitra Das at Times Evoke, she discusses how COP28 has evolved:

You are participating at Dubai's COP28 – what are the most important directions emerging there?

Three key things have happened. The first is how parties agreed on the loss and damage fund — there is around half a billion dollars in this now. The fact that the world came together, in what are very divisive and polarised times, to agree on this is positive. The poorest people are the greatest victims of climate change — it's only fair they get compensation for the losses they are suffering.

The second is a change in narrative on climate finance — till a COP ago, we were only counting the money and asking if we'd reached the promised \$100 billion or not. The understanding which has now emerged is that it's not just the quantum of money but also the quality — the \$100 billion coming earlier was loans and equity, which meant the Global South, already under huge debt burdens, received a double whammy, facing extreme weather events, rising costs of development and then, climate finance overburdening them in debt.

At this COP, I saw a new understanding about concessional, grant-based climate financing and blended finance to lower the risk and high cost of these projects. There were discussions about how special drawing rights (SDRs) need to be provided by rich countries to the IMF to give as low concessional finance. It's a good start — finance is the make or break part of the climate agreement. The Global South needs development but it wants to grow differently for which money and technology are required. That's been the biggest stumbling



**WHOSE FOSSIL FUEL IS IT ANYWAY?** Climate science stresses phasing out coal (R), mostly used in developing nations — proponents of climate justice then question the continued use of oil and natural gas (L) by developed economies

block. Now, for the first time, there is a paragraph in the Global Stocktake draft on the quality of finance.

The third is fossil fuels. IPCC science says unabated coal must be phased out by 2050, oil must come down by 60% and gas by 45%. My problem here is the large focus on coal which is used by the developing world as opposed to gas. But, for the moment, let's sidestep that and agree that the science says fossil fuels are the heart of the climate problem.

However, it also says a certain amount can be allowed in oil and gas by 2050 — so, who should use that?

India or the African continent should have the right to use the remaining quota. Until now, the Western narrative has mostly been a convenient one about phasing down coal — but what happens to developing economies which need energy? We also haven't talked enough about phasing up renewable energy technologies which can't happen without climate financing.

All these challenging aspects were raised at COP28. Other issues also emerged like how the US is the world's largest exporter of natural gas — producing around 13 million barrels of oil, it even overtakes Saudi Arabia. Yet, we are told the US is on track to meet its climate commitments. In my view, this doesn't add up and we need to talk about it — COP28 was a good start.

## You emphasise greater transparency in carbon markets — why?

The world feels private finance isn't coming in adequately for climate action and the only way for this is the carbon market where you have a price on carbon which is traded. Governments and companies which are emitting today need to show they have offset their emissions. For that, they buy credits which come from countries like ours by planting

trees, investing in renewables, etc. The problem, as our investigation shows, is that the market is not working for people or the planet. Emissions said to be offset are often over- accounted for while many reductions aren't happening.

The market must work within certain rules — the first is transparency. If such a project were established in India, the credit claimed will be deducted from India's account — so, transparency is imperative. At COP28, an understanding was reached for very high integrity markets which will be accountable, equitable and with real and tangible credits, not just creative carbon accounting.

## Why do you highlight the issue of inequality in climate change?

Climate is the one forum which

must discuss inequality. Normally, 'justice' or 'fairness' become wordplay, akin to incidental moral issues. With climate change, there is no choice but to engage with it intensely as this is all about the global commons, the rich polluting in the past and the poor possibly polluting in the future. Without a cooperative agreement with equity, you won't get ambitious action.

One aspect seen worldwide now is extreme weather events breaking the backs of the poorest people.



**THAT RISING TIDE:** Migration driven by environmental distress is poised to grow

They are often left with no choice but to migrate. Increased migration is becoming one of the toughest global political issues. Data shows natural disaster-related migration globally is more than even migration driven by war and conflict. Such distress will grow — this again highlights the responsibility of the rich to address it.

## READERS WRITE

Dear Times Evoke,

Thank you for your highly interesting article on the Panamanian golden frog (2nd December). It is shocking that yet another beautiful species which once thrived in its natural environment has to now be cleaned, fed and raised in captivity. Blessings on the rescuers and the hotel that became a frog conservatory. Dear TOI, your Times Evoke is the best part of the newspaper!

— Natasha Sequeira, Mumbai

TE's wonderful article on the golden frogs of Panama showed how it is so important to preserve ecosystems. The incredible work by environmentalists, zoologists and volunteers to save the frog is commendable. I've seen many species of birds and animals become endangered and some disappear. With this intervention, at least future generations will have these frogs. This article encourages us to do our bit.

— Shreyasi Verma Rodricks, Hyderabad

Each TE article gives us in-depth knowledge and wonderful expert explanations. I'm a regular TE reader as this gives us real and thought-provoking revelations.

The article on Panama's frogs was beautiful! I greatly appreciate Heidi Ross and Edgardo Griffith's wonderful work in fighting this massive extinction crisis.

— Vinayak Goradwar, Pune

TE's interview with Paul Wignall on mass extinctions was amazing. My hearty thanks for featuring his deep knowledge. Human activities are destroying the animal world. But animals keep our environment intact. So, we must preserve them for our own survival. We humans must become conscious about this. Many thanks to the TE team for such an attractive, educative and highly praiseworthy page.

— Biswabhusan Rath, Nachuni, Odisha

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Read Times Evoke online at: [www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/times-evoke](http://www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/times-evoke)

# Mahua will get justice in people's Parliament: Didi

'Party Continues To Stand By Her'

Roshan Gupta | TNN

Kurseong: Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee stood up for Trinamool Congress's expelled Krishnanagar MP Mahua Moitra on Friday by declaring she would get "justice in the people's Parliament", a remark that is being interpreted as an assurance of a ticket to seek re-election in the high-stakes Lok Sabha elections next year.

"To expel her is to cheat the mandate of the people," said Mamata. "The party was with Mahua, remains with her, and will continue to stand by her on this issue."

On whether that meant Mahua was certain to be fielded in the Lok Sabha elections, the CM said, "I do not see any reason why she can't be the party candidate. She has been made the TMC president in Krishnanagar district."

Accusing BJP of "murdering democracy", the CM said the expelled MP was even denied the right to defend herself. "I fail to understand how only 30 minutes were allowed for a debate on a 495-page report submitted by the ethics committee in the Lok Sabha. Their (BJP) political vendetta led them to target and harass a woman, especially one who belongs to the young generation," Mamata said, alleging that expelling an MP by voice vote was akin to a "bypass surgery on democracy".

The elections are just 2-3 months away. It was all about attending one more (Parliament) session at the most. Yet, she (Mahua) was denied that chance (to defend herself). I thought the Prime Minister must have considered it. This only proves how vindictive BJP's politics is. This is unfortunate for democracy. I am shocked, and it is a sad day for the Indian Parliament."

The CM, who is in Kurseong as part of a tour of the north Bengal districts, told reporters that BJP should have shown the courage to take on Mahua in an electoral fight rather than hasten her exit from Parliament. "Today, I congratulated INDIA for being all together (on this)," she told reporters.



TM C MP Mahua Moitra outside Parliament on Friday. Bengal CM and TMC chief Mamata Banerjee said Mahua's expulsion by a voice vote was akin to a 'bypass surgery on democracy'

have shown the courage to take on Mahua in an electoral fight rather than hasten her exit from Parliament. "She will win the battle. People will give BJP a befitting reply."

Mamata said Trinamool Congress and the multi-party opposition alliance INDIA would fight Mahua's expulsion in one voice. "Today, I congratulate INDIA for being all together (on this)," she told reporters.

PCC president and MP Adhir Chowdhury's remarks reinforced the belief that the Mahua issue is the unlikely glue between Trinamool, Congress and CPM, who are otherwise at daggers drawn in Bengal. "This (her expulsion) was done for baseless reasons, and with the sentiment of revenge. This government has insulted women," said Chowdhury, who had written to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla against the alleged hounding of an elected MP.

CPM central committee member Sujan Chakraborty termed the action against Mahua "overactiveness with the brute force of the majority", marking what he said was "a black day for Parliament".

## Bright light, loud sounds from missile tests affect turtles

# BJP defends TMC MP's expulsion, says issue not related to women

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ryan.Ramanath  
[timesgroup.com](http://timesgroup.com)

**Bhubaneswar:** The decision to stop missile-testing at Wheeler Island off Odisha coast during the Olive Ridley nesting season from January to March and other measures to save the vulnerable sea turtles were announced on Friday by a committee headed by Odisha chief secretary P K Jena.

The small turtles are hunted for food and their oil. Unhatched eggs and shells on the sand are used as fertilisers.

"The turtle nesting site is close to Wheeler Island. Since missile testing involves flashes of strong light and thunderous sound, the turtles get distracted," Susanta Nanda, principal chief conservator of forests (wildlife), said.

Around 6.6 lakh sea turtles also nest at the Rushikulya rookery in Ganjam district. The Odisha government has already banned fishing across that section of the coast from November till May 31.

The committee highlighted the need to issue advisories to organisations, institutions, and industrial houses along the coast to stick to outdoor lighting regulations, the chief secretary said. The wildlife division has urged the director of the Integrated Testing Range (ITR) at Chandipur in Balasore to provide space outside the periphery of Wheeler Island to set up seasonal forest camps.

Using this as a base, marine police will undertake joint sea patrolling with the forest department, while the Paradip Port Authority will provide a trawler to the mangrove forest division for vigilance duties.

"The DRDO will also nominate a nodal officer for better coordination with the forest department for the safety of the Olive Ridleys," an official said.

The collectors and SPs of six districts — Ganjam, Puri, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapada, Bhadrak and Balasore — have been told to coordinate with the forest department for the annual turtle protection drive.

The Rajnagar mangrove division has been provided two sections of 10 armed policemen each for sea patrolling. The rest of the five divisions have been given a section each.

## PAST EXPULSIONS FROM PARLIAMENT

► Lok Sabha member HG Mudgal was expelled in 1951 over 'accepting money for favours' in Parliament.  
► Subramanian Swamy was expelled from Rajya Sabha in 1976 for 'misconduct'.  
► Indira Gandhi was expelled from the Lok Sabha over 'obstruction, harassment and bringing false cases' against few officials through a resolution tabled.

**NOTE | 42 members** lost membership of Parliament since 1988, maximum 19 in 14th Lok Sabha, for various reasons like changing political allegiances; conduct unbefitting of a parliamentarian; and after being convicted for crimes carrying jail term of two years or more

accused can never present her side in Lok Sabha, if the accused has to present her side, it has to be before the ethics committee," Majumdar said.

BJP's IT cell chief Amit Malviya said the TMC MP's expulsion was imminent to restore the credibility of the

institution. "Mahua Moitra had become the face of impropriety in Parliament. But it is Mamata Banerjee's patronage and selective support for the delinquent MP that must be questioned. She had the state CID snooping on her so she was aware of everything

Moitra was up to. Did she willfully allow the MP to undermine Parliament to exercise leverage on corporate houses?" Malviya said on X.

BJP MP Locket Chatterjee said there should be no politics on the issue of national security.

Mohua Chatterjee  
[timesgroup.com](http://timesgroup.com)

**New Delhi:** Surrounded by party colleagues and opposition members at the Gandhi statue inside Parliament, a defiant Mahua Moitra said her expulsion was the "most tenacious witch-hunt of one of 78 women MPs, a first-timer, a single woman with no political lineage, from a far-flung constituency on the Bangladesh border".

Invoking Nari Shakti, she added, "You cannot handle power and authority. I am 49 years old, I will fight you for the next 30 years, inside and outside Parliament."

Flanked by leaders of the INDIA bloc, who staged a walkout from Lok Sabha, Mahua read out a speech that she had prepared to place on the floor of the House. "If this Modi government thought that by shutting me up, they are going to do away with the Adani issue, let me tell you this, this kangaroo court has only shown to the whole of India that the haste and the abuse of due process you have used demonstrates how important Mr Adani is to you," she said.

Claiming that "one of the two complainants" was her estranged partner, she said, "Tomorrow, the CBI will be sent to my house I am sure. They will harass me for the next six months, but I would like to ask what about the Rs 13,000 crore coal scam of Adani that CBI and ED have not looked at."

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor said on X, "It's a complete travesty. Fortunately, it has only strengthened Mahua Moitra who is now likely to be re-elected with a bigger majority. Also, do note how the INDIA parties still stood with her. Another good augury."

His party colleague Karti Chidambaram used the analogy of Sri Lankan cricketer Angelo Mathews's timed-out dismissal in the recent World Cup while slamming the government. "In India, people do not mind if one is defeated, they do not like it when you humiliate someone," he added.

Earlier, ethics committee chairman Vinod Kumar Sonkar tabled the first report of the committee on the complaint filed by BJP member Nishikant Dubey against Mahua.

CPM MP John Brittas said an articulate member

scam, to speak in the House in 2005. He was only following the tradition of the House, Birla said. Joshi mentioned that leader of the House Pranab Mukherjee had moved a motion in 2005 to expel 10 members on the same day the report was introduced in LS.

To that, members of TMC and other parties argued that in the 2005 cash-for-query scam, the privileges committee had questioned witnesses during its probe, which was not allowed in Moitra's case.

The motion moved by Joshi said Mahua's "conduct has further been found to be unbecoming as an MP for accepting gifts and illegal gratification from a businessman to further his interest which is a serious misdemeanour and highly deplorable conduct" on her part. Joshi urged the House to accept the recommendation and findings of the committee and "resolve that continuance of Mahua as member of Lok Sabha is untenable and she may be expelled from membership of Lok Sabha".

TMC and other opposition members demanded that Mahua be allowed to put

her views in the House, which was turned down by Birla citing precedents. Congress's leader in the House Adhir Ranjan Choudhury, while requesting Birla to allow Mahua to speak, mentioned his letter to the Speaker before the day the report was introduced in LS.

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## Most tenacious witch-hunt against a woman MP: Mahua

### CHARGES AGAINST MAHUA MOITRA

The ethics panel identified two broad aspects of investigation — 'one of ethics and the other of criminality'

► 'Unethical Conduct' and 'Contempt of the House' by Mahua Moitra, MP, for sharing her Lok Sabha login credentials, ie, user ID and password of Lok Sabha 'members portal', to unauthorised persons located overseas and its impact on national security

► 'Unethical Conduct' and 'Contempt of the House' by way of accepting money — cash and kind — amenities and various other facilities from Dubai-based businessman Darshan Hirandani for targeting his rival, the Adani group

**Key findings/conclusions in ethics panel:**

► 'Mahua Moitra's highly objectionable and deplorable conduct also prima facie has an impact on national security... the serious misdemeanours

on the part of Moitra calls for severe punishment, which could not be less than her immediate expulsion from membership of the 17th Lok Sabha'

► As regards taking cash from Darshan Hirandani as a sequel to quid pro quo, the committee wish to candidly point out that they do not have the technical wherewithal and expertise to criminally investigate and unearth the money trail. The committee, therefore, recommends that the cash transactions between Moitra and Hirandani could be investigated by the government of India in a time-bound manner'

► 'In view of highly objectionable, unethical, heinous and criminal conduct of Mahua Moitra, the committee recommends an intense, legal, institutional inquiry by the government of India in a time-bound manner'

## Don't upload questions myself as I can't operate computers: JD(U)'s Yadav in LS

Janata Dal (United) MP Giridhari Yadav on Friday said he does not know how to operate a computer, as the



**A thought for today**

The only freedom which deserves the name is that of pursuing our own good, in our own way, so long as we do not attempt to deprive others of theirs, or impede their efforts to obtain it

JOHN STUART MILL

## The 'I' In India

Why individual rights get trumped by communities so often

**A**n individual's right to exercise freedom of choice is at the heart of the Constitution. This aim hasn't always been achieved because communities continue to exercise vice-like grips, especially on women. Consider two recent incidents. In Parliament, BJP MP Dharambir Singh termed live-in relationships as dangerous and wanted a law to prohibit them. Separately, an Islamic scholar in Kerala accused Left parties of persuading Muslim women to marry outside their religion.

**Bleak history of marriage** | Exercising choice in marriage is globally a recent phenomenon. It came about because of social changes catalysed by successive industrial revolutions. However, in many societies, like in India, communities and families are reluctant to give precedence to what two individuals may really want. Let's not forget a dowry-related tragedy usually involves families and is rarely limited to an individual.

**Ambivalent courts** | The deep-rooted conservative streak in our society has been evident in some crucial judgments. Majority opinion often tilts towards tradition. This overturned some early attempts by the legislature to protect individuals from the wrath of community leaders. For example, a 1949 legislation to protect individuals from the adverse effects of excommunication of religious authorities did not find favour with a constitution bench of the Supreme Court.

**Freedom from community** | Constitutional rights related to freedom don't limit themselves to protection against an overbearing state. Minority opinions in some landmark judicial cases have argued these also represent a shield against social tyranny. For instance, freedom of conscience has been interpreted by the judiciary as the right to profess atheism. Effectively, it means an individual's choice must be safeguarded against being bulldozed by community norms.

Neither the state nor the judiciary has been able to consistently protect individual rights. It's a sign of the wide gap between the Constitution's foundational principles and India's social reality.

## Our Word Of The Year

You are much more familiar with it than with 'rizz'

**T**here is a great variety in the words that different dictionaries chose as their word of the year. Collins has chosen 'AI' and the only response to that can be, duh, of course! But OUP has gone with 'rizz', which has lots of earthlings scratching their heads. Maybe it's those who have had a lot of fizz in their 2023 who have made rizz viral, as it's slang for 'style, charm or attractiveness'. But our word of the year for India would make sense to all Indians, those with rizz and those without.

**The G-word** | Guarantee. So pervasive has been this word in neta-niti north to south that there's been no escaping it anywhere. Nice MSP, cheap cooking gas, free scooter, money for school uniforms, free food, free electricity, monthly/annual stipend for being a woman...the variety of campaign guarantees has been mind-boggling and yet we know it will only multiply come Lok Sabha 2024 polls.

**In heartbreak alley** | In MP one party even promised the state its own IPL team. It lost though. That's a reminder that no guarantee guarantees an election victory. Nor should it. Because the u in every guarantee calls for your judgment.

Oftentimes you get heartbreak instead of what you were guaranteed. So, then you do what you do when your lover does that instead of your political party. Look for that rizz in another.

## Their Plight Vs Our National Interest

The politics over & because of human rights

**H**uman rights are a moral matter, and a geopolitical one. But there is no centralised authority to enforce compliance. 'Naming and shaming' by other countries and international NGOs is the main way to deal with human rights violations. This can be followed up by economic sanctions or military intervention. But even that is riddled with contradictions and selectivity.

**The Geopolitics of Shaming: When Human Rights Pressure Works – And When It Backfires** by *Rochelle Terman* shows how politics is baked into this method, rather than being a corruption of it. Human rights shaming is a strategic interaction between the source and the target.

National leaders balance their concern for citizens in foreign countries with their own national interests, in security and trade. Everything depends on whether the disapproval is coming from an ally or an adversary. Shaming can result in compliance, or defiance.

Countries shame their rivals and adversaries for human rights abuses in sensationalist and stigmatising ways. But these have no effect because there is no valued relationship at stake. In many cases, the targeted countries double down on the activity for the sake of their domestic public, and because they are sensitive to the optics of status and submission. For instance, with his anti-LGBT actions, Russia's Putin courted Western condemnation to bolster his standing at home.

So did Iran in 2006, when the West and expat Iranians stigmatised the Islamic Republic for a case of a woman potentially being stoned for adultery. The shaming and resistance reinforced each other, with the punishment then becoming more central to Iran's political identity. Brazil's Lula, though, had greater effect in embarrassing the

### mindfield

SHORT TAKES ON BIG IDEAS



Many find it easier to later freeride on the disapproval of others.

This is not to say that human rights regime is toothless or 'talk is cheap'.

States instrumentalise human rights because these norms do matter. There are reputational costs to being called out, and they boost local human rights defenders and inform domestic public. Action can follow rhetoric. Preferential trade agreements with hard human rights mandates can be an incentive. Or there can be costs, like a drop in multilateral lending by the World Bank.

But either way, human rights pressure is not a straightforward moral assertion, it is also caught up in the web of international relations and strategy

nation because there was something to lose in Brazil-Iran relations.

Friends have far greater leverage. To reproach a partner means more: since there is no strategic incentive, it's a credible signal to third-party observers that a genuine violation took place, damaging the target's reputation. Allies may not impose sanctions, sometimes preferring private diplomacy, but their words have more weight. After building global pressure, when the formerly indulgent US finally moved on apartheid in South Africa, it made all the difference.

Human rights talk is frequently weaponised, inviting charges of hypocrisy. During the Cold War, both the US and the Soviet Union used human rights shaming for people at home and abroad. China today insists that US censure is about politics, not principles, by pointing to its own record. There is a strategic calculus: the way the US offers Saudi Arabia legitimacy in exchange for oil and security but drives hard on Iran. Many Muslim nations stay silent on China's treatment of Uyghurs and other minorities because they fear possible retribution.

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As the curtain falls on another year, it is time to pause and reflect. Does your life have a purpose? Are you merely drifting with the tide, or are you steering the ship?

You are not a mere passenger in the journey of life. You are the driver of your own destiny. The law is – As you think, so you become. A happy mind creates a happy world, an ill-tempered mind projects an angry world. A small mind is focused on petty, insignificant things. A mature mind sees beauty and grandeur in the same world. Look at life with joy and enthusiasm, and sadness vanishes.

You do not realise the power of your own thoughts because they are scattered, distracted and inconsistent. When your thoughts get a direction, they become focused, and you gain power. Light rays focused in one

direction can burn a piece of paper. Redirect your scattered thoughts, make them purposeful, and tap into the power that lies within you.

Success and happiness aren't elusive enigmas. They are direct outcomes of your thoughts and actions. Much like planting a mango seed to yield mangoes, sowing the seeds of happiness guarantees a bountiful harvest. The Law of Karma says that for every cause, there is an effect, and every effect has an underlying cause. You are free to choose every thought and action. Once executed, you are its victim. If you think your life is predestined, you feel weak and powerless. When you realise that your future lies in your hands, you regain your zest and enthusiasm.

Life is misleading. That which gives

## New Star Castes For Politics

Modi spoke of women, youth, farmers & poor as 'castes' that matter. Before caste politics became all-pervasive, a variation of that was the mainstream view. It's worth going back to it

Dipankar Gupta



Modi in his December 3 victory speech suggested a new four-fold order. Instead of Brahmin, Kshatriya, Vaishya and Shudra, which are separate and hostile entities, he posited a four-fold schema of the underprivileged – namely, women, farmers, youth and the poor. Unlike the old varna, these categories can easily merge and party together.

**Problem of plenty** | Congress depended far too much on past prejudices and hoped the Bihar caste census would act like a vote magnet to draw in the poor. What they overlooked was that caste is really jatis, numbering between 3,000 and 25,000. Maddeningly, these units are also mutually hostile given varnas' separatist ideology.

If jatis find it difficult to form stable coalitions, it is because they draw symbolic energy from varnas' notions of superiority and hierarchy that magnify internal class differences. No wonder, Mayawati's celebrated alliances with both BJP and Congress were short-lived as was the KHAM faction which had Kshatriya, Harijans, Adivasis and Muslims in its ranks.

**Mutually impulsive** | This explains why jatis can never unite with others over a long term as there is no natural caste adhesive that binds them. True, at one time, the Yadavs represented Other Backward Classes and Jatavas the Dalits. But this was because most peasants and members of the Scheduled Castes respectively lacked literacy and people with connections.

That is all in the past tense. Today, with advancing literacy and urbanisation, almost every caste has its virtuosos and they do not have to depend on their earlier patrons. They have also created their own histories which invariably lead up to an exalted and exclusive varna past. This has exacerbated distinctions between jatis that no combine can paper over.

**Mind the gap** | Caste census enthusiasts should realise that there are wide variations within castes – no such

thing called a Brahman or Kshatriya, but different Brahmin and Kshatriya jatis and they don't always recognise the others who claim to be one of them as genuine, or the real article. Even Baniyas across the country believe they have king pasts.

The Aggarwals, Khandelwals and Maheshwaris claim warrior status but say they were put off by animal sacrifice and, therefore, chose to break away. The origin tales of the merchant Kaikolars of Tamil Nadu relate instances of their legendary martial prowess. That their main deity was a fabled hunter is a feature that Khandelwals, for example, may find disagreeable.



**It's complicated** | Most of those who believe they're Kshatriya have fought each other bitterly in the past as well. Witness, for example, the many clashes in Bihar between Rajputs and Yadavs or the grim encounters in Rajasthan where Rajputs took on the Jats. In west UP, agricultural heartland, Jats and Gurjars have not been best friends either; the list goes on.

To understand contemporary caste politics one must begin by separating varna from jati, an act that is intellectually difficult, if not contradictory. Thus, even while some agitate to be included as "Backward", they will still hold on to their varna positions as a Kshatriya, or even a Brahman.

**Where it comes unstuck** | Jati is pragmatic positioning on the ground, while varna is status locked in the heart. This is primarily why any jati consolidation that

doesn't undermine the traditional varna hierarchy will always be hobbled. It's not as if the poor are now fighting the rich, but in reality, they're fighting one another. They consider as competitors those others deemed as Backward or Extremely Backward – made worse by their contested varna status.

It is a pity that in the 1980s the political firmament was swept by the rise of caste one-upmanship. When the Mandal recommendations were accepted, it shook the ideological certitude of parties like Congress and even the Communists. They now began to wonder if they had been too uncharitable to the caste issue all along. In this, they ended up overcompensating.

**What happened to 'anti-caste'**? Rajiv Gandhi, to be fair, did make a spirited defence of the old Congress ideology against caste politics, but very soon that was over and done with. With time, pandering to caste only grew and a dissenting note on this was like scaring away the crows. The limits of forming jatiunities while the varna logic of separation was hovering overhead was set aside as elitist.

Hindu activists, from Dayanand Saraswati to Mohan Bhagwat condemned caste as much as the old Congress did. In fact, Ambedkar found reason to laud the founder of the Arya Samaj though he disagreed with

his strident views against Buddhism. It is the same Ambedkar who often found Gandhi wanting in his fight against untouchability.

**Mesh & match** | How will this new four-fold cluster of women, youth, farmers and the poor, affect poverty eradication policies? These are clearly not exclusivist and hierarchical strata, as in the old varna scheme, but fold into one another, they deserve society-level interventions and not targeted delivery. The Bihar census results might advocate the latter; herein lies the challenge.

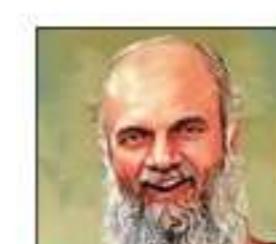
Yet, so far, election manifestos of all major parties are geared to outweigh each other with freebies. This is why they finally end up like coffee table books; too heavy to carry but very light to read.

The writer is a sociologist

## Maya Is Not Dead, Maya Is Immortal

She is perhaps the only tiger with a verified X handle. So, news that the 13-year-old hasn't been spotted for a few months has left wildlife buffs inconsolable

Sunil Warrier



On a wintry November morning of 2014, we entered Tadoba and Andhari Tiger Reserve in Chandrapur district of Maharashtra, hoping for a turnaround of unfavourable 'sighting' luck. For over an hour-and-a-half of being allowed in at 6 am, there was nothing to indicate we were in an animal kingdom. Even the ubiquitous spotted deer and sambar seemed to loathe the single-digit temperature.

As the sun grudgingly ambled northwards, wildlife tourists started looking for places on their Gypsies to deposit the layer of clothes that cloaked them from the chill. The morning's optimism for a good tiger sighting was slowly disappearing, and the guides and Gypsy drivers drove around aimlessly. All ears and eyes were on high alert for any sign of monkey chatter that would indicate the presence of a carnivore.

**Call it intuition, luck or hunch** | Our guide directed the vehicle towards a road inclined towards an area called Panchdhara. Suddenly, he "shushed" everyone and whispered loudly: "woh dekho tiger" (Look! A tiger). From the under-bushes flanked by heritage trees, naked eyes spotted only the flame-black torso. Within nanoseconds, however, Maya Memsaab came into sight granting us a solo sighting.

As Maya sauntered at morning-walk pace, our Gypsy maintained a polite distance behind her on the dirt-track road to ensure she didn't scot away from sight. Looking at her tummy, the guide muttered "she's not eaten for a few days and must be hungry". What unfolded over the next 40 minutes is what unlucky tourists fantasise about.

**Maya charted her path** | Maya sprayed urine on trees and bushes every few metres, zig-zagging to mark her

territory and warn potential rivals. Occasionally, she'd pause and muscle the ears for a sound of prey. She seemed least perturbed by the vehicles that magically appeared restricting our exclusivity to a few minutes but not taking away our front-row perch.

The guides and more aware tourists tried to calm the noisier ones as not far ahead, Maya – and we – spotted a small herd of gaurs chomping away at tall golden grass – perfect camouflage for Maya's orange coat with a generous touch of black stripes. While tigers are not

loath to take down gaurs for a feast, would Maya have the temerity to attack a herd and isolate the vulnerable calf? "She's desperate and hungry," said our guide.

**Hunger makes haste** | Grass by grass, stone by stone, metre by metre Maya advanced towards the herd not yet aware of her presence. Every few metres, she'd pause and recalculate. Maya wasn't far from her target when the alpha male snorted her presence. Soon the herd had formed a circle around the calf.

Hunger can make one attempt crazy things and Maya was persistent. She hastened towards the herd



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## Strong BJP Win Takes Sensex, Nifty To New All-Time Highs

BJP-led coalition's strong showing at the recently concluded polls in five states started a rally on Dalal Street, pushing the **sensex** closer to 70K and the **Nifty** beyond 21K – both new life-high levels. **Strong buying** by foreign funds during the week, who were sellers for a majority of November, led the upsurge in the market. **Domestic mutual funds** – flush with money from SIPs – also supported the rally

Source: ETIG, CDSL, RBI, Agencies

# TIMES BUSINESS

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2023

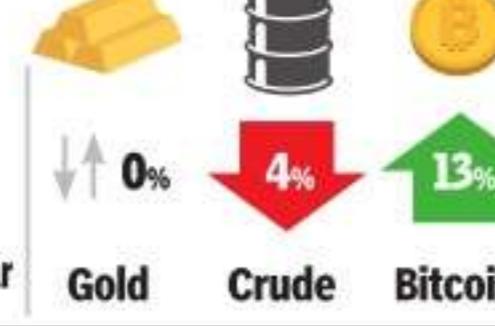
### The Week That Was...

Sensex (69,826)	▲ 3.5%	BSE Group A Gainers
S&P 500*	▼ -0.2%	Adani Total Gas 65%
MSCI Emerging Mkt	▼ -1.2%	Adani Green Energy 51%
		One 97 Comm 25%

(As of 12am; BSE Group A comprises most traded stocks)

### Losers

Crude 0%	Gold 4%	Bitcoin 13%
Balrampur Chini Mills 17%		
Bajaj Hindusthan Sugar 14%		



21,006 Nifty recorded its all-time intra-day high during Friday's session

FPI Inflows ₹16,761cr ▲

Rupee vs \$ 83.39 ▼ -9 paise

Forex\* \$604bn ▲ \$6.1bn

### Brent Watch

74.05/barrel | Oil prices fell to 6-mth low on Dec 7

(\* Week ended Dec 1)

# UPI limit for healthcare & edu payments hiked to ₹5L

Recurring E-Pay Without OTP Increased To ₹1L From ₹15k

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The RBI on Friday announced an increase in the limit for Unified Payment Interface or UPI transactions for hospitals and education services to Rs 5 lakh from Rs 1 lakh, in a move that is expected to benefit individuals.

Separately, the regulator decided to enhance the limit for recurring digital payments – without second-factor authentication – from Rs 15,000 to Rs 1 lakh for mutual fund subscription, payment of insurance premium and card bills. Currently, transactions under Rs 15,000 can be done without an Additional Factor of Authentication (AFA). While announcing the move, RBI governor Shaktikanta Das announced that consumers will have the option to opt-out any time.

The system of granting e-mandates for authorising recurring payments has gained

### 66 PVT INVESTMENT WILL PICK UP

➤ A mention of the word **overtightening** (in the policy) should not be read as a **change of approach**. It would be wrong to think that any kind of loosening is around the corner. That is not at all on the table. Look at the inflation trajectory; we still have a distance to cover

➤ Rural demand for FMCG has been picking up from April onwards, and the **demand for NREGA** has declined for the first time during November. There are signs that rural demand is also turning around

➤ Capacity utilisation has reached a threshold and is higher than the long-period average at 74%. It has reached a point where we can expect **private investment** to start picking up

SHAKTIKANTA DAS | RBI GUV

popularity, with 8.5 crore e-mandates registered and around Rs 2,800 crore processed monthly. "The system has stabilised, but in categories such as subscription to mutual funds, payment of insurance premium and credit card bill payments – where the trans-

yment tool at hospitals, schools and colleges. While UPI transaction limit is capped for most transactions, the ceiling for investments and loan repayments was pegged at Rs 2 lakh. In December 2021, the limit was extended to Rs 5 lakh for IPOs or government bond investments.

Another digital initiative announced by the RBI is the creation of a repository for fintechs. Das stated, "This repository will store important information about fintechs, like what they do, their products, the technology they use, and financial details."

Recognising that fintechs use emerging technologies such as distributed ledger and AI, Das encouraged fintechs to voluntarily share information to help create better policies. The Reserve Bank Innovation Hub aims to make the repository operational by April 2024 or even earlier.

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Similarly, in case of UPI, the idea is to encourage the use of the rapidly growing pa-

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# GUNNERS COME TO EMERY PARK

**Manchester:** Sitting atop the Premier League, Arsenal can rightly be happy with its direction of travel under manager Mikel Arteta.

But, it is fair to ask whether the London club acted too quickly when it fired Arteta's predecessor Unai Emery in 2019 after 18 months in charge.

Emery has made Aston Villa the surprise package of the season - leading it to third place ahead of Saturday's showdown in Birmingham against his former club. Villa trail Arsenal by four points.

Aston Villa's upward trajectory under manager Emery is no surprise to Arsenal boss Mikel Arteta who said on Friday he is expecting a tough game when he takes his Premier League leaders to Villa Park on Saturday.

Speaking ahead of Saturday's game, Arteta lavished praise on former Arsenal manager Emery, telling reporters: "You have to give huge credit to them and Unai and the coaching staff. They are going to be a tough opponent."

"I have followed him since he was coach of Almeria and what he has done at every team is remarkable."

Arteta will not be on the touchline for the match, with the Spaniard serving a ban following his third booking of the season.

League leaders Arsenal are one of the few teams in the top-flight enjoying a better run of form than Villa, and the north-London outfit enter the match on the back of four straight wins, the last of which was a seven-goal thriller at Luton Town. Declan Rice's header deep in stoppage time sealed that victory. AGENCIES



**"Unai Emery has always improved the players, the team and the club. He is Basque like I am. I really admire him."**

— Mikel Arteta — ARSENAL MANAGER

UNAI'S VILLA COULD HURT FORMER CLUB ARSENAL'S LEAGUE TITLE HOPES

Emery had succeeded longtime manager Arsene Wenger at Arsenal but was fired after a seven-game winless run left the club 8th in EPL in 2019. He was in charge for 18 months

## West Ham heap misery on profligate Spurs

**London:** Early-season Premier League pacesetters Tottenham slipped to a fourth defeat in five matches on Wednesday, going down 2-1 to West Ham after throwing away the lead yet again.

Spurs came into the match in buoyant mood after an enthralling 3-3 weekend draw against champions Manchester City and they started in style at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium. Cristian Romero put the home side ahead early but the visitors equalised through Jarrod Bowen and James Ward-Prowse completed the turnaround in the 74th minute.

West Ham manager David Moyes said his side had the ability to give top sides a "bloody nose".

"Huge performance because of the quality of the opposition," he told Amazon Prime. "We had to dig

in. Thankfully we just about scraped it."

Earlier, Everton profited from two Kieran Trippier errors to score late goals through Dwight McNeil, Abdoulaye Doucoure and Beto as they claimed a 3-0 victory over Newcastle United at Goodison Park to move out of the relegation zone.

Newcastle have now lost as many games this season, five, as in the whole of the last campaign, and with a long injury list that has left them with 12 players sidelined.

McNeil robbed Trippier of the ball before unleashing a powerful left-footed drive into the far corner of the net with 12 minutes remaining.

The England full back again lost possession and Jack Harrison's cross found Doucoure to side-foot home, before Beto's first Premier League goal came in stoppage time. The defeat leaves Newcastle in seventh place with 26 points from 15 games amid a worsening away record, while Everton, stung by a 10-point deduction by the Premier League, move into 17th with 10 points from 15 games. AGENCIES

## BRAZIL FOOTBALL BOSS STRIPPED OF POST IN COURT RULING

**Rio de Janeiro:** The president of the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF), Ednaldo Rodrigues, was stripped of the job by a court ruling Thursday amid a messy legal battle.

Rodrigues, the first black president in CBF history, had been a key figure in negotiating with Real Madrid boss Carlo Ancelotti to take over coaching the Brazilian national team, and his departure opens new question marks over the future of the struggling five-time World Cup champions.

The Rio de Janeiro Court of Justice's 21st chamber said it had ordered the CBF to hold a new presidential election within 30 days. It appointed the head of Brazil's Superior Court of Justice for Sport as administrator of the football body in the interim. AGENCIES

## GREEK SOCCER MATCHES POSTPONED AFTER CLASHES LEAVE POLICE OFFICER IN CRITICAL CONDITION

**Athens:** This weekend's top-level soccer matches in Greece have been postponed following serious clashes involving sports fans that left a police officer in critical condition after he was hit by a flare.

Greek league organizers said weekend matches would be rescheduled after it failed to fill referee positions for key matches.

The decision announced on Friday followed a series of violent incidents and came hours after police detained more than 400 people following the riots outside a volleyball stadium in Athens.

## Not certain 2024 will be last year of my career: Nadal

**Madrid:** Rafael Nadal said on Thursday he could not confirm that 2024 would be his final season before retirement, saying it "makes no sense" to set a deadline for the end of his career.

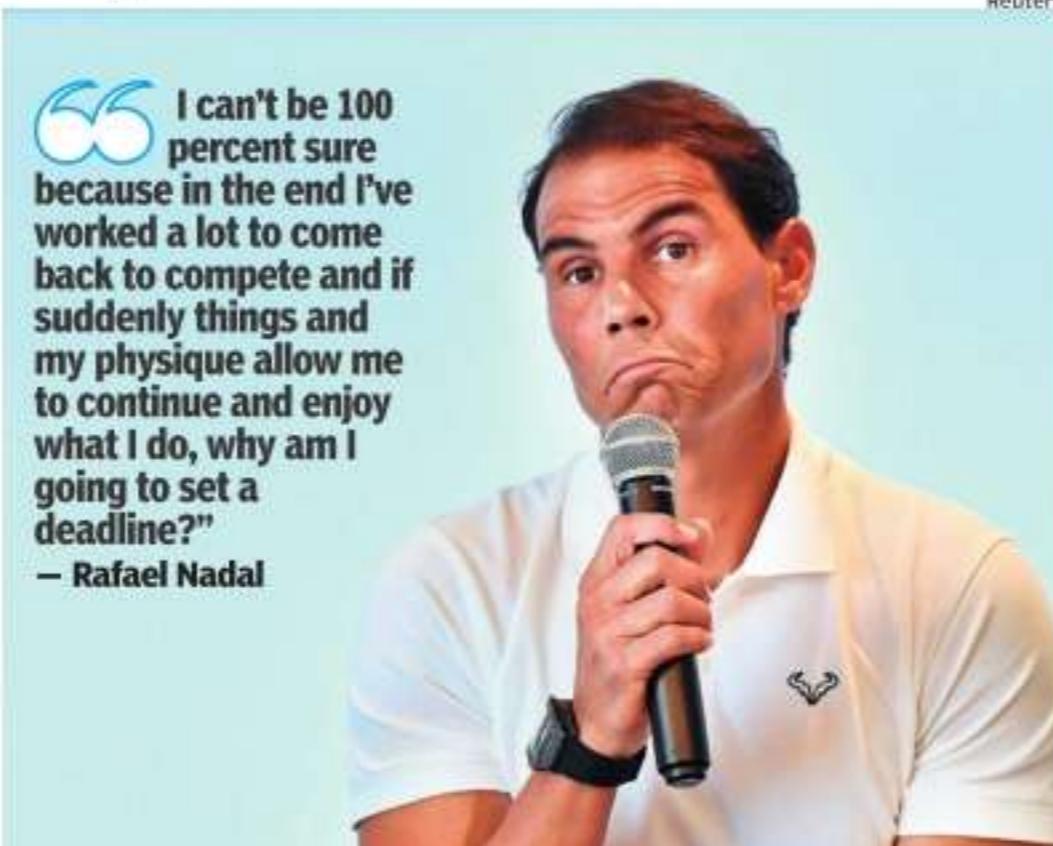
The 22-time Grand Slam champion will make his return from near year-long injury absence at the Australian Open warm-up event in Brisbane next month.

The 37-year-old had previously suggested he would hang up his racquet at the end of 2024. "There's every chance that it's going to be my last year and I'm going to enjoy the tournaments in that way," Nadal said in a video posted on his social media accounts.

"I don't want to announce it because in the end I don't know what can happen and I have to give myself the opportunity not to say one thing as then I'll be a slave to what I said."

"I think it's going to be like that but I can't be 100 percent sure because in the end I've worked a lot to come back to compete and if suddenly things and my physique allow me to continue and enjoy what I do, why am I going to set a deadline? I think it makes no sense."

Nadal was named on the entry list for the Australian Open ahead of the start of the first Grand Slam tournament of the year on January 14.



**I can't be 100 percent sure because in the end I've worked a lot to come back to compete and if suddenly things and my physique allow me to continue and enjoy what I do, why am I going to set a deadline?"**

— Rafael Nadal

The Spaniard has not played since a second-round loss to American MacKenzie McDonald at Melbourne Park 11 months ago. He twice needed surgery after struggling with a hip injury and has slipped to 66th in the world rankings while sidelined.

April 2022 to September 2023.

"It was certainly a demanding season that taught me a lot, and which makes me even more proud. This year-end result exceeded all my expectations. The fact that I came back to No. 1 and that it happened in Cancun with all the pressure and strange circumstances," Swiatek told Eurosport Poland.

"The pressure related to the No. 1 spot was a bit overwhelming in the middle of the season," she said.

"For this reason, I didn't play very freely until the US Open, and then I knew that I just had to change this attitude and approach the next tournaments differently," she added. AGENCIES

## Rahm joins LIV exodus in a deal 'worth around \$500m'

**Los Angeles:** Jon Rahm has been saying that he plays golf for history and for legacy, not for money. And now he's playing for the Saudi-funded LIV Golf League in a shocking departure from the PGA Tour.

A week of speculation on social media ended with Rahm in a jacket — not the green jacket he won at the Masters this year but a black letterman's jacket with LIV Golf across the front — as he discussed reasons for bolting.

How much? Rahm wasn't sharing details, but it's a lot.

Various reports put it in the neighborhood of \$500 million, which includes equity in his new team. Consider the entire prize fund on the PGA Tour in 2023 was about \$460 million.

### HOW IMPORTANT IS THIS TO LIV GOLF?

Rahm is the Masters champion, currently No. 3 in the world and has 20 victories in his seven full years as a pro. He is the biggest catch for LIV since it began in 2022.

One of the knocks on LIV was that so many of its big names were in the twilights of their careers. Rahm is just coming into his prime, and seven of the last 14 major championship winners now are with LIV — Rahm, Brooks Koepka, Cameron Smith, Phil Mickelson, Dustin Johnson and Bryson DeChambeau.

Rahm gives the roster a



JON RAHM (L) WITH LIV GOLF COMMISSIONER GREG NORMAN

major boost, and with a new team, that creates openings for more players to defect.

### WHY NOW?

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Rahm gives the roster a

AP

there any problem with a PGA Tour star joining them?

### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE PGA TOUR?

For starters, the PGA Tour has lost more market share — in the case of Rahm, a big one. It also can't help the tour in its race to reach a final agreement on the commercial deal with PIF and the European tour. PGA Tour commissioner Jay Monahan had said he would be meeting this week with Yasir Al-Rumayyan, the PIF governor. That meeting had already been pushed back, and its status is uncertain.

The tour has said it was narrowing down the list of U.S.-based private equity firms that wanted in on the deal. If PIF saw that as the PGA Tour having leverage, now the Saudis have big leverage in being able to snag one of golf's biggest stars.

### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR RAHM?

His career earnings on the PGA Tour were at \$51.5 million and he'll be getting somewhere around 10 times that much. As Masters champion, he can play for life. He has a 10-year exemption to the U.S. Open as a champion (through 2031), and he has five-year exemptions to the PGA Championship and the British Open. Still to be determined is the Ryder Cup. AP

set a benchmark for our regular shooters to emulate at the Paris Olympics later this year. And how can we forget our para badminton stars. Pramod Bhagat, Krishna Nagar, Manasi Joshi ... there are so many of them, each of whom have risen above physical challenges to win laurels for India!

Para archer Sheetal Devi has made the world sit up with her achievements. The fact that the 16-year-old armless athlete is not satisfied with her two gold and one silver at the Asian Para Games and wants to shine for India in Paris defines her level of conviction and courage. Participants at the Khelo India Para Games certainly won't be short on inspiration.

Every athlete taking part this week is already a winner. To conquer a physical challenge and then step up to see another competitor in the eye itself is amazing. Para Games are a celebration of human dignity and the Khelo India Para Games are just that.

(THE AUTHOR IS THE UNION MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING)

## Delhi HC stays Shaji's removal as AIFF secy

Marcus.Mergulhao@timesgroup.com

**Panaji:** The Delhi High Court on Friday temporarily stayed the All India Football Federation's (AIFF) decision to sack its secretary general Shaji Prabhakaran. When the petition came up for hearing on Friday, the AIFF did not have a representative in court, despite a prior notice being served. The court has asked for notices to be issued to the AIFF and scheduled the next hearing for December 20.

Prabhakaran had filed a writ petition, submitting that the termination, and the subsequent appointment of deputy secretary M Satyanarayan as the acting secretary general, was done in "complete ignorance and disregard for the Constitution of AIFF and the terms and conditions" of his appointment letter dated September 7, 2022.

While terminating the contract, AIFF said it was done with immediate effect due to "breach of trust." The termination letter was signed by AIFF president Kalyan Chaudhary, vice president NA Harris and treasurer Kipaj Ajay. But Prabhakaran, a former FIFA development officer for South Asia, said his dismissal was completely illegal and arbitrary.

## EX-INDIA GOALKEEPER SUBRATA PAUL QUILTS

**Kolkata:** One of the greatest Indian goalkeepers Subrata Paul, 36, on Friday decided to quit, bringing curtains on a glittering career spanning 16 years.

"Thank You Spiderman. Blue Tigers custodian hangs up his gloves today," the All India Football Federation posted on X. Paul, who made his debut against Lebanon in the World Cup qualifiers in 2007, had 65 appearances for India.

He earned the sobriquet "Spiderman" for his heroics under the bar against heavyweights South Korea in the 2011 Asian Cup in Doha when India had qualified after a gap of 27 years. Overall, Paul made more than 35 saves in the whole tournament and has become one of the stars of the team since.

South Korea had 20 shots on goal of which Paul saved 16 as India went down 1-4 in a valiant display.

Paul captained the Indian team under coach Stephen Constantine in the 2018 World Cup Qualifiers. Under him, India made the second round defeating Nepal on aggregate. PTI

## Bangar back at Punjab Kings as head of cricket development

Gaurav.Gupta@timesgroup.com

**Mumbai:** The Punjab Kings on Friday announced former India allrounder Sanjay Bangar as their head of cricket development. The appointment marks Bangar's return to the Punjab Kings fold. He was the head coach of the team from 2014-16, when it was called Kings XI Punjab. During Bangar's stint, KXIP reached their maiden IPL final in 2014. From 2014 to 2019, he was the batting coach of the Indian team, and someone whom former India captain Virat Kohli credited a lot for his successful run in international cricket.

Bangar was Royal Challengers Bangalore's head coach for the last three IPL seasons. They reached the playoffs under him in 2021 & 2022, while missed out narrowly in IPL 2023.

Bangar played 12 Tests (470 runs@29.37, 7 wickets@49.00) and 15 ODIs (180 runs@13.84, 7 wickets@54.85) for India, besides featuring in 165 first-class matches (8,349 runs@33.13 & 300 wickets@31.13 for Railways).

Speaking about his appointment, Bangar said, "It's my privilege to be with the



FAMILIAR TERRAIN: Sanjay Bangar during his days at KXIP

Punjab Kings again. We have a good core of players as evidenced by the fact that we have the lowest number of player releases this year. The challenge is to give the squad the best support possible during and after the season to make the team stronger and deliver success."

Satish Menon, CEO of KPH Dream Cricket Pvt Ltd, said, "Sanjay is an experienced coach and has great credentials. Over the season and beyond we will leverage his ability to build relationships across the squad."

## Warner brushes off Johnson criticism

**Sydney:** David Warner brushed off scathing criticism from former teammate Mitchell Johnson over his selection for Australia's Test series against Pakistan, saying: "Everyone's entitled to their own opinions."

Johnson questioned why should the 37-year-old Warner get a "hero's sendoff" given his recent poor Test form, while bringing up Warner's central role in the "Sandpapergate" ball-tampering scandal. "It wouldn't be summer without a headline," Warner reacted.

Australian skipper Pat Cummins rallied behind Warner. "I think we protect each other a lot. We have been through a lot over the years. AGENCIES

## IOC: Russians can compete in Paris with approved neutral status

**Lausanne:** Some Russian athletes will be allowed to compete at the 2024 Paris Olympics, the IOC said Friday, in a decision that removed the option of a blanket ban over the invasion of Ukraine.

The International Olympic Committee's decision confirms moves it started one year ago to reintegrate Russia and its military ally Belarus into global sports, and nine months after it urged sports governing bodies to look at ways to let individual athletes compete.

It is up to each Olympic sport's governing body to assess and enforce neutral status for individual athletes who have not actively supported the war and are not contracted to military or state security agencies. Those who are given neutral status must compete without national identity of flag, anthem or colours. Russia remains banned from team sports.

### Malvika, Ashwini-Tanisha enter semifinals

**Guwahati:** Malvika Bansod and women's doubles duo of Ashwini Ponnappa and Tanisha Crasto entered the semifinals of Guwahati Masters Super 100 badminton tournament here



COMEBACK GIRL OSAKA TARGETS 2024 PARIS OLYMPICS, MORE GRAND SLAM TITLES

SA RETURN JUST A PROCESS AT THIS MOMENT, MY ARM NEEDS TO REGAIN STRENGTH: FAF



## INDIA LOOK TO FIX FIELDING

...As Team Hopes To Bounce Back In T20I Series Against England

Gaurav.Gupta@timesgroup.com

**Mumbai:** Faced with a stern challenge against a dominant England, Indian women's team captain Harmanpreet Kaur seems to be in sync with new head coach Amol Muzdar on the urgent need to improve the team's fielding, which seemed well below par during the team's 38-run defeat in the opening Women's T20I at the Wankhede Stadium on Wednesday night.

Seamer Pooja Vastrakar (long on) and debutant off-spinner Shreyanka Patil (caught and bowled) fumbled easy chances to allow England's Natt Sciver-Brunt and Danni Wyatt to run riot during their 138-run stand for the third wicket, which batted the Indians out of the game.

"Fielding is something we've been talking (about) for so many years and we want to improve (in this area). When we got together (on) the first day, everyone spoke about fielding. But the best part was that in the last game, we saw that everyone in the team was diving and throwing themselves (at the ball). As a captain, I want our fielding side to be the best," Harmanpreet said on the eve of the second T20I.



Harmanpreet Kaur on Friday stresses that every game from hereon is a step in building towards the T20 World Cup in September

The hosts will be boosted by the fact that impressive young pacer Titus Sadhu, who starred in India's triumph in the Asian Games final against Sri Lanka with superb figures of 4-1-6-3, is likely to be fit for the second T20I, after missing out on the first match due to an illness. "She bowled in the nets. Hopefully, she'll be fine," Harmanpreet said.

While the second WPL auction, taking place concurrently about 21 kms away from the Wankhede Stadium, the match venue, could be a source of distraction for some of the English players, who could be bought for a decent price, their Indian counterparts, the captain said, are likely to be focused on the match, having been retained by their teams. "Almost all the girls are already in some team or the

other, so I don't think the auction is going to be a distraction for us," Harmanpreet said.

Like the head coach, the skipper too stressed that every game from hereon was a step in building towards the T20 World Cup in September next year. It was with that India fielded two debutant spinners in Saika Ishaque and Patil, who went for 82 runs in their eight overs, while taking three wickets, in the first T20I, as England piled up 197 for six.

"The team which we picked for the last match is the one we want to build for the upcoming World Cup. Saika and Shreyanka did really well in the last game. They're quite confident, and after the game we sat with them and discussed what best can they do in the upcoming game. They just need opportunities, and there are many now," Harmanpreet said.

The Indian captain revealed that her big dream was to win the T20 World Cup. "I want this team to

grow and in a way that everyone says that this is the best team. For me winning a World Cup is a dream and I'm just working towards that and that is the only reason I requested BCCI to get a young team. These games are very important as England are not going to give us anything easily. So, we are learning to perform under pressure."

How long a rope will the younger, inexperienced players get in the side, you wonder, considering that results do matter ultimately? "When you play alongside someone, you get a fair idea from their body language as to how they approach cricket, want to play the game and what they can do for the team. But at the same time, there's no surety for any athletes, just as there is none in life at large. That said, a lot depends on how you improve with each passing day and help win games for your team. Based on that, you try to assess how many chances the player deserves."

## Athapaththu, Dottin likely to be hot picks

Gaurav.Gupta@timesgroup.com

**Mumbai:** The likes of Danni Wyatt, Chamari Athapaththu, Deandra Dottin and Kim Garth are likely to be the hot picks in the second Women's Premier League (WPL) auction on Saturday which is being held, inexplicably, at the same time as the second T20I between India and England at the Wankhede Stadium.

A total of 165 players from five franchises — Mumbai Indians, Delhi Capitals, UP Warriorz, Gujarat Giants, and Royal Challengers Bangalore —

### WPL AUCTION

will go under the hammer, with a maximum of 30 slots (nine for overseas players) up for grabs. The breakup comprises 104 Indian and 61 overseas players. Young left-arm spinner Mannat Kashyap is the only player from the current India squad to feature in the auction. The 19-year-old, who has a base price of Rs 10 lakhs, was a member of India's inaugural Under-19 World Cup-winning side earlier this year.

Each WPL team can have a maximum squad of 18 players. The team which is set to splurge the most in this auction is the Adani-owned Gujarat Giants, who can buy 10 players, including three overseas ones. The

Gujarat Giants finished last in WPL-1, losing all but two of their matches.

WPL-2 is set to be played in February-March.

Ironically, Dottin, who was controversially released by the Gujarat Giants on the eve of WPL-1 in March on 'medical grounds', and her replacement Garth, are the only two players who have chosen to be slotted in the Rs 50-lakh bracket this time. Four players — Amy Jones (England 'keeper-bat) and Shabnim Ismail (South African pacer, released by UP Warriorz), Georgia Wareham (Australian leg-spinner, released by Gujarat Giants) and Anabel Sutherland (Australia, released by Gujarat Giants) — have been categorized into the 40-lakh bracket.

Fifteen players from associate nations — the registered number was 19 last year — too will be hoping that they get picked by a franchise for the showpiece event. USA's Tara Norris was the only player from the associates who was bought last year in the auction, and she impressed for Delhi Capitals.

## No coach can create an artist like Shami, says Mhambrey

**New Delhi:** Mohammed Shami possesses a rare ability of landing the ball in an upright seam position every single time and no coach in the world can create such a fast bowling "artist", gushed India's bowling coach Paras Mhambrey.

Shami, who finished on top of the bowling charts with 24 wickets from seven matches in the ODI World Cup, has been India's go-to bowler in ODIs and Tests. Mhambrey, one of the quietest back-room workers in the current Indian set-up, doesn't want to take any credit for Shami's success.

"Well, if I tell you that coaches could create a bowler like Shami, then I would be lying. If a bowler can land it on upright seam every time then every other bowler in the world will be Shami," Mhambrey said ahead of leaving for the tour of South Africa. "It is a skill that Shami has acquired with tremendous



hardwork and developed himself into the bowler that he is. "Bowling ball after ball on the seam and with that perfect wrist position and getting it to move either ways is a rare skill set. A lot of bowlers, even if they land deliveries on the seam, will see the ball straightening up after pitching," Mhambrey said. PTI

## Phillips leads New Zealand fightback in Mirpur

**Mirpur:** Glenn Phillips played an attacking knock as New Zealand hit back strongly on Day 3 of the rain-affected second Test against Bangladesh on Friday to leave the game evenly poised.

Phillips struck a 72-ball 87 to help New Zealand put up 180 in their first innings and take an eight-run lead, and then New Zealand's bowlers left Bangladesh on 38-2 before play was called off due to bad light.

Bangladesh were dismissed for 172 in their first innings.

After the entire second day and the first session of the third day were washed out, Phillips led the charge with one-day style batting as New Zealand resumed at 55-5. Phillips hit nine fours and four sixes in his innings and was particularly harsh on Mehidy Hasan, hitting three fours and one six in his first three

overs to keep the runs flowing.

Phillips formed two crucial partnerships — 49 with Mitchell for the sixth wicket and 55 with Kyle Jamieson for the eighth to help New Zealand earn the lead.

Mitchell was struggling against the spinners and eventually was

caught out by Mehidy at long-on for 18 off offspinner Nayeem Hasan's first over.

In his next over Nayeem, who took 2-21, dismissed Mitchell Santner for 1 to leave New Zealand at 97-7 but Phillips got the support of Jamieson to keep

Bangladesh at bay.

Shoriful (2-15) broke through with the wicket of Jamieson, who made 20 with three boundaries.

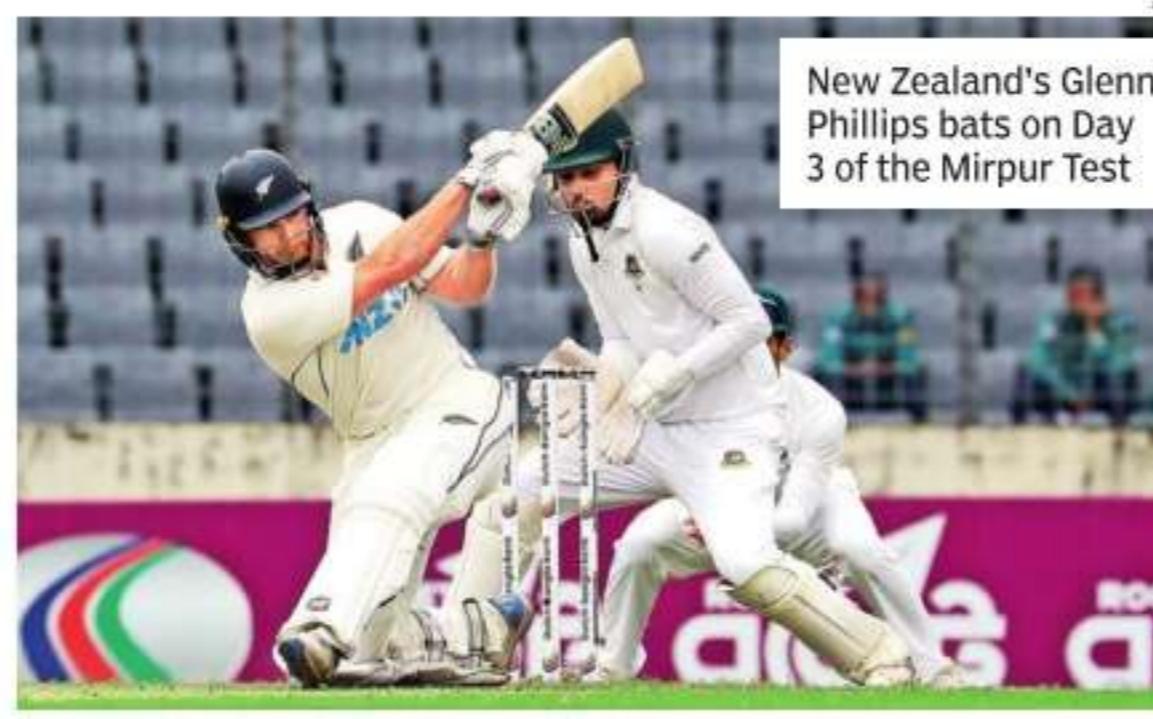
Skipper Tim Southee hit a four and a six for his 14 as New Zealand went past Bangladesh's total. With Phillips attacking relentlessly on a tough wicket, New Zealand appeared set to take a substantial lead. But his knock came to an end when he edged a delivery of Shoriful behind. Taijul (3-64) removed Southee in the next over, to limit the lead to single digits.

Left-arm spinner Ajaz Patel

(1-13) helped New Zealand get off to a good start when he spun one to dismiss opener Mahmudul Hasan. Zakir Hasan and skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto hit boundaries at regular interval to keep the scoreboard moving.

But Southee dismissed Shanto, who chipped one straight to mid-off where Kane Williamson grabbed the easy catch before bad light halted the game.

**BRIEF SCORES:** Bangladesh: 172 & 38/2 in 8 overs vs New Zealand (o/n 55-5); 180 in 37.1 overs (Phillips 87; Shoriful 2-15, Mehidy 3-53, Taijul 3-64, Nayeem 2-21). AGENCIES



For me it's about using my bat as much as possible. I'm generally not looking to leave many deliveries. But on pitches like this, understanding that sometimes being a little bit more aggressive is almost the best remedy, where if you can put a bowler off their length a little bit, then you can get them to bowl in the area that you would feel a bit more comfortable with." — Glenn Phillips

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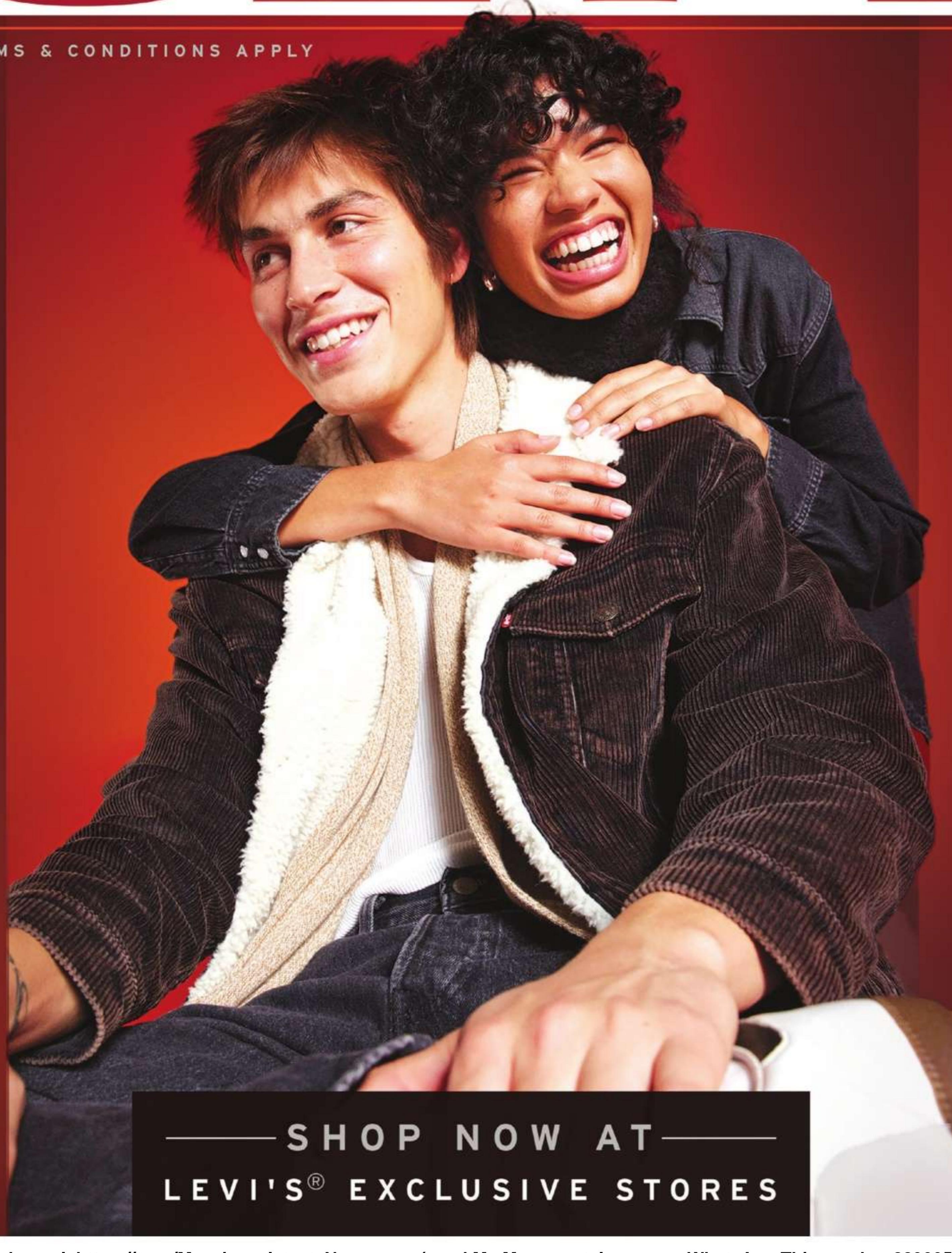
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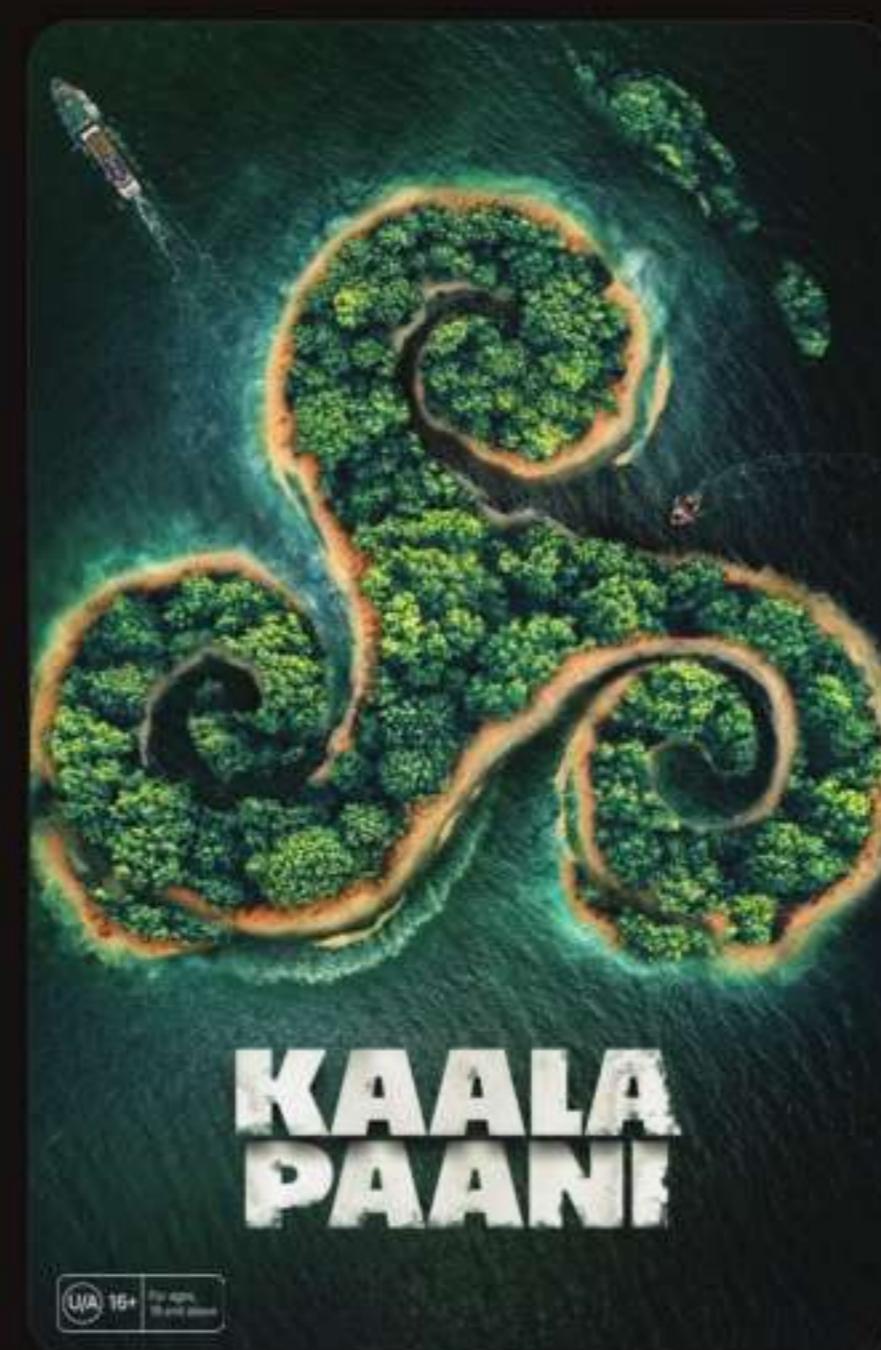
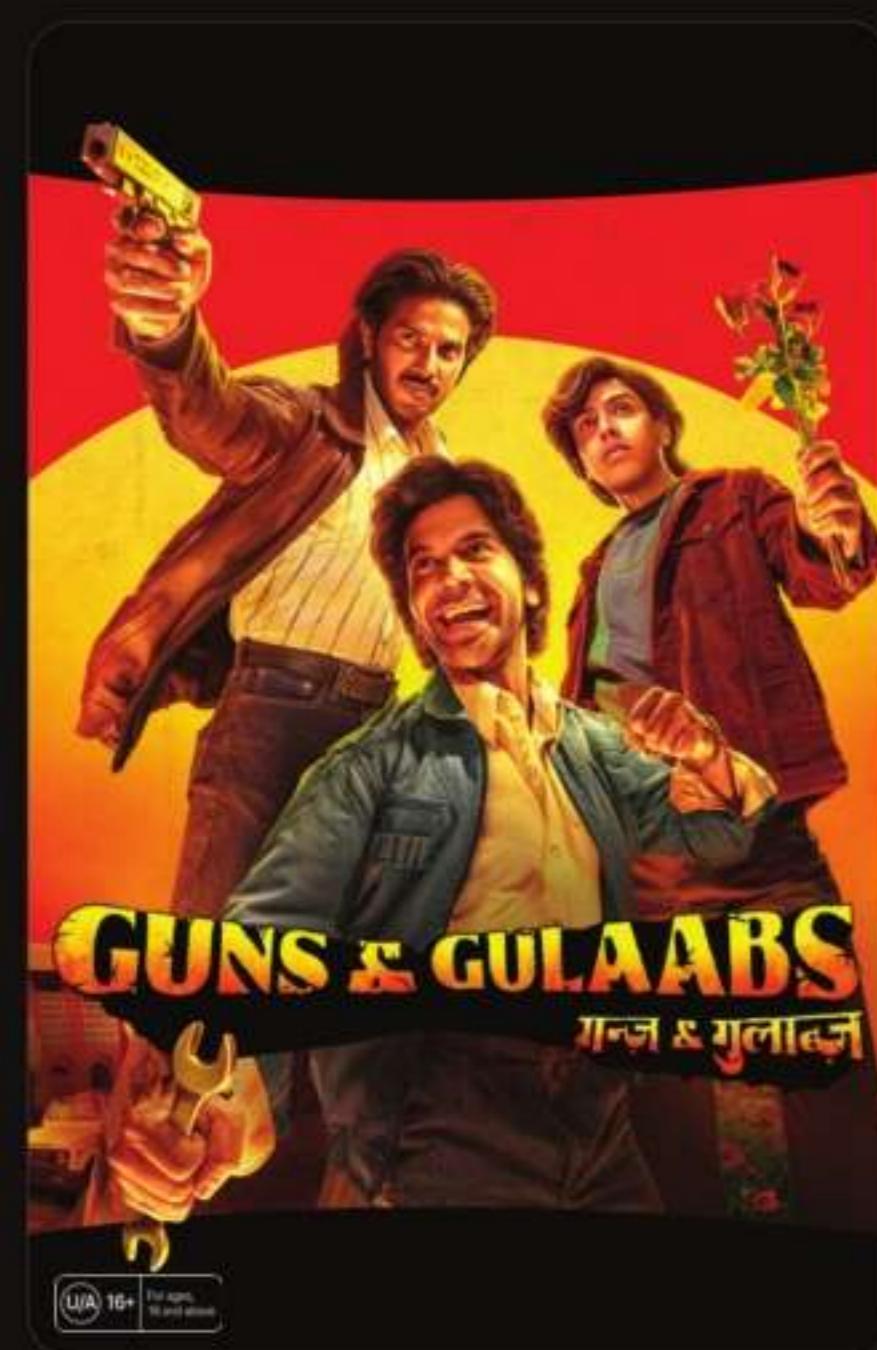
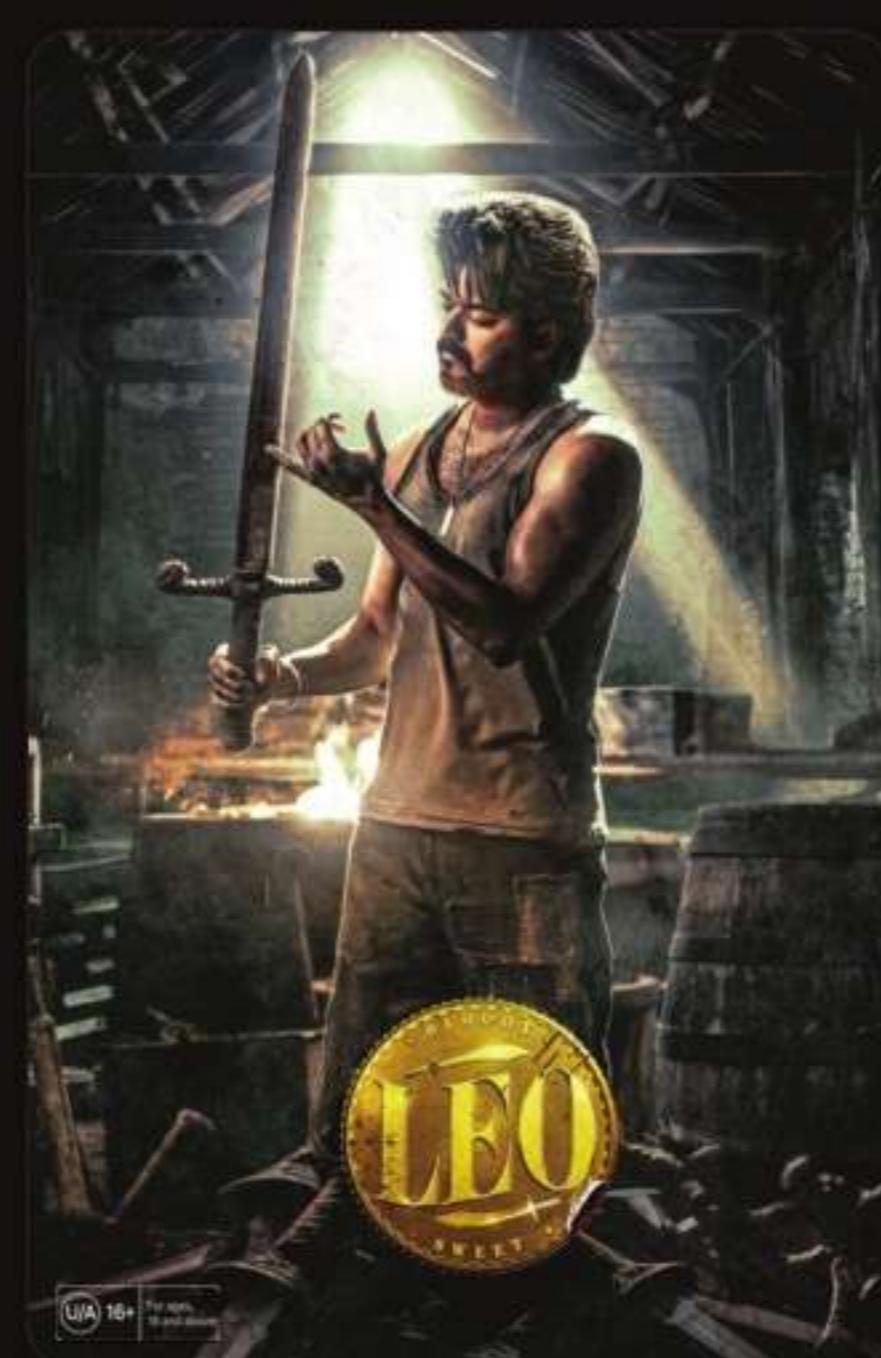
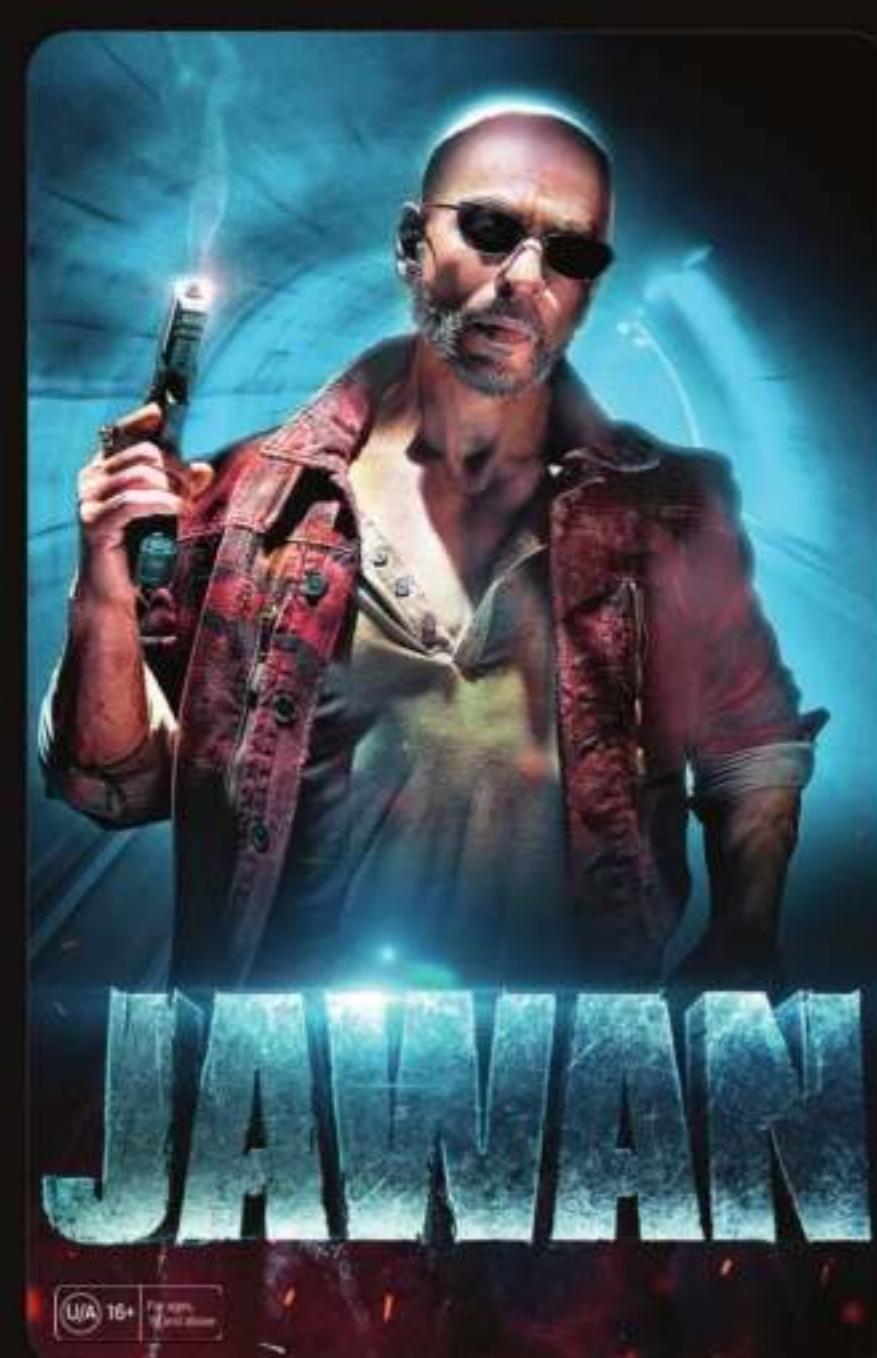
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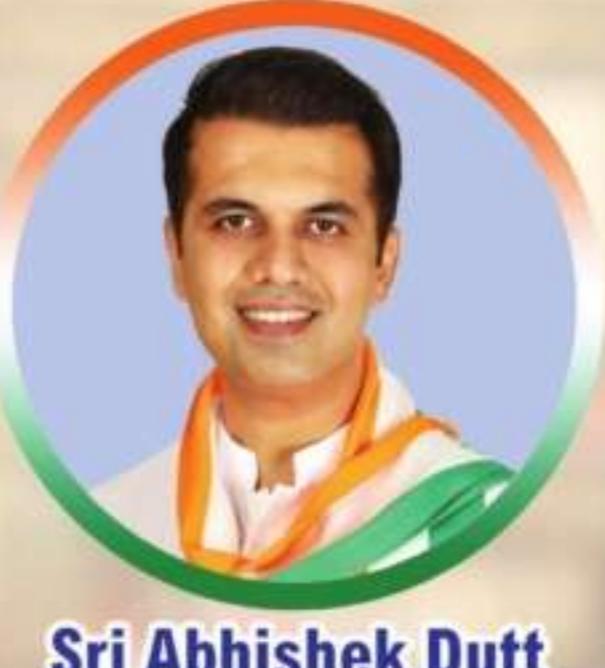
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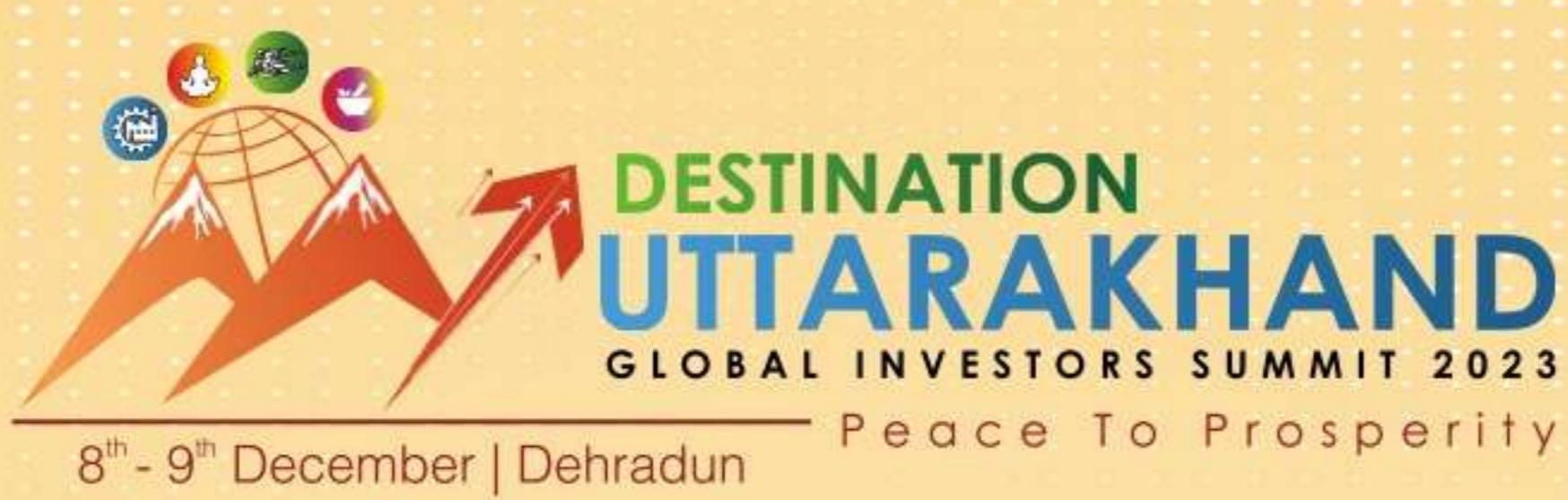
  
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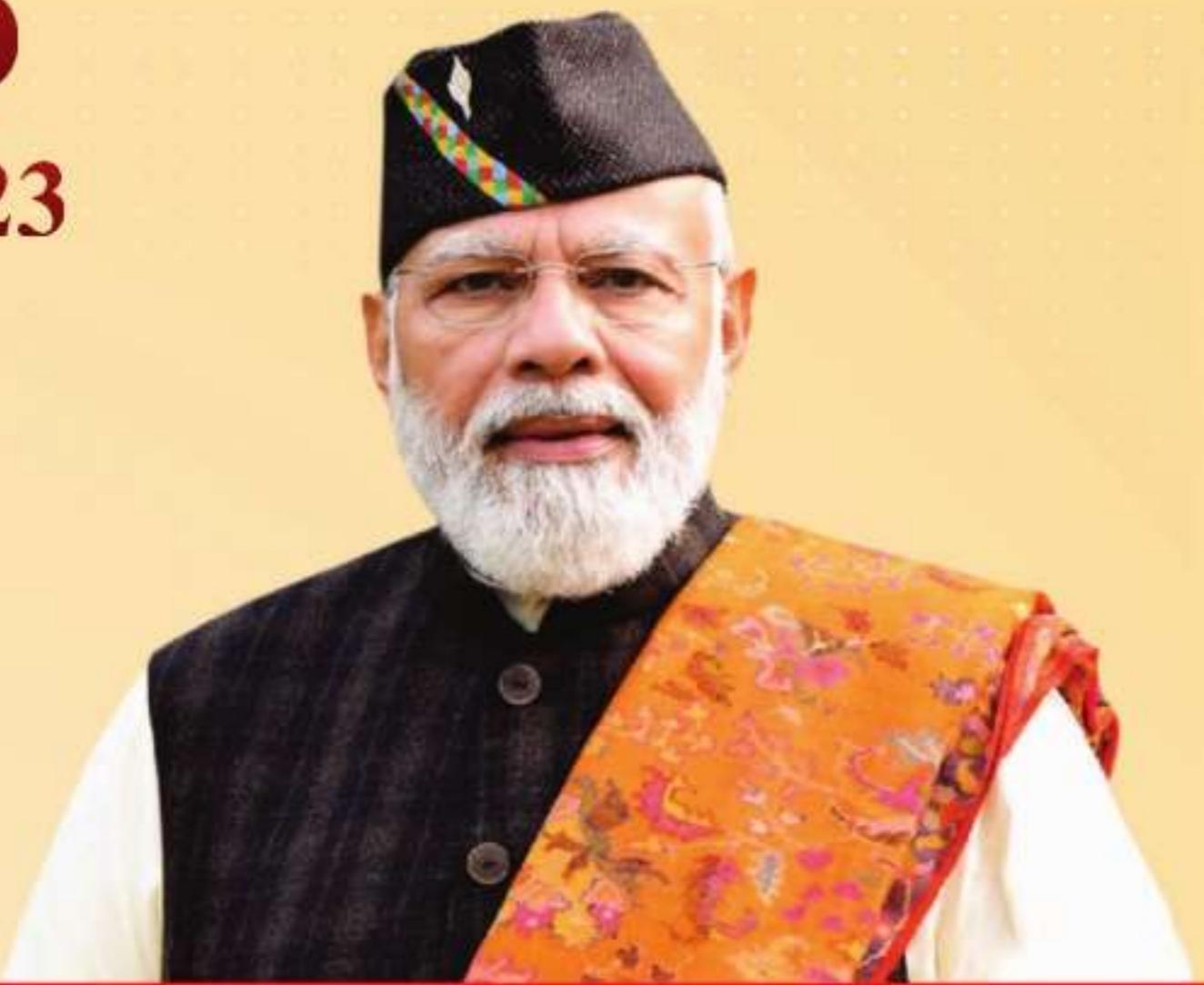
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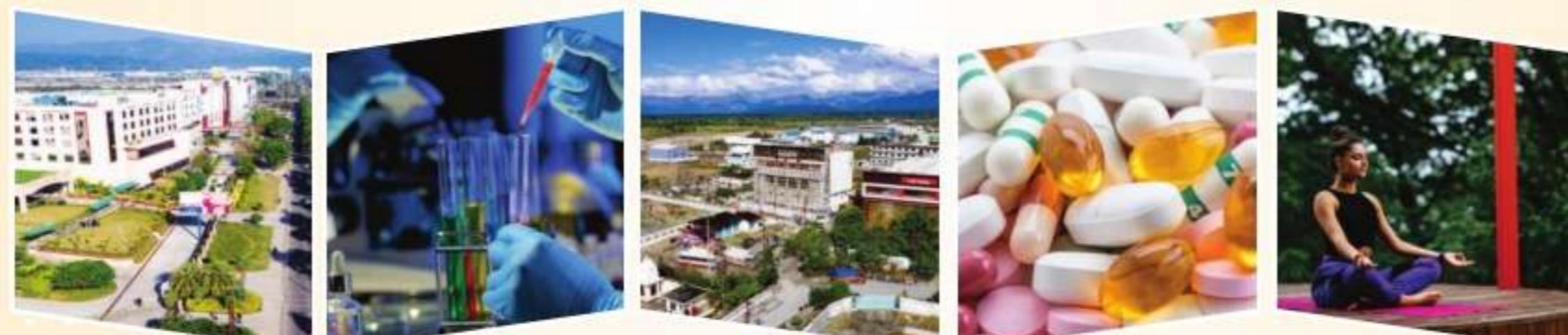
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