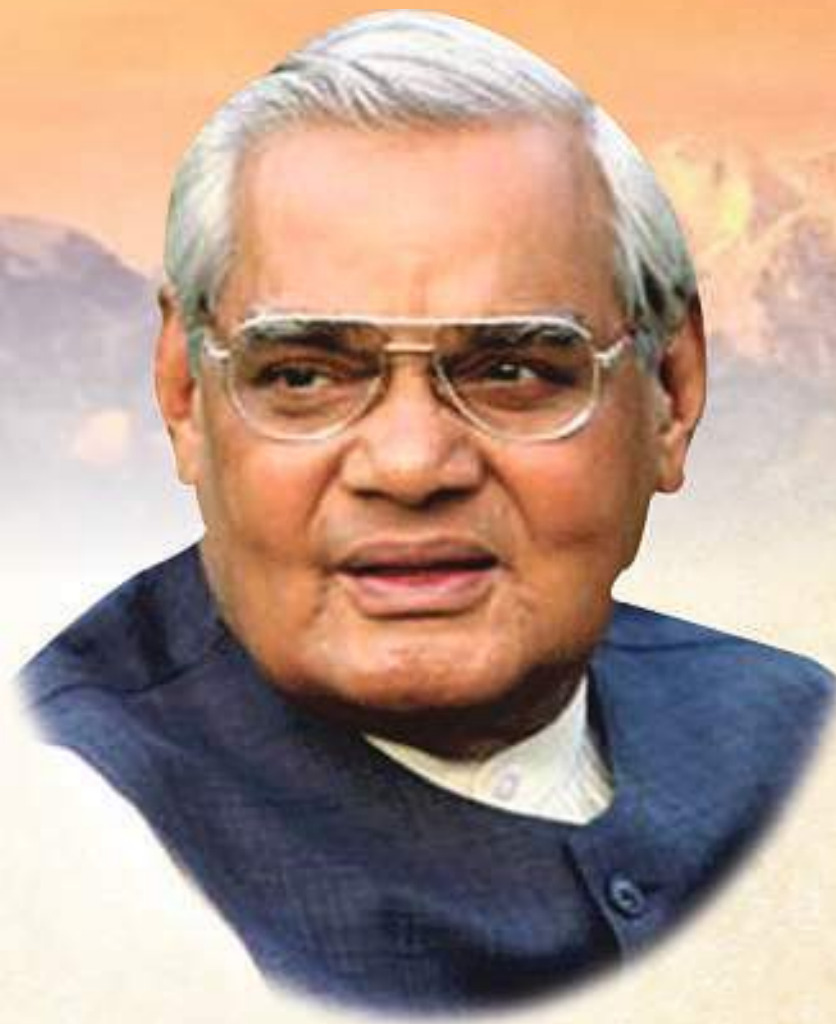




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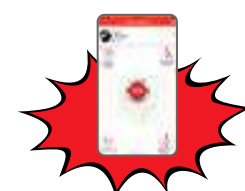
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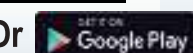


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DP/9441/2022

Sisodia takes on L-G again, this time on lab services at mohalla clinics

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 24

DEPUTY CHIEF Minister Manish Sisodia Saturday urged Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena to renew contracts of agencies that provide free lab tests at Delhi government hospitals and mohalla clinics.

According to a letter from Sisodia to Saxena, the file was sent to the L-G office on December 12. "Contract for lab services in Delhi government hospitals and mohalla clinics ends on December 31, 2022. New contract needs to be signed immediately to enable a new service provider to start working from January 1. It will cause huge inconvenience to the people if there is a gap," Sisodia wrote.

The L-G House did not respond to messages seeking comment.

Recently, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had announced that people can now avail 450 free tests from Delhi government hospitals and mohalla clinics.

Sisodia said the government has completed all formalities for awarding a new contract. "The file was sent to you on 12-12-2022 to decide whether you would like to differ from the decision of the government and refer the matter to the President under provision to Article 239AA(4). I would urge you to kindly decide the matter soon so that the new service provider could start the work," the letter stated.

Urging the L-G to clear the file soon, Sisodia said, "In my opinion, the matter related to awarding of lab services is not that rarest of rare cases which should be referred to the President. Since there is very little time left, I would be grateful if you could take a decision on the matter at the earliest."

Hitting out at Sisodia, Delhi BJP spokesperson Harish Khurana said his letter to the L-G is an attempt to divert attention from the "condemnation" that his letter written yesterday (Friday) received.

SOURCES HINT BJP MAY CONTEST FOR TOP POST IN MCD

Mayor polls could be 2-way fight between AAP and BJP

GAYATHRI MANI
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 24

A DAY after the AAP announced its candidates for MCD mayor and deputy mayor posts, sources in the BJP have hinted that the party too may contest for the top post. Sources also said the party may lend its support to independent candidates if they file their nomination.

Following the poll results, some BJP leaders including former state president Adesh Gupta had indicated that the party will not contest the mayoral elections. A source, however, said: "Several leaders may have said the BJP won't contest, but it is not an official statement from the party. Discussions are still going on and there are high chances the BJP could field councillors. If there is an election, anything can happen, any councillor of the BJP can file a nomination and con-

EXPLAINED
How the mayor is elected

The mayoral election is likely to be held on January 6. The members nominated by the Lt-Governor cannot vote during mayoral polls. Only elected councillors, 14 MLAs of the Delhi Assembly and MPs representing constituencies that cover wholly or partly the corporation area are eligible to vote.

test for the mayor and deputy mayor posts. Things will be clear by December 27."

The BJP is yet to make an official announcement on whether it will run for the MCD house.

In power in the MCD for the last 15 years, the BJP lost ground to the AAP in the elections held on

December 4. AAP won a majority 134 of the 250 seats, while the BJP bagged 104 seats and the Congress won 9. Independent candidates won from three wards.

Sources in BJP said, "The independent candidates, two of whom are women, are rebel leaders from the party and are eligible to contest. Also, AAP will not be able to get 150 votes... There is no anti-defection law in the MCD..."

Taking a dig at the BJP, senior AAP leader and Punjab Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha said, "BJP is planning to set up an independent candidate like a coward for the mayoral elections. I advise them to contest themselves if they dare to. It had announced that it will not contest the mayoral election but is now fielding an independent candidate, who will be supported by all BJP councillors. It does not suit the party to fire its guns from the shoulders of an independent candidate and

contest elections from backdoor."

Hitting back, Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor said, "It would be better if MP Raghav Chadha concentrates on keeping the councillors of his party united instead of advising us on mayor elections. Nervousness was clearly visible in both his voice and face as he was speaking on the polls. It seemed that despite the AAP having the majority, he fears defeat. Ever since the results were announced, AAP has been suspicious of its councillors... they are being taken outside Delhi, being called daily to the party office or the CM's house on the pretext of training."

The mayoral election is likely to be held on January 6. On Friday, AAP nominated Dr Shelly Oberoi and AAP leader Shoaib Iqbal's son Aaley Mohammad Iqbal for the mayor and deputy mayor posts. It also named four candidates for standing committee member posts.


Govt to offer dose 3 of measles vaccine

New Delhi: The Delhi health state department is launching a measles and rubella vaccine programme from February 6 next year, senior officials said Saturday. Under this, a third dose of the vaccine against measles and rubella will be given to chil-


dren between 9 months and five years of age.


The vaccine will be available in dispensaries across the city and an outreach programme by anganwadi workers will also be conducted, who will provide door-to-door facility for the same.

"This will be a third dose over and above the routine immunisation programme which we conduct. The move has been taken under the measles elimination programme which will end in December 2023," said a senior official. **ENS**




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SI Pravesh Kumar

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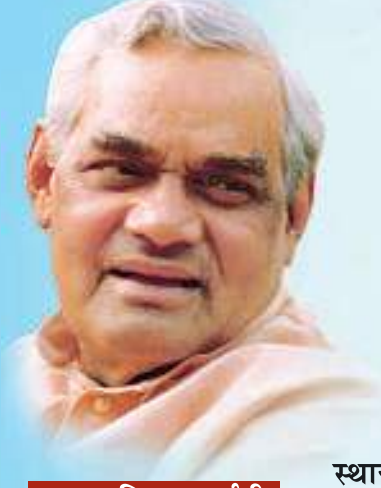
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Shri Ratan Chakraborty, Hon'ble Speaker, TLA

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Shri Ram Prasad Paul, Hon'ble Minister, Home(Jail)

Shri Sushanta Chowdhury, Hon'ble Minister, ICA

Shri Dipak Majumder, Hon'ble Mayor, AMC.

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5 BEST HINDI MOVIES OF 2022: GEMS THAT PROVE BOLLYWOOD WAS DOING FINE WHILE YOU WERE DISTRACTED BY 'BRAHMASTRA' AND 'BHOO! BHULAIYA'

From two theatrical titles to a trio of streaming releases, here are the top five Hindi movies of 2022 — a year in which Bollywood has objectively underperformed at the box office, yet retained its creative verve

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Pulling their weight since Day 1, yatris shed several kilos

MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 24

PRAMOD SEHWAG weighed 140 kg some three months ago. He had tried shedding weight but could never sustain a rigorous exercise regimen or dieting. In the last three months, however, the 41-year-old has lost around 20 kg.

Sehwag, a Congress leader from Jind in Haryana, had been walking with Rahul Gandhi as part of his Bharat Jodo Yatra for the last three months. The Kanyakumari to Kashmir yatra, which began on September 7, reached Delhi on Saturday morning after crossing nine states and covering over 2,500 km.

Sehwag is not alone. Many of the 120-odd yatris walking all the way with Rahul in the hopes of turning around the fortunes of the electorally emaciated Congress have lost weight and claim the daily walk has helped build up their stamina. Some like 50-year-old Venugopalan PV from Kerala and Mohammad Arif from Tamil Nadu have lost more than 10 kg. Lok Sabha MP Jothimani has lost three kilos.

"I was already lean. But still, I lost three kg. We are losing weight but gaining patience," she said, adding, "Our pain and all doesn't matter since the party, I believe, is gaining weight because of the yatra."

"It is a life-changing experience for all of us," Jothimani said. "One day we walked 23 km at a stretch. I thought I would not be able to do it. I thought I could walk 15 km as usual. But I walked without any difficulty."

Sehwag agreed. "I am six feet tall. I am overweight but it doesn't show because of my height. I did try shedding some kilos a couple of times but could never sustain it because of a lack of motivation. I was not serious. But this time the motivation level is high. If Rahul ji and thousands of people can walk, so can I."

For Arif, the yatra was a personal challenge as his wife and his family members had predicted that he would not be able to walk for even three days. He too was overweight like Sehwag. "I lost 10 kg, I was 125 kg. Now I am down to 115," he said with a chuckle. "My wife, parents and family members said I would not be able to complete even three days. It was kind of an insult. So I started walking... and here I am reaching Delhi from Kanyakumari," said Arif, a secretary in the All India Congress Committee's (AICC) minority department.

Venugopalan has lost 12 kg. "I weighed 117 kg before. I have lost 12 kg so far," he said. All of them say most of the yatris have lost weight. "Many people have lost 10 kg to 15 kg. Some people have lost 5 kg, I have lost 4 kg," said Vaibhav Walia, a secretary in the AICC communications department.

The renewed threat of Covid-19 is another problem. Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has triggered a political controversy by asking Rahul to either follow "all Covid-19 guidelines" during the yatra or suspend it "in the national interest". "I don't know how practical it is to wear masks and walk for 25 km," said Arif, who is from Coimbatore.

Among other things, some of the yatris faced serious health issues. Kranti Banjare from Chhattisgarh underwent surgery after she was detected with kidney stones.

Lhingkim Haokip, the only woman from the North East who is participating in the Yatra, suffered a fracture on her leg in the initial days in Tamil Nadu. "There were lots of people walking and somebody pushed me from the back. I fell and fractured my leg. I could not move on the first day. I rested for five days. On and off I was in the ambulance. Now, I am walking properly," she said.

Banjare has lost seven to eight kilos. "The most difficult and challenging phase is now. We could brave the heat and rain but the cold is getting unbearable," she said.

FROM PAGE ONE Mathura court orders inspection of Idgah complex

believed to have been born. The Mathura development comes at a time when there's a courtroom battle underway in Varanasi in the Kashi Vishwanath-Gyanvapi matter.

On April 8 this year, the district court in Varanasi had appointed Advocate Ajay Kumar Mishra to carry out an inspection of the Gyanvapi site. He was directed to "prepare videography of the action" and submit a report. The Supreme Court had refused to stay the direction for the survey but transferred the case to a senior judge. The district court had also directed the Archeological Survey of India to also "trace as to whether any Hindu temple ever existed before the mosque in question was built or superimposed or added upon at the disputed site." That order is under challenge before the Allahabad High Court.

In Mathura this May, District Judge Rajeev Bharti allowed a plea by the Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi Trust and other private parties seeking ownership of the land in which the Shahi Idgah Mosque is built. In

• In this grade 5 maths class, how numbers begin to add up to hope

Delhi government's Mission Buniyaad programme, additional months of hand-holding for those who need special help and a scaled-down syllabus, the report card looks a lot different – and impressive.

In the first-term exams held in November, 24 students in Neha's class scored over 50 in the 60-mark paper; 12 scored between 41 and 50; and two scored between 30 and 40.

The journey to this has been carefully calibrated. After four months of numerical concepts, at the end of July, the class was divided into two groups: Level I or L1, where students who were found to be ready to move on with the Class 5 syllabus, with the most advanced skill being solving division sums; and L2, where students who were not yet at grade level and still needed time with the basics.

Only two of the 38 students – Siddharth and Harish – were identified as L2. This meant that both boys continued having one hour of Mission Buniyaad classes every day before joining their classmates for the rest of the day.

In the last week of November, Siddharth joined the rest of his classmates for full-time regular classes.

Apart from Siddharth's academic progress, Neha is happy with his social and emotional well-being.

"On Children's Day, we had a special Assembly in which everyone was made to participate, especially those children who were in L1 at that time or didn't participate or mix with other children. Siddharth played an animal in a skit on saving trees. He also had a few lines to say about how trees are important for animals too," she says.

Harish, on the other hand, is still far behind the rest of his classmates – he has been identified as having special learning needs. He can only count from 1 to 10 but while he was struggling with this in April– May, Neha says, it's now easier.

But some challenges, exacerbated during the pandemic, endure. While Harish's father is a daily-wage worker, Siddharth's family is supported by his mother's anganwadi job, and Keerti's father is a fruit vendor. Neha knows all these families are vulnerable to sudden distress and, in many ways, haven't yet emerged out of the Covid shadow.

Indeed, she is aware that the solid ground forged through months of hand-holding and encouragement is a shaky one, especially in the case of those who come from difficult family situations such as Siddharth and Harish.

Siddharth who has opened up gradually over months of school and interaction with his teachers and peers, comes from a home where his father's alcoholism results in domestic violence. The

• Mandatory Covid testing likely for flyers from China, 3 other nations

Speaking to ANI, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said: "Keeping in mind the way Covid-19 is spreading in China, we will, after holding discussions with the aviation ministry, immediately implement the Air Suvidha portal and make RT-PCR test compulsory for flights from China, Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong, Bangkok, and start tracing. And, after coming to India, if someone has fever or they test positive, then we will quarantine them immediately. These directions will be issued soon to protect the country from Covid-19."

Meanwhile, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan wrote to all states about the proposed mock drill at hospitals Tuesday. The drill will look at geographical distribution of facilities, and availability of trained human resources, ambulances, consumables and medical oxygen.

Random RT-PCR sampling of those arriving in India had been done away with just over a month ago in a travel advisory issued on November 21, which said, "all travellers should preferably be fully vaccinated". The advisory also did away with the requirement of inbound passengers submitting on the Air Suvidha portal details of their travel and a vaccination certificate or a negative report of an RT-PCR test conducted 72 hours prior to travel. Before September, it was mandatory for travellers to upload the negative test report irrespective of vaccination status.

On Saturday, the Health Ministry also directed states to remain prepared with stocks of oxygen. "Though the Covid-19 cases in the country are low and not surging as of now, to face any challenges arising in the future, the operationalisation and maintenance of medical infrastructure is of utmost importance," Additional Secretary (Health) Manohar Agrani told states.

The Centre has directed

• Days after death at US border, a family in Gujarat waits for word

the crossing. The woman fell on US soil while he fell from a height of five metres on the Mexican side along with his son, the website reported, adding that "the minor is already with his mother in the US".

According to Brijkumar's elder brother Vinod Yadav, he learnt that the three-member family, including the couple's three-year-old son Tanmay, had reached Mexico only after Pooja's call although the brothers lived together with their families and parents in a three-bedroom flat on the Chhatral-Lunasan Road in Gandhinagar district.

"My brother was very fond of travelling. On weekends, he would go to Ahmedabad and the

Mehsana... during vacations and festivals, he would visit other cities. They travelled abroad for the first time over three years ago, before Tanmay was born, to Indonesia for a month-and-a-half-long holiday," says Vinod, 40.

"But he never expressed a desire to settle abroad," he says. Brijkumar worked as an accountant in a private firm for a monthly salary of Rs 15,000 and Pooja as a teacher at a private school for Rs 20,000 a month, says Vinod.

When contacted, Kalol Deputy Superintendent of Police P D Manvar said: "When we enquired, the family told us that Brijkumar said they were going on a trip and will be back in a month." The police have not received any communication about the

incident from any official agency in the US or Mexico. They have also not been able to identify the agent who had facilitated the family's journey. "Our men are on the job," says Additional Director General of Police (CID Crime) R B Brahmabhatt.

Hailing from Pathak Purwa village in UP's Gonda, the Yadavs settled in Kalol more than five decades ago when his grandfather came here for work, says Vinod. They shifted to the apartment after Brijkumar's father Daxiniprasad (66) retired as a technician from BSNL in 2016. Vinod and Sushila have an 11-year-old son. And Brijkumar and Vinod have a sister who is settled in Gonda.

"There have been cases of mi-

• At Red Fort, Rahul targets BJP

Nowhere have I read this. These scriptures talk about embracing each other. They are sowing fear in the minds of youth, women, small traders, farmers," he said.

"Making a speech in Rajasthan I had said we will open stores of love in your market of hatred. *Aapne laakhon dukan khol di hai* (you have opened lakhs of stores)," he said to cheers from the crowd.

Rahul said the "Prime Minister and the BJP used thousands of crores to sully my image. But I did not utter a word. The entire media, WhatsApp, Facebook machinery were used to spread rumours against me. But I showed you the truth in a month. This is how truth works. One cannot suppress the truth. It has a tendency of coming out".

While the jury is out on the final outcome of the yatra, which will culminate with the unfurling of the Tricolour in Srinagar, Rahul suggested he is certain that it has helped correct his image as a leader, making an implicit admission that his "re-branding" was one of its objectives.

The yatra, he said, has helped him "realise" that "hatred" has not really consumed the country.

"When I started walking from Kanyakumari, I thought that hatred had spread to every corner of the country. But that is far from the truth. This is something the television media wants us to believe but that is not the reality," he said.

"In reality, people live together in harmony, people embrace each other. They are not at each other's throats as the TV shows us," he said.

During the day, as the yatra crossed over from Haryana through the Badarpur border, Rahul was joined by his mother Sonia Gandhi, sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, her husband Robert Vadra and their children.

Thousands of Congress workers and supporters marched along as the yatra made its way through the city. At one point, actor Kamal Haasan also joined Rahul. Later, Haasan delivered a short speech at Red Fort, along with Rahul and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge.

Kharge claimed the BJP government is rattled due to the yatra. "They are trying to use Covid as an excuse to halt the yatra. The PM got the Health Minister to publicise that Covid is spreading across the country. The PM wears masks inside Parliament, but was not spotted wearing a mask while attending a wedding recently... Come what may, the yatra will continue," he said.

Rahul mentioned the border crisis with China to target the government. "China has taken up 2000 sq km of our land. The Prime Minister says no one entered Indian territory. Then why have the two countries held 21 rounds of talks?" he said.

He devoted a large part of his speech to the "relentless streamlining of hatred" by TV channels.

"Many press people ask me: Don't you feel cold? Why don't they ask this to the farmers, workers, poor children of this country. They say Rahul walked 2800 km, but that is no big deal. The entire country walks. Maybe a farmer walks 10,000 to 20,000 km in his lifetime," he said.

Kamal Haasan said he will hit the streets "whenever the Constitution is attacked". On the implications of this move on his political career, Haasan said, "My political career started because of the country, not because of me. This is the time when the country needs you. *Bharat todne ki madad mat karo, Bharat jodne ki madad karo* (don't help the attempt to break Bharat, help in joining Bharat)," he said, adding that "this yatra, according to me, has just begun."

• Tennis-ball cricket to IPL

This Cinderella story started a year ago.

In December last year, after another failed physical test for the Army, a distraught Avinash planned to move to Canada. His father took a loan from relatives, and he was to start the visa process after getting his passport.

Then, in the first week of February, Avinash went with his friends "for fun" to a cricket academy run by Mayank Goswami, a former J&K player. Although he was known for his pace in the tennis-ball circuit, this was the first time Avinash was bowling with a leather ball.

"Meri toh aankh fati rah gayi (My eyes almost popped out). Then I asked a couple of other coaches about his bowling. All of them were stunned," says Goswami, speaking to *The Sunday Express* from Jammu. "After being involved with the game for almost two decades, you just know if you see someone special. There was an X factor in Avinash."

Goswami urged Avinash to join his academy, but the youngster never showed up. "I wanted to join the Army, cricket was just a hobby. I never played with the mindset that one day I might have to play professionally," says Avinash.

There were other pressing reasons as well.

"I was planning to go to Canada, and my father also was against this idea (of cricket). I didn't have money to buy shoes with spikes. Our financial condition is not good. Two of my brothers are studying, I was doing nothing. My father was the sole breadwinner. He asked where would you buy a kit from. He was right, cricket kits are costly. So, I started making excuses to Mayank sir," says Avinash.

After a week or so, Goswami sent one of the academy coaches to Avinash's house. "He told me about their financial condition. I requested him (Avinash's father) to give him a year, and if nothing happens, send him to Canada," says Goswami, laughing.

After observing the bowler for a couple of weeks, the coach gave him a train ticket to Pune to meet Ashok Gaikwad, a renowned coach and biomechanics expert. "My only concern was he has never bowled with the leather ball, and whether his body would be able to sustain the speed. He stayed there for two weeks. Ashok sir gave him a list of do's and don'ts, and asked him to follow it," says Goswami.

The coach shares another interesting story about Avinash. "When I gave him the ticket, he said 'Sir, I have never been away from Jammu and you are sending me to Pune'. I laughed and told him, 'Just think that you are going to Canada.'"

Once he returned from Pune, Avinash made "rapid improvement" in his lengths and pace. "From March to June, we worked on his pace and by the time RCB came for the trials, he was ready and swept them off their feet. Lucknow, Delhi and even Kolkata, they wanted to keep him as a net bowler and put him up for the auction next year. But RCB were adamant, and that's why they went hard for him," says Goswami.

"He is already working with RCB trainers and physios. He has been given the schedule for the next three to four months, and they are monitoring him," he says.

A day after the auction, Goswami is reminded of the "Cinderella story". "He came to my academy for fun. I was there, I saw him bowl, he was reluctant, his father was against him playing cricket. We chased him, and in nine months, he is a celebrity here."

Chhattisgarh: Remains of RTI activist found, 4 held for murder

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
RAIPUR, DECEMBER 24

FORTY DAYS after a 30-year-old freelance journalist and an RTI activist went missing from his home in Kawardha in Chhattisgarh's Kabirdham district, the police on Friday arrested four men including the sarpanch of Bokkarkhar village, who confessed to have murdered and burnt his body.

Some bones suspected to be of the scribe have been found from a jungle and have been sent for forensic analysis.

The deceased, Vivek Choubey, had left his home on his motorcycle on November 12. That evening he met the accused sarpanch, Amit Yadav, 28, in Bokkarkhar village. "Yadav in his confession said Choubey was extorting him and abused his wife," said a police official.

After an argument, Yadav hit Choubey with a stick on his head killing him. Yadav then called his three aides, including his brother Sukhsagar, who helped him dispose of the body, said police.

"On December 21, one of our teams while searching for him found some bones, ashes and a bike in a jungle area. We have reason to believe they are Choubey's remains," said an officer.

House in name of Geelani among JeI properties seized in J&K

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 24

THE STATE Investigation Agency (SIA) has seized more immovable assets of the banned Jamat-e-Islami (JeI) in Jammu and Kashmir. The seized assets include a house registered in the name of former Hurriyat chairman Syed Ali Shah Geelani in Srinagar.

In a release, the SIA said the seized properties are worth over Rs 100 crore.

The seized properties include a two-storey residential house at Barzulla in Srinagar that was registered in the name of the late separatist leader Geelani and Firdous Asmi. Officials said the house was situated over a plot measuring 17 marlas (approximately 441 square metres).

A socio-religious party that considered Jammu and Kashmir a disputed territory, JeI was banned in 2019 by the Home Ministry.

The agency said it seized five assets of JeI in Kulgam, two in Pulwama, nine in Budgam and three in Srinagar. It said the worth of the seized properties is Rs 122.89 crore. The SIA said it has identified 188 assets of Jamat-e-Islami in Jammu and Kashmir, and they have been "either notified or are under the process of being notified" for legal action.



ADVERTORIAL

Nurturing Responsible Citizen Leaders and Lifelong Learners

Kindly give a brief overview of Ryan International Group of Institutions.

Ryan Group of Institutions was established in 1976 by the visionary educationist Dr. A. F. Pinto, Chairman with the strategic vision to spread quality education across India. The Group is considered one of India's largest privately owned group of schools offering K-12 curriculum through state, national and international boards. We have flourishing schools across 18 states and 40 cities in the country. Today, Ryan Group is well recognized for its noteworthy contribution to education.

Our motto is 'Excellence in Education and All Round Development' and we are focused on delivering holistic education through the integration of academics and co-curricular activities as well as offering learning opportunities in a range of contexts that go beyond the classroom in order to develop lifelong learners and responsible citizen leaders.

Holistic development and growth are embedded in the Ryan Group learning process. We have been following technology integrated pedagogy over the last several years, knowing well that technology is here to stay and revolutionize. Our focus is to enhance it further and continue to provide an immersive learning experience for our children.

In this journey thus far, we are thankful to our **Lord Jesus Christ** for his guiding hand, protection and a special favour upon the entire Ryan Group. There were challenges all through and we believe that it is because of God's grace we have remained focused on delivering holistic education to every child that comes to Ryan. We make no discrimination while admitting a child at Ryan. All are welcome.

Challenges you faced and how did you overcome them?

"Being in leadership has been a 'learning from and for life' experience." Establishing India's premier K-12 educational institute and achieving a global benchmarking was no easy task. For a leader to be successful there are no checklists, rather being resilient, committed, willingness to learn and take risks, disciplined, courageous and rooted in values is what enabled them to remain focused on the cause of education and realize their dream of making a worthwhile contribution to the lives of children.

Over the years we discovered that innovation and progressive approach were necessary to understand the changing trends in global education and leadership. Despite trials and tribulations on multiple fronts, Ryan Group of Institutions has succeeded in bringing quality education not only in cities but also in various towns across India, yielding encouraging results.

What was the inner motivation that drove you to add substance to the education Sector?

The vision given by our Lord Jesus Christ to my husband Dr A F Pinto and myself of providing quality education throughout the country, the overwhelming support of all our stakeholders has encouraged us to persevere and stay motivated.

What are the values that you strive to instil in the personality of your students?

At Ryan Group the KASSM approach lays the context for all practices; meaning the pursuit of Knowledge, Attitude, Skills, and Social and Moral values. Along with constructing knowledge and fostering relevant attitudes and life skills, we also seek to develop social and spiritual values."

We have in place purposeful activities that are aimed for the welfare of the society. Our schools undertake various projects based on the parameters of Environment, Education, Healthcare, Economic empowerment and Local community Leadership to transform the society. Our school children are encouraged to support orphanages, societies for the blind, adopt small villages, educate less privileged children and help homes for the elderly in different parts of the country.

Being aware that focus on mere material abundance has led to the erosion of values today, integrity, responsibility, compassion, respect, hard work and discipline are interwoven in the pedagogy, ethos and culture of schools. Value Education an integral part of the learning and development. To be socially responsible, we train our children to develop skills that are required to bring about community transformation and to be global citizens.

How are you helping the underprivileged?

As compassionate leaders anchored to the teachings of Jesus Christ, we have always focused on the cause of the underprivileged, women empowerment as well as the welfare of senior citizens through several initiatives. Several children of the widows, acid attack survivors, Class IV employees, drivers and conductors are given free education across all our schools.

HelpAge India has been awarding the Ryan Group for our immense contribution to the welfare of the elderly every year. Adoption of orphanages, blind homes, and homes for the elderly; community outreach programs, village adoption, hygiene programs and health camps; environmental awareness drives; and the provision of relief and rehabilitation measures for disaster-affected communities have always been on our calendar.

Importance of experiential learning today?

"The need of the hour is to provide our children with experiential learning opportunities; Practical Learning with cultivation of 21st Century Skills of Critical thinking, Creativity, Collaboration, Communication, Technology Literacy, Leader-



DR. GRACE PINTO
Managing Director, Ryan Group

Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Lord Jesus Christ.

Christ's coming into the world was not accidental but rather purposeful. God's redeeming love was at the very heart, and the main reason for His coming. God's love revealed itself in such a marvelous way to save humanity. Jesus is God's precious gift to us humankind and to the whole world.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." Jesus is the FOCAL POINT OF CHRISTMAS. Jesus came to bring God's Love, establish Peace and harmony in this world.

This Christmas let us live and imbibe the values of Jesus Christ. Strive to be loving and kind and be God's messengers of peace and love to all those who are around you, especially to your family, near and dear ones. This will certainly be your special gift to Jesus on his birthday. Let love, peace and happiness rein in the hearts of all. Wish you all a very Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year 2023.

ship, Social Skills are essential aspects for their holistic growth."

The National Education Policy introduced last year outlines a comprehensive overhaul of the way institutions operate in the country. Under the policy, providing access to education for children with disabilities and socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds, encouraging a shift away from rote learning, and boosting research in higher education, and increasing university enrollment are among its objectives. As part of our holistic approach to learning and educational excellence, many of Ryan Group's practices already align with the new policy. At Ryan, we are committed to fostering industry-academia partnerships to instill 21st-century skills and provide new opportunities for students to 'learn by doing' and upskill, reskill, and reinvent themselves to keep up with an ever-changing world, and emerge not only as industry-ready employable youth but also follow their entrepreneurial aspirations. This will be an ongoing process that will require both public and private sector collaboration.

Also, mention some highlights of your exclusive leadership programs in the holistic growth of the students.

At Ryan, we have pioneered several National and International events to develop leadership qualities among our students and equip them with practical knowledge and skills required for their future.

International Theatre Festival (ITF): is the longest flagship event of the Ryan Group with over 12000 participants from over 30 countries gather to participate in this mega event and experience different cultures, develop friendships and foster international mindedness.

Indian Model United Nations (IN-MUN) is hosted by the Ryan Group that draws the participation of over 1500 delegates annually from countries from the South Asian Continent. At this event, students not only develop leadership skills but also improve their knowledge on geopolitical issues and learn the actual functioning of the United Nations.

The World Scholar's Cup (WSC) is a prestigious event that aims to raise the bar in group debate, collaborative writing, and general knowledge on a variety of subjects including literature, science, biotechnology, art, music, and history. In 2013, the Ryan Group hosted the largest-ever Regional Round in Mumbai, with over 1,400 delegates in attendance.

International Cultural Exchange (ICE): Ryan Group provides a wide global exposure to their students through various educational exchange programmes to UK, Switzerland, Germany and Australia which helps them gain a better understanding of arts, culture, and global perspectives.

NASA: As part of the educational programme, students are given the opportunity to participate in a special workshop at NASA (USA) each year.

Ryan TV – Education Through Lens:

Through this endeavour, children are provided opportunity to undertake media studies, TV journalism, film making and camera handling. The Group has state-of-the-art full-fledged in house studios located in Mumbai and Bangalore.

Excellence in Sports: In the field of sport, the group has collaborated with the best in the industry to bring world-class coaching to children. Ryanites are consistently achieving several accolades at State, National and International levels. Many include Arjuna Awardee, Chirag Shetty, International tennis player, Karman Thandi, National Level Badminton player, Simran Singhi, Mountaineer, Arjun Vaipai, Professional Alpine Ski Racer, Jiah Aryan, and Professional Footballers Rahul Beke and Nikhil Prabhu, as well as a Table Tennis Player, Arnab Karnavar.

Global Collaboration: Ryan Group facilitates higher education opportunities for the students through their strategic partnership with PennHub - State of Pennsylvania.

How do you feel as the Schools are getting back to Normalcy? What needs to be done now?

First and foremost, I want to thank God for keeping our children safe during the pandemic. COVID 19 created havoc but thanks to our teachers and parents who facilitated the virtual learning opportunities.

All I could say is that while technology was a great help, our teacher's passion and determination to innovate was notable. I appreciate our students, their parents and teachers for going through the entire deskill and reskill process to keep the teaching-learning process going. As we are getting back to normalcy, during this period, educators and parents have a massive responsibility to help children get back to school and support their holistic development.

It has become of utmost importance to take appropriate measures to help students remain both physically as well as emotionally healthy during these times. While students return back to school it is necessary for teachers and parents to be patient, mindful, and encouraging during these times.

At Ryan we have developed a Ryan Learning Recovery Programme that helps students to identify concepts and their links to the previous grade and focus on re-learning the fundamental concept and not just revising, learning new concepts and mastering them.

Your Future Plans:

Education is a dynamic field as we are in the process of influencing and transforming lives. As a group of schools, along with the expansion, our focus has always been on integration of technology, establishing consistency, standards and practices to help children develop their talents and skills and discover their true self. We are committed to transforming the landscape of teaching-learning in this nation.



Celebrating the Guinness World Records for highest Charity Donation

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

MOST INNOVATIVE K-12 EDUCATION BRAND, INDIA 2022 – By Global Brands Magazine

EXCELLENCE IN K12 CHAIN OF SCHOOLS IN INDIA 2022 – By Radio City

MOST RESPECTED EDUCATION BRAND 2022 – By the Mid-day Newspaper

SCHOOLS OF EMINENCE AWARD 2021-22 – By Education World for Ryan Global School, Andheri, Ryan International School – Vasant Kunj, ICSE Malad and Kundalahalli – Bangalore

EDUCATION WORLD AWARDS 2022-23– Forty-Eight Schools of the Ryan Group were felicitated for being in the TOP 10 Category in their respective states and cities.

TIMES EDUCATION ICONS AWARDS 2022 – "Leading schools in "Emerging, National and International Curriculum."



Joy of Learning @ Ryan

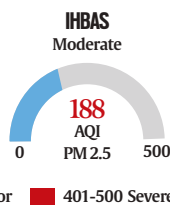
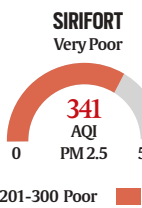
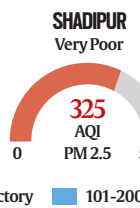
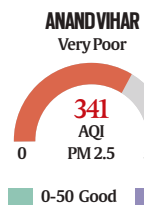


Ryan TV - Education through the Lens



Ryanites with Finnish Delegates in Finland

6 THE CITY



S K Y W A T C H
FORECAST: December 25s
Mainly clear sky.
Moderate fog in the morning.
Cold wave conditions at most places

MAX: 19
2.4°C below normal

MIN: 4
3.9°C below normal

BHARAT JODO ENTERS DELHI

Among yatra, college grad, tailor, curious onlookers

ABHINAYA HARIGOVIND
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 24

THE STRETCH of the Bharat Jodo Yatra in the capital forced the city to stop and watch as it made its way through 23 long kilometers, touching key points including India Gate, Ashram and ITO before culminating at Red Fort.

From lawyers near the Patiala House Courts complex close to India Gate to construction workers near Pragati Maidan, the spectacle of thousands of people marching through the city with flags, posters and music drew many eyeballs. Crowds jostled for space on skywalks, medians on the road, and pavements. "Rahulji kahan hain?" is a question that many asked while waiting for Congress leader Rahul Gandhi by the side of the roads from Badarpur to Red Fort.

Pinky, 22, a recent college graduate, and her mother Uma Devi, 47, residents of Ishwar Nagar near New Friends Colony, had also gathered along the route to watch. Pinky said, "I think younger people like me tend to look up to Rahul Gandhi. It could be the idea that he might understand us better. Maybe we should give him a chance."

Elizabeth, who lives near Ashram Chowk, was among those who waited to catch a glimpse of him. Earlier in the morning, a staffer at a dentist's clinic in Defence Colony said she was inadvertently a part of the yatra since she needed to go from Badarpur to her workplace on Saturday morning. Unable to find any vehicles that would take her, she walked till Sukhdev Vihar, but did not mind the walk since she was hoping to see Rahul, she said.

Many who were not Congress workers also joined the yatra in Delhi. Among them were Abdullah and Javed, two 32-year-olds working for private companies in Delhi, who rode their bicycles through the yatra. Abdullah, a resident of Okhla, said they are not party members but decided to join the yatra considering what it stands for. Narendran, 50, who used to work in Dubai and has returned to Delhi, also said he was not associated with the party as such but walked in the yatra along with his wife from Ashram onwards for a sense of "self-satisfaction".

For a party that has faced



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi interacts with the crowd during the yatra, Saturday; (below) traffic along the route. *Praveen Khanna*



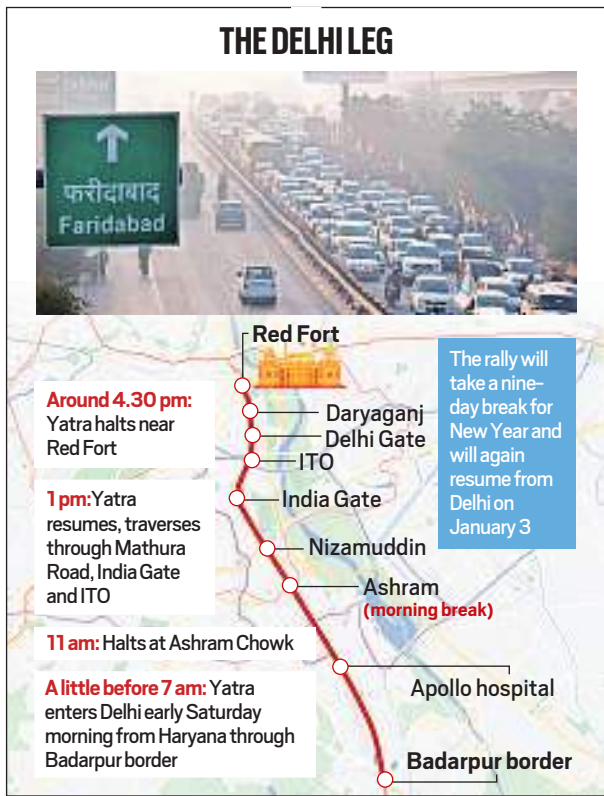
(From top) Pinky and her mother Uma; DU student Kamil; construction worker Raman; were among the onlookers and participants

poorly in both the recent MCD polls and the 2020 Assembly elections in Delhi, what does a grand show like this one mean?

Narendran said, "This is not going to change the world. But the yatra is more about what it stands for. The AAP is strong in Delhi and the people have stood with it."

Similarly, Elizabeth said, "People gathering in large numbers to watch or join the yatra doesn't mean they will get votes. They seem to have lost what they had many years ago in this city."

Nanak Chand, 55, a tailor near Ashram, watched the yatra from his shop. "People have gathered for



it, so the yatra definitely means something. But the party's losses in the city have been because there is no strong *netra* here from the party. That hasn't changed," he said.

The effort counts, said Neha Bansal, 36, an entrepreneur who watched the yatra near Ashram. "A walk like this looks like something nobody else can do. The way he is connecting with people... he's trying his best," she said.

Kamil Hussain, 30, a construction worker from Bareilly who lives in Seelampur and was part of the yatra, said the issues being raised by Rahul are important. "I came here at the cost of a day's

work of around Rs 500 to Rs 600. But I think this is important. It's people like us who are dealing with issues of rising expenses and yatra talks about these things."

With the yatra covering key parts of the capital, many areas, particularly around central Delhi, saw traffic grinding to a halt. Prominent stretches such as the one between Rajghat and Ashram saw slow moving traffic, as did the area around ITO. Senior personnel from Delhi Traffic Police, however, maintained the traffic situation was characterised by slow moving vehicles rather than any obstructions.

Rahul Gandhi couldn't find nafrat after walking 2,800 km, says BJP

ENS & PTI

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 24

AS RAHUL Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra arrived in the national capital, BJP took aim at the Congress leader, with its national spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla saying that "after walking 2,800 km Rahul Baba couldn't find *nafrat* and *hinsa* in India".

He wrote on Twitter: "I welcome this big disclosure by Baba! Thank you Congress!! Rahul could find nafrat in media! So he should start media jodo not Bharat Jodo yatra."

This was in response to Rahul's comments at Red Fort, where he said: "When I started walking from Kanyakumari, I thought that hatred had spread to every corner of the country. But that is far from the truth. This is something the television media wants us to believe but that is not the reality."

The AAP, too, made a veiled attack on the march. Addressing a press conference, AAP national spokesperson Raghav Chadha said the Centre should issue mandatory protocols to avoid the situation that the country witnessed during the first and second wave of the pandemic in 2020 and 2021. "If such protocols are issued, everyone must show respect to them and follow, be it a political party or someone taking out any yatra," Chadha said when asked for his party's stand on the row over Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya's "follow Covid guidelines" letter to Rahul.

A war of words had erupted between the Congress and the BJP after the Union health minister wrote to Rahul earlier this week asking him to consider suspending the yatra if adherence to Covid protocols cannot be followed. Hitting back, Rahul Friday said the ruling party can hold as many public meetings as it wants in the rest of India but sees Covid only where his Bharat Jodo Yatra is passing through.



AAP's Raghav Chadha; BJP's Shehzad Poonawalla

286 stations and 12 corridors: Delhi Metro celebrates 20 years

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 24

FONDLY CALLED the lifeline of the national capital, the Delhi Metro started with a small section spanning 8.4 km from Shahdara to Tis Hazari, and now, after 20 years since kicking off, is spread over 380 km, comprising 10 colour-coded lines. The largest metro network in India with many advanced technologies such as driverless trains on two corridors, the expansion has been one of the fastest in the world as more than 380 km of new lines have been added since 2002.

Delhi Metro operations commenced on December 24, 2002, after then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee flagged off the first train on the 8.4 km-long corridor in the Red Line. Since then, the network has expanded exponentially across Delhi-NCR.

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation currently operates 391 km of networks with 286 stations on 12 corridors (including Noida-Greater Noida and Rapid Metro, Gurgaon) across the National Capital Region. Celebrating its vicennial an-



Hiroshi Suzuki, Ambassador of Japan to India, and DMRC MD Vikas Kumar at an exhibition to celebrate the landmark moment of completing 20 years of successful metro operations in the NCR, Saturday. *Express*

niversary, the DMRC inaugurated a special exhibition highlighting 20 years of operations and also the Indo-Japan partnership, as 2022 marks the completion of 70 years of diplomatic relations between India and Japan.

This exhibition was inaugurated at Welcome Metro station by Hiroshi Suzuki, Ambassador of Japan to India, in the presence of DMRC's Managing Director Vikas Kumar, Saito Mitsunori, Chief Representative, JICA India Office, among others.

"Today is a historic day. The Delhi Metro has transformed Delhi forever and brought a revolution.... Now, it is helping many other Indian cities and even abroad... The Metro ensures the safety of women and comfortable travelling... I am happy we are celebrating 70 years of Indo-Japan relationship along with this," Suzuki said.

Kumar said, "The Metro has brought an infrastructural revolution and has become one of the largest networks in the world."

PWD to install CCTV cameras inside subways for women's safety

GAYATHRI MANI

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 24

TO IMPROVE safety of women and enhance utilisation of pedestrian underpasses and subways, the Public Works Department (PWD), ahead of G20 preparations, is planning to install CCTV cameras and better lighting, said officials.

"Delhi has many subways and footover bridges (FOBs) which are not well lit and maintained. Most of them are in poor condition and filled with sewage. So, at many places, pedestrians, especially women, avoid using such underpasses and risk their lives by hopping or jaywalking to cross the

road," said a senior PWD official. Officials added that subways located at busy sections with no options to cross the road are being used by the public.

The *Indian Express* visited some of the subways in AIIMS, Connaught Place, INA, Andrews Ganj, Safdarjung Hospital, ITO and Kashmere Gate. It was found that subways interconnected with Delhi Metro stations like INA are used in large numbers. The AIIMS and Safdarjung Hospital subways, though not connected, are used by the public as they are close to major hospitals. After sunset, however, it turns into a temporary shelter for patients and homeless who sleep there. "Even during the day, it is

scary to use the path. You find drunkards sleeping or sitting downstairs. As a woman, I don't feel safe using this path during night at all," said Meeta, a student.

Many subways were not differently abled friendly as they had no lifts.

"It's not as if the PWD did not install lights, those installed are often stolen... we are improving these pedestrian paths by installing cameras and lights," said an official, adding that a proposal will be soon moved for installation of cameras. The PWD also plans to deploy security guards round the clock and a house keeper for maintenance.

There are around 40 subways and 70 FOBs across the city.

How Sacred Heart church draws lakhs to celebrate birth of Christ

ARNAV CHANDRASEKHAR
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 24

STANDING OUT in a neighbourhood known for its picturesque view, the Sacred Heart Cathedral in Delhi's Connaught Place would not be out of place in Rome. Built in Italian style as New Delhi began to take its current shape, it is one of the capital's oldest and most prominent Catholic churches.

The church stands in august company. Not far from it is the Gurdwara Bangla Sahib, which originated as a Rajput bungalow and is associated with Guru Har Krishan, the eighth Sikh Guru. Also nearby is the distinctive British-era New Delhi General Post Office or the Gol Dak Khana.

According to Father Augustine Kuriapilly, who recorded the history of the Delhi Archdiocese in his book 'Like a Mustard Seed', the Gol Dak Khana was originally slated to be higher than one floor, which might have obscured the view of the cathedral.

Father Augustine goes on to say that Father Luke Vannucci, the Italian priest who was the mind behind the Sacred Heart Cathedral, persuaded the formidable Lady Willingdon, wife of the Viceroy, to have the plans changed.

In 1922, Father Luke leased land from the then Delhi government for Rs 7,000. There are tales of divine intervention surrounding the church's early years through tough times, like how an anonymous man told Father Luke to withdraw building fund just before the bank it was in collapsed. Construction began properly in 1930.

The Italian-style architecture



Anywhere between 2-3 lakh visitors are expected at the church on Christmas. *Amit Mehra*

of the church is connected to some of the most prominent architects of what modern Delhi would come to be. The plans were submitted by prominent architect Henry Medd to a jury that included Father Luke and Edwin Lutyns, whose name is synonymous with the capital, being the designer of the Rashtrapati Bhavan, amongst other buildings. Medd would later go on to become the chief architect of the Government of India from 1939 till Independence.

The church has the distinction of having received two papal visits from Pope John Paul II in 1986 and in 1999, with a sapling that he planted on his first visit flourishing not far from a statue of him near the main entrance.

In modern Delhi, the Sacred Heart Cathedral finds itself at the centre of Christmas celebrations, with visitor numbers expected to skyrocket after a two-year disruption due to Covid. Parish priest Father Francis Swaminathan said, "Christmas celebrations will begin with the midnight mass with around 4,000 attendees in the ad-

joining grounds, officiated by the Archbishop of Delhi. Later on, we expect more visitors to arrive until early on December 26."

Anywhere between 2-3 lakh visitors are expected on Christmas, with 20,000 attendees having already attended the Feast of Christ the King.

A curious tradition that has cropped up in the church in recent times is the attendance of non-Christian visitors, who, at times, even outnumber Christians on Christmas itself. Father Swaminathan said, "Earlier in the 1990s, it was not like this. There were fewer attendees on those days. But now on Christmas day, we get a very large number of non-Christian visitors. The belief is that when they come here to pray on Christmas day, their wishes will be fulfilled. Primarily, these are young people who come to visit. In fact, they are so enthusiastic that on one occasion, police had to be called as people were trying to climb over the gate after the church had closed. It is very touching for us as Catholics to see the faith that they have."

ADRIJA ROYCHOWDHURY
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 24

THE THICK grey walls of the Holy Trinity Church near Turkman Gate in Old Delhi are adorned with fairy lights before Christmas. Inside, two young men are busy hanging up wreaths, ribbons, stars and Santa figures on the walls, while women decorate the church pews.

Reverend Joel Lazar picks out an ageing book of hymns from a shelf to speak about his favourite Christmas carols. "Most of our carols are in Hindustani. It is a mix of Hindi and Urdu," says Lazar. 'Eid-e-Tawallud', one of the hymns he points to, translates as the 'celebration of the birth (of Jesus)'. "It is common here to refer to Christmas as 'Eid', 'Eid-e-wiladat' which means celebration of the birth, or 'bada din', he explains about the unique ways of the Christian community that lives in and around the church on Old Delhi's southern end.

This, along with the Central Baptist Church in Chandni Chowk, are the only two churches remaining in the historic city of Shahjahanabad that continue with the tradition of holding services in Hindustani, and celebrating a Christmas with strong imprints of the Mughal era.

In the multicultural mish-mash of Old Delhi, there exist a few small but thriving pockets of the Christian community. Although many are descendants of migrants who came to Delhi from other parts of India decades ago, the Christian connection with Shahjahanabad goes centuries back when Armenians and the Portuguese became the

Kachoris and kebabs on 'Eid-e-Tawallud': Mughal colours of Old Delhi's Christmas



Central Baptist Church at Chandni Chowk on Christmas Eve. *Praveen Khanna*

first to make this quintessential Mughal city their home.

Historian and author Swapna Liddle says Armenian merchants were an important group and were perhaps numerous enough to have a church with a priest, Rev. Stephanus, who is mentioned as living in the city in the early 18th century. Chronicler of Delhi, R V Smith, in his book, Delhi: Unknown tales of a city (2015), writes that in the Mughal bastions, the Armenians, all of whom were Christians, held high posts in the court and that one of them, Abdul Hayee, even became chief justice. The Armenians had also built two Catholic churches in the city, one near Subzi Mandi and the other that was demolished during Nadir Shah's invasion of Delhi.

When the British took control of Delhi after defeating the Marathas in the Second Anglo-

Maratha war of 1803, it ushered in a new phase of missionary activities in the city. The work by Protestant Missionary Societies, though, was not as successful as they were in other parts of the country where the British had a stronghold.

There were also some evangelicals such as Henry Martyn, who carried out missionary activities in the region. Historian Moon Moon Jetley in her book, The Calm and Storm in Delhi: 1803-1857 (2015), notes that Martyn's teachings also inspired a Delhi youth by the name of Sheikh Salih to convert to Christianity. Salih was born in Delhi in the 1760s to an Ashraf Muslim family. "He was the first significant Muslim convert to Protestant Christianity in this region and was baptised as early as 1811," Jetley writes.

In the 19th Century, most Europeans living in Delhi were

clustered in posh bungalows of Civil Lines and Kashmere Gate.

With time, Christian communities in the walled city evolved a special culture that retained much of the Mughal traditions and borrowed some from the communities they shared space with in Old Delhi.

Paridhi David Massey (33) recalls the many ways in which Christmas celebrations of her childhood in Old Delhi had its own special flavour. Massey grew up in a house in the compounds of the Central Baptist Church where her grandfather served as the head priest for 55 years. "We call the Godfather 'khuda baap', holy spirit is 'pavitra aatma', and Jesus is 'Ishtu Massey'," says Massey.

Kamlesh Jacob (83), who grew up near Turkman Gate, says one of her fondest memories of Christmas eve was going about the neighbourhood carol

singing with her friends. "People would open their homes for us and offer us something to eat or drink," she recalls. "Not all of these were Christian homes."

The Christmas 'pakwan' of Old Delhi consisted of the gujiyas, namak paras, shakkar paras, and bajre ki tikiyas. Father Lazar says that on the morning of Christmas Day, kachoris are made for breakfast, and a grand Mughlai feast for lunch.

Jacob recalls that lunch at her home on Christmas Day always consisted of pulao, korma, and zarda (a Mughlai sweet rice dessert). The menu has remained much the same all these years, even after she moved out of Old Delhi to her current home in East of Kailash.

The only western element in the largely Mughlai food affair are the Christmas cakes, which are prepared at every Christian home months ahead, and made at special bakeries in Old Delhi. "Even now we get our cakes made from the Old Delhi bakeries," says Jacob. Many of the Christian families from Old Delhi have now moved to other parts of the city, carrying with them much of the spirit and traditions from the walled city. Jacob, like every year, is busy preparing the Christmas lunch at her home. She is expecting over a hundred people this year.

The menu for the party includes delicacies such as biriyani, aloo gosht, nihari, korma, paaye, and kababs, accompanied by a few vegetarian items. "All my vegetarian food is cooked by halwais of Sitaram Bazar in Old Delhi. Non-vegetarian dishes are made by bawarchis from Jama Masjid area and our kabab walas come from Shahjahanpur in UP," she says.

ADVERTORIAL



THE WISE MEN FROM THE EAST

The gifts of the magi are metaphors of our mission and purpose on earth



S. Robert
Director, Faith Academy Schools

The mystery of the Three Kings-Wise Men-Magi - in the Christmas narration is still a puzzle. They came to Jerusalem after Jesus was born, looking for Him. It is said that they came from the east. Where in the east? It could be Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia, or Yemen or Southern Turkey or northern Syria or even India, no clue. Legends say they were kings too. Though they are called three kings the Bible doesn't say how many were there. It is only a guess. It was possible many more were there. How the number three came up. It was because they brought with them three gifts – Gold, frankincense and Myrrh and it is in these gifts we come to know the secret behind their decision to take such a perilous journey all the way from the east to Jerusalem.

It is no doubt that they were very learned persons. The word Magi comes from the Greek word 'magos' (where the English word 'magic' comes from). The magi were not only star gazers but masters in the study of the stars and celestial bodies. The new star or a comet that appeared in the sky at that time could have triggered their curiosity to know what it is all about. No doubt God used their own wisdom to reveal the



birth of Jesus, the King of Jews. Is that all the were told? No, definitely not. They would not have come to see the baby unless something very important was revealed to them about the baby.

What is it? There is a clue that helps us to understand what more they came to know about the baby Jesus. This we learn from the gifts they presented to the baby. They presented Gold, frankincense, and Myrrh. Gold is presented only to a king and if a king presents Gold, it is to a king of kings. So, they were revealed that Jesus was king of kings. But why did they present Frankincense? It is used only for worship and found only in the places of worship. So they also knew that Jesus was not just king of kings but the son of

God and the Lord of Lords. And precisely that was the reason they said they came to worship Him. The third gift what they gave really puzzles one. It was Myrrh. Myrrh is related to death. It is also used to embalm a dead body. Why Myrrh? The wise men were revealed that Jesus was not just king of Kings and Lord of Lords but the Saviour of mankind, who by His death on the cross would save mankind from eternal condemnation and death.

The word of God says all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ. (Rom. 3:23 and 6:23). Why He wants us to be saved because of His love for us." For God so loved the world, that He gave

His only begotten son that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). So the Magi knew that the salvation of their own souls is in the hands of this baby Jesus, the savior of mankind. And it is this revelation that led them to take such a journey.

The birth of Messiah was revealed to the the Magi by God himself. Jesus once asked His disciples " whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said " thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God, And Jesus answered and said to Him "Blessed art thou Simon Bar-jona: for the flesh and blood has not revealed it unto thee but my Father, which art in Heaven" (Math. 16: 16-17). So if the Magi had the revelation about who Jesus

is, it was revealed to them by Heavenly Father. And when Jesus was born , something precious came down with Him. His disciple John records it saying, " In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God and the Word was God. And the word was made flesh and dwelt among us (and we beheld His glory as the only begotten of the Father) full of grace and truth." John 1:1,14. Yes, full of grace and truth and that is what He imparted to us. "He has not dealt with us after our sins. As far as east is from the west so far he has removed our transgression from us" (Psalm. 103: 10 ,12.). Yes the mission of Jesus was to grant forgiveness to us by His death and imparting grace and truth by His

Faith Academy will turn 60 in January, six decades sustained by His grace, the school has successfully helped children achieve excellence in all areas of their life. Our proud alumni are placed all over the world & still come back and remember the values they learnt in school. Truth is a direct reference to the Lord Jesus Christ, the Founder and CornerStone of Faith Academy.

resurrection. This is what Christmas is all about. He came to grant us His grace and truth (He himself is truth) so that we may be filled with His grace and truth and joy again. If it happens, what a blessing it would be.

2000 years or more have passed after the Magi came to see Jesus, 60 years will be over for Faith Academy in this January, the mission and the blessings promised by God have not changed. Children can be educated to the teeth but what good it will make if they don't have moral strength and God's grace and truth, the foundation for building oneself in to His own image. Our alumni across the seven seas scattered across the world carry this grace and truth because they learned it from the very motto of the school, " Truth will make you free". Floods may come and storms may come but they know they will not be shaken because they are rooted in the strong foundation laid by God believed by the magi and revealed in Christ Jesus.

On behalf of the Management, Staff & Students of Faith Academy we wish you all a merry Christmas full of grace and truth.

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS!



Over the last 6 decades, Faith Academy has offered holistic quality education and has been No. 1 in academics. Qualified & experienced staff guide our children at every learning capacity, taking them from one level to the other. With well-equipped physics, chemistry, biology, computer science, mathematics, linguistics, social science and creative thinking laboratories, our students are encouraged to do research based projects which are appreciated by CBSE and all international visitors. Several students scored 100% in different subjects and received merit certificates from CBSE. Last year, our class 12 highest aggregate was 98.6% and class 10, 97.8%.

Dr. M Kannan
Principal, Faith Academy (Morning Shift)



We thank God for His faithfulness as we enter the 60th year. Over the last few years the school has added a state of the art playground with a multi purpose court for basketball, volleyball, tennis and badminton. The school revamped the football and cricket grounds and added a skating rink, running track, a hydraulic stage and other such facilities that will help children reach their full potential. We take pride in our annual day productions: Sound of Music, My Fair Lady, David, The Pilgrim's Progress and many more that saw over 600 children participate and mesmerise the audience.

Elizabeth Robert
Principal, Faith Academy (Afternoon Shift)



8 GOVT & POLITICS



Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel

BJP misled people on 'Ram Setu', must apologise, says Baghel

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
RAIPUR, DECEMBER 24

DAYS AFTER Union Minister Jitendra Singh's "Ram Setu" statement in Parliament, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel Saturday said the BJP had misled the nation and should apologise.

Replying to a question, the Science and Technology Minister had said in Rajya Sabha Thursday that satellite images cannot provide direct information about the Ram Setu's origin and age.

The Ram Setu, or Adam's Bridge, is a limestone trail connecting Pamban island off the coast of Tamil Nadu to Mannar island off the coast of Sri Lanka.

On Saturday, Baghel told reporters: "When the same thing is said during Congress rule, BJP called us anti-Ram. Now this Ram bhakt says in Parliament that they do not have strong proof (of Ram Setu). BJP must apologise for misleading the people of this country."

On Thursday, Singh had said: "Through space technology we have been able to discover pieces and islands, some kind of limestone shoals, which of course, can't be accurately said to be remnants or parts of a bridge. But they do have a certain amount of continuity in location through which some surmises can be drawn."

"So, what I am trying to say in short is that it is difficult to actually pinpoint the exact structure that existed there, but there is some kind of an indication, direct or indirect, that those structures have existed," the minister had stated.

Uttarakhand Governor gives assent to stricter conversion law

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DEHRADUN, DECEMBER 24

UTTARAKHAND GOVERNOR Lt Gen Gurmit Singh (Retd) has given his assent to the Freedom of Religion (Amendment) Bill, 2022, making unlawful conversions a cognizable and non-bailable offence punishable with a prison term of up to 10 years.

The Bill was passed by the state Assembly on November 30 this year and the Governor gave his assent to the legislation earlier this week, official sources said here on Saturday.

With the Governor's sanction to the Bill it has become an Act, paving the way for stricter punishment to offenders in such cases, they said.

Apart from a maximum imprisonment of up to ten years, persons indulging in forcible and unlawful conversion in Uttarakhand will now be slapped with a fine of at least Rs 50,000.

NEP creating futuristic education system in the country, says Modi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, DECEMBER 24

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Saturday said the new generation, growing up in a better education system under the National Education Policy (NEP), would naturally grow to be "ideal citizens".

The Prime Minister, who was virtually addressing the 'Amrit Mahotsav' (75th year celebrations) of Shree Swaminarayan Gurukul in Rajkot, said, "These ideal citizens, in 2047, when the country celebrates 100 years of its Independence, will realise the dream of India as a developed nation, and the efforts of Swaminarayan Gurukul in this will be very important."

"When the country became independent, it was our responsibility to revive India's great talents in the field of education, its grandeur and great pride, but because of the 'slave mentality', governments did not move in that direction. In some ways, they even went in the opposite direction. In these circumstances, our saints and acharyas took up this responsibility towards the country," said Modi, adding that the "blessings and support of the saints" would be very important in the next 25 years of the country's journey.



PM Narendra Modi addresses 'Amrit Mahotsav' at Shree Swaminarayan Gurukul in Rajkot via videoconferencing on Saturday. PTI

Talking about the educational reforms announced by his government under NEP 2020, the Prime Minister said, "Since 2014 (when Modi became the PM), there has been a 65 per cent rise in the number of medical colleges. Under the new education policy, the country is, for the first time, preparing an education system that is forward-looking and futuristic."

Praising Swaminarayan Gurukul as an "ideal example", he said Dharmajivandasji Swami founded the institution soon after Independence with a vision that "combined spiritualism

with modernism, tradition with culture and was inclusive". The seed of this ideology, sown then, has grown into a banyan tree now, he said. "It has been my good fortune to witness this banyan tree take shape from the foundation of this Gurukul, deriving inspiration from Bhagwan Swaminarayan," said the PM.

He said knowledge has been the highest purpose of life in India. "While other countries were known by their regimes or their royalty, India was known for its gurukuls."

Citing the example of ancient universities of Nalanda and Takshashila, Modi said, "The diversity and cultural prosperity we see in every fabric of India was a result of its tradition of research and discovery and this laid the foundation of our civilization."

He said when the term "gender equality" was not even coined, in India women scholars like Gargi and Maitreyi were studying the scriptures. He hailed the Swaminarayan sect for starting a kanya gurukul (school for girls), which he said would be a "valuable contribution" to the 'Azadi ka Amritkaal'.

He urged Swaminarayan Gurukul to send around 100 of its youth for 15 days to the north-eastern states to meet the youth there, bond with them and add to the strength of the country.

ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE MEMORIAL LECTURE

Vajpayee played positive role in changing anti-BJP views: Kovind

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 24

FORMER PRESIDENT Ram Nath Kovind on Saturday said former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee played a positive role in clearing misconceptions about the BJP spread by some people who always portrayed the saffron party as "anti-Dalit and manuwadi".

Delivering the 5th Atal Bihari Vajpayee Memorial Lecture, Kovind said Vajpayee's "historic" announcement from the Red Fort in 2001 changed the perception about the BJP in the minds of a section of society.

Recounting that event, Kovind said a Dalit Sangam rally was organised by the BJP on the grounds of the Red Fort. "Atal ji was the Prime Minister, Kushabhau Thackeray was the national president of the BJP and incidentally I was the national president of the BJP Scheduled Caste Morcha in those days. The current Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, was in-charge of that rally," he said.

"While addressing that rally, Atal ji declared that his government had been formed for the welfare of Dalits, backward people and the poor. I want to make it clear that our government will not work on the basis of Manusmriti, but on the basis of Bhim Smriti. Bhim Smriti means the Constitution of India," said the former president.

He said Vajpayee declared from that platform the BJP is not "Manuwadi but Bhimwadi i.e. Ambedkarwadi". "Atal ji's announcement is of historical importance; it played a positive role in removing the negative feeling towards the BJP from the minds of a section of society," Kovind said.

He described Vajpayee as "Ajatashatru (a person who has no enemy)". This memorial lecture is an attempt to continue



Former President Ramnath Kovind delivering the 5th Atal Bihari Vajpayee Memorial lecture at India Habitat Centre in New Delhi on Saturday. Amit Mehra

Vajpayee's legacy, said Kovind, delivering the address on the theme — "Social Empowerment Through Good Governance: The Vajpayee Way". The lecture was organised by India Foundation, a think tank.

BJP MP and former Minister Jayant Sinha said Vajpayee was more than just a great parliamentarian and orator. "As the Prime Minister of the country he inspired all of us to follow the principles of good governance and de-

liver results for the last person in the line," he said, adding that Vajpayee was dedicated to the poorest and the weakest.

"The poorest of the poor now have faith that Modi ji ki sarkar (PM Modi's government) cares for them and they have a better future to look forward to," Sinha said, adding that PM Modi's good governance has led to extraordinary social empowerment.

New education policy will help develop analytic ability: Shah

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, DECEMBER 24

UNION MINISTER for Home and Co-operation Amit Shah Saturday said that the new National Education Policy (NEP) will help develop children's ability to analyse, think and research and will take the country to the top position.

Shah also said that the new system would have almost 10 "bagless" days in a month for schoolchildren, and give a platform to talented children to express themselves.

Speaking at the celebration of 95 years of the Sheth GC High School in Pilvai village of Mehsana, where his father and his father-in-law studied, Shah said that 25 years after the implementation of this NEP, "nobody can stop India from becoming number one".

Criticising the British education system as one that "promoted learning by rote" Shah credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi for beginning discussions on the NEP from 2014 and implement it.

J&K Assembly polls likely in May 2023, says top BJP leader

ARUN SHARMA
JAMMU, DECEMBER 24

ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS in Jammu and Kashmir are "likely to be held in May 2023", BJP national general secretary Tarun Chugh said here on Saturday.

Addressing a meeting of functionaries of the party's various cells at the BJP headquarters here, he said, "Agar sarkar May mein banani hai toh March mein ticketein bantni hai (if the government is to be formed in May, then tickets have to be distributed in March). We have only two-and-a-half months left," he said.

Chugh told the media that it is the Election Commission's prerogative to announce elections, although the BJP feels they will be held soon, as the poll panel is working "fast" in that direction. This, he pointed out, includes work such as completing delimitation of Assembly constituencies and preparation of electoral rolls.

At the party event, Chugh said that BJP cells at booth/mandal levels will have a major role to play in the upcoming elections, and that the party's J&K general secretary, Devinder Manyal, has been deputed to co-ordinate with the different cells.

Chugh has remarked earlier, too, on Assembly polls in the UT



BJP national general secretary Tarun Chugh

being held soon. This time, however, there are more indications, especially in view of the BJP finalising programmes scheduled in J&K over the next two months. On Sunday, the party is organising huge functions to celebrate Sushasan Divas (good governance) in all 43 Assembly constituencies of Jammu province, sources said.

According to sources, top leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP national president J P Nadda, are likely to visit Jammu and Kashmir during the first quarter of 2023. While Nadda is likely to pay a two-day visit to the UT in January and address a couple of public meetings here, Shah may visit J&K in February, followed by Modi's likely visit in March.

BJP national general secretary (organisation) B L Santhosh is also likely to visit J&K in the new year.

Azad's outfit suffers a blow as 126 leaders, workers quit in protest

ARUN SHARMA
JAMMU, DECEMBER 24

TWO DAYS after it expelled senior leaders Tara Chand, Manohar Lal Sharma and Balwan Singh for alleged anti-party activities, the Ghulam Nabi Azad-led Democratic Azad Party (DAP) on Saturday suffered a major setback as 126 of its leaders and workers left the party in protest. Amid the crisis in the DAP, the Congress said its doors were open for "secular-minded people".

Prominent among the leaders who quit Azad's party are J&K High Court Bar Association's president M K Bhardwaj and DAP's Jammu district president Vinod Sharma. Both were considered Azad loyalists. All those who quit the DAP ap-



Ghulam Nabi Azad's DAP expelled three senior leaders on Thursday

peared with the three expelled leaders before the media.

Tara Chand who was elected MLA from Khour three times in a row — 1996, 2002 and 2008 — has been a Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and Deputy Chief Minister of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir while Sharma is a former minister and Balwan Singh is a former MLA. The notice expelling the three did not elaborate on the anti-party ac-

tivities they indulged in.

With this, DAP not only lost a prominent Dalit face in Tara Chand but also upper-caste leaders with a considerable support base in Jammu. These three were always on Azad's side during their time in the Congress, often to the dislike of the party's high command.

According to sources close to the three expelled leaders, more people are likely to follow suit.

J&K Congress president Vikar Rasool Wani said the party's doors were open for "secular-minded" people and closed for those with a communal mindset. He hit out at Azad, who had an acrimonious split with the Congress in August, and termed the DAP a branch of the BJP that is "collapsing under its weight". (WITH INPUTS FROM PTI)

Eyes on Nitish as Tejashwi closes in on CM post

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, DECEMBER 24

BIHAR POLITICS has been in ferment in recent days not just due to the intensifying conflict between the Nitish Kumar-led Mahagathbandhan (Grand Alliance) government and the Opposition BJP but also because of the changing contours of equations between the two key constituents of the ruling coalition — the Lalu Prasad-headed RJD and the Nitish-led JD(U).

The RJD, the Grand Alliance's senior partner, seems to have adopted a "wait-and-watch" stance over Nitish's recent statement that his deputy and RJD leader Tejashwi Prasad Yadav would lead their coalition's campaign in the 2025 Bihar Assembly polls. Tejashwi has not reacted to Nitish's statement, although he had smiled back at the CM when the latter first made it while speaking to reporters at Rahui in Nalanda on December



WAIT AND WATCH: Bihar CM Nitish Kumar recently said his deputy Tejashwi Prasad Yadav would lead their coalition's campaign in the 2025 Bihar Assembly polls. File

13 after opening a dental college and hospital.

RJD sources said that both Tejashwi and Nitish know privately that it was "not part of the deal" between them. An RJD MLA told *The Indian Express*: "Tejashwi had dropped clear hint of becoming CM within four months of taking over as Deputy CM this

August. He had hinted then that Nitish would pass his mantle to him and focus on rallying around the Opposition parties for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls."

Bihar RJD's president Jagdanand Singh was forthright in an interview to *The Indian Express* earlier this week, when said that "Nitish should leave smaller things

Adityanath calls on PM, invites him to Investors Summit

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, DECEMBER 24

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday paid a courtesy visit to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi and invited him to the Global Investors Summit (GIS) that will be organised in the state in February next year.

Sources in the government said Adityanath apprised the PM about the ongoing preparations of the GIS and the various programmes that have been organised recently to meet the target of drawing investment worth Rs 10 lakh crore during the summit.

Earlier this month, delegations of ministers and senior officials took part in roadshows and meetings with potential investors in 16 countries to draw investment for the summit. The state government has claimed that the delegations were able to draw investment proposals worth Rs 7.12 lakh crore through the roadshows organised in 16 countries.

The state government has now decided to hold similar events in seven different cities across the country to highlight the state's potential as an ideal investment destination.

After the meeting, Adityanath took to Twitter to express his gratitude to the PM. "Received guidance from respected Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi ji, who is continuously dedicated in the service of the nation, today in New Delhi by paying a courtesy visit," the CM said in a tweet in Hindi.

Sources said the two leaders also discussed the nominations of the six vacant seats in the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council. More than 40 candidates are in race for nominations to the six seats but the candidates are yet to be finalised, sources added.

Adityanath's meeting with Modi happened days after the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won the Rampur Assembly bypoll but lost the Khatauli assembly seat to Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD). The party was also defeated in the Mainpuri Lok Sabha bypoll by a huge margin earlier this month. The BJP had contested the three by-elections by projecting the development and welfare schemes run by its central and state governments.

(CM post) for bigger things (PM post)", and citing the example of VP Singh who had quit the then Rajiv Gandhi Cabinet as a minister and went on to become the PM.

Most RJD leaders echo Jagdanand Singh's views, who is like a father-figure to Tejashwi. Singh had been upset with Lalu when during the RJD's national executive meet in September in Delhi the latter authorised only Tejashwi to speak on crucial party matters. Tejashwi however recently managed to persuade Singh to resume his work as the state party chief after a hiatus of 44 days.

A senior RJD leader said: "Most of us are in agreement with what Singh said (on Nitish and Tejashwi). If it has to be Tejashwi's leadership, he should lead the alliance as CM. It is all a matter of timing now".

Tejashwi's silence over this entire episode is being seen as signs of his "political maturity as well indecisiveness".

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

Wary of Pandora's Box, Bommai walks a tightrope over Panchamasalis' quota stir

AKRAMM
BELAGAVI, DECEMBER 24

THE BJP-LED government in Karnataka faces a tough task ahead after it assured the Panchamasalis, a sub-sect of the dominant Veerashaiva Lingayat community, of reservation in education and government jobs.

While BJP MLA Basangouda Patil Yatnal, who is spearheading the community's reservation agitation, has said that the state government would accept the demands by December 29, sources said that such an announcement was unlikely due to

various "technical challenges".

Sources said the state government has been "buying time" by making such promises to the Panchamasali community since early 2021, when it launched an agitation seeking reservation under the Other Backward Castes (OBC) 2A category.

Meanwhile, Industries Minister Murugesh Nirani, who hails from the community, told *The Indian Express* that clarity on the reservation issue could emerge by December 29 or 30. "There are some challenges in granting reservation to the community. We have to seek legal opinion and convene an all-



Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai

party meeting before making any announcement," he said.

Nirani was of the view that reservation should be granted to

the entire Veerashaiva Lingayat community, not just Panchamasalis. "A few minor sects of the Lingayat community

have already been granted reservation," he said.

An interim report submitted by the Karnataka State Backward

Classes Commission on reservation for various communities is yet to be accepted by the state government. "The report is confidential and is yet to be placed before the state Cabinet," Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister JC Madhuswamy said.

Though Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai held his Cabinet meeting hours after the report was submitted on Thursday, it was not taken up for discussion in the meeting. The same day the Panchamasalis staged a massive rally in Belgaavi demanding reservation.

Accepting the Panchamasalis' quota demand will be fraught

with challenges for the BJP government in the run-up to the Assembly elections slated for May next year. The Panchamasali community is identified as Veerashaiva Lingayat in caste certificates. If given reservation, Panchamasalis will have to be listed as a separate entity, opening the floodgates of similar demands from other Lingayat sects such as Gaaniga, Sadar Lingayat and Banajiga. Other sub-sects of numerically strong communities such as Vokkaligas and Kurubas could also put forth similar demands.

The BJP is in a tight spot in Karnataka after it received sev-

eral representations from elected representatives and officials belonging to OBCs against granting reservation to Panchamasalis.

The Bommai government has been wary that providing reservation to the Panchamasalis under the 2A category would antagonise communities such as Kurubas and Edigas. "Edigas have backed the BJP in recent years. If Panchamasalis cut into their quota, it would cost the BJP dear as it would send a wrong message to the community right before the 2023 Assembly polls," party sources said. Edigas constitute around 2.5 per cent of the state population.



MONTH AFTER MUKROH FIRING THAT KILLED 6

Assam CM says police fired in ‘self-defence’

DEBRAJ DEB
AGARTALA, DECEMBER 24

ASSAM CHIEF Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma Saturday asserted in the Assembly that the police firing in Mukroh along the boundary of Meghalaya in November 22 was an act of self-defence and to protect government properties.

Six persons, including five Meghalaya residents and a forest guard from Assam, were killed in the incident. Mukroh is a border village in Meghalaya's West Jaintia Hills, across Karbi Anglong district in Assam.

Responding to a query, the CM, who also holds the Home portfolio, told the Assembly that Assam forest officials came under attack and an Assam forest official was "attacked and killed by the miscreants from Meghalaya".

"...thereafter five people died as a result of police firing which was done in self-defence and for protection of government properties," the CM told the House.

He quoted a report by the Superintendent of Police of West Karbi Anglong district and told the Assembly that people from the neighbouring state "sur-



Himanta Biswa Sarma

rounded and attacked" Assam personnel and demanded them to release three apprehended timber smugglers. The incident led to situations that culminated in opening fire in self-defence, he said.

He also replied in the affirmative to a query whether "miscreants from Meghalaya" have been creating frequent law and order problems along the interstate boundary, and said Assam Police were maintaining strict vigil in the area in coordination with Meghalaya officials.

The CM's comments in the Assembly are in sharp contrast to his remarks soon after the Mukroh firing when he said Assam Police used force arbitrarily and that the firing was "a lit-

tle unprovoked" and they should have used "restraint".

Meghalaya had called it an "unprovoked firing" and "inhuman act".

Assam Police called it an act of "self-defence" and said officials resorted to firing after a group of villagers attacked them. However, the Assam government had criticised the police action and suspended all grassroot level officials involved in the incident and transferred the SP of Karbi Anglong district. A one-man commission headed by a retired judge was also formed to probe the incident. Assam had also announced that it was ready to hand over the investigation to any central agency. It also announced Rs 5 lakh compensation to each victim's kin.

During a visit to Silchar on November 29, Sarma told the media that police should not fire upon civilians, whether it is in Assam or Meghalaya. Police should use their weapons against terrorists and criminals, not innocent people, Sarma had said. On November 29, Meghalaya announced to set up border outposts at "sensitive locations" along the border areas including Mukroh.



PREVENTION IS BETTER

Schoolchildren wearing face mask as precaution against Covid-19 attend morning assembly at their school in Uttar Pradesh's Moradabad on Saturday. PTI

Centre revokes order allowing more targets to performing PIAs

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 24

THE UNION Ministry of Rural Development has revoked its order allowing allocation of additional targets to "performing" Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs) and culling out allotted targets of non-performing PIAs under its rural youth job scheme — Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY).

In a notification issued on December 21, 2022, the ministry said, "It has been decided with the approval of the competent authority not to give any additional targets to PIAs. In view of this, the notification number 12/2022, dated 15.11.2022 is withdrawn with immediate effect."

"The states, which are in the process of allotting additional targets to the PIAs, may refrain from it until further orders," the notification said. The ministry in its November 15 notification had

allowed sanctioning of additional targets to performing PIAs and curtailment of targets of the non-performing agencies.

DDU-GKY is a placement-linked skill training scheme for rural youth in public-private-partnership mode. Under the scheme training is provided by private sector partners, PIAs.

An email sent to the official spokesperson of the ministry did not elicit any response.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

Follow Covid rules to prevent another wave, no need to be scared: Mandaviya

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GANDHINAGAR, DECEMBER 24

UNION MINISTER of Health and Family Welfare Mansukh Mandaviya on Saturday emphasised the need to follow Covid-19 appropriate behaviour in order to prevent another wave while adding there was "no need to be scared".

Mandaviya was presiding the convocation ceremony at the National Institute of Pharmaceuticals Education and Research in Gandhinagar

On being asked, how appropriate is it to hold the upcoming events like Kankaria carnival and flower show at the Sabarmati Riverfront, Mandaviya told media persons "...We will follow the Covid protocol. Our experience in the first, second and third waves, when the surge was seen, was that that by following the Covid protocol, business, programmes, can be run but all have to be vigilant and alert. There is no need to be scared." The Kankaria Carnival is due to begin from Sunday while the flower show will be held in January.

Mandaviya further said, "Today, China, Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong, Europe, USA, Brazil, in all these countries another wave of Covid-19 can be seen. To curb the spread of Covid 19 pandemic in our country, the government is taking steps to spread awareness about it."

The Union Health Minister also asked the people to wear masks and maintain social distance, and follow Covid-19 appropriate behaviour in order to prevent the spread of BF.7, the new Omicron sub-variant.

"For the last three years, Covid has been there in the country and the world, and all we need to do is to follow the proven steps to successfully confront Covid," Mandaviya said.

The Union Health minister also said that India is the biggest producers of medicines in the world. "Bill Gates congratulated India, saying we had done best covid management and vaccination, at a World Economic Forum meeting (2022)," said the minister emphasising how the country researched and manufactured its own vaccine for Covid by December 2020.

Parties slam TN govt as sugarcane off Pongal hamper

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, DECEMBER 24

SEVERAL POLITICAL parties have expressed their dissatisfaction over the DMK government's decision to remove sugarcane, an essential component of pongal celebrations, from its 'Pongal gift hamper' for ration card holders in Tamil Nadu.

While Edappadi K Palaniswami, the leader of the Opposition in the Assembly, and the BJP demanded that the government review the decision, the CPM, a DMK ally, urged the government to include sugarcane in the gift hamper.

On Thursday, the state government announced that all ration card holders in the state will receive a Pongal gift of Rs 1,000 and one kilogramme each of raw rice and sugar. A total of 2.19 crore ration card holders will receive the gift. The government is spending Rs 2,356.67 crore for the scheme.

AIADMK chief Palaniswami demanded that Chief Minister M K Stalin announce Rs 5,000 and a sugarcane instead of what was announced by the government two days ago.

Palaniswami reminded the chief minister that Stalin, when he was Opposition leader, had demanded that the then-AIADMK government give Rs 5,000 to ration card holders during the Pongal festival. Palaniswami said that sugarcane farmers were shocked by the government's plan as they expected that the government would procure their produce during the Pongal festival.

BJP state president K



Chief Minister M K Stalin

Annamalai demanded that the government include sugarcane and one kilogramme of palm jaggery in the gift hamper. He questioned whether complaints raised last year about the poor quality of things in the Pongal gift baskets led to the "minimal gift hamper" this year.

On Saturday, the CPM, a DMK ally, released a statement urging the government to include sugarcane and palm jaggery in the Pongal gift hamper. According to the CPM statement, the government should keep all other products, such as spices and ghee in the gift basket, citing that all of them were part of the gift hampers in the past two years.

The Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK), an AIADMK ally, and the Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam (AMMK) of TTV Dhinakaran also criticised the government's decision. PMK leader S Ramadoss said the government's decision is unfair to sugarcane farmers.

While CM Stalin will distribute the gift baskets to beneficiaries in an event scheduled in Chennai on January 2, 2023, ministers have been designated to launch the scheme in other districts on the same day.

Bengal Governor meets protesting JU students

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, DECEMBER 24

A SECTION of students at Jadavpur University (JU) on Saturday staged protests before Governor C V Ananda Bose before he took the stage to attend the annual convocation of Jadavpur University. Bose, who is also the Chancellor of the state university, spoke with the students in order to pacify them.

Members of the SFI and Engineering and Technology Students' Union (FETSU) staged the protest with placards demanding holding of students union election in the university which is due for over three years.

After taking his seat at the convocation venue inside the campus, Bose sent word to the protesting students that he would like to meet them.

The students met Bose in a room next to the dais and interacted with him.

SFI leader Subhankar Majumdar, who was part of the

group that met the Governor, said, "We have some specific demands. First, students election must be held in the university...it has been pending for the past three years. Also, there is a financial crisis that is stalling several research works of students. The state and central governments should clear the dues. We are not against the Governor. We only wanted to put forth our demands before him."

Majumdar said Bose also invited students to the Raj Bhavan to discuss their demands in future if they feel that those are not being fulfilled. He also told the students that he is new to the state and is not aware of the issues they face. "He said he will definitely look into the matter and convey the demands to appropriate authorities," he said.

Later, Bose told mediapersons, "If there is a problem, there can be ways to solve it. We will find the ways."

Earlier, in his address, Bose said, "I am happy to be at the annual convocation of the JU."

दिल्ली सरकार
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EXPRESS NETWORK

Udaipur tailor murder: Son questions delay in court case

HAMZA KHAN

JAIPUR, DECEMBER 24

YASHTELI, the son of the Udaipur tailor who was hacked to death at his shop in June this year, has questioned why the National Investigation Agency (NIA) took six month to file a chargesheet in the case and urged the authorities to “set an example” by meting out swift punishment to those found guilty.

The NIA on Thursday filed a chargesheet against 11 people, including two Pakistani nationals, in the murder case.

“It was said that our case will be fast-tracked and the chargesheet will be filed in three months. But the case was delayed and the chargesheet has been filed after six months,” said Yash.

Demanding death penalty for his father's killers, he said he has resolved to walk barefoot till the time the court decides the punishment.

On June 28 this year, two accused — Mohammad Riyaz and Ghouse Mohammad — had hacked to death Kanhaiya Lal Teli at his shop in Udaipur allegedly over a post shared by him on social media in support of suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma. The BJP leader had made controversial comments against Prophet Mohammad during a live television debate.

Yash said punishing the accused will take more time. “The system shouldn't be like this. They (the accused) should be punished at the earliest to set a good example of what is done with such people in our country.”

“There is also a link with two Pakistanis from Karachi... This was a terrorist conspiracy to harm our nation,” he said.

Speaking on the chargesheet, a spokesperson for the NIA had said, “Investigations have revealed that the accused persons, operating as a terror module, conspired to take revenge. The accused were radicalised and took inspiration from incriminating audios/videos/messages being circulated within and from outside India. The accused arranged knives/arms and murdered Kanhaiya in reaction to his Facebook post...”

Dispute over Mass sparks violent clash among priests at church in Kerala

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
DECEMBER 24

A LONG-RUNNING dispute within Kerala's Syro-Malabar Church over offering uniform Mass took a violent turn on the eve of Christmas as rival groups of priests clashed, disrupted rituals and vandalised the altar at the Church head's seat at St Mary's Basilica in Ernakulam. Ernakulam district officials and police were forced to intervene. To prevent tension, the Basilica, a prominent centre of the Syro-Malabar Catholic Church, will remain closed on Christmas Day.

But a section of the priests of Ernakulam-Angamaly archdiocese continued to protest at the Archbishop's house. They sang Christian funeral songs instead of carols as a protest against Archbishop Andrews Thazhath, the archdiocese administrator. Tension has been prevailing at the Basilica, the seat of Church head Cardinal George Alencherry, over offering uniform Mass, which a section of priests from the Ernakulam-Angamaly archdiocese has been opposing over the last year.

While all other dioceses under the Catholic Church had implemented a uniform procedure of of-

‘We have not yet told his mother, wife... They will not be able to bear the shock’

Day after 16 soldiers die in a truck accident in Sikkim, families struggle to come to terms with it

PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA

HISAR, DECEMBER 24

“MY BROTHER had joined the Army to serve the country,” said Surendra Singh, the younger brother of Lance Naik Somvir Singh, who was among 16 Army personnel who died when a truck carrying them fell off a mountain road while negotiating a sharp turn at Zema in North Sikkim.

“We have not yet told his mother and wife about his demise. They will not be able to bear the shock. We have told them that he suffered injuries in an accident and is undergoing treatment. When his wife heard about the accident, she fell unconscious. We have also taken away their phones so they don't see the news reports... Later tonight (Saturday) or tomorrow morning, when his body arrives... we will have to ultimately tell them, but we want to wait,” Surendra said.

Somvir was from Sindol village in Haryana's Hisar district. Two more men from Haryana — Grenadier Vikas Kumar of Fatehabad and Havildar Arvind Kumar of Charkhi Dadri — also died in the accident in Sikkim.

The son of a farmer and eldest among three children, Somvir, 28, had joined the Army in June 2015, shortly after he got married. He is survived by his wife Nisha Devi, a three-year-old daughter, a one-year-old son, father Ram Kishan Dhukiya and mother Sharda Devi.

Following in his brother's footsteps, Surendra said he also had joined the Army in April 2018, and is currently posted in Pune.

The family said that just over 10 days ago on December 12, Somvir had returned to duty after a 55-day vacation. “He had taken off for some days to attend the wedding of a maternal cousin in Hisar in the first week of November. I spoke with him on Thursday... We discussed routine matters. I did not know I would be talking to him for the last time,” said Surendra. A family member said that Somvir eventually wanted to settle abroad after completing 15 years in the service.

Rann Singh, whose son is also



(Top) Army personnel pay tribute to soldiers at Zema, Sikkim on Saturday. PTI



(Left) The remains of Havildar Charan Singh, Naik Shyam Singh Yadav and Lance Naik Bhupendra Singh reach the airport in Lucknow. UP announced assistance of Rs 50 lakh each to the kin of the soldiers from the state who died in the mishap. PTI

in the Army, said that at least 15-20 boys from their village had joined the forces, taking inspiration from Somvir. “He was an athlete... every morning, he was at the village ground, running 1500-metre races. He was quite skilled in Kho-Kho too. He used to impart physical training to youngsters of the village. The entire village is in mourning,” he said.

Havildar Arvind Kumar, 37, of 8 Rajputana Rifles, was a native of Jhoju Kalan in Charkhi Dadri district of Haryana.

Talking to *The Indian Express* over the phone, Kumar's cousin Ajay Numberdar said, “He had recently come home on vacation to attend his younger brother's wedding on December 8... He was going to apply for retirement in the coming months.”

He is survived by his wife, an eight-year-old son and his parents. “His wife is in Haryana Police and is pregnant at the moment.

His brother is in UP Police. He had called me on December 19, but I could not pick up. When I contacted him later that day, his phone was not reachable...,” said Numberdar.

RAJASTHAN

Lance Naik Manoj Kumar, 25, from Jhunjhunu, is survived by his wife, Jyoti, and three-year-old daughter, Avni, as well as his parents. He has served in the Army for 7 years. His elder brother Pramod, 27, serves in the BSF.

Sepoy Sukha Ram from Jodhpur is survived by his wife Yashoda, and had no children. He joined the Army in 2016. His father, who had served in the Army and retired, died around seven months ago. He was the third of four brothers.

Subedar Guman Singh from Jaisalmer is survived by wife Rekha, 40, and five kids. The eldest and the youngest are sons Pehlad,

15, and Sunil (5). His daughters are Jai Shree, 13, Chanchal, 10, and Nishan, 8. His elder brother Amar Singh is a retired Army man.

HAMZA KHAN IN JAIPUR

UTTARAKHAND

Naik Ravinder Singh Thapa, a resident of Dharchula in Pithoragarh district, is survived by his wife Kamla Devi, son Piyush, 10, and daughter Ishika, 3 — all currently living in Nainital's Haldwani. His elder brother Lokendra Thapa is also in the Army, while his younger brother Dashrath Thapa works in the Public Works Department.

KERALA

Naik S Viasakh, 27, from Palakkad district, is survived by wife Geetha and one-year-old son Thanveek. He had been serving in the Army since 2015. His parents Sahadevan and Vijayakumari are daily wage workers. He has also

has a sister, Sruthi. Vaisakh's neighbour and panchayat member K Udayaprakash said, “The family was trying to keep afloat after Vaisakh had secured a job in the Army. A few of his relatives are in defence, which inspired Vaisakh to join the force. He got recruited while being a degree student.” He said Vaisakh family lived in a two-room house erected on four cents of land.

UTTAR PRADESH

Naik Shyam Singh Yadav, 30, from Kakradi Kheda village in Unnao district, is survived by wife Vinita Devi, son Aman, 6, mother Shanti Devi and father Sundar Lal — a farmer. Havildar Charan Singh from Lucknow, Lance Naik Bhupendra Singh from Eta and Naik Lokesh Kumar from Muzaffarnagar are the other Army men from Uttar Pradesh who died in the Sikkim accident.

PUNJAB

Naib Subedar (AIG) Omkar Singh, 35, from Najawal village of Pathankot district, is survived by his wife Sapna, a 3-year-old son, father Thakur Raghbir Singh, mother Saroj Bala and three sisters. His father is a farmer.

WEST BENGAL

Lance Havildar Gopinath Makur, 39, from Bhaluka village in Bankura, is survived by his parents, wife Mallika Makur and an 11-year-old son. “Yesterday (Friday), the Army called and said that Gopinath Makur has died. They didn't say anything else after that. I couldn't say anything else either,” Mallika said. According to family members, Makur joined the Army in 2001, and had intended to take voluntary retirement last year, but the plan was foiled by the Covid-19 pandemic. He was also building a house in Bankura city, and its construction was in final stage.

BIHAR

Naib Subedar Chandan Kumar Mishra from Khagaria and Naik Pramod Singh from Ara also died in the accident.

— **ENS INPUTS FROM THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DEHRADUN, LUCKNOW, LUDHIANA, KOLKATA**

VIDEOCON LOAN CASE

Chanda Kochhar, husband sent to CBI custody till December 26

SADAF MODAK

MUMBAI, DECEMBER 24

FORMER ICICI Bank MD and CEO Chanda Kochhar and husband Deepak Kochhar, arrested by the CBI in the Videocon loan case on Friday, were sent to the central agency's custody till December 26 on Saturday by a holiday court.

The agency sought the couple's custody for three days on the ground that an additional charge has been added following their probe into the case filed in 2019. Section 409 (criminal breach of trust), which attracts a maximum punishment of life imprisonment, has been invoked in the case.

The CBI claimed that the couple was arrested as they had not cooperated with the probe.

Deepak was arrested last year by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in a connected case and was out on bail.

The CBI claimed that in 2009, a sanctioning committee headed by Kochhar, had sanctioned a rupee term loan of Rs 300 CRORE to Videocon International Electronics Limited in contravention of rules and policies of the bank. It alleged that it was part of a criminal conspiracy with the co-accused by abusing her official position.

The agency alleged that a day after the loan was disbursed, the MD of Videocon Group, Venugopal Dhoot, transferred Rs 64 crore to a company managed by Chanda Kochhar's husband Deepak.

The agency, through its prosecutors A Limosin and PKB Galkwad, said that between 2009 and 2011, ICICI Bank sanctioned rupee term loan of Rs 1,875 crore to six companies of Videocon Group. It claimed that of these six loans, Kochhar was on the committee on two loans, including



Former ICICI Bank MD and CEO Chanda Kochhar and husband Deepak Kochhar in Mumbai on Saturday.

Ganesh Shirsekar

one of Rs 300 crore. The CBI alleged that Rs 64 crore from this was for her own use as an investment in her husband's company by Videocon.

“Being a public servant, she was entrusted with the bank funds for which she was liable to discharge such trust in accordance with the guidelines issued by the ICICI Bank,” the CBI said. It added that a flat valued at Rs 5.25 crore in February 1996 was transferred to the family trust of Kochhar for only Rs 11 lakh in 2016.

Lawyer Amit Desai, appearing for the Kochhars, said they were not arrested for so many years and the agency had also not made allegations that they had at any point hampered the probe. He added that all documents were submitted to the ED.

Holiday Special CBI Judge S M Menjoge said that the offence was serious in nature and directed the two to be sent into CBI's custody till Monday.

FULL REPORT ON
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RAJASTHAN

Teachers recruitment examination cancelled after paper leak, 44 held

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JAIPUR, DECEMBER 24

THE GENERAL knowledge test for teachers recruitment in Rajasthan was cancelled on Saturday after the question paper was allegedly leaked just hours before the commencement of the exam. Police said 44 people were arrested.

The paper leak gang had allegedly taken Rs 10 lakh from each candidate for illegally providing them the questionnaire for the recruitment test conducted by the Rajasthan Public Service Commission (RPSC), police said, adding the arrested included the alleged mastermind of the scam and 37 students.

The examination will be re-conducted on January 29, officials said. In the evening, a new date for this paper was released by the RPSC.

“Today, on December 24, from 9 to 11 am, the general knowledge test for teacher recruitment has been cancelled as a precaution so that no injustice

is done to the hardworking youths,” Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot tweeted.

The CM asserted that the government had enacted a strict law for transparency in recruitment examinations even as the opposition BJP attacked the Congress government, claiming it was the ninth incident of paper leak, and demanded strict action against the culprits.

Police said 37 students and seven “experts” were held in Udaipur district. The alleged “mastermind” of the paper leak, Suresh Vishnoi, a resident of Jodhpur, was among those arrested.

Udaipur Superintendent of Police Vikas Sharma said preliminary investigation revealed that the mastermind had taken Rs 10 lakh to make the paper available to them. More arrests are expected in the matter, the SP said.

Leader of Opposition in Assembly Gulab Chand Kataria said the incident is a matter of shame for the government and questioned how “the network that leaks papers for money” is able to operate in the state.



CHRISTMAS EVE: An illuminated St Patrick's Cathedral, in Pune on Saturday. Pavan Khengre

HC tells law firm to pay Rs 5,000 for disclosing rape victim name in petition

OMKAR GOKHALE

MUMBAI, DECEMBER 24

THE BOMBAY High Court recently observed that despite repeatedly telling advocates to not reveal the name of a rape victim, which was a punishable offence that can attract two years of imprisonment, the name of the woman was disclosed in a petition.

Justice Revati Mohite-Dere and Justice Prithviraj K Chavan made the observation on Thursday while hearing an accused's plea seeking to quash the FIR registered against him by the Pune Police under sections including 376 (rape).

Advocate Zaid Anwar Qureshi instructed by law firm Huyalkar & Associates that is representing the petitioner, sought leave to amend the plea

to remove the woman's name wherever it appeared in the petition, which the court allowed.

However, the HC noted that despite repeated reminders that disclosing the name of a rape victim is an offence under Section 228A of the IPC, the victim's name was disclosed in the petition. It imposed a fine of Rs 5,000 on the law firm that had drafted the petition disclosing the name.

In Telangana Cong feud, high command backs state chief

SREENIVAS JANYALA

HYDERABAD, DECEMBER 24

FORMER MADHYA Pradesh Chief Minister Digvijaya Singh's two-day visit to Hyderabad to mediate between squabbling Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) leaders has resulted in more questions than answers.

Singh, an All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary, made it clear that TPCC chief A Revanth Reddy had the high command's full backing and would continue to lead the party in Telangana, leaving the

anti-Revanth camp high and dry.

Several senior leaders who are upset with Revanth Reddy and his alleged authoritative style of functioning were seeking his ouster. Singh spent Thursday and Friday mediating between the Revanth Reddy camp and senior leaders upset with the state unit president over appointments to TPCC posts. Senior leaders such as former TPCC chief N Uttam Kumar Reddy, working president K Jagga Reddy, V Hanumanth Rao, and Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka have accused Revanth Reddy of allocating the posts to his loyalists who



Digvijaya Singh made efforts to mediate

joined the Congress from other political parties, and ignoring loyal Congressmen.

Singh told the state Congress leaders not air their grievances in public and keep them within the party. “Nothing was resolved, if at all that was the purpose of the exercise,” said a leader who did not want to be named.

“The feeling among many

Congress leaders is that newcomers who joined the party recently are getting important posts while old loyalists are being sidelined. This was not addressed,” one leader said.

Singh met more than 30-35 senior leaders apart from dozens of junior leaders and noted their grievances, suggestions, and observations about the party. “He asked us to sort out our differences by talking with each other. All of us feel that we should stay united and take advantage of the strong anti-incumbency against the BRS government and strive to bring the Congress to power

in Telangana. We discussed several suggestions and I think in the coming days we will all come together and work unitedly,” said senior leader K Jana Reddy.

Digvijaya Singh also warned Telangana Congress leaders of strict action if they target those who joined the Congress from the Telugu Desam Party (TDP). Due to the caution, not many are willing to talk to the media but the consensus is that none of the issues that led to the dispute between the two factions were resolved. The issue of “newcomers” getting TPCC posts was put aside, according to party insiders.

उ०प्र० यावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लि० निविदा तिथि विस्तार सूचना इस कार्यालय की निविदा संख्या टी०- 75/22-23 के खुलने की तिथि अपरिहार्य कारणों से दिनांक 29.12.2022 तक बढ़ायी जाती है। शेष शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी। कृपया विस्तृत जानकारी के सम्बन्ध में कृपया www.etender.up.nic.in पर लॉग आन करें। अधीक्षण अभियंता, विद्युत परामर्श सण्डल, 130-डी विक्टोरिया पार्क, मेरठ। “राष्ट्रहित में ऊर्जा बचाव” पत्रांक /N0-3236/ वि०ण०न०/ ETC /मेरठ /MI/TENDER दिनांक: 24.12.2022



New Delhi



TAMIL NADU
8 Sabarimala pilgrims killed in road accident

Therri: At least eight people returning from Sabarimala were killed and two others injured after the vehicle they were travelling in plunged into a gorge, a senior official said on Saturday. Chief Ministers of Tamil Nadu and Kerala, M K Stalin and Pinarayi Vijayan, respectively, condoled the deaths. The TN CM announced an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh each to the next of kin of the victims and Rs 50,000 each to the two injured persons. The accident occurred late on Friday, District Collector K V Muralidharan said. The mishap is suspected to have taken place after the driver lost control of the vehicle while maneuvering a bend in the hilly route. While seven people died on the spot, one succumbed to injuries en route to the hospital, official added. **PTI**

MAHARASHTRA
2 held for killing father, burning body in factory

Pune: The Pimpri-Chinchwad Police have arrested two brothers — Sujit Bansode (21) and Abhijit Bansode (18)—for murdering their businessman father Dhananjay Bansode (47) and burning his body in the klin of a factory he owned. Bansode ran a business of food products and fried snacks. His family members had approached police on December 19 and filed a missing report, saying he had been missing since December 15. During investigation, police found that Bansode was having an affair with a woman from Nagpur he had met on social media. His wife and children got to know about it and he often got into arguments with them over the affair, said police. Bansode even told the woman in Nagpur that his children would try to kill him, according to police. Based on the leads, police detained his children and they admitted to killing him **ENS**

MUMBAI
3 held, 3 minors detained for teen's gangrape

Mumbai: Three men were arrested and three minor boys detained by the Mumbai Police on Friday after a 15-year-old girl alleged she was gangraped on Thursday. The police said that the accused are known to the girl, who in her complaint to the police, has said that she was taken to one-plus-one structure and raped by two persons. "While two persons raped her, the other four abetted the crime," said police. **ENS**

WEST BENGAL
BJP councillor questioned in stampede case

Kolkata: The police on Saturday questioned BJP councillor Chaitali Tiwari for nearly two hours in connection with the December 14 stampede in Asansol during a blanket distribution programme that led to the death of three persons. BJP leader and Chaitali's husband Jitendra Tiwari, however, alleged that the police are "mentally harassing" his wife in the name of questioning her. "The police are doing this to keep the Trinamool Congress leadership in good humour. The Calcutta High Court had said that only the investigating officer would question her. But today seven officers came to my house to question her. This shouldn't have happened. My wife has taken ill after the interrogation," the BJP leader said. **ENS**

10 MONTHS AFTER DEATH

Afghan Hindu family in Germany await visa to immerse son's ashes in Ganga

Not getting visa to India 'after Taliban return to Kabul', say hundreds of Afghan Hindus, Sikhs living in Germany; being cleared after verification: MHA officials

DIVYAGOPAL GOPAL
LUDHIANA, DECEMBER 24

NAVEEN KAKKAR and wife Sheela fled Afghanistan with their son, Nishant, a special child, nearly three decades ago as the first Taliban regime was ready to take control of Kabul.

Three decades on, with the Taliban back in Kabul, the religious fundamentalist group seems to be controlling their fate again — the couple's visa applications to India to immerse Nishant's ashes in the Ganga are stuck since September "despite submitting all required documents", ostensibly due to stringent checks required after the Taliban regime's return in 2021.

Nishant, 32, died of a brain attack in February, and the Kakkars, Hindus from Afghanistan who still hold Afghan passports, are awaiting a nod from the Indian Embassy to make the trip to Haridwar and let their son's "soul to rest in peace".

An employee at McDonald's in Frankfurt, Kakkar is not a lone case. Many among nearly 3,000 Afghan Sikh and Hindu families settled in Germany — many still with Afghan passports — have failed over the months to get a visa, with the Indian Embassy either "rejecting" applications "without giving a reason" or "sitting over them".

Jagant Ghedezi, president, Afghan Hindu Cultural Association, Germany, said at least a hundred visa applications of Afghan Sikhs and Hindus are pending, of which at least 20 are from families who want to go India for "asthi visarjan (immersing ashes) in the Ganga". "Five more people have died here in the last two weeks," he added.

"Off the record, we were told that there was security concern for people with Afghan passports...no reason for visa denial has been given to us officially," Ghedezi said. Arindam Bagchi, spokesperson, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said visas are taken care of by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

An MHA spokesperson said there is no such policy to deny visas to Afghan passport holders but "visa issuing process takes time."

Another MHA official said: "Visas applications from Afghan



Naveen Kakkar and wife Sheela, who fled Afghanistan three decades ago, with picture of son Nishant. Express

nationals have been held due to security reasons since the Taliban came to power. The backlog is being cleared after due verification."

Kakkar told The Sunday Express over the phone from Frankfurt: "My son never walked on his own feet for life. At least he deserves final peace for his soul. We request Prime Minister Narendra Modi-ji to please issue our visas so that we can immerse the ashes of our son at Haridwar..."

An Afghan Sikh community leader, requesting anonymity, said Afghan Sikhs and Hindus with Afghan passports living in countries such as Sweden, the UK and the UAE, the UK are also being denied visas to India since the regime change in Kabul. "Their valid visas were also declared invalid and fresh ones are not being issued despite emergencies such as deaths in family or medical treatment," he said.

Kakkar fled Kabul nearly three decades ago as the situation in Afghanistan deteriorated for Hindu and Sikh minorities. Leaving behind his flourishing currency exchange business, Kakkar said he started from scratch in his new home.

From completing death ritu-

als to visiting families, pilgrimage to Haridwar and Golden Temple to getting treatment for health issues, Afghan Hindus and Sikhs in Germany have been visiting India without any hindrance for the last many decades but "things suddenly changed" after the Taliban takeover of Kabul last year, they said. They said their visas are being rejected by India "without specifying any reason", and despite Modi's promise to "help persecuted minorities from Pakistan and Afghanistan".

For families like Kakkar's, the situation is grave. "We cannot keep the ashes here after cremation for long as per German rules," he said. "We have to pay them a certain amount if ashes have to be kept beyond a year. I have only two months left to keep my son's ashes at the local crematorium. Modi-ji said he will help Hindus and Sikhs persecuted in Islamic countries... Then we are being denied visas? Special flights went from India to rescue Afghan Sikhs and Hindus from Kabul after the Taliban came. Why can't we come to India to give peace to our son's soul?"

Bansi Lal Juneja (67) and his wife Pamila Devi (60), an Afghan


Hindu couple living in Cologne, Germany, have received a visa rejection a year after their application. Juneja, who suffers from a liver ailment, wanted to undergo Ayurveda treatment in India, as also visit relatives in Delhi.

Their daughter-in-law, Madhu Juneja, said: "My in-laws still hold Afghan passports. But never before did we face an issue getting a visa for India. After the Taliban takeover, it seems they (Indian authorities) are rejecting applications of Afghan passport-holders without doing any background check, or verification or purpose of visit. Despite being Hindu immigrants from Afghanistan, they are now being denied visas. My father-in-law's treatment is going on in Germany but it is proving ineffective, so we wanted to start Ayurvedic treatment in India."

Madhu said they had applied for visas in December 2021, and received a reply after a year, stating that the application was rejected. "But no reason has been specified for the rejection," she added.

Gardezi told The Sunday Express: "No time-line is being given. They are simply denying visas to Hindus and Sikhs because they hold Afghan passports. We have been visiting India for years to complete death rituals, weddings, visiting families, pilgrimage to Haridwar, etc. There was no problem. Suddenly, we cannot enter India just because we have Afghan passports..."

In their latest letter to Modi, the Council wrote: "We introduce ourselves as Afghan Hindus who migrated from Afghanistan to different parts of the world & European Countries in the last two (or) three decades. In Germany, most of us are now well settled...but few families and (their) aged parents still have asylum status. They are availing all benefits and support from the German government, except to travel abroad they have a Travel Document and Afghan passport... Being Hindus, we wish to visit Hindu pilgrimage sites in India. We also have to visit Haridwar to perform the last rituals of the deceased family members. In this connection, we are facing problems in getting a visa for India... Please help us in getting the necessary visa for those who want to perform the last rites..."




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2	Tender No. 05/SE(MM)/2022-23	Supply of Stock material for repair/manufacturing of 25kVA to 100kVADistribution Transformer	150.00 Lacs	1.22 Lacs	5,900.00	11/01/2023 upto 17:00 Hrs.	12/01/2023 at 16:30 Hrs.

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Iqbal's poem recital: Sacked Shiksha Mitra arrested in Bareilly

ASADREHMAN
LUCKNOW, DECEMBER 24

A SHIKSHA Mitra who along with a school principal was booked for allegedly making students recite Muhammed Iqbal's 'Lab Pe Aati Hai Dua' poem during the morning assembly was arrested and sacked by the Uttar Pradesh education department on Friday in Bareilly.

On Wednesday, an FIR against the school principal Nahid Siddiqui and Shiksha Mitra Wazeeruddin was registered at Fareedpur police station in Bareilly on a complaint lodged by a local Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) functionary, Sompal Singh Rathore, who alleged that a "religious prayer" was recited at the government school in a bid to convert the students.

A purported video of the students reciting Muhammad Iqbal's 'Lab Pe Aati Hai Dua' poem during the morning assembly also went viral on social media. Wazeeruddin has been sacked by the education department with officials saying that he was found to be "guilty" of getting the students to recite the prayer which was not prescribed for government schools. The department had also suspended Siddiqui.

Fareedpur Station House Officer Dayashankar told The

Indian Express, "Wazeeruddin was arrested on Friday and has been sent to judicial custody. Principal Nahid Siddiqui was on leave when the said incident happened. And, based on the investigation, further action will be taken against her."

"Lab Pe Aati Hai Dua" was penned in 1902 by Muhammad Iqbal, also known as Allama Iqbal who wrote *Saare Jahaan Se Achcha* song.

Bareilly Basic Shiksha Adhikari Vinay Kumar said Wazeeruddin has been sacked from his position of a shiksha mitra. "He has been sacked by the department. He was found to be guilty in the probe. It was found that he was guilty of getting a different prayer sung (during morning assembly)," said Kumar.

In his complaint to the police, the VHP functionary had alleged, "...teachers Nahid Siddiqui and Wazeeruddin were making the students recite a prayer as per Muslim method with an intention to hurt sentiments of the Hindus... This is being done by the two teachers to attract students towards Islam..."

The case against Siddiqui and Wazeeruddin was lodged under IPC sections 153 (wantonly giving provocation with intent to cause riot) and 298 (uttering, words with deliberate intent to wound the religious feelings).

Maharashtra: BJP MLA injured after car falls into 50-ft-deep ditch

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PUNE, DECEMBER 24

BJP MLA from Maan Assembly constituency, Jaykumar Gore, sustained minor injuries in a car accident in the early hours of Saturday. The car Gore was traveling in skidded off a bridge and fell into a 50-foot-deep ditch on the Pune-Pandharpur Highway near Phaltan.

Gore sustained injuries on his chest and was hospitalised. His condition is stable, said doctors.

"The car of MLA Jaykumar Gore (Bhau) met with an accident near Faltan. He is safe and secure. The other occupants of the vehicle also sustained some minor injuries but they are doing okay," the MLA's office said in a statement.

A family member of the MLA said, "He travelled to Pune from Nagpur by air with some other MLAs and then was on his way home in Dahivadi (in Phaltan taluka of Satara) with his aides. The vehicle picked him up at the Pune airport. On the way to Dahivadi, the driver lost control of the vehicle, which broke through the bridge barrier and fell into the ditch. Bhau managed to come out of the vehicle on his own...he also pulled the others out."

Gore, a three-time MLA, joined BJP in September 2019 ahead of the Assembly polls.



State Bank of India
Stressed Assets Recovery Branch
2nd Floor, Patna Main Branch Building, West Gandhi Maidan, Patna - 800001
Ph. No. (Office) : 0612-2219043, 2219385, Fax : 0612-2219385, E-mail : sbi.05176@sbi.co.in


POSSESSION NOTICE
[Under Rule 8(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002]
(For Immovable Property)
Notice is hereby given under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, a demand notice was issued on the dates mentioned against each account and stated hereinafter calling upon them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of said notice.
The Borrower/ Guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower / Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of power conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 9 of the said Act on the dates mentioned against each account.
The Borrower/ Guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the STATE BANK OF INDIA for an amount and interest thereon.
The borrower/s/ Guarantor's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

Name and Address of the Borrower	Description of the Property mortgaged / charged	Name of the Guarantors /Owner of the property etc.	Outstanding amount (as per u/s 13 (2))	Date of Demand Notice /Date of Possession
M/s Ganpati Trading, Prop: Ravindra Kumar Mehta, S/o Sri Bhaglu Prasad Mehta, At- Satsang Bhawan, Shanti Mandir Tola, Gulabghat, Dist-Purnea (Bihar) Pin-854326	All that part and parcel of the property in the name of Sri Ravindra Kumar Mehta S/o Sri Bhaglu Prasad Mehta consisting of Sale Deed No-9288 dated 11.07.2009, Mauza-Abdullah Nagar (Mohallah-Shani Mandir), Pargana-Haweli, Thana and sub registry office-Sadar, District-Purnea, Thana No-100/1	Ravindra Kumar Mehta, S/o Sri Bhaglu Prasad Mehta	Rs. 25,07,218/- as on 07.12.2021 plus accrued interest, Charges, other miscellaneous expenses etc.	09.12.2021 22.12.2022

Tauzi No-8/5, Ward No-21/28/32, Town Survey Khata No-736, Town Survey Khesra No -1423, Area-1 Kattha 16 Dhur (3 Decimal 7.5 Kar), Anchal Office-Purnea Purb. **Boundary: North-** Rinki Devi, **South-** Ganesh Lal Bishwas & Others, **East-** Devendra Singh & Rasla, **West-** Subodh Kumar Sah, Mohan Lal Bishwas & Bijay Chaudhary.

Date : 22.12.2022
Place : Purnea

(Authorized Officer)
State Bank of India, SARB, Patna



SIGNATURE GLOBAL Prime
SECTOR - 63A, GURUGRAM

SIGNATURE GLOBAL PRIME ADDITIONAL PHASE AFFORDABLE GROUP HOUSING

List of application numbers of successful applicants in the draw of flats in Signature Global Prime Additional Phase, Residential Apartments, Sector-63A, Gurugram held on Friday, 23rd of December 2022, at The Pilazio Hotel, Plot No. 292-296, Sector - 29, HUDA City Centre, Gurugram, Haryana.

2BHK TYPE - I (573.54 Sq.Ft.) (53.29 Sq.Mtr.)	2BHK TYPE - 2 (590.66 Sq.Ft.) (54.88 Sq.Mtr.)
64221 65029 65387 65958 66371 67275 67938	64139 64557 65720 66350 67419 67802 68469
64428 65329 65646 66184 66452 67364	64230 65095 65767 66410 67646 67913
64509 65376 65725 66254 66595 67501	64312 65308 66016 66964 67737 68275
65003 65384 65873 66325 67274 67918	64496 65666 66131 67237 67783 68382

2BHK TYPE - I (573.54 Sq.Ft.) (53.29 Sq.Mtr.) WAITING LIST	2BHK TYPE - 2 (590.66 Sq.Ft.) (54.88 Sq.Mtr.) WAITING LIST
1. 67202 3. 66500 5. 67285 2. 64945 4. 64653 6. 67899	1. 67413 3. 67777 5. 66977 2. 66041 4. 68630 6. 66921

2BHK TYPE - 3 (578.13 Sq.Ft.) (53.71 Sq.Mtr.)	2BHK TYPE - 4 (577.41 Sq.Ft.) (53.65 Sq.Mtr.)
64086 65199 66155 66456 66644 67279 67629	64214 65315 66039 66313 66970 67132 68551
64489 65498 66259 66459 66951 67325 68188	64650 65602 66074 66580 66994 67162
65100 65573 66454 66468 67198 67403 68574	64682 65708 66235 66704 67080 67192

2BHK TYPE - 3 (578.13 Sq.Ft.) (53.71 Sq.Mtr.) WAITING LIST	2BHK TYPE - 4 (577.41 Sq.Ft.) (53.65 Sq.Mtr.) WAITING LIST
1. 67330 3. 64468 5. 65243 2. 65415 4. 66487	1. 65945 3. 68359 5. 67784 2. 64917 4. 66943 6. 66246

3BHK TYPE - 5 (645.46 Sq.Ft.) (59.97 Sq.Mtr.) GENERAL CATEGORY (WAITING LIST)	3BHK TYPE - 5 (645.46 Sq.Ft.) (59.97 Sq.Mtr.) GENERAL CATEGORY
1. 66528 2. 66838	65931 66844

1sq.mt. = 10.7639 sq.ft.

Disclaimer:
• The draw of flats of Signature Global Prime Additional Phase was held under the supervision of DTCP officials as per the guidelines laid down in Affordable Housing Policy • Confirmed Allotment list is in ascending order (Top to bottom)
For more details visit www.signatureglobal.in where the list of successful applicants with names and flat nos. is available.

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Email: customercare@signatureglobal.in, Ph.: 0124-4908200, 9311144624

Across
THE AISLE



PCHIDAMBARAM

Website: pchidambaram.in
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Since you want Rs 500 crore for Defence capital expenditure, will you please tell us if China has conceded anything on Hot Springs; if China has agreed to disengage in the Depsang plains and the Demchok junction; if China has built and is building infrastructure like roads, bridges, communications, helipads and settlements and is amassing troops and weaponry along the LAC...

Crucial questions, cautious answers

IN AN unusual turn of events last week, the duration of the sessions of both Houses of Parliament was abruptly curtailed and both Houses were adjourned on December 23, 2022. It seemed that the government was keener than the Opposition to end the sessions early.

Before Rajya Sabha (RS) was adjourned, there was — again unusually — a civil discussion on the Supplementary Demands for Grants for fiscal 2022-23 and the Appropriation Bill to authorize the expenditure of Rs 3,25,756 crore (additional cash outgo) and Rs 1,10,180 crore (where expenditure will be matched by savings). The very large amount included a small sum of Rs 500 crore for Defence capital expenditure for construction of strategic and border roads in the Northern and Eastern states of the country.

I opened the debate. I did not want it to be another fruitless debate where there are questions from the Opposition and no answers from the government. I flagged past experience and hoped it would be different this time.

It was indeed different. There were questions and, to my pleasant surprise, there were answers — some ambiguous, some cautious and some non-answers. The questions and answers, closely analyzed, will bear out the apprehension expressed by former RBI Governor, Dr Raghuram Rajan, that growth in 2022-

23 will be moderate and the economy will face heavy weather in 2023-24.

Now, to my questions and the Hon'ble Finance Minister's (FM) answers:

1. Since the Budget documents project a nominal growth rate of GDP of 11.1 per cent in 2022-23, what will be the inflation rate and what will be the real GDP growth rate? (It is a thumb rule that inflation rate + real growth rate = nominal growth rate).

There was no direct answer. No break up was given. To be fair, to my second question, the FM hinted that the nominal growth rate may be higher but gave no number or the break up of that number. It was an unsatisfactory answer.

2. How will the government raise the additional sum of Rs 3,25,756 crore?

(a) Government already has the money because it has collected more revenues than the budget estimates;

(b) Government will borrow more;

(c) Government expects the nominal growth rate to be more than 11.1 per cent and hence, even if it borrows more and spends more, it will meet the target of fiscal deficit of 6.4 per cent;

(d) None of the above.

The FM re-affirmed her resolve that the fiscal deficit (FD) target of 6.4 per cent will not be breached. She also hinted that tax collections, at this point of time, were

higher than the Budget estimates. Translated into simple English, the government hopes that buoyant revenues will yield the additional sum of Rs 3,25,756 crore. That hope and the implied higher nominal growth rate of GDP will put the government in a sweet spot. It was a cautious answer that leaves wiggle room in case growth is slower in the third and fourth quarters of 2022-23.

3. In 2013-14, corporate tax revenues amounted to 34 per cent of Gross Tax Revenue. In 2022-23, corporate tax revenues, as budgeted, will amount to only 26 per cent of GTR. Despite a bonanza of 8 per cent (roughly, Rs 2,50,000 crore), why is the private corporate sector not making investments?

The FM listed figures of investment (mostly promised, e.g., under the PLI scheme rolled out for 14 sectors) but did not applaud the private corporate sector. Nor did the FM chide them as she did when she addressed the Apex Chambers. It was clear that she was in a wait-and-watch mood. Thanks to slowing demand, inflation, rising interest rates, unutilised capacity and global uncertainties, the private sector is in a wait-and-watch mode. With both waiting and watching, it will be a year of discontent on the investment front.

4. Among the four engines of growth, apart from government expenditure, which are the promising engines?

The FM was cautious on private investment. She did not pick private consumption. She expressed a hope about exports, but we know that the trade deficit is soaring. It was a non-answer.

5. Real GDP doubled in 12 years between 1991-92 and 2003-04. It doubled again in 10 years by 2013-14. Will your government double the real GDP at the end of 10 years of your rule?

The Finance Minister was stumped. She could not say yes, she was reluctant to say no. My assessment is that the government will fall far short of the target of Rs 200 lakh crore.

6. Since you want Rs 500 crore for Defence capital expenditure, will you please tell us if China has conceded anything on Hot Springs; if China has agreed to disengage in the Depsang plains and the Demchok junction; if China has built and is building massive infrastructure like roads, bridges, communications, helipads and settlements and is amassing troops and weaponry along the LAC; does creating a buffer zone mean that Indian troops can no longer patrol in that area; and did PM Modi raise the issues with President Xi at Bali?

Since China is an unmentionable word, the FM joined the conspiracy of silence.

That, dear reader, is the state of the economy, the situation on the India-China border and the value added by a discussion in Parliament.

Fifth
COLUMN

TAVLEEN SINGH

Twitter: @tavleen_singh



A very partisan virus

IT HAPPENS that I was at the Delhi airport waiting to catch a flight to Jodhpur when the health minister set off his weird COVID alarm last week. Weird because instead of a serious warning to the general populace, he chose to write a letter to Rahul Gandhi to warn him that if COVID protocols were not followed, the Bharat Jodo Yatra would be stopped. Weird also because this new variant seems to be both partisan and political, or it would have surely shown up when the Prime Minister and his senior ministers were addressing vast rallies in Gujarat and Himachal days ago. If this variant is truly a matter of concern, should it not have made its presence felt at those election rallies where not a single political leader or anyone in the audience was masked?

Why did it choose to manifest itself only when the dust of the elections had settled, and the only political show left in town was the Bharat Jodo Yatra? The health minister was not the only one who created alarm and panic. Within hours of his warning, the Prime Minister appeared in Parliament masked and somber. And, once more on TV appeared those members of his COVID task force that plunged us into the Delta disaster in the summer of 2021 because they forgot to order sufficient supplies of vaccinations, oxygen, and medications. It is important to remember that none of them were punished for their criminal negligence.

Back now to the present crisis. On Thursday, the Prime Minister called a crisis meeting at which everyone was masked. Luckily for us, the conclusion that emerged from this meeting was that there was no reason for panic, but by then the stock market had already panicked and every news channel was leading with the COVID story. None of this was necessary. What is happening in China has nothing to do with India. The Chinese government's Zero-Covid policy has been such a catastrophe that despite the totalitarian nature of that regime, thousands of protesters have taken to the streets to demand that Zero-Covid be scrapped. When they were released from the confinement of their homes, many, many people got sick because of being unvaccinated or vaccinated with Chinese vaccines that have proved utterly useless.

The question is why what happens in China should suddenly have anything to do with us except when our old foe attacks our borders? There is no clear answer yet, and we must hope that the Prime Minister calms the panic down in the next few days because we are in the middle of our first real tourist season in three years. On my flight to Jodhpur were many, many foreign visitors who are more than welcome in this city, whose economy is so dependent on tourism. I have been coming to Jodhpur since the seventies when it was a shabby little town and have watched it grow into a delightful, flourishing city and all because of tourism. The first prime minister to acknowledge that tourism is a vital pillar of the economy was Narendra Modi, which makes it so very puzzling that he should have allowed his health minister to cause such hysteria last week.

The real importance of tourism is that it affects so many different things. Old monuments, forts, palaces, and temples that were allowed in those socialist decades to crumble came back to life once tourists started arriving from foreign lands. And, because tourists only go to places that offer clean water, reliable electricity, good roads, and the Internet, these basic things get built and bring enormous benefit to local communities. In socialist times when tourism was disdained as a frivolity, most Indians were forced to live without these basic needs of our times.

Then along came the pandemic and in the three years in which travelling anywhere became almost impossible, the tourism industry was crippled. Many small hotels and restaurants folded under the pressures the pandemic brought, which makes it essential that this first real tourist season in three years should not be brought to an abrupt end by manufacturing frenzy over COVID. Now that hysteria has been kick-started, many so-called 'experts' have come forward to declare that COVID has not gone away. True, and it is not going to go away either. But it needs to be treated now as just another severe flu.

In New York, where I was last month, there are more cases of COVID than in India, but people are going to theatres, museums, shops and restaurants, and the only sign that the virus is still with us are the testing booths that have been set up around every corner. Everyone is advised to be vaccinated and boosted and to get tested when in doubt, but there is no sign of the insane panic we saw in India last week.

The health minister made his announcement with a recklessness not expected from a high official of the Government of India. And he infused it with a weirdness that remains a mystery. If the Congress sees it as a plot to end the Bharat Jodo Yatra before it gets to Delhi, who can blame them. For more than a hundred days, Rahul Gandhi has walked across the country with crowds following in his wake and without anyone noticing that he is violating COVID protocols. What suddenly changed last week?

Diversity on campus: Why Ed Blum is wrong

Dalitality

MUSKAAN ARSHAD

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I WAS racialized at 5. I distinctly remember not being touched by a fellow student — being perceived as dirty and unclean because of my brown skin. I was often called slurs and attacked for merely existing. In a very homogeneously White, small town in Arkansas, it felt like diversity was inherently unpleasant. I quite literally attempted to whitewash myself, using lightening creams and pale foundation shades. Internalized racism defined my experiences with my identity throughout my childhood. It even went so far that I refused to be friends with other South Asian people so as not to be a part of "those people", my people.

That changed when I came to Harvard. Coming to a place that valued diversity in the student body made me feel accepted in a way I had never experienced. The new friends I had made wanted to learn about my culture — the music, and festivals.

It was this sort of radical acceptance that an embrace of diversity brought about. I also had the opportunity to interact with people who came from very different backgrounds from mine and celebrated and learned with them. I went from feeling the need to assimilate and feeling shame in my brownness and Asian American identity to being accepted and loved for who I was. It's absolutely frightening that this sort of experience may not remain the same.

Diversity in higher education is under attack, and it's not based on some morally righteous cause for racial justice as Ed Blum, a leader of an anti-affirmative action group, Students for Fair Admissions, would want people to think. I am one of the student leads and founders of the affirmative action coalition, a group of student organizations at Harvard advocating for the continued existence of affirmative action policy at our University and around the nation. Through our work — organizing events throughout the country and holding a large rally in Washington D.C. — we were able to spread a clear and direct message that we students, representing various diverse racial and ethnic communities, won't be driven apart.

I am fighting for this issue because I believe that SFFA is basing this case on a completely false narrative, weaponizing Asian American identity and I, a South Asian woman, refused to be used as a pawn in this

case for Ed Blum's white supremacist agenda.

He is trying to divide Asian Americans from other Black and Brown communities in America by perpetuating complete falsehoods about affirmative action. There is absolutely no evidence that Harvard discriminates against Asian Americans in the admissions process — proven multiple times in the lower courts through extensive data collection and analysis of countless admissions files. The class of 2026 at Harvard is 27.6 per cent Asian American, while Asians only make up 6.2% of the United States population as a whole. The truth is that Asian Americans, if anything, benefit from affirmative action, as I believe I did. I got in because of affirmative action because my race is essential to my identity, and my story cannot be told without it.

The United States has a storied history with race. Although we are 200+ years past the times when slavery of African American people was legal, that horrific system has simply been reformulated into equally problematic institutions. Near Harvard itself, the average life expectancy for some Black-majority areas of Boston is decades less than that of White-majority areas, and it's because of the continuous nature of segregation and inequities in access to health care in the region. The same forces of White supremacy that hold Black people from social mobility are the same factors that make casual racism and discrimination against South Asian people familiar.

SFFA also utilizes the "model minority myth", stereotyping all Asian Americans as homogeneously successful and wealthy — that they are inherently more deserving than any other ethnic group to get into colleges like Harvard. Their use of this misconception also homogenizes Indian Americans. It's not a leap to assume the same will occur with lowered-caste Indians in the admissions process as they as well don't fall into this homogenous and one-note stereotype.

Race is a determinant of our lived experiences. We cannot have a truly meritocratic society if the opportunity for higher education isn't an equitable process that works to redress past and present inequalities. As NAACP Legal Defence Fund said in the amicus brief that represents the Harvard student organizations, no racial groups hold a monopoly on talent or intelligence, but certain students hold a monopoly on an opportunity.

The writer is a sophomore at Harvard University majoring in History Suraj Yengde, author of Caste Matters, curates Dalitality.

life &
WORK

MADHAVI DIVAN



IN A recent speech, Justice Hima Kohli of the Supreme Court described the legal profession as an Old Boys' Club. In 2021, for the first time in its 71-year existence, the Supreme Court of India could boast of as many as four women judges. Justice Kohli was one of those four, a small minority from a sanctioned strength of 34 judges. Yet, a score of four out of 34 made history and became cause for celebration. A long-standing convention requires the Supreme Court to represent the country's regional and religious diversity. But the need for more gender diversity has gained vocal attention only in recent times.

The collegium that appoints judges to the higher courts in India rues the shallow pool of eligible women candidates. That is hardly surprising as the legal profession with its long and punishing hours drives out a lot of capable women, particularly those with young families to fend for. Some give up practice altogether, others opt for part-time or more stable options. The system loses out not just on diversity, but the ability and quality that these women could bring to the law and to justice delivery.

The irony is that law colleges across the country abound with aspiring young women, and while many of them show promise in the early years of practice, many drop out along the way. There are several reasons for the high rate of attrition. Taxing hours are hardly conducive to raising a family. The legal profession has been structured by men. Women are relatively newer entrants into this male bastion and have little choice but to conform to the rules set by men.

Indra Nooyi remarked in the context of the corporate world that the career trajectory of a woman collides with her biological clock. The most formative and determinative years of a woman's career are also the best years for raising a family. The system does not lend adequate support to women at a time when they most need it. Women employed in firms may get the benefit of maternity leave, but to establish oneself as an arguing counsel, one needs to be self-employed. A self-employed professional can take time off when she chooses, but no work means no pay. Besides, out of sight means out of mind—the longer you are away, the sooner you will be forgotten by clients, briefing lawyers, and judges.

Young women entering the profession sparkle with excitement and optimism. But disillusionment sets in soon enough.

Let's help women argue – and judge too



At present, the Supreme Court has three women judges: (From left to right) Justice B V Nagarathna, Justice Hima Kohli, Justice Bela M Trivedi

Their education does not prepare them for the hurdles their gender throws up. Some feel forced to choose between a career and a family. The system does not lend itself to making conditions conducive for a woman to balance a successful career in the law with a fulfilling family life should she want one. To enable women to stay the course, workplaces, including the courts, have to offer much more than crèche facilities. The starting point must be an education system that teaches work-life balance, not just to women but to men in equal measure. Child-raising and domestic responsibilities must be meaningfully shared by both men and women and it is imperative then that men must be part of the conversation.

The only time in the year one encounters an all-woman panel is on International Women's Day or during workshops on sexual harassment in the workplace. While delivering a speech on sexual harassment in the workplace recently, to my surprise, I found that the audience comprised almost entirely of women. Any issue that involves the interaction of men and women in the workplace cannot be treated as a woman's problem. It is everybody's problem. Men at all levels have got to be stakeholders in ensuring conducive conditions for women in the workplace.

With or without families, the going can be tough for women. In most courts, a young woman counsel is not a preferred option. Would she be able to stand up to the judge, most often a man? Would she be equal to her louder, more aggressive male opponent? These are questions that very probably pass through the mind of the client. If she passes muster on the 'aggression' quotient, that too may be a dis-

qualification. She may be written off as 'shrill' and off-putting.

Able advocacy is nurtured by opportunities in the early years of practice. The top arguing counsel in the Supreme Court (almost entirely male) enjoy star status, and deservedly so. But their skills have been honed by years of opportunity and experience. If young women are given similar chances, many among them will rise and shine over time. If they foresee long term success, they will gain the confidence to stay the course. But who can be expected to give young women lawyers the opportunity to prove their mettle? Clients and briefing lawyers are not likely to prefer them to argue their cases over men — certainly not without the confidence that they will be received well in court. An encouraging nudge from the bench may go a long way in nurturing opportunities for young women. Diversity on the bench is not likely to translate into reality without diversity at the bar. And diversity at the bar is not just about more women lawyers but many more successful women lawyers.

A young woman advocate once asked me why there was no affirmative action at the bar - why there was no move to ensure the designation of more women as senior advocates. My response was that it is an advocate's perceived ability to deliver that determines whether she will be briefed, not merely her senior gown. Tokenism cannot take things too far. Women require no favours — only an equal playing field. Give young women that chance and watch them dismantle the Old Boys' Club.

The writer is Additional Solicitor General of India

On the
LOOSE

LEHER KALA

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IN THIS season of cheer and merriment, a pub in England has named their house ale Harry's Bitter, one of many scathing responses to Harry and Meghan, the new Netflix documentary on the ongoing, real-life soap opera in the House of Windsor. For the uninitiated, (though one would have to be living on the moon to have missed this story), Prince Harry and his wife renounced their participation in British royal life and moved to America, the distance perhaps fuelling a bravado to criticize their past with impunity. On the show, they held forth on the monarchy, colonialism, toxic journalism, even the practice of curtesying, notching up a total of 81.5 million viewing hours. From a

The urge to spill it all out

financial point of view, hanging out their dirty linen to day has been a fantastic decision for the Duke and Duchess of Sussex; whether this reckless self-disclosure will continue to reap dividends in the years to come is another matter altogether.

We live in an era when brazen self-promotion is wholly acceptable, even considered a worthy aim, in the pursuit of money, power and status. Indeed, the Sussexes have wrested control over their own narrative, ensuring they monetize the perks of stardom on their terms. They're lucky there's an audience for their tawdry family feud — 99 per cent of humanity hold private grievances with their near ones but forget making money off it. With the mad pace of city life, we'd be hard put to find someone to listen to our woes. We nobodies have been denied the opportunity of making a spectacle of

ourselves because no one's interested in our issues — until a decade and a half ago, when the Facebook prompt "what's on your mind?" changed how the world feels about personal revelations, or wearing one's heart on one's sleeve, so to say.

Since then, even "how are you" has become a potentially loaded question that need not necessarily elicit the conventional answer, "I am fine". New-age psychologists encourage authentic honesty over a facade of perfection, so the current crop of 20-somethings, the likely Harry and Meghan supporters, see radical truth-telling as righteously correct, not embarrassingly oversharing. However, some rules of etiquette are timeless and apply to humanity at large, not just royalty. Over a lifetime, success in relationships and careers depends less on brilliance and more on an ability to eschew im-

pulsiveness. Chances are anger will dissipate over time but in this digital age, shooting one's mouth off for all and sundry, has lasting repercussions. Clearly, there are sound reasons why Buckingham Palace follows the policy of never complain, never explain.

Winds change and new alliances form in all our lives; the wisest course is to never put oneself in a position from where withdrawal becomes impossible. Whatever they may say, the reality is people make judgements based on what you put out in the public domain. It's all very well to claim one doesn't care what people think; bosses care, partners care. Accusations made on film, like in Harry & Meghan, can finish an already fragile sibling bond; for what, momentary satisfaction at making someone squirm?

For an Indian viewer, especially, Meghan's issues come across as puzzlingly

superficial. Tactless relatives murmuring words like *saavla* or *gora* (with a bright smile) to describe our children's skin colour is par for the course; off-putting, sure, but you shrug it off philosophically and move on. If one is claiming to be tortured by relatives on Netflix, it needs to be about something worse than snarky comments. Nor does it help ring true that someone so familiar with the limelight could be driven to suicidal despair by negative headlines.

What do we commoners make of this? It's somewhat comforting that peoples' problems are largely the same. There's no avoiding conflict, and maintaining relationships is perpetually exhausting and challenging. Most importantly, you can marry a Prince but you can't count on a fairytale ending.

The writer is director, Hutkay Films

Ink & No Fire

With the fifth edition of the Kochi Biennale finally opening on December 23 after an unprecedented postponement, VANDANA KALRA on the chaotic run-up to the event and why, despite all the turmoil, it's important that the show, the only such celebration of art and artists in the country, goes on

IN 2010, when Kerala-born, Mumbai-based artists Bose Krishnamachari and Riyas Komu floated the idea of an art biennale in India, it was received with exuberance. Indian artists had built a formidable reputation with their global success, but on the domestic stage, few stood out.

Visualised and built as one of India's largest art events, heritage properties across Kochi were readied for the inaugural edition and the streets of the coastal city came alive with colours and graffiti. Though the mood that year was celebratory, there was an element of caution too as all previous such attempts in the country — including Jawaharlal Nehru's much-feted Triennale-India launched in 1968 — had failed.

While the scepticism was refuted with the well-received event that opened on the palindromic 12.12.12, now, 10 years and four biennales later, the excitement has turned into deep worry as the Biennale grapples with multiple challenges.

When its fifth edition, curated by Singapore-based Indian-origin artist Shubigi Rao, opened on December 23, it was 10 days later than the scheduled date of December 12. While "organisational challenges, compounded by external factors" were blamed for the eleventh-hour postponement, many pointed out that the event had been four years in the making, postponed twice due to the pandemic — enough time for organisers to get their act together.



Ideated by Komu and Krishnamachari at the behest of the Kerala state government as an international platform for art in India, the Kochi Muziris Biennale was modelled on the much older and successful biennales in Venice and Sao Paulo. But what made the Kochi version special was that it was intrinsically linked to its location — the cosmopolitan Fort Kochi, its maritime waters, and the ancient port city of Muziris.

Lending to the magic of the Kochi Biennale were its prime venues — from the 150-year-old Durbar Hall to David Hall, a Dutch bungalow, from Pepper House, a historic spice godown with Dutch-style clay roofs, to the majestic 19th Century Aspinwall House that sits on the Arabian Sea.

The Biennale managed to bring art outside the White Cube as some of the world's leading artists shared the platform with art students from across India.

"Until this Biennale, we have only had biennales and Documentas given to us by the West... Bose and Riyas have done something spectacular. I have participated in umpteen biennales but this is the only I know where the idea of art and culture spreads into society," says artist Nalini Malani, who was a participant in the first edition of the Biennale.

"There was a guerrilla air about it... There were power cuts, video projectors had not arrived, things had not been put on the walls but artists were working and things were coming together," she recalls.

The very first edition of the Biennale saw works of 90 artists from over 20 countries, with Subodh Gupta's Kerala *kettuvallam* (house boat) brimming with utensils and Vivan Sundaram re-imagining Muziris with discarded ancient potsherds from the archaeological site in the installation *Black Gold*.



(Clockwise from top) After a delay of 10 days, the Biennale opened at Fort Kochi on December 23; from artists to tourists, fisherfolk and students, the event is open to all; Shubigi Rao, the Singapore-based Indian-origin artist who is curating the latest edition, at the opening on Friday. Source: Kochi Biennale Foundation



Queued outside its main exhibition venues on December 12, the original opening date for the event this year, were not just some of India's most prominent artists but an audience that made this a truly "People's Biennale" — from tourists to cab drivers, fisherfolk and students who had bunked classes to see the artworks or simply to hang out.

"I have attended the previous editions and for me, what's most exciting is the opportunity the Biennale allows for us to meet artists," says Abha, a student from Palakkad, who had travelled over 150 km to Kochi for the event.

The disappointment and disbelief at the postponement extended to the artists. In an open letter on December 23, over 50 participants called for "radical transformation" of the Biennale.

"As artists arrived... in the weeks and days prior to the opening, we were overwhelmed by many problems: shipments delayed in transit and at customs past the opening day; rain leaking into all the exhibition spaces, impacting equipment and artworks; a lack of steady electrical power; a shortage of equipment; and an insufficient workforce on all production teams... Artists were drawn into daily struggles with the Biennale management, whose organi-

sational shortcomings and lack of transparency had made a timely and graceful opening impossible long before it was postponed," they wrote.

While Krishnamachari, president of Kochi Biennale Foundation (KBF), admitted to "organisational responsibility" and underlined that it was "not the fault of the curator (Shubigi Rao)", he blamed the chaos on everything from delay in getting the main venue, Aspinwall House, to the rains.

Yet, many artists said they saw it coming. Delhi-based Asim Waqif, whose installation *Improvise* is one of the outdoor projects at Aspinwall House, described working for this Biennale as one of his most

"frustrating" experiences. "I could anticipate three-four months ago that there were going to be serious problems," says Waqif. He recalls how, when a few months ago, he approached the Biennale team for assistance for his installation that needed bamboo, coir and pandanus leaves, he was informed of a staff shortage.

"Everything was delayed, from my on-site visit earlier this year, to the time when bamboo for my installation finally arrived in Fort Kochi," says Waqif.

Other artists talk of pending payments and how they are still awaiting shipments. "I was expecting things to be ready but now I can only wait," says an artist.

Krishnamachari stated that delays were also caused due to "late action, changes in customs-related policies and longer and more expensive process for bank guarantees".

Rao described working on the Biennale as "one of the hardest things" she has done. "I am always happy to put in more effort and work when resources are thin, but it has been much worse because of the pain that I saw others go through. I invited artists in good faith and did not expect it to be like this for them. This entire process was unnecessarily stressful for so many," said the curator.



The problems of the Biennale, however, preceded the latest edition. In 2012, a group of artists led by sculptor Kanayi Kunhiraman levelled corruption charges against the organisers and demanded a probe into how the money allotted by the government was being used. The Left Democratic Front government, which had mooted the Biennale, had granted Rs 5 crore for the inaugural event in 2010. While the United Democratic Front government, which came to power the following year, promised support, all funds were put on hold till the corruption charges were cleared, leading to major financial shortfalls.

While the state continues to be its largest sponsor, the Biennale also generates funds through corporate sponsorships and private donations, with the artists themselves lending support. The total corpus of requirements, estimated at Rs 25-30 crore, though, has remained short with the exception of a few years.

Its woes, however, extend beyond its financial troubles.

Working with limited means, some of the participants are also indignant about having no one to take their concerns to.

As recently as October, the Biennale was still hiring its managerial and production staff since many of the faces from the core team had gone, including Komu, who quit in 2018 over allegations of sexual harassment. Though in the absence of an official complaint, charges against him were dropped by the Biennale's internal complaints committee and he was reportedly invited to join back, the artist declined.

Though its steadily rising footfall — from 4 lakh in 2012-13 to 6.2 lakh in 2018-19 — is a testament to the Biennale's popularity, many say that the much loved event needs a genuine course correction.

Jitish Kallat, who curated the 2014-15 edition of the Biennale and is now a trustee in the Foundation, agrees.

"Going ahead, the most important task will be to make radical reforms in terms of how the Biennale functions, rebalance its priorities and resort to an internal chain of accountability — a renewed code of conduct within and outside the organisation," says the Mumbai-based artist, adding that without this course correction, the future of "this incredibly valuable institution" is at risk.

On December 23, as Rao and Krishnamachari hoisted the Biennale flag in the Aspinwall compound, and the public slowly trickled in, Malini hoped for things to fall into place. "There are more expensive biennales, but Kochi is special and I am looking forward to its whole future," said the Mumbai-based artist.

In Birbhum village, a 'suicide' reopens old scars, rivalries

Nine months after the Bogtui arson and killings claimed 10 lives, prime accused Lalan Sheikh died allegedly of suicide. Stories from either side of the fault line

SWEETY KUMARI

IN BOGTUI, a village in West Bengal's Birbhum district, the houses almost run into each other. Yet, in the months since a series of dark events — a murder, a retaliatory attack that led to 10 deaths and now, a suicide — there's much that divides these haphazard homes.

On March 21, Bhadu Sheikh, 38, a local Trinamool leader and strongman, was killed by his rivals over dubious land deals and extortions. In retaliation, Bhadhu's men, who suspected his neighbour Mihilal Sheikh's hand in the murder, engaged in arson in the Purbapara locality. While the men in Mihilal's family fled the mob, the women and children huddled themselves into some of the family homes. As the mob set some of these houses on fire, 10 people died in the incident. Seven charred



bodies, of women and children, including of Mihilal's wife, daughter and mother, were recovered from a double-storeyed home that was still under construction.

As the deaths — shrouded in local politics and dark deals — triggered outrage, the Calcutta High Court handed over the case to the CBI, which made more than 22 arrests, including that of Lalan Sheikh, Bhadu Sheikh's alleged henchman and the main accused in the Bogtui arson case, on December 4.

But on December 12, Lalan died, allegedly of suicide. He was found hanging from the shower rod in the washroom of a makeshift



Lalan Sheikh's house in Bogtui; Mihilal Sheikh lost seven of his family members on March 21. Partha Paul

CBI camp at Rampurhat, 7 km from his home, where he was being kept in custody.

On Friday, Justice Joy Sengupta of the Calcutta High Court directed the DIG of the state Criminal Investigation Department to investigate the incident. The CBI said in court that the post-mortem report had declared Lalan's death a suicide.

Lalan's death has deepened the whispers and suspicions among neighbours in Bogtui. Here, loyalties are clearly defined — almost every family either has a male member in jail or absconding, or has lost someone to the arson incident in March.

At Lalan's home, his family blames the CBI and alleges that they brought him home hours before he was found dead.

"They brought my father and allowed him to meet everyone, including my mother... Why did they do that? CBI officers said he had used a *gamcha* to hang himself. How is that possible? Where did the *gamcha* come from? He didn't have anything on him. The CBI officials must face stringent action for killing my father," says Lalan Sheikh's daughter Ruksar Khatoon, 17, surrounded by other women in the family.

"He looked very weak, was barely able to walk. The CBI officials left with him around



2pm and by evening, we heard he was no more," says Lalan Sheikh's sister-in-law Jyoti Khatoon, 23, whose husband Raston Sheikh is among those in CBI custody.

Following his death, CBI had declared that Lalan had committed suicide and called the family's allegations "baseless".

For nearly eight months since the incident, Lalan Sheikh had evaded arrest until the CBI arrested him on December 4 from an area near Jharkhand.

"My father was not in touch with my mother for five months when the CBI was carrying out raids in the village... Now I feel he

was better off that way," Khatoon says. Her brother Rohan Sheikh, 20, has been in hiding since the March killings.

Across the road from Lalan Sheikh's home, Mihilal Sheikh, 40, whose seven family members, including his wife, nine-year-old daughter and mother, were charred to death in the March violence, steps out to offer tea to the security personnel who are deployed round the clock outside his house.

"I miss my daughter Musammad Khatoon the most... She was my youngest. Whenever I got back from work, she would run out on hearing the sound of my motorcycle and take my mobile phone from my pocket," says Sheikh.

Over a month ago, Mihilal married again — to Karishma Bibi, 24. "Life has to go on, everyone advised me to get married so that I have someone to come home to," he says.

After the incident, Sheikh, who used to run a grocery shop, landed a government job in Rampurhat's Cultural office.

"The state government compensated us with a job and Rs 2 lakh each to me and my brothers. I go for work at 10 am and come home by 5 pm," he says, moving to feed a brood of chicks — "I bought these recently to keep myself busy".

On his rival Lalan's death, he says, "The CBI has been investigating the case fairly. How Lalan died is a matter of investigation but we hope it doesn't affect the pace of the investigation. I lost seven family members. Lalan had to pay the price."



14 THE WORLD

TOP OF THE WORLD



PM Sheikh Hasina.

BANGLADESH

Hasina elected party chief for 10th term

Dhaka: Bangladesh's ruling Awami League on Saturday re-elected PM Sheikh Hasina as the party chief for the 10th consecutive term for general elections in early 2024. Nearly 7,000 councilors from across Bangladesh joined the Awami League's 22nd national council at an auditorium in central Dhaka following an open rally at adjacent Suhrawardy Udyan. Under the party constitution, the leadership will lead the party for the next three years, while Hasina (75) has remained the head of the moderate party since 1981 when she returned home from India where she was living a self-exiled life from August 1975. **PTI**

JAPAN

Abe's assassin suspect charged by prosecutors

Tokyo: Japanese prosecutors have decided to indict the man suspected of shooting former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Kyodo news agency and other Japanese media reported on Saturday. The decision follows psychiatric examination of Tetsuya Yamagami — 42-year-old suspect. Abe was killed with a handgun during an election campaign in July. Yamagami's detention for mental examination will end on January 10, and Nara prosecutors will likely indict him by January 13, according to Kyodo. The prosecutors were not immediately available for comment on Saturday. **REUTERS**

PAKISTAN

7 terrorists from Pak Punjab held

Lahore: Law enforcement agencies have arrested seven suspected terrorists from different banned militant outfits, in the Punjab province of Pakistan, the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) said on Saturday. Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) was among the outfits arrested in the intelligence operations across the province. The TTP has renewed terror attacks in Pakistan following its withdrawal from a ceasefire with the government weeks ago. **PTI**

UKRAINE WAS ALERTED ABOUT STRIKES MARRING CHRISTMAS

Russia shells Ukraine's Kherson, hours after Zelenskyy's warning

CASSANDRA VINOGRAD
KHERSON, DECEMBER 24

SHELLING KILLED at least ten people on Saturday in the recently-recaptured Ukrainian city of Kherson, hours after President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine warned that another wave of Russian strikes could mar the Christmas holidays.

"With the approaching holiday season, Russian terrorists may become active again," Zelenskyy said in his overnight address. "Therefore please heed the air-raid signals, help each other and always take care of each other."

His comments came after Ukraine's military warned on Friday that Russian ships carrying cruise missiles had entered the Black Sea for the first time since December 16, when Moscow fired missiles across Ukraine.

The streets of Kherson were busy on Saturday morning when Russian forces shelled the city center, according to Kyrylo Tymoshenko, deputy head of the president's office.

A shopping area and residential buildings — "places where the most people are" — were hit, Yaroslav Yanushevych, the head of Kherson's military administration, said in a statement. In addition to the 10 people killed, 55 people were wounded in the attack — of whom 18 were in seri-



NO TRADITIONAL GLOW THIS SEASON: People gather around a Christmas tree decorated with the colours of the Ukrainian national flag in Kyiv. **AP**

ous condition, he later told Ukrainian television, according to the *Ukrainska Pravda* news outlet. Two of the wounded were volunteers who had been distributing food aid when the shells hit, according to Matthew Hollingworth, the U.N. humanitarian coordinator for Ukraine.

He wrote: "In the morning, on Saturday, on the eve of Christmas, in the central part of the city."

"These are not military facilities. This is not a war according

to the rules defined. It is terror, it is killing for the sake of intimidation and pleasure."

In addition to observing Eastern Orthodox Christmas on January 7, Ukraine also celebrates Christmas as a national holiday on December 25.

Kherson has been bombarded by Russian shelling since Ukrainian forces retook the city last month.

Russian troops there withdrew east across the Dnipro

River and have since fired hundreds of shells at the city from their new positions.

Five people were killed and 17 others were wounded on Friday, Tymoshenko said in an update on Saturday morning before the latest attack.

Ukrenergo, the national electric utility, said on Saturday in a Facebook post that "significant electricity shortages persisted, with the Kyiv region experiencing the greatest difficulties **NYT**

COVID SURGES IN CHINA

Shanghai asks residents to stay in on Christmas

JOSH HORWITZ
SHANGHAI, DECEMBER 24

IN ADVANCE of Christmas, Shanghai authorities urged residents Saturday to stay at home this weekend to curb the virus's spread. The holiday is not traditionally celebrated in China, but it is common for young couples and some families to spend the holiday together.

Despite those warnings, an annual Christmas market held at the Bund, a commercial area, was packed with attendees.

"My friends are basically all positive, and all have basically recovered," said Liu Yang, 23, an IT worker attending the market.

"We wanted to take advantage of Christmas, and it's the weekend, we wanted to walk around and enjoy the air, so we came here."

Still, the spread of Omicron is dampening festivities for other retailers and eateries.

Many Shanghai restaurants have cancelled Christmas parties normally held for regulars, while hotels have capped reservations due to staff shortages, said Jacqueline Mocatta, who works in the hospitality industry.

"There's only a certain amount of customers we can accept given our manpower, with a majority of team members who are unwell at the moment," she said. Infections in China are likely more than a



A man crosses an empty road in Shanghai. **Reuters**

million a day with deaths at more than 5,000 a day, British-based health data firm Airfinity said this week, describing the estimates as a "stark contrast" to official data.

China's national health authority on Saturday reported 4,128 daily symptomatic COVID-19 infections, and no deaths for a fourth consecutive day.

The emergency hotline in Taiyuan in the northern province of Shanxi was receiving over 4,000 calls a day, a local media outlet said on Saturday.

Taiyuan authorities urged residents to call the number only for medical emergencies, saying guidance about COVID "does not fall within the scope of the hotline."

On Saturday, China's National Health Commission said in a statement that individuals who suffered mild or ordinary COVID-19 symptoms can safely donate blood a few days after their symptoms subside. **REUTERS**

Hong Kong will reopen China border

Shanghai: As China, grapples with a new Covid wave, it took another step towards loosening its pandemic-related restrictions on Saturday when Hong Kong Chief executive John Lee announced it would aim to reopen its borders with the mainland by mid-January. Lee said authorities would aim to "gradually, orderly, and fully" reopen all entry points between the two sides. Hong Kong and Beijing shut their borders in early 2020 as Covid first surfaced and they have remained closed since then, as China has capped travellers as part of its "zero-Covid" policy. **REUTERS**

China frowns over new US defence law

Taipei: China expressed anger on Saturday at a new U.S. defence authorisation law that boosts military assistance for Taiwan, while Taipei cheered it for helping boost the island's security.

China, which considers Taiwan its own territory, expressed "strong dissatisfaction and resolute opposition" regarding the U.S. National Defense Authorization Act. **REUTERS**

Rabuka sworn in as Fiji PM after close elections

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MELBOURNE, DECEMBER 24

SITIVENI RABUKA was sworn in as Fiji's prime minister on Saturday, capping a tense week in a fragile Pacific democracy where the former military commander first held office more than two decades ago.

The 74-year-old won the nomination by one vote over incumbent Frank Bainimarama at a sitting of the Fijian Parliament.

Rabuka, the head of the People's Alliance Party, won after forming a majority coalition with two other parties following last week's close and contentious election. On Thursday, army and navy personnel were reportedly called in to protect minority groups over threats against them following the



Rabuka back in office after two decades

December 14 vote.

During his swearing-in ceremony, Rabuka pledged to "obey, observe, uphold and maintain" the constitution of his nation.

He said he spoke with Bainimarama, the head of the Fiji First Party who had ruled for almost 16 years, to thank him for his contributions.

Fiji has experienced four military coups over the past 35 years, and both Rabuka and Bainimarama have held lead roles in previous moves to oust former Fijian leaders.

Kurdish activists gather in protest after Paris shooting

JEFFREY SCHAEFFER & ANGELA CHARLTON
PARIS, DECEMBER 24

KURDISH ACTIVISTS, left-wing politicians and anti-racism groups demonstrated Saturday in Paris after three people were killed at a Kurdish cultural center in an attack that prosecutors say was racially motivated.

The shooting in a bustling neighborhood of central Paris also wounded three people, and stirred up concerns about hate crimes against minority groups at a time when far-right voices have gained prominence in France and

around Europe in recent years.

He is facing potential charges of murder and attempted murder with a racist motive, the Paris prosecutor's office said Saturday.

Thousands gathered on Saturday at the Place de la Republique in eastern Paris, waving a colourful spectrum of flags representing Kurdish rights groups, political parties and other causes.

Most demonstrators were ethnic Kurds who mourned the three people who were killed, and share concerns that they don't feel safe, and ask how could this kind of attack happen in the center of Paris. **AP**



Kansas fire department rescue a minivan that overturned before submerging on a street. **AP**

US: Winter storm leaves 1.7 mn homes, businesses without power

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MISSION, DECEMBER 24

TENS OF MILLIONS of Americans endured bone-chilling temperatures, blizzard conditions, power outages and cancelled holiday gatherings Friday from a winter storm that forecasters said was nearly unprecedented in its scope, exposing about 60% of the U.S. population to some sort of winter weather advisory or warning.

More than 200 million people were under an advisory or warning on Friday, the National

Weather Service said. The weather service's map "depicts one of the greatest extents of winter weather warnings and advisories ever," forecasters said.

Power outages have left about 1.4 million homes and businesses in the dark, according to the website PowerOutage, which tracks utility reports. The Tennessee Valley Authority, the nation's largest public utility, ended its rolling blackouts Friday afternoon but continued to urge homes and businesses to conserve power. In Georgia, hundreds of people in Atlanta and northern parts of the

state were without power and facing the possibility of sub-zero wind chills without heat.

And nearly 5,000 flights within, into or out of the U.S. were cancelled Friday, according to the tracking site *FlightAware*, causing more mayhem as travelers try to make it home for the holidays.

The huge storm stretched from border to border. In Canada, Westjet cancelled all flights Friday at Toronto Pearson International Airport, beginning at 9 a.m. as meteorologists in the country warned of a potential once-in-a-decade weather event.

Women in Afghanistan banned from working for local, foreign NGOs

RIAZAT BUTT
KABUL, DECEMBER 24

THE TALIBAN government on Saturday ordered all foreign and domestic non-governmental groups in Afghanistan to suspend employing women, allegedly because some female employees didn't wear the Islamic headscarf correctly. They also separately banned women from attending religious classes at the mosques in the capital of Kabul.

The bans are the latest restrictive moves by Afghanistan's new rulers against women's rights and freedoms, coming just days after the Taliban banned female students from attending universities across the country.

Afghan women have since demonstrated in major cities against the ban — a rare sign of domestic protest since the Taliban seized power last year. The decision has also caused international outrage.

The NGO order came in a letter from Economy Minister Qari Din Mohammed Hanif, which said that any organization found not complying with the order will have their operating license revoked in Afghanistan. The ministry's spokesman, Abdul Rahman Habib, confirmed the letter to *The Associated Press*.

The ministry said it had received "serious complaints" about female staff working for NGOs not wearing the "correct" headscarf, or hijab.

It was not immediately clear if the order applies to all women

Taliban use water cannon on protesters

Kabul: Taliban security forces used a water cannon to disperse women protesting the ban on university education for women on Saturday, eyewitnesses said, as the decision from the Taliban-led government continues to cause outrage and opposition in Afghanistan and beyond. Video shared with the AP shows the women screaming and hiding in a side street to escape the water cannon. The development came after Afghanistan's Taliban rulers on Tuesday banned female students from attending universities effective immediately. Afghan women have since demonstrated in major cities against the ban, a rare sign of domestic protest since the Taliban seized power last year. **AP**

or only Afghan women working at the NGOs.

More details were not immediately available amid concerns the latest Taliban move could be a stepping-stone to a blanket ban on Afghan women leaving the home. **AP**

SEVEN YEARS ON, AS EMPIRE EXPANDS, FOUNDER ADVOCATES FOR MORE IMMIGRATION

The Syrian refugee family that rebuilt a chocolate empire in Nova Scotia

IAN AUSTEN
DECEMBER 24

MANY HEART WARMING stories have developed in the seven years since Prime Minister Justin Trudeau greeted Syrian refugees arriving by plane in Toronto. But few caught the public's attention as much as that of Tareq Hadhad, who was aboard the third plane-load of Syrians to land in Canada, and his family.

In addition to receiving widespread media attention, Hadhad's story has been made into a movie and also been told in a book.

For those of you who don't quite remember their tale, a

quick recap. Back in Syria, Hadhad's father, Isam, had founded a confectioners in Damascus that eventually employed hundreds of people and shipped its chocolates throughout the Middle East. Bombing during the civil war leveled it.

The Hadhads became privately sponsored refugees in Antigonish, Nova Scotia. While the town is the home of St. Francis Xavier University, it is generally known for having an aging population rather than being economically vibrant.

Hadhad was midway through medical school when he fled Syria. But once in Canada, and with considerable help from the people of

Antigonish, he vowed to re-establish his father's business under the name Peace by Chocolate.

Hadhad agreed to meet me in Halifax for an update on the business and to talk about the role of immigrants in Canadian society.

Our meeting point, the brightly lit Peace by Chocolate flagship store in heart of the Halifax waterfront tourist zone, was one obvious symbol of the company's fortunes, with a design featuring both peace symbols and motifs drawn from Syria, including a tiled archway.

Its opening in the spring of 2021 during the pandemic was something of an act of faith. But Hadhad told me that the return



Tareq Hadhad became known in Canada for restarting a family chocolate business. **NYT**

of cruise ships to Halifax this year has often brought long lines of customers outside the store. And

even on a bitterly windy and dark late weekday afternoon, it drew a steady flow of chocolate

fanciers.

This month, Hadhad opened a new, bigger shop and expanded the factory that produces the company's chocolate. In all, Hadhad told me, Peace by Chocolate now employs about 75 people and could hire 30 to 40 more workers — if they were available in Antigonish. Some 1,000 stores across Canada now sell its chocolates, thanks in part to one deal with the Empire Company, the Nova Scotia-based grocer that owns the Sobeys and Canada Safeway supermarket chains. Building a business in Canada, he said, is much easier than in Syria.

"It took my dad 10 years to

establish the business in Damascus," Hadad said. "You did it here kind of within a month."

While Hadhad said that factors like easier access to investment money in Canada make it possible for immigrants to set up successful businesses, community support is just as important.

Hadhad regularly speaks across Canada, meets with governments and testifies to legislative committees about immigration. Based on that, he said he's noticed there may finally be some movement when it comes to recognizing professional health care credentials obtained abroad. Hadhad has made sure Peace by Chocolate has a social

component to it. He said there are now about 200 Syrians living in Antigonish, population 5,000, most of whom work for the chocolate company, and they've recently been joined by several dozen Ukrainian refugees. Peace by Chocolate donates about 5 percent of its profits to various causes and charities.

Hadhad has occasionally encountered anti-immigrant hostility (he said a man once accused him of coming to Antigonish to take his job), his experience has been that such sentiments are very much on the fringe.

"Everyone is seeing that this country is based on many values," he said. **NYT**

15 ECONOMY

ONLY RS 17,154 CRORE WAS NET INVESTED IN SIPS

SIP outflows: Investors redeem over ₹22,000 crore in 3 months

HITESH VYAS &
GEORGE MATHEW
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 24

CONTRARY to the general perception, systematic investment plans (SIP) of mutual funds have witnessed outflows of over Rs 22,000 crore in the last three months with almost half of it coming in the month of November.

While the monthly SIP inflows have been touching record highs in the last three months, the pace of redemption has also accelerated, if unpublished data compiled by the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI)—but available with mutual funds—is any indication.

Between September and November, though the total SIP contribution was Rs 39,323.47 crore, redemption was to the tune of Rs 22,169.46 crore, indicating that investors cashed out amid the volatility in the market. This means only Rs 17,154 crore was the net investment in SIPs during

SIP CONTRIBUTION (RS CRORE)			
	Gross Inflows	Net Inflows	Redemption
September	12,976.34	6,398.71	6,577.63
October	13,040.64	7,498.76	5,541.88
November	13,306.49	3,256.54	10,049.95
Total	39,323.47	17,154.01	22,169.46

the three-month period.

Of the total redemption, more than 50 per cent of the money was pulled out by retail investors from SIPs in November, as per the data available with the mutual fund companies. When contacted by *The Indian Express*, AMFI chief NS Venkatesh was not available for comments. In November, while the SIPs contribution was Rs 13,306.49 crore, retail investors pulled out Rs 10,049.95 crore from their SIP accounts. In September and October, redemptions were Rs 6,577.63 crore and Rs 5,541.88 crore, respectively.

"Everybody's investment attained a new high after a long wait. Due to this, some people de-

cided to take money out," said Dhirendra Kumar, founder-CEO, Value Research. Total assets under management of SIP schemes were Rs 683,852 crore as of November 2022.

Of the Rs 22,169.46 crore, the highest redemptions were seen in the equity or growth schemes. Retail investors pulled out Rs 19,303.05 crore alone from the equity scheme. This was followed by the hybrid scheme, which witnessed redemption of Rs 1,360.8 crore between September and November. The monthly data available on the website of AMFI in India only shows the gross investment through SIP route and it does not take into account the re-

demptions in a particular month.

Higher demand for money during the festive seasons in September and October also led to redemption, market participants said. On November 30, 2022, the BSE Sensex surged over 500 points in trade to surpass the 63,300 level. The index hit a record high for the fifth session in a row at 63,303.01 before closing at 63,099.65. "The November rally in the stock markets prompted some investors to book profits from the SIP schemes," said a fund manager. On December 23, while the 30-share BSE Sensex fell 980.93 points to close below the 60,000 level at 59,845.29, the broader NSE Nifty declined by 320.55 points, or 1.77 per cent to close at 17,806.8. Market sources don't rule out more redemptions from SIP plans in the wake of volatility in the market amid the rising Covid scare in many countries. "Historically, we have traded at a premium to emerging markets but right now the premium of Indian equities over other emerging markets is almost high at 139

EXPLAINED

Systematic Investment Plan

A SYSTEMATIC investment plan (SIP) is a facility offered by mutual funds to the investors to invest in a disciplined manner. SIP facility allows an investor to invest a fixed amount of money at pre-defined intervals in the selected mutual fund scheme.

per cent. This is partly because of the massive outperformance of Indian markets over emerging market peers. As our performance improved, our weight in MSCI Emerging Market has also increased from 7 per cent in 2020 to 14.8 per cent in November 2022," Kotak Mutual Fund said in a report. *Full report on* www.indianexpress.com

Unlinked PAN-Aadhaar to be inoperative from April 2023: I-T Dept

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 24

THE INCOME Tax department Saturday issued an advisory that those permanent account numbers (PAN) which are not linked with Aadhaar by the end of March next year will be rendered "inoperative".

"What is mandatory, is necessary. Don't delay, link it today!" the department said in a public advisory. "As per Income-tax Act, 1961, it is mandatory for all PAN holders, who do not fall under the exempt category, to link their PAN with Aadhaar before 31.3.2023. From 1.04.2023, the unlinked PAN shall become inoperative," it said.

The 'exempt category', according to a notification issued by the Union Finance Ministry in May 2017, are those individuals residing in the states of Assam, Jammu and Kashmir and Meghalaya; a non-resident as per the Income-tax Act, 1961; of the age of 80 years or more at any time during the previous year and a person not a

citizen of India.

A circular issued by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) on March 30 said once a PAN becomes inoperative, an individual shall be liable to all the consequences under the I-T Act and will have to suffer a number of implications. The person shall not be able to file I-T return using the inoperative PAN; pending returns will not be processed; pending refunds cannot be issued to inoperative PANs; pending proceedings as in the case of defective returns cannot be completed once the PAN is inoperative and tax will be required to be deducted at a higher rate.

"In addition to the above, the taxpayer may face difficulty at various other fora like banks and other financial portals as PAN is one of the important KYC (know your customer) criterion for all kinds of financial transaction," the circular said. While Aadhaar is issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India, PAN is a 10-digit alphanumeric number issued to a person, firm or entity.

Goyal unveils right to repair portal, app

New Delhi: Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Piyush Goyal on Saturday launched a host of new initiatives, including the right to repair portal and an NTH mobile app and opened new premises of National Consumer Helpline centre in the national capital.

A memorandum of understanding was also signed between the Consumer Affairs Department and IIT (BHU), Varanasi as well launched a ca-

capacity building programme of consumer commissions.

On the 'right to repair' portal, manufacturers will share the manual of product details with customers so that they can either repair by self, by third parties, rather than depend on original manufacturers.

Initially, mobile phones, electronic, consumer durables, auto-mobile and farming equipments will be covered. **PTI**

SINCE APRIL 2020

98 FDI proposals from nations sharing land border approved

The government has approved 98 foreign direct investment proposals from countries sharing land border with India since April 2020 out of 423 received, Parliament was recently informed

MANY OF these proposals are from China, either directly or indirectly, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Som Parkash said in a written reply to the Lok Sabha

423 FDI proposals from countries sharing land border with India were received since April 2020

MAJORITY OF the proposals



received are in trading, electronics, automobiles, renewable energy, financial services, pharmaceuticals and chemicals sectors

Source: PTI

Countries which share land borders with India -- China, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar and Afghanistan, need government approval for investments in India in any sector

Auto Expo may showcase about 30 EV participants

VIKRAM CHAUDHARY
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 24

EVEN THOUGH the organisers of the Auto Expo 2023 — the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) — have not revealed the final list of participants at the country's largest motor show, sources have told FE that it will be a show dominated by electric vehicles (EVs), with as many as 30 pure EV OEM participants.

Of these, 24 will be in the two-wheeler and the three-wheeler space. These include Tork Motors, Okinawa Autotech, Hero Eco Tech, Ultraviolette, Wardwizard, Greaves Cotton and many others.

There will be three pure EV OEMs in the passenger vehicle space (BYD India, Vayve Mobility and Pravaig Dynamics) and three in the pure EV commercial vehicle space (Omega Seiki, Hexall Motors and Jupiter Electric Mobility).

During the last edition of the Auto Expo (in 2020), there were half as many pure EV OEM participants, and some of those were from China, who have since shut shop.

Even the non-pure EV passenger vehicle OEMs will have a big spread of EVs on their pavilions.

Hyundai India, for example, will show-

case the Ioniq 5, a born-electric car. MG Motor and Tata Motors will have a sizeable number of EV models on their pavilions. Maruti Suzuki, which doesn't have an EV in its portfolio, will display an electric concept SUV.

"Auto shows around the world are becoming mobility shows, and India may also witness the same trend," Rajat Mahajan, partner, Deloitte India, told FE.

"This opens the field for OEMs across segments along with start-ups showcasing advancements in EVs, alternate fuels, battery, navigation, connected technology and other mobility areas."

He added that at the North American International Auto Show held in Detroit (in September 2022) the centres of attraction were EVs and multimodal mobility solutions. "There is similar expectation from the Auto Expo 2023," he said.

"Motor shows in general need to evolve to stay relevant to the mobility ecosystem, or else we may see a trend where EV and mobility technology names shift elsewhere — as globally many mobility players have shifted to the CES (Consumer Electronics Show) from pure motor shows."

While electric two-wheelers don't form even 10 per cent of overall two-wheeler sales (about a million units each month), these have been rising gradually. **FE**

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
Tender No : 71/2022-23/SE/PHC/CHN
Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)-WSS to Keeranpara Panchayath-Package -II - Distribution components Laying Distribution lines, Construction of GLSR,laying clear water Pumping Mains & Providing FHTC General Civil Work-1 **EMD** : Rs. 500000 **Tender fee** : Rs. 17700 **Last Date for submitting Tender** : 12-01-2023 02:00:pm **Phone** : 0484-2360645 **Website** : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
Superintending Engineer
PH Circle
Kochi
KWA-JB-GL-6-1307-2022-23

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
Tender No : 75/2022-23/ KWA/ PHC/TVLA
JJM -5th SWSM : Laying pipelines and providing 3325 FHTCs in Vadasserikkara Panchayath including road restoration works. **EMD** : Rs. 500000 **Tender fee** : Rs. 17700 **Last Date for submitting Tender** : 12-01-2023 02:00:pm **Phone** : 04892600162 **Website** : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
Superintending Engineer
PH Circle
Pathanamthitta
KWA-JB-GL-6-1304-2022-23

ANDHRA PRADESH STATE CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED
REGD. OFFICE, 94 Sai Towers, Door No:10-1501, Bandra Road, Karuru, Vijayawada-520 087
Tender, No.PDS/FRK/KNS-2022-23 Dated: 24.12.2022
TENDER NOTICE
APPOINTMENT OF FRK MANUFACTURERS FOR SUPPLY OF 9,800 MTs OF RAW RICE FRK TO VARIOUS DISTRICTS IN ANDHRA PRADESH STATE FOR FORTIFICATION THROUGH NEML PLATFORM.
Andhra Pradesh State Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd invites Tenders for Appointment of FRK Manufacturers for Supply of Raw Rice FRK. For complete details Interested Manufacturers from all over India may visit www.apscscl.in or www.neml.in to view and download tender documents free of cost. Contact No.9982059599
Sd/- VC & MANAGING DIRECTOR

CRUDE WATCH

OIL RISES \$3 PER BARREL

Oil prices settled about \$3 per barrel higher on Friday for a second straight week of gains after Moscow said it could cut crude output in response to the G7 price cap on Russian exports. Brent crude settled at \$83.92, up by \$2.94 or 3.6%. **REUTERS**

54% fall in fund raising via initial public offering mkt

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 24

WITH THE stock markets going on a roller-coaster ride in 2022, fund mobilisation by companies through the initial public offering (IPO) market declined 54 per cent.

Amount raised:

Total issuances this year remained lower at Rs 55,472 crore as compared with Rs 1.22 lakh crore issued in 2021 as companies and promoters became cautious in the wake of volatility in the stock market. Promoters and companies turned cautious in 2022 as many high-profile IPOs of 2021 like Paytm, FSNE-commerce (Nykaa), Nazara Technologies, PB Fintech, CarTrade Tech, Easy Trip Planners, Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC and Fino Payments disappointed investors with their share prices falling steeply below their IPO prices.

3 active sectors:

Overall, IPOs issued have been concentrated in 3 major sectors (contributing to 56 per cent of the total issuance): edible oil, insurance and hospital & healthcare services. While the edible oil industry has performed very well on the stock market, the insurance industry (LIC) has taken a hit, while returns in the healthcare services industry are modest at best, according to a Bank of Baroda research report.

LIC biggest:

In the current year, 12 industries witnessed big ticket (Rs 1,000 crore plus) IPOs, of which the insurance sector (LIC) was the biggest with an issue size of Rs 21,000 crore. This was followed by industries such as edible oil (Rs

OFFER AT DISCOUNT PRICE



BSE in Mumbai File

■ Out of 84 companies, 17% companies listed at a discount, 6% companies at the same price as the issue price, while 77% firms listed premium
■ Out of 12 big ticket issuances, 5 were listed at a discounted price, averaging -5.3%

7,000 crore), hospital & healthcare services (Rs 3,200 crore), textile (Rs 3,100 crore) and courier services (Rs 3,000 crore), among others, BoB report said.

LIC's market valuation fell by a whopping Rs 1.83 lakh crore to Rs 4.16 lakh crore as on December 23.

Listing at discount:

Out of 12 big ticket issuances, 5 were listed at a discounted price, averaging -5.3 per cent. LIC (-8.6 per cent) and Rainbow children's Medicare (-6.6 per cent) were listed at a discount of even more than average. On the other hand, 7 companies were listed at a premium, averaging 13.5 per cent. Amongst these, Patanjali foods (30.8 per cent), global health (18.5 per cent), and campus activewear (21.6 per cent) recorded a premium above average, BoB said.

Out of a total of 84 companies (versus 99 last year), 17 per cent companies listed at a discount, 6 per cent companies were listed at the same price as the issue price, while 77 per cent companies listed at a premium.

32% trading at discount:

As on December 18, 2022, out of 84 companies, 32 per cent of

the companies are trading (last price) at a discount (compared with issue price), while 68 per cent of them are still trading at a premium. Overall, these companies have recorded an average return (last versus list price) of 17.7 per cent in CYTD22, versus 7.6 per cent gains made by Sensex, BoB report said. "High IPO premium charged by some companies has led to investors burning their fingers as these shares crashed after listing on the stock exchanges," said a fund manager.

Top performers & losers

The top performing companies include: Rhetan TMT, Jayant Infotech, Containe Technologies, Adani Wilmar, Veerkrupa Jewellers, Goel Food Products, Maruti Interior Prod, Sailani Tours N Travel, Venus Pipes & Tubes, and Ekennis Software Services, averaging return of 228 per cent.

Some of the stocks which gave negative returns this year included: Fone4 Communication, India, Safa Systems & Technology, EVOQ Remedies, Mafia Trends, Global Longlife Hospital, AGS Transact Tech, and Pace E-Comm Venture, averaging return of -50 per cent.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
Tamil Nadu Irrigated Agriculture Modernisation Project (TNIAMP)
REQUEST FOR BIDS (RFB)
(One-Envelope Bidding Process without e-Procurement)
NATIONAL OPEN COMPETITIVE PROCUREMENT
BID INVITATION NO:05 / UPBC / VELLORE / 2022-2023 / F. TENDER (TN IAMP) / DATE : 23.12.2022
NAME OF PROJECTS : Rehabilitation and Modernisation of Ponnai Anicut in Katpadi Block of Katpadi Taluk in Vellore District and its 2 Canals in Walajah Block of Walajah Taluk in Ranipet District under Poiney Sub Basin.
RFB REFERENCE NOS.: (Package No. 01 / TNIAMP / WRD / POY / WORKS / Phase – IV / 2021–2022)
1. The Government of India has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the Tamil Nadu Irrigated Agriculture Modernisation Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward eligible payments under the contract for construction of works as detailed below.
2. Bidding will be conducted through national open competitive procurement using a Request for Bids (RFB) as specified in the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers, July 2016, Revised August 2018" ("Procurement Regulations"), and is open to all Bidders as defined in the Procurement Regulations.
3. Bidders from India should, however, be registered with the Government of Tamil Nadu under Class I or other State Governments/Government of India, or State / Central Government Undertakings. Bidders from India, who are not registered as above, on the date of bidding, can also participate provided they get themselves registered by the time of contract signing, if they become successful bidders.
4. The Water Resources Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, For and on behalf of Governor of Tamil Nadu, **the Superintending Engineer, WRD, Upper Palar Basin Circle, Vellore - 632 006, Vellore District, Tamil Nadu** now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the construction of works detailed below in the table. The bidders may submit bids for any or all of the works indicated therein. Interested bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding document at the address given below during office hours. Bidders are advised to note the clauses on eligibility (Section I Clause 4) and minimum qualification criteria (Section III – Evaluation and Qualification Criteria), to qualify for the award of the contract. In addition, please refer to paragraphs 3.14 and 3.15 of the "Procurement Regulations" setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.
5. The bidding document (and additional copies) may be purchased by interested eligible Bidders from the office of **the Superintending Engineer, WRD, Upper Palar Basin Circle, Vellore - 632 006, Vellore District, Tamil Nadu** from 29.12.2022 to 01.02.2023 upon payment of a non-refundable fee (three sets) as indicated in the table below, in the form of Demand Draft (DD) on any Scheduled / Nationalized bank payable in favour of **the Executive Engineer, WRD, Upper Palar Basin Division, Vellore - 632 006**. Bidding document requested by mail will be dispatched by courier/speed post on payment of an extra amount of Rs.500/-. **The Superintending Engineer, WRD, Upper Palar Basin Circle, Vellore - 632 006, Vellore District, Tamil Nadu** will not be held responsible for the postal delay if any, in the delivery of the documents or non-receipt of the same. **The bidding document can be downloaded from the website <http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in> at free of cost. In such cases, the bidder is responsible for ensuring that any addenda available on the website is also downloaded and incorporated.**
6. Bids must be delivered to **the Superintending Engineer, WRD, Upper Palar Basin Circle, Vellore - 632 006, Vellore District, Tamil Nadu** on or before **03.00pm on 01.02.2023** and will be publicly opened on the same day at **03.30pm** in the presence of the Bidders' designated representatives. If the office happens to be closed on the date of receipt of the bids as specified, the bids will be received and opened on the next working day at the same time and venue. Late Bids will be rejected.
7. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security (or "Bid-Securing Declaration," as appropriate) of the amount specified for the work in the table below, drawn in favour of **the Executive Engineer, WRD, Upper Palar Basin Division, Vellore - 6**. Bid security will have to be in any one of the forms as specified in the bidding document and shall have to be valid for 45 days beyond the validity of the bid.
8. A pre-bid meeting will be held on **12.01.2023 at 11.00AM** at the office of **The Superintending Engineer, WRD., Upper Palar Basin Circle, Vellore- 632 006, Vellore District, Tamil Nadu** to clarify the issues and to answer questions on any matter that may be raised at that stage as stated in ITB Clause 7.4 of 'Instructions to Bidders' of the bidding document. Bidders are advised to obtain the bidding document prior to the pre-bid meeting in order for bidders to have a good understanding of the scope of work under this contract for discussion and clarification at the pre-bid meeting.
9. Other details can be seen in the bidding document.
10. The address for communication is as under :
Superintending Engineer's Chamber, Er.C.T. SHANMUGAM, M.E., Superintending Engineer, WRD, Upper Palar Basin Circle, Vellore - 632 006, Vellore District, Tamil Nadu. 0416 - 2998643. supperpalarcircle@gmail.com. <http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in>
TABLE

Sl. No.	Package No.	Name of work	Bid Value * (inclusive of GST) (In.Rs.)	Bid Estimate Amount (US \$)	Bid Security (In.Rs.)	Cost of document (In Rs.)	**Period of completion (Including Six months rainy season and 6 month of Water Regulation period)	Last Date and Time for receipt of Bids and Opening Time
1.	01 / TN IAMP / WRD / POY / WORKS / Phase - IV / 2021 - 22	Rehabilitation and Modernisation of Ponnai Anicut in Katpadi Block of Katpadi Taluk in Vellore District and its 2 Canals in Walajah Block of Walajah Taluk in Ranipet District under Poiney Sub Basin.	18,88,94,866.00	2285479.32	37,80,000.00	17,700.00	24 Months	31.01.2023 5.45 pm & 01.02.2023 03.30 pm

* For work value inclusive of GST 18%
** Including Water Regulation and Rainy season
Superintending Engineer, WRD, Upper Palar Basin Circle, Vellore - 632 006.
DIPR/ 5700 /TENDER/2022 "சென்னை வட்டியு கட்டுதல் குறைந்தபட்ச, எடுத்துக் கொள்ளும் பணியை மட்டுமே"

THE SUNDAY EXPRESS MAGAZINE

eye

THE RISING

How SS Rajamouli's RRR swept box-offices this year and bewitched audiences across the globe

Shubhra Gupta

IN 2022, conventional cinema wisdom in India was upended comprehensively. Big Bollywood tentpoles were slain at the box-office. A trio of films from the south — *RRR*, *KGF2*, *Kantara* — took over multiplexes pan-India, its clean sweep an unprecedented occurrence in a country which has always privileged starry vehicles from Bollywood. Trade analysts, cultural mavens, film writers have been busy assessing exactly what made viewers behave in ways they never have, and while it may be too early to see this southern takeover as a permanent feature, because audiences are so notoriously fickle, there really is no doubt that they turned their back on soggy, formulaic Bollywood features, even when they came loaded with A-list stars.

Which one would you choose? SS Rajamouli's *RRR* (*Roudram Ranam Rudhiram*/ *Rise Roar Revolt*), a rousing period-epic-adventure-mythological concoction that manages to be more exhilarating than exhausting despite its ultra-loud background music? Or, the Aditya Chopra-produced *Shamsher*, also aiming for nearly the same mix, but which was dead on arrival from its first frame? No-brainer, right?

But what has made every single stakeholder in the Indian movie ecosystem, from producers to purveyors of on-fleck trends, is the *RRR* phenomenon, which started out its theatrical journey in March, and has continued its triumphal march through the globe, showing aside other *desi* offerings, and managing to bewitch both first-time viewers and hard-nosed film critics. The *RRR* juggernaut,

no other way to describe it, feels as if it is everything, everywhere, all at once.

It may not have been India's official choice for the Oscars (that was Pan Nalin's *The Last Film Show*), but given that it has been short-listed in the Music (Original Song) category for *Naatu Naatu*, we may well be in for a dance-off to beat all dance-offs. We've watched, both amused and bemused, as theatres in Los Angeles have reverberated to the song, with people dancing in the aisles. Sure, there may have been many more *desis* in that theatre, but there are enough TikTok videos of all sorts of people trying the frenetic moves of NTR Jr and Ram Charan, the bros with the mostest, to get an idea of the song's mad popularity. The former has replaced Rajinikanth in Japan, in making female fans delirious; the rousing welcome both stars received at its promotional events was quite astounding. Rajamouli himself has got standing ovations wherever he has been: at a conversation hosted by the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) in September, he brought an overflowing house down.

Even more strikingly, the film has been gaining traction among international critics, who have, up until now, been either ignorant or dismissive of Indian movies, as it finds favour among film critics associations in Los Angeles, Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia, and counting. Just last week, it was nominated at the Golden Globes, the first Telugu film to have done so, for Best Non-English Language Motion Picture and Best Original Song. Even as this is being written, the film ranked ninth in *Sight and Sound* magazine's Top 50 films of 2022, sprinting ahead of Tom Cruise's aerial derring-do in *Top Gun: Maverick*.

This makes *RRR* the first Indian film to have



FLIGHTS OF FANTASY

(Top) A still from *RRR*; a still from *Baahubali 2*

trumped the critical/commercial divide outside the country. Most big festival programmers have consistently veered towards Indian art cinema. Recent films that took a modest stab at box office in the West included film-festival favourites *The Lunchbox* (2013) and *Gangs Of Wasseyapur* (2012). The ones that went direct to theatres, by-passing film festivals — *Dangal* (2016); *PK* (2014); *Bajrangi Bhaijaan* (2015); *3 Idiots* (2009); *Secret Superstar* (2017) — are among the biggest overseas earners till now. The only non-Bollywood film, in this list of blockbusters helmed by superstars Aamir Khan and Salman Khan, is Rajamouli's *Baahubali 2* (2017). But *RRR* has raced far ahead of not just the *Baahubali* (2015) sequel but all the other films when it comes to the wholly unexpected col-

lective hosannas from foreign critics.

What is it about this amped-up masala movie mounted on a massive scale, drawing upon the elements of the Bollywood films of the '70s-'80s, that is capturing the imagination of people for whom this may be their first Indian outing? For those familiar with his work, this is not Rajamouli's first attempt at revving up old-style mythology with cutting-edge technology: even before his *Baahubali* double bill made him a familiar name in India, he had made the vastly entertaining *Magadheera*, featuring characters from the past and the present.

Critics of *RRR* have panned its simplistic portrayal of the Gond tribal people, and the way it reduces the story of the real-life revolutionaries Komaram Bheem and Alluri Seetarama Raju, on which the main characters are based, and their contribution to the Independence movement, to the dictates of the movie. The prominence of Hindu iconography — the switch-over of Ram Charan's character into that of Lord Ram, bow and arrow intact, among other things — a Muslim character conveniently disappearing from the story, and the absence of famous freedom fighters makes Rajamouli's world a clear-eyed skew to today's India.

But, and this is the thing, what Rajamouli has achieved in *RRR* is jaw-dropping in the way he has created a universe with a signature very much his own, with humans and animals, bad guys and good guys, heroes who unite to fight a common enemy, villains

who are exterminated, where good was always going to overcome evil. He does it with such dexterity and conviction that you succumb. This is a solidly crafted entertainer, high on action and emotion, laced with high-energy song-and-dance, and it is this combination that is bewitching large swathes of the globe.

The Marvel-isation/Disneyfication of studio Hollywood has resulted in a slew of movies that feel pale copies of pale copies. It's hard to think of recent superhero films (except perhaps for the latest iterations of *Spiderman*) that have moved past familiar tropes, or been re-invented in ways that help them stand on their own, rather than become just one more in the assembly line of sequels and prequels. This is where *RRR*, with its fulsome embrace of all things Rajamouli knows from the inside out, has stood out.

Just because *RRR* is the flavour of this season, will movies find equal favour outside India, going forward? Or will it be a flash in the pan? Its near-unstoppable march feels surreal, making one wonder if this is a "let's-give-this-piece-of-Indian-exotica-a-chance" kinda year. But, at the same time, the achievement feels much more solid. *RRR* is a clarion call out to entertainment fans all over the world, its numbers having grown exponentially after the Netflix release. Whether it will win at the Oscars is up in the air, but *RRR*, and the three Rs who have made it what it is, are the clear winners of 2022.

It's hard to think of recent superhero films that have been re-invented to stand on their own

Who is the biggest of them all?

Amitabh Bachchan and Shah Rukh Khan have been there, done that. Now Ranveer Singh is a bona fide red carpet Bollywood star

IF I had a dirham for every "Sharookaan! Amitabhachchan!!" I was smilingly greeted with — one flowing word, never two — during my short stay in Morocco, each time I went in and out of the venue of the Marrakech International Film Festival, I would have returned with a heavy piggy bank. A lovely young usher sang out "Namaste", stopping to chat with me in halting but clear Hindi, and when I asked her how she speaks it so well, she said she is a big fan of Hindi movies.

Bollywood star Ranveer Singh, who was handed a retrospective at the 19th edition of the festival, held in November gracefully acknowledged the big shoes he was stepping into, even as he charmed everyone in sight. Singh's red-carpet appearances were a total pandemonium, complete with screaming fans, cameras held aloft for selfies. Even the more formal platform where he was in conversation with a festival programmer, with accredited professionals in attendance,

turned out to be a rah-rah event. They may as well have called it the Ranveer International Film Festival.

You would expect this kind of *mela* to happen back home, but in a small town in North Africa? Where French, Arabic and Spanish are spoken, and English is mostly a language to be seen in film subtitles? That is the power of Bollywood, and you can see it in the way Singh was feted not just by the festival organisers, who had both Amitabh Bachchan and Shah Rukh Khan as their guests, but by those who showed up to watch his films. The craze around Singh proved that in this part of sub-Saharan Africa, as well as in so many other parts of the world, Bollywood rules.

So who is the biggest Bollywood star globally? Bachchan, who has reigned for over 50 years, is still a force. SRK commands the biggest crowds in any part of the world. His fanbase in Germany is unreal, from the time he shot for *Don 2* (2011) in Berlin, and his subsequent red carpet appearances at the



Berlinale. But the German city has also created a special place in its heart for Singh, whose world premiere of *Gully Boy* (2019)



WINNING HEARTS

(From left) Amitabh Bachchan; Ranveer Singh; Shah Rukh Khan

was full to bursting.

But the thing that boosts stardom is cinema, and even though SRK's sway doesn't

seem to have been affected by his last few films' performances, at least until now, a couple more slack results are bound to hurt.



Singh's *Jayeshbhai Jordaar* was a snooze (his latest *Cirkus* isn't out at the time of writing), and he will need to keep up the momentum to keep his standing steady.

Among the top-flight female stars, Priyanka Chopra is creating space for herself globally, even if it's not the kind of stardom that drives fan hysteria. Alia Bhatt's Hollywood debut *Heart Of Stone*, will be out mid-next year on Netflix (her *Darlings*, one of the better Bollywood films this year, is on it, too). The steady involvement of streaming platforms in creating original content, and making acquisitions available in several countries, is fashioning the quantum of recognition that people in showbiz had never dreamt of.

And who will be the newest face to lay claim to that space? Can it be Kartik Aaryan, whose soaring popularity appears effortlessly to surmount his performances? He hasn't got a film that can travel, not yet. But who knows? Anything can happen at the movies.

SHUBHRA GUPTA

Doughnuts for Christmas

Of family times and recipes for happiness

Madhulika Liddle

I GREW UP in a pre-globalisation India: the burgers and pizzas we knew were from Nirula's, and doughnuts were something my mother made at Christmas. I adored those doughnuts: mildly sweet, cake-like dense, fragrant with spice. This was why, when the first commercially made doughnuts arrived in Delhi (Dunkin' Donuts opened in 2012), I was disappointed. Fluffy, bready, and devoid of much flavour if you took away the toppings or fillings: this is not what doughnuts should be like, I declared the first time I had one. The following Christmas, I got my mother to give me the family recipe so I could make a batch. This recipe is an old one, and the doughnut-making used to be an important part of Christmas preparations when I was a child. Papa, my sister, and I decorated the house; Mummy, with Papa's help

the doughnut didn't get crimped or twisted or lop-sided in any way. It made me, then less than 10 years old, feel very important. As soon as Mummy had fried a few doughnuts, all golden-brown and plump, I'd clamour to taste one, at least. And then another, because it would be blasphemous, in my eyes, to stop at one. Invariably, Mummy would set aside a few doughnut holes and fry those for us, instead of kneading them back into the dough. Recently, I discovered that in Nagaland, these doughnuts — often minus the spice, and made with ghee — are much-loved at Christmas. A friend from Maharashtra also said that her family makes these ("cake doughnuts", as she calls them, so apt a term) for Christmas. So here is the recipe. This quantity makes about 36 doughnuts. They're easy to make, and there's something so comfortingly delicious about them, you don't really need it to be Christmas to enjoy these.



(he lined the cake tins and chopped the candied fruits and peels), made the cakes. She also made other goodies: namakpaaras, shakkarpaaras, gujiyas... and doughnuts. Though the cake, fruit-and-spice rich, was the highlight of the spread, its preparation was out of my league. Too complex, too dizzily fancy. It intimidated me; I would peek in, filch a raisin from the bowl, and retreat. Instead, what I loved was the making of the doughnuts, because there I could help. In fact, as Mummy (ever supportive) pointed out, the doughnuts couldn't have been made without my help. She would mix the dough, the work of a few minutes as compared to the far more laborious and involved mixing of the cake batter, and once the dough was kneaded and rolled, it was time for me to cut it. Equipped with a small steel glass and an old lipstick tube, well-washed till nobody even remembered that it had once held lipstick, I got down to work. The steel glass, fitting perfectly into my small hands, was used to cut circles from the dough. The lipstick tube was then used to punch out holes from the middle of each circle. You had to be very precise; the hole had to be exactly in the middle, and pressure had to be applied uniformly to make sure

- INGREDIENTS
- 2 tbsp unsalted butter
 - ¾ cup white sugar
 - ¾ cup milk
 - 2 eggs
 - 3½ cups refined flour (maida)
 - 1 level tsp salt
 - 5 tsp baking powder
 - 1 tsp powdered cinnamon
 - ¼ tsp powdered or freshly grated nutmeg
 - Neutral flavoured vegetable oil, for deep frying
- and extra refined flour, for dusting work surface and cutters

RECIPE

Whisk the eggs until light and fluffy. Set aside. In a large bowl, cream together the butter and sugar until pale and light. Add the eggs and beat for a couple of minutes until well-mixed. Add milk and mix. Sift together flour, salt, baking powder, cinnamon and nutmeg. Add the sifted dry ingredients to the batter and mix to form a dough. Do not over-knead; you just want the ingredients mixed uniformly, no more. Break off lumps the size of an orange from the dough. On a clean work surface, lightly dusted with flour, roll out the dough to a thickness of about 1 cm. Use a glass or small bowl, its rim dusted with flour, to cut circles from the rolled-out dough. Use a smaller rimmed object (the cap of a liquor bottle works) to cut out the doughnut holes from each circle. Set the cut-out doughnuts aside on a lightly floured surface to rest for 15 minutes. Once they have rested, heat the oil (about 4-5 cm deep) in a wok. Over a medium flame, fry the doughnuts until golden brown, flipping them over once in between. Drain on kitchen paper. Once cooled, store them in an airtight jar.

Madhulika Liddle is an NCR-based author



PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

The Spirit of Christmas

In the pleasures of the plenty this season, may we never forget those less fortunate

Jerry Pinto

I HAVE TO say this upfront. There is nothing in this piece that represents my community: Goan Roman Catholics living in Mumbai. We were defined by many other factors even if this religious and exilic identity was also part of the mix. My father did not think we should have a servant unless we could pay a decent wage, and so, this meant that we did all our own housework, including the cooking. Many of the great dishes of Goan cuisine require a huge investment in money, time and in pure slave labour. Take the classic recipe for bebinca, that much mauled dish. It begins with: Take the yolks of a dozen eggs... (The egg whites went into other dishes including a coconut cake.) And so, yes, there were families where sorpotel was made, and the pork and the pig liver were diced fine and steeped in vinegar and all the rest of that. Not in our home. We ate well on Christmas, I do remember that. There would be pulao, although we never put any dry fruit in it. And, to go with that, there would be a curry. Sometimes, a pork vindaloo or a mutton curry. But always, always, a pomfret reichado. The masala had come from Goa, in a bottle whose lid was already crusty under the influence of the vinegar. The key ingredient was how many Portuguese chillies and what the vintage of the palm vinegar was. The fish market was next door and Christmas was always a busy day. My father would instruct the lady that he wanted it stuffed on both sides and I would watch as she turned her *koita* sideways and sliced horizontally. The best and most experienced fisherwomen cut close to the bone, lifting the flesh neatly away. In those days,



SHARED COMFORTS

On Christmas, at the Pinto household, there would always be a pomfret reichado

long before fish meals at as-per-size restaurants became trendy, it was still possible to buy a pomfret so large you had to tie it up with sewing thread to prevent it from falling apart. We never used rawa at home, not even for bombils. And then this would be lowered into a pan into which a good measure of cooking oil had been poured and it would be left to cook slowly, slowly until it had to be turned. It would be turned twice more and then it was done. I enjoyed eating the head, chewing every bit of it and opening my mouth wide around the debris to disgust my sister who was, in those days, easily disgusted. And when that was over, it was time for

dessert. I have a distant memory of making sweets at home. We made neoris and kulkuls once, I do remember, but I have no fond memory of them. Dessert is a serious thing for me. It is the living heart of the meal. It brings everything to a triumphant crescendo. It cannot be left to amateurs. And, so, I preferred the store-bought cakes that came home. There was Bonita's in Mahim and that had a wonderful plum cake through the year which was even richer at Christmas time. It was dark and full in the mouth and utterly wonderful. There was marzipan that was ordered in from one of the aunties of the neighbourhood. She left the skin on the almonds

on, which was thought to be not nice. And it was rumoured that she often spiked the almonds with a generous helping of cashewnuts because they were cheaper in those days. I loved the marzipan that way but once she passed on to her great reward, I had to make do with the denatured variety. It had less texture in the mouth and moved through the buccal cavity with such speed that you ended up eating a lot more than you had intended to. But then one year I met Kainaz Messman at Theobroma, when it was only a single shop at Cusrow Baug and I told her about this memory. She said: "We can do that for you" and indeed they did. It was quite lovely but it also moved through the buccal cavity with the same frightening speed. I think the problem now is the problem of plenty. We eat sweets throughout the year. I have learned to buy my plum cake at Desiree's near Candy's at the Bandra Reclamation. I have access to it all year and the result is that some of the joy has been leached out of Christmas eating. The greatest ever narrative of a Christmas meal — Christmas with the Cratchits from Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* (1843) — is a meal made special by the poverty of those around the table. I remember one line: "...indeed, as Mrs Cratchit said with great delight (surveying one small atom of bone upon the dish), they hadn't ate it all...!" This sounded like something you might hear in Moira, it rang so true and so clear. Among the pleasures of Christmas then, may we never forget the hungry. And since the Christ child was a refugee who had no place to lay his head, may we never forget the homeless.

Jerry Pinto is the editor, with Madhulika Liddle, of *Indian Christmas: An Anthology* (Speaking Tiger Books)

To All Our Daughters and Their Mothers

Healing can happen when we align ourselves together against patriarchy and not against each other



IMAGINE
SHELJASEN

Daughter: You let father humiliate me in front of everyone. How can I ever trust you after that betrayal?
Mother: I am just trying to hold our family together. Why do you make such a big deal about everything?
Daughter: There you go gaslighting me again!
Mother: Why don't you try to understand me?
Daughter: Why don't you try to understand me first?
Mother: I just want you to be happy. Can't you see I am trying to protect you? I just want you to become better.
Daughter: What does better even mean? Like that ideal daughter you have always dreamed of? Why am I never enough for you? Why am I never up to the mark?
Mother (with tears in her eyes): I am try-

ing to do my best but everyone blames me.
Daughter: I cannot believe how you manage to make everything about yourself!
Mother: I don't want you to mess up your life.
Daughter: I know you think I am a mess and I can see that disappointment in your eyes for the daughter you never had (now *choking with pain and tears in her eyes*) — beautiful, happy, good at everything. But why don't you get it — I am not you and never will be!
This is a glimpse of the theatre of the mother-daughter relationship that plays out in our homes and, at times, spills over to my therapy space. I have been a witness to this for years and even now, it wrenches my heart at the poignancy of it. The drama of love, seeking connection, pain, rejection, betrayal and so much more. It echoes of pain women carry across generations. More than a witness, I have been a participant in this drama, too. I remember my relationship with my mother while growing up, where there was so much love but there was a ranking ache that I had failed her in some way. I still remember telling her often, "I cannot be like you, I am not you." After my marriage, having a son was so beautiful, and despite the challenges, our relationship did not have the agonising complexity. His journey was not that familiar to me and neither was the territory that came with it. But then having a daughter changed everything and I was filled with immense wonder at this little being who seemed to be a reflection of me. As a child, being shy and tongue-tied in

social situations, when oblivious to our calling out her name we would find her snuggled up with a fat book in a corner. Or, when she would pick up a silly word and keep repeating it gleefully, giggling so much that she would choke and fall off the sofa. She was me and I was her. I waited for the day when she would turn around and tell me, "I am not you." And it did come soon enough and I watched with a mix of awe and pain as she drew the line and marked her territory, "I am not like you, Mum." Maybe she carried that ache, too, and was standing up for herself and refusing to be the daughter I wanted her to be. **The politics of it:** Though this theatre is played out in our homes, the problem is not located there. It is located in the patriarchal and gendered structures which define our roles and our worthiness — of a good mother, of a good daughter, of being *sanskari* women. It creates divides between us as we churn under pressure to perform these socially defined roles and expectations of the ideal mother/daughter. Mothers desperately trying their daughters to fit into society's idea of worthiness — get good grades, wear decent clothes, look pretty, stay respectful, so that they could be safe, happy and protected. Daughters fighting back against this indoctrination and at the same time trying to keep their feet on this ever-churning treadmill of social pressures. These conflicts become even more complex when we take the lens of intersectionality — when there is a disability,



SUVAJIT DEY

SHE IS ME AND HERSELF
Mother-daughter conflicts carry complexities and cannot be seen in binaries of good-bad, fair-unfair, wrong-right

neuro-divergence, gender or sexual expansiveness, poverty etc.
We heal in kinships and not in silos: Psychiatry and psychology have a murky history in terms of mother-bashing in the name of "healing childhood wounds", causing more damage than succour. Our mother-daughter conflicts carry complexities. They cannot be seen in binaries of good-bad, fair-unfair, or wrong-right. In my work, I have learned that it is crucial to separate the intent from the impact, as the intention is rarely about hurting the other person or diminishing their sense of self. Healing can happen when we expose the ruse and align ourselves together against pa-

triarchy and not against each other.
Rite of passage: I also wonder if this rite of passage is inevitable — the first phase of separation at about early adolescence as we intentionally start stepping away to explore our identities as separate from our mothers. The second liminal phase can be confusing and disorienting as we move away from the familiar and stand in strange territory. As a 15-year-old Pia shared with me, "It is scary as I cannot go back and I have no idea what I am heading towards. Home does not seem like home." It is this "betwixt and between" stage that can bring with it so much of anxieties, a sense of despair and loneliness. The final phase of reintegration is where we reunite with a sense of coming home without at times even having left home. I am not sure when I reintegrated with my mother, maybe it was only when I became a mother I started seeing so much of her in myself and so much of myself in her. I am aware of her voice that I carry with me everywhere. My mother being the person she is, has made this voice a mellow yet expansive presence. She is me and I am her. There is a yearning in me to find my little girl in my daughter and my heart soars when I hear that same childlike laughter, her clowning around and I want to hold the moment. But then I remind myself of what she told me, "Maybe you should not look for the person I was, but appreciate the person I am now." And as I struggle with my "betwixt and between", I marvel and respect her fierce feminist politics, or how she stands up for what she believes in and her passion for ideas that are so new and strange to me. I am reminded of Rabindranath Tagore's poem — "*Tomay notun kore pabo bole harai khone khon*" — I keep losing you to rediscover you in a new way.
**Acknowledgement to Michael White, co-founder of Narrative Therapy*
Shelja Sen is a narrative and family therapist, writer, co-founder of Children First. In this column she curates the know-how of the children and youth she has the honour of working with. Email her at shelja.sen@childrenfirstindia.com

Top-order disorder

In the last 10 years, India won 40 out of 50 subcontinental Tests. That record is now at risk: they need 100 more with six wickets in hand

ABHISHEK PUROHIT
DECEMBER 24

SINCE THE series defeat to England at home ten years ago, India have been so dominant in subcontinental conditions that they have lost a mere three and won 40 out of the 50 Tests they have played in the region. And as they reduced Bangladesh to effectively 26 for 6 in their second innings in Dhaka, yet another straightforward series win appeared to be around the corner.

But Litton Das, along with the plucky Nurul Hasan and Taskin Ahmed, refused to be rolled over. The trio hit out against the old ball and a spread-out field to set India 145 to win. And in a remarkably timid display, not unlike the manner of their top-order choke in the T20 World Cup semi-finals, India were reduced to 37 for 4 looking to defend their way throughout the 23 overs left on the third evening.

Only Axar Patel, promoted to No 4 ahead of Virat Kohli, stood firm with an unbeaten 26 to take India to stumps in the company of nightwatchman Jaydev Unadkat, with another 100 runs required on the fourth day. In the 138 deliveries they faced, the Indians hit just four boundaries, three of them coming from Axar.

Bangladesh had undoubtedly turned the momentum of the day in their favour with their lower-order hitting. However, far from showing any sort of intent to go after the target and underlining that they were still well ahead in the game, India came out as if they had only a few minutes to bat out until stumps, and could get away with just blocking. With fielders around the bat on a pitch that has offered something for the bowlers on all three days, it wasn't the wisest of approaches.

Stand-in captain KL Rahul ended a disastrous series with the bat with scores of 22, 23, 10 and 2. He doesn't have much of a forward stride, especially early in his innings, and the reluctant mode he is in at the moment isn't helping. He ended up following Shakib Al Hasan's tossed-up delivery with the arms as it spun and bounced, and gave a thin edge through to the wicketkeeper.

Shubman Gill had survived a leg-before review off the first ball of the second innings as he lunged forward to defend the Bangladesh captain. That seemed to play on his mind as he then started repeatedly stepping out to try and smother the spinners.

Cheteshwar Pujara prefers to operate in that manner anyway against spin. He is rarely done in the flight, though, when he skips out, and even if he is, usually adjusts to prevent damage. On Saturday, he managed neither against the off-spin of Mehidy Hasan Miraz, who dragged him out, did him in with a slightly shorter length, and the inside edge rolled back for the wicketkeeper to finish the stumping just in time.

India now sent in Axar instead of Kohli, apparently for a left-right combination, according to Mohammad Siraj. Axar did tackle the left-arm spin of Shakib and Tajul Islam, but Mehidy continued to dislodge the right-handers. Now Gill walked past one from the off-spinner for another stumping from Nurul.

None of the three batsmen to fall had seemed to trust their forward defence so far, but if anyone does so, it is Kohli. In defensive mode even in the first innings, Kohli kept stretching fully forward to block, refusing to step outside the crease. But while leaving the safety of the crease — to defend and not even

Kohli's dismissal set off intense celebrations among the Bangladesh players and caused the umpires to intervene after he took offence at something that was said to him, and then stormed off mouthing his colourful response.

to attack — against the new ball on a turning pitch may not be the best method, even the forward-defensive is not without its own risks.

On 1 off 22, a Mehidy delivery turned and bounced to take Kohli's inside edge to forward short leg. That set off intense celebrations among the Bangladesh players and caused the umpires to intervene after Kohli took offence at something that was said to him, and then stormed off mouthing his colourful response.

The shoe was certainly on the other foot now, and it seemed a long time ago when Bangladesh had slumped to 113 for 6 after lunch. Only Chattogram debut centurion Zakir Hasan had resisted with a half-century, but even he'd gone slashing Umesh Yadav to third man.

Bangladesh still had some ammunition left, though. Litton and Nurul began to take their chances, the runs started to flow and India were forced to deploy more boundary-riders as the lead grew. Nurul stepped out to loft R Ashwin for a straight six, Litton swept Axar for twin fours in front of square.

Along with the shift in momentum, came fortune. Kohli could not hold on to at least three tough chances at slip, getting wrong-footed on two of those occasions.

Nurul had bashed 31 off 29 by the time Axar enticed him out and had him stumped. In came the strapping Taskin Ahmed and slogged his way to an unbeaten 31.

Litton slammed Mohammed Siraj over the covers with authority for four, but the per-severant pacer got his reward when he dislodged his bails with a sharp nipbacker. Bangladesh lasted only four more overs after Litton's exit, but his brisk 73 had given them something to bowl at, and a shot of hope.

Mehidy has been a thorn in India's side throughout this tour, and he would come roaring back with the ball after scoring a duck. As India sought to shield one of their greatest batsmen against left-arm spin by sending in a left-hander, the off-spinner rattled them with three massive strikes that have given Bangladesh a chance to square this series. "If we get two early wickets in the morning, we can go for the win. If we get early wickets, we have a chance. I believe I can do well tomorrow [Sunday]," Mehidy said.

Only once have India lost while chasing a target of less than 150 in a Test — the infamous collapse for 81 all out while pursuing 120 against West Indies in Barbados 1997. If this were to become the second instance, it will join Galle 2015 (Sri Lanka), Pune 2017 (Australia), and Chennai 2021 (England) as only their fourth defeat in a decade in the Indian subcontinent.

BRIEF SCORES: Bangladesh 227 & 231 all out in 70.2 overs (Litton Das 73, Zakir Hasan 51; Axar Patel 3/68) vs India 314 and 45 for 4 in 23 overs (Axar Patel 26; Mehidy Hasan Miraz 3/12). India need 100 runs to win.



Bangladesh players appeal unsuccessfully for Virat Kohli's wicket during the third day of the second Test.

AP

Bangladesh celebrations agitate departing Kohli

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
DECEMBER 24

FORMER INDIA captain Virat Kohli had a heated exchange with the Bangladesh players, causing the umpires to intervene after his dismissal in the second innings on the third day of the second Test at the Sher-E-Bangla Stadium in Dhaka.

Kohli appeared to be unhappy as the Bangladesh players celebrated after he edged Mehidy Hasan Miraz to the forward short leg.

Kohli stood his ground for a while and then started walking towards the celebrating players and mouthed a few words fumingly.

Even as the umpires stepped in, Bangladesh skipper Shakib Al Hasan walked up to have a word with Kohli. Kohli made just 1 after facing 22 balls.

He was dismissed 10 minutes before the end of the day's play, pushing India into further trouble.

Axar Patel had been promoted ahead of Virat Kohli in the batting order when the team was in trouble at 12/2.

In the press conference afterwards, when fast bowler Mohammad Siraj was asked about the promotion he said: "It's management's call. I think it was because of the left-hand, right-hand combination to try to make things difficult for bowlers."

When asked about the Kohli brawl Siraj replied he was in an ice bath when the incident happened.



Virat Kohli reacts after his dismissal during the third day of the second Test.

AP

At the end of the day's play, India ended up with 45/4 with another 100 runs to get. Mehidy has been brilliant in the second innings with his three wickets.

Mehidy said, "We just tried to be positive, the wicket was turning, so we had to bowl well against them, they have some really good batters."

"If we get two early wickets in the morning, we can go for the win. That was an excellent ball (against Kohli) I tried to bowl into the rough. Got some turn on that ball. If we get early wickets we have a chance. I believe I can do well tomorrow," he added.

Gavaskar: Axar promotion hard to understand

Mumbai: INDIA HAD lost two wickets in the chase of the 145-run target when they sent the left-handed Axar Patel ahead of Virat Kohli at No. 4. India were reduced to 45 for 4 at stumps on day 3 with Axar unbeaten on 26. Former India captain Sunil Gavaskar wasn't quite pleased with the move.

"It doesn't send good signals to Kohli. To the world's best batsman that you bat down. Unless Kohli himself asked for it; then it's different matter. We don't know what happened in change room. But it's hard to understand. Axar has played well, of course," Gavaskar said on Star Sports.

It didn't help Kohli much as he fell to just 1 in 22 balls, edging to short-leg. Bangladesh's off-spinner Mehidy Miraz stunned the Indians with a three-wicket haul from his 8 overs to turn the pressure on India, who now need 100 more runs to win.

India also sent in a nightwatchman Jaydev Unadkat, who remained unbeaten. "Irrespective of left-hander or not, let Rishabh Pant come into bat next tomorrow," Gavaskar said. His point was even if Axar Patel is still there, it should be Pant who should join him at the crease. "Let this left-hand right-hand experiment stop," Gavaskar said with a smile.

Gavaskar also questioned the slip-catching technique of Indians. Kohli dropped a few tough chances at slip and Gavaskar pointed out how Indians don't "crouch low for spinners. They stand too upright with hands on knees. It's surprising that their coach is Rahul Dravid, who is probably the only Indian with more than 200 catches and a great catcher..." **ENS**

NO SUPPORT FROM CA: WARNER

David Warner on Saturday slammed Cricket Australia for their lack of support during his leadership ban appeal, adding that the issue affected his mental health. Warner had launched an appeal against the ban earlier this year and both parties wanted a closed-door hearing. But board-appointed independent commissioners insisted on it being public, forcing Warner to withdraw his appeal. **PTI**

BRIEFLY

Afridi named interim chair of PCB selection committee

Karachi: Former captain Shahid Afridi has been appointed interim chair of Pakistan's men's national selection committee, the country's cricket board (PCB) announced on Saturday. The all-rounder retired from international cricket in 2017, playing more than 500 international games across all formats after his 1996 debut. He replaces Mohammad Wasim, sacked this week following a year in which Pakistan were beaten in the finals of the Twenty20 World Cup and the Asia Cup, before their 3-0 defeat to England in a home test series. Afridi's appointment comes in the build-up to New Zealand's two-test tour of Pakistan, beginning on Monday. **AP**

Mumbai City beat Chennaiyin 2-1

Mumbai: Mumbai City FC beat Chennaiyin FC 2-1 to complete a double this season and return to the top of the table in the Indian Super League here on Saturday. Petar Sliskovic broke the deadlock in the 34th minute before Lallianzuala Chhangte equalised four minutes later at the Mumbai Football Arena. Greg Stewart then scored in the 57th minute to seal the match for the Islanders. The win took Mumbai two points clear of Hyderabad FC at the top, while Chennaiyin FC stay in seventh place, still five points off the play-off spot. The Islanders will face Odisha FC at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar. In another match, NorthEast United FC beat ATK Mohun Bagan 1-0. **PTI**

5-member team for Davis Cup announced

New Delhi: The All India Tennis Association (AITA) announced a five-member team for the Davis Cup World Group 1 play-off away tie against Denmark to be played at Royal Stage Stadium in Hillerod on February 3-4. Sasikumar Mukund, Prajnesh Gunneswaran, Rohan Bopanna, Ramkumar Ramanathan and Yuki Bhambhani were picked for the tie while Sumit Nagal was named as the reserve. Rohit Rajpal will be the non-playing captain. India had defeated Denmark 4-0 in the Davis Cup 2022 World Group I play-off tie at the Delhi Gymkhana Club in March. **PTI**

Doncic pours in 50 as Mavs topple Rockets

Houston: Luka Doncic scored a season-high 50 points and sank a clinching 3-pointer with 19 seconds remaining to carry the Dallas Mavericks to a 112-106 win over the Houston Rockets on Friday. Doncic added eight rebounds, 10 assists and three steals while shooting 17 of 30 overall and 6 of 12 from behind the arc. He scored 32 points in the second half while finishing one point shy of his career high. The Mavericks won their second game in a row while the Rockets closed a seven-game homestand with five consecutive losses. **AP**

QATAR HANGOVER

The English Premier League is back, with quite an act to follow

RORY SMITH
DECEMBER 24

THE PREMIER League was absolutely, resolutely clear. This was not a bluff. It was not a card to play or a chip to barter or a point to haggle. It was not, and this cannot be stressed enough, on the table. Whatever FIFA did with the World Cup, however the rest of Europe's major leagues contorted themselves to make way for it, the Premier League would be playing matches on Boxing Day.

That stance must, deep down, have seemed just a little absurd to the rest of the executives present at that summit in Doha in 2015, when the most powerful clubs and leagues in global soccer were informed that the World Cup was being shifted to the winter, like it or lump it. None of the leagues were happy, of course.

But only the Premier League — the richest domestic competition in the world, the one that earns more from its domestic broadcast deals than FIFA turns over in a whole World Cup cycle — seemed so aghast at the very notion of its cherished traditions being imperiled that it drew a red line. The tournament had to be finished, it declared, in time for the fixtures that would be scheduled for the day after Christmas could go ahead. There were reasons for that stance beyond habit, obviously. What is described so often in England as the "busy festive period" that it really should be trademarked is a key pillar of those television rights sales from which all of the Premier League's wealth and power flow: All those potential



A well-rested Erling Haaland could spell yet another Man City title.

AP

viewers sitting at home, their heads maybe just a little sore and their stomachs just a little full, gift vouchers from uncles they do not like burning holes in their pockets. Like most traditions, Boxing Day is really about selling you stuff.

And, of course, the Premier League is powerful enough to have received its wish. The World Cup, distilled into only 29 days, finished on Sunday. Most of Europe's other major leagues have given their players a little more of a hiatus, a little more chance to rest and recover. Italy's Serie A does not resume until the start of January, Germany at the end. Spain and France both have games scheduled this month,

but the burden on teams, and on players, is much lighter. The Premier League, though, will play on Boxing Day because the Premier League always plays on Boxing Day. No, it must play on Boxing Day. It would not be Christmas without it.

At which point, the word hubris lingering ever so slightly at the back of the mind, all we can do is wish everyone involved the best of luck. Did you enjoy the greatest World Cup final in history? The one with what may well have been the best goal ever scored in a final — that sweeping, wondrous move capped by Ángel Di María — and the hat trick from Kylian

Mbappé and Argentina winning it once, twice, three times and Lionel Messi, the finest player to have ever graced the game, at last fulfilling his dream and his destiny, as the world watched on with eyes wide?

Well, next up we have Crystal Palace against Fulham. And it's live.

Before the World Cup, it was easy to wonder what physical impact the presence of the tournament in the middle of the season might have on Europe's major leagues. (Which is why this newsletter did it, by my count, three times.) Would players return from Qatar exhausted or injured? Would there be a significant advantage for those teams who had fewer representatives at the World Cup? Would the second half of the season just be Erling Haaland, revived by a month of boredom, mowing down weary, disinterested defenses?

World Cup injury problems

At first glance, it would appear that the Premier League has no need to worry. England made the quarterfinals, of course, and those players who formed the core of Gareth Southgate's team most likely will need a little time to rest and recover before being thrown back into the fray by their clubs. But there were surprisingly few Premier League stars who made it into the tournament's final week.

That is not to say that there is not an impactful injury legacy of the World Cup. Indeed, there is every chance that it was in Qatar that the fate of the Premier League title was decided: The medial ligament injury sustained by Arsenal forward Gabriel Jesus was precisely

the sort of blow that England's unlikely leader could not afford. It will take time for the significance of that injury to become apparent. When Boxing Day rolls around, the Premier League may look as if it is at not far off full strength. That, though, was never likely to be the problem. There will be a physical impact on those players who were in Qatar, but it will not manifest until spring, once the miles in the legs have piled up. Even then, it will not take the form of mass absences, but greater vulnerability to minor aches and strains. Those looming concerns may not have much effect on the destiny of most of Europe's domestic championships, but in the knockout rounds of the Champions League, where an ill-timed two-week absence can prove the difference between glory and disappointment, it may yet be decisive.

The more immediate problem, though, is psychological. It is not just the Premier League's wealth — and the quality of player and coach that can attract — which has made it soccer's dominant domestic competition. Nor is it just the aesthetic appeal of its stadiums, or the fame and grandeur of its biggest names, or even the fact that it is all conducted in English. Part of its success is down to its ability to project just how much every single moment matters.

Eight days after a World Cup, that is probably best described as a tricky sell. No other tournament, not even the Champions League, can offer quite the drama, quite the tension of the final rounds of the World Cup. Its secret is its scarcity; every game carries the sense that it is now or never, do or die, once in a lifetime.

It is a competition of a different order, a blockbuster in a world of soaps, and one that offers something that most leagues are now far too stratified, far too hierarchical to provide on a regular basis. Every World Cup game has an air not just of jeopardy, but of balance, too. The gap between the strong and the (allegedly) weak is not quite such a chasm as it has been allowed to become in domestic soccer. The World Cup offers regular viewers a dash of something they do not get — but may secretly want — from their more ordinary diet.

That is not to say, of course, that the Premier League, and the rest of Europe's major competitions, will trudge reluctantly to a conclusion. The stadiums will be full on Boxing Day, because that is what lots of people do on Boxing Day. There are still plentiful stories to transfix fans around Europe: Arsenal and Napoli, genuine outsiders, competing for championships; the ongoing crisis at Barcelona; Liverpool and Manchester United trying to attract new investment, in the wake of the rise of Newcastle United.

To ask fans to pick up with those plot lines so soon, though, feels just a little like a misstep. It invites a contrast that, unusually, is not especially flattering for the Premier League, in particular, and risks casting the flaws in European domestic soccer in a rather sharper light than it might like. It will be eight days since what may well come to be regarded as the best soccer game of all time. It is asking a lot of Everton and Wolves to match that standard. Just because you always play on Boxing Day does not, in fact, mean you should. **NYT**

Former All England doubles champion Ivan Sozonov to coach next rung and development squad of junior beyond Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty

RUSSIAN FORMER All England doubles champion Ivan Sozonov is under consideration for India's badminton doubles foreign coach appointment at the national camp. The 33-year-old is likely to join at the start of the next financial year, and will mostly be responsible for the next rung and the development squad of juniors, beyond Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty.

India's newest entrants into Top 5, Satwik Chirag, however will continue to be coached by Danish Mathias Boe, who has steered them to a World Championship medal in what has been their best season up until now.

Sozonov, who reached out to BAI applying for the India job, will assume responsibility for the next pairings like Dhruv Kapila - MR Arjun and Krishna Prasad - Vishnuvardhan, as well as the crop of juniors bursting through the wings.

"He will be 24x7 rooted into the system, and given his good equation with Boe, will also coordinate to bring about uniformity in the program for the second rung plus juniors. Formalities will take some time, but we are positive about this working out and Sports Authority of India have given their go-ahead crucially," a source said.

Boe has done a tremendous job, taking Satwik-Chirag to title wins

this year and helping India win the Thomas Cup. However he cannot commit full-time to being around the next rung who needs dedicated and specific attention. It's where Sozonov's appointment can fill the missing link.

The Russian won the 2016 All England with partner Vladimir Ivanov, and the duo have been known for their flair, intensity and adaptable variety in their games. The duo have turned out for various teams in the Premier Badminton League, and share a good rapport with the Indian juniors.

While Mathias Boe has set the broad contours for elite training and sat for matches beyond Satwik-Chirag, it has be-



Ivan Sozonov is likely to join the camp at the start of the next financial year.

come necessary to bring in more expertise with the burgeoning numbers. Both Dhruv-Arjun and Treesa Jolly - Gayatri Gopichand pairings are on the cusp of big Olympic qualification seasons where India would want two combinations to crack the Top 16

**won the
land with
impr
he duo**

India's rejigged mixed doubles pairs are still in nascent stages, and the likes of Sikki Reddy, Sai Prateek and Ishan Bhatnagar, will also need tactical shepherding.

Sozonov is expected to help out with these burgeoning numbers.

Sozonov-Ivanov were European champions in 2014 as well as at Kyiv in 2021 albeit from a German walkover. He also was runners up at the Denmark Open in 2020.

Predominantly a net player setting up the attack for gigantic 6 foot 6 Ivanov,

Sozonov, himself a 6 footer, was known for his variations and tactical acumen. Together the Russians reached a career-high of World No 7 in 2017.

India had a series of effective foreign coaches from Malaysian Tan Kim Her to Indonesian Flandy Limpele, before Mathias Boe, more hands-on, opened up the possibility of a recently-retired international taking up a coaching job. While each coach contributed to India gaining in confidence in doubles, there was also a simultaneous acknowledgement that Indian coaches - Vijaydeep Singh and Arun Vishnu, were doing a fine job on the ground alongside Indonesian ace sparrers like Dwi.

"As such there was no urgency to bring in a foreign coach because the system was working well. But now Mathias will need to focus on Satwik-Chirag in a crucial qualification year, and we were also open to looking beyond Indonesians and Malaysians. But Sozonov should be a good addition," the source said. Paperwork and permissions though might take a while, and given India's past experiences, Sozonov can be said to be a done deal only after he actually lands here and begins work.

THE WORLD Cup final ended nearly a week ago but the drama around it continued as the match referee showed a photo on his phone during a news conference to respond to claims that Lionel Messi's extra-time goal should not have stood.

Argentina won the final in Lusail, Qatar 4-2 on penalties after the match ended 3-3 following 120 minutes of action, with Messi scoring twice and Kylian Mbappe bagging a hat-trick for France. Szymon Marciniak, the first referee from Poland to officiate a World Cup final, faced criticism from French media that he should have chalked off Messi's extra-time goal because two Argentina substitutes appeared to enter the pitch before the ball went into the net.

French newspaper L'Equipe mentioned the International Football Association Board's Law 3, paragraph 9, which includes that the referee must disallow the goal if a substituted player was on the field of play when the goal

FORMER WORLD number 1 Rafael Nadal has said he is not visualising his own retirement yet after being present at the moving farewell for his rival Roger Federer at the Laver Cup this year. "I know that that moment is closer than it was last year, without any doubt, and than it was two years ago," Nadal said in a candid interview with Spanish publication *Marca*. "But in the end it's a thing that when it has to happen, it will happen. I would like it to be on a tennis court, that's for sure."



Rafael Nadal will next play the United Cup in Australia starting December 31.

their generation, a debate that has raged on more loudly and contentiously as the trio of him, Federer, and Novak Djokovic have come close to the end. The Spaniard said that personal biases dictate the debate. "There will be one who will be the best, which I don't think is easy to define because everyone has their arguments to defend one player or another beyond the objective data," he said. He did emphasise, however, the fact that the trio have pushed each other to the limit to be able to achieve what they have.

Nadal, who had a landmark 2022 which saw him win the Australian and French Open and reach the Wimbledon semifinals, has also spent the majority of the second half of the year recovering and dealing with injuries. During the interview, Nadal revealed that after winning the French Open by using injections to numb the chronic pain in his foot, he

Bhopal: Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist Lovlina Borgohain, reigning world champion Nikhat Zareen and 2019 world championships silver medallist Manju Rani produced scintillating performances to secure their berths in the semi-finals of the 6th Elite Women's National Boxing Championships here on Saturday.

Representing Assam, Lovlina was contesting the 75kg quarter-finals bout against Meena Rani of Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB). The Asian champion's superior technical ability saw her cruise through the entire bout, hardly giving her opponent the chance to have a go at her. Ultimately, Lovlina won 5-0 by unanimous decision.

She will face Jigyasa Rajput of Madhya Pradesh in the semi-finals. Nikhat, who was facing Taniksha Chawar of Goa in the 50kg quarter-finals, hardly had to break a sweat and was on the front foot since the get go. Her swift movement and strong punches helped her overpower her opponent and emerge victorious after the referee stopped the contest towards the end of the second round.

I know that that moment is closer than it was last year, without any doubt, and than it was two years ago. But in the end it's a thing that when it has to happen, it will happen. I would like it to be on a tennis court, that's for sure."

RAFAEL NADAL

Nadal suffers from the Muller-Weiss syndrome, a degenerative foot condition that causes him chronic pain in his heel. The Spaniard began a new radiofrequency treatment in June ahead of Wimbledon, which he says is showing positive results.

"The truth is that I have done it many times after Wimbledon because the injury is incurable and when the nerve starts to hurt you have to do it again," he said about the treatment. "Now I am much happier, beyond winning or losing on the court, because I was suffering from a limp. I played tennis with lots and lots of anti-inflammatories but I was limping all day long. I thought I had to quit tennis because I had lost my vitality and I was a sad person most days."

Nadal will now be playing at the United Cup – a new mixed event between ATP and WTA – in Australia starting December 31 prior to the Australian Open which begins on January 17.



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PERSONAL

We Nand Kishore Chadha S/o Shri Rajinder Kumar Chadha and Priyanka Chadha W/o Nand Kishore Chadha both R/o 131, Sansad Vihar, West Enclave, Pitampura, North-West Delhi-110034 do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that we have adopted Diya Kohli as stated above with effect from 13.09.2022 we have changed the name of our minor adopted daughter Diya Kohli aged about 13 years and she shall hereafter be known as Vandana Sawhney.

I, hitherto known as Vandana, W/o Yoginder Kumar, R/o Flat-No-12, East Villa, Rambhau Salgaonkar Road, Badhwar Park, Cuffe Parade, Colaba, Mumbai, Maharashtra-400005, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Vandana Sawhney.

I, hitherto known as Sahil, S/o Yoginder Kumar, R/o Flat-No-12, East Villa, Rambhau Salgaonkar Road, Badhwar Park, Cuffe Parade, Colaba, Mumbai, Maharashtra-400005, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Ganesh Sawhney.

I, Wattan Kumar Bhajanka alias Watan Kr. Bhajanka, S/o Girdhari Lal Bhajanka R/o Plot, No.45, Block-A, Pocket-2, Indraprastha Enclave, Sector-17, Dwarka, Delhi-110078, have changed my name to Watan Bhajanka, for all, future purposes.

I, VAISALI ANAND W/O MANISH ANAND R/O 894, GH-13, 5FS FLATS, PASCHIM VIHAR, DELHI-110087. HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO VAISHALI ANAND.

I, Shikha Bhatia W/o Ankit Jain, R/o B-2/38A, Budh-Vihar Phase-1, Sultaipuri C Block, Delhi-110086, have changed my name to Shikha Jain.

I, Shashi Sharma W/o Anil Kumar R/o-439 Lal Jyoti Apartment Sector-9, Rohini Delhi-110085, changed my name to Shashi Bala.

I, SHYAM SUNDER AHUJA, S/o Atmaram Ahuja, R/o A-1/65, Ground Floor, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi-110029, have changed my name to SHYAM AHUJA, for all future purposes.

I, Vaishali W/o Karna R/o 130, Ground Floor, Sector-5, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, have changed my name to Vaishali Choudhary.

I, Rishabh Kanojia S/O Mangal Singh R/O -331/9-A Street No.1, Rajgarh Colony, East-Delhi Delhi-110031. Have Changed My Name To Rishabh Kanojia, Rishabh Kanojia And Rishab Kanojia Is One And The Same Person.

I, Ravindra Singh S/o Kannoji Lal R/o 191, Badwali Chopal, Fatepur Beri, New Delhi-110074, have changed my name to Ravendra Singh.

I, Ravinder kour, w/o Ashwani Kumar, R/o-489, Bharat Apts., Pocket 3, Sector-16B, Dwarka Delhi, have changed my name to Ravi Tyagi.

I, Rahat Ali W/o-Mohammad Kamran Khan R/o -House- No-127, Gali Katra Gokul Shah Bazar, Matia Mahal Jama Masjid, Delhi-110006, have changed my name to Rahat Khan.

I, RANJEET SINGH S/O HET SINGH R/O HNO.D-82,B, FIRST-FLOOR, KHN.75/17, POLENO.M DKJ462, AMAR COLONY, NANGLOI, DELHI-110041. HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RANJIT SINGH.

I, RAMESH NAGPAL S/O VISHAN DASS R/O HNO.71, RAJDHANI ENCLAVE, PITAMPURA, DELHI-110034. HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RAMESH KUMAR.

I, Pushap Raj Kohli S/o, Onkar Nath Kohli R/o-42, Vidya Apartments, Opp. Jwalapuri, Camp-No.5, Rohtak-Road, Paschim-Vihar, New Delhi-110063, have changed my name to Pushp Raj Kohli.

I, Pandiaraj Kavitha, D/o C Pandia Raj R/o 244/B3-A, Janak Puri, New Delhi-110058, have changed my name to Kavitha Pandiaraj.

I, Pallavi rai D/o Raj Kumar Gandhi R/o-M-42, Saket, Delhi-110017, have changed my name to Pallavi Gandhi

I, PREETI BEDI W/O ANKUR CHAUHAN R/O C-10/24, SECTOR-15, ROHINI, DELHI-110089. HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO PREETI CHAUHAN.

I, Shamitha, D/o C Pandia Rai R/o 244/B3-A, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058, have changed my name to Shamitha Pandiaraj.

I, Neha W/o-Malyaj Jemini, R/o Flat-606 Mantova Tower 6th Floor Mahagun Moderne, Sector-38, Noida, G.B. Nagar-201701, have changed my name to Neha Dhawan.

I, NIKHIL SHARMA, S/o Ajay Sharma, R/o C42 Ganeshpuri Sahibabad Ghaziabad 201005 have wrongly-written the names of mine and my father as Nikhil Kumar and Ajay Kumar in my 10th-marksheet. The actual names of mine and my father are NIKHIL SHARMA and AJAY SHARMA.

I, NAVJOT KAUR, W/O FAISAL PARWEZ H.NO.389, STREET-18 BLOCK K,1 SANGAM-VIHAR, NEW DELHI-110080, CHANGED MY NAME TO ALIYA KHAN.

I, Monika Gupta, D/O Shri Nath Gupta, W/O Gaurav Kumar Gupta, R/O-1/7072 Gali No.6, Shivaji Park, Shahdara Delhi-110032, Have Changed My Name To Isha Gupta.

I, Mohd Zahoor, S/o Late Abdulh, R/o A-129/5, Block-A, Abdul Fazal Enclave, Jamia Nagar, Delhi-110025, have changed my name to Mohd Zahoor Ansari, for all purposes.

I, Madhesh W/o Rakesh kumar R/O-RZ-04,Virendra market Najafgarh, delhi-110043, have changed my name to Madhu

I, Mohd Shafique, S/o-Abbas Ali, R/o-A-3/116, Sultan Puri, Delhi-110086, in my school record my name is wrongly mentioned as Md. Shafique Ansari but my correct-name is Mohd Shafique.

I, Mohd Asim S/o Amjad Parvez R/o 170, Heera Puri Barla, Muzaffarnagar-251307, have changed my name to Muhammad Aasim.

I, MOHDASSIR ALAM, S/O MAINUDDIN MIYAN H.NO,389 STREET-18, BLOCK K,1 SANGAM VIHAR, NEW DELHI-110080, CHANGED MY NAME TO MUDSSIR ALAM.

I, MD BILAL /MOHD BILAL, S/O, MOHD SALEEM KHAN, ADD-F-2/559 UNDER NAGRI, NORTH EAST DELHI 110093, changed my name to MOHD BILAL SALEEM KHAN, for all, future Purposes.

I, MAMTA TOMAR W/O BIJENDER SINGH S/O VILLAGE RATANGARH, SONIPAT-131001. HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MAMTA, FOR ALL PURPOSES.

I, Jaybal W/o Ram Ratan R/o C-32, Surya Nagar, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201011, have changed my name to Sunita.

I, Jaspreet Kaur, D/o Jasbir Singh, R/o C-453-55, Khayala, DDA-Colony, Near-5 Number Gurdwara, Subhash-Nagar West Delhi-110018, have changed my name to Jaspreet Kaur Saggu.

I, Hitherto Known As Faisal, S/O Mohd. Furqan, R/O-3/15-A Street No.8, Gurudwara Mohalla, Maujpur, Delhi-110053, Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Faisal Siddiqui.

I, GARIMA DUGGAL, W/o-Sh Sahil Duggal, R/O-A-166, Meera bagh, Paschim Vihar, New DELHI-110087, have changed my minor daughter's name, from YASHNA to YASHNHA, for all purpose.

I, FAISAL PERWEZ S/o MUDSSIR ALAM H.NO.389, STREET-18, BLOCK K,1 SANGAM-VIHAR, NEW DELHI-110080 CHANGED MY NAME TO FAISAL PARWEZ.

I, Bhaskar Ghosal S/o, Shishir Kumar Ghosal, R/o-5C Fourth-Floor, Sanskriti Apartment, Sector-56, Gurgaon, Haryana-122011, ha ve changed my name to Bhaskar Ghoshal, Permanently

I, Ashutosh Biswas S/o Nishi Kant Biswas R/o C-54, Gauri Shankar Enclave, Prem Nagar-3, Kirari-Suleman-Nagar, Delhi-110086, inform that Ashutosh Biswas S/o Nishi Kant Biswas and Asutosh Biswas S/o Nishi Kanto Biswas are same and one-person i.e. mine and my father.

I, Anita Gupta W/o Sh. Rakesh Gupta, R/o-176-B, Red Mig-Flats, Rajouri-Garden, New Delhi-110027 have changed my name from Anita Bansal to Anita Gupta after marriage, for all purposes.

I, ASHWANI KUMAR AGNIMITRA, S/o K.K. Sharma, R/O C-6/38, Safdarjung Development Area, New Delhi-110016, have changed my name to ASHWANI AGNIMITRA.

I, Shamitha, D/o C Pandia Rai R/o 244/B3-A, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058, have changed my name to Shamitha Pandiaraj.

I, Satish Kumar Jain, S/o Roshan Lal Jain, R/o E-295, Gali No.-7, Subhash Gali, Jagjit Nagar, Delhi-110053, have changed my name to Satish Jain.

I, Neena w/o Manish Kumar R/o 19/20 Gausala Colony, Dharampura, Najafgarh, New Delhi-43.I. Have changed my son's Name From SHUBHAM TO SHUBHAM KUMAR.

I, Rekha Gupta, W/o Ravinder Aggarwal, R/o H.No. 62-B, Sector-1, Rohtak, Haryana-124001, changed my name to Rekha Aggarwal.

I, Ravinder Partap Gupta, S/o Late Sh. Daya Ram Gupta, R/o H.No. 62B, Sector-1, Rohtak, Haryana-124001, changed my name to Ravinder Aggarwal.

I, Ranjeet Singh, S/o Satyapal Singh, R/o Village- Khanpur Khumrah, Sambhal, Uttar Pradesh-244302, have changed my name to Ranveer Singh.

I, Parul Sudha, S/o Sohan Lal Sudha, R/o H.No-662/7, New Colony, Kurukshetra, Haryana-136118, have changed my name to Paras Sudha.

I, Mandeep Singh, S/o Prem Singh, R/o Dhunderheri, Kaithal, Haryana-136027, have changed my name to Mandeep Singh Goyat.

I, Keshav S Saini S/o Shri M.S. Saini, R/o H.No.17, Gautam Nagar, New Delhi, Andrewsganj, South Delhi, Delhi-110049, have changed my minor daughter name from Kaavya Saini aged 07 years to Shree Kashi for all purposes.

I, KOMAL SINGH RAWAT, S/o Ranjit Singh Rawat, R/o 11464/11, Gali No.11, Govindpur, Kalika Ji, New Delhi 110019, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as KOMAR SINGH RAWAT in my driving Licence No. PO307202325140. The actual name of mine is KOMAL SINGH RAWAT.

I, KM RASHMI ARORA, W/O AMIT MANUJA, R/O HOUSE No.132, ISHWAR COLONY, BEHIND NDPL OFFICE, BAWANA, DELHI-110039, have changed my name to RASHMI.

I, Imran Malik, S/o Asgar Ali, R/o Village - Harsan, Bazpur, Harsan, Udhham Singh Nagar, Uttarakhand-262401, have changed my name to Imran Ali.

I, Gour Chandra Dutta, S/o Nalini Mohan Datta, R/o3, Khalisha Kota Pally, Near Manimela Math, VTC-North Dumdum (m), PO-Birati, Sub Distt- North 24 Paraganas, Distt- North 24 Paraganas, West Bengal-700051, have changed my name to Gour Chandra Datta.

I, Akanksha Gupta W/o Amit Mittal R/O-95 C-Block New, Multan, Nagar, Shakur Basti Depot, Delhi-110056, changed my name to Akansha Mittal.

I, Aashi Gupta, D/o Ravinder Aggarwal, R/O-A-403, Lakeview Apartment, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-87, changed my name to Aashi Aggarwal.

I, Paramjit Kaur W/o Pradeep Singh B-31 Chandler Vihar Niloti Extn., Nangloi Delhi have changed my name to Paramjeet kaur.

I, Mukesh Kumar S/o Gopal Dass Kwatra, R/o 738/B, Jwala Nagar, Church Road, Shahdara North East Delhi, Delhi-110032, have changed my name to Mukesh Kwatra for all purposes.

I, Megha Goyal W/o Mohit Gupta R/O-F-58, Kamla Nagar, Delhi-110007 have declared that Megha Gupta and Megha Goyal is one and the same person and I shall hereafter be known as Megha Goyal for all purposes in future.

I, Sanjay S/O Puran Chand, R/O K- 2/38 Madangiri Dr.Ambedkar-Nagar New Delhi -110062, Have changed my name to Sanjay Jorwal permanently.

I, SURJEET SHARMA, S/O LAKSHMI PRASAD SHARMA, ADD-119, 2ND-FLOOR, GUJRAWALA COLONY-GURAWALAN TOWN-II, NORTH WEST-DELHI-110009, changed my name to SURRJT SHARMA, for all, future Purposes.

I, SYAMOSRI MUKHOPADHYAY, W/O DRIPTO MUKHOPADHYAY, R/O Flat No.A/3, Plot.No.5/1, Sector-5, Rajender Nagar, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad (UP) have changed my name to SYAMOSRI MUKHERJEE.

I, RANI KHANCHANDANI SHARMA/ RANI KHANCHANDANI, W/O SURRJT SHARRMA, ADD-119, 2ND-FLOOR, GUJRAWALA COLONY GURAWALAN TOWN-II, NORTH- WEST DELHI-110009, changed my name to RANI KHANCHNDANI, for all, future Purposes.

I, PANKAJ KUMAR SINGHAL, S/O KAILASH CHAND SINGHAL, R/O A-6, 3rd-FLOOR, GALINO.3, PARWANA ROAD, EAST BALDEV PARK, KRISHNA NAGAR, DELHI-110051. HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO PANKAJ SINGHAL.

I, Vandani Kohli D/o Sh. Rajinder Kumar Chhadra R/O 131, Sansad Vihar, West Enclave, Pitampura North-West, Delhi-110034 do hereby declare that my daughter Diya Kohli aged about 13 years has been adopted by Nand Kishore Chadha S/o Shri Rajinder Kumar Chadha and Priyanka Chadha both R/O 131, Sansad Vihar West Enclave Pitampura North-West, Delhi-110034 Vide Sub Registrar Certificate No.-2843 in Book No.-3, Vol No.-822, on page 9 to 12 on this date 13.09.2022 time 5:24:38 PM (Sub

I, Ranjeet Singh, S/o Satyapal Singh, R/o Village- Khanpur Khumrah, Sambhal, Uttar Pradesh-244302, have changed my name to Ranveer Singh.

PART TIME JOB

Require Retired person from Govt/PSU/Pvt/Banks/Sr. Citizen, Housewives for Part/Full time job in MNC, Noida #8218779468 (Akanksha , Manager)



GENERAL

American Citizen, Punjabi Sikh, Handsome groom, height 5'9"/ 71.51 years, Manager with a multinational company. Seeks beautiful, professionally educated Bride. Caste no bar. Immediate Marriage. Contact - 09888577275 0050210273-1



DIVORCEE

SM for NCR based, Issueless Divorce, Mar 86/54 MBA involved family business #9811093634, 9999570384

LOST & FOUND

I, Anita Goel W/o Ramesh Chand Goel R/o H. No. 1/5125, Street No-4, Balbir Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110032 have lost my original conveyance deed of my given property Flat No. B-46, Ashirwad Apartments, Plot No.74, I.P. Extension, Patparganj, Delhi-110092. Finder contact 8800163144.

I, Ankush Gulati S/o Ram Nath Gulati, R/O 701/3, Shivaji Road, Azad Market, Delhi-110006, hereby declare that the documents of my above mentioned property January 2016 have been lost, please founder contact at 9999999057

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Sandhyakar W/o No 13674390K Nk (TS) Late Swamyat Siddhakar, RZD3/257 A, Street No. 9, Mahavir Enclave, Delhi -110045 hereby declare that my correct name is Sandhya Kar and correct date of birth is 01st Jul 1964 whereas the name & date of birth recorded in service records of my husband is SandhyaKar & 1966. My correct name & date of birth is Sandhya Kar & 01st Jul 1964 be used for all future purposes and same be changed in service records of my husband. The change affirmed vide Affidavit dated 16 Dec 2022 before Notary (RV Singh, Advocate), Government of India, Delhi.

I, SURJEET SHARMA, S/O LAKSHMI PRASAD SHARMA, ADD-119, 2ND-FLOOR, GUJRAWALA COLONY-GURAWALAN TOWN-II, NORTH WEST-DELHI-110009, changed my name to SURRJT SHARMA, for all, future Purposes.

I, RANI KHANCHANDANI SHARMA/ RANI KHANCHANDANI, W/O SURRJT SHARRMA, ADD-119, 2ND-FLOOR, GUJRAWALA COLONY GURAWALAN TOWN-II, NORTH- WEST DELHI-110009, changed my name to RANI KHANCHNDANI, for all, future Purposes.

I Sandhyakar W/o No 13674390K Nk (TS) Late Swamyat Siddhakar, RZD3/257 A, Street No. 9, Mahavir Enclave, Delhi -110045 hereby declare that my correct name is Sandhya Kar and correct date of birth is 01st Jul 1964 whereas the name & date of birth recorded in service records of my husband is SandhyaKar & 1966. My correct name & date of birth is Sandhya Kar & 01st Jul 1964 be used for all future purposes and same be changed in service records of my husband. The change affirmed vide Affidavit dated 16 Dec 2022 before Notary (RV Singh, Advocate), Government of India, Delhi.

I, RANI KHANCHANDANI SHARMA/ RANI KHANCHANDANI, W/O SURRJT SHARRMA, ADD-119, 2ND-FLOOR, GUJRAWALA COLONY GURAWALAN TOWN-II, NORTH- WEST DELHI-110009, changed my name to RANI KHANCHNDANI, for all, future Purposes.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public at large that myself Rohit Sharma S/o Late Mr. S.K. Sharma has lost the part of Original Conveyance Deed read dt. 11/01/2002, of flat No. 52-C, DDA Flats Masjid Mohd., ND -48. In this regard a Police Complaint has lodged No. 1067507/2022. Any person(s) claiming any right, interest having any objection regarding the above flat, may write / contact with above named person at above address / Phone No. 09819814254 with in 7 days and no claim will be entertain thereafter.

PUBLIC NOTICE

IT IS HEREBY INFORMED THAT MY CLIENT MS. ANSHARA WATS IS PURCHASING THE SAID FRESHOLD BUILT UP RESIDENTIAL FLAT SECOND FLOOR WITH FULL RIGHT OF PROPERTY NO. KA-42, COVERED AREA MEASURING 142.50 SQ.M. SITUATED AT KAUSHAMBI, TEHSIL & DISTRICT GHAZIABAD U.P. THE DOCUMENTS NAMELY, SALE DEED DCD NO. 15352 DATED 08/10/2001 IN RESPECT TO THE SAID PROPERTY, SHOULD INFORM & STATE ANY RIGHT OR INTEREST IN THE AFORESAID PROPERTY, SHALL BE SUBMITTED WITHIN 15 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF ISSUE OF THIS NOTICE.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This Notice is hereby given to general public that Mrs. Babita alias Babi & Mr. Rajesh Kumar who claimed to be owner and in possession of the said property area measuring 60 sq. yds. out of Khana no. 1582-1583-1586, situated in the area of Village Bhoot colony, Tehsil & Distt. Old Faridabad Haryana, by virtue of Sale Deed Dated 14.04.2011, now Mrs. Babita alias Babi & Mr. Rajesh Kumar Have selling said property to Pardeep Kumar Upadhyay and Pardeep Kumar Upadhyay has approached Jana Small Finance Bank Limited for financial assistance and therefore shall be mortgaged with the said Bank. We give this public notice that if any person having any claim/objection regarding ownership and/or creating mortgage of the said property or any part of the said property in favour of Jana Small Finance Bank Limited, is/are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to undersigned with supporting documentary evidence at the address mention below within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which any claim, if any, of such persons will be consider to have been waived and/or, abandoned and our client shall proceed with the disbursement of loan against the said property and subsequent creation of Mortgage in respect thereof. For Juris NextGen Law Offices E-66, LGF, Greater Kailash Enclave Part-I New Delhi-110046

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all that my client SUNITA W/o. Sh. Son Dutt R/o. 671, Gali No.8, Chander Lok Shahdara Delhi have severed all kinds of relation and debar their Son Himanshu Sharma and his wife Prachi Chaudhary from entire moveable/ immovable properties due to their arrogant and hostile behavior. It is further made clear that my client will not be accountable/responsible for any kind of Legal Proceedings, dealing, act, conduct or consequence of his Son Himanshu Sharma and his wife Prachi Chaudhary

GOURAV KUMAR-ADVOCATE Ch.No. 30, Western Wing, The Hazrat Courts, Delhi-110035

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I TRIPITI ROHATGI D/O GIRISH KUMAR ROHATGI residing at 5695/81, regar pura, karol bagh, New Delhi -110005 declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as GIRISH ROHATGI in my 10th & 12th educational documents. The actual name of my father is GIRISH KUMAR ROHATGI respectively which may be amended accordingly. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public at large is hereby informed that my client Mrs. Jyoti Mathew Wife of Shri Dinshank Mathur Resident of H.No.307, Gali No.11, Hakika Nagar, New Delhi-110009, cancelled the Court Order of Attorney dated 25/10/2022, executed at the name of Shri Ansh Raj Son of Shri Chand Resident of RZ-A-52, Gali No.3, Gali Shikhar Madh, Vijay Enclave, Delhi, my client has not been taken any consideration from him against Built-up First Floor without roof rights of property bearing no.-A, area measuring 75 sq.mts. out of Khana No.2527, Situated in the area of Village Nawada, Delhi new colony known as MS-Block-Phase-I, Mahanagar, Urban Nagar, New Delhi-110086, with our car parking at Ground Floor, Ayazabad Enclave, my client shall not be liable and responsible for the dealing with.

Sd/- Vishal Singh (Advocate) Earl. No. D-749/2014

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Clients SH. HEERA LAL GUPTA S/O SH. SHARI RAM SHAU and SMT. SUSHILA DEVI BOTH R/O H.NO-11/15, PREM NAGAR-2, KIRARI SULEMAN NAGAR, DELHI-110086 have disclosed and debarred their both son SH. RAJAL GUPTA and AJAY GUPTA BOTH R/O H.NO-11/15, PREM NAGAR-2, KIRARI SULEMAN NAGAR, DELHI-110086, from their entire movable and immovable property and also severed at their relations.

Anybody dealing with them will do at their own cost and consequence. Anybody deals with them may not be responsible at own risk. My clients will not be responsible for any deed. .

Sd/- Rishpal Singh (Advocate) ED-17 C, PITAMPURA, DELHI-110024

सार्वजनिक सूचना

सर्व सामान्य को सूचित किया जाता है कि मेरी पत्नी **श्रीमती रश्मि** पत्नी श्री अजीत कुमार निवासी मकान नं.- 88-588, 3रे फ्लोर, पुरा शरपुर पूर पूर्व दिल्ली, दिल्ली -110092 में पत्नी हैं। मेरी मौलिकत्व में आने पुत्र **साहिल** पत्नी श्री अमीर हसन एमन उसकी पत्नी **कोकिया** पुत्री श्री संवीर अदरक, को उनके माता आचरण व दुरव्यवहार के कारण अमान्य बत कर अपने सम्पत्ती से विवेकन कर दिया है और उसकी अपने सभी परिवारियों को विवेक कर दिए गए हैं। स्वयं श्री साहिल एमन उसकी पत्नी श्रीमती कोकिया से मेरे सुवृत्तिक व उसके परिवार का कोई रिश्ता नहीं है। अतः भविष्य में वह अपने सम्पत्त काया व लेन देन के लिए स्वयं जिम्मेवार होंगे। **सायु गुप्ता** (इकोलेट) 17 / 254, कल्याणपुरी, दिल्ली-110092

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify the general public that my client Sh. Ranjeet Kumar Bhoogat S/o Gulab Bhagat R/o Plot No. 48-49, Vipin Garden, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-59 has debarred their younger brother Sujet Kumar & his wife Manisha Kumari from all his movable & immovable properties with immediate effect. Anybody dealing with them in any manner, shall do so at his/her own cost, risk & responsibility. My client shall be in no way responsible for any acts, deeds & things done by them.

Sanjay Kapoor & Associates Shri Hazari Court, Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to my client PRINCE PANKASH ARORA S/O SH. G.R. ARORA RESIDENT OF RP-23, FIRST FLOOR, PITAMPURA, DELHI-110024 has disclosed and severed all his relations with his son namely PRINCE ARORA and his wife RITIKA BATRA who is presently residing at St. RAJA ENCLAVE, PITAMPURA, DELHI-110034 and debarred them from all his movable and immovable properties/assets due to their misbehaviour, unfamiliar activities, intolerable act, misconduct and against against my clients. Anybody dealing with PRINCE ARORA and RITIKA BATRA in civil and criminal matter shall be doing at his/her own risk, cost and responsibility and my client and his family shall not be liable for their any act.

Sd/- NAVEEN KHANNA (ADVOCATE) OFFICE- SHOP NO. 18, DDA MARKET, RU BLOCK, PITAMPURA, DELHI

IMPORTANT

Whosoever is responsible for acceptance of advertising in any form, shall be responsible for its contents. The Indian Express (P) Limited cannot be held responsible for such contents, nor for any loss or damage incurred as a result of transactions with companies, associations, or individuals advertising in its newspapers or Publications. We therefore recommend that readers make necessary inquiries before sending any monies or entering into any agreements with advertisers or otherwise acting on an advertisement in any manner whatsoever.

COURT NOTICE

In the Court of Sh. Bhupesh Kumar, District Judge (Comm. Court-02) Dwarka Courts, New Delhi Notice for Publication (Order 5, Rule 20 of the CPC) CS (Comm) No. 189/2021 Indian Overseas Bank... Plaintiff Vs. Pradeep Kumar... Defendants To, Sh. Pradeep Kumar S/o. Sh. Rajpal Singh R/o. H.No. 317, Vili+PO Chiti G.B. Nagar, Danakur, Bulandshar, UP-230202 Mob. No. 9456005901 Email ID - preetnagar07@gmail.com

Whereas Plaintiff has instituted that above Suit for Recovery of Rs. 7,66,887.50/- against the defendants. You are hereby summoned to appear in this Court in person or by a pleader on the 31st day of January, 2023, at 10.00 O'Clock, to answer the same, failing which the suit will be disposed of ex-parte.

Given under my hand and the seal of the court, this 30th November, 2022.

District Judge (Comm. Court-02) Dwarka Courts, New Delhi

CIRCLE SASTRA ARRAH, 1st Floor, Mahuli Kothi, Near Peer Baba More, Arrah- 802301

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/physical/ symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Bank/ Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on the date as mentioned in the table herein below, for recovery of its dues due to the Bank/ Secured Creditor from the respective borrower (s) and guarantor (s). The resale price and the earnest money deposit will be as mentioned in the table below against the respective properties.

Lot No.	Name of the Account, Borrower(s) /Guarantor(s) Name, Name of the Branch	Description of the Immovable Properties Mortgaged/ Owners Name(mortgagers of property(ies)	(a) Date of demand Notice u/s 13 (2) of SARFAESI Act 2002 (b.1) O/S amount as on date of 13 (2) notice (b.2) O/S amount as on 30.11.2022. (c) Possession date u/s 13(4) of SARFAESI Act 2002 (d) Nature of possession symbolic / physical / constructive (e) Amount recovered after issuance of 13(2) notice (till 30.11.2022)	a) Reserve Price b) EMD c) last date of deposit of EMD d) Bid Increase Amount	Date/ Time of E-Auction	Details of the encumbrances known to the secured creditors
1.	GOLDEN RICE MILL through its proprietor Shri Ashok Kumar S/o SHIV KUMAR Account/s no. 15114015002381 & 600200IC00000022 BO: Bihiya (600200)	All that Part and Parcel of Immovable Property situated at: 1. Mauza - Piro, Thana No.- 88, Ward No.-12, Holding No.- 239, Khata No.- 878, Plot No.- 2009, 2010, P.S. & Anchal - Piro, District- Bhojpur, Area - 4 Decimal (1742.40 SQFT) Boundary :- Ara Sasaram Road, South - Manjoor Miyan, East - Gali then Abdul Khan, West- Yahiya Raien & Salauddin Raien. Mortgagor:- Md. Naim, S/o Md. Abdul Karim. 2. Mauza - Piro, Thana No.- 88, Khata No.- 195, Plot No./ Khesra No.- 700, Old Khesra - 929, P.S. & Anchal - Piro, Dist.- Bhojpur Area - 26 ½ Decimal. Boundary:- North - Sadru Khan , South - Sadru Khan, East - Istekhar Ali & Ahmadi Khatoon, West - Karha & Rasta. 3. Mauza - Piro, Thana No.- 88, Ward No.- 12, Khata No.- 261, Plot No.- 660 Part, P.S. & Anchal - Piro, Dist.- Bhojpur. Area - 3 Katha (9.375 Decimal and 4083 SQFT). Registered Sale Deed No.-3601 , Dated - 29.11.2012. Boundary:- North - Md. Hasan, South - Niz, East - Bihar Sarkar / Karaha, West- Kasim Raien. Mortgagor:- Md. Naim, S/o Md. Abdul Karim.	(a) 25.10.2021 (b.1) Rs.1,67,44,136.20 --int. due from 01.09.2021 (b.2) Rs.1,54,75,644.66 as on 31.10.2022 (c) 02/03/2022 (d) Symbolic (e) 0.00	1.(a)Rs.66,97,800/- (b)Rs. 6,69,780/- (c) 24.01.2023 (d)Rs 10,000/- 2.(a)Rs.85,59,500/- (b)Rs.8,55,950/- (c) 24.01.2023 (d)Rs.10,000/- 3.(a)Rs.33,75,000/- (b)Rs.3,37,500/- (c)24.01.2023 (d) Rs.10,000/-	25.01.2023 11:00 AM to 01:00 PM	Not Known
2.	M/S Akshay Rice Mill Prop: Shri Awadhesh Kumar Singh, S/o Shri Krishna Singh , A/C No- 2696008700001979 & 296600IC00000027, BO: Akorhi (269600)	All that Part and Parcel of Immovable Property situated at : 1. Mauza - Dudhara, Thana No.- 140, Thana - Mohania, Khata No.- 10, Plot No.- 88, Area - 22, Decimal and Khata No.- 68/87, Plot No.- 119, Area - 18 Decimal, Dist.- Kaimur. Registered Sale Deed No. 6943 , Dated: 19.08.2013, Total Area- 40 Decimal Boundaries:- North - Rambharosha Pandey & Others, South - Rest of plot 88 and 119 Nij Manmokr, East - Rama Nand Singh, West - Road. Mortgagor: M/S Akshay Rice Mill Through Its Proprietor Shri. Awadhesh Kumar Singh. 2. Mauza - Dandwa, Prahna - Chainpur, Thana No.- 535, Khata No.- 322, Plot (Khesra) No.- 1241, Halka No.-9, Bhabhua , District - Kaimur. Area - 2.50 Decimal. Sale Deed No.- 3001 , Dated - 08.04.2008. Boundaries:- North Rasta 6 feet, South - Seth Lalita Devi, East - Rasta 6 feet, West - Rasta 6 feet. Mortgagor:- Shri. Awadhesh Kr. Singh, Shri. Surendra Kr. Singh & Shri. Birendra Kr. Singh, all are S/o of Shri. Krishna Singh. 3. Mauza - Mohaniya, Thana No.- 31, Khata No.- 573/55, Plot (Khesra) No.- 1177/781 Anchal - Bhabhua , District- Kaimur. Area - 2.50 Decimal. Sale Deed No.- 2237, Dated - 17.03.1989 and Sale Deed No.- 2239, Dated - 17.03.1989. Boundaries:- North - Janardhan Singh and Others, South - Shiv Pujan Singh and Others, East - Mistri, West - Koli Badhu Ram Sakal Singh. Mortgagor:- Shri Awadhesh Kr. Singh, Shri Surendra Kr. Singh & Shri Birendra Kr. Singh, all are S/o of Shri Krishna Singh.	(a) 25/05/2021 (b.1) Rs.63,74,983.24 --int. due from 01.04.2021 & other charges. (b.2) Rs.83,97,815.24 as on 30.11.2022 (c) 15/09/2022 and 24/08/2021 (d) Physical (e) Nil	1.(a)Rs.37,49,760/- (b)Rs.3,74,976/- (c)24/01/2023 (d)Rs.10,000/- 2.(a)Rs.7,02,000/- (b)Rs.70,200/- (c) 24/01/2023 (d)Rs.10,000/- 3.(a)Rs.9,75,000/- (b)Rs.97,500/- (c)24/01/2023 (d)Rs.10,000/-	25.01.2023 11:00 AM to 01:00 PM	Not Known
3	M/s Pawan Enterprises through its proprietor Shri Pawan Kumar, S/o Shri Ram Bilash Pandit. Account No- 1403008700005402, 140300IL00000025, 140300IL000000281 BO-Charpokari(140300)	All that Part and Parcel of Immovable Property situated at : 1. Mauza - Barap, Thana - Agiaon (Garghani), Anchal - Garhani, Dist.-Bhojpur, Khata No.- 382, Khesra No.- 3168, Area-3 Decimal. Sale Deed No. 3719, Dated 28.05.2018. Boundary:- North - Nij Vikreta, South - Krishna Singh, West - Nij Vikreta, East - Kachchi Rasta (East to West - 37 feet 3 inch, North to South - 35 feet).Mortgagor - Shri Pawan Kumar, S/o Ram Bilash Pandit. 2. Mauza-Barap, Thana-Garhani, Sub-Registry Office-Jagdishpur, Dist.-Bhojpur, Thana No.-297, Khata No.-354, Khesra No.-1550, Area-3 Decimal. Sale Deed No. 7077 , Dated 03.11.2015 Boundary:- North - Shera Pandey & Others, South - Lal Bahadur Pandit & others, East - 2 feet rasta then Kishore Pandey & others, West- Khesra No.- 1506. Mortgagor:- Shri Pawan Kumar, S/o Ram Bilash Pandit.	(a) 18/11/2021 (b.1) Rs.26,18,713.76 --int. due from 01.10.2021 & other charges. (b.2) Rs.27,06,027.76 as on 30.11.2022 (c) 15/03/2022 (d) Symbolic (e) Rs.2,86,447.00	(a)Rs. 1,17,300/- (b)Rs. 11,730/- (c)24.01.2023 (d)Rs.10,000/-	25.01.2023 11:00 AM to 01:00 PM	Not Known
4	M/S Maa Vaishno Trading Company through its proprietor Shri Devmuni sah Account/s no. 3007008700005118, & 300700IL00000151 BO-Ratwar(300700)	All that Part and Parcel of Mortgaged Property situated at : 1. Mauza- Shivpur, Thana- 529, PS- Bhabhua, Khata no- 33, Tauzi- 99/4, Khesra no- 1082/811, PS- Bhabhu, District Kaimur. Area- 03 Decimal. Registered Mortgage Deed No.- 962 , Dated 13-02-2019. Boundary:- North - Devmuni Sah, South - Banshi Sah Malah, East - Nij, West- Rasta. Mortgagor:- 1. Devmuni Sah, S/o Late Suryanath Sah, 2. Vikas Kumar, S/o Devmuni Sah, 3. Lakshmina Kunwar, W/o Late Suryanath Sah 2. Mauza- Shivpur, Thana- 529, PS- Bhabhua, Khata no- 33, 100/4, Khesra no- 1082/811, PS- Bhabhu, District Kaimur. Area- 03 Decimal. Registered Mortgage Deed No.- 962 , Dated 13-02-2019 Boundary- N- Koli, S- Lakshmina Kunwar, E- Nij, W- Rasta Mortgagor:- 1.Devmuni sah S/O- Late Suryanath Sah, 2.Vikas Kumar S/O- Devmuni Sah, 3.Lakshmina Kunwar W/o- Late Suryanath Sah	(a) 23.06.2021 (b.1) Rs.26,68,604.83 --int. due from 01.04.2021 & other charges. (b.2)Rs.31,37,062.83 as on 30.11.2022 (c)16.09.2022 (d) Physical (e) Nil	(a)Rs.10,47,600/- (b)Rs.1,04,760/- (c)Rs.22,40,010/- (d)Rs.10,000/-	25.01.2023 11:00 AM to 01:00 PM	Not Known
5	M/S Jai Maa Bindeshwari Mini Rice Mill , through its Partnership Shri Rakesh Kumar Ojha and Shri Vipin Kumar Upadhaya, Gaurantor-Smt. Bimla Kunwar, W/o Lt. Badri Narayan Ojha. Account No- 2141008700001372 & 214100IB00000089 BO- Baruna(214100)	(1) All that Part and Parcel of Immovable Property situated at:- Mauza- Kasbey Ara, Mohalla- Anand Nagar Motijhil, P.S.- Ara Town, New Ward No.- 36, Khata No.- 1048, Thana No.- 237, Old Plot No.- 10714, New Plot No.- 9533 & 954 , Dist.- Bhojpur. Area- 3.12 Decimal. Registered Sale Deed No- 10337 , Dated 20.09.1989. Mortgagor:- Smt. Bimla Devi, W/o Late- Badri Narayan Ojha. Boundary- North-Rasta 12 ft, South- Aditya Nath Tiwari, East- Niz Mokir, West- Hal K				

1) The properties are being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS"

2) The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule hereinabove have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorised Officer, but the Authorised Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation.

3) The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Website <https://www.mstcecommerce.com> on 25/01/2023 @ 10:30 AM

4) For detailed term and conditions of the sale, please refer www.ibapi.in, www.tenders.gov.in, www.mstcecommerce.com, <https://eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app>

**Authorized Officer
Punjab National Bank
Secured Creditor**

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
PWD CIRCLE, PRATAPGARH**

Email: sepratrap@gmail.com Tel. No. 01478-294178
No. 790 Date 12/12/2022

**Notice Inviting Bid No. 03/2022-23
NIB code PWD2223A3211**

Bids for 2 works of building works are invited from interested bidders upto 6:00PM of 02.01.2023. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in>, <https://sppp.rajjasthan.gov.in>) of the Rajasthan state; and departmental website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 297.20 lakhs.

UBN No. PWD2223WSOB12682 & PWD2223WSOB12683

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer,
PWD Circle, Pratapgarh

DIPR/C/16124/2022

UTTARAKHAND POWER CORPORATION LTD.
(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Undertaking)
CIN. U40109UR2001SGC025867/2358
Victoria Cross Vijeta Gabar Singh Urja Bhawan, Kanwali Road, Dehradun
Telephone-(0135) 2763672-76 Fax-(0135) 2760289

E-TENDER DATE EXTENSION NOTICE

E-tender Specification No. CCP-I/35/2022-23/Pkg-7/Lot-1, Lot-2 & Lot-3 invited by this office on Turnkey Contract for work of Survey, Design, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of the Work of Undergrounding & Strengthening of HT & LT Electrical Network on Arterial Roads of Dehradun Town under Uttarakhand Transmission Strengthening and Distribution Improvement Program (UTSDIP) with financial support of M/s ADB are hereby extended due to unavoidable reasons. Bid document will be purchased and submitting upto 10:00 Hrs. of 18.01.2023. Part-1 of the e-tender shall be opened on 18.01.2023 at 11:00 Hrs. of Lot-1, 11:30 Hrs. of Lot-2 & 12:00 Hrs. of Lot-3. Other terms & conditions will remain same as per original tender notice. For further details, please visit our website www.uktenders.gov.in.

**SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
CORPORATE (C&P-I)**

No.: 559/EE(CM)/UPCL/A-2 Dated : 24.12.2022

"SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF THE NATION.
Use L.E.D. Bulb to Save Electricity (Toll Free No. 1912)
Pay Electricity Bill Online 24x7 from www.upcl.org. (For information on Electricity theft, informer may report to Toll Free No. 1800 180 4165/Fax No. 0135-2760911)"

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, खण्ड नोखा

क्रमांक:-2671-78 दिनांक:-15/12/2022

Notice Inviting Bid - 14/2022-23

Bids for Various Works related **Renewal of Roads (SR to Renewal) and Missing Link Roads Under SRF (RR)** are invited from interested bidders upto 19.12.2022 (09:30 AM) to 09.01.2023 (06:00PM), other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal <http://www.pwd.rajjasthan.gov.in> & eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in & sppp.rajjasthan.gov.in of the state and departmental website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 387.00 Lakh.

NIB CODE No: PWD2223A3302
UBN:- PWD2223WSOB13021, PWD2223WSOB13022,
PWD2223WSOB13023, PWD2223WSOB13024

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PWD Dn. Nokha

DIPR/C/16281/2022

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CHEMIST (JIM & RURAL)
PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING
DEPARTMENT, JAIPUR**

Gandhi Nagar, Jaipur-302015

E-mail: ccljmphed@rajjasthan.gov.in
Phone: 9413348379

NIB No.: 01/2022-23 Date: 14-12-2022

Bid of estimated cost Rs. 151.73 lacs for "Supply, installation and commissioning of the UV-VIS Spectrophotometers along with all Accessories Essential for Water Samples Analysis in the PHED laboratories at 33 District H.Q.'s of Rajasthan" is invited from eligible bidders upto 16-01-2023 (06:00 PM). Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal <http://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in> and <http://sppp.rajjasthan.gov.in> of the state.

UBN: PHE2223GLOB10728

Sd/-
Chief Chemist (JIM&Rural)
PHED, Rajasthan, Jaipur

DIPR/C/16137/2022

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General Public is hereby informed that a female (depicted in the photo), **Names: Soniya W/o Babu R/o Beda No. 3, Sunder Nagari, MCD Flat, K-Block, Delhi** has been missing since 29.11.2022 from her house. In this regard a case vide DD No. 100A dated 01.12.2022 has been lodged at Police Station Nand Nagri, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

Soniya

Age: 35 Years, Height: 5'2", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Build: Fat, Wearing: Red Colour Suit & Salwar and Red Colour Chappal in feet.

Any person having any information/ Clue about this missing female, may inform SHO, Nand Nagri, Delhi at E-mail Id-cic@cbi.gov.in or website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

Phone: **SHO**
011-24368638, 24368641 P.S. Nand Nagri, Delhi
Fax No. 011-24368639 North East Distt., Delhi
DP/3823/NE/2022 Ph. No. 011-22583307, 22585985

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY Notice of E-Auction

मण्डल रेल प्रबन्धक (वाणिज्य), उत्तर पश्चिम रेलवे, बीकानेर भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से बीकानेर मण्डल पर कमर्शियल पब्लिसिटी Station Area Advertisement, OOH, vinyl wrapping-RDN (Digital, Non-Digital), के ठेके के लिए ई-ऑक्शन प्रारम्भ किये गये है जिनका विवरण निम्न प्रकार है:-

केटलॉग संख्या	कार्य का नाम व स्थान	ई-ऑक्शन की दिनांक व समय
Adv OOH-23	Advertisement out of Home At महेंद्रगढ़, रामपुराबेरी, सतनाली, सिरसा, लोहार, सादुलपुराह	05.01.2023 समय 15:00 बजे
Adv SA 1 23	Advertisement on station premise Non-Digital at लहसीलमावरा, लोहार, भिवानी, सूरतगढ़, रानागढ़, लालगढ़, सादुलपुर, हनुमानगढ़, बुरु, श्रीविजयनगर	06.01.2023 समय 15:00 बजे
Adv RDN 1 23	Advertisement on station premise Non-Digital at महेंद्रगढ़, अनुपगढ़, सिरसा, सरदार शहर	09.01.2023 समय 15:00 बजे
Adv VW 1 23	Advertisement - Train Exterior (Below Window) Train No. 22497/22498 SGNR-TPJ Humsafar Exp (Weekly). 147117/14718 BKN-HW (Triweekly), 14701/14702 SGNR-BDTS (Daily). 22475/22476 HSR-CBE (Weekly), 12489/12490 BKN-DDR (By Weekly). 14723/14724 BKN-CNB (Daily), 14707/14708 BKN-DDR (Daily). 14795/96 BKN-KLK (Daily)	10.01.2023 समय 15:00 बजे

अन्य सूचना एवं नियम व शर्तों के लिये www.ireps.gov.in पर लांघिन करें।

1088-DG/22

Please join us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/NWRRailways) [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/NWRRailways) [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/NWRRailways) [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/NWRRailways)

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING
ENGINEER, LEFT MAIN CANAL
CIRCLE, CAD CHAMBAL, KOTA**

Address: CAD Circle, Dadabari Road, Kota (Raj.) 324009
Phone No.: 0744-2500056, Email ID: selmccircle.cad@rajjasthan.gov.in
No: SE/LMC/Circle/Acc/NIT/2022/ 2890 Date: 14.12.2022

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 01-2022-23

Bids for the following works are invited from "AA" Class category or equivalent contractors/firms registered in CAD/Water Resources Department and State Government/Other State Government/Authorized organizations of Central Government/CPWD/Post and telegraph department/Railway etc. interested bidders upto to 06:00 PM dated 11.01.2023:-

S. No.	Name of work	Approx. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)
1	Rehabilitation and Construction of essential Drainage network in Command area of zone 1 to 10 LMC CAD Chambal, Kota	800.67
2	Rehabilitation and Construction of essential Drainage network in Command area of zone 11 to 13 LMC CAD Chambal, Kota	743.58
3	Rehabilitation and Construction of essential Drainage network in Command area of zone 14 to 17 LMC Division CAD K.Patan	733.87
4	Rehabilitation and Construction of essential Drainage network in Command area of zone 18, 23A & 24 of LMC Division CAD K.Patan	617.39

Other particular of bid may be visited on the procurement portal <http://www.eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in>, www.dipr.rajjasthan.gov.in & <http://www.sppp.rajjasthan.gov.in>

UBN: 1. CDK2223 WLOB00184, 2. CDK2223 WLOB00185 Sd/-
3. CDK2223 WLOB00186, 4. CDK2223 WLOB00187 (Haret Lai Meena)
Superintending Engineer,
NIB CODE: CDK2223A0031 Left Main Canal Circle,
DIPR/C/16200/2022 CAD Chambal, Kota

**E-PROCUREMENT CELL BUILDING CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT
CORRIGENDUM**

Sl. No.	Tender Reference No.	Name of Work
1	BCD/RFP/04/2022-23	Request for Proposal for appointing Project Management Consultant (PMC) for the work "Construction of New Jharkhand Bhawan at Gurudwara Bangla Sahib Lane New Delhi".
2	Corrigendum Title	Date Correction
3	Corrigendum No.	01
4	Previous PR No.	285785

➤ **Date has been Corrected for the above referenced tender as follows:-**

	Previous Date	Date Corrected
Start Date/Time of Submission of Bids	06.01.2023 at 11:00 AM	31.12.2022 at 11:00 AM
Last Date/Time of Submission of Bids	28.01.2023 at 05:00 PM	14.01.2023 at 5:00 PM
Last Date/Time of Submission of Bid Security Money and Tender Fee	31.01.2023 upto 11:30 AM	16.01.2023 upto 11:30 AM
Date/Time of opening of Bid	31.01.2023 at 12:00 PM	16.01.2023 at 12:00 PM
Time of completion	18 Months	2.5 Months

Other Terms & Conditions shall remain Unchanged.
PR 285860 Building(22-23)D Nodal Officer e-procurement cell, BCD, Ranchi

कार्यालयक अभियन्ता का कार्यालयपथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमण्डल, गोड़ा

ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट सूचना

ई-निविदा सूचना सं० - RCD/GODDA/1460/2022-23 दिनांक - 22.12.2022

Sl. No.	कार्य का नाम	प्रमाणित राशि	प्रमाणित राशि (रु० में)	अग्रघन की राशि (रु० में)	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि
1.	कार्य का नाम	ई० निविदा रिफ़ेन्स न०	प्रमाणित राशि (रु० में)	अग्रघन की राशि (रु० में)	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि
2.	प्राकलित राशि	ई० निविदा रिफ़ेन्स न०	प्रमाणित राशि (रु० में)	अग्रघन की राशि (रु० में)	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि
3.	बोड जमानत की राशि	ई० निविदा रिफ़ेन्स न०	प्रमाणित राशि (रु० में)	अग्रघन की राशि (रु० में)	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि
4.	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	ई० निविदा रिफ़ेन्स न०	प्रमाणित राशि (रु० में)	अग्रघन की राशि (रु० में)	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि
5.	वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि	ई० निविदा रिफ़ेन्स न०	प्रमाणित राशि (रु० में)	अग्रघन की राशि (रु० में)	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि
6.	ऑनलाईन निविदा प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि / समय	ई० निविदा रिफ़ेन्स न०	प्रमाणित राशि (रु० में)	अग्रघन की राशि (रु० में)	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि
7.	निविदा खोलने की तिथि / समय	ई० निविदा रिफ़ेन्स न०	प्रमाणित राशि (रु० में)	अग्रघन की राशि (रु० में)	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि
8.	निविदा अमार्जित करने वाले अधिकारी के कार्यालय का नाम एवं पता	ई० निविदा रिफ़ेन्स न०	प्रमाणित राशि (रु० में)	अग्रघन की राशि (रु० में)	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि
9.	निविदा अमार्जित करने वाले अधिकारी का मो० नं०	ई० निविदा रिफ़ेन्स न०	प्रमाणित राशि (रु० में)	अग्रघन की राशि (रु० में)	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि
10.	ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट सेल का हेल्ललाईन सं० / दुरभाष सं०	ई० निविदा रिफ़ेन्स न०	प्रमाणित राशि (रु० में)	अग्रघन की राशि (रु० में)	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि

नोट :- विशेष जानकारी के लिये <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है।

PR 285901 (Road) 22-23 (D) कार्यालयक अभियन्ता, पथ प्रमण्डल, गोड़ा

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता का कार्यालय, सिचाई प्रमंडल, गालुडीह

अतिअल्पकालीन ई०निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

1. विभाग का नाम :- जल संरक्षण विभाग, झारखण्ड सरकार

2. विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम :- कार्यपालक अभियन्ता, सिचाई प्रमण्डल गालुडीह।

3. निविदा अभिलेख वेबसाइट पर प्रकाशन की तिथि एवं समय :- 27.12.2022 अपराह्न 3.00 बजे।

4. निविदा अभिलेख डाउनलोड करने की तिथि एवं समय :- 27.12.2022 अपराह्न 3.00 बजे से 05.01.2023 अपराह्न 05.00 बजे तक।

5. ऑनलाईन निविदा प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय :- 05.01.2023 अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक।

6. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :- 09.01.2023 अपराह्न 12.30 बजे।

7. अग्रघन की राशि एवं परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य जमा करने की तिथि एवं स्थान :- 07.01.2023 अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक।

कार्यालयक अभियन्ता का कार्यालय सिचाई प्रमण्डल गालुडीह।

क्र०सं०	कार्य का नाम	ई० निविदा रिफ़ेन्स न०	प्रमाणित राशि (रु० में)	अग्रघन की राशि (रु० में)	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि
1	Construction of WBM Service Road in between Km. 0.00 to 56.04 of GRMC	WRD/IRRDIVGALU DIH/SBD-04/ 2022-23, Dt- 23-12-2022	20,42,18,101.58	20,43,000.00	10000.00	12 माह

नोट :- केवल ई०-निविदा स्वीकार होगा। प्राकलित राशि घट-बढ़ सकती है। तदनुसार अग्रघन की राशि देय होगा। परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य केवल बैंक ड्राफ्ट के माध्यम से ही स्वीकार किया जायेगा, जो कार्यपालक अभियन्ता, सिचाई प्रमण्डल, गालुडीह के नाम से भारतीय स्टेट बैंक, मजु मंडार शाखा पर देय होगा। विशेष जानकारी के लिए वेबसाइट <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> पर देखें।

कार्यालयक अभियन्ता
सिचाई प्रमंडल, गालुडीह।

PR 285864 (Water Resource) 22-23 (D)

जिला निर्माण समिति जिला नारायणपुर (छ.ग.)

दूरभाष (कार्यालय) 07781-252216, (रेस्र) 252215

मैनुअल पद्धति निविदा सूचना

क्रमांक/141/निविदा/जि.नि.स./2022-23 नारायणपुर दिनांक-21/12/2022

एकीकृत पंजीवन प्रणाली अंतर्गत सख्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित निर्माण कार्य हेतु मैनुअल पद्धति निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

- निविदा प्रपत्र प्राप्त हेतु आवेदन की अंतिम तिथि :- 30.12.2022 सां. 5.00 बजे तक
- निविदा प्रपत्र प्राप्त की अंतिम तिथि :- 03.01.2023 सां. 5.00 बजे तक
- निविदा प्रपत्र जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि :- 06.01.2023 सां. 5.00 बजे तक
- निविदा दर खोलने की तिथि :- 09.01.2023 सां. 5.00 बजे तक

निम्न कार्यों का निविदा प्रपत्र पंजीकृत पावती बुक डाक/स्पेड पोस्ट से जमा किया जाना है। उपरोक्त निविदा खोलने की तिथि अवकाश घोषित होने अथवा शासकीय दौरे पर होने की स्थिति में निविदा अगले कार्य दिवस में खोली जायेगी। निविदा प्रपत्र निविदाकारों का उनके अधिकृत प्रतिनिधियों के समक्ष कार्यालय में खोले जायेंगे, जो निर्धारित तिथि एवं समय पर उपस्थित रहेंगे। निम्न कार्य का उत्तरेसह ग्रामीण विकास अधिकरण की दर अनुसूची नं० 22.02.2018 से प्रचलित दर अनुसूची के आधार पर प्रभावशील है।

क्र.	कार्य का नाम	ठेके की लागत राशि (लाख में)	अमानत राशि
1	राहत सिंचित धवन निर्माण कार्य, जिला नारायणपुर	127.18	रु. 95385
2	राहत सिंचित धवन निर्माण कार्य, जिला नारायणपुर	127.18	रु. 95385

निविदा समीक्षित समस्त जानकारी परियोजना क्रियान्वहन ईकाई, उत्तरेसह ग्रामीण विकास अधिकरण जिला नारायणपुर से प्राप्त किया जा सकता है।

हस्ता/-
नोडल अधिकारी
जिला निर्माण समिति
जिला नारायणपुर (छ.ग.)

96941

Office Of Superintending Engineer

1st Circle PWD Almora

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (E- Tendering)

E-TENDER NOTICE

The superintending Engineer, 1st Circle, Public Works Department. Almora invites tender through E-Tendering (Two Bid System) on behalf of Honourable Governor of Uttarakhand for following. works. All other information will be available from dated 27.12.2022 & onwards on website <http://www.uktenders.gov.in>

S. No.	Name of Work	Cost of Tender Form	Earnest Money (Rs. in lakh)	Validity of Tender	Time of Completion	Contractor's Category of Registration for tendering
1.	Construction Division Kapkot Improvement and Damikaran of Duni - Sukunda Motor Road (Km 6.00 to 7.60) in Kapkot District Consuituency Bageshwar under State Sector.	5000.00 +18% G.S.T.	3.02 Lakh	120 Days	12 Months (including Raining/ Winter season)	Class B & Higher in Road work in Central Govt. /Any Govt. Undertaking

Lakshmbai National Institute of Physical Education, Gwalior

Deemed to be University

Government of India,

Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

No.: Estate/Security/04/2022-23/25 21st Dec. 2022

NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR AWARD OF ANNUAL CONTRACT FOR SECURITY SERVICES IN ENTIRE CAMPUS OF INSTITUTE

The Institute invites sealed tenders from reputed security agencies under two-bid (Technical and Price) system for "award of annual contract of security services in entire Campus of Institute" through deployment of trained security guard at Mela Road, Gwalior for a period of one year, who fulfill the criteria as laid down in tender form. The particulars and schedule of tender is as under:-

	Tender fee	Estimated cost	Earnest Money Deposit	Likely date of commencement & deployment of security guards	duration	Last date and time for submission of tenders	Date and time for opening of technical bids	Date and time for opening of price bids of technically qualified bidders
	Nil (document to be downloaded from website of Institute or CPPP)	Rs. 165 lakh	Rs. 5,00,000/-(refundable after tender process is over and exempted for MSME & Start up as submission of valid certificate)	01.03.2023 – 12.00 mid-night	1 year (extendable for maximum period of two years on yearly basis at discretion of Institute).	16.01.2023 till 3.00 PM	16.01.2023 at 4.00 PM	To be intimated separately.

The interested firms, who are eligible as per eligibility conditions of the tender, given in the tender document, may submit their tenders in the prescribed formats along with all information, document and EMD by Bank Draft if applicable in favour of "Registrar, LNIPE, Gwalior" payable at Gwalior, by speed post or registered post or by hand, so as to reach/drop in the tender box at the office of Deputy Registrar (Estate), LNIPE, Gwalior by 3.00 PM on 16.01.2023.

The detailed tender document-cum-form is available on the web-site of Institute www.lnipe.edu.in as well as CPPP Portal, which forms integral part of this NIT and may be downloaded for submission.

(N.L. ROHIRA) REGISTRAR I/c

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. CN/10/2022 Dated: 21-12-2022

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders through IREPS only for supply of following items:

Tender Closing Time : 14:00 Hrs.

Sl.	Description in Brief	Qty	Tender Due on
1	4 CORE X 400 sqmm 1100 V grade, Standard Aluminium Conductor Galvanised Steel Strip armoured XLPE Cable etc. (Tender No.:95225725)	1000 Mtrs.	09-01-2023
2	4 CORE X 240 sqmm 1100 V grade, Standard Aluminium Conductor Galvanised Steel Strip armoured XLPE Cable etc. (Tender No.:95225726)	3950 Mtrs.	12-01-2023

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

PUB564/ADP/PBR/SWR/2022-23 Chief Materials Manager, Construction, Bengaluru Cantonment

S.W.Railways sw_rly SWRRLY southwesternrailway SWRRLY

UJVN LIMITED

H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephone: 0135-2763808, Fax- 0135-2763508,
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvn.com

पत्रांक सं. 946 दिनांक 23.12.2022

Tender Notice

Office of the Executive Engineer (Civil), MB-II, Chinyalisaur (Uttarkashi) invites sealed tender from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:

(1). **Tender No:** 15/EE(Civil)/MB-II/Chinyalisaur/2022-23

(2). **Tender No:** 16/EE(Civil)/MB-II/Chinyalisaur/2022-23

(1). **Name of work:** Annual Operation and Maintenance of 15 KLD STP based at Dharasu Power House, Dharasu, Uttarkashi.

(2). **Name of work:** Annual Operation and Maintenance of Water Supply System of Power House Complex at Dharasu, Uttarkashi.

1. **Estimated Cost:** Rs. 5,83,594.00 (excluding GST)

2. **Estimated Cost:** Rs. 6,86,776.00 (excluding GST)

Date of availability of bid document on website 24.12.2022 from 5:00PM

Last date for submission of tender 17.01.2023 upto 11:00AM

For fuller & further detail, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be download from the Nigam's website "www.ujvn.com"

Executive Engineer (Civil), MB-II, Chinyalisaur.

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION AURANGABAD

Executive Engineer (Road Section)

Address : Municipal Corporation Aurangabad. Executive Engineer (Road Section) Head Office : Town Hall Pin 431001
Tel No. (0240) 2333536-40 Fax No. (0240) 2331213
E-Tender Call AMC (for Help) : Cell No. 9764999592

No./AMC/DyEng-02/95/2022 Date : 22/12/2022

Sr. No.	Work Name	Last Date of Tender Submission
1	Construction of Footpath From Mahavir Chowk to Mill Corner in Zone No. 02. (Amount Put to Tender Rs. 1,21,46,955/-)	30/12/2022

Note : 1. For the above started work is available on web site www.mahatenders.gov.in

Sd/-
Executive Engineer (Road)
Municipal Corporation Aurangabad.

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION AURANGABAD

Executive Engineer (Road Section)

Address : Municipal Corporation Aurangabad. Executive Engineer (Road) Head Office : Town Hall Pin 431001
Tel No. (0240) 2333536-40 Fax No. (0240) 2331213
E-Tender Call AMC (for Help) : Cell No. 9764999592

No./AMC/DyEng-04/596/2022 Date : 21/12/2022

Sr. No.	Work Name	Last Date of Tender Submission
1	Providing bituminous resurfacing of road from T.V. Center to Sallim Ali lake in Zone No. 04 (Amount Put to Tender Rs. 97,01,203/-)	30/12/2022

Note : 1. For the above started work is available on web site www.mahatenders.gov.in

Sd/-
Executive Engineer (Road)
Municipal Corporation Aurangabad.

WESTERN RAILWAY

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE NO. S/38/2022 Date : 22.12.2022

Sr.No.	Short Description of item	Quantity	T.O.D
590	Sealing Materials (Sealing Cord)	3495 Nos.	2-Jan-23
591	Buffer Plunger (Casting)	500 Nos.	5-Jan-23
592	Axle Pulley Assembly	100 Nos.	9-Jan-23
593	Feeder Junction Box for LHB EOG AC Coach	90 Set	9-Jan-23
594	Procurement of Pumps and Motors for Track Machine	160 Nos.	9-Jan-23
595	Manufacturing and Supply of CMS Crossing 1 in 16, BG for 60 Kg Rails	12 Set	16-Jan-23
596	Manufacture and Supply of Fabricated Anti-Creep Device for 10125 mm Curved Switches with ZU-1-60 Thick Web Tongue Rails B.G. (1673 mm) for 60 Kg (UIC) on PSC sleepers as per RDSO Drg. No. RDSO/T-8782 & RDSO/T-8783	4000 Set	16-Jan-23
597	For Procurement of Manufacturing and Fabrication of Completer Assembly of Spring Setting Device (SSD) to RDSO Drawing No. T-6216/T-6217	50 Set	18-Jan-23
598	Voltage Regulated Emergency Battery Charger		