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PATNA/METRO
Sunday, November 01, 2026

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FIRST VOICE. LAST WORD.



10,000 personnel deployed as Oppn holds Delhi protest today

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Nearly 10,000 police and paramilitary personnel will guard central Delhi on Sunday as the Opposition INDIA bloc marches from the edge of Connaught Place to Ramlila Maidan for its largest show of strength yet against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, a march for which, senior police officers said, no permission was sought or granted.

The police say they will facilitate the march, which Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi announced on Instagram on Friday, but the two sides are preparing for very different crowds. Opposition parties claim nearly one million people will come from across the country, while the police have planned for about 50,000, the capacity of the ground, and say any overflow will be held back on the surrounding roads.

The "Chalo Dilli" rally, called over alleged irregularities in the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, will be the first time in a month of agitation that the Opposition assembles in numbers at a notified venue. Through October, the authorities answered the protests with Metro closures, internet shutdowns, prohibitory orders and 40,000 security personnel. Jantar Mantar lost its status as a protest site, and leaders of the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) who climbed its locked gates were sent to Tihar.

At a symbolic "public impeachment" of Kumar on Saturday, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge read out an INDIA bloc resolution accusing the CEC of taking part in a "devious and malevolent criminal conspiracy orchestrated by the BJP to steal national and state elections", which it called "an act of treason against the nation and the Constitution of India" for which he must be tried in a court. The BJP, which accuses the alliance of attacking constitutional bodies after failing to win voters' confidence, said the Opposition had made a "mockery" of Parliament and democracy, and its spokesperson Sambit Patra said the bloc could have Gandhi as a "mock Prime Minister for life".


AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge speaks during the INDIA Bloc's symbolic public impeachment program against CEC Gyanesh Kumar at 10 Rajaji Marg in Delhi on Saturday. ANI

The march is due to set off at noon from near Minto Road Bridge and move along Jawaharlal Nehru Marg and Chaman Lal Marg to the ground. The starting point is in the Connaught Place area, where the police told the Delhi high court this month that they would take "all possible measures under the law" against a CJP call to gather.

"The organisers have not approached us seeking permission for the march. However, we are trying to facilitate it as smoothly as possible," said Rohit Rajbir Singh, deputy commissioner of police (central), adding that the police were coordinating with the organisers on the route.

Beyond Sunday, Opposition leaders plan to take what they describe as evidence of vote theft to President Droupadi Murmu and carry the agitation into the states.

Of the nearly 10,000 personnel to be deployed along the route and around the venue, about 3,000 are from the Delhi Police and 7,000 from paramilitary forces. Another 10 companies have been held in reserve, to be added to the cordon as required. Every road to Ramlila Maidan will be barricaded and manned to stop marchers from heading towards Jantar Mantar or other restricted zones, and one gate of the ground has been set aside for the emergency evacuation of senior leaders, among them Gandhi.

The 270 companies of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) brought into the Capital this month for the protests will stay until November 16, after their deployment was extended for a third time. Police commissioner Anurag Kumar inspected the arrangements at Minto Road and Ramlila Maidan on Saturday.

The ground has been divided into eight regions, each under a DCP or additional DCP, and 14

continued on >7

{ BIHAR CM ROLLS OUT CIVIC SCHEMES }

Smart governance leap with new portal launch

HT Correspondent
htpatna@hindustantimes.com

PATNA: In a landmark stride toward modernising municipal governance and overhauling urban civic delivery, Bihar chief minister Samrat Choudhary on Saturday rolled out the UPYOG portal under the National Urban Digital Mission (NUDM) at the 'Sankalp' auditorium in the state capital.

The unified e-governance platform is set to streamline municipal operations across all 264 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in Bihar, providing hassle-free, transparent, and prompt civic assistance to citizens right at their fingertips.

After a live demonstration, Samrat addressed the gathering and emphasised the metamorphic power of digital technology in public service.

"Today marks a significant milestone for Bihar. The rollout of the UPYOG portal alongside agreements with NBCC will inject fresh momentum into the expansion of our urban development and public infrastructure," the CM said.

Underscoring that the convergence of digital technology and modern infrastructure marks a turning point in Bihar's urban development, the CM said: "This portal will fundamentally transform the functioning of the urban development and housing department. Citizens will no longer need to make frequent, tiring visits to government offices. By simplifying complex procedures and bringing absolute transparency, the effective use of technology will empower our urban machinery and make everyday public services seamless and citizen-friendly".


Bihar CM Samrat Choudhary al launchies UPYOG portal in Patna, Saturday. SANTOSH KUMAR/HT

The flagship portal is launching with 10 critical modules out of its planned 19 in the initial rollout phase. The modules encompass trade licenses, online building plan approvals, water and sewerage connections, advertisement management, public grievance redressal, municipal finance and accounts, asset management, and fleet operations.

Through this consolidated interface, residents across all municipal corporations, councils, and nagar panchayats can submit applications and instantly obtain authorised digital certificates without bureaucratic bottlenecks.

Marking a parallel infrastructure leap, the state government formalized three major Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with the National Buildings Construction Corporation Limited (NBCC) in the CM's presence. Under these pacts, an 8.5-acre funded residential housing project will be developed near the TV Tower in Sector-5 by the Bihar State Housing Board.

Additionally, an advanced IT hub will come up at Gardanibagh in partnership with the

continued on >7



Ashutosh Dixit

AIR MARSHAL ASHUTOSH DIXIT BECOMES 29TH CHIEF OF AIR STAFF

Press Trust of India
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Air Chief Marshal Ashutosh Dixit, an accomplished fighter pilot with over 3,500 flying hours across 20 aircraft types, assumed charge as the 29th Chief of the Air Staff on Saturday, as India actively works to boost its military capabilities amid complex regional security environment.

He succeeds Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, who retired after an illustrious 42-year career marked by his pivotal role in executing Operation Sindoor — a mission that underscored the Indian Air Force's operational precision, combat capability, and strategic resolve.

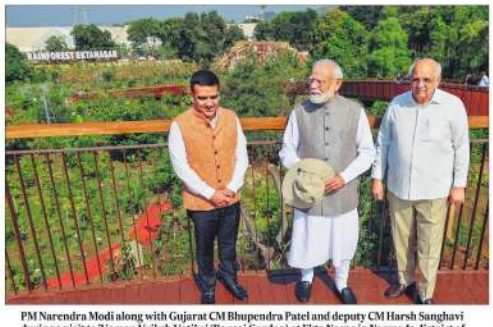
"Beyond operational leadership, Air Chief Marshal AP Singh will be remembered for his deep and personal connect with air warriors across the length and breadth of the organisation," the IAF said in a statement, adding his interactions with personnel at the grassroots level reflected his conviction that the strength of the force rests in its people.

The IAF accorded a ceremonial guard of honour to Air Chief Marshal Singh before he handed over the baton to Dixit. Air Chief Marshal Dixit, known for his strategic planning and who played a key role during Operation Sindoor, was serving as the Vice Chief of the force.

As Chief of Air Staff, his focus is likely to be on modernisation of the force.

HE SUCCEEDS AIR CHIEF MARSHAL AP SINGH, WHO RETIRED AFTER AN ILLUSTRIOUS 42-YEAR CAREER

PM launches ₹426 cr-projects in Gujarat


PM Narendra Modi along with Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel and deputy CM Harsh Sanghavi during a visit to 'Vaman Vriksh Vatika' (Bonsai Garden) at Ekta Nagar in Narmada district of Gujarat on Saturday. He inaugurated 23 development projects worth ₹307.83 crore, and also laid foundation stones for eight development projects worth ₹118.88 crore in Gujarat. ANI

No T-shirt, jeans for teachers and staff in Bihar government schools

Aditya Vaibhav
htpatna@hindustantimes.com

PATNA: To restore 'decorum' in government classrooms, the education department officially outlawed casual attire, specifically jeans and T-shirt, for teachers and non-teaching staff across all state-run schools and education institutions, officials said on Saturday.

The department further issued clear directives banning impromptu campus revelry, explicitly prohibiting DJ sound systems, disco dancing, and crude entertainment on school grounds.

Director (administration), Vijay Kumar Pandey, issued the order on October 30, 2026,

> CULTURAL EVENTS WOULD STRICTLY BE ALLOWED ONLY ON DESIGNATED DAYS AND THAT TOO ONLY WITHIN 'DISCIPLINED AND DECOROUS LIMITS'

to all district education officers. Citing prior circulars aimed at maintaining dignity and professional culture, the directive, a copy of which HT accessed exclusively, expressed strong displeasure over widespread non-compliance.

According to the circular, repeated reports revealed staff arriving in casual wear contrary to standard workplace etiquette, alongside instances of loud DJ music and lowbrow dance activities unfolding inside school premises.

Emphasising that such conduct deteriorated the academic environment, the department clarified that cultural performances like dance and music would strictly be allowed only on designated days outlined in the formal academic calendar—and even then, only within disciplined and decorous limits.

Drawing a parallel with judicial decorum, the letter referenced the strict formal dress codes enforced by the Supreme Court and Patna HC to uphold the dignity of law. The administration, in the circular, asserted that educators, tasked with shaping young minds, must mirror similar institutional discipline.

School authorities were further directed to enforce mandatory, dignified formal attire for all staff during official duty hours with immediate effect.

District education heads were instructed to monitor premises vigilantly and ensure total adherence, making it clear that classrooms were meant for serious learning, not casual hangouts or party arenas, officials said.

Rising prices set off mass demonstrations all across Europe

Bloomberg
letters@hindustantimes.com

PARIS/LONDON/BERLIN: Cities in France, Germany and Italy were bracing for mass demonstrations on Saturday, with thousands of people expected to take to the streets to protest high living costs and other grievances with governments across Europe.

Police are also on alert in Spain for possible protests in central Madrid following a high-speed rail crash that killed 69 people on Wednesday.

In Frankfurt, the seat of the European Central Bank, top-end luxury outlets on Goethe Strasse and retailers on the main shopping drag Die Zeil boarded up shop windows on Friday evening in preparation for the possibility things could turn violent. A demonstration is scheduled to start at 2 p.m. CET Saturday near the ECB tower in the city's east before weaving through the financial district in the center.

Paris's top court overturned a decision authorizing a protest route from Bastille to Place de la Nation in the heart of the French capital, approving a route through the outskirts instead, France 24 reported.

Halloween, which falls on Saturday, could create cover for groups wanting to instigate violence, officials cautioned.

Demonstrations have exploded across Europe in recent weeks, from Belgium and Portugal in the west to Serbia and Albania in the east. They are youth driven, and although grievances are slightly different in each country, the prevailing sentiment is one of anger over affordability, crumbling infrastructure and inequality.

France will deploy 70,000 police officers this weekend,

continued on >7


Youth-driven protests have exploded across Europe.

PUNJAB POLLS: AAP RENOMINATES 40 SITTING MLAS

Press Trust of India
letters@hindustantimes.com

CHANDIGARH: In its first list of candidates for the 2027 Punjab Assembly elections announced on Saturday, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) renominated 40 sitting MLAs from their respective constituencies, with chief minister Bhagwant Mann again contesting from Dhuri.

AAP is the first major political party that declared its candidates for the state Assembly polls due early next year.

An announcement with regard to the first list of candidates was made by Chief Minister Mann in Delhi, following a meeting of the party's Political Affairs Committee (PAC).

Mann, a first-time MLA, has been fielded from the Dhuri constituency in Sangrur district, as per the list.

Besides Mann, the first list of candidates had a mention of jailed Cabinet minister Sanjeev Arora. Arora is in jail in connection with an alleged GST fraud-linked money laundering case involving certain entities linked to him.

However, no name of any other Cabinet minister found mention in the first list of candidates.

>P4

Bokaro Steel City faces power crisis; residents, businesses hit hard

Praduman Choubey
htjharkhand@hindustantimes.com

DHANBAD: Bokaro Steel City is facing an unprecedented power crisis, with frequent and prolonged outages disrupting normal life, commercial activities and essential services, people aware of the development said on Saturday.

The situation has worsened in recent weeks following a decline in electricity generation by Bokaro Power Supply Company Limited (BPSCL), amid reported irregular coal supplies from Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) and Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL), the principal suppliers operating in the Dhanbad coal belt region.

BPSCL CEO Sudhir Vyas during a media interaction said the plant requires around 4,000 tonnes of coal daily to maintain normal operations.

"Earlier, we used to receive one full rake of coal every day, but now supplies are arriving once every two to three days," he said.

Electricity generation by the SAIL-Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) joint venture has

> Earlier, we used to receive one full rake of coal every day, but now supplies are arriving once every two to three days
> SUDHIR VYAS, BPSCL CEO

declined from around 190 MW to 130-150 MW in recent weeks, putting additional pressure on power supply to the Bokaro Steel Plant and township. While the steel plant requires approximately 240 MW, the township's demand stands at around 55 MW.

Vyas said the available electricity was being distributed through staggered power cuts to ensure that no locality remained without electricity for an extended period. The arrangement was also intended to give residents sufficient time to charge their inverters.

Run for Unity


Youth participate in the 'Run for Unity of Bihar' on the birth anniversary of Sardar Patel, in Patna, Saturday SANTOSH KUMAR/HT

IIT-ISM student jumps to death from hostel bldg

RANCHI: A fourth-year student at IIT-ISM in Dhanbad allegedly jumped to death from a hostel building on the institute campus on Saturday, officials said. The victim, a final year petroleum engineering student, was a native of Maharashtra, they added.

"We received information around 7.30 am. A team rushed to the place. The boy was taken to hospital but he was declared brought dead. His parents have been informed about the incident," said chief security Officer Ram Manohar.

Officials further said while no suicide note was recovered from the student's room or the spot, his phone had been handed over to the police for further probe.

Regarding the possible cause of this extreme step, the official said according to official records, the victim had no history of depression or any other related issues.

"He was otherwise a very good student. These are all part of investigation. His parents were informed. His cousins are likely to reach Dhanbad by the evening. The body will be handed over to the family after the postmortem on Sunday," he added. HTC & AGENCIES



Motihari Branch, East Champaran

APPENDIX-IV-A"[See proviso to rule 8(6)/9(1)]
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6)/9(1) 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 Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **Indian Bank, Motihari Branch, East Champaran** Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** on **20.11.2026** for recovery of **Rs. 6,75,78,142/- (Rupees Six Crore Seventy Five Lac Seventy Eight Thousand One Hundred Forty Two Only)** (as on **29.10.2026**) with further interest charges and expenses thereon due to the **Indian Bank, Motihari Branch, East Champaran** Secured Creditor, from

1. M/s. Bajrang Trading (Borrowing Firm)
Situated at Pataura, Mission Chowk,Motihari, Distt- East Champaran (Bihar) Pin-845401,
2. Mr. Niraj Kumar Singh (Proprietor & Mortgagor), S/o- Deokant Singh,
3. Smt Jyoti Devi (Guarantor & Mortgagor), W/o- Niraj Kumar Singh both (2 & 3) resident at Pataura,Mission Chowk,Motihari, Distt- East Champaran (Bihar)Pin-845401.
The Specific details of the property intended to be brought to sale through e-auction mode are enumerated below:

Detailed Description of the property 1.: All that part and parcel of the property belongs to **Mr. Niraj Kumar Singh S/o Deokant Singh** Situated at Mauza-Pataura tola Mathiya, Nagar Parishad+PS+Anchal- Motihari ,East Champaran, Khata no.-203, Khesra no. 235 & 236, through Sale deed no. 1185 dt. 07.02.2018, area 13.20 Decimal. **Bounded(As per Plot No. 235):- North:** Plot no 236, **South:** Road, **East:** Plot no 233, **West:** Kaushal Kishore. **Bounded(As per Plot No. 236):- North:** Lekhyakari, **South:** Lekhyakari, **East:** Lekhyakari, **West:** Lekhyakari.

Encumbrances on property	**Not Known**
Reserve Price	**Rs.60,00,000/- (Sixty Lakh Only)**
EMD Amount	**Rs.6,00,000/- (Six Lakh Only)**
Bid Incremental amount	**Rs.10,000 (Ten Thousand Only)**
Date and time of e-auction	**20.11.2026 from 11:00 AM. To 04:00 PM**
Property ID No.	**IDIB302591263145A**

Detailed Description of the property 2.: All that part and parcel of the property belongs to **Mr. Niraj Kumar Singh S/o Deokant Singh** Situated at Suraha, Nagar Parishad+PS+Anchal Motihari, East Champaran, Khata no.-70, Khesra no. 387, (i) through Sale deed no. 14383 dt. 04.12.2019, area 02.90 Decimal. **Bounded as:- North:** Ravi Kumar, **South:** Mina Devi, **East:** PCC Road, **West:** Purchaser self. (ii) through Sale deed no. 14281 dt. 23.11.2019, area 54.81 Decimal.**Bounded as:- North:** Ravi Kumar, **South:** Bhagrit Mahto and Meena Devi and Sitaram Mahto , **East:** Lekhyakari, **West:** Kapildev Prasad and Chattu Mahto and Gagandev Mahto.

Encumbrances on property	**Not Known**
Reserve Price	**Rs.1,26,00,000/- (One Crore Twenty Six Lakh Only)**
EMD Amount	**Rs.12,60,000/- (Twelve Lakh Sixty Thousand Only)**
Bid Incremental amount	**Rs.10,000 (Ten Thousand Only)**
Date and time of e-auction	**20.11.2026 from 11:00 AM. To 04:00 PM**
Property ID No.	**IDIB302591263145B**

Detailed Description of the property 3.: All that part and parcel of the property belongs to **Mr. Niraj Kumar Singh S/o Deokant Singh** Situated at Mauza- Pataura tola Gondhwa, Nagar Parishad+PS+Anchal Motihari, East Champaran, Khata no.-141, Khesra no. 2195, (i) through Sale deed no. 2279 dt. 14.02.2023, area 55.11Decimal. **Bounded as:- North:** Nij seller, **South:** Badri Prasad, **East:** Hisa Phariken and Acchelal Prasad, **West:** Sudhan Mahto and Nathuni Mahto. (ii) through Sale deed no. 3943 dt. 17.03.2023, area 03.30 Decimal. **Bounded as:- North:** Road 10 feet wide, **South:** Niranjan Singh, **East:** Hisa Phariken and Acchelal Prasad, **West:** Krishan Murari Thakur and Nikash Kumar and Rasta.

Encumbrances on property	**Not Known**
Reserve Price	**Rs.83,70,000/- (Eighty Three Lakh Seventy Thousand Only)**
EMD Amount	**Rs.8,37,000/- (Eight Lakh Thirty Seven Thousand Only)**
Bid Incremental amount	**Rs.10,000 (Ten Thousand Only)**
Date and time of e-auction	**20.11.2026 from 11:00 AM. To 04:00 PM**
Property ID No.	**IDIB302591263145C**

Detailed Description of the property 4.: All that part and parcel of the property belongs to **Mrs. Jyoti Devi** W/o **Mr. Niraj Kumar Singh** Situated at Mauza-Pataura tola Baswariya, Nagar Parishad,PS mufassil, +Anchal Motihari East Champaran, Khata no.-101, Khesra no. 24, through Sale deed no. 1183 dt. 07.02.2018, area 06.00 Decimal. **Bounded as:- North:** Roop chand prasad, **South:** Road, **East:** Raju Singh nahi bacha mishra, **West:** Road.

Encumbrances on property	**Not Known**
Reserve Price	**Rs.97,50,000/- (Ninety Seven Lakh Fifty Thousand Only)**
EMD Amount	**Rs.9,75,000/- (Nine Lakh Seventy Five Thousand Only)**
Bid Incremental amount	**Rs.10,000 (Ten Thousand Only)**
Date and time of e-auction	**20.11.2026 from 11:00 AM. To 04:00 PM**
Property ID No.	**IDIB302591263145D**

●Detailed Description of the property 5.: All that part and parcel of the property belongs to **Mrs. Jyoti** Devi W/o **Mr. Niraj Kumar Singh** Situated at Mauza- Pataura Tola Baswariya, Nagar Parishad, PS Mufassil,Anchal Motihari East Champaran, Khata no.-9 & 23, Khesra no. 135 & 228, through Sale deed no. 1192 dt. 07.02.2018, area 03.96 Decimal. **Bounded as:- North:** Umesh Sukla, **South:** 10' wide Road, **East:** Guri Devi and Kiran Devi, **West:** Road.

Encumbrances on property	**Not Known**
Reserve Price	**Rs.24,30,000/- (Twenty Four Lakh Thirty Thousand Only)**
EMD Amount	**Rs.2,43,000/- (Two Lakh Forty Three Thousand Only)**
Bid Incremental amount	**Rs.10,000 (Ten Thousand Only)**
Date and time of e-auction	**20.11.2026 from 11:00 AM. To 04:00 PM**
Property ID No.	**IDIB302591263145E**

Detailed Description of the property 6.: All that part and parcel of the property belongs to **Mr. Niraj Kumar Singh S/o Deokant Singh** Situated at Mauza-Pataura tola Baswariya, Nagar Parishad,PS Mufassil, +Anchal Motihari East Champaran, Khata no.-9, Khesra no. 25, through Sale deed no. 104 dt. 04.01.2019, area 13.15 Decimal. **Bounded as:- North:** Road and babulal prasad and rameshwar prasad and other, **South:** Binod Kumar & Narendra Kumar and Vikram Kumar Kushwaha, **East:** Road and Pritvi Prasad and Babulal Prasad, **West:** Rameshwar Prasad and khesra no. 24 and other.

Encumbrances on property	**Not Known**
Reserve Price	**Rs.3,47,00,000/- (Three Crore Forty Seven Lakh Only)**
EMD Amount	**Rs.34,70,000/- (Thirty Four Lakh Seventy Thousand Only)**
Bid Incremental amount	**Rs.10,000 (Ten Thousand Only)**
Date and time of e-auction	**20.11.2026 from 11:00 AM. To 03:00 PM**
Property ID No.	**IDIB302591263145F**

Bidders are advised to visit the website **(https://baanknet.com)** of our e auction service provider PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. to participate in online bid. For Technical Assistance Please call 8291220220. For Registration status and for EMD status please email to support.baanknet@psballiance.com.
For property details and photograph of the property and auction terms and conditions please visit: **https://baanknet.com** and for clarifications related to this portal, please contact PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd, Contact No. 8291220220.
Bidders are advised to use Property ID Number mentioned above while searching for the property in the website with **https://baanknet.com**

Date : 01.11.2026 Sd/- **Authorised Officer**
Place : Motihari Indian Bank (Erstwhile Allahabad Bank)

Contact Person:
Piyush Ranjan- Authorised Officer & Branch Manager- 9873410089

Pachtakiyadu Branch, Sitamarhi

APPENDIX-IV-A"[See proviso to rule 8(6)/9(1)]
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6)/9(1) 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 Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **Indian Bank, Pachtakiyadu Branch, Bairgania, Sitamarhi** Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** on **20.11.2026** for recovery of **Rs. 1,20,82,590/- (Rupees One Crore Twenty Lakhs Eighty Two Thousand Five Hundred Ninety Only)** (as on **27.10.2026**) with further interest charges and expenses thereon due to the **Indian Bank, Pachtakiyadu Branch, Bairgania, Sitamarhi**, Secured Creditor, from

1. M/s. BAJRANGI AUTOMOBILES (Borrowing firm), Prop Rajinandan Prasad, Situated at- Main Road, Bairgania, Near Block Office ,PO-Bairgania, Dist- Sitamarhi, Bihar 843313
2. Mr. Rajinandan Prasad(Proprietor) S/o Jagdish Prasad Sah
3. Mr. Raushan Kumar (Guarantor & Mortgagor) S/o Rajinandan Prasad
4. Mr. Ravi Kumar(Guarantor & Mortgagor) S/o Rajinandan Prasad
5. Mr. Jagdish Prasad Sah(Guarantor & Mortgagor) S/o Shivnandan Sah
6. Mrs. Rampukari Devi(Guarantor) W/o Rajinandan Prasad
All above (2, 3, 4, 5 & 6) at Ward no. 05, Vill- Bhatauliya, PO Bel, PS Bairgania , Dist- Sitamarhi, Bihar 843313.
The Specific details of the property intended to be brought to sale through e-auction mode are enumerated below:

Detailed Description of the property 1: All that part and parcel of the Land and building in the name of **Mr. Jagdish Prasad Sah** S/o Shivnandan Sah through Sale deed no. 2745 dt 31.10.2002, property situated at Mouza- Beldumarbana, SRO-Dheng, Bairgania, PS-08,Ward no-20, Sitamarhi, Khata no- 2533, Khesra no 2534, 2540, 2541, having area as 7.50 Dec.**Bounded as:- North:** Nij Mokir 05 Ft Road, **South-** Chhatu Sah & Hishedar, **East-** Hal Kharidar Indu Devi, **West-** Nij Man Mokir

Encumbrances on property	**Not Known**
Reserve Price	**Rs.36,57,000/- (Thirty Six Lakh Fifty Seven Thousand Only)**
EMD Amount	**Rs.3,65,760/- (Three Lakh Sixty Five Thousand Seven Hundred Only)**
Bid Incremental amount	**Rs.10,000 (Ten Thousand Only)**
Date and time of e-auction	**20.11.2026 from 11:00 AM. To 04:00 PM**
Property ID No.	**IDIB30047611605**

Detailed Description of the property 2: All that part and parcel of the Land and building in the name of Raushan Kumar S/o Rajinandan Prasad through Sale deed no. 1251 dt 03.06.2019, property situated at Mouza- Bhakurahar, SRO-Dheng, Bairgania, PS-03,Ward no-16, Sitamarhi, Khata no- 708, Khesra no.378, having area as 3.195 Dec.
Bounded as:- North: 11 Ft Road, **South:** Ramashray Prasad & Others, **East:** Rampukari Devi Kewala Imraujo no Haja, **West:** Amit Kumar & Others

Encumbrances on property	**Not Known**
Reserve Price	**Rs.21,19,000/- (Twenty One Lakh Nineteen Thousand Only)**
EMD Amount	**Rs.2,11,900/- (Two Lakh Eleven Thousand Nine Hundred Only)**
Bid Incremental amount	**Rs.10,000 (Ten Thousand Only)**
Date and time of e-auction	**20.11.2026 from 11:00 AM. To 04:00 PM**
Property ID No.	**IDIB30047611605A**

Bidders are advised to visit the website **(https://baanknet.com)** of our e auction service provider PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. to participate in online bid. For Technical Assistance Please call 8291220220. For Registration status and for EMD status please email to support.baanknet@psballiance.com.
For property details and photograph of the property and auction terms and conditions please visit: **https://baanknet.com** and for clarifications related to this portal, please contact PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd, Contact No. 8291220220.
Bidders are advised to use Property ID Number mentioned above while searching for the property in the website with **https://baanknet.com**

Date : 01.11.2026 Sd/- **Authorised Officer**
Place : Sitamarhi Indian Bank (Erstwhile Allahabad Bank)

Contact Person:1. **RAJIV KUMAR JHA**- Authorised Officer- 7607490036
2. **Raghuvanshmani Singh**- Branch Manager- 8825342410

Property 1. QR Code | Property 2. QR Code



Badram Branch, Siwan

APPENDIX-IV-A"[See proviso to rule 8(6)/9(1)]
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6)/9(1) 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 Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **Indian Bank, Badram Branch, Siwan** Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** on **20.11.2026** for recovery of **Rs. 25,17,509/- (Rupees Twenty Five Lakhs Seventeen Thousand Five Hundred Nine Only)** (as on **27.10.2026**) with further interest charges and expenses thereon due to the **Indian Bank, Badram Branch, Siwan**, Secured Creditor, from

1. M/s. Sukun Bekery (Borrowing firm), Prop Farzana Hoda,
Situated at- Kharsanda, PS-Hussainganj, Dist- Siwan, Bihar 841237
2. Farzana Hoda (Proprietor & Mortgagor) W/o Kalimul Hoda
3. Marghubul Hoda (Guarantor & Mortgagor) S/o Kalimul Hoda
4. Kalimul Hoda (Guarantor) S/o Late Imamul Hoda
All above (2, 3 & 4) at Vill- Hathaura, PO Hathaura, PS Hussainganj, Dist-Siwan, 841237.
The Specific details of the property intended to be brought to sale through e-auction mode are enumerated below:

Detailed Description of the property 1: All that part and parcel of the Propery in the name of **Farzana Hoda** W/o Kalimul Hoda through deed no. 4183 dt 29.04.2016, property situated at Vill. Kharsanda, PS-Hussainganj, Dist- Siwan, Thana No.- 219,Tauzi No.-5510, Khata no.- 607, Khesra no.- 1003, having area as 1 Katha 10 Dhur (5.581 Decimal).**Bounded as:- North:** Chanwar (Road), **South-** Gulam Murtuza, **East-** Niz Number Haja, **West-** Marghubul Hoda Baidar Number Haja

Encumbrances on property	**Not Known**
Reserve Price	**Rs.1,58,000/- (One Lakh Fifty Eight Thousand Only)**
EMD Amount	**Rs.15,800/- (Fifteen Thousand Eight Hundred Only)**
Bid Incremental amount	**Rs.10,000 (Ten Thousand Only)**
Date and time of e-auction	**20.11.2026 from 11:00 AM. To 04:00 PM**
Property ID No.	**IDIB30221011984A**

Detailed Description of the property 2: All that part and parcel of the Propery in the name of **Marghubul Hoda** S/o Kalimul Hoda through deed no. 4048 dt 26.04.2016, property situated at Vill. Kharsanda, PS-Hussainganj, Dist- Siwan, Thana No.- 219,Tauzi No.-5510, Khata no.- 607, Khesra no.- 1003, having area as 3 Katha.**Bounded as:- North:** P.C.C Sarak, **South-** Gulam Murtuza, **East-** Niz Part of the Plot, **West-** Sarak P.C.C

Encumbrances on property	**Not Known**
Reserve Price	**Rs.4,51,000/- (Four Lakh Fifty One Thousand Only)**
EMD Amount	**Rs.45,100/- (Forty Five Thousand One Hundred Only)**
Bid Incremental amount	**Rs.10,000 (Ten Thousand Only)**
Date and time of e-auction	**20.11.2026 from 11:00 AM. To 04:00 PM**
Property ID No.	**IDIB30221011984B**

Bidders are advised to visit the website **(https://baanknet.com)** of our e auction service provider PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. to participate in online bid. For Technical Assistance Please call 8291220220. For Registration status and for EMD status please email to support.baanknet@psballiance.com.
For property details and photograph of the property and auction terms and conditions please visit: **https://baanknet.com** and for clarifications related to this portal, please contact PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd, Contact No. 8291220220.
Bidders are advised to use Property ID Number mentioned above while searching for the property in the website with **https://baanknet.com**

Date : 01.11.2026 Sd/- **Authorised Officer**
Place : Siwan Indian Bank (Erstwhile Allahabad Bank)

Contact Person:1. **MANI BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY**- Authorised Officer- **9718923233**
2. **KRISHN KUMAR**- Branch Manager- **7652056561**

Property 1. QR Code | Property 2. QR Code

Muzaffarpur Main Branch

APPENDIX-IV-A"[See proviso to rule 8(6)/9(1)]
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6)/9(1) 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 Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **Indian Bank, Muzaffarpur Main Branch** Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** on **20.11.2026** for recovery of **Rs. 37,04,359/- (Rupees Thirty Seven Lakhs Four Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Nine Only)** (as on **29.10.2026**) with further interest charges and expenses thereon due to the **Indian Bank, Muzaffarpur Main Branch** Secured Creditor, from

1. M/s Muskan Trading (Borrowing Firm) Prop. Rajesh Kumar Mehta S/o Premnath Mehta, Situated at Shekhpur Dhab, Ahiyapur, Opposite Dena Bank, Ward No. 15, Muzaffarpur, Bihar-842001,
2. Rajesh Kumar Mehta (Proprietor) S/o Premnath Mehta resident at Shekhpur Dhab, Ahiyapur, Opposite Dena Bank, Ward No. 15, Muzaffarpur, Bihar- 842001,
3. Muskan Devi (Guarantor/Mortgagor), W/o Rajesh Kumar Mehta resident at Shekhpur Dhab, Ahiyapur, Opposite Dena Bank, Ward No. 15, Muzaffarpur, Bihar- 842001, &
Vill.- Sirkhirya, PS Runnisaidpur, Dist. Sitamarhi- 843117
The Specific details of the property intended to be brought to sale through e-auction mode are enumerated below:

Detailed Description of the property : All that part & parcel of property situated at Mouza Kothua Paigamberpur, PS+Anchal- Ahiyapur, Thana No. 482, Muzaffarpur 842001, Khata No. 996, Khesra No. 251, 241, Area- 8.00 Decimal, vide Deed No- 5519, Dated 30/03/2015, Book No.- 1, Jild No./Vol. No.- 77, Page No.-568-577 in the name of Muskan Devi. W/o Rajesh Kumar Mehta. Boundary :**North**: Ram Kishore Sahni, **South**: Bacchu Prasad Singh, **East**: Mahesh Sahni, **West**: Road.

Encumbrances on property	**Not Known**
Reserve Price	**Rs.31,86,000/- (Thirty One Lakh & Eighty Six Thousand Only)**
EMD Amount	**Rs.3,18,600/- (Three Lakh Eighteen Thousand & Six Hundred Only)**
Bid Incremental amount	**Rs.10,000 (Ten Thousand Only)**
Date and time of e-auction	**20.11.2026 from 11:00 AM. To 04:00 PM**
Property ID No.	**IDIB30464890263**

Bidders are advised to visit the website **(https://baanknet.com)** of our e auction service provider PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. to participate in online bid. For Technical Assistance Please call 8291220220. For Registration status and for EMD status please email to support.baanknet@psballiance.com.
For property details and photograph of the property and auction terms and conditions please visit: **https://baanknet.com** and for clarifications related to this portal, please contact PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd, Contact No. 8291220220.
Bidders are advised to use Property ID Number mentioned above while searching for the property in the website with **https://baanknet.com**

Date : 01.11.2026 Sd/- **Authorised Officer**
Place : Muzaffarpur Indian Bank (Erstwhile Allahabad Bank)

Contact Person:
Ranjan Kumar Singh- Authorised Officer & Branch Manager- 9835844698

Property QR Code

Gopalganj Branch

APPENDIX-IV-A"[See proviso to rule 8(6)/9(1)]
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6)/9(1) 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 Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **Indian Bank, Gopalganj Branch** Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** on **20.11.2026** for recovery of **Rs. 39,27,829/- (Rupees Thirty Nine Lakhs Twenty Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty Nine Only)** (as on **28.10.2026**) with further interest charges and expenses thereon due to the **Indian Bank, Gopalganj Branch** Secured Creditor, from

1. Sri Rajesh Kumar Gupta (Borrower) S/o Parasnath Prasad,
2. Smt. Rina Gupta (Mortgagor & Guarantor), W/o Sri Rajesh Kumar Gupta,
both above (1 & 2) at Ward No. 02, Lakhpatiya More Barari Tola, Gopalganj.
3. Sri Tribhuvan Kumar (Guarantor), S/o Prabhu Nath Singh,
at Adhwakta Nagar, Ward No. 14, Gopalganj- 841428.
The Specific details of the property intended to be brought to sale through e-auction mode are enumerated below:

Detailed Description of the property : All that part & parcel of property land and building situated at Ward No.- 02, Mauza- Sareya, Thana No.- 83, Tauzi No.- 3947, PS Gopalganj, Dist. Gopalganj, bearing deed no. 71 dated 03.01.2011, Khata no 10,Plot No. 385, Area-1 Katha, in the name of **Smt. Rina Gupta** W/o Sri Rajesh Kumar Gupta, **Boundary : North:** Bishwanath Pandey, **South:** Ranglal Chaurasia, **East:** Hridayanand, West: Nij Road and Phul Mohammad.

Encumbrances on property	**Not Known**
Reserve Price	**Rs.18,41,000/- (Eighteen Lakh Forty One Thousand Only)**
EMD Amount	**Rs.1,84,100/- (One Lakh Eighty Four Thousand One Hundred Only)**
Bid Incremental amount	**Rs.10,000 (Ten Thousand Only)**
Date and time of e-auction	**20.11.2026 from 11:00 AM. To 04:00 PM**
Property ID No.	**IDIB30026137284**

Bidders are advised to visit the website **(https://baanknet.com)** of our e auction service provider PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. to participate in online bid. For Technical Assistance Please call 8291220220. For Registration status and for EMD status please email to support.baanknet@psballiance.com.
For property details and photograph of the property and auction terms and conditions please visit: **https://baanknet.com** and for clarifications related to this portal, please contact PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd, Contact No. 8291220220.
Bidders are advised to use Property ID Number mentioned above while searching for the property in the website with **https://baanknet.com**

Date : 01.11.2026 Sd/- **Authorised Officer**
Place : Gopalganj Indian Bank (Erstwhile Allahabad Bank)

Contact Person:
1. Mani Bhushan Choudhary- Authorised Officer- 9718923233
2. Bipin Kishore- Branch Manager- 9140490144

Property QR Code

Narwara Branch

APPENDIX-IV-A"[See proviso to rule 8(6)/9(1)]
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6)/9(1) 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 Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **Indian Bank, Narwara Branch** Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** on **20.11.2026** for recovery of **Rs. 71,98,067/- (Rupees Seventy One Lakhs Ninety Eight Thousand Sixty Seven Only)** (as on **28.10.2026.**) with further interest charges and expenses thereon due to the **Indian Bank, Narwara Branch** Secured Creditor, from

1. M/s Tariyani Industries (Proprietorship Firm) Prop. Arvind Kumar,
2. Sri Arvind Kumar (Proprietor & Mortgagor), S/o Sri Rajnandan Prasad,
both above (1 & 2) at Vill.-Sultanpur, PO-Belahiya Block, Tariyani, Dist.-Sheohar-843316
The Specific details of the property intended to be brought to sale through e-auction mode are enumerated below:

Detailed Description of the property : All that part & parcel of property land and building situated at Mauza- Sogra Adalpur Kundal, Panchayat- Bandhwa Anchal- Tariyani, Thana No.- 127, Dist. Sheohar, bearing deed no. 6466 dated 06.10.2012, Khata no 72, Khesra No. 1023, Area-50 Decimal, in the name of **Sri Arvind Kumar** S/o Sri Rajnandan Prasad, **Boundary: North:** Chandeshwar Kumar & Other, **South:** Jagarnath Prasad, **East:** Arvind Kumar & other, West: Shreeman Sultanpur.

Encumbrances on property	**Not Known**
Reserve Price	**Rs.9,74,000/- (Nine Lakh Seventy Four Thousand Only)**
EMD Amount	**Rs.97,400/- (Ninety Seven Thousand Four Hundred Only)**
Bid Incremental amount	**Rs.10,000 (Ten Thousand Only)**
Date and time of e-auction	**20.11.2026 from 11:00 AM. To 03:00 PM**
Property ID No.	**IDIB3275932518**

Bidders are advised to visit the website **(https://baanknet.com)** of our e auction service provider PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. to participate in online bid. For Technical Assistance Please call 8291220220. For Registration status and for EMD status please email to support.baanknet@psballiance.com.
For property details and photograph of the property and auction terms and conditions please visit: **https://baanknet.com** and for clarifications related to this portal, please contact PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd, Contact No. 8291220220.
Bidders are advised to use Property ID Number mentioned above while searching for the property in the website with **https://baanknet.com**

Date : 01.11.2026 Sd/- **Authorised Officer**
Place : Sheohar Indian Bank (Erstwhile Allahabad Bank)

Contact Person:
1. RAJIV KUMAR JHA- Authorised Officer- 7607490036
2. DHARMENDRA MOHAN MALLICK- Branch Manager- 8851938093

Property QR Code

{ 2023 CONSTABLE RECRUITMENT EXAM PAPER LEAK }

ED attaches 5 properties worth ₹200 cr of accused

Avinash Kumar
avinash.kumar@htlive.com

PATNA: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached five immovable properties belonging to Kaushik Kumar Kar, a charge sheeted accused in the 2023 Constable Recruitment Examination paper leak case, officials said on Saturday. The examination was conducted by the Central Selection Board of Constables (CSBC).

The ED Patna zonal office said Kaushik Kar, owner of Blessings Secured Press Pvt. Ltd (BSPPL), conspired to secure the Constable Recruitment Examination printing contract using a proxy firm, Caltex Multiventures Private Limited (CMPL). The agency has provisionally attached ₹201 crore in assets linked to the investigation, which centres on allegations of conspiracy, misappropriation of funds, and the use of shell entities to conceal money.

The money laundering probe by ED, initiated on the basis of an FIR registered by the EoU revealed that the CSBC had agreement with a Kolkata-based company–CMPL- for printing of question papers, packaging and transportation to treasury.

In course of investigation, when EoU team arrived at the registered address of CMPL, found it running in a single room with no printing press, warehouse and logistic support. There was no person available on the spot.

THE AGENCY HAS PROVISIONALLY ATTACHED THE IMMOVABLE ASSETS AFTER INVESTIGATION ON ALLEGATIONS OF CONSPIRACY & EMBEZZLEMENT

"The CMPL company handed over its work to a BSPPL for printing question papers and confidential documents. CMPL violated the agreement and the work order.

In the agreement, there was no provision of outsourcing/subletting work," said an EoU official.

BSPPL is owned by Kaushik Kumar Kar, earlier accused in teacher recruitment paper leak case conducted by UPPSC, and an FIR was also lodged in Varanasi and Bidhannagar in West Bengal in 2018 and 2019 respectively. The same company was involved in the question paper leak case of Arunachal Pradesh public service commission (APPSC).

In further investigation, EoU found that Kaushik had registered CMPL company in 2021, while BSPPL was black listed. "Kaushik's wife is the director of CMPL while former employees of BSPCL–Suman Biswas, Sanjay Das and marketing consultant Sourabh Bandopadhyay–were directors of CMPL," said an EoU official.

The question papers of the exam were transported from Kolkata to Patna and was leaked enroute to the exam centres in connivance with the other accused. The leakage resulted in the exam getting cancelled, causing financial loss to the Bihar government and adversely affecting the career of exam aspirants.

ED officials aware of the matter said MPL also got advance of ₹5.9 crore and remitted only part of the funds to BSPPL and ₹2.01 crore were found diverted through various shell entities, which finally dissipated.

ED investigation has also revealed that the proceeds of crime generated through the criminal activities were layered and concealed through a complex network of Kolkata based shell companies/ entities lacking genuine business operations.

As the crime proceeds could not be traced further, five immovable properties to the tune of ₹2.01 crore held in the name of M/s NC Print Pvt. Ltd., another company controlled and beneficially owned by Kar, have been provisionally attached as value equivalent to the Proceeds of Crime identified so far.

"Further investigation, including identification of additional Proceeds of Crime and the roles of other accused persons/ entities involved in the laundering thereof, is underway," said the official, adding that the role of then chairman of CSBC Sanjeev Kumar Singhal in the paper leak was found to be "under suspicion".

Singhal, a 1988 batch IPS officer, was posted as chairman of CSBC, within a month of his retirement from service in December 2022.

The exam for the recruitment of constables was held in October 2023. Following the exam, complaints regarding question paper leak surfaced from 74 centres across the state. Initially, Singhal denied the allegations. However, after much hue and cry, the government asked EoU to probe the allegations.

The examination was later cancelled on the findings of the EoU. A case was also registered against Singhal. He was removed from his post in December 2023. The EoU, in its investigation, found that the former state police chief had accepted cut money from the private companies that were awarded contract of printing the papers.

'Fourfold expansion of health services needed'

HT Correspondent
htpatna@hindustantimes.com

PATNA: Chief minister Samrat Choudhary stated that despite significant healthcare growth in Bihar over the last two decades, services needed to be expanded three to fourfold to ensure quality, modern medical facilities were accessible to the public.

Addressing the social enclave, 2026 of the Indian Society of Critical Care Medicine (ISCCM) on Friday evening, Choudhary shared his government's vision of promoting the Public Private Partnership (PPP) model in the operation of medical colleges and hospitals to make them more effective and accessible.

Maintaining that the number of surgeries had reached up to 10,000 per month in district hospitals, he said the focus was on stopping the practice of unnecessarily referring patients to Patna when treatment could be made available there itself.

"The doctor referring a patient has to explain the reason for doing so," he added.

The CM said about 92% of the families in Bihar had joined the Ayushman Bharat scheme after the government linked it to ration cards.



CM Samrat Choudhary with Bihar health minister Nishant Kumar at Bapu Sabhagar in Patna on Saturday. SANTOSH KUMAR/HT

"Along with the expansion of health services, work is being done towards establishing large private hospitals, improving the functioning of medical colleges and increasing the capacity of government hospitals. About 16 government medical college buildings are under construction in the state and more than 10 government medical colleges are operational," he added.

He also clarified that the doctors of Bihar should be given priority in the PPP model, which he described as the "need of the hour" to attract investment and the government was making efforts to provide conducive atmosphere to investors.

"The preparations for the PPP model have also been almost completed. It will now be taken forward, with weightage to state doctors in the tender process to ensure that the benefits reached all parts and all sections of the state in equal measure," he added.

The CM also underlined the need to give responsibility to doctors as per their speciality to ensure optimal utilisation of resources.

ISCCM national president Dr Ranveer Tyagi, narional general secretary Dr Ghanshyam Jagatkar, Patna chairperson Dr Kishor Jhunjhunwala and secretary Dr Rajesh Raushan were present on the occasion.

STUDENTS CLASH; ENGG COLLEGE DECLARES EARLY FESTIVE BREAK

Sandeep Bhaskar
htpatna@hindustantimes.com

BETTIAH: Tension gripped an engineering college campus in Motihari on Saturday after first-year and third-year students clashed over the bursting of firecrackers, prompting authorities to declare an early festival-induced holiday for a section of the student body, officials said.

According to college authorities, the situation escalated on Friday evening when third-year students, who were preparing for examinations, objected to the frequent bursting of firecrackers by first-year students on the Motihari campus, leading to a clash between the two groups.

"There is a report of the clash between groups. We are looking into the matter," said Abhishek Kumar, a probationary deputy superintendent of police (DSP).

Officials said that the students on Friday staged a dharna by the junior students over the treatment meted out to them by the senior students. "A police team persuaded the students to end their protest. The situation was resolved and students were pacified," said a police officer.

In the meantime, the college authorities announced an early festival vacation for the junior students.

MAN GETS LIFE FOR KIDNAPPING, KILLING 8-YR-OLD IN MUKUNDPUR

Prashant Ranjan
htpatna@hindustantimes.com

ARA: Principal District and Sessions Judge Dharmendra Kumar Singh sentenced Sonadhari Ram to life imprisonment on Saturday for the kidnapping and murder of an eight-year-old boy in Mukundpur village. The court also ordered the accused to pay a fine of ₹23,000.

Public Prosecutor Rana Pratap Singh conducted and argued on behalf of the prosecution. He stated that on October 16, 2024, 8-year-old Raja Kumar, a resident of Mukundpur village under the Charpokhari police station, had gone out to play. When he did not return by 8 p.m., his family went to the village to search for him.

Villagers reported seeing him with Sonadhari Ram in the barren land. A missing person report was filed at the police station. During the investigation, police questioned Ram. He stated that he had murdered him and thrown him into a well outside the village. Police recovered his body from the well.

PP Rana Pratap Singh stated that five witnesses testified for the prosecution in court. After hearing on the point of punishment, Singh found the accused Sonadhari Ram guilty and sentenced him to rigorous life imprisonment and imposed a total fine of Rs 23 thousand against him.

Cong is conspiring to create an atmosphere of unrest: Paswan

Arun Kumar
arunkr@hindustantimes.com

PATNA: Union minister Chirag Paswan on Saturday hit out at the Opposition, alleging that "some parties, especially the Congress, are conspiring to create an atmosphere of unrest and chaos within the country to fulfil their narrow political ambitions, but would not succeed".

Talking to media persons, Paswan, who received birthday wishes from the Prime Minister and other leaders, appealed to the countrymen to be cautious of such elements and forces.

"India is the largest democracy in the world and more than 140 crore conscious people of the country are keeping a keen eye on such disruptive efforts. Some parties are trying to create chaos and instability for political gains," he added.

He said it was wrong to compare the conditions in India with Bangladesh and European countries just because some people were desperate to get into power through backdoor. "The Opposition forgets that in a democracy like India, where there is a population of more than 140 crore, one cannot spread an atmosphere of chaos," he added.

"The Congress and its leaders are making those their poster faces, who compare the situation in Bangladesh to our country or got inspired from unrest elsewhere. India is a stable economy despite global challenges and is developing fast, but some people are unable to digest its growth trajectory and it is shameful to say the least," he said, adding that the party is conspiring to create an atmosphere of unrest and chaos within the country to fulfil their narrow political ambitions, but would not succeed.



Union minister and LJP (Ramvilas) chief Chirag Paswan with JD(U) MLC Niraj Kumar in Patna on Saturday. SANTOSH KUMAR/HT

"No true, patriotic citizen of the country will allow democracy to be destabilised under the influence of foreign forces," he said, expressing concern that under the guise of democratic protests, some antisocial elements were working on foreign agenda, which the people of the country had understood.

Responding to Opposition talks and rumours regarding a probable impeachment motion, Chirag dared them to do so, but giving vent to their electoral frustration by attacking Constitutional bodies and established procedures was not justified.

Reaffirming his commitment to Bihar's development, he resolved on his 44th birthday to work with renewed determination to realise his vision of "Bihar First, Bihari First" and thanked the PM for praising his leadership and acknowledging his work as a minister.

He also expressed gratitude to Union home minister Amit Shah, defence minister Rajnath Singh, and several chief ministers, including Bihar's Samrat Choudhary, Uttar Pradesh's Yogi Adityanath, Assam's Himanta Biswa Sarma and Maharashtra's Devendra Fadnavis, for extending birthday wishes.

Foodgrain production at 24.3 MMT in 25-26, slight dip from 24-25

Anirban Guha Roy
anirbanroy@htlive.com

PATNA: Foodgrain production in Bihar stood at 24.3 million metric tonnes (MMT) with rice production standing at 9.1 MMT and wheat at 7.22 MMT 2025-26, a slight decline from total production in 2024-25, according to a data released by the agriculture department.

In 2024-25, the state had recorded rice production of 9.93 MMT and wheat production 7.82 MMT in 24-25. As per the final advance estimate of 2025-26 released recently by the agriculture department, maize production is on the higher side this year with total production standing at 7.56 MMT whereas in 2024-2025, it stood at 6.60 MMT, as per the official data.

Agriculture officials attributed the decline in total foodgrain production in 2025-26 as compared to 2024-25 to the untimely rains during the end of Kharif season in October 2025 owing to a cyclone as well as unseasonal rains affecting the Rabi crops, mainly wheat, during March 2026.

"There were untimely rains in October last year due to cyclone Montha that affected paddy crop in many districts. Besides, there were heavy rains during March this year leading to damage of Rabi crops too. But overall the foodgrain production is still good given the climatic changes being witnessed in last few years," said a senior agriculture official, seeking anonymity.

The production of pulses in 2025-26 has remained steady at about 0.4 MMT,which is almost same as recorded in 2024-25. Meanwhile, there are indications that the paddy production this year could be adversely affected in view of the floods in August -September and also flash floods in first week of October.

Swadesh Bhattacharya of CPI-ML passes away

HT Correspondent
htpatna@hindustantimes.com

PATNA: Veteran leader of the CPI-ML(Liberation) Swadesh Bhattacharya died on Saturday in a private hospital in Patna. A founding member of the first central committee of the party , Bhattarcharya had remained as a member of the central committee and was instrumental in strengthening the party's organisational structure at the grassroots, party leaders said.

The mortal remains of Bhattacharya, 84, was taken to Ara today where large number of party members paid tgheir tributes to the departed leader. The body of the deceased leader would be brought to Patna on Sunday and on Monday, his last rites would be performed in the presence of party's top most leaders including general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya, a press statement said.

पंजाब नैशनल बैंक
punjab national bank
DATA PRIVACY & MANAGEMENT DIVISION, HEAD OFFICE
PLOT NO. 5, SECTOR - 32, GURUGRAM, HARYANA-122001

NOTICE

Kind attention of Esteemed Customers of PNB!!!

"Dear Customers,

As per RBI guidelines, KYC updation is mandatory for all customers. If your account has become due for KYC updation as of 30.09.2026, you are requested to get your KYC updated through PNB ONE/IBS/registered e- mail/post/WhatsApp/ SMS or in person visit to any branch by 07.11.2026. Non updation may lead to restriction of operations in your account.

BETTIAH HOSTS STATE SCHOOL FENCING MEET

Sandeep Bhaskar
letters@hindustantimes.com

BETTIAH: The State-Level Inter-Divisional School Fencing Championship 2026 concluded in Bettiah, West Champaran, on Saturday, highlighting the growing popularity of the sport among Bihar's students.

Participants from both government and CBSE-affiliated schools are increasingly looking beyond traditional sports like cricket and football, with aspirations of winning medals, securing government jobs, and representing India at the Olympics, officials said.

On Saturday, the Khel Bhawan in Bettiah transformed into a competitive arena for the state fencing championship. Athletes from across the region faced off in high-speed matches, demonstrating sharp reflexes and technical accuracy throughout the day's proceedings.

Yugraj, a resident of Patna district who won a gold medal under 17 category of foil event, said, "Today, the sport culture is receiving a facelift with a slew of promotion coming from the state government. India is looking forward to host the Olympics in 2036 and my dream is to represent our country there."

For Abhishek Kumar, an Under-14 epee gold medalist from a West Champaran village, fencing is a strategic career choice. "I chose this sport with a professional approach to secure a government job," he said, citing the Bihar government's "Medal Lao, Naukri Pao" (Bring a medal, get a job) scheme as a key motivator. Other young participants view fencing as an untapped opportunity. They compare the sport with the cricket and football circuits, which have "cut-throat competition," and see fencing as a more promising path to success.



Darbhanga planetarium to get ₹61 cr space gallery, innovation hub; ISRO inspects site

Bishnu K Jha
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DARBHANGA: A new state-of-the-art Space Gallery and Space Innovation Centre is planned for the Darbhanga Planetarium-cum-Science Museum complex, with an estimated budget of ₹61 crore, with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) assuring technical guidance and a team of its scientists visiting the proposed site to assess the project's feasibility, officials said on Saturday.

Around two acres of land have been identified for the proposed facility, which aims to bring space science, innovation and research closer to students, particularly those from Mithila and neighbouring regions, officials said . However, a final decision on the project's feasibility and ISRO's role in its implementation is awaited.

The project was reviewed at a meeting held on Friday under the chairmanship of local BJP MP Gopal Jee Thakur. A team from ISRO along with technical experts and representatives of educational institutions, inspected the proposed site at the planetarium complex.

AROUND TWO ACRES OF LAND HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED FOR THE FACILITY, WHICH AIMS TO BRING SPACE SCIENCE, AND RESEARCH CLOSER TO STUDENTS

Talking to Hindustan Times, scientist of ISRO M Vamshidhar Reddy said the team had visited the proposed location to assess the feasibility of establishing the space gallery and innovation centre. We will assess and come back again, he said.

The review meeting discussed the project's technical blueprint, availability of land, basic infrastructure and implementation schedule. The scientists and technical experts assessed the site and deliberated on the requirements for taking the proposal forward.

Earlier, the proposal had received a positive response from the country's premier space agency. In a letter dated August 11, 2026, addressed to MP Gopal Jee Thakur, ISRO chairman and Department of Space secretary Dr V Narayanan welcomed the proposed establishment of a modern Space Gallery and Space Innovation Centre at the Darbhanga Planetarium.

Referring to Thakur's letter dated July 27, 2026, seeking ISRO's support for the project, Narayanan said the initiative would benefit rural youth by helping them understand space science and technology and their applications in everyday life.

The ISRO chairman assured that all necessary technical guidance for implementing the gallery and innovation centre would be extended. He identified G Harikrishnan, director of the Capacity Building and Public Outreach (CBPO), ISRO headquarters, as the point of contact for further coordination and guidance.

Thakur said the initiative was being pursued to connect the younger generation of Mithila with space science and modern scientific research.

The total estimated project cost is ₹61 crore, he added.

The proposed Space Gallery will showcase India's achievements in space exploration through interactive and educational exhibits. These will include three-dimensional models of ISRO launch vehicles and replicas of landmark missions such as Chandrayaan, Mangalyaan, Aditya-L1 and Gaganyaan.

The facility is also proposed to feature virtual reality and augmented reality experiences, space-walk simulations and digital interactive displays, enabling visitors to understand space technology and missions through immersive learning.

A dedicated Space Innovation Lab is proposed as part of the project to encourage scientific thinking among school students and college-going youths, Thakur stated.

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Psychedelic a new route out of drug-resistant depression

Binayak Dasgupta
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Randomised control trial breakthrough

Antidepressants are the usual first treatment for depression, and they act slowly. A patient waits four to six weeks to learn whether a drug is helping. If it is not, the doctor changes the dose or the drug, and the wait begins again. Once two different antidepressants have failed, both taken at a full dose for long enough, psychiatrists call the illness treatment-resistant depression. Regulators such as the European Medicines Agency use the same two-drug threshold. The odds of recovery fall with every further drug: in STAR*D, the largest US study of patients moving through successive treatments, about 37% recovered on the first drug and 31% on the second, but only about 13% on the third or fourth. In the US, researchers estimated in 2021 that about 31% of adults treated with antidepressants meet the definition.

Researchers are now testing whether a psychedelic could bring relief in a single visit. In a randomised control trial published in JAMA this week, they gave 193 such patients one spray of mebufotenin, a psychedelic whose effects wear off within an hour. Most patients were fit to go home within two hours, and their symptoms stayed lower than those of a comparison group for eight weeks.

The trial is significant for both its design – it was a randomised control trial – and the findings. Patients in the drug-resistant depression group typically have few options and even those are slow or demanding. One is electroconvulsive therapy (ECT), in which doctors trigger a brief seizure under anaesthesia. About half of such patients go into remission, but they need several weeks of sessions, and some see some implications on their memory. Then there is magnetic stimulation of the brain, which usually means a session every weekday for four to six weeks, and about three in ten patients respond. A third option is the anaesthetic ketamine, which can ease depression within hours, but the effect fades. After all three, many patients relapse unless they keep taking an antidepressant.

Mebufotenin, then, is a promising candidate – but it might not be a panacea just yet. Chittaranjan Andrade, a psychopharmacologist at Nimhans in Bengaluru, wrote in an editorial alongside the mebufotenin trial that "the antidepressant effect was incomplete": patients were about 30% better on average. None had tried ketamine or ECT, people with suicidal thoughts were excluded, and many could tell whether they had received the real dose. "If the benefit is only 30%, it means that you've either not given an adequate dose, or you've not given it on an adequate number of occasions," he said. The company developing the drug paid for the trial.

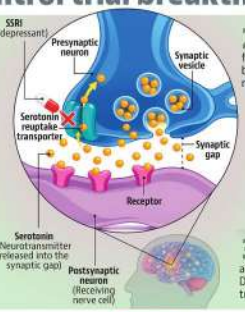
Psychedelics have long been explored as potential therapies for mental health illnesses. But regulators have raised concerns about this class of chemicals. One, a blinded study – where the subjects of a study truly do not know whether they are being give the drug or a placebo – is difficult because patients can usually tell whether they received the drug. In 2024 the US Food and Drug Administration rejected MDMA for post-traumatic stress disorder, citing problems that included patients knowing which treatment they had received. Psilocybin, from magic mushrooms, has since passed two large trials by a modest margin. Its sessions last hours, though, and that is one reason researchers turned to the shorter-acting mebufotenin. No regulator has approved a psychedelic for depression. Outside trials, people smoke mebufotenin at retreats as dried toad secretion, without medical screening.

No Indian patients took part in these trials, and psilocybin and DMT are banned under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act. Andrade expects psychedelics to stay "unavailable and unaffordable" here even if the US approves them. He points instead to ketamine, which Indian doctors can already prescribe off-label and which, taken by mouth, "requires little training and carries negligible costs". Andrade, who has led much of India's research on oral ketamine, adds that its wider use "needs to be supported by more solid research than is currently available".

People also misuse ketamine, at far higher doses than those used in treatment, and heavy recreational use can damage the bladder. In treated patients, reviewers have found few bladder problems, but most trials followed patients for only weeks. In a year-long study of esketamine, the nasal form, funded by its maker, researchers reported no bladder damage and no misuse. In its 2026 guideline, the Indian Psychiatric Society recommends ketamine for treatment-resistant depression "wherever available", noting that long-term data are limited. Andrade said the Indian Council of Medical Research has funded a five-centre trial of oral ketamine as a first treatment for depression.

Vital explains the science and the conversations at the frontier of healthcare and wellness. It isn't medical advice — what to do with it is a conversation for you and your doctor.

OVER WEEKS
Brain signalling, & mechanism of antidepressants



1 Nerve cells pass signals across a narrow gap called a synapse. The sending cell releases chemical messengers, called neurotransmitters, which bind to receptors on the receiving cell. The leftover messenger is then pulled back into the sending cell through a channel.

- **Serotonin** affects mood, sleep and appetite. Its receptors include 5-HT2A and 5-HT1A.
- **Glutamate** is the brain's main excitatory messenger: it makes the receiving cell more likely to fire. One of its receptors is called NMDA.

2 Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs), such as fluoxetine, sertraline and escitalopram, block the reabsorption channel, so more serotonin stays in the gap.

- The channel is blocked within hours, but patients usually wait four to eight weeks for their mood to improve.
- Researchers now link depression to weakened connections between nerve cells more than to a simple shortage of serotonin. That account is still a hypothesis.

3 About one patient in three gets no relief from two antidepressants taken properly. Doctors call this a stage of treatment-resistant depression.

OVER HOURS
Ketamine and esketamine

Ketamine, an anaesthetic, blocks the NMDA receptor. In animal studies, new connections form between nerve cells within hours. This has not been shown in people.



Ketamine infusion

- Doctors give it into a vein over about 40 minutes, off-label for depression.
- In a 2023 US trial of 403 patients, 55% responded to ketamine and 41% to electroconvulsive therapy. ECT specialists dispute the comparison.

Many patients relapse within weeks, so doctors give repeated courses, alongside an antidepressant.

Esketamine nasal spray

- A form of ketamine approved in the US in 2019, taken alongside an antidepressant.
- Patients take it in a clinic twice a week for the first month and stay under observation for two hours after every dose.

ONE VISIT
Mebufotenin

Mebufotenin, or 5-MeO-DMT, is a psychedelic also found in the secretion of the Sonoran Desert toad.

- It binds to two serotonin receptors, 5-HT2A and 5-HT1A.
- The body clears it within an hour. Researchers don't know why patients' improvement lasts weeks longer.

Nasal spray
(JAMA, October 2026)

- One spray to 193 patients, against a dose too small to feel.
- About a third responded; 18–26% went into remission, against 8%. (3 lines, as now)
- Most were fit to leave in two hours; symptoms eased for eight weeks.

Inhaled
(JAMA Psychiatry, March 2026)

- In an earlier trial, 23 of 40 patients were in remission a week after one day's dosing, against none of 41 on placebo.
- Most needed further doses to stay well.



IAF chief retires from service



Outgoing Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh, at the Guard of Honour ceremony at Air Force Station in New Delhi on Saturday as he bids farewell upon completing his tenure as the 28th chief of the Indian Air Force. PTI

Pjb CM among 40 MLAs renamed for 2027 elections

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CHANDIGARH: In its first list of candidates for the 2027 Punjab Assembly elections announced on Saturday, the Aam Aadmi Party renominated 40 sitting MLAs from their respective constituencies, with Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann again contesting from Dhuri.

AAP is the first major political party that declared its candidates for the state Assembly polls due early next year.

An announcement with regard to the first list of candidates was made by Chief Minister Mann in Delhi, following a meeting of the party's Political Affairs Committee (PAC).

Mann, a first-time MLA, has been fielded from the Dhuri constituency in Sangrur district, as per the list.

Besides Mann, the first list of candidates had a mention of jailed Cabinet minister Sanjeev Arora. Arora is in jail in connection with an alleged GST fraud-linked money laundering case involving certain entities linked to him. However, no name of any other Cabinet minister found mention in the first list of candidates.

AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal, in a post on X, extended his best wishes to all the candidates.

Punjab Assembly Speaker and two-time MLA Kultar Singh Sandhwan has been fielded from Kotkapura and the Deputy Speaker will fight from the Garhshankar assembly segment.

Four sitting women MLAs have been fielded from their respective constituencies. Two-time MLA Baljinder Kaur has been fielded from Talwandi Sabo seat, Inderjit Kaur Mann from Nakodar, Santosh Kataria from Balachaur and Amandeep Kaur Arora from Moga.



Bhagwant Mann

Three former ministers have also been fielded, as per the list.

Former minister Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal, who is the Punjab AAP's chief spokesperson, has been fielded from Ajnala, ex-minister Inderbir Singh Nijjar from Amritsar South and former minister Bram Shanker Jimpa from Hoshiarpur.

Punjab AAP working president Amansher Singh Sherry Kalsi will contest from Batala, Harmeet Singh Sandhu from Tarn Taran, Sarvan Singh Dhun from Khemkaran, Balkar Singh from Kartarpur and Karanbir Singh Ghuman from Dasyua.

Ishank Kumar Chabbewal, who is the son of Hoshiarpur MP Raj Kumar Chabbewal, will contest from the Chabbewal seat, Dinesh Chadha from Rupnagar, Kulwant Singh from Mohali, Lakhbir Singh Rai from Fatehgarh Sahib and Gurinder Singh Garry Warring from Amloh.

Jagtar Singh Diyalpura will fight from Samrala, Daljit Singh Grewal from Ludhiana East, Kulwant Singh Sidhu from Atam Nagar, Ashok Prashar Pappi from Ludhiana Central and Madan Lal Bagga from Ludhiana North.

Two-time MLA Manjit Singh Bilaspur will fight from Nihal Singh Wala, Manwinder Singh Giaspura from Payal, Amritpal Singh Sukhanand from Baghapurana, Devinderjit Singh Laddidhos from Dharamkot, Jagdeep Kamboj Goldy from Jalalabad and Narinderpal Singh Sawna from Fazilka seat.

NCTE SETS UP TWO EXPERT PANELS TO AMEND TEACHER HIRING NORMS

Sanjay Maurya
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NEW DELHI: The National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) has set up two expert committees to amend teacher recruitment rules and eligibility guidelines for the Central Teacher Eligibility Test (CTET) and State Teacher Eligibility Tests (STET), allowing graduates of its four-year Integrated Teacher Education Programme (ITEP) to qualify for school teaching jobs, orders seen by HT said.

The move comes ahead of the first batch of ITEP students completing the programme in 2027. Although the NCTE recognises ITEP as a teacher education programme, existing hiring regulations and TET guidelines do not include it as a qualifying degree.

"The proposed amendments will make it an additional eligibility pathway, while retaining existing qualifications such as D.El.Ed, B.Ed and B.El.Ed," a person familiar with the development said, adding that the amendments were expected to be notified by the time the first batch graduates.

Launched in the 2023-24 academic session, ITEP aims to prepare teachers for different stages of school education under the 5+3+3+4 curricular structure under the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020.

In an October 8 order, NCTE constituted the first panel, chaired by former IAS officer Prof Nirmaljeet Singh Kalsi, to review its 2014 regulations governing minimum qualifications for schoolteacher recruitment. It has been asked to prepare a draft amendment recognising ITEP as a minimum qualification and submit it in 30 days.

The second panel, formed on October 12 and chaired by retired Delhi University professor Chand Kiran Saluja, will review CTET and STET guidelines to make ITEP graduates eligible for the relevant primary and upper-primary examinations.

Two foreign guests at Bengaluru hotel electrocuted in pool

Press Trust of India
letters@hindustantimes.com

A GUEST FROM THE US AND A HOTEL STAFFER WERE ALSO INJURED WHILE TRYING TO RESCUE THE VICTIMS AND ARE UNDER TREATMENT

BENGALURU: Two foreign nationals, including a crew member of a German airline, staying at a five-star hotel here have died allegedly due to suspected electrocution while swimming in the hotel's pool, police said on Saturday.

The deceased were identified as Alexander Maximilian Theiss (57), a German national working as a crew member with Lufthansa, and Juraj Horvat (45), a project manager with IBM, they said.

According to police, the incident occurred on Friday evening at the swimming pool located on the third floor of the hotel in Halasuru.

Two other persons —a US national and a guest at the hotel, Mathew Desantis (41); and the hotel's pool attendant, Rahul Tiwari (28) —sustained injuries while attempting to rescue the victims, a senior police officer said.

Both injured persons were shifted to Manipal Hospital, where they are undergoing treatment. They are out of danger, he said.

Police said Horvat had checked into the hotel with his family on October 30, while Theiss had checked into the hotel on October 20.

Speaking to reporters here, Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh said, "We have received a complaint from the spouse of one of the deceased. Our police are investigating the incident."

"There is a suspicion of electrical leakage, and it appears to be a case of electrocution. However, until we receive the medical, technical and expert reports, we cannot determine exactly what happened," he added.

A case has been registered against the hotel management under section 106 (causing death due to negligence) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, and further investigation is underway, police said.

CCTV camera records are also being checked; staff are being questioned, and statements from eyewitnesses are being collected, they added.

Audits, SOPs after stormy '25 preceded chopper crash

Neha LM Tripathi
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NEW DELHI: Six people were killed after a helicopter crashed near Joshimath in Chamoli district on Friday, adding to a series of accidents in Uttarakhand's pilgrimage helicopter sector despite successive rounds of safety measures by the aviation regulator.

The crash occurred weeks after the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB), in its final report on a fatal 2025 crash in the Kedarnath valley, recommended that pilots complete 50 hours of supervised hill flying before operating alone in the region. The bureau recorded eight accidents and one serious incident in the Char Dham sector between 2015 and 2025.

The cause of Friday's crash is not yet established.

The accident is the first in Uttarakhand since the civil aviation ministry introduced sweeping safety measures for the 2026 pilgrimage season.

These included air traffic control at Sahastradhara in Dehradun and Sersi in Rudraprayag, command centres monitoring helipads and weather, tracking devices on all helicopters, and ceilometers—instruments that measure cloud-base height — at five locations including Kedarnath and Badrinath.

Pilots were required to have at least 750 hours of hill flying, with 100 in the preceding year and 10 take-offs and landings at Kedarnath. Helicopters were barred from filling more than 70% of their passenger capacity.

The ministry had said the first phase of the 2026 season passed without incident.

The Char Dham sector's safety record has drawn repeated regulatory intervention.

Data the ministry presented in the Rajya Sabha on July 21 last year showed six helicopter accidents during the Char Dham Yatra between 2021 and June 2025, four of them in the first six months of 2025 alone. One accident each was recorded in 2022 and 2023; none in 2021 and 2024.

The deadliest recent cluster came in the 2025 season. On May 8, an Aero Trans Services Bell 407 crashed near Gangnani in Uttarkashi after its main rotor struck an overhead fibre-optic cable during a landing attempt, killing six people and seriously injuring another. On May 17, a Pinnacle Air helicopter was involved in an accident near Kedarnath, followed by a Kestrel Aviation helicopter accident at Sersi on June 7. On June 15, an Aryan Aviation Bell 407 flying from Kedarnath to Guptkashi crashed near Gaurikund, killing all seven people on board.

The AAIB's final report on the Gaurikund crash, issued on October 13 this year, identified the pilot's limited experience of flying in the valley, rapidly descending clouds and the failure to turn back or change course in time among the factors relevant to the accident. It recommended that pilots complete at least 50 hours of supervised dual hill-flying sorties with an experienced pilot before undertaking single-pilot operations in the Kedarnath valley for the first time.

It also recommended that the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) exercise oversight of the Sitapur control centre and that radio communications between pilots and ground staff be logged.

In an interim report on the same crash, published in November 2025, investigators had recorded that the Kedarnath valley had no meteorological facility. A weather instrument at the helipad reported wind, visibility and temperature.

The 2022 Kedarnath crash showed a similar pattern. On October 18 that year, an Aryan Aviation Bell 407 crashed into a mountain ridge near Garud Chatti shortly after taking off from Kedarnath, killing all seven people on board. The AAIB attributed the accident to the crew's failure to adequately assess deteriorating weather conditions, with fast-descending clouds obscuring visibility.

DGCA has responded to accidents with audits, inspections, fines and suspensions. After a hard landing at Kedarnath in June 2022, it audited shuttle operators and fined five of them ₹5 lakh each over irregularities in their flying records. Following the 2025 accidents, the regulator ordered special audits, familiarisation flights for pilots new or returning after over a year, and deployed air traffic control and meteorological staff at control rooms in Sahastradhara and Sitapur.

Helicopter mishaps in Uttarakhand over the years

June 25, 2013
An IAF Mi-17 V5 helicopter engaged in flood-relief operations crashed in Uttarakhand, killing 20 personnel.

July 24, 2013
A private helicopter carrying relief material crashed near Garud Chatti in the Kedarnath valley, killing the pilot and co-pilot.

April 3, 2018
An Indian Air Force cargo helicopter caught fire while landing at Kedarnath helipad.

October 18, 2022
Seven killed in a helicopter crash near Kedarnath.

May 17, 2025
An AIIMS Rishikesh heli ambulance crash landed near the Kedarnath helipad.

May 8, 2025
Six killed after a helicopter crashed in the Gangnani area of Uttarkashi district.

April 2023
A senior official of the Uttarakhand civil aviation authority was killed after being struck by a helicopter tail rotor in Kedarnath

June 7, 2025
A helicopter carrying five pilgrims to Kedarnath crash landed on the Guptkashi-Gaurikund highway in Rudraprayag.

June 15, 2025
Seven people killed in a helicopter crash near Gaurikund in Rudraprayag district.

October 30, 2026:
Five passengers and a pilot killed after a helicopter from Badrinath to Sahastradhara crashed in the Hathi Parvat area of Chamoli.



FORMER MP R.K. SINHA CREMATED WITH FULL STATE HONOURS

HT Correspondent
htpatna@hindustantimes.com

PATNA: Founding member of Bihar Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), former Rajya Sabha MP and renowned social worker Ravindra Kishore Sinha (RK Sinha) was cremated with full state honours at Digha Ghat in Patna on Saturday. Sinha, 75, passed away in Noida on Friday after a brief illness.

His son and BJP's Rashtriya Sankul Cell co-convenor Rituraj Sinha gave 'mukhagni' amidst Vedic mantras. He was given a 'guard of honour' by the police force at the ghat.

Earlier, Sinha's mortal remains were kept at his 'Annapurna' residence in Patna for the last viewing, where political leaders from various parties, including chief minister Samrat Choudhary, depury CM Vijay Kumar Choudhary, former CM Rabri Devi, Union ministers Nityanand Rai, Chirag Paswan and Giriraj Singh, social activists, industry personalities arrived in large numbers. Senior functionaries of the organisation, including BJP national general secretary Saudan Singh, regional organisational general secretary Nagendra Nath, state organisation secretary Bhikhu Bhai Dalsania also paid tributes.

Two Independent biennial poll winners join the BJP in Patna

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PATNA: In a significant political development, two independent winners of the recently concluded biennial polls--Bansi Dhar Brajwasi (Tirhut Graduates' constituency) and Rahul Raj (Saran Teachers' constituency)-- joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Patna on Saturday. They were inducted into the party in the presence of chief minister Samrat Choudhary, state president Sanjay Sarougi, and other senior leaders.

Brajwasi, who got elected for the second time from the Tirhut graduates' constituency , had defeated his nearest rival Abhishek Jha of the JD(U) by a margin of 9147 votes while Rahul Raj, a rebel BJP leader who fought the Saran teachers' constituency as an independent, had defeated his nearest rival Anand Pushkar of the JD(U) by a margin of 1815 votes, as per the data of the election commission released on Friday.

In the final results, BJP, RJD and independents won two seats each, and one each for the Janata Dal (United) and Jan Suraaj Party (JSP).

Now, the two independent MLCs joining the BJP is likely to increase the number of MLCs of the ruling party in the state legislative council from its existing strength of 26. BJP state spokesperson Danish Eqbal in a press statement said both the newly elected MLCs , who joined the BJP, have given their support to the party.

THE INDEPENDENT MLCs JOINING THE BJP ARE LIKELY TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF MLCs OF THE RULING PARTY IN THE STATE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

A state BJP press statement said newly elected MLCs from Tirhut graduates' constituency Brajwasi and Saran teachers' constituency Rahul Raj took the membership of the BJP. The statement said state president of the BJP Sanjay Sarougi gave membership to the two MLCs during a meeting of the legislative party members which was attended by the chief minister, Bihar in-charge of the party and national general secretary Harish Dwivedi and senior leaders. The meeting also discussed various issues on strengthening the party and urged party workers to work in a coordinated manner. Meanwhile, opposition RJD described the induction of two newly elected MLCs in the BJP despite winning as independents a total violation of constitutional norms by the saffron party. " The induction of two MLCs who won as independents into the BJP is totally illegal as the two newly elected legislators have not yet taken oath of secrecy in the house. Does the anti-defection law permit this kind of induction or is it as per constitutional norms?" asked Shakti Singh Yadav, senior RJD leader and former spokspesson.

Yadav also said the induction of the two MLCs just a day after final results of the biennial polls came indicates how the BJP having won just two seats was totally rattled by its poor performance and has started its old trick of poaching legislators." The induction of two winners from Tirhut graduates seat and Saran teachers seat, Brajwasi and Rahul Raj into the BJP is a warning sign for the NDA's partner Janata Dal (united) as both these MLCs defeated JD(U) candidates. The JD(U) is now all set to get disintegrated as the BJP is playing hard to make its partner weak in the state," Yadav said.

SIX CHILDREN SWEPT AWAY IN BHOJPUR RIVER

Prashant Ranjan
letters@hindustantimes.com

ARA: On Saturday afternoon, six children were swept away by the strong current of the Banas River near Shantinagar in the Dhamaniya area (under the Garhani police station of Bhojpur district) while they were bathing.

Four of the children were rescued safely, while two remain missing. By late evening, no trace of the two missing children had been found. They have been identified as seven-year-old Himanshu Kumar, son of Chandan Kesharl, and ten-year-old Monu Kumar, son of Ravindra Keshari (alias Maini) -- both residents of Shantinagar.

Meanwhile, public anger flared when the SDRF team arrived nearly three hours late, despite being notified. Locals staged a protest and blocked the road. The incident took place around 3:00 PM on Saturday while the children were bathing in the Banas River.

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Appendix-IV-A (See Provisio to Rule 8(6))

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

DATE OF E-AUCTION : 17.11.2026, between 11:00 AM to 05:00 PM

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 properties mortgaged/charged to **UCO Bank**, the Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of UCO Bank, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** basis on 17.11.2026, for recovery of amounts due to **UCO Bank** from the following Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s). The reserve price and the earnest money deposit amount are as mentioned in the table below:

Sl. No.	Name of the Branch, Borrower & Amount Due	Details of Property	Reserve Price, EMD & Contact Person
01	**RANCHI BRANCH** **Borrower(s) : Mrs. Mithu lal** **Co- Applicant : Mr. Deepak Kumar Lal** Address : Revenue Thana No 205, under sukhdeo Nagar Police Station, Dist - Ranchi, Jharkhand, 834005. **₹ 25,64,029 /-** (Rupees Twenty Five Lac Sixty Four Thousand Twenty Nine only) calculated upto 30.08.2025 plus unapplied interest, charges, cost and expenses etc.	**SCHEDULE** : All that residential 3BHK Flat Measuring 1994 Sq. Ft. super built up area at **Prarthan Height Residential Apartment** on 5th Floor, Flat No - 504, Car Parking, plot no - 179, 180, 183 and Sup plot No-178/A-2, 179/A-3, 179/A-4, 179A-4(1), 184/A-2, 184/A-4, 180 and 183 near All India Radio Station, Ratu Road, P.S - Sukhdeo Nagar Distt - Ranchi, Jharkhand. **a) Name of the owner of the mortgage property : Mrs. Mithu Lal** **b) Boundary of the property, such as- Butted & bounded by : North :** Ratu Road/Building front set back,then Ratu Road, **South :** M.s Plot No.186/Lobby then others flat, **East :** Ms. Plto no 181 & 182/Side set back , **West :** Plot of Mangal Lal Agarwal/ side set back of building then plot of Mangal lal agarwal.	₹ 60,16,000.00 ₹ 6,01,600.00 Bid Increment Amount ₹ 10,000.00 **Mr. Sandeep Kumar, Contact - 8051114442**

Encumbrances Known to Bank : None
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer to the link provided in **https://baanknet.com** and **www.uco.bank.in**

Date : 30.10.2026 **Sd/-**
Place : Ranchi **Authorised Officer, UCO Bank**

Rajasthan Medical Services Corporation Ltd.
(A Govt. of Rajasthan Undertaking), Gandhi Block, Swasthya Bhawan, Tilak Marg, Jaipur-302005, India Phone No: 0141-2228066, 2228064
Website: www.rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in, CIN : U24232RJ2011SGC035067, E-mail: edprmsc@rajasthan.gov.in

Ref. No. :- F.02 (452)/RMSCL/PROCUREMENT/DRUG/NIB-14/2026-27/5353 Dated :- 26/10/2026

Corrigendum

In reference to the NIB provided below, Corrigendum is issued for date extension in bid. All details may be seen on **https://eprocr.rajasthan.gov.in** **https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** & **https://www.rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in**

Sr. No.	NIB No.	UBN No.	Tender ID on E-Proc	Existing Date			Amended Date		
				Last date and time of submission of online bids	Bid security, bid form fees, RISL fees and Empanelment fees deposited and submitted physically as per bid conditions	Date and time of opening of Online technical bids	Last date and time of submission of online bids	Bid security, bid form fees, RISL fees and Empanelment fees deposited and submitted physically as per bid conditions	Date and time of opening of Online technical bids
1	NIB 14/2026	MSC26270LOB 00954	2026_RMSCL_601585_1	04.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	04.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	05.11.2026 at 11:00 AM	12.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	12.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	13.11.2026 at 11:00 A.M
2	NIB 16/2026	MSC26270LOB 00955	2026_RMSCL_601490_1	04.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	04.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	05.11.2026 at 11:00 AM	12.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	12.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	13.11.2026 at 11:00 A.M
3	NIB 17/2026	MSC26270LOB 00956	2026_RMSCL_601410_1	04.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	04.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	05.11.2026 at 11:00 AM	12.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	12.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	13.11.2026 at 11:00 A.M
4	NIB 18/2026	MSC26270LOB 00962	2026_RMSCL_602815_1	28.10.2026 up to 06:00 PM	29.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	30.11.2026 at 11:00 AM	12.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	12.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	13.11.2026 at 11:00 A.M
5	NIB 19/2026	MSC26270LOB 00960	2026_RMSCL_601870_1	27.10.2026 up to 06:00 PM	27.10.2026 up to 06:00 PM	28.10.2026 at 11:00 AM	12.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	12.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	13.11.2026 at 11:00 A.M
6	NIB 20/2026	MSC26270LOB 00957	2026_RMSCL_601480_1	04.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	04.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	05.11.2026 at 11:00 AM	12.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	12.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	13.11.2026 at 11:00 A.M
7	NIB 21/2026	MSC26270LOB 00961	2026_RMSCL_601887_1	04.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	04.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	05.11.2026 at 11:00 AM	12.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	12.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	13.11.2026 at 11:00 A.M
8	NIB 22/2026	MSC26270LOB 00964	2026_RMSCL_602481_1	05.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	05.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	06.11.2026 at 11:00 AM	12.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	12.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM	13.11.2026 at 11:00 A.M

Director (Proc.)
RMSCL, Jaipur

Raj.Samvaad/C/26/12656

इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank
इलाहाबाद ALLAHABAD

Appendix IV (Rule-8(1))
POSSESSION NOTICE
(For Immovable Property)

Corporate Office : 254- 260, Avvai Shanmugam Salai, Chennai - 600014
Zonal Office,Muzaffarpur, Om Shanti Complex, Opposite Zila School, Muzaffarpur-842002

Notice is hereby given under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement (Security) Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rules 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer issued a Demand Notice on the date noted against each account as mentioned hereinafter, calling upon them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice.
The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the under noted Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property/ies described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said act read with Rules 8 of the said Rules on the date mentioned against each Account.
The Borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealing with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of Indian Bank for the amounts and Interest thereon mentioned against the account herein below.
The attention of the borrowers detailed hereunder is invited to the provisions of subsection (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets

Name of Branch	Name of the Borrower / Mortgagor/Guarantor (Owner of the Property)	Description of the Charged/Mortgaged Property (All the part & parcel of the property consisting of)	Date of Demand Notice	Amount outstanding as on the date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession
Laheriasarai Branch	**1. M/s.** Raj Nandini Traders (Proprietorship Firm) Prop. Ravi Kumar Sah, Address- Sadhwara Chowk, Rasalpur More, Darbhanga, Bihar- 847301. **2. Mr. Ravi Kumar Sah** (Proprietor/Guarantor/Mortgagor), Address- Vill.- Araila Yadushankar PS- Moro Vasuara, Dist.- Darbhanga, Bihar.	**Property 1.-** Deed Number 3224 Date of Deed 04.03.2023, Khata no. 297 Khesra no. 1453(Old) 1750(New), Area 2 Katha Type of Land Residential Owner Mr. Ravi Kumar Sah S/o Mangal Sah Moh.- Vanswara, P.S.-Moro Basuara, Thana No-153, Pargana-Barsal, Anchal Hanuman Nagar, Dist- Darbhanga, Bihar. **Boundary : North:** Land of Sitaram Thakur, **South:** Govt PCC Road 14". **East:** Land of Ram Janki, West: Land of Mahesh Kumar Sharma.	12/08/2026	**Rs. 51,09,612.00/-** Intt. & other Banking and legal expenses there upon	28.10.2026
		Property 2.- Deed Number-10368 Date of Deed-06.07.2022 Commercial land measuring 1 Katha situated at, Mauza Rasalpur, P.S- Simri, Thana No-142, Pargana- Shahjahanpur, Anchal Singhwara, Dist Darbhanga, Bihar Khata No. 158(Old) 396(New), Khesra No. 342(Old), 1210(New), Thana No. 142, Tauzi No. 5433, Pargana- Shahjahanpur, Sub-Reg & Dist- Darbhanga owner of the property Mr. Ravi Kumar Sah, S/o Mr. Mangal Sah. **Boundary : North:** Land of Ahmad, **South:** Land of Kunal Kumar Sah, **East:** Road, West: Land of Gulam Rabbi & Others **Hypothecated Assets-** All Stocks. All the present, future book debts and furniture and fixtures.			

Place: Darbhanga
Date : 01.11.2026
Authorised Officer
Indian Bank (Erstwhile Allahabad Bank)

पंजाब नैशनल बैंक punjab national bank
...भरोसे का प्रतीक !
...the name you can BANK upon !

BRANCH OFFICE: CO-SAM Circle Office Gaya
(RJ Palace, Rai Kashi Nath More, Gaya)
E mail: cogayasamd@pnb.co.in

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
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 reserve price and the earnest money deposit will be as mentioned in the table below against the respective properties.

SCHEDULE OF THE SECURED ASSETS

Sl. No.	A. Name of the branch B. Name of the account C. Name & addresses of the borrower/ Guarantors account	Description of the Immovable Properties Mortgaged/ Owner's Name (mortgagers of property(ies))	A. Date of Demand Notice u/s 13(2) of SARFAESI ACT 2002. B. Outstanding Amount as on 13(2) C. Possession Date u/s-13(4) of SARFAESI ACT 2002. D. Nature of Possession Symbolic/ Physical	A) Reserve Price (Rs. in Lacs) B) EMD C) Bid Increase Amount.	Date/ Time of E-Auction	Details of the encumbrances known to the secured creditors
1.	A. **Branch: JAMUAWAN**, GAYA B. **M/S SHIV GURU RICE MILL AND SHIV GURU TRADERS Prop-Shri Rajeev Kumar S/o Shri Sukhdev Singh** C. **M/S SHIV GURU RICE MILL AND SHIV GURU TRADERS Prop-Shri Rajeev Kumar S/o Shri Sukhdev Singh** **Add-** At-Dhandhar Jagatpur, Gaya Distt-Gaya, Bihar-805130	Property Covered Under Registered Mortgage Deed No.- 25178, dated-20/10/2023 bearing Khata No-25, Plot No-321,322, Area-18 Dismil, situated at Mauza- Jagatpur, P.S-Atri, Thana No-250, Dist.-Gaya RM created by Shri Rajeev Kumar S/o Sukhdeo Singh. Boundary-North-Baith Nath Singh, South-Atta Mill, East-Sarak, West-Baith Nath Singh.	A. **20.11.2025** B. **Due Amount: Rs.68,77,768.00/-** (Rupees Sixty Eight Lakh Seventy Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty Eight Only) as on 31.10.2025 + further interest w.e.f 01.11.2025 and other charges untill payment in full C. **17.03.2026** D. **Symbolic Possession**	**1. Rs. 49,67,000/-** **2. Rs.4,96,700/-** **3. 10,000/-**	**03.12.2026 11 am to 4 pm**	**NIL**

TERMS AND CONDITIONS
The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and to the following further conditions:
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 herein above 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://baanknet.com on 03.12.2026 @ 11 AM TO 4 PM. For detailed term and conditions of the sale, please refer https://baanknet.com & www.pnbindia.in.

Date: 01.11.2026
Place: Gaya

STATUTORY SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002

BIDYA NAND MISHRA
Authorised Officer
Punjab National Bank
Secured Creditor
Mob: 9051446655



केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
Syndicate

RECOVERY, LEGAL, FRAUD PREVENTION SECTION
Regional Office, 3rd Floor, Tee Kay Corporate Tower, Jamshedpur
East Singhbhum - 831001

ANNEXURE-2A

DEMAND NOTICE [SECTION 13(2)] TO BORROWER / GUARANTOR / MORTGAGOR

To,
1. Mrs. MAJADA KHANAM (Borrower & Mortgagor)
Cross Road No. 7, H.No. 30, Zakirnagar, Azadnagar, Jamshedpur, East Singhbhum, Jharkhand-832110
2. Md. AATIF HUSSAIN (Borrower)
Cross Road No. 7, H.No. 30, Zakirnagar, Azadnagar, Jamshedpur, East Singhbhum, Jharkhand-832110
3. AFTAB HUSSAIN (Borrower)
S/o Md Yunus, H.No. 30, Cross Road No. 7, Zakirnagar, Azadnagar, Jamshedpur, East-Singhbhum, Jharkhand-832110

Dear Sir / Madam,
Sub: DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT 2002.
That **Mrs. Majada Khanam (Borrower & Mortgagor), Md. Aatif Hussain (Borrower) & Aftab Hussain (Borrower)** has availed the following loans / credit facilities from our **Mango Branch** from time to time :

Loan No.	Nature of Loan/Limit	Loan Amount	Liability as on Date	Rate of Interest
2516619002154	HOUSING FINANCE	Rs. 30,00,000.00	Rs. 20,37,915.80	10.20%

The above said loan/credit facilities are duly secured by way of mortgage of the assets more specifically described in the schedule hereunder, by virtue of the relevant documents executed by you in our favour. Since you had failed to discharge your liabilities as per the terms and conditions stipulated, the Bank has classified the debt as NPA on 27.10.2026. Hence, we hereby issue this notice to you under Section 13(2) of the subject Act calling upon you to discharge the entire liability of **Rs. 20,37,915.80 (Rupees Twenty Lakhs Thirty Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Fifteen and Paise Eighty Only)** with accrued and up-to-date interest and other expenses, within sixty (60) days from the date of the notice, failing which we shall exercise all or any of the rights under Section 13(4) of the subject Act.
Further, you are hereby restrained from dealing with any of the secured assets mentioned in the schedule in any manner whatsoever, without our prior consent. This is without prejudice to any other rights available to us under the subject Act and / or any other law in force.
Your attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.
The demand notice had also been issued to you by Registered Post Ack due to your last known address available in the Branch record.

SCHEDULE

Property No. 1: A Residential Flat bearing Flat No. B-606 situated on the Sixth Floor, B-Block, having Carpet Area of 1078 Sq. ft., consisting of Three Bedroom, One Drawing Hall, One Dining Room, Three Toilets, One Kitchen and One Balcony, including One Car Parking Space at Ground Floor, together with 431 Sq. ft. of undivided proportionate share of land in portion of the multistoried building known as "AAKASH GREENS", Holding No. 009008208000A1 within schedule property and bounded as follows: **East** - Flat No. B-605, **West** - Open Space, **North** - Flat No. B-601 & Wide Corridor, **South** - Open Space.
Property No. 2: All that piece and parcel of Land measuring 40 Katthas appertaining to New Plot No. 977, under New Khata No. 520, land measuring 4.95 Katthas, appertaining to New Plot No. 975, under New Khata No. 179, land measuring 8.55 Katthas, appertaining to New Plot No. 973, under New Khata No. 583, under Thana No. 1641, New Ward No. 9, MNAC, Mouza - Pardih, PO & PS - Mango, Jamshedpur, Dist. - East Singhbhum, Jharkhand. **Which is Bounded by: North** - Plot No. 972, **South** - Plot No. 976, **East** - Plot No. 1029, **West** - Road.
CERSAI ID: 400051523753.

Place : Jamshedpur **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Date : 30.10.2026 **Canara Bank**

{ THE BIG PICTURE }

Republicans have been their own worst enemies

The Trump administration's policies and decisions have been the biggest disadvantage for the Grand Old Party. Yet, there's no Blue wave



Much of the last-minute GOP campaign effort is aimed at bringing Republican voters to the booth, who are much less enthusiastic than Democrats about voting this year. Trump himself has spent the last few weeks holding rallies in states he won by huge margins in an effort to mobilise his core supporters to turn out on Election Day. AFP

With rare exceptions, the political party of the president of the US has always lost seats in the Congressional mid-term elections. The Republicans, though, are going into the 2026 mid-terms with certain advantages, and they have done everything they could in the states they control to magnify those advantages. The Democratic opposition also suffers from important liabilities. Yet as election day approaches, some pundits predict a Blue wave that will catapult the Democrats back into control of the House of Representatives and the Senate. The Republicans have made things much worse for themselves than it would have been in a business-as-usual scenario.

Retaining control of the House was always going to pose a tough challenge to the Grand Old Party (GOP). The party currently holds 218 seats, the absolute minimum needed to organise the chamber. Some Republican members won in districts that Trump himself lost in 2024 and were vulnerable from day one.

In an effort to tilt the playing field in their favour, Republicans in states such as Texas and Florida engaged in off-cycle redistricting to increase the number of seats they were likely to win. (Redistricting usually follows the decennial census.) But the Democrats countered with their own redistricting schemes in several states they controlled, helping neutralise the potential Republican gains.

Although, on paper, the Republicans face a greater risk in the Senate mid-terms because they have more seats up for re-election (22 versus 13 for the Democrats), many of the GOP seats are in solidly red states that Trump won in 2024, with substantial margins. With 53 seats in the 100-member Senate, the Republicans have enjoyed a seemingly safe margin, enhanced because any 50-50 tie vote would be broken by vice-president JD Vance. This means the Democrats would need to hold their current strength and gain four more seats to secure control.

That earlier appeared to be too steep a climb. Apart from North Carolina, where the Democrats nominated the popular outgoing governor, Roy Cooper, it seemed at first that only the Republican senator from Maine, Susan Collins, was vulnerable. And it certainly didn't help the Democrats' prospects there when their initial candidate Graham Platner's campaign imploded in the wake of multiple credible charges of abusive behaviour towards women. The Democrats also may not have nominated the most electable candidate in Michigan. Abdul El-Sayed, a progressive with strongly anti-Zionist views, won the party primary to fill the seat held by Gary Peters, who opted not to run again. El-Sayed has antagonised many Jewish leaders and voters who had always backed Democrats in the past.



Andrew J Polsky

The Trump administration has put its finger on the scale, too, trying to discourage voting by Democratic-leaning constituencies. The justice department has pressured the states to turn over voter rolls so it can seek to identify ineligible voters, especially immigrants without citizenship. States under Democratic control have resisted and generally prevailed in the courts. The administration has also threatened to send immigration enforcement agents to polling places, an obvious attempt to intimidate potential voters of foreign birth – even immigrant citizens fear entanglement with the heavy-handed US Homeland Security agents.

Things have not played out as the Republicans anticipated. On the eve of the election, they find themselves playing defence in Senate races they had expected to win easily. Polls show voters evenly split in states such as Iowa, Kansas (where no Democrat has won a Senate seat in nearly 100 years), Alaska, Texas, Mississippi, and South Carolina. Republican Party campaign organisations and unaffiliated conservative political action committees (PACs) are spending hundreds of millions of dollars in last-ditch media blitzes to hold the line where they had never intended to invest a dime. They have been forced into campaign triage mode in both the House and Senate races, withdrawing funds from so-called purple states (closely contested by both parties) where they hoped to hold seats (North Carolina) or even make gains (Georgia).

Opinion polls highlight the unpopularity of Donald Trump (approved by a mere one-third of respondents) and the Republicans. Much of the last-minute GOP campaign effort is aimed at bringing Republican voters out, who are much less enthusiastic than Democrats about voting this year. Trump himself has spent the last few weeks holding rallies in states he won by huge margins in an effort to mobilise his core supporters to turn out on Election Day.

Little of this has to do with voters suddenly embracing the Democratic Party. It remains divided between its moderate and progressive wings, and it has no recognised national leader to speak for the party as a whole. Former President Joe Biden has vanished from sight, and few remember his term fondly enough to regret his disappearance; former vice-president Kamala Harris has been too busy selling her memoir to articulate a path for the party. Polls suggest the party is only slightly less unpopular than the GOP.

Rather than the Democrats doing anything to score over the GOP, the Republicans' plight owes more to them having repeatedly shot themselves in the foot. Most of the wounds were inflicted by their own unquestioned leader, Trump. His poorly planned war against Iran has proven to be a political millstone for the party. Americans have faced sharply increased fuel prices, with the high cost of diesel placing a particular burden on farmers who long have been a core GOP constituency. Inflation has persisted, in no small measure because fuel prices ripple through the economy. In an effort to bring inflation down, the Federal Reserve has kept interest rates high and indicated it may rise in the future, much to the President's chagrin. Trump's inconsistent and unpredictable tariffs have also contributed to higher prices, without returning the many jobs to the US that he had promised.

In ways that few would have anticipated, the 2026 mid-term elections have brought the question of class privilege back into American politics. Again, much of this is Trump's doing, however inadvertent. He has been openly dismissive about voters' concerns about the high cost of fuel and groceries. Ongoing stories about how his family, cronies, and business associates have enriched themselves by capitalising on their White House connections have reinforced the perception that grift is the main animating principle of this administration. Strongmen elsewhere, such as Viktor Orbán in Hungary, have been turned out of office when voters wearied of their relentless corruption and self-dealing.

That said, it would be reckless to predict sweeping a Republican defeat on November 3, much less a Blue wave. Democratic hopes in places like Mississippi, South Carolina, Kansas, and Texas may turn out to be fool's gold: Polls have become less reliable in the Trump era, and Republican voters have been notably less willing to answer surveys. Many of the contests likely will be very close, which in turn will lead to claims about voter fraud, missing ballots, and counting errors. Once again, the courts may have to adjudicate these disputes before Americans will know who controls Congress.

Andrew J Polsky is professor emeritus, department of political science, Hunter College, CUNY. The views expressed are personal

{ SUNDAY SENTIMENTS }

Karan Thapar



What Justice Kaul's book tell us about the judiciary

Rarely, if ever, do former judges of the Supreme Court raise disturbing questions about their colleagues or the collegium system for choosing judges. However, that is precisely what Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul has done in his forthcoming autobiography *'Without Fear or Favour'*.

What it suggests about former Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud is disquieting, even disillusioning. Kaul was the senior most puisne judge under Chandrachud. He had known him for four decades and often refers to him as Dhan. This is why what he says needs to be attentively listened to.

Kaul writes that a Prevention of Money Laundering Act case in 2023 "drove a wedge between the Chief Justice and me". He blames "the concentration of administrative power in the office of the Chief Justice, exercised without adequate checks and, at times, under pressures that had nothing to do with the merits of the case or the competence of the judge."

Here's the nub of the story. "One morning I was called to the Chief Justice's chamber, where Justice Khanna also happened to be present along with him and asked whether I really wished to go on with the matter ... it was then put to me that caution might be the wiser course and that perhaps I should take a middle path." Kaul doesn't spell out the precise message Chandrachud was seeking to give.

Something similar happened when Kaul was hearing a case concerning the transfer of four judges of the Gujarat High Court. This was just before his retirement. Suddenly the matter was deleted overnight. Kaul's conclusion is disquieting: "The Chief Justice was under some pressure." Kaul doesn't specify but one can assume it's from the government.

Even worse is what happened when a collegium meeting was selecting judges for elevation to the top court, according to Kaul. Just look at how Chandrachud ostensibly acted. "The Chief Justice drew me aside into a separate room and wondered aloud whether he should telephone out to check the government's view ... I told him to see sense. He could not, in the middle of a collegium, do such a thing."

Kaul's conclusion appears to be devastating. "There is a difference between consultation and what I came to regard as pre-approval – seeking the government's nod before the collegium had even formally deliberated. That sends the wrong signal ... I believed he was too deferential to the government on appointment matters." If Kaul's story is correct Chandrachud was, in fact, undermining the collegium system.

Let me now focus on how the collegium functions. Kaul has worrying things to say. Until former CJI UU Lalit changed the practice, it seems judges were elevated to the Supreme Court without studying their judgments. "No structured mechanism existed for collecting and analysing judgements before considering appointments". This is simply bizarre.

Kaul seems to confirm that Justice Akil Kureshi's name was not recommended for fear the government would oppose it. So, it seems, recommendations were tailored according to the government's tastes and preferences. Equally distressingly, the collegium was often under pressure to make appointments the government wants. On one occasion the government wanted an unsuitable candidate to be made chief justice of one of the larger high courts. The collegium had to appoint him chief justice of a smaller high court to get the government to back off.

CAN THE CHIEF JUSTICE, WHO CANNOT BE REMOVED EXCEPT BY IMPEACHMENT, COME UNDER PRESSURE? IF HE DOES, WHAT DOES IT TELL US ABOUT OUR JUDICIARY?

But he was still an unsuitable candidate.

On another occasion, the collegium wanted to elevate a senior judge whom it considered "competent and with a good reputation". The government asked "whether additional representation of minority faiths was really required". But that's not all. "A further query, voiced by the Chief Justice (followed) ... the government wanted to know which caste the candidate's family had belonged to before they converted to another faith."

Perhaps this is why Kaul concludes the National Judicial Appointments Commission "ought to have been given a chance to work rather than being rubbished immediately by the judiciary". But how does one explain Chandrachud's apparent pusillanimity? Can the chief justice, who cannot be removed except by impeachment, come under pressure? If he does, what does it tell us about our judiciary?

Karan Thapar is the author of Devil's Advocate: The Untold Story. The views expressed are personal

{ ANOTHER DAY }

Namita Bhandare



The language of misogyny in politics

How low can you stoop? Perhaps Vivek Ramaswamy can tell us. The Indian-origin Republican billionaire running for governor of Ohio plans to splash out $4-million to promote a one-minute ad featuring his opponent, Democrat Amy Acton — or to be more precise, her mother.

Acton has been estranged from her mother for close to half a century. She has spoken publicly about being sexually abused as a child by her stepfather. Cledith Arthur was charged with rape in 1978 but never stood trial. Now, her mother appears in the ad to denounce her daughter as a liar and warn voters: "If you think she'll make your life better, you're fooling yourself."

It takes a particularly perverse mind to dredge up a rival's childhood trauma and use her alienated mother against her. But the ad is troubling on other levels. The disbelieving of survivors is one. And the sexualisation of female political rivals — in this case using her past sexual assault — against her. A 2026 Inter-Parliamentary Union report, based on a survey of 519 members of Parliament and case studies in five countries, found that 76% of women reported exposure to violence, compared to 68% of men. Men and women both are subjected to hate speech. But only one gender gets sexualised. A 2024 study looked at 35,545 pieces of deepfake sexualised images of 26 US members of Congress where all but one were female.

Artificial intelligence has made this easier, with female politicians increasingly being targeted with sexualised content. In early May, Italian prime minister Giorgia Meloni went public after a sexualised fake image of her went viral. In India, an AI-generated retro-photo trend became an opportunity for BJP's official state handles, including Kerala, Gujarat and Telangana, to circulate fabricated images of Sonia Gandhi as a woman at a bar surrounded by male politicians.

Age has not exempted the 79-year-old Congress leader from sexualised slurs, including of being a "bar girl" in Cambridge when she met Rajiv Gandhi. Why being a "bar girl" is derogatory is a mystery to me. But if we're talking about facts, then Gandhi's memoir, out in November, *Belonging: A Journey of Love* should set the record straight.

No one party here can claim the high moral ground. "There are times when I've broken down and wept," says BJP spokesperson Shazia Ilmi of the abuse she routinely receives for being as she says, a woman, a Muslim, and someone who switched parties from the AAP to the BJP. The abuse she receives references her body. There are threats to gang-rape her. And even her family, including nieces and nephews, aren't spared. "Men switch parties too, but they don't get the kind of filth I do," she says. How do you respond to this constant barrage that is designed to dispirit and discourage? Ilmi filed a police report. Nothing happened. Now, she says, she just blocks and moves on.

In a patriarchal society where the participation of women in public life is hindered by gender norms, the effect of misogynist language — sexualised slurs, comments about women's looks, judging their abilities based on stereotypes — is two-fold. First, it delegitimises women's political agency by reducing them to their sexuality and appearance. Second, it can deter women, especially those without powerful family connections, from entering public life or make it harder for those already here to stay.

What suffers in the end is not individual women but democracy itself. When women are discredited or deterred from public life, voters lose out too. Choices become narrower and political power remains concentrated in fewer, male hands.

Namita Bhandare writes on gender. The views expressed are personal

The factional genius of the Indian psyche



Conquerors did not need to defeat India; they merely had to exploit the betrayals engineered by Indians against Indians. The Battle of Plassey in 1757 was not a triumph of British military genius, but of successful subversion. GETTY IMAGES

Why is it that a country united by a civilisation for millennia, has people who at the level of daily life, are so easily divided? Of course, we have also always been a land of differences of opinion, but must this healthy diversity spawn a natural talent for factionalism? There is an old, weary truism that encapsulates our public culture with devastating accuracy: If there are four Indians in a room, they will inevitably form two rival groups. This relentless choreography of fission can be seen in the grand arenas of national politics down to the petty fiefdoms of Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs), sports bodies, culture and clubs.



Pavan K Varma

To understand this endemic fractiousness, we must honestly examine our own character. The proclivity to split is driven by a potent mixture of unyielding ego, lack of discipline, ideological flexibility, expedient sycophancy and a structural obsession with hierarchy. In a society where status has historically been determined by one's place in a rigid social ladder, the impulse to impose one's will becomes paramount. Family, kith, regional and community loyalties impose additional incentives for disunity. In the Indian worldview, compromise is often misread as capitulation. The absolute refusal to subordinate the individual ego to a larger public cause turns every disagreement into an existential battle for supremacy. This is further fuelled by what Amartya Sen famously termed the "argumentative" nature of the Indian, where, unfortunately, the gratification of being right far outweighs the utility of being united. Religion too plays a role. In Hinduism, for instance, the remarkable profundity at the philosophical level reduces itself in practice to an insular singularity where the pursuit of individual *moksha* — be it material or spiritual — often finesses notions of civic sense or the larger welfare of community.

History stands as a tragic, repetitive testament to this fatal flaw. Conquerors did not need to defeat India; they merely had to exploit the betrayals engineered by Indians against Indians. When the Turkic ruler Muhammad Ghori invaded India in the 12th century, he did not face a cohesive front. Instead, the deep-seated rivalry between Prithviraj Chauhan and Jaichand of Kannauj helped him to win. Centuries later, the British East India Company mastered the art of playing one Indian *satrap* against another. The Battle of Plassey in 1757 was not a triumph of British military genius, but of successful subversion: Mir Jafar's thirst for the Nawabship of Bengal led him to betray Siraj-ud-Daulah, selling out an entire subcontinent for personal ambition.

In modern times, this historical pathology has found its most vibrant laboratory in our democratic politics. The political landscape is littered with the debris of parties that succumbed to the vanity of clashing egos. The Indian National Congress, which once functioned as an umbrella movement for independence, has split multiple times — most notably in 1969 and 1978 under Indira Gandhi. The tragedy of the socialist movement is even more pronounced. Born out of a noble ideological zeal, the once-mighty socialist front fragmented rapidly into minuscule factions, fatally diminishing it. Not even the disciplined cadres of the Communist parties could resist this urge; their historic split in 1964 into the CPI and CPI(M), and other splinter groups, highlighted that even rigid Marxist dogma is no match for the Indian genius for factionalism. Perhaps, the BJP-RSS is the only ecosystem that has been largely able to preserve its unity both in adversity and success.

Yet, this urge to mutate is not exclusive to the political class; it is pervasive across our social fabric. Step into any elite urban club, a sports federation, or a neighbourhood RWA, and you will find the same microcosm of factional warfare. Elections in these bodies are fought with the venom and intrigue of a mediaeval court. The pursuit of power, no matter how minuscule the domain, provides an irresistible form of psychological gratification.

Is our reality of unity in diversity dangerously morphing into disunity in diversity? Differences are healthy — and necessary — in a democracy, but to pursue even those successfully, true strength lies not in the constant urge to divide, but in the deliberate, painful, and necessary work of holding together. If we fail to understand this, the lines of Iqbal will resound: *"Na samjhoge tau mit jaoge Ai Hindostan walon, tumhari dastan tak no hogi daastanon mein* (Understand, for it you don't, you will cease to be; in the annals of history no trace of you shall remain)."

Pavan K Varma is an author, diplomat, and former Rajya Sabha MP. The views expressed are personal

{ SUNDAY LETTERS }

How certain people shape our lives

This is with reference to "The people who make us who we are today" by Karan Thapar (Oct 25). The heartfelt tribute to the author's mentors illustrates how the people in our lives quietly shape our character, passions, and craft. We must cherish our own guiding lights, as we are essentially a mosaic of those who believed in us.

Sanjay Chopra

Women's revolution in health care in Bihar

This is with reference to "In Bihar, women learn to demand health care" by Lalita Panicker (Oct 25). Through grassroots mobilisation, collective awareness, and community participation, Bihar's women are rewriting the narrative of health care in their state, ensuring access moves from being a simple aspiration to an attainable right.

Mahtab Ahmed

II

Women demanding better health care moves the system from a top-down welfare delivery model toward community-led accountability. Greater participation by men and family decision-makers will also help their cause.

Bal Govind

Write to us at: letters@hindustantimes.com

R.N.I. No. BIHENG/2002/7357

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INDIA BLOC RALLY

zones, each under an assistant commissioner of police assisted by at least 25 inspectors and personnel from sub-inspector to constable rank. Nearly 250 high-definition, AI-enabled CCTV cameras will feed a police control room at the venue, backed by drones, body-worn cameras and anti-riot measures.

"If the numbers increase beyond the capacity, the crowd spillover will be contained on roads adjoining the venue, and accordingly traffic restrictions would be imposed," Singh said.

The rally has been permitted between 10am and 5pm, on condition that organisers share details of invitees, volunteers and buses, and keep speeches clear of anything that could disturb communal harmony. Traffic will be diverted at 10 points during those hours, and movement on at least 11 stretches is likely to be affected, among them Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, Jawaharlal Nehru Marg, Aruna Asaf Ali Road, Minto Road, DBG Road and Barakhamba Road, said K Ramesh, deputy commissioner of police (central range traffic). DTC buses will run on restricted routes, a corridor will be kept open for ambulances to LNJP and GB Pant hospitals, and commuters have been urged to take the Metro.

Sunday's rally follows a month in which the Opposition's attempts to take its protest into central Delhi were repeatedly blocked. Jantar Mantar, long the country's best-known site for dissent, was de-notified on October 12, and Ramlila Maidan, Burari Ground and CBD Ground were named in its place. CJP leaders Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka, who entered the site the next day, spent more than a week in custody and were freed on October 21 only after undertaking in writing not to call protests there.

The INDIA bloc says it was refused the lawns of the Ashoka Hotel for the impeachment event and then barred from setting up at Ramlila Maidan, before moving it to Kharge's residence at 10 Rajaji Marg, where rain pushed it back by a day. Former Lok Sabha Speaker Meira Kumar presided, with Samajwadi Party MP Awadhesh Prasad and Trinamool Congress MP Saugata Roy as vice-chairs. Sonia Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, the SP's Dharmendra Yadav and the TMC's Derek O'Brien were among those present.

Gandhi has urged students, farmers, workers and traders to join the march, telling them there was no need to worry about the police and lathis.

SMART GOVERNANCE

department of information technology, while the water resources Department will modernize its inspection bungalows into high-rise functional towers.

The smart governance leap seeks to mobilize private investment, generate steady non-tax revenue for the state exchequer, and anchor a sustainable urban renewal blueprint for Bihar's evolving cityscape, it added.

{ FROM PAGE 1 }

PROTESTS IN EUROPE

similar to the force used during last week's demonstrations. The French Police Prefecture said on X that anyone masking themselves in a public space or carrying a fake weapon could be fined. Some commentators replied citing a 2010 law that says people can cover their faces in certain circumstances, including celebrations.

French authorities last weekend banned some demonstrations and deployed a significant police presence to prevent the rioting and looting that broke out in some places after marches on Oct. 17.

Although these measures largely succeeded, protesters said their right to expression had been stifled.

The French protests began as a student movement, with high schoolers closing down their schools as they demanded smaller class sizes, building renovations and a revision of the university selection system.

French President Emmanuel Macron said he was hoping high schools would reopen on Monday, after the government proposed loans for infrastructure upgrades and changes to the university process by 2028. Establishments are currently closed for the holidays.

The Yellow Vests, a group demanding greater socioeconomic equality during months of protests that started at the end of 2018, is among those planning to show up on Saturday.

France's government, which is trying to get a 2027 budget through a divided lower house of parliament, wants to quell the protests without spending more. Borrowing costs have risen as bond investors worry about the country's ability to rein in the public deficit with an upcoming presidential election.

Spending cuts in the budget will be at the heart of another day of demonstrations and strikes planned on Nov. 5 by the France's biggest unions.

In Germany, a group calling itself "Gen Z Regelt" emerged on social media platforms earlier this month, saying "the French showed us first, so we'll follow." It is organizing demonstrations in 32 cities on Saturday, and said it won't tolerate any form of violence against groups or property. German authorities on Thursday said they have so far seen no evidence anyone planning to foment unrest will infiltrate the marches, while warning "the far-left extremist scene" and groups associated with foreign-related extremism may be mobilizing.

Dozens of demonstrations were also planned in Italy on Friday, where left-wing unions have called for a general strike to protest against the rising cost of living, stagnant salaries and defense spending increases. They are also demanding better workers' rights.

Schools, hospitals, national and local transport may be affected. Deputy Premier Matteo Salvini, also the transport minister, issued an injunction ordering transport unions to postpone the strike, but the unions have defied the directive. Though strikes are relatively frequent in Italy, Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni has approved stringent security measures after a series of protests turned violent earlier this month.

More broadly, Meloni has embraced a tougher stance on law and order since far-right nationalist Roberto Vannacci, a former general, founded his own National Future party this year.

In her budget this week, Meloni targeted some proposals to woo middle class and younger voters ahead of a general election next year, including low taxes on salary bonuses and measures aimed at increasing the stock of affordable housing available for rent.

PRIME MINISTER GIORGIA MELONI HAS APPROVED STRINGENT SECURITY MEASURES AFTER A SERIES OF PROTESTS TURNED VIOLENT EARLIER THIS MONTH

KERALAM: CITIZEN HELP DESKS TO REPLACE PROs IN POLICE STATIONS

Press Trust of India

letters@hindustantimes.com

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Keralam Police have replaced the existing PRO system with integrated Citizen Help Desks across all police stations to provide the public with streamlined access to services and assistance.

The Citizen Help Desks will take over all functions previously handled by Public Relations Officers and serve as a single point of contact for people visiting police stations to lodge complaints, access digital services or seek information and assistance, a statement said on Saturday.

The desks will facilitate the submission of complaints and issue acknowledgements. They will provide dedicated assistance to women and ensure a safe and welcoming environment for children and their parents, the statement said.

Senior citizens will receive priority assistance, while transgender persons will be provided appropriate consideration and support.

The desks will also ensure accessible services for persons with disabilities.

MP: Women take pledge to combat drug abuse in Satna

SATNA: Resolving to eradicate substance abuse, women from urban and rural communities across Madhya Pradesh's Satna district came together on National Unity Day to raise their voices against addiction and pledge to build a drug-free society.

Led by social activist Dr Swapna Verma, the women resolved to intensify awareness campaigns, protect children from substance abuse and mobilise communities against the growing menace of addiction.

The pledge was made during the 'Matrushakti Sammelan (Women Power Conference)', organised here as part of a 'Nasha Mukti' campaign.The conference brought together women doctors, lawyers, social workers, educators, homemakers and women from rural communities, reflecting a collective commitment to addressing substance abuse and its damaging consequences for families and society. PTI

J-K LG leads Rashtriya Ekta Diwas celebrations in Kashmir

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday led the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas celebrations in Kashmir, as thousands of people took part in 'Run for Unity' rallies across the valley, officials said.

The historic Lal Chowk in Srinagar witnessed an Ekta Diwas parade and celebrations in the presence of Sinha and other senior officers, reaffirming the collective commitment to national unity and integrity, they said. The event was marked across the valley with patriotic fervour. PTI

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AYURVEDA
Deemed To Be University
(Ministry of AYUSH, Govt. of India)
Jorawar Singh Gate, Amer Road, Jaipur-302002 (Rajasthan)
Website: www.nia.nic.in

VACANCY NOTIFICATION NO. 2/2026 (ESIC)
For Medical Officer (Ayurveda) & Medical Officer (Homoeopathy) in Employees' State Insurance Corporation, Govt. of India

Online Applications are invited for 19 Posts of Medical Officer (Ayurveda) and 5 Posts of Medical Officer (Homoeopathy) for Employees' State Insurance Corporation, Ministry of Labour, Govt. of India to be filled by Direct Recruitment. All Details like Qualifications, Maximum Age, Reservations etc. are available in the Website of the Institute: **www.nia.nic.in**. Applications are to be filled Online only in the Website of the Institute **www.nia.nic.in** The Date of Starting of Online Filling of Applications is **16-11-2026** and the Closing Date is **15-12-2026.**

(JP SHARMA)
Dated: 30-10-2026 JOINT DIRECTOR (ADMN.)

JAIPUR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Indra Circle, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, Jaipur - 302004
No. JDA/EE/A1/2026-27/D-480 Dated : 28-10-2026

NOTICE INVITING BID
NIB No.: EE(A1)/34/2026-27

Online Bids are invited up-to 6:00 PM of 18.11.2026 'Development of Food Van Park including Construction, Operation and Maintenance (CDO&M) at Ramniwas Bagh, JDA Jaipur.' The last date for Applying Bid and making online payment on JDA portal is up- to 6:00 PM of 18.11.2026. The estimated cost of NIB is Rs. 5.50 Crore. Details may be seen in the Bidding Document at our office or the State Public Procurement Portal website www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in and www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and www.jda.rajasthan.gov.in/jda
UBN No:- JDA2627WLOB00397
To participate in the bid, bidder must:
A. Participate in Tender & Deposit Payment on 'Online Tender Participation' Portal of JDA at or by Single-Sign-On at http://service.jaipurjda.org.
B. Submit e-Bid on "e-Procurement Portal' of GOR at www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in
Job No:- Job No. JDA/EE-A1/A&F/2026-2027/OCT/199
Date : 01.10.2026
Raj.Samwad/C/26/12706 Executive Engineer-A1

Executive Engineer Public Health Engineering Department City Division IV(S) Jaipur
S. No. 2983-3004 Date: 28.10.26

Notice Inviting Bid

Bids for Various Works are invited from interested bidders. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in) of the state.

UBN No.	NIT's For the Year 2026-27	Last Date & time for online submission of tender document
PHE2627WSRC06817	NIT-26	05.11.2026 upto 6.00 PM
PHE2627WSRC06818	NIT-27	05.11.2026 upto 6.00 PM

Sd/- Executive Engineer
PHED City Div. IV (S)
DIPR/C/18086/2026 Jaipur

POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF UTTARAKHAND LTD.
(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Enterprise)
"Vidyut Bhawan" Near ISBT Crossing, Saharanpur Road, Majra, Dehradun – 248002.
Corporate ID No. U40101UR2004SGC028213 . Phone: 0135-2642711

E-TENDER CORRIGENDUM-3

The last date of submission of E-Tender for "Substation Augmentation of Transformers capacity at 132 kV S/s Bhowali, 66 kV S/s Thithki (Manglore) and 66 kV S/s Karanprayag and Kothiyalsain in Kumaon and Garhwal Zone under Package-6" against Tender Specification no. PTCUL/E-Tender/C&P-II/SS-10/2026-27 is hereby extended upto 12.11.2026 15:30 Hrs. For more details please visit the e-tender website **www.uktenders.gov.in** (tender id no. 2026_PTCU4_100602_1) and for e-tender corrigendum notice our website **www.ptcul.org.** All other terms and conditions shall remain same.
For any assistance on E-Tendering, please contact +91-8899890000
Rlo no- 2101/Hopu/ptcul Dated: 30.10.2026 Superintending Engineer (C&P-II)
"Save Electricity in the Interest of Nation"

RAJASTHAN STATE GANGANAGAR SUGAR MILLS LIMITED
Regd Office: 3rd Floor, Cofffee, Near Anerpa Bhawan, Patiala Dungar- 331001(Raj.)
Tel. No. 0141-2740847 Website, www.rsmlganganagar.gov.in, E-mail-rgm.purchase.rsgm@rajasthan.gov.in
NIB No.: - RSGSM/ENA/RC/2026-27/Pur/23 Dated:- 31/10/2026

NOTICE INVITING BID

Bids for ENA are invited from interested bidders up to 6.00 p.m. of 23.11.2026. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in) of the state, http://excise.rajasthan.gov.in/, departmental website.
UBN : GSM2627GLRC00074
Raj Samwad/E/26/12708 Dy. General Manager (Purchase)

INSTITUTE FOR AUTOPARTS & HAND TOOLS TECHNOLOGY
A-9, PHASE-V, FOCAL POINT, LUDHIANA Ph. -91-161-2674587, 5022587, email: iaht@iaht.org
On behalf of IAHT, Ludhiana; e-Tenders are invited: **under two-part bid system** for the procurement of **Universal Length Measuring Machine** (Direct); Range-300mm. **Cost of Tender Document: Rs. 500/-** Tender document availability on **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in; Start Date: 06.11.2026 & Closing Date: 02.12.2026** Detailed bid submission procedure, T&C, Tender guidelines, EMD/Security Deposit etc. are available at website: **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in**
Note : (1) Corrigendum / Addendum / Correction / Amendments; if, any for time extension & clarification etc. will be uploaded at **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** under corrigendum only and will not be published in newspaper / journal. Hence, bidder should regularly visit: **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** to keep themselves updated.
Sd/- General Manager

FORM NO. 32
[See Regulation 14 of DRT Regulation 2024]
[See Rule 23 (viii) of the DRT (Procedure) Rules 1993]
Government of India Department of Financial Services
Debts Recovery Tribunal
2nd Floor, Karpuri Thakur Sadan, Rajiv Nagar, Patna-25
O.A. No. 476 of 2026
Central Bank of India.....Applicant(s)
V/s
M/s Skyline Biryani House & others. .....Defendant(s)
To,
1. M/s Skyline Biryani House, Situated at Vijay Complex, Raja Bazar Pul, BMP Road, Bailey Road, Piller no. 35, Khajpura, Police Station - Hawai Adda, District -Patna-800014.
2. Smt. Priyanka Singh daughter of Sri Bhola Prasad Singh, Proprietor of M/s Skyline Biryani House, resident of Vijay Complex, Raja Bazar Pul, BMP Road, Bailey Road, Piller no. 35, Khajpura, Police Station - Hawai Adda, District -Patna-800014.

SUMMONS

1. WHEREAS, **O.A. 476/2026** was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/Registrar on **13.08.2026**
2. WHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons/notice on the said Application under Section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of **Rs. 29,52,983.08 (Rupees twenty nine lacs fifty two thousand nine hundred eighty three and paise eight only)**
3. WHEREAS the service of summon/Notice could not be effected in the ordinary manner and whereas the Application for substitute service has been allowed by this Tribunal.
4. In accordance with sub- section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under:-
i. To show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted.
ii. To disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application.
iii. You are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application.
iv. You shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal.
v. You shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realized by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets.
5. You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on **09.12.2026** at **10:30 AM** failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.
Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this **08.10.2026**
Registrar,
Debts Recovery Tribunal, Patna

FORM NO. 32
[See Regulation 14 of DRT Regulation 2024]
[See Rule 23 (viii) of the DRT (Procedure) Rules 1993]
Government of India Department of Financial Services
Debts Recovery Tribunal
2nd Floor, Karpuri Thakur Sadan, Rajiv Nagar, Patna-25
O.A. No. 477 of 2026
Central Bank of India.....Applicant(s)
V/s
M/s Shivshankar Food India & others .....Defendant(s)
To,
1. M/s Shivshankar Foods India, Situated at C/o Nityanand Singh, Rajapur Pul Chouraha, Boring canal Road, Police Station Sri Krishna Puri, District -Patna 800001
2. Sri Rohit Kumar son of Sri Shankar Prasad, Proprietor of M/s Shivshankar Foods India, resident of C/o Nityanand Singh, Rajapur Pul Chouraha, Boring canal Road, Police Station - Sri Krishna Puri, District -Patna -800001

SUMMONS

1. WHEREAS, **O.A. 477/2026** was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/Registrar on **13.08.2026**
2. WHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons/notice on the said Application under Section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of **Rs. 88,77,121.30 (Rupees eighty eight lacs seventy seven thousand one hundred twenty one and paise thirty only)**
3. WHEREAS the service of summon/Notice could not be effected in the ordinary manner and whereas the Application for substitute service has been allowed by this Tribunal.
4. In accordance with sub- section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under:-
i. To show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted.
ii. To disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application.
iii. You are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application.
iv. You shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal.
v. You shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realized by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets.
5. You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on **09.12.2026** at **10:30 AM** failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.
Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this **08.10.2026**
Registrar,
Debts Recovery Tribunal, Patna

BOI Bank of India Relationship Beyond Banking
PANDRA BRANCH
Pandra, P.O. Hehal, Indraprastha Colony, Ranchi, Jharkhand – 834005

AUCTION NOTICE TO THE GOLD LOAN BORROWER
Ref. BOI/PANDRA/2026-27/npagold/02 Date: 08-09-2026

To,
Shri Ajay Prasad, S/o Banarasi Prasad
Address : HILSA, Nalanda, Bihar-801302
Sir / Madam,
SUB: Auction of gold jewellery / ornaments / coins of your Gold Loan Account
We refer to our **letter Ref. No. BOI/Pandra/NPAGOLD/26-27/01 Dated: 30-06-2026** putting you on notice to repay the dues of **Rs. 4,27,339.50 + int. (Rupees Four Lakh Twenty Seven Thousand Three Hundred Thirty Nine Rupees And Fifty Paise with Int.)** in your gold loan account within 15 days of receipt of our letter.
We have not yet received the repayment in your account within the stipulated time. We do hereby call upon you to pay a sum of **Rs. 4,27,339.50** together with **interest @ 9.05 % p.a. w.e.f. 22.05.2026** as per the terms and conditions of the loan documents executed by you and discharge your liabilities in full within 15 days from the date of receipt of this notice failing which we shall be constraint to auction the gold jewellery / ornaments / coins pledged to the Bank to realize our dues.
Please note if you fail to remit the dues within 15 days and the Bank auctions the pledged gold jewellery / ornaments / coins and if the dues are not fully satisfied with the sale proceeds of the gold jewellery / ornaments / coins, we shall be constrained to take appropriate legal action against you in the court of law for recovery of balance amount from you.
Yours faithfully,
SENIOR BRANCH MANAGER.

UJVN LIMITED
Head Quarter: "Ujjwal" Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun -248006
Telephone Number: 0135-2523223, website: www.ujvnl.uk.gov.in
C.I.N. No. - U40101UR2001SGC025966
Letter No: 1018 **Time Extension Notice-4** Date: 31/10/2026
INVITATION OF BIDS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL HYDRO PROJECTS IN UTTARAKHAND
Due to unavoidable circumstances various date of **Bid No. 01/GM(SHP)/UJVNL/2026-27, Bid No. 02/GM(SHP)/UJVNL/2026-27, Bid No. 03/GM(SHP)/UJVNL/2026-27, and Bid No. 04/GM(SHP)/UJVNL/2026-27** "Development of small hydro projects in Uttarakhand" invited by office of the General Manager (SHP), UJVN Limited, Dehradun and Expert (Technical), Urja Cell, Department of Energy, GoUK, Dehradun is hereby extended as follows:

Last date of sale and downloading of RFQ cum RFP Document :	12.11.2026
Last date for submission of completed bid document:	13.11.2026 (till 15:00 Hours)
Date of opening of technical proposal:	13.11.2026 (from 15:30 Hours onwards)

All other terms and conditions of the above Bids shall remain unchanged. For other details kindly visit Nigam's website: **www.ujvnl.uk.gov.in**

Expert (Technical), Urja Cell, Department of Energy, GoUK	**General Manager (SHP), UJVNL, Dehradun**

पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन ऑफ उत्तराखण्ड लि0
(उत्तराखण्ड सरकार का उपक्रम)
सर्वदेश अभियन्ता अभिकरण, 400 केवी0 विद्युत उप स्टेशन नथुवा
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T.N. 17/SE(O&M)S/ 2026-27 : ASSISTANCE IN CARRYING OUT MISCELLANEOUS ROUTINE MAINTENANCE WORKS OF 400 KV SUBSTATION, KHANDUKHAL FOR A PERIOD OF 01 YEAR.
T.N. 18/SE(O&M)S/2026-27 : CONSTRUCTION OF BOREWELL, INSTALLATION OF SUBMERSIBLE PUMP AND ASSOCIATED WORKS AT 400 KV SUBSTATION, KHANDUKHAL. उपरोक्त निविदाओं को दिनांक 01/12/2026 तक डाउनलोड एवं दिनांक 01/12/2026 को 17:00 बजे तक स्वीकार्य एवं दिनांक 02/12/2026 को 16:00 बजे उपस्थित निविदादाताओं के समक्ष खोला जायेगा।

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Bid for following work is invited from interested bidders up to 6.00 pm of 19.11.2026.

S. No.	NIT No.	Work Description	Estimated Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Unique Bid No. (UBN)
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Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal- http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in of the state, and PHED department website.
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02	RANCHI	00167	C-5	399
03	RANCHI	00167	C-5	407
04	RANCHI	00167	C-6	475
05	RANCHI	00167	C-6	494
06	RANCHI	00167	C-7	541
07	RANCHI	00167	C-7	561

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02	DORANDA	00212	C-1	42
03	DORANDA	00212	C-1	72
04	DORANDA	00212	C-3	177
05	DORANDA	00212	C-3	180
06	DORANDA	00212	C-3	204
07	DORANDA	00212	C-4	315
08	DORANDA	00212	C-4	414
09	DORANDA	00212	C-6	431
10	DORANDA	00212	C-7	544
11	DORANDA	00212	C-7	547
12	DORANDA	00212	C-7	571
13	DORANDA	00212	C-8	613
14	DORANDA	00212	C-8	644

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03	MAIN ROAD RANCHI	01194	C-1	12
04	MAIN ROAD RANCHI	01194	C-1	20
05	MAIN ROAD RANCHI	01194	C-1	39
06	MAIN ROAD RANCHI	01194	C-1	45
07	MAIN ROAD RANCHI	01194	C-1	46
08	MAIN ROAD RANCHI	01194	C-1	62
09	MAIN ROAD RANCHI	01194	C-1	64
10	MAIN ROAD RANCHI	01194	C-1	88
11	MAIN ROAD RANCHI	01194	C-2	05
12	MAIN ROAD RANCHI	01194	C-2	30
13	MAIN ROAD RANCHI	01194	C-2	46
14	MAIN ROAD RANCHI	01194	C-2	68
15	MAIN ROAD RANCHI	01194	C-2	70
16	MAIN ROAD RANCHI	01194	C-3	31
17	MAIN ROAD RANCHI	01194	C-3	35
18	MAIN ROAD RANCHI	01194	C-3	39
19	MAIN ROAD RANCHI	01194	C-3	41
20	MAIN ROAD RANCHI	01194	C-3	43
21	MAIN ROAD RANCHI	01194	C-3	57
22	MAIN ROAD RANCHI	01194	C-3	71
23	MAIN ROAD RANCHI	01194	C-3	75
24	MAIN ROAD RANCHI	01194	C-3	79
25	MAIN ROAD RANCHI	01194	C-3	83
26	MAIN ROAD RANCHI	01194	C-3	85
27	MAIN ROAD RANCHI	01194	C-4	95
28	MAIN ROAD RANCHI	01194	C-4	107
29	MAIN ROAD RANCHI	01194	C-4	111
30	MAIN ROAD RANCHI	01194	C-4	114
31	MAIN ROAD RANCHI	01194	C-5	157
32	MAIN ROAD RANCHI	01194	C-5	177
33	MAIN ROAD RANCHI	01194	C-5	181
34	MAIN ROAD RANCHI	01194	C-5	191
35	MAIN ROAD RANCHI	01194	C-5	197
36	MAIN ROAD RANCHI	01194	C-5	199
37	MAIN ROAD RANCHI	01194	C-5	216
38	MAIN ROAD RANCHI	01194	C-6	244
39	MAIN ROAD RANCHI	01194	C-6	275
40	MAIN ROAD RANCHI	01194	C-7	314
41	MAIN ROAD RANCHI	01194	C-7	317
42	MAIN ROAD RANCHI	01194	C-7	320
43	MAIN ROAD RANCHI	01194	C-7	322
44	MAIN ROAD RANCHI	01194	C-7	337
45	MAIN ROAD RANCHI	01194	C-7	338
46	MAIN ROAD RANCHI	01194	C-7	341
47	MAIN ROAD RANCHI	01194	C-7	347
48	MAIN ROAD RANCHI	01194	C-7	367
49	MAIN ROAD RANCHI	01194	C-7	371
50	MAIN ROAD RANCHI	01194	C-7	373
51	MAIN ROAD RANCHI	01194	C-7	379
52	MAIN ROAD RANCHI	01194	C-7	396
53	MAIN ROAD RANCHI	01194	C-7	397
54	MAIN ROAD RANCHI	01194	C-8	407
55	MAIN ROAD RANCHI	01194	C-8	413
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58	MAIN ROAD RANCHI	01194	C-8	432
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60	MAIN ROAD RANCHI	01194	C-8	453
61	MAIN ROAD RANCHI	01194	C-8	454
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63	MAIN ROAD RANCHI	01194	C-8	484

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SPORT



IArshdeep Singh (R) bowls with Bevon Jacobs the non-striker in the second T20I against New Zealand in Christchurch. AFP

India's bowling test yields mixed returns

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KOLKATA: India have spent this T20I series against New Zealand looking beyond their first-choice bowling attack. Jasprit Bumrah rested, Kuldeep Yadav and Varun Chakravarthy kept out of the playing eleven, Axar Patel shouldering much of the spin responsibility, with opportunities for Mayank Yadav, Prince Yadav and Bhuvneshwar Kumar.

Nitish Kumar Reddy, meanwhile, has been given the chance to establish himself as a seam-bowling allrounder. It has been an exercise in building options rather than chasing results, and the returns have been uneven. India won't mind that though, considering the series has been won in comprehensive fashion.

Arshdeep Singh, unsurprisingly, has emerged the clearest success. In a series where the bowling combinations have constantly shifted, the left-arm seamer has provided consistency that India can rely on, maintaining his discipline despite the demands of different phases, showing an ability to operate with the new ball and at the death without losing sight of his plans. His variations and control — especially over those yorker length deliveries — have been particularly valuable in this series where New Zealand's batters have come down hard on anything slightly off.

The only Indian bowler to average less than 10 runs per over this series, Arshdeep's performances have also reinforced his importance to India's T20 structure. While the management have been busy assessing alternatives, he has continued to offer the assurance of an established international bowler. The challenge for India is to find others who can complement that reliability.

The auditions among the reserve fast bowlers have produced less definitive answers. Mayank and Prince have been given valuable exposure, an opportunity to understand the demands of international cricket. Bhuvneshwar's return has served a different purpose. The experienced seamer needs time and opportunities to rediscover his rhythm.

The most difficult examination, however, has been that of Reddy. India are keen to develop him into a genuine seam-bowling allrounder, a role that would give the team considerable flexibility. A player capable of contributing meaningful overs while strengthening the batting order is an attractive proposition in T20 cricket.

But Reddy, whose economy is 11.53 this series, has struggled to make a convincing case for the role.

India can afford to persist with the experiment, but the series has offered a reminder that building an allrounder is hard work, and quite unforgiving against an opposition like New Zealand. The 64-run hiding at Auckland underpinned the need for Reddy to improve his control and develop a clearer bowling identity before he can become the sixth option.

The decision to keep Kuldeep and Varun out of the attack has been central to India's approach. It's an attempt to understand how India's bowling combination functions without its two most potent specialist spinners. Patel has consequently become the principal spin option, his ability to operate in the Powerplay and adapt to different situations making him particularly useful.

"Sometimes being defensive can also be an attacking role. So, there are different situations which we need to handle. Axar is somebody who bowls in the Powerplay and whichever over he's given, he executes it very well," said spin coach Sairaj Bahutule after the Auckland T20I.

"When you have Varun as well as Kuldeep, they too are ready to bowl at any stage. They play a different role in conditions like this. But there is a lot of clarity given to them in terms of what is expected from them."

The direction was always evident — Patel offers control and flexibility, while Kuldeep and Varun bring different wicket-taking dimensions. India are not trying to find substitutes for their frontline spinners so much as establish that they have enough variety to construct an attack around whichever combination a match demands.

Injuries, workload management and changing conditions will inevitably demand alternatives. Giving those alternatives meaningful exposure now is preferable to discovering their limitations when an ICC tournament is at stake.

Not every experiment has worked but Arshdeep's consistency and Axar's adaptability have been reassuring. This series hasn't necessarily produced a ready-made second bowling attack. It has, however, helped India identify where their depth is encouraging and where it remains a work in progress. A final attempt at that beckons in the fifth T20I at Hamilton on Sunday.

AUQIB NABI IN INDIA SQUAD FOR THE FIRST THREE ODIS AGAINST NEW ZEALAND

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sportsdesk@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Pacer Auqib Nabi was on Saturday added to India's squad for the first three ODIs against New Zealand after Prasidh Krishna was ruled out of the five-match series with a hamstring injury.

Nabi was already in the squad for the fourth and fifth ODIs, and now he will be available for selection from the first match, which will be played in Auckland on November 4.

"The right-arm pacer, who was initially in the squad for the fourth and fifth ODIs of the series, will be a part of the Indian squad from the start of the ODI series," the BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia said in a release.

The Jammu and Kashmir pacer recently played in a four-day game for India A against New Zealand A at Lincoln, picking up six wickets across two innings.

Nabi made his ODI debut last month against the West Indies at Guwahati, but conceded 84 runs in 8.5 overs.

India had chased down a 400-plus target in the second ODI after skipper Shubman Gill made a double hundred.

Prasidh injured his hamstring during the home ODI series against the West Indies. The injury occurred during the second ODI in Guwahati, where he took one wicket for 45 runs in five overs and could not complete his spell.

The 30-year-old Prasidh, who has played nine Tests and 30 ODIs, was named in the 50-over squad subject to fitness.

"Prasidh is recovering well, and he has his match simulation and fitness test lined up at the Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru on November 1 and 2.

"In any case, the team management as well as the national selection committee believes that Prasidh should be fully ready for the Tests, where he is required more than in ODIs," said a BCCI source.

"Even if he is deemed fit by the Sports Science team and heads off to Auckland, after a long flight, he won't be rushed immediately into the ODI scheme of things."

Prasidh played an important role in India's drawn series in England, putting up a good show in the final Test at The Oval.

India's bowling attack for the ODIs will be relatively inexperienced.

Arshdeep Singh, Anshul Kamboj and Nabi have a combined total of 20 matches (18+1+1) between them.

Only Mohammed Siraj has played more than 50 ODIs.

Jasprit Bumrah has been rested from the ODI series as the team management wants him to concentrate on Tests.



World champ Manisha is eyeing LA '28 qualification

In a tightly contested final, she fought back from 0-6 down to beat Abigail Nette of the US 8-6 and claim the 59 kg gold medal in Astana

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NEW DELHI: Manisha Bhanwala had nothing to lose after Abigail Nette of the US went 6-0 up in the 59kg final at the UWW world championships in Astana. Manisha said she came back more determined to fight-back in the second period and overturned the deficit, winning the final 8-6 to become India's first woman world champion in wrestling.

"Whenever I am in a situation where I am trailing by a big margin, I just throw myself into attack because I have nothing to lose. I did exactly that, took the bout till the end and drew her into my fight," said Manisha during an interaction from Astana.

"I did not perform that well at the Asian Games (5kg). I was frustrated, but the national coach (Virender Dahiya) told me to focus on the world championships and pushed me to train. So we didn't waste any time and got back to training," said the 29-year-old. "It was a long time dream. I have competed in many weight classes and in three world championships.

Although the 59kg category is a non-Olympic weight class, the achievement is significant. Before this edition, Anshu Malik was the only Indian woman to have reached a senior World Championships final, winning silver in the 57kg category in 2021. Vinesh Phogat, one of India's most accomplished wrestlers, has won two bronze medals at the World Championships. Antim Panghal has also claimed two bronze medals in Olympic weight categories, but a world title had eluded her. In men's freestyle wrestling, two-time Olympic medallist Sushil Kumar remains India's only world champion.

India coach Dahiya Manisha prepared her well for the final. "It was her experience that saw her through. We watched videos of her opponent (Abigail) the night before and realised that she is aggressive at the start and loses steam towards the closing stages. Manisha has the endurance. I was not worried in the break (Manisha trailing 1-6) and just asked her to keep her attack going and tire out her opponent. It worked," said Dahiya, who has been working with Manisha in national camps since 2022.

In her long career, Manisha has shifted several weight divisions from 65kg to 57kg, trying to find the right weight division as she is short in stature. At the Asian Championships she won gold in 62kg in 2025. She has four medals in Asian Championships. Her three previous world championships she fought in 62kg in 2023, 65kg in 2024, and returned to 62kg last year.

She then switched to 57kg weight class with an eye on LA Olympics, won gold at the national championships, and competed at the Asian Games. Manisha said she will be back to 57kg at the senior national championships this year. Being an Olympic weight it was also a preparation for her for LA Olympics qualifiers.

"The target is to qualify for the LA Olympics and 57kg being the Olympic weight. I will be preparing for that division. This title has given me the confidence. Several of the world wrestlers in 59kg whom I have competed against would switch to Olympic weight (57kg) next year so that will be an advantage for me. Maintaining my weight (57kg) is not an issue."

Indian women wrestlers have given exceptional results at this world championships. Manisha won the title, while Neelam Sirohi (50kg) and 18-year-old Kajal Dhochak (76kg) won silver medals in Olympic weight classes. Tanu Sharma won bronze in 72kg. "We want to qualify for the LA Olympics in all the six weights and we have wrestlers who can do that. Manisha will prepare for 57kg. She is 29 but she has competed in major events now and she has the experience. That is more important. There are some other good youngsters also in 57kg weight class. Kajal and Neelam lacked in experience but they have showed what they are/have," said Dahiya.

Manisha, who comes from Jind, Haryana, wore a t-shirt with her father's picture after winning the world title.

It was her father, Suresh, who took her to an akhada in Siwaha village in 2013.

That marked the beginning of a long journey. Her short frame was a disadvantage, but she worked hard to make herself stronger on the mat.

Then came the death of her father in 2022, which initially broke her but eventually strengthened her resolve to pursue her dream of becoming a world champion.

"My father did everything for me and was passionate about the sport. His contribution to making me a wrestler is huge. Since the time I started wrestling I have only one dream — to win something big in the sport."

Jurel's 99*, Padikkal's 80 take India A to 291/7 vs NZ A

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CHRISTCHURCH: Skipper Dhruv Jurel made a solid unbeaten 99 after Devdutt Padikkal's breezy 80 as India A recovered well to score a strong 291 for seven against New Zealand A on the opening day of the four-day match here on Saturday.

Jurel (99 batting, 155b) and Akash Deep (25 batting) were at the crease at close. The eighth-wicket pair has so far added 69 runs in 18.4 overs to keep the visitors afloat.

At lunch, India were comfortably placed at 87 for one despite the early dismissal of Yashasvi Jaiswal, who trapped leg before by pacer Fraser Sheat in the fourth ball of the first over.

But India lost Sai Sudharsan (41) in the first over after lunch as the left-hander punched an away going delivery from pacer Jarrod McKay to get caught by stumper Mitchell Hay.

But Padikkal continued unfazed, bringing up a sturdy fifty in 101 balls with a boundary through the point off McKay.

India were 131 for two at this stage, but the Kiwis rattled them with three wickets in the span of seven runs.

First to depart was Yash Rathod (13). The left-hander feathered a lovely out-swinger from pacer Brett Randell to stumper Hay, and Padikkal followed him soon.

The left-hander's attempted cut off Sheat took a deflection off his bat to disturb the stumps.



File image of India A batter Dhruv Jurel. PTI

In the very next ball, Ravichandran Smaran offered a no-shot to a delivery that came in a wee bit to ping his pads.

The umpire agreed to Sheat's shout for a leg-before wicket as Smaran trudged off the field.

Washington Sundar too did not last long, getting trapped in front by Sheat, who was the most successful home bowler.

But Jurel found a willing ally in Manav Suthar (22) as the seventh wicket duo milked 62 runs to keep the home bowlers at bay.

However, Suthar perished mid-way through the final session, leaving Jurel the only acknowledged batter in the middle.

The right-hander reached his fifty in 93 balls and soon punished McKay for a sequence of 4, 6, 4 to give India some momentum.

Jurel, who played a couple of excellent drives and pull shots off McKay and Randall, was then joined by a stubborn Akash as India waded through the final phase of the day without any trouble.

Last week, bad light prevented India A from recording a sensational come-from-behind win in the first unofficial 'Test' which concluded in a draw.

Chasing a target of 313 after India finished their second innings at a mammoth 516, New Zealand A batters found the swing and seam movement generated by Auqib Nabi (3/28 in 10 overs) too hot to handle. However, New Zealand A managed to escape with a draw despite being reduced to 187 for 9 as umpires stopped proceedings owing to fading light.

From Paris to Dakar, Dhinidhi takes the road less travelled to the Youth Olympics

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BENGALURU: Dhinidhi Desinghu had made a greeting card for Katie Ledecky. At the Paris Olympics, the then 14-year-old Indian swimmer even found herself within a few feet of the American great. "I saw her and froze," Dhinidhi recalled. "I couldn't believe that was actually her. I didn't really tell her anything. I kind of regret that now."

The card is still at home, lying in wait of a second chance, perhaps. Paris was full of such moments for the Bengaluru swimmer. There were Olympic champions walking past her in the dining hall, sporting legends travelling on the same bus and the world's finest swimmers going about their routines, a few feet away. It was an extraordinary introduction to the biggest stage. "I don't think at that time I really appreciated the magnitude of the event," she said. "In my head, LA 2028 was supposed to be my Olympic debut, at 18. Paris happened way too soon." Dhinidhi travelled to the Olympics through the World Aquatics Universality quota which allows for representation of countries who don't achieve qualification.

No Indian swimmer achieved the direct Olympic Qualification Time (OQT. A cut) or the Olympic Selection Time (OST. B cut) for Paris. At 14, she was the youngest member of the Indian contingent.

Two years later, Dhinidhi is preparing for another Olympic experience. Most athletes go from the Youth Olympics to the Olympics. Dhinidhi is doing it the other way around. Having competed in Paris at 14, she heads to the Dakar Youth Olympics at 16, with considerably more experience, faster times and greater expectations.

The Youth Olympics — which heads to Africa for the first time — will take place between October 31-November 13 in Dakar. The irony of her Youth Olympics route was pointed out to her by fellow athletes at the Junior Nationals this year. She hadn't quite thought about it that way until then.

If Paris was about exposure, Dakar, she says, is about performance. She will be racing swimmers her age, many of whom she expects to encounter repeatedly over the coming years. The stakes, naturally, feel higher, so do the expectations. "At the Olympics, I was like a kid at a candy store. The Youth Olympics feels like a lot more pressure," she said.

Coach Nihar Ameen, however, is inclined to see Dakar as another stop in a much longer journey. "The Olympics should have come much, much later," he says.

He believes the scale of Paris was somewhat overwhelming for the teen, although the experience was valuable. Since then, her progress has been reflected in her times. Dhinidhi has repeatedly improved the Indian women's 200m freestyle national record, establishing herself as the country's fastest swimmer.

Ameen credits her work ethic, discipline and ability to remain focused on long-term goals.

She holds the national record in the 100m freestyle (56.57), 200m freestyle (2:01.81), and 400m freestyle (4:21.56). "200m freestyle is really her best event. Once she breaks that glass ceiling of two minutes and comes to 1:59, it's going to be a completely different story altogether," said Ameen.

Yet for all the progress, Ameen is wary of the dangers of rushing a talented teenager towards success. Pushing swimmers too hard too early, he argues, can lead to injuries and performance plateaus at precisely the age when they should be approaching their peak.

The challenge is to increase training loads progressively while ensuring the athlete doesn't lose enthusiasm for the sport.

For Dhinidhi, the demands of elite swimming already mean an adolescence quite unlike that of most of her classmates. A Class II science student, she has little time for social outings. Weekdays are consumed by training, while weekends often disappear into tuition classes, recovery sessions or simply catching up on rest. "There's a lot of things that you kind of have to miss out on," she says.

The sacrifices have not always been easy to accept. Earlier this year, after a period when she felt mentally drained, Dhinidhi turned to journaling. Sometimes, she would fill 7-8 pages with thoughts and feelings she had barely realised were occupying her mind. Writing them down helped her regain perspective.

Having observed the world's leading swimmers at close quarters, Dhinidhi is conscious of the gap between India and top swimming nations like USA, China and Australia. She points to the greater investment in grassroots coaching, scientific support, technical development and competition exposure available to young swimmers overseas. She hopes to be among those who change what Indian swimming believes is possible.



Dhinidhi Desinghu will compete at the Youth Olympics in Dakar. HT

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{Sunday}
Hindustan Times
FIRST VOICE. LAST WORD.

HC: Citizens have right to protest against court ruling

Ayesha Arvind
letters@hindustantimes.com

BENGALURU: The Madras high court has refused to restrict public protests against court rulings, emphasising citizens' undeniable right to disagree with a judgment and "question and peacefully protest".

The court, however, directed state and police authorities in Tamil Nadu to deny permission to any gathering aimed at "personally targeting a sitting judge".

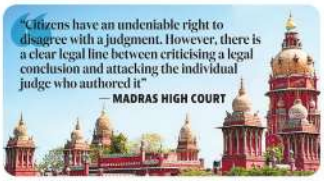
In an order passed on Friday, a bench of chief justice Sushrut Arvind Dharmadhikari and justice G Arul Murugan said authorities must assess applications seeking permission for meetings, marches or protests relating to judicial matters on a "case-by-case basis", using their powers under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and local police laws.

"A blanket order completely banning all public discussions or peaceful gatherings concerning court rulings would go too far. It would infringe upon legitimate democratic expression," the high court said.

"However, the state remains under a strict obligation to ensure that its public spaces and digital networks are not used to threaten the safety and integrity of our judicial institutions," it added.

The court also directed the cybercrime division of Tamil Nadu Police to actively monitor digital platforms to ensure that online content does not cross the line into criminal intimidation directed at sitting judges.

It directed the police to complete their investigations into two criminal cases registered in connection with protests against a Madurai bench judgment in a fair, thorough and expeditious manner.



The court was hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by R Karthikeyan, who sought action against organised campaigns, public meetings, processions, demonstrations and social media publications allegedly targeting judges and undermining the authority of the judiciary.

The petitioner told the court that in a judgement passed in June last year, a Madurai bench of the Madras high court had struck down a government order concerning the grant of backward class benefits. At the time, the court had held that a person could not claim such benefits purely on the basis of religious conversion. The judgment had also noted that such a practice was "inconsistent with constitutional principles and Islamic theology".

Following the ruling, several organisations organised protests across the state. The petitioner alleged that these demonstrations went beyond criticism of the judgment and turned into personalised campaigns against one of the judges who delivered it. Posters, public rallies and social media videos allegedly contained abusive and caste-based remarks intended to undermine public confidence in the administration of justice.

Appearing for the petitioner, advocate Rajendran Raghavan argued that while Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution protects fair and reasoned criticism of judicial decisions, it does not extend to personal attacks, intimidation or attempts to lower the authority of a court. He also contended that the state had failed to prevent such targeted campaigns and sought guidelines regulating public meetings relating to judicial proceedings.

Opposing the plea, state public prosecutor John Sathyan submitted that the petition relied on broad generalisations without providing specific details such as dates, police jurisdictions, names of offenders or formal complaints.

The state also argued that existing provisions under sections 148 and 163 of the BNSS and section 41 of the Chennai City Police Act provided adequate powers to deal with public disorder. A blanket prohibition on assemblies concerning court decisions, the Tamil Nadu government said, would "violate constitutional freedoms and disregard the need for case-by-case assessments".

The high court noted the submissions and observed that judicial independence, which forms part of the basic structure of the Constitution, requires judges to decide cases solely on the basis of law and facts, without fear or external pressure.

"Citizens have an undeniable right to disagree with a judgment. However, there is a clear legal line between criticising a legal conclusion and attacking the individual judge who authored it," the high court said.

The high court added that coordinated actions involving abusive, defamatory or caste-based language directed at a sitting judge could not claim the protection of free speech and would attract the reasonable restrictions under Article 19(2) of the Constitution.

The court also rejected the petitioner's contention that the failure to name individuals prominently seen in protest videos in the FIRs demonstrated police inaction. It said an FIR was not intended to be an exhaustive list of every offender and that the identification and culpability of individuals would have to be established during investigation.

It directed the state, however, to ensure that if a permitted assembly turns into a personal attack, officers must "end it immediately and take legal action".



Dhruv Rathee

DELHI COURT ISSUES FRESH SUMMONS TO RATHEE IN 2018 DEFAMATION CASE

Arnabjit Sur
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NEW DELHI: A Delhi court on Saturday issued fresh bailable warrants against YouTuber Dhruv Rathee in a 2018 criminal defamation case, after noting that the earlier warrants were issued at a wrong address in Austria instead of his Gurugram residence.

Judicial Magistrate First Class Rahul Jain of the Saket courts issued the fresh warrants after the process of executing the previous warrants remained unsuccessful. During the proceedings, the complainant's counsel informed the court that Rathee had already left India and was residing overseas. The court has now listed the matter for further hearing on November 23.

The criminal defamation complaint was filed by Vikas Sanskrityayan over a May 2018 video titled "BJP IT Cell Part II", which Rathee produced and published on his YouTube channel. In the video, Rathee had alleged that members of BJP's IT Cell had attempted to bribe Sanskrityayan to defame him. Sanskrityayan, subsequently, approached the court, claiming the allegations were false, malicious and deliberately intended to damage his reputation.

At the previous hearing on October 12, the court had issued summons after an urgent application by Sanskrityayan seeking expedited proceedings.

Rising prices spur more protests across Europe

Bloomberg
letters@hindustantimes.com

PARIS/LONDON/BERLIN: Cities in France, Germany and Italy were bracing for mass demonstrations on Halloween weekend, with thousands of people expected to take to the streets to protest high living costs and other grievances with governments across Europe.

Police are also on alert in Spain for possible protests in central Madrid following a high-speed rail crash that killed 69 people on Wednesday.

In Frankfurt, the seat of the European Central Bank, top-end luxury outlets on Goethe Strasse and retailers on the main shopping drag Die Zeil boarded up shop windows on Friday evening in preparation for the possibility things could turn violent.

Demonstrations have exploded across Europe in recent weeks, from Belgium and Portugal in the west to Serbia and Albania in the east. They are youth driven, and although grievances are slightly different in each country, the prevailing sentiment is one of anger over affordability, crumbling infrastructure and inequality.



Youth-driven demonstrations have exploded across Europe in recent weeks over affordability and inequality. AFP



AI EXPRESS CREW'S LAPSE LIKELY LED TO RUNWAY INCURSION IN GOA IN APR: AAIB

Press Trust of India
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Air India Express flight crew's failure to adhere to air traffic controller's instructions and communication misinterpretation are the probable causes for the runway incursion of the plane when a Navy fighter jet was taking off at Goa's Dabolim airport in April this year, according to AAIB.

The incident happened in the morning of April 3 involving Air India Express' Boeing 737-8 aircraft which was to operate the flight AXB 1109 from Dabolim to Delhi, and Navy's single pilot fighter jet. There were 171 people onboard the flight and there were no injuries. →P2

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MY INDIA

{ AAIB REPORT }

AIX crew's lapse probably led to Goa incursion

Press Trust of India
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Air India Express flight crew's failure to adhere to air traffic controller's instructions and communication misinterpretation are the probable causes for the runway incursion of the plane when a Navy fighter jet was taking off at Goa's Dabolim airport in April this year, according to the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB).

The incident happened in the morning of April 3 involving Air India Express' Boeing 737-8 aircraft which was to operate the flight AXB 1109 from Dabolim to Delhi, and Navy's single pilot fighter jet. There were 171 people onboard the flight and there were no injuries.

At Dabolim airport, a civil enclave, air traffic services are provided by INS HANSA. Tower as well as approach controllers are from the Indian Navy.

The Surface Movement Control (SMC) controller at the airport is from the Airports Authority of India (AAI).

In its final report on the incident, probe agency AAIB has recommended that Dabolim airport's taxiway TWY N2 "may be considered as a HOTSPOT due to its proximity with Bay 1 & 2 of civil apron and increased probability of the risk of potential ground collisions and RWY incursions".

RWY refers to runway.

"The flight crew did not fully adhere to the SMC Controller's taxi instructions to 'hold at holding point and to contact Navy-Approach on 119.7 MHz at the holding point.

"Had they stopped and established positive communication with the Navy- ATC before entering the active runway, the incident could have been avoided," the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) said.

AAIB SAID FAILURE TO ADHERE TO ATC INSTRUCTIONS AND COMMUNICATION MIX-UP MAY LED TO THE RUNWAY INCURSION AT DABOLIM AIRPORT

According to the probe agency, another probably cause for the incident was that R/T call of 'Expect back track' by SMC controller was misinterpreted by the Pilot Flying as 'enter backtrack clearance'.

This resulted in the crew's cognitive focus to shift entirely toward executing the runway entry, without seeking an explicit clearance, AAIB said and added that failing to request clarification may have likely caused the Pilot In Command to believe erroneously that they have received an expected clearance to enter runway.

"If the SMC controller had insisted on a correct readback, read back error by the captain and hear-back error by the SMC with regard to a crucial R/T call 'hold at holding point', could have prevented the serious incident," AAIB said and cited it as a contributory factor. R/T refers to Radiotelephony.

AAIB cited another contributory factor that being a trainee, Pilot Monitoring (PM) of the flight was overly-reliant on the instructor and followed instructions without any hesitation. "He got busy with heads down tasks after the taxi holding point trying to verify the values for RWY 08 take-off on the active runway due to which he was unable to monitor the R/T calls effectively; neither did the PM caution the PF from an unauthorised entry."

BIMSTEC maritime exercise



Indian Navy personnel take part in the inaugural BIMSTEC Maritime Security Exercise, being held till November 3, to strengthen maritime cooperation and regional security among member states in the Bay of Bengal. PTI

'Always been an admirer': Dipke reacts to Diljit's remark at event

Press Trust of India
letters@hindustantimes.com



Abhijeet Dipke, Diljit Dosanjh

NEW DELHI: Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke on Saturday expressed his disappointment after Diljit Dosanjh distanced himself from the student protest while hitting back at criticism of him and his film "Sathuj" at a concert in Delhi, who also urged people not to question the way Punjabis fought their battles.

Addressing thousands of fans at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium on Friday evening, Dosanjh repeated his "I'm an artist, bro" remark, which was criticised by several people, including Dipke, in July, saying he preferred to remain quiet.

"I am being quiet, so let me stay quiet. I support all of you. Don't teach Punjabis how to fight battles. The film you were making fun of from stage – Jaswant Singh Khalra ji's film ('Sathuj'). We fought for a very long time for that film. I stay quiet, I love everyone. If someone hates us, no problem. From our side it's only love for everyone," he said.

Taking to Instagram, Dipke said his disappointment with Dosanjh stemmed from the respect he had always had for the singer and his expectation that he would speak up for causes affecting people.

"Paaji, back in June, when we were protesting, I was a little hurt by your comment. Not because I had anything against you personally, but because I've always seen you as someone who speaks up for the cause, just like you said yourself," he wrote.

"If anything, I've always been an admirer of yours, and that hasn't changed... In fact, I came to your concert in Chicago this May, just before returning to India, not just for your music, but because I've always had immense respect for the person you are," he added.

On Friday, the singer also reiterated his earlier statement, "I love everyone because I'm an artist, bro," echoing his response from July when he was questioned about the CJP protest.

Dipke said the disagreement did not diminish his respect for the singer. "Baaki paaji, chhota bhai samajh ke mitti pao (Consider me your younger brother and end this matter)."

{ THE CROSSWORDS }

CRYPTIC CLUES

ACROSS

1 Break tile under repair (9)
8 Girl has love in her heart for another (5)
9 Right way to admonish (7)
10 One can't do more than this (6)
11 Dry hill region (6)
12 A particular form of dislike (8)
15 She is engaged in outdoor pursuits (8)
18 A stunt misfires and produces jeers (6)
20 Draw results in little play (6)
21 Cuts into two bits taking half a second (7)
22 Revises information about diets (5)
23 Have trouble in sight so consider a large drink (3,6)

DOWN

2 Ring in the nose for a halter (5)
3 Subjects of Shakespearean comedy in Latin (6)
4 Slash the price of flimsy material (8)
5 Terse arrangement about a holiday that's not fixed (6)
6 Robin does pointless variation for a chemist-composer (7)
7 They may click at dances (9)
11 Seeing sense a prophet becomes a tourist (9)
13 A bitter blow is wanted badly (4,4)
14 Take whatever is left (7)
16 Quiet place for a break (6)
17 Office desk? (6)
19 Whole lot at assembly (5)

FRIDAY'S SOLUTIONS (17630)

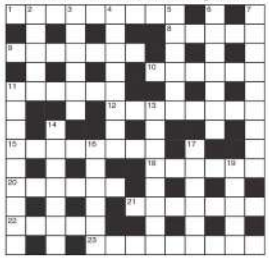
CRYPTIC



QUICK



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QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

1 Turning point in affairs (9)
8 A justification (5)
9 Flourishing excessively (7)
10 Landed property (6)
11 Reparation (6)
12 Hand over (8)
15 Nomad (8)
18 Began (6)
20 Narrate (6)
21 Money put by (7)
22 Widespread destruction (5)
23 An excavated fortification (9)

DOWN

2 Consternation (5)
3 Express in greater detail (6)
4 Presaging trouble (8)
5 Small dark plum (6)
6 Tall African ruminant (7)
7 Energetic agitator (9)
11 In safe condition to fly (9)
13 Overbearing (8)
14 Subjugate (7)
16 Tempt (6)
17 Criticism of book, play etc. (6)
19 Impatient (5)

{ SUDOKU }
DIFFICULTY LEVEL ★★★

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

Fill in all the squares in the grid so that each row, column and each of the 9X9 squares contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

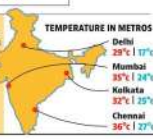
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{ WEATHER }
TEMPERATURE ▪HIGH ▪LOW

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mainly Clear sky	Mainly clear sky	Mainly clear sky
29°c | 17°c	29°c | 16°c	29°c | 16°c

ALMANAC
Today is 1st Nov 2026
20 Jumada Al-Awwal, 1448
07 Kartika, Krishna Paksha, 07 Samvat 2083
Sunset: Sunday at 05:36 pm
Sunrise: Monday at 06:02 am
Moonrise: Sunday at 12:46 pm
Moonset: Sunday at 11:35 pm

TEMPERATURE IN METROS



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Sailesh Rathnakumar

Nursing a plot



His debut film, Selvi, just won big at the Busan festival in South Korea. It is set in the claustrophobic world of a home-care nurse, caught between choices that are really more like traps. Responding to the 90-minute movie shot in a series of tight frames, one viewer said: 'I kept waiting for a wide angle to feel some relief.' That's what he was going for, Rathnakumar says

Karishma Upadhyay
karishma.upadhyay@gmail.com

Selvi starts on a light note: three women laugh quietly as they fly kites on a beach.

It is the only light-hearted scene in the film. It is also a rare scene shot with a wide-angle lens.

For the rest of the 90-plus minutes, the story zooms into the world of its protagonist: a woman caught between what look like choices but are really more like traps.

She is a homecare nurse now picking up shifts for a friend. Selvi is part of the reason her friend cannot currently work, so she feels she must be part of the solution too. As the camera closes in on her life of intimate care for near-strangers, the clock ticks on through the hours: 12, then 24, 48, 72. And one starts to long for reprieve.

Sailesh Rathnakumar's debut feature premiered at the Busan film festival in October, and won big, taking home the Hylife Vision Award and the Taipei Film Commission Award. It was born during the pandemic, says the 33-year-old. His friend and co-writer Bargav Sridhar's mother was ailing. The homecare nurses who cared for her became the centre of their world.

"In those months, many such nurses had to live with those they were caring for. They couldn't go home," Rathnakumar says. "Imagine the emotional toll of looking after an ailing person while not being able to care for one's own family, in such a time."

As the film met its first audience in Busan, Rathnakumar says he scanned the viewers' faces to see if this story of isolation, loneliness and outsourced care resonated as he hoped it might. "They were unreadable!" he says, laughing. "As the screen turned black, the theatre of 150 people sat quiet. I was already nervous and that just made it worse."

Relief came during the Q&A session that followed, when he realised how closely the audience had been paying attention.

"There were intricate questions about how the film was shot. Some shared stories about their experiences with homecare nurses. It was incredible that a South Korean living in Busan connected so deeply with a story rooted in Chennai."

It helps that National Award-winning Marathi-film actor Anjali Patil is outstanding as Selvi, in the Tamil film. She seems to fade under the weight of guilt and fatigue. There is a building sense that, while her friends prepare for exams that may take them overseas, or hope for kind husbands who will free them from their drudgery, there will be no escape for her.

Many of the homecare nurses he spoke to, as part of his research, felt similarly trapped. "They work through agencies and have almost no control over where they are sent or how long their shift will be," he adds. "Many were from small towns, and struggled to adjust to the city."

As he set out to tell this story, the stars aligned in ways rather unusual for a first-time filmmaker. "I've heard so many horror stories, but making Selvi was a breeze," he admits, smiling.

Co-writer Sridhar, a cinematographer, polished the screenplay with a clear idea from the start of how they wanted to shoot it. This helped them create the uniform tone that gives it such intensity.

Rathnakumar shared an early draft with Patil (he was pursuing this project on his own, but works full-time as a writer at her production house, Anahat).

"She connected so deeply with the story that she asked if she could play Selvi," he says. She also backed the project as producer.

Patil asked two National Award-winners, film editor A Sreekar Prasad and sound designer Anand Krishnamoorthi, if they would be interested in working on the project "and both simply said yes," Rathnakumar says.

Since her role in Pa Ranjith and Rajinikanth's Kaala (2018), Patil had been learning Tamil. Though she isn't fluent yet, Patil dubbed for Selvi herself.

"Anjali's involvement in the project from the writing stage meant that she really understood the character," Rathnakumar says. Her sense of each scene meant that "we would let her guide us, during the shoot," he adds.

Patil also spent time with nurses, and learnt how to perform basic procedures such as tracheostomy care and suctioning. "This allowed the camera to capture moments as if they were unfolding rather than being manufactured," he says.

Rathnakumar's journey into film was fairly seamless too. Born to a banker and a marketing executive in Chennai, he grew up studying Carnatic music, Western classical music, the piano and violin.

"As a teenager, I became obsessed with fan-edit music videos. I would take a Michael Jackson song, for example, and sync it with clips from local movies," he says. "This led to my interest in sound design."

At 23, a friend introduced him to five-time National Award-winning writer, director and film editor B Lenin, who took an interest in the young man who loved storytelling and sound. "Through him, I was exposed to cinema in ways I had never experienced before," Rathnakumar says. "I discovered the everyday realism of European films, which find beauty in the mundanity of daily life."

Lenin also suggested he apply to film school. That's how he ended up studying film-writing and direction in Prague.

By 29, he had been hired as a writer at Anahat (Marathi for Limitless), helping to develop films and series ideas submitted by others.

So, how does the story end for Selvi? She holds on to hope. She has suffered and made mistakes, but maybe someday she will be forgiven, and will forgive herself.

"She longs for a life where she is free to enjoy simple things like going to the beach or buying something pretty for herself," he says. But all that may come later. In the film, claustrophobia is the overriding sense, and is what he was going for.

"One of the things an audience member at Busan said to me," he says, "was, 'I kept waiting for a wide-angle shot to feel some relief.'"

Anjali Patil is outstanding as the titular homecare nurse, in the Tamil film. "She learnt how to perform basic procedures such as tracheostomy care and suctioning," Rathnakumar says. "This allowed the camera to capture moments as if they were unfolding rather than being manufactured."

> The faces in the audience were unreadable! As the screen turned black, 150 people sat quiet. I was already nervous and that just made it worse.
>
> **SAILESH RATHNAKUMAR,** commenting on the premiere in Busan, where Selvi won two awards

1 Growing up in Chennai, Rathnakumar says he was immersed in sound before film. He studied Carnatic and Western classical music, the piano and violin. "As a teenager, I became obsessed with making fan-edit music videos. I would take a Michael Jackson song, for example, and sync it with clips from local movies," he says.

2 At 23, a friend introduced him to five-time National Award-winning writer, director and film editor B Lenin. "Through him, I was exposed to cinema I had never experienced before, like European films, which find beauty in the mundanity of daily life," Rathnakumar says.

3 He went on to study film-writing and direction in Prague. At 29, he was hired as a writer at Anahat, the production house of National Award-winning Marathi-film actor Anjali Patil. She would go on to star in and produce Selvi (co-written by cinematographer Bargav Sridhar). Two National Award-winners, editor A Sreekar Prasad and sound designer Anand Krishnamoorthi, have collaborated on it too.

inside



LIFESTYLE

A for Anxious, B for Blue?

Studies, theories, surveys... there have been countless attempts to measure how children are coping in our overstimulated, polycrisis world. As a parent, says Kashyap Kompella, it helps to admit that we simply don't know what this version of childhood feels like. What we do know is that loneliness is up; young people see the future as daunting and uncertain (but still a place of hope). What else? Take a look

CULTURE

Straight from the hearth

The home is one of fiction's great stages. A new kind of domestic novel now offers a fresh view: of a world unfiltered, messy, and quietly shaped by and shaping the forces of history

URBAN

Ick by brick

The Eiffel tower was reviled. The Twin Towers were likened to giant delivery boxes. La Sagrada Familia, which finally officially opened this year, has faced opposition for over a century. What other icons have been debated and loved? Or simply loathed? Take a tour across Romania, Belgium, Italy, England





Minor statistics: Tales told by the data

1 in 4 people polled aged 16 to 24 in England had a diagnosable psychological disorder in 2024. **Up from... 1 in 6** people aged 16 to 24, in 1993.

5% of 11 to 24-year-olds polled in England in 2024 said they had no close friends at all. **Up from... 1%** of 11 to 24-year-olds polled in 2014.

95% of Indians polled between the ages of 15 and 29 said they regularly spend time online.

Indian children between the ages of 5 and 9 were **more likely to have used the internet** in the preceding three months than people in their 50s, a nationwide survey found.

A HopeLab and Data for Progress poll surveyed 1,304 Americans aged 13 to 24 in 2025. Their biggest worries, it found, include...

- Multiple major problems — such as climate change, political conflict, pandemics — all happening at once and making each other worse: **39%**
- Threats to free speech or democracy: **38%**
- Feeling like important milestones — such as buying a house or parenthood — are out of reach financially: **37%**
- Technology like generative AI taking jobs or otherwise undermining my well-being: **36%**

SOURCES: Independent Review into Prevalence and Support for Mental Health Conditions, ADHD and Autism, by Peter Fonagy et al, Institute for Public Policy Research; National Statistics Office, India; Hopelab and Data for Progress Report, 2025

shout: How could you be so stupid?

"Social media can act as a multiplier for this inherent vulnerability," Kelkar Shetty says. The online world, with its endless buffet of games, feeds, chatting and scrolling, becomes a sort of snare, and this is just the bedrock of the problem.

Healthy sleep patterns, strong ties with the community, interaction with loved ones and other children, and physical activity would all help the prefrontal cortex regulate itself better, but locked into the scroll or screen, this becomes less likely, Kelkar Shetty says. "It is up to parents and society at large to set up guardrails to make the world they inhabit more conducive to their development."

Data from India's National Statistics Office (NSO) indicates that internet usage is highest in the 15-29 demographic. Just under 95% of those polled said they regularly spend time online. Children between the ages of five and nine, meanwhile, were more likely to have used the internet in the preceding three months than people in their 50s, the nationwide survey found.

Scroll mates

Even the teens know there's something wrong.

"They have had key development milestones impacted by the pandemic, and are coming of age during a cost-of-living crisis in an ever-less-certain world," says researcher Conor Carleton.

He worked on a September report by think tank Institute for Public Policy Research that found rising rates of loneliness among young people in England.

In nationwide surveys of over 40,000 households, 5% of 11- to 24-year-olds polled said they had no close friends at all, up from 1% in 2014.

Many of those surveyed were aware of the downsides of a life lived online, Carleton says. "They were angry with the government or technology companies for building an addictive product, and felt they were being unfairly blamed for using it."

Doom and bloom

- What issues impact your mental health to a point that it disrupts your daily life?
- Do you feel optimistic or pessimistic about your own future or that of your country or planet?

Asked how they feel about their present and future, loneliness reared its head again, in a survey of 1,304 Americans aged 13 to 24.

The poll was conducted by US-based not-for-profit organisation Hopelab and Data for Progress, in 2025.

More than 1 in 3 (35%) said loneliness impacts their mental health or well-being. An equal number (35%) said having no clear path did this too. Meanwhile, 43% of those polled said face-to-face interactions with friends helped support their mental health.

The biggest worries about the future included: "Multiple major problems — like climate change, political conflict, pandemics, etc — all happening at once and making each other worse" (39%), "Threats to free speech or democracy" (38%), "Feeling like important milestones — like buying a house or parenthood — are out of reach financially" (37%) and "Technology, like generative AI, taking jobs or otherwise undermining my well-being" (36%).

The survey offered notes of hope. More than half (57%) of those polled were optimistic about their future.

"What brings me a sense of hope when I think about the future is... people," noted one 12th grade student. "Even in hard times, I notice how families, friends, and even strangers come together... and that reminds me that good things are possible."

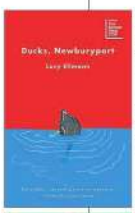
culture

Straight from the hearth

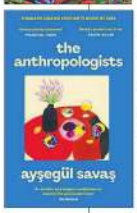
The home is one of fiction's great stages. A new kind of domestic novel now offers a fresh view: of a world unfiltered, messy, and quietly shaped by and shaping the forces of history

Bhanuj Kappal
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Lucy Ellmann's 2019 novel Ducks, Newburyport consists of 1,020 pages, almost all of them taken up by eight unending stream-of-consciousness sentences detailing the concerns and preoccupations of an unnamed Ohio woman.







She worries about her four children and her marriage, school shootings and the climate crisis, cancer, money, President Donald Trump, and about living in a "constant state of alarm".

She also worries about pies.

A mother, a homemaker and a baker, she does all this worrying, fantasising and list-making amid the repetitive work of keeping a family cared for and a household functioning.

The novel's great formal joke lies in treating consciousness not as linear narrative but as free-jazz chaos: an accretion of memories, observations, anxieties and non-sequiturs that refuse to be sorted into any kind of hierarchy of significance.

"I don't know how animals think but I think in spirals, dizzying spirals," the narrator observes.

Writing in the London Review of Books, critic Jon Day argued that what was most unusual about Ducks... was not its formidable length but its attention to "the details of domestic life that usually go unwritten".

Shortlisted for the Booker Prize, it would now appear to have been a precursor, of sorts, to a wider literary preoccupation with domesticity.

Lisa Owens's sharply funny Natural Disaster: A Novel (2026) captures the emotional maelstrom of motherhood by following a mother-of-two through her final day of maternity leave.

Yvvette Edwards's Good Good Loving (2026) begins with an elderly matriarch on her deathbed, and travels backwards through nearly five decades of marriage and family life.

Aysegul Savas's The Anthropologists (2024), which follows a young millennial expat couple as they look to buy their first home, finds its drama in apartment-hunting, meals, friendships and the gradual construction of an adult life.

They all put domesticity at the heart of their world, but view home so very differently from the ways in which it has traditionally been romanticised. There's more on that in a bit. First, a brief look back.

Home truths

It is tempting to think of this wave as the "rise" of domestic fiction. It would perhaps be more accurate to call it a reboot.

In 2015, writing in Prospect magazine, critic Jane Shilling announced the "new domestic novel", pointing to books by Karl Ove Knausgard, Elena Ferrante, Rachel Cusk and Colm Toibin.

Domestic fiction, she argued, has a tendency to be ignored and marginalised, before periodically being rediscovered with great fanfare. Critics keep assuming that fiction becomes more serious "the further it travels from home", she noted, only to encounter another generation of writers demonstrating the opposite.

The home has, after all, been one of the novel's great stages for centuries, particularly for women writers, whose access to the supposedly more consequential arenas of public life (politics, business, even the arts) was constrained.

But the label of "domestic" has never been value-neutral.

First emerging in the 19th century, the tag was used to refer to novels such as Louisa May Alcott's Little Women, indicating that they "confined" themselves to the home and, as such, occupied a different (read: lower) rung, and sat apart from standard literary fare.

Working titles

What is perhaps most interesting about the newest releases in this genre is the way they play with that formula.

They expand conceptions of domesticity, capturing accurately just how much of our lives are spent in residence — no matter who we are.

In doing so, they turn the home into a sort of centre of the world.

Ducks, Newburyport operates on the grand scale of a Greek epic, mapping each corner of the prison of the mind. So, in the stream-of-consciousness magnum opus, a woman stands motionless at a kitchen counter, while mentally juggling six different crises, from grocery lists and White supremacy to plot holes in Little House on the Prairie and gun control.

In The Anthropologists, the search for a new apartment becomes an exploration of how small, everyday choices can define who we are, and the places we call home.

Discomfort plays a key role, as these novels explore the invisible costs of the domestic life too: isolation and self-doubt; invisibility; the strain of the mental labour of remembering, planning, anticipating and organising (meals, birthdays, suppers for friends, vacations, school routines, grocery runs, playdates, sleepovers) and of the "affective labour" of managing the relationships and emotional well-being of a family.

Vitally, these novels serve as a reminder that there is no real separation between "domestic" and "public", "personal and political".

The home has always been shaped by the great forces of history: power, politics, capitalism, technology, scarcity, ideology. It has always shaped such forces too.

Turn the last page and, if anything, their scale feels like sly deception, the cosiness concealing the fact that work and money, resentment and duty, tyranny and revolution have been hiding under the floorboards all along.

{ THE SPORTING LIFE }

Rudraneil Sengupta



Special forces

Who'd have thought it? Jose Mourinho is making his way back to the top, still wily, still confident and, above all, a survivor

It was more than 20 years ago that the world was introduced to "the special one", an intense, oddball football manager whose charisma managed to easily overshadow even the star players on his teams.

In 2004, Jose Mourinho was the perfect choice for Roman Abramovich's Chelsea experiment. This was a time when the idea of a rakish billionaire taking over a football club was still a novelty.

Amid all the buzz, the world waited to see what Mourinho would do with this pampered team. He had, after all, already done the impossible, turning the Portuguese club FC Porto, a minnow in an ocean of sharks, into European champions. In the glitzy, drowning-in-money world of Chelsea in those days, when he declared himself "the special one", there was an element of humour and drama to it, but also something resembling the truth.

Decades later, having given football-lovers the pleasure of a nonstop media spectacle, steered teams to great wins and been written off as a melodramatic has-been over and over, Mourinho is still at the top, doing things that can only be described as "special".



Fans love him, for the victories he guides teams to, as well as the fights, scenes and media spectacle. (Below) At a UEFA Champions League game last month. GETTY IMAGES

More than the optics and the theatre, the truth about him is that he is a survivor.

Barcelona found that out the hard way in the El Clasico last week, when their massive lead over Real Madrid in La Liga was cut to just three points after an inspired win that had the Mourinho stamp all over it.

This was the manager doing what he does best. In his second stint at the vaunted Spanish club, in his 13th match, marking his re-entry into the big leagues, the grizzled Portuguese shook things up. He placed a teenager (Yan Diomande) at centrestage, brought back a player (Eduardo Camavinga) who had been out of favour since last season, and bravely toyed with Barcelona's usual ball-domination tactics.

It has been a long road back to the top for Mourinho.

There were the heady days of 2010 when he won the treble with Inter Milan. The dazzling brilliance of Real Madrid's 2011-12 season. He led that team to a league win after a gap of four years, earning himself the nickname Galactico, a tag usually reserved for players. Then there was the stormy, bitter exit from the club, a return to Chelsea, and a triumphant league victory, followed quickly by another exit.

Manchester United came calling next. A combative Mourinho fought with press, fans and players through the three years he spent at that blighted club. An even more forgettable spell and a sacking at Tottenham Hotspur brought the journeyman to AS Roma, where he showed that he still had the old spark, as he took the struggling Italian club to its first major trophy in more than a decade.

When that stint ended, Mourinho seemed truly lost. He struggled dramatically in a short stint with the Turkish Super Lig club Fenerbahce, then returned home with Benfica, but was luckless there.

Suddenly, unexpectedly, he was at the helm of the biggest football club in the world again.

He is older, perhaps a bit less fractious, now 63 and sporting a white beard. But still as wily and as confident; still a genius and a comic-book villain rolled into one. Above all, still a survivor.

(Email Rudraneil Sengupta on rudraneil@gmail.com. The views expressed are personal)

wknd urban



Ick by brick





The Eiffel Tower was reviled. The Twin Towers were likened to giant delivery boxes. La Sagrada Familia, which finally officially opened this year, has faced opposition for over a century. What other icons have been debated and loved? Or just simply loathed? Take a tour across Romania, Belgium, Italy, England

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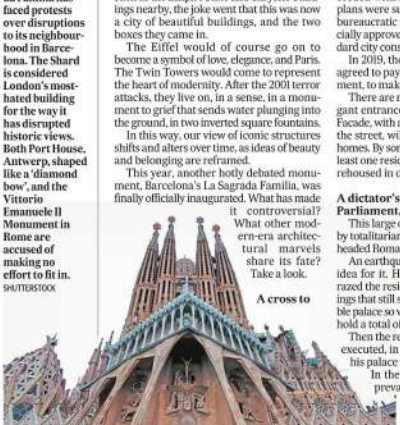
The Eiffel Tower was considered such an eyesore, when it opened in 1889, that writer Guy de Maupassant ate at one of its restaurants as often as he could. It was the only place left, he said, from where he couldn't see the hideous thing.

New York's Twin Towers, when they were completed in 1973, were derided for their lack of architectural detail. With marvels such as the Empire State and Chrysler buildings nearby, the joke went that this was now a city of beautiful buildings, and the two boxes they came in.

The Eiffel would of course go on to become a symbol of love, elegance, and Paris. The Twin Towers would come to represent the heart of modernity. After the 2001 terror attacks, they live on, in a sense, in a monument to grief that sends water plunging into the ground, in two inverted square fountains.

In this way, our view of iconic structures shifts and alters over time, as ideas of beauty and belonging are reframed.

This year, another hotly debated monument, Barcelona's La Sagrada Familia, was finally officially inaugurated. What has made it controversial? What other modern-era architectural marvels share its fate? Take a look.



(Clockwise from below) La Sagrada Familia has faced protests over disruptions to its neighbourhood in Barcelona. The Shard is considered London's most-hated building for the way it has disrupted historic views. Both Port House, Antwerp, shaped like a 'diamond bow', and the Vittorio Emanuele II Monument in Rome are accused of making no effort to fit in. SHUTTERSTOCK

A cross to bear?: La Sagrada Familia, Barcelona

Catalan architect Antoni Gaudí's masterpiece, one of Spain's most iconic tourist attractions, finally reached its maximum height this year. It was officially inaugurated by Pope Leo XIV in June.

La Sagrada Familia has been under construction for 144 years, but will take at least five more years to complete. And Barcelona hasn't always taken kindly to the disruption.

The project is funded by private donations and ticket sales, but protests have erupted from time to time over the expense of organising this part of the city around this massive construction site.

For decades, construction here also proceeded with no building permits (original plans were submitted in the 1880s, lost in a bureaucratic muddle, and only recently officially approved). Through all that time, standard city construction taxes were not levied.

In 2019, the trust that runs the cathedral agreed to pay $41 million to the city government, to make up for this.

There are now concerns that the extravagant entrance, the as-yet-unfinished Glory Facade, with a staircase that stretches across the street, will cause disruptions to nearby homes. By some estimates, the residents of at least one residential building may need to be rehoused in order to make way for it.

A dictator's stamp: Palace of Parliament, Bucharest

This large compound was commissioned by totalitarian ruler Nicolae Ceausescu, who headed Romania from the 1960s to the 1980s.

An earthquake in 1977 gave Ceausescu the idea for it. He took over a damaged area, razed the residential and commercial buildings that still stood, and began to erect a marble palace so vast and opulent, its 1,100 rooms hold a total of 3,500 tonnes of crystal.

Then the revolution came. Ceausescu was executed, in 1989. There were calls to turn his palace into a mall or casino.

In the end, a more practical option prevailed. It serves as the seat of the country's democratic government. Meanwhile, it is unclear how long it will stand. Weighing about 4.1 million tonnes, it is sinking by about 6 mm a year.

Stone the entirely wrong colour: Vittorio Emanuele II Monument, Rome

Locals refer to this massive, ornate marble memorial — think, rearing horses, shields of armour, colonnaded terraces — by mocking nicknames such "wedding cake".

Completed in 1935, the monument to Italian king Victor Emmanuel II (1820-1878) took 50 years to build.

There are two big problems with the structure, according to residents of Rome.

First, it is entirely the wrong colour, its white marble clashing crudely with the elegant honey-coloured travertine of the ancient forum and colosseum nearby.

Worse still, an entire slope of Capitoline Hill was cleared in order to accommodate it, with ruins including Pope Paul III's 16th-century villa and fortification tower razed.

Today, the structure houses a museum.

Gloom with a view: The Shard, London

This is easily London's most-hated building, and has been since it opened in 2012.

When the final plans were unveiled, the heritage-management organisation English Heritage said it would be like "a spike through the heart of historic London".

Architect Renzo Piano has said he was inspired by the railway lines and masts of sailing ships. Each facet resembles a glass shard, gently sloping towards the top.

Local residents complain they aren't even welcome to visit. The 95-storey tower of offices, restaurants, a hotel and homes has dress codes, and an entry fee for the viewing deck.

A bow full of knots: Port House, Antwerp

When Zaha Hadid Architects was commissioned to design an addition to Antwerp's port house, there was only one demand: that the existing building, a disused fire station, be preserved.

ZHA obliged by designing a four-storey addition on top. The "diamond bow" was instantly reviled. Residents said it contrasted brutally with the low-rise brick-stone-and-slate structures of the neighbourhood.

Many feel the historic 1911 fire station hasn't been preserved, in spirit, so much as reduced to a pedestal for the structure.

It doesn't help that the addition, completed in 2016, cost €63 million in taxpayer money to build.

[WITH LOVE]



Simran Mangharam

Off-screen romance

It's easy to hide within an app. These days, more people are asking how they can improve their offline dating habits instead. Here's my quick and simple guide to getting re-started



Few people can expect to get out of a pottery session what Molly (Demi Moore) and Sam (Patrick Swayze) did in Ghost (1990). But when looking to meet like-minded people, it certainly does help to explore a new hobby.

At this point, 100% of my single clients want me to suggest "any other way" to meet eligible people besides the apps.

So, over the past year, I've been working with some of them, and a simple three-step approach has met with some success.

Now, these steps aren't as easy as swiping and chatting. They take some effort, planning, and introspection.

They also involve leaning on people: friends, coworkers, community. They involve asking: How can I bring the best version of myself to an early meeting?

But the outcome, for a number of people I have worked with, has been more wholesome and closer to what they were seeking. So here goes.

1. Spread the word: I highly recommend starting the offline search by asking friends for help. There was a time when friends would offer to set one up. "Hey, I know someone I think you would like."

Sadly, we tend to overthink such things these days. People in your circle probably want to help, and can, but are wondering if an offer will be seen as invasive, presumptuous, perhaps even insulting.

So reach out and let it be known that you would be happy to be introduced to like-minded people.

It's important to commit to this process. Agree to meet every person suggested, at least for a coffee. We have become used to the idea of a quick summary being a good enough measure of a person. Use the offline method to unlearn this.

2. Get out there: Love art? Show up to as many art shows as possible. Enjoy boardgames? Become a regular at game nights. Like pottery? Turn group classes into a fortnightly habit. Supper clubs, farmer's markets, gigs... one of the easiest ways to meet like-minded people is to pick something you especially enjoy, and do it. This has always been true, and it hasn't changed.

3. Get the vibe right: "So I'm there. I'm meeting someone new. Now what do I do to make this go right," clients pleadingly ask.

The first thing to work on is getting the vibe right. We all exude an energy. That is simply science. It comes through in the eyes and smile, tone of voice and demeanour. Be aware of the energy you are exuding.

The tendency is to default to nervous and anxious. Aim for calm and positive instead.

This shift is vital because nervous energy can serve as a sort of force field, and not in a good way. It can push people away and make one feel unapproachable. Try for four simple things: Calm, warmth, eye contact and sincerity. Talk slower. Smile more.

No one will live or die by the outcome of this evening. The aim is to have a good social encounter. The day doesn't have to hold any grander expectation than that. This last bit can often feel like the most daunting.

"How do I stay calm," one client asked. I recommend a little exercise to centre the self.

Remember Bruce Willis's speech to himself in the mirror, in Friends? ("You're just a neat guy... You're still sexy. You're a love machine!") Don't do that.

A less-dramatic version of the speech, though, is not a bad idea. Think back to a recent occasion when you felt confident, had a good time or made a good impression. Remind yourself to be that person.

Mingle, make small talk. Reach out, gently and respectfully, when the time seems right. Try a little humour: "I feel like I'd rather just start collecting those cats, than doomscroll through the dating apps any more. I mean, there are more-interesting people right here. On that note, shall we get a drink?"

It really doesn't have to be more complicated than that.

(Simran Mangharam is a dating and relationship coach and can be reached on simran@ilook.in. The views expressed are personal)

[TRADE-OFFS] THE PULSES STORY - PART 3 OF 3

A dal ache: What we lose when lentils go missing from our plate



Mridula Ramesh



SIMPLY DIGESTING THE KIND OF FIBRE THAT DAL CONTAINS HELPS STIMULATE THE NATURAL RELEASE OF GLP-1, A GUT HORMONE THAT IS THE HOLY GRAIL OF METABOLIC HEALTH

A fertiliser subsidy is not usually considered part of national health policy.

Perhaps it should be.

Because cheap urea, alongside cheaper irrigation and guaranteed procurement, changed what India ate, with consequences for our collective health.

Consider pulses. In the late 1970s, rural Indians ate about 34 gm of pulses a day. By 2023-24, this had fallen to 25 to 27 gm a day, or about half a small bowl of cooked dal.

As pulses receded from Indian fields and plates, we lost one of our cheapest, most climate-friendly sources of protein.

Consider a family of four that gets all its protein from dal. Based on current retail prices, switching to eggs would cost them Rs 33,000 more a year (though eggs, to be fair, offer a more complete protein). Switching to mutton would cost Rs 4.36 lakh more (chicken and beef / buffalo meat lie somewhere in-between). It's little wonder that dal anchored everyday protein, while meat was reserved for special occasions.

The climate logic is even more compelling.

Mesfin Mekonnen and Arjen Hoekstra were both researchers at University of Twente in the Netherlands when they came up with the idea of a water footprint (the total water used to raise a crop or rear an animal, and to grow its feed). In Indian conditions, our family would use 22 lakh litres more a year if they switched to eggs, and 80 lakh litres more for beef / buffalo meat.

Because that water is subsidised, the price of the food item doesn't reflect how much of this resource has gone into it. We see the impact in the falling water levels in India's underground aquifers.

Protein flex

Dal, meanwhile, is so climate-friendly that research by Joseph Poore of Oxford university and Thomas Nemecek of the Swiss research institute Agroscope found that any substitute, including rice, emits more greenhouse gases.

Most substitutes, plant and animal, use more land to grow. And while the excess fertiliser used to grow animal feed washes into rivers and lakes, pulses make their own nitrogen. Pulses are an extraordinary source of protein too, because none, repeat, none, of the animal options offers a single gramme of dietary fibre.

Indian adults get roughly 33 gm of fibre a day, down from about 42 gm a day in the late 1970s. But averages can be misleading. Those who regularly eat polished rice get less. Women typically get less; one study of 440 women found they get about 20 gm a day.

Vulnerable urban communities get under 10 gm. The number keeps falling as we trade in whole wheat for maida, and forsake our "coarse" cereals (thank you, water and fertiliser subsidies).

Yet nobody raised the alarm, possibly because nobody was looking.

The National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau exists to track what Indians eat, but the word "fibre" appears nowhere in its survey reports for 1996-97, 2011-12 or 2015-17 (urban), nor in its 25-year review. Nor does it appear in the 2023-24 Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES), another source of information on nutrition.

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)-National Institute of Nutrition's What India Eats report mentions fibre just once, in passing, assuring readers that complex carbohydrates "will also satisfy the fiber requirements".

The fibre factor

We haven't noticed fibre slipping out of our diets.

This is a tragedy, because with every mouthful of fermentable fibre, the kind that pulses are rich in, we feed the bacteria in our guts. They, in turn, produce compounds that can influence how we handle glucose, regulate inflammation and respond to stress.

Given India's diabetic epidemic and the Indian body's unique inability to cope with dietary excess, let's take a minute to delve deeper into how the gut microbiome helps us handle glucose.

Scattered throughout the gut's single-cell barrier is a type of cell called the L cell. For a molecule with an unimaginative name, it produces that holy grail of weight loss, GLP-1 (or Glucagon-like Peptide-1), in response to signals such as glucose.

Paradoxically, the greatest concentration of L-cells is found in the colon, where very little glucose reaches. Why is that? Did the body get something wrong?

Researcher Gwen Tolhurst and her colleagues at University of Cambridge set out to answer that question and found that the body had not, in fact, got things wrong.

In their experiment, they used mice genetically engineered so that their L-cells glowed yellow under a microscope. The researchers removed cells from the mice's colon and grew those in the lab. They then used the yellow glow to pick out the L-cells, and added short-chain fatty acids — the compounds made when gut bacteria ferment dietary fibre — to the mix.

The L-cells released a lot of GLP-1 at this point because, as further experimentation showed, they have a special biochemical "lock" that metabolites such as short-chain fatty acids unlocked.

In another experiment, they found mice without the lock produced far less GLP-1 and less insulin, and handled glucose poorly.

GLP-1 also has cardiovascular and neuroprotective benefits. These benefits are what we forego when we lose fibre in our diets.

A weak pulse

It isn't just GLP-1.

L-cells in the colon release a whole host of chemicals, including other peptides, that tell the body: "I'm full, stop eating". They send out an entire symphony of messages; not a single, loud, jarringly persistent note like the one some weight-loss drugs produce.

But is there good evidence that fibre reshapes the human gut?

Zhao Liping, a microbiologist at Shanghai Jiao Tong University and Rutgers University, took people with Type 2 diabetes and randomly assigned them one of two calorie-matched diets. One group followed standard dietary advice, while the other adopted a meal plan especially rich in diverse fermentable fibres. (Both groups also received the anti-diabetes drug Acarbose.)

Over 12 weeks, the researchers then examined the participants' faeces, to see if their gut bacteria reflected a change. Change it did.

The scientists found that the high-fibre diet promoted bacteria capable of producing short-chain fatty acids, and that participants on this diet achieved better control over their blood-sugar levels. Participants with a greater abundance of these fibre-responsive bacteria saw more improvement in their HbAlc levels, a longer-term measure of blood glucose.

Fibre was reshaping the gut microbial ecosystem and, as that ecosystem changed, the body began to handle glucose better.

Which brings us back to the Indian plate. Dietary fibre has been overtaken by alternative foods, in part as a direct fallout of water and fertiliser subsidies.

The falling importance of pulses on our plate is the canary in the coal mine. The song it sings, deep within our gut, is playing out in the metabolic crisis in India.

In budgeting for the subsidies, we do ourselves no favours by leaving out the health or climate costs. A recent study published in Nature Medicine placed the potential economic cost of diabetes for India at $11.4 trillion between 2020 and 2050.

Our siloed approach to policymaking is at least partly to blame.

Food, agriculture, the environment, nutrition and metabolic disease were never separate concerns. They are deeply interconnected. In order to move forward, we need to see them that way.

(Mridula Ramesh is a climate-tech investor and author of The Climate Solution and Watershed. She can be reached on trudeofis@climation.net. The views expressed are personal)

READ: U-turn: Mridula Ramesh writes on the high cost of cheap urea



In the late-1970s, rural Indians ate about 34 gm of pulses a day. By 2023-24, this had fallen to about 25 gm a day, or half a small bowl of cooked dal. This shift was aided by water and fertiliser subsidies, which allowed alternatives to race ahead. The impact can be traced in health and climate. ADOBE STOCK; SHUTTERSTOCK

BOOKS

[SHUBHA MENON]
AUTHOR, TRAITOR IN THE HOUSE; MY BIPOLAR LIFE

I know how people look at those with mental illness. I had to speak out.

On the Books & Authors podcast



HT

[NABAARUN BAROOAH]
AUTHOR, LAND OF THE EASTERN LIGHT: ASSAM BEFORE THE AHOMS

'We can never reconstruct the past perfectly'

On Assam's pre-Ahom history, and why it is important to move beyond Delhi-centric ways of seeing the North-East

Nawaid Anjum
letters@hindustantimes.com

1 You look at Assam before the Ahoms, a period many know little about. Why did you feel this story needed to be told?

In December 2021, when I was working at chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's office, I attended the Asom Divas celebrations in Dispur, honouring Chaolung Sukaphaa, often called the creator of Bor Axom. When I visited his 100-ft-tall statue in Nazira in 2023, a question occurred to me: Was Assam's history really only 800 years old? Something about this did not seem right.

I have always been sceptical of official versions of history, particularly what I call "day zero histories", which begin a civilisation's story at a convenient historical milestone, overlooking everything that came before. I began reading inscriptions, chronicles and historical scholarship to investigate what Assam was like before the Ahoms. I felt that if I had so much to learn about my own land, others probably did too. That realisation inspired *Land of the Eastern Light*.

2 How would you respond to readers who may worry that the book is trying to fit Assam's past into a present-day ideological frame?

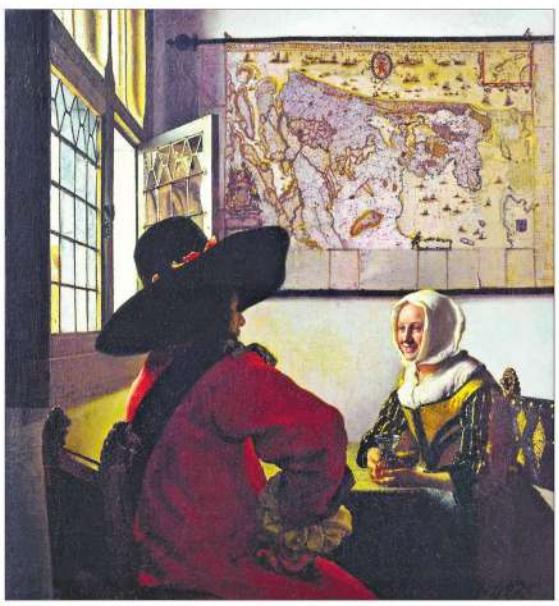
For decades, we have read our past through colonial, Nehruvian and Marxist historiographical frameworks, often treating their interpretations as established fact. Why should a different interpretation immediately be suspected of ideological manipulation? We need to understand the distinction between history and historiography. History is what happened; historiography is how we interpret what happened. We can never reconstruct the past perfectly. We have evidence, and we interpret it through a particular lens. Every historian does this, whether they acknowledge it or not. Yet this has gone unquestioned for some because they dominated the academic and popular understanding of our past. My book uses the same historical evidence but approaches it through a different civilisational lens. My suggestion to readers is simple: examine the evidence, question the interpretation and arrive at your own conclusions.

3 The story of Raja Prithu resisting Bakhtiyar Khilji is dramatic. What do the sources say about that episode?

The story is remarkable. Bakhtiyar Khilji marched through Kamarupa towards Tibet, only to suffer a disastrous defeat on the banks of the Brahmaputra, near present-day North Guwahati, at the hands of the ruler of Kamarupa.

To establish what happened, I triangulated indigenous inscriptions, including Kanhai Boroxi Boa and Gachtal, Islamic chronicles such as *Tabaqat-i-Nasiri*, and British gazetteers. We remember Khilji for the destruction of Nalanda, and there is even a town named Bakhtiyarpur after him. Yet hardly anyone knows who defeated him. I find that extraordinary.





394th birth anniversary of Dutch Master Johannes Vermeer

Johannes Vermeer (October 31, 1632 - December 15, 1675), considered one of greatest painters of the Dutch Golden Age, was not a great success in his lifetime, or even immediately after his death. Rediscovered in the 19th century, his luminous canvases featuring a variety of people from across 17th-century Dutch society are now particularly admired for their vivid colours. Among his most popular works are Officer With a Laughing Girl (1657), pictured at left; The Milkmaid (1658); Girl with a Pearl Earring (1665); Mistress and Maid (1667); and The Astronomer (1668). CORBIS VIA GETTY IMAGES

Acts of love as resistance

Set during the non-violent anti-colonial Khudai Khidmatgar movement, *When We Are Strangers* by Vazira Zamindar and Sarnath Banerjee is an appeal to overcome divisiveness

Rachita Taneja
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British colonial troops at Qissa Khwani Bazaar in Peshawar on April 23, 1930. The mass shooting of unarmed civilians became a defining moment of the independence movement. (Inset) Authors Vazira Zamindar and Sarnath Banerjee WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

When I was 11, my best friend and I created an elaborate plan to steal the Kohinoor back from the British. Hunched over a piece of paper torn from the back of my school diary, we sketched out minute details, including using Frooti to draw the guards away from their positions. I will admit the plan was not foolproof, but we were determined to correct an injustice done to our people.

Fast-forward to 2015, the first (and last) time I visited the British Museum in London. On that dreary winter morning, I felt that same resentment welling up as I walked, hands clenched in my coat pockets, through floors of stolen artefacts and treasures from colonised cultures and people around the world.

When We Are Strangers by historian Vazira Zamindar and artist Sarnath Banerjee starts as a heist story. I was immediately hooked. As a long-time admirer of Sarnath's work, I was excited to see this latest offering, just a few short months after his critically acclaimed *Absolute Jaffar* hit the stands.





Set during Khudai Khidmatgar, a non- violent anti-colonial movement, the book follows the story of two friends, Sita and Mahmud, who set out to reclaim a statue of the Buddha stolen by the British. Founded by Pashtun resistance leader Bacha Khan, Khudai Khidmatgar is often overlooked in retellings of the story of our freedom movement. The book explores the aftermath of the Qissa Khwani massacre, the horrifying mass killings of peaceful unarmed freedom fighters by the British Indian Army in Peshawar, and the camaraderie between Khan and Mahatma Gandhi as they walked together to repair the fraught relationship between communities divided by colonial interests.

The collage-style layout, developed by graphic designer Veronica Borsani, juxtaposed with Sarnath's vivid illustrations complement the story and genre.

Cutouts of maps, archival material, photographs and pieces of tape sit alongside and sometimes under the artwork. Alongside short, thoughtful prose by Vazira, the book feels like a lost journal with a story that urgently needs to be told. Expressive, haunting, and deliberately jarring at times, the book's visual language is unique and refreshing.



When We Are Strangers
Vazira Zamindar and Sarnath Banerjee
168pp, ₹699
Penguin

Based on our past, *When We Are Strangers* feels like it is calling out to activists, leaders and social movements of today. The book starts with the words: "We were not always estranged, fearful of each other as we are now". This stuck with me throughout. Our politics are so divisive, and we live under a shadow of uncertainty, violence and unrest. The British Empire's divide-and- rule strategy continues to make itself felt.

This strategy is used to greater success now, not just in India, but around the world. The British knew this well too, when they took apart the unity of Indians, using religion, caste, region and class.

When We Are Strangers speaks in affirmations, not negations. Its four chapters are called "Acts of Love", ending with the most important and most difficult act: to walk together. It reminded me of the powerful quote by bell hooks: "The moment we choose to love we begin to move against domination, against oppression... The choice to love is a choice to connect — to find ourselves in the other."

This book is a timely appeal to stand alongside each other as we find ourselves at a significant crossroads, faced with choices that will shape who we are and what kinds of people we will become.

Rachita Taneja is the creator of the webcomic Sanitary Panels

[HT PICKS] NEW READS

MUSINGS ON MOTHERHOOD

A funny and sometimes difficult look at the experience of modern parenthood, Basu writes candidly about having two children under the age of two, and watching as they grow to school age.

With her usual lightness of touch, she tackles topics that include her own struggles with postpartum depression and ongoing bouts of anxiety and panic, and her efforts to undo and redo generational habits. She addresses issues such as how to throw out the art children produce, and tactics for coping with fights between siblings (They're allowed to hit each other once a day, she tells her daughters, so they better think it through and use it wisely. End result: they forget to hit each other.)

Basu's musings will interest anyone who has ever been a parent, had a parent, been a child or had a child.



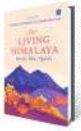
A Mother is Born: A Memoir
Diksha Basu
240pp, ₹499
Simon & Schuster

JOURNEYING ACROSS THE MANY WORLDS OF HIMALAYAN LIFE

The Living Himalaya, co-written and co-edited by Namita Gokhale and Malashri Lal, is a rich exploration of Himalayan culture, spirituality, ecology and ethnography. Bringing together research with the voices of those who live, work and journey through these mountains, it reveals a landscape that is vibrantly alive. Through essays, stories, reflections and visual narratives, the book journeys across the many worlds of Himalayan life: epic texts and folk legends, music and food, deities, rocks and rivers, environmental crises and human struggles.

Among the many treasures of this book is a retelling of the legend of King Gesar, poet Gulzar's account of his journey through Chamba and Bharmour, Shekhar Pathak's moving story of the women of Reni whose courage transformed the Chipko movement, and explorations of the ancient animistic faiths whose practices continue to resonate across the mountains.

Nicholas Roerich's mystical landscapes complete this portrait of a region where nature, culture and the sacred remain intertwined.



The Living Himalaya: Rock, Sky, Spirit
Namita Gokhale, Malashri Lal
360pp, ₹899, Hachette

AN INSIDER'S ACCOUNT OF A RADICAL MOVEMENT

Formed in 1972 and inspired by the Black Panther movement, the Dalit Panther emerged as one of the most radical movements in post-Ambedkarite India. Led by writer-activists such as Namdev Dhasal, JV Pawar, Raja Dhale, Bhai Sangare, Avinash Mahatekar and Arjun Dangle, it mounted a fierce challenge to the casteist political and literary establishment, while sharing solidarity with the struggles of workers, women and farmers.

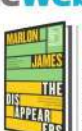
Here, Dangle revisits the debate on the relationship between the Dalit movement and the Left, and between Ambedkarism and Marxism. A compelling account of the energies, idealism and contradictions that shaped the Dalit Panther's brief but transformative journey, and of Dangle's role in it, this translation finally brings this chapter of history to a wider readership.



Dalit Panther: The Truth Underlined
Arjun Dangle; Translated from the Marathi by Maya Pandit
380pp, ₹990, Orient Black Swan

ontheweb

READ: Marlon James's Booker-shortlisted novel, The Disappearers, explores the aftermath of a homophobic attack on the cast and crew of a John Herbert play set to be staged in Kingston, Jamaica, in 1988. Based on a rumoured mob attack, the 640-plus-page novel presents a true picture of persecution in the AIDS era.



Scan the QR code to read the review by Saurabh Sharma

[SPECULATIVE SHORT FICTION] OF MYTH AND MEANING

A fine balance between the said and unsaid

Akanksha Abismruta
letters@hindustantimes.com

Originally published in Marathi as *Parivrajak* in 2004, *The Seekers*, a collection of five short stories by Gautamiputra Kamble, translated by Sirius J Libeiro, questions social traditions. These are stories about searching: for words, people, histories, knowledge, freedom.

The Story of a Story, which begins the book, has the narrator going in search of characters whose stories he can write with words that have never been used. In *Parivrajak*, the titular tale, Anisha is in search of "a two-legged person" when she comes across Naiser, who is in search of a living rock.

In *Shilpusan*, two friends look for a statue in the middle of a desert; while in *Tales of Viroopnagar*, multiple stories convey the characters' unexplained desire to leave the lush green of home for the desert. The concluding story, *The Search for the Sixth Sense* features a young man, Nikay, on an obsessive quest for those who have experiences beyond the five senses.

In his note, Libeiro alludes to what is lost in translation: "The book's experiment is not intended to present an alternative to the way Judeo-Christian philosophy shapes everyday vocabulary — and by extension, the world for its speakers. The newness — or the strangeness — experienced by an Anglophone reader will be qualitatively different from that felt by a Marathi reader." Still, the translation succeeds in keeping one curious about the prospective scenarios in these tales. Each begins with a curious incident, leads to an interesting premise between its primary characters, and ends with more food for thought, sometimes more questions, than answers. The prose flows rhythmically and a fine balance is maintained between the said and unsaid.

So, in *The Story of a Story*, the narrator, who has written impressive opening lines, tries to find characters worthy of those words. But once he does find them, he cannot bring them to talk. Their silence becomes the biggest hurdle to his storytelling, and raises the question: Can we tell the stories of people who don't want their experiences known? When does a story begin and when does it end? Are there truly words that have never been used before?

Parivrajak, which has two strangers deciding to walk the same path in search of their respective destinations, showcases acts of faith and the defeat of fears based on superstition. It also portrays Naiser's faith in humanity and Anisha's conviction that the world is filled with four-legged humans. There is a focus also on society's perceptions of a man and a woman who are seen together. Asked about their relationship, Naiser responds, "For there to be an established relationship between two people, it has to be consensually agreed upon. And there is no such relationship between us yet. None that I can tell you about, anyway."



The Seekers
Gautamiputra Kamble; Translated by Sirius J Libeiro
186pp, ₹495
Blaft Publications

All these works of short speculative fiction showcase Kamble's myth-making skills and the dexterity with which he avoids the introduction of supernatural elements. Throughout, what seems like a fantasy can also be interpreted as a metaphor. So, a character who has turned to stone directs the reader to consider experiences of apathy, suicidal thoughts and depression.

All the stories, particularly *Tales of Viroopnagar*, which references many *Jataka* stories with themes of freedom, silence, haunted spaces and a thirst for the unknown, view deserts and rivers as sublime.

While some question social and religious hierarchies, others question power, including that wielded by community and religious heads.

The Phule-Ambedkarite author's work, which recalls the magical tales of childhood, with their kings, mysterious women and forests, taken together, impart a complex wisdom, inviting readers to become comfortable with the unknown.

They also attempt to draw a line between pursuits that have destinations in the realm of the living and those that are existential. The translator might ponder the inevitable loss in translation from the original Marathi, but the reader of English undoubtedly still gains a great deal from these works that examine the dichotomy of words and silences, the living and lifeless, master and student, social and religious hierarchy and humanity, and ultimately, in knowledge and wisdom.



Gautamiputra Kamble's tales recall the magical stories of childhood, with their kings, mysterious women and forests, which taken together imparted a complex wisdom. SHUTTERSTOCK

Akanksha Abismruta is an independent writer

WORLD

Iran's Khamenei orders military to expand US retaliation plans

Agencies
letters@hindustantimes.com

TEHRAN: Iran's Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei ordered his top military commanders to prepare for renewed confrontation with the US and Israel and expand Tehran's options for retaliation, Bloomberg reported.

"Every level and type of threat must be met with an immediate, effective response, without geographical limitations," Khamenei told the heads of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, the Army and the General Staff of the Armed Forces, according to a statement on Telegram Saturday.

He ordered the military to update its lists of potential targets to bring "all types of material and immaterial assets" of the US and Israel "within the armed forces' reach."

He also "described intelligent combat readiness for a powerful confrontation with the enemies as one of the prerequisites of maximum deterrence," and urged the army to strengthen its capabilities with new technologies.

The comments underline the heightened state of alert in Iran as it braces for the potential resumption of US-Israeli strikes amid renewed diplomatic efforts to end the conflict, as well as Tehran's determination to escalate its response.

Khamenei's statement didn't say when or where the meeting took place, but it marks the first time he's known to have convened his top military commanders as the head of state.

He hasn't been seen in public since the US and Israel started the war in February.

The US has warned Gulf countries to prepare for renewed strikes against Iran after the Nov. 3 midterm elections, the Wall Street Journal reported this week. US Central Command briefed President Donald Trump on potential military options on Thursday, Fox reported.

"If the enemies resume military or terrorist attacks, it is the Islamic Republic's armed forces and the Iranian nation who will determine the time and conditions for its end," Khamenei said.





Smoke rises from the oil tanker RITI in the Gulf of Oman. IRGC said four oil tankers hit mines and caught fire in Hormuz. REUTERS

Uranium transfer, strait reopening in proposal

A preliminary draft framework for US-Iran negotiations proposes transferring Iran's highly enriched uranium stockpile to an agreed third country or reducing its enrichment level, while reopening the Strait of Hormuz to international maritime traffic within seven days of an initial understanding, Al Arabiya English reported, according to ANI. According to Al Arabiya English, which exclusively obtained the draft's key points, China could potentially act as a guarantor for the implementation and sustainability of any agreement.

The framework also proposes holding direct US-Iran negotiations in Doha instead of Istanbul.

SYRIA WEIGHING WHETHER TO JOIN MECCA PACT, SAYS GOVT

Agence France-Presse
letters@hindustantimes.com

MANAMA: Syria's top diplomat on Saturday said Damascus was considering whether to join the NATO-style Mecca defence alliance that binds Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan.

Saudi Arabia, under heavy fire from Yemen's Houthis, is a key backer of Syria's government that came to power after the fall of former strongman Bashar al-Assad in December 2024.

"Discussions are currently underway to evaluate Syria's entry into the Mecca alliance," Foreign Minister Asaad al-Shaibani said at the Manama Dialogue conference in Bahrain.

Saudi Arabia has been rallying support against escalating Houthi attacks, including a major strike that closed Riyadh's international airport for two weeks this month.

In August, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Turkey signed the defence pact in Mecca, Islam's holiest city, that states an attack on one country is to be considered an attack on all three.

Pakistan and Turkey have not announced any attacks on the Iran-backed Houthis.



Protesters attend a rally outside the headquarters of Poland's Constitutional Court in Warsaw on Saturday. AFP

Poland crisis is a decade-long justice dispute

HTC and Agencies
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The political dispute in Poland over its Constitutional Tribunal escalated into an open conflict at the tribunal's Warsaw headquarters on October 30.

The crisis drew starkly different interpretations from rival political camps, with one side calling it a restoration of the rule of law and the other calling it a coup d'état.

The origins of the crisis date back to 2015, when the outgoing Civic Platform (PO) and Polish People's Party (PSL) coalition updated election laws, allowing the Sejm (parliament) to elect five tribunal judges before the general election. Another party that won the election then declared those appointments invalid and chose five replacement candidates.

After returning to power in late 2023, Donald Tusk's coalition sought to reverse the judicial reforms. In March 2024, a resolution was passed challenging the status of the judges.

What comes next

The Constitutional Tribunal determines whether laws follow Poland's constitution, meaning its political independence directly impacts legislation, taxation, businesses, and public services.

Wojciech Przybylski, editor-in-chief of Visegrad Insight, told Al Jazeera that the crisis on Friday and Saturday was a power play to control who serves as a justice, in what positions, and how the court system operates in Poland.

Aleksandra Kustra-Rogatka, an associate professor at Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun, told Al Jazeera that many supporters of the centrist governing camp have grown disappointed by the lack of progress in restoring the rule of law since 2023.

The scheduled November 3 assembly of judges and the government's attempts to lift judicial immunity remain the immediate focal points of the dispute.

US nod for $2.1bn Patriot missile sale to Ukraine

Reuters
letters@hindustantimes.com

WASHINGTON/KYIV: The US State Department said on Friday it had approved the sale of 500 Patriot PAC-3 missiles to Ukraine for an estimated $2.1 billion, in what would be one of the most significant steps to supply defensive weapons to Kyiv since the start of the second Trump administration.

Delayed missile deliveries have added to Ukraine's tensions with the US after President Donald Trump announced a diesel deal with Russia and criticised Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy for Ukraine's unwillingness to stop attacks on Russian refineries.

Ukraine has long said it urgently needs more missile interceptors to knock down the growing waves of missiles Russia's military fires at the country. The Patriot missile system is the most effective weapon to counter fast-moving ballistic missiles.



Toshisuke Kanazawa

Japanese bodybuilder flexes ambition

SANTA SUSANNA: Nonagenarian Japanese bodybuilder Toshisuke Kanazawa took to the stage on Spain's Costa del Maresme aiming to prove that age is no barrier to peak physical fitness. He competed against rivals decades his junior in the masters category for athletes aged 50 and older. He credits his longevity and conditioning to strict dietary habits. REUTERS

Three killed as 2 helicopters crash midair in Oregon

DALLAS: A pilot was on a test run in a helicopter and a 22-year-old flight instructor with a student pilot from the UK were in another when the two aircraft collided midair in Oregon and crashed into a farm field, killing all three. The crash happened around 2 p.m. Thursday on a cloudy day, a few miles east of the airport in McMinnville. AP

1 killed, 6 injured in shooting at US Halloween store

FAIRFIELD: A shooting in California at a store selling costumes and decor on the eve of Halloween has left one person dead and six injured, police said. Gunfire rang out inside Spirit Halloween, a store at the Solano Town Centre in Fairfield late Friday, the Fairfield Police Department said in a statement posted to social media. All seven victims had gunshot wounds, including the person who died, the statement said. The remaining victims were taken to hospitals for treatment, and at least three people were in critical condition. AP

UK is open to saying sorry for slavery: PM

Agence France-Presse
letters@hindustantimes.com

LONDON: Prime Minister Andy Burnham said Saturday he was "open" to the UK issuing a formal apology for its role in the transatlantic slave trade, but ruled out financial reparations.

The Labour leader made the remarks days before attending a Commonwealth leaders summit in Antigua and Barbuda, as King Charles III tours the Caribbean.

"I want to express my sorrow and regret for the pain and suffering of so many millions and to recognise the way it still shapes our world today," Burnam wrote in the Guardian newspaper.

The transatlantic slave trade was a "brutal and barbaric violation" of the rights of those enslaved, he said.

The British premier added his government wanted a "structured dialogue with those affected".

"Listening to calls for a formal apology on behalf of the British state will form an important part of this process and I am open to them."

The king is due to address the Commonwealth summit, which runs from November 1 to 4.

Britain profited for centuries from colonialism and the slave trade.

Anti-Bibi bloc mulls PM direct election bill to break deadlock

Asian News International
letters@hindustantimes.com

JERUSALEM: Parties in Israel's current opposition bloc are considering legislation to introduce direct elections for prime minister in a bid to break the political deadlock and form a minority government without relying on the support of Arab parties, according to The Times of Israel.

The proposal would allow voters to elect the prime minister separately from the government, potentially providing a way out of the political impasse following Tuesday's election, in which neither Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's bloc nor the opposition secured a majority in the 120-member Knesset.



Benjamin Netanyahu

Under the proposed system, a candidate winning a direct election for prime minister could theoretically form a minority government without securing a Knesset majority.

Netanyahu himself had pushed a similar proposal following the inconclusive March 2021 election, after his efforts to assemble a governing coalition had stalled.

However, Israel's quasi-constitutional Basic Law: The Government requires a prospective government to secure a vote of confidence in the 120-member Knesset before being sworn in. Introducing direct elections would therefore require an amendment to the law, necessitating the support of at least 61 lawmakers, The Times of Israel reported.

Checking whether North Korea is behind Binance hack: Trump

Bloomberg
letters@hindustantimes.com

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump said the US was looking into whether North Korean hackers were behind a $6.3 billion heist targeting Binance that has rattled the cryptocurrency world. "We don't know. We're looking at that," Trump told reporters Friday in the Oval Office when asked if the hack should be attributed to actors from North Korea.

Hackers from that country have been known to prey on the digital asset industry and accused by the FBI and cybersecurity experts of involvement in some of the biggest crypto thefts in recent years.

Binance, the world's largest crypto trading platform, suspended withdrawals and pledged to cover all losses after the hack, the biggest heist the digital-asset industry has ever faced. Binance posted on X that about $3 billion of the assets had been frozen on blockchain networks. In another post, co-founder Yi He said withdrawals were expected to resume by Sunday.



Donald Trump

"They're saying they're guaranteeing it or something," Trump said. "It was a hack. That's the problem. You know the old-fashioned way when you used to sign a check, take it out. These are different people. Never see the money anymore. So I've always felt it was a little bit dangerous." "They say they have it pretty much under control," he added, referring to Binance.

Binance has had ties to businesses connected to the president and his family. The firm helped develop a stablecoin for a company that Trump and his sons co-founded. Changpeng Zhao, Binance's co-founder and former CEO, was pardoned by Trump in 2025 after he pleaded guilty to failing to enforce robust anti-money-laundering efforts.

CONGO'S EBOLA TOLL TOPS 5,000 AMID FEARS OF MASS OUTBREAK

Associated Press
letters@hindustantimes.com

BUNIA: Deaths in Congo's Ebola outbreak have topped 5,000 as the country grapples with the relentless spread of the disease and cases are recorded in other African countries, the latest data on Saturday shows.

Data from the Congolese Ministry of Health showed that the disease has killed 5,026 people out of 10,351 infected, at a nearly 50% lethality rate.

The surge is sparking concerns among experts regarding the authorities' ability to contain the deadly virus. The latest outbreak, caused by the Bundibugyo virus, was declared in mid-May, catching authorities by surprise. They have since struggled to manage it.

Scam centres relocated from Cambodia run in Madagascar

Agence France-Presse
letters@hindustantimes.com

ANTANANARIVO: Raids against online scam centres in Madagascar have exposed ties with a criminal group that ran similar operations in Cambodia, also duping African nationals via alleged human trafficking, authorities said.

Conducting romance, cryptocurrency and investment fraud, the sites were mostly operated by Chinese nationals, 148 of whom have been extradited to China, Madagascar's justice ministry said. Thirteen Chinese-run scam compounds were taken down in operations in August and September conducted with the US Department of Justice (DOJ), it said.

About $52 million of cryptocurrency was seized in a single day and more than 3,200 electronic devices were processed, the US authority said in a statement.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime had warned last year about the expansion of these networks, particularly into Southern Africa.



Madagascar's President Michael Randrianirina

Eleven Chinese nationals arrested separately in the online scam crackdown mysteriously walked free from a Madagascar jail in August in a widely publicised scandal allegedly implicating the head of the prison service.

Several African nationals remained in custody, even though initial findings suggested they may have been victims of human trafficking, officials said.

As in scam operations in Southeast Asia, the Madagascar centres allegedly lured Africans to the Indian Ocean island via social media and with promises of salaries.

In this case, around 20 nationals of Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and Zimbabwe were in custody, authorities said.

{ U.S. MIDTERM ELECTIONS }

Dishing dosas to hopping temples: US candidates reach out to Indian-Americans





Screengrabs show Democratic candidate James Talarico making a dosa at a restaurant. MADRAS N MASALA-INSTAGRAM

Press Trust of India
letters@hindustantimes.com

WASHINGTON: From dishing out mouthwatering dosas at restaurants to making temple visits, candidates in the US midterm elections are pulling out all the stops to woo Indian-American voters, who can tilt the scales of power in keenly fought races.

Democratic candidate James Talarico tried his hand at flipping dosas at an Indian restaurant in Irving in suburban Dallas, which is home to a large number of Indian-Americans.

Dressed up in a black suit and a white shirt, Talarico scooped up dosa batter in a bowl, spread it evenly on a hot pan, and topped it up with a spicy potato mix. He folded the crispy dosa and served it on a banana leaf on a plate amid applause from the gathering.

The gesture was received warmly by the Indian-American community in Texas.

Talarico is posing a tough challenge to Republican nominee Ken Paxton in the US Senate race in the deep red state.

"James Talarico is seizing the moment. The contrast couldn't be clearer. Paxton surrounds himself with influencers calling Indians scammers and saying Indian food stinks, intimidating Indian Texans. Talarico wears a suit and makes dosas," James Blunt, who describes himself as a businessman, said in a post on X. "One party serves up division. The other is serving Indian rice crepes, which, by the way, taste freaking amazing," Blunt said.

Indian temples have emerged as a favourite with candidates, particularly in states with a sizable Indian-American population.

Governor Ned Lamont of Connecticut, who is seeking another term in office, joined the Diwali celebrations organised at the State Capitol along with his Deputy Secretary of State Jennifer Barahona.

Congressman Greg Landsman from Ohio joined the 11th Patotsav of the BAPS Swaminarayan Temple in Sharonville to celebrate the anniversary of the temple's consecration.

US Senator Cory Booker of New Jersey joined the Diwali celebrations at the Akshardham temple, while Congressmen Randy Fine and Scott Perry were at a temple in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, as part of the outreach efforts to the community.

Congressman John James was at a Swaminarayan temple in Michigan to learn about the traditions at the place of worship and have a close look at the spirit of service that shapes the Hindu American community.

SPORT

Village volleyball expanding the horizons in conflict-hit Manipur

Despite the ethnic violence, the sport is offering athletes a sense of normalcy, opportunities and a hope for the future

Samreen Razzaqui
samreen.razzaqui@hindustantimes.com





(Above) Action from the Brahmaputra Volleyball League Interstate Championship. (Top) Winners YPC Ishok (Manipur boys). BVL

NEW DELHI: For 16-year-old twins Sura and Surjit Singh Rajkumar, the journey to Guwahati began with something neither had experienced before: a flight.

Growing up in Ishok village in Manipur's Bishnupur district, the brothers had spent much of their childhood on volleyball courts, watching seniors play and dreaming of one day representing India. Their first flight, however, came with considerable apprehension.

Their families were worried about sending them away, particularly against the backdrop of the ethnic violence that has gripped Manipur for more than three years.

When the boys eventually returned, they did so as champions of the Brahmaputra Volleyball League (BVL) Interstate Championship. The Manipur boys' team, representing YPC Ishok Village, defeated Assam 3-1 in the final on October 4. The Manipur girls' team, BYCL Balaramkhul — also representing a village in Bishnupur — finished third.

For coach Beda Konsam, the journey had begun long before, on village courts where volleyball continued to be played even as conflict threatened to narrow the possibilities available to an entire generation. "Out of the 15 districts in Manipur, we can travel within the valley areas. But we cannot go into the remaining 91% in the hills. We have to stay within our 9% area," Beda told HT, describing the restrictions on movement that have complicated everyday life.

The ethnic violence that erupted in May 2023 between the Meitei and Kuki communities has displaced nearly 60,000 people, claimed more than 350 lives, destroyed homes and fractured relationships. Fresh violence has followed, including renewed clashes in the hill districts.

For aspiring athletes, too, the consequences have been devastating. Training and competition require travel, facilities, financial support and regular interaction with teams from other regions. In Manipur, each of these has become more difficult.

Beda, a former national-level volleyball player, began working to create a grassroots pathway for youngsters after seeing the community-led model developed in Assam by former India captain Abhijit Bhattacharya through the BVL. "We also saw that in Japanese volleyball, many of the current stars started playing from U-12 or U-10. We thought that in Manipur, where people say there is sporting talent, we should also show something in volleyball to the whole of India," he said. "Most children who play sports here come from poor families. My motivation to them was to focus on their work and their dreams. If a child plays sport, they develop discipline and can eventually get a job in the Army," he said.

There was a time when his academy brought together Naga, Kuki and Meitei players for training. After the conflict erupted, communities were divided and players from different areas could no longer travel freely. Some lost their homes; others lost access to opportunities such as military recruitment trials and tournaments organised by central forces.

Yet, for many young athletes in Manipur, the aspiration remains a government job. Beda says that when he asks children what they want to become, the overwhelming answer is to join the Army. Others hope to become physical education teachers or coaches.

The Rajkumar twins are no different, and volleyball has already taken them some distance towards their dreams. Their father is a farmer and their mother a homemaker. The brothers began playing volleyball before they turned seven, inspired by seniors in their village. Now 16, they have represented Manipur at the national level and were part of the state's U-17 gold medal winning squad. One plays as a middle blocker, the other as an attacker. Both stand around six feet tall, an advantage in a sport where height can make a significant difference. "We (in Manipur) are a bit short in height, but still, we have big dreams," Beda said with a laugh.

In Bishnupur, training takes place in the evenings, after school. For more advanced preparation, National Institute of Sport (NIS) certified coaches are brought in. Ahead of the BVL, the team underwent an intensive month-long camp. "The main problem is commuting. Expenses have increased and commodities are expensive... even deliveries from Amazon or Flipkart are not coming through. Everything we buy is costlier," Beda said.

Even a road journey to Guwahati was considered too risky because of blockades and uncertainty along the highways. The organisers — Dani Sports Foundation and BVL — eventually arranged flights for the team.

Founded in 2020, the BVL has taken low-cost grassroots volleyball to young players across states including Manipur, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand and Odisha. "When you give them a ball to play with, the environment changes," Bhattacharya told HT. "It only requires two bamboo poles, a net, and two balls. Initially, parents didn't understand. Their only concern was, 'will this ruin their studies?' But now parents come to our centre in-charges and say, 'Save my child. They got off track... please take them back on the ground.'"

For Beda, developing the girls' game is an important priority. He hopes to organise 15-day camps led by NIS-certified coaches for village teams next year.

Despite the challenges, volleyball in Manipur has become a space where children can build friendships, find routine and a sense of structure at a time when so much else remains uncertain. The sport has also woven itself into village life, with tournaments organised around festivals, birthdays and memorial occasions.

In a state where conflict has restricted the horizons of so many young, ambitious lives, open volleyball courts are offering something increasingly precious: the hope of a better future.



The Nigerian women's cricket team. GETTY IMAGES

Gateway 'criiio' bringing social change in Nigeria

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MUMBAI: Chisom Mary Okpe is a young girl playing cricket in Nigeria, living with limited means. Some days, she's had to skip training to help her mother gather firewood. Next January, she could represent the Nigeria U-19 team in the women's World Cup in Bangladesh and Nepal. Giselle, 14, would be the youngest member of that squad. She picked up a cricket bat only 18 months ago.

Neither player would have earned the right to represent their country so young, if not for a chance encounter with criiio, ICC's street-cricket programme. With limited equipment and without game knowledge, Criiio can be played at any nook and corner of a street — anytime, anywhere, by anyone. "Criiio has just accelerated our growth path. The challenges around equipment and facilities were easily overcome," said Uyi Akpata, president of Nigeria Cricket Federation. "The schools easily adopted the programme and we have conducted it in the strangest of places. Our biggest contributor comes from the Northwestern part of the country, where they had these issues around insurgencies, restrictions for females from playing. Being an entertaining form of the game, it has taken a life of its own around the country."

While T20 cricket condensed the game sufficiently to be introduced to new markets, access to a large playing field, turf wickets and expensive equipment remained huge handicaps. Similar to Baseball Fast Five and FIBA (basketball) 3 on 3 and Park Run (community running), criiio is cricket's gateway strategy to spread awareness about the sport. The curriculum is games-based rather than skill-based. To remove barriers to entry and make it sustainable, the teacher training resource does not require a deep understanding of the game with certification given online.

Now, introduced to a million people around the world from Argentina to Rwanda to Spain, criiio's fastest adoption has been seen in Africa. Taking the programme to remote regions has thrown unexpected results. The next challenge is to see if introduction to cricket translates to feeding talent pipelines, making the second most popular sport in the world truly representative.

"An almost unintended consequence is that it has created a critical mass of kids that love cricket," said Will Glenwright, ICC's head of global development. "Because remember, it's designed purely to provide that fun-first experience. We funnel as many into a participation pipeline. So from a criiio experience into organised hardball cricket, and from there they feed the respective high performance systems of our members."

"So the coaches identify these rare talents," said Akpata. "In each zone, we have high-performance centres where they live in hostels, camp and cook for themselves. Within three months, girls were able to work with better coaches. They could represent their zones at a PWC U17 championships."

In Nigeria, Rwanda and Tanzania, cricket has just been recognised by the government as a priority sport. Cricket's reintroduction to the Olympics has accelerated the growth. Regional multi-sport games like the Africa Games, Asian Games, Pan American Games have begun to recognise cricket. "It changes the conversation that we have with governments and Olympic Committees," said Glenwright. "We've seen in Tanzania, Nigeria and elsewhere, governments give us access to the school curriculum."

The criiio curriculum has also been devised in Mandarin, among other languages, to try and achieve cricket's long-hoped-for aim to crack the Chinese market. It has led to partnerships with universities. Conversations are underway with the government to get cricket into the Chinese national games.

West Indies crush Bangladesh by eight wickets in first Test

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MIRPUR: Brandon King struck a career-best 81 not out as West Indies cruised to an eight-wicket win over Bangladesh in the first Test on Saturday to take a 1-0 lead in the two-match series.

King hit 10 fours and a six in his 115-ball knock to help the visitors chase down the target of 170 in 35.1 overs on the fourth day in Mirpur after Bangladesh were bowled out for 142 in their second innings. Jomel Warrican, who was named Player of the Match, claimed 4/63 to follow up his five-wicket haul in Bangladesh's first innings as the hosts were bowled out in 48.4 overs.

West Indies captain Roston Chase took 5/36 in the second innings, his fifth five-wicket haul in Test cricket.

Bangladesh had resumed the fourth day at 79/6, holding a lead of 106, but their hopes of setting a challenging target suffered an early blow when Jaker Ali edged Warrican to slip, where Chase took the catch.

Jaker, who scored 22 off 34 balls, was the second-highest scorer for Bangladesh in the innings. Nayeem Hasan survived two dropped catches off Chase, on 21 and 29, to keep Bangladesh going. He added 26 runs with Hasan Mahmud before Warrican trapped the latter lbw for eight. Taijul Islam contributed eight in a 17-run partnership with Nayeem before Chase dismissed him to leave Bangladesh at 127/9. Nayeem then reached his maiden Test half-century off 87 balls, with four boundaries, but his resistance ended when he attempted to hit Chase over long-on and was caught by Joshua Bishop.

Brief scores: Bangladesh 272 & 142 (H Hasan 52; R Chase 5/36, J Warrican 4/63) lost to West Indies 245 & 170/2 (B King 81*) by 8 wickets.

Muzumdar urges India women to dominate

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MUMBAI: It is almost one year since the Indian team won a historic first ICC Women's ODI World Cup title. With two days left to mark the first anniversary of that triumph — November 3, 2025 — head coach Amol Muzumdar said he's seen replays of those triumphant matches "over a thousand times".

The Indian women's cricket team has been on an upswing in terms of performances in the last 10 years. The pinnacle came last year when they beat South Africa in the final at the DY Patil Stadium, Navi Mumbai to win their first ever World Cup.

Muzumdar, however, added that the team is not resting on its laurels and that it will not be long before the team starts producing specialists in the T20 format, similar to the Indian men's team.

The Indian men's team earlier this year won a second consecutive T20 World Cup with a team that consisted mostly of players specialising in the shortest format, including the captain at the time.

"We're already on that path and there's some amazing talent coming through," Muzumdar said, at an event organised by the Sports Journalists Association of Mumbai on Saturday.



India chief coach Amol Muzumdar (L) with Harmanpreet Kaur. GETTY IMAGES

"The talent that I've seen at Centre of Excellence (in Bengaluru), where they happen to have the U-15, U-19 and India A camps, are a good reflection of where Indian women's cricket is at the moment. I'm sure it's in a healthy state and there are some terrific players coming through. You'll be surprised how soon they catch up."

Muzumdar, who took over as head coach in 2023, said the rising players are attuned to the demands of professional sport.

"Simple things (my generation) took a long time to adjust to, they are tuned in. They are professionals, even the U-15 players. They understand the nutrition part of the game, the fitness part, the fielding — they are terrific fielders," he said.

The team at the moment is undergoing transition after long-time captain Harmanpreet Kaur was replaced by star batter Smriti Mandhana. Muzumdar has maintained that the goal of the team has always remained the same — dominating the sport. "Dominance is something that we have always spoke about within the squad. Being ruthless on the ground is another thing that we have always maintained," he said.

"From the background where I come from, playing first class cricket (for an all-conquering Mumbai Ranji Trophy team for most of his career), it was similar. I try to inculcate those things and give back. If we start dominating world cricket two years down the line, I would be happy."

Muzumdar played 171 first-class matches across stints with Mumbai, Andhra and Assam, scoring 11,167 runs.

Since he took over, the team has twice failed to cross the group stage of the T20 World Cup, in 2024 and 2026. But they won the ODI World Cup at home last year.

The most heartwarming thing for Muzumdar from the title-winning campaign came off the pitch. "The one thing that I would pinpoint was the unity in the camp and the dressing room atmosphere," he said.

"There was a buzz around in the dressing room, which I loved.

"I've played in such teams in the 1990s where whenever we have done well, the dressing room atmosphere was phenomenal. It was just some kind of a buzz, a trigger. And that reflected on the kind cricket we played on the ground."

The team's next major multination competition is the inaugural ICC Women's Champions Trophy that India will host next year. It will be a T20 tournament and looking at the talent coming through, Muzumdar is upbeat about the future of Indian women's cricket in the format.



Young Indian athlete Shourya Ambure. HT

Shourya turns Youth Olympics dream into reality

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MUMBAI: "Biohack your body."

Shourya Ambure had to Google the term that Murali Sreeshankar used as his principal piece of advice to the 2025 Asian U-18 Athletics Championships bronze medallist.

The 100 metres hurdler was battling through a major knee injury ahead of a key competition, something India's top long jumper only knows all too well. Siddhanth Thingalaya, the former men's hurdles national record holder who trains alongside Shourya in Mumbai, was in touch with Sreeshankar and got the two connected.

"Biohack your body. You need to hack your brain, your body, and tell yourself that you're alright," Shourya recalled Sreeshankar's words. "He told me that it's all about the mind."

Sreeshankar missed the 2024 Paris Olympics after his knee injury. His words motivated Shourya to neither lose hope nor the 2026 Youth Olympics after her knee injury.

In a year that began on an operating table, the 17-year-old got back up and running in time to head to Dakar and represent India in track and field at the Youth Olympics.

The twice silver medallist at last year's Asian Youth Games will compete in the 100m hurdles, in which she has a personal best timing of 13.86 seconds, on November 8.

External motivation played a part in that and so did internal manifestation. Four years ago, when the mention of Youth Olympics popped up on her coach Ajit Kulkarni's phone, the duo targeted the 2026 edition. No matter that the teen from Thane wasn't even competing in U-14 state meets back then.

"It was a big goal, but I believed in it," said Shourya, whose inspiration is American 400m hurdles star Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone.

"I knew that if I wanted to do something big in this sport, I had to go through the experience of such a prestigious stage. We had planned for this for four years."

The injury in December last year almost threw a spanner in the works. Training at the Railway ground in Ghatkopar, Mumbai, Shourya's left leg landed on a small hole on the turf and hit the hurdle. The Anterior Cruciate Ligament (ACL) on her lead leg tore, two months after she had clocked her PB.

"It was really depressing," she said. "Normally, when athletes get injured, they get sad. That was the case with me too. But, in a way, I was happy that I got injured at the right time and not any later. It was still touch and go, but I had some time to recover (for the Youth Olympics)."

On January 1, Shourya underwent surgery at the Aspetar Hospital in Doha. That advice also came from Sreeshankar, who underwent knee surgery at the same hospital in 2024. The teen stayed on crutches for one month before starting to gradually walk and then run after three months. Certain aspects of her rehab were progressing slower than expected and yet she did not stop believing.

"I had a photo of the Youth Olympics on the wall of my room and as my phone wallpaper. I was manifesting being there," Shourya said.

And finding motivation by talking to Sreeshankar and watching videos of Jyothi Yarraji, India's 100m women's hurdles national record holder also returned from a long injury layoff in June.

"I saw her comeback race at the Nationals, which really motivated me," Shourya said.

That was just over a month before her own comeback hurdles race, at a state meet in Nashik.

"One day before the meet, I was not able to reach the hurdles. I got through that race through sheer willpower," she said.

A month on, at the Under-18 Nationals in Ludhiana where she battled illness, Shourya clocked 14.01 seconds in the heats and fell at the 9th hurdle in the final.

The winner, according to Shourya, held a US passport, which forced a retrial to determine the country's Youth Olympics entry in the lone athletics quota. Shourya won in Bengaluru, and realised her Dakar dream.

"Over the past four years, all I could think of was this one competition," said Shourya. "I want to truly enjoy the experience, and give the best for my country, my coach, and myself."