THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2026

The Indian EXPRESS

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Akash, Anant and Isha Ambani

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

The World

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2026

FROM PM TO CARETAKER PM AS RIGHT-WING BLOC IS POISED TO WIN 53 SEATS IN PARLIAMENT, SURPASSING 48 FOR OPPOSITION

Netanyahu survives another day

Arab parties set to win record 19 seats; rival Eisenkot tells security chiefs to resist pressure

Reuters
Jerusalem, October 28

BENJAMIN NETANYAHU looked set to remain Israel's caretaker prime minister after unexpectedly strong backing among Jewish voters left his opponents little prospect of unseating him, despite his right-wing bloc losing its parliamentary majority.

With nearly 86% of votes tallied on Wednesday, Israel's three main broadcasters projected Netanyahu's bloc of right-wing, far-right and ultra-Orthodox parties would win 53 seats in the 120-seat Knesset, well ahead of the 48 for rival Gadi Eisenkot's opposition bloc.

Parties representing Arab Israelis were projected to win an unprecedented 19 seats, leaving Eisenkot little realistic path to power without their broad backing, which many Jewish political leaders reject.

The results could still change as counting continued, but Eisenkot's bloc of anti-Netanyahu parties, ranging from the centre-left to the hard right, had fallen short of pre-election polls that forecast a tight race.



Israeli Prime Minister and Likud party leader Benjamin Netanyahu gestures after the exit polls, at his party headquarters during Israel's national election, in Jerusalem, on Wednesday. REUTERS

Netanyahu would remain caretaker PM during any coalition negotiations and potentially until another election next year. While a caretaker government faces some constraints, experts say it retains powers, including over the war with Iran.

Netanyahu, addressing his Likud party's faithful after 0100 GMT, called for the formation of "a strong, right-wing national government." He highlighted Israel's military successes and raised the prospect of renewed joint military action against Iran alongside his ally, US President Donald Trump, saying the two countries had a "singular historical opportunity" to remove what he called the Iranian threat "once and for all."

Trump, who had urged Israeli voters to keep Netanyahu in power so two leaders could "finish the job" in Iran, said Netanyahu had done "very well" and claimed his endorsement had "helped him a lot." Israel's high-turnout vote was brushed aside by some in the rest of West Asia.

In Tehran, banners with images of slain Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei reminded Iranians of US and Israeli strikes launched in February which kicked off the war. Just to the right was a poster of late Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, who was killed on Netanyahu's orders in Lebanon.

"I genuinely see the possibility of attack," said 50-year-old Iranian citizen Abdollah Karimi.

Outhman Selim, a 62-year-old lawyer, said his hopes that a Netanyahu defeat would steer the country away from the far right had been dashed.

Eisenkot acknowledged that Netanyahu remained caretaker PM but warned that he might use security for political ends. "I call on the heads of the security establishment and the civil service: Netanyahu is a caretaker PM, without a mandate or the people's trust," he said. "Stand firm in the face of any attempt to challenge you."

Israel's President now faces a crucial choice as incumbent fights on

Ephrat Livni
October 28

ISAAC HERZOG, Israel's president, has a largely ceremonial role — except after national elections, when it is his responsibility to choose a potential prime minister and then tasks that person with trying to form a government.

Since Israelis vote for a party or parties rather than an individual, the person who might lead the country is selected after the ballots are counted and parliamentary seats are allocated to parties according to their proportion of the vote.

The president — who is separately elected by the Knesset, Israel's single-chamber legislature — then convenes party leaders to hear their recommendations for prime minister before choosing someone to form a government.

While the president can choose the leader of the party that won the most votes, he can also select another leader who seems more likely to assemble a coalition that can secure a vote of confidence in the Knesset.

In 2009, President Shimon Peres chose Benjamin Netanyahu — the current PM — even though his right-wing Likud party had won fewer votes than the centrist Kadima party.

Early exit polls on Wednesday suggest a tight race between the far-right coalition led by Netanyahu and the center-right opposition bloc that has called for change.

Herzog, whose job is to stay above political fray, is expected to face a difficult decision. He must discern whether the votes show that the majority of Israelis demanded change or if they indicated a preference for another Netanyahu government.

Netanyahu's governing coalition, the most right-wing in Israel's history, has drawn international condemnation, heightened tensions with allies and divided Israelis.

Herzog has criticized what he has called "a terrible process of brutalization" creeping into Israeli society, citing violence by Jewish settlers in occupied West Bank against Palestinians and abuse of detainees in custody, which some far-right ministers in Netanyahu's coalition are accused of encouraging. **NYT**



A screengrab of a video shows an aerial view of carriages on the site of a collision between two trains in Urda, Spain, Wednesday. AP

68 die as 2 high-speed trains collide in Spain

Reuters
Urda (Spain), October 28

AT LEAST 68 people died when two Spanish high-speed trains collided on Wednesday, with rescuers scouring the wreckage for more bodies after Spain's second deadly rail accident this year and Europe's deadliest since 2013.

Spain's transport minister said Wednesday's crash south of Madrid occurred after a Renfe train was authorised to continue its journey despite there being an active red signal because of a stationary train on track ahead.

Oscar Puente told reporters in Madrid that the red signal was issued due to a computer communications failure, which automatically stopped traffic, and an erroneous decision had been made to restart the Renfe train, in a breach of protocol.

Ambulances, funeral home vans and helicopters were parked next to one of the trains on an elevated section of track, while twisted metal, broken panels and wreckage were strewn across an embankment down which at least three carriages had plunged.

The head of Castilla-La Mancha's regional government said the death toll had risen to 68, while rescue workers were still going carriage by carriage looking for other crash victims.

Renfe said in a statement that after being authorised to continue its journey, its train had crashed into the Iryo train that had remained stationary "for reasons we don't know".

"The Renfe train continued on its way as instructed, and a collision occurred. The exact sequence of events, the traffic conditions and the circumstances of the impact will have to be established by probe," Renfe said.

Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said on X: "Shocked by the serious train accident in Toledo. My affection, solidarity, and support to all the victims and their families.

As airstrikes persist, Gaza residents hope Netanyahu exits

Associated Press
Deir Al-Balah, October 28

IN THE southern Gaza Strip, where Israeli airstrikes are still a regular occurrence despite a ceasefire, residents of the city of Khan Younis were following the results of Israel's election closely, hoping that anyone but Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will form the next government.

"All of their policies towards Gaza are tough, but we choose the lesser of two evils," resident Ayman Ahmed said.

Ahmed said that he hoped Netanyahu's main challenger, Gadi Eisenkot, would prevail, noting that he supports US President Donald Trump's road map for Gaza.

The plan calls for disarming the Hamas militant group and installing a new US-backed government. But it also requires Israel to withdraw forces and allow reconstruction to begin.

Netanyahu agreed to the Trump plan, but never carried it out beyond the initial stage of a partial withdrawal and increased aid in exchange for the return of the final hostages, alive and dead, held by Hamas.



Main challenger Gadi Eisenkot

The plan has been largely frozen for nearly a year.

In the rubble-strewn streets near the city's Nasser Hospital, Mohammed Abed said that a Netanyahu win would be seen as a victory for his agenda, but that he didn't expect major changes no matter who is in power. "An Eisenkot victory will not dramatically change the situation, because their policies are almost similar," Abed said.

Underscoring Abed's pessimism, two strikes in Khan Younis on Wednesday killed one man and injured at least six other people, according to health officials at Nasser Hospital.

Hasan al-Masri, who was displaced from his home in Beit Hanoun in northern Gaza, said: "We pray to God that these elections bring a positive outcome for us," he said. "We have been devastated; nothing remains. They have killed our children, destroyed our homes, and everything we had is gone."

The future of Gaza was barely an issue in the Israeli election campaign, and the only major candidate to talk in favor of the two-state solution was Yair Golan, the head of the small Democrats party.

Asked whether the possibility of a future Palestinian state was something that people in Gaza were hoping for, Ahmed said "only people outside Gaza care about these topics" and that their main concern was finding enough food to eat.

He said he feared a Netanyahu win would bring more war, however, and more suffering. "We support any effort to bring down Netanyahu," Ahmed said.

UK Budget: Households to get support with energy bills in the face of Iran war

London: British Treasury chief John Healey used his first budget statement Wednesday to offer households and businesses support with their energy bills this winter in the face of what he termed "global economic storms."

Healey said the Iran war was not something the British government wanted but it had no alternative but to deal with economic repercussions. As a result, he said his "choice in the budget today is to give families and businesses some breathing space now," as the consequences of the conflict in the Gulf played out.

"For families, that means higher prices at the pump, higher energy bills and higher mortgages," he said.

"For businesses, higher running costs and more expensive loans. And the impact is felt in the public finances too. Among the support measures announced, was a $133 one-off payment this winter that will help 20 million lower- and middle-income households.

Healey said the banks, which have benefited from higher interest rates, will foot the bill for the support package. "Amid global economic storms, I am looking to our banks to help fund breathing space for British families," he said. **AP**

Flavio Bolsonaro, family secretly land in Miami after US offers entry visa

Reuters
Miami, October 28



Brazilian Senator Flavio Bolsonaro

BRAZILIAN SENATOR Flavio Bolsonaro and his family arrived in Miami on Wednesday, where the United States government will grant them entry visas after he refused to comply with a Brazilian Supreme Court order to surrender his passports.

Bolsonaro, who lost Sunday's presidential election to leftist incumbent Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, left Brazil under a shroud of secrecy after the court order, which relates to a money-laundering investigation in which he denies wrongdoing.

Reuters TV images showed Bolsonaro, his wife and two daughters disembarking from the Gulfstream G400 and heading into Miami-Opa Locka Executive Airport.

Their journey to the United States captured attention across the region. They entered northern Argentina late on Tuesday evening, according to the country's migration department, and then took a private jet to the Ecuadorean city of Guayaquil. From there, they flew to Miami.

Neither Argentina's presidency, Ecuadorean ministries nor Baires Fly, the operator of the private jet, responded to requests for comment.

Trump told reporters on Wednesday that he would approve of Bolsonaro coming to the United States, after his State Department said it would give them entry visas.

Trump has previously alleged that Flavio's father, former President Jair Bolsonaro, was a victim of judicial persecution in Brazil.

President of UAE honours Capt Machchhar, flydubai crew for bravery during mid-air attack

Press Trust of India
Dubai, October 28

UAE PRESIDENT Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan has conferred the First Class Order of Zayed II on Indian Captain Smit Machchhar and fellow flydubai crew members in recognition of their courageous efforts to ensure passenger safety during an attempted mid-air attack aboard a Dubai-Tel Aviv flight.

The medals were presented by Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, who commended the crew's actions and sense of responsibility, Dubai Media Office said in a statement on Tuesday. Machchhar and the flydubai crew members received the award at the presidential reception.

The incident occurred on September 30 aboard flydubai flight FZ1073, which was travelling from Dubai to Tel Aviv with more than 170 people on board.



UAE President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Prime Minister Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum and others meet flydubai Captain Smit Machchhar in Dubai on Wednesday. Machchhar was conferred the First Class Order of Zayed II in recognition of his courageous effort to ensure passenger safety. PTI

Machchhar was seriously injured when his co-pilot attacked him with a crash axe kept in the cockpit for emergencies. Bleeding on the floor, he mustered his remaining strength to activate the cockpit door release.

That allowed passengers and crew to overpower the co-pilot and enable a second pair of flydubai pilots who were on board to land the jet in Tabuk.

The Omani co-pilot was taken into custody.

• BRIEFLY

UNITED STATES

Dolores Huerta, US labor leader, dies at 96

DOLORES HUERTA, who co-founded the United Farm Workers with Cesar Chavez and fought legislators and powerful growers in US to improve the lives of powerless constituency, died on Wednesday at the age of 96, her family said. Huerta was one of the foremost women in US labor history, serving the UFW as chief negotiator, strike organizer, lobbyist and reformer. REUTERS

UNITED STATES

Life magazine coming back to life — in print

NEARLY TWO decades after its last reincarnation folded, *Life* magazine is coming back to life. The iconic magazine, known for its red-box logo, will begin publishing next month as a quarterly print magazine. It returns to a fractured media landscape worlds away from its mid-century heights of acclaim, before internet, social media and AI upended publishing business model. **NYT**

• 3 YEARS AT SEA, PRICE OF A SUITE STARTING AT $230,000 — 'FLOATING HOME' NOW DOCKED AT CAMBODIAN PORT AS IRAN WAR PUSHES UP MONTHLY FUEL EXPENSES PER CABIN FROM $1,800 TO $6,000-8,000

Around-the-world US cruise ship ends voyage due to fuel costs, 200 passengers stranded

Associated Press
Sihanoukville (Cambodia), October 28

A US cruise ship on an around-the-world voyage that touted its cabins as floating homes suspended its three-year voyage in Cambodia due to fuel costs, forcing hundreds of passengers to disembark.

The *MV Odyssey* set sail two years ago on a voyage to the seven continents marketed as combining long-term living at sea with global travel. Its operator had offered to "make the Odyssey your permanent home," with the purchase price of a suite for the lifetime of the vessel starting around $230,000.

For now, it is docked at the Cambodian port of Sihanoukville on the Gulf of Thailand, with no certain departure date.

The ship has been carrying 203 passengers, mostly Americans, along with 156 crew members, according to Cambodian officials. It has a 650-passenger capacity.

Its Florida-based operator, Villa Vie Residences, said monthly fuel expenses per cabin that historically averaged $1,800 have reached an estimated $6,000 to $8,000 in parts of Asia due to the war in Iran. The company said it sought to reduce fuel consumption by slowing the itinerary and spending more time in port, but was unable to offset the surging costs.

Traffic has been curtailed in the Strait of Hormuz since the war in Iran began, squeezing supplies of all kinds of petroleum-based fuels, especially in Southeast Asia, and sharply increasing prices.

"We have been unable to continue carrying the resulting operating losses," Villa Vie Residences said in a statement issued Tuesday. "Passing the full increase on to residents is not a realistic solution. Our focus now is on supporting residents, crew, and employees" while it tries to restructure.

"The company is working with residents to coordinate disembarkation and identify living arrangements," it said.



The *Villa Vie Odyssey* cruise ship docked at Sihanoukville Autonomous Port in Preah Sihanouk province in Cambodia, on Wednesday. REUTERS

Passengers however, said they received no support and had to make their own arrangements after being given seven hours notice on Tuesday to disembark. Some were devastated and expressed hope a new company could rescue the venture so life at sea can continue.

Paul and Lynn Montoya, a retired couple from Wyoming, said they bought a window cabin and had expected to sail for years. They boarded the ship 17 months ago in Panama. Paul praised the concept of residential cruising but said the ship-owner lacked expertise to make business financially sustainable.

While rising fuel costs had been cited publicly as the reason for suspension, he said the company had already been struggling. Changes to itinerary, unreliable internet access and declining food quality had pushed many residents to leave in recent months, he said.

Lynn said residents were repeatedly asked to contribute additional money for fuel and other expenses, including a fresh call to raise funds for fuel to get out of Cambodia. She said the crew members were also not paid. "We were tired of every two to four weeks being asked for money for fuel, money for everything," she said. "We had hopes but they just kept sinking further and further into the hole through mismanagement."

The company could not be contacted for comment.

Yet for some, even the financial and logistical turmoil couldn't outweigh the extraordinary experience of travelling the world and living at sea.

Carol Larson, 69, and her sister Crystal Lavering, 72, occupied separate cabins aboard the ship for 18 months. The siblings, from California, described the suspension as heartbreaking, and hoped the cruise would be resuscitated.

"You come to this ship to live and it's just sad that it's all over." Larson bought her cabin for $120,000, paid in installments, in addition to monthly maintenance fees, under a plan that had promised the possibility of living aboard for up to 15 years.

She said she blamed US President Donald Trump for the ship's woes as fuel costs spiked due to the Iran war, in addition to poor management.

The Ideas Page: Before UP polls, let's ask: Does voter list meet criteria of completeness, equity, accuracy? 11

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Happening today

• **CM REVANTH** Reddy will take part in Invest Telangana Global Summit curtain-raiser in Delhi.

TRACK THIS AND MORE ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

PUJA PASS 'SCAM'

Summoned by ED, ex-Mamata minister held by Kolkata Police



Indranil Sen outside the ED office in Kolkata, Wednesday. EXPRESS

Tanusree Bose
Kolkata, October 28

TMC LEADER and former West Bengal tourism and culture minister Indranil Sen was arrested by Kolkata Police late Wednesday evening, a senior police officer said.

Earlier on Wednesday evening, Sen was detained by the Kolkata Police for questioning in the Puja pass case, after he appeared before the Enforcement Directorate in connection with a money laundering probe in the same matter. He was questioned by the ED for at least four hours before the police team

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

NOT PASSING ANY DEADLINE EXTENSION ORDER, EXPECT ECI TO ACT ON ITS OWN: CJI-LED BENCH

Legality of logical discrepancy not decided yet: SC hears SIR challenge

Consider extending deadlines for submission of enumeration, claim and objection forms in Delhi, Bench tells poll panel

Ananthakrishnan G
New Delhi, October 28

HEARING PETITIONS challenging the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Delhi, the Supreme Court Wednesday said it is yet to decide the constitutionality of including "logical discrepancy" as a ground to remove voters from the rolls, and that it was not an issue before it when it upheld the legality of the Bihar SIR.

A three-judge bench, comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, Justice Joymalya Bagchi and Justice V Mohana, asked the Election Commission of India (ECI) to consider allowing voters deleted from the draft electoral rolls in Delhi, who could not fill the enumeration forms, to submit the forms. The enumeration form submission deadline was August 17.

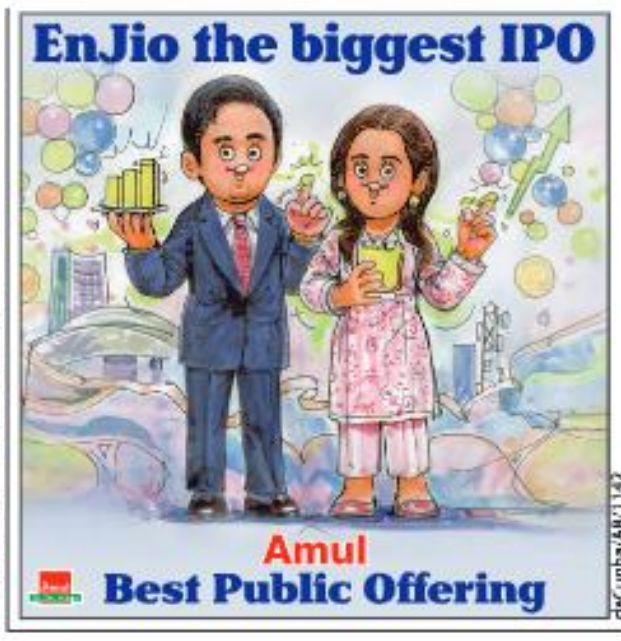
The bench said that such people should be allowed to continue to submit the enumeration form if they had only moved temporarily like being out of Delhi on official or personal engagement etc, or Form 8 if they had shifted residence to a different address within Delhi.

The ECI, on its part, agreed to look into the suggestion and assured orally that it will extend the October 30 deadline for submission of claim and objection forms.

The ECI had not mentioned "logical discrepancy" in its orders starting the SIR in Bihar on June 24, 2025 as well as the orders extended to other states on October 27, 2025 and May 14, 2026. But as the SIR rolled out, the ECI deployed a centralised software to flag discrepancies on the basis of the electoral rolls and the documents submitted by the electors.

In the second phase of the SIR in nine states, including West Bengal, and three UTs, records from CEO offices showed that there were six categories, including those with

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Jio Platforms makes a strong debut, lists at 21% premium over IPO price

Akash Mandal
Mumbai, October 28

SHARES OF Jio Platforms listed on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) Wednesday at Rs 1,358 a share, a premium of 21.3% from the issue price of Rs 1,119, concluding the public issue.

At this price, the issue garnered a market capitalisation of around Rs 12.5 lakh crore and matched the listing-day premium of 20-25% expected by analysts in comparison to the stock's price in the unlisted grey market.

The stock eventually ended up 4.5% from its listing price at Rs 1,419, with a market cap of Rs 13.1 lakh crore. Its biggest rival, Bharti Airtel, currently has a market cap of Rs 12.2 lakh crore.

The listing ceremony at NSE was attended by key figures from the Ambani family including Mukesh Ambani, Nita Ambani, Akash Ambani, Anant Ambani and Isha Ambani.

Jio Platforms MD Akash Ambani said future technologies like AI and cloud will power the next phase of growth

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

How listing helped Reliance group edge past Tatas, Adanis EXPLAINED

Business as Usual
By EP UNNY



INSIDE PAGE 8



BJP FIELDS HARDEEP PURI FROM MP BEFORE HIS RS TERM ENDS

MLC ELECTIONS FOR 28 SEATS

Cong routed in polls with ballot papers, PM's swipe: Guess how many it won

Lalmani Verma & Shubhangi Khapre
Lucknow, Mumbai, Oct 28

AS THE BJP-led NDA won a majority of the seats in the Legislative Council elections held for 28 seats across four states, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Wednesday took a swipe at the Congress over its dismal show despite the use of paper ballots. Objecting to the use of EVMs, Opposition parties have been demanding a return to the paper ballot.

In a post on X, Modi said, "MLC elections in 28 seats across 4 big states — Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar and Karnataka. Elections held using ballot papers. Guess how many seats Congress won?".

Of the 28 seats, the NDA won 16 including 13 by the BJP,

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



BJP celebrates in Karnataka's Hubballi, Wednesday. PTI

Rahul says Tata being 'criminally destroyed', FM slams bid to 'incite'

Business leaders don't need incitement, says LoP as they spar amid Tata boardroom battle

Asad Rehman & George Mathew
New Delhi, Mumbai, Oct 28

LEADER OF Opposition Rahul Gandhi said Wednesday that the "Tata (Group) is being criminally destroyed, and no business leader dares say a word". This drew a sharp response from Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman who told him to "refrain from politicising every issue" and asked him if he was "trying to incite" business leaders to join him in "spreading distrust" and "toxicity".

Amid the ongoing boardroom battle in the Tata Group, Gandhi, in a post on X, said, "Tata is being criminally destroyed, and no business leader dares say a word. How long will you stay silent? Until they own

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Sitharaman, Gandhi in war of words on social media platform





Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with US Secretary of War Pete Hegseth on the margins of ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting Plus grouping in Cebu, Philippines, Wednesday. PTI

Hegseth meets Rajnath, reaffirms US support to India's fight against cross-border terrorism

Press Trust of India
New Delhi, October 28

DEFENCE MINISTER Rajnath Singh and US Secretary of War Pete Hegseth on Wednesday reviewed the progress of a 10-year India-US defence framework pact that seeks to drive strategic convergence in critical technologies, information sharing, and co-production of military hardware.

In Singh's talks with Hegseth at Cebu, Philippines, he stressed that the global community must maintain an "uncompromising, zero-tolerance approach" towards nations that support, train, or fund terrorist organisations, according to an Indian readout.

Hegseth reaffirmed the United States' unwavering solidarity and support to India in its fight against cross-border terrorism and Singh expressed India's "deep appreciation" for consistent and strong support extended by the US, it said. The two sides reviewed situation in Indo-Pacific and the fast evolving regional security dynamics.

The main focus of the talks was learnt to be on taking stock of the progress on implementation of the India-US defence framework pact that was inked in October last year. It has set an ambitious roadmap to further bolster defence partnership between the two strategic partners.

Hegseth and Singh are in Cebu to attend a meeting of a grouping of nations comprising ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) member states and some of its dialogue partners.

In a social media post, the defence minister described his talks with Hegseth as "excellent".

"We reviewed the progress of our 10-year India-US Defence Framework, driving strategic convergence across military technology, information sharing, and co-production. Our robust partnership continues to be a cornerstone for a free, open, and secure Indo-Pacific," he said.

The US Secretary of War, on his part, said: "Great meeting with Indian Minister of Defence Singh. We celebrated the one-year anniversary of the Framework for our Major Defense Partnership and explored ways to strengthen cooperation."

The defence ministry said both sides noted the robust progression of their foundational security agreements and explored fresh pathways to accelerate operational readiness, technology sharing and defence industrial integration while reflecting on the ongoing collaboration.

"Both leaders also reviewed the progress of the 10-year India-US defence framework and concluded by reaffirming their shared commitment to further elevate the India-US defence relationship to strategic convergence," it said.

"The discussions touched upon advancing military-to-military exchanges, augmenting maritime security collaboration, and integrating robust defence supply chains to further deepen and expand ongoing defence industry collaboration," the defence ministry said.

An American readout said Singh and Hegseth hailed the one-year anniversary of the US-India major defence partnership and "took stock of progress on operational coordination, information sharing, and defense industrial cooperation".

'Digital arrest is digital dacoity': SC says offenders must be dealt with ruthlessly

Express News Service
New Delhi, October 28

WHILE REVIEWING a plea to see all FIRs registered against a company across several states for cybercrime consolidated in Delhi, the Supreme Court on Wednesday said incidents of digital arrests amounted to "digital dacoity" and mooted "ruthless" treatment of offenders.

"You must be aware, in matters of digital arrest, how strong a view we have taken. Given a chance, we will not allow an accused in a digital arrest case to be released on bail by any court... Given a chance, we will set aside the bail order because this is the newest crime being committed against senior citizens, retired people... by these ruthless criminals. And they must be dealt with in the most ruthless manner," Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant, presiding over a three-judge bench comprising Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana, said.

"If the law has any scope to really punish them before trial, that must also be adopted... (given) the nature of the crime they are committing... In the Supreme Court bar itself, there are some victims...", the CJI said.

CJI Kant also said, "This, in our considered opinion, is prima facie dacoity. It is digital dacoity."

When the counsel said his client's 16-year-old company, as per the prosecution, was used as a mule account and is not a shell company, the CJI said that it is still a matter of investigation and that, if found innocent, he will be exonerated.

On consolidation of the FIRs, the counsel said that the proceeds of the crime have been received in the territorial jurisdiction of Delhi and, as such, all cases can be consolidated here.

To this, CJI Kant said, "It is not where the proceeds of the crime are received that will determine the jurisdiction, but where the victim has been victimised. We have to see the jurisdiction here keeping the victim in mind, not the accused."

Justice Mohana pointed out that the crime spans 11 states.

Justice Bagchi said, "It's an organised crime racket and wherever the crime has been committed, there is a right to prosecute you... We don't think your right of aggregation overrides inconvenience to the victims or the investigative agencies..."

"Should we drag all the victims across the country to Delhi because you claim that you were the victim of some persuasion by the bigger stakeholders in this organised crime activity and thereby you are not only a foot soldier in the crime, now you are being used as a foot soldier to derail the investigation across the country," he added.

The Judge said that the court will consider if the investigative agency says consolidating all cases in Delhi is convenient.

[FROM PAGE 1 | FULL REPORTS ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM]

Legality of logical discrepancy not decided: SC

six or more siblings, spelling mismatch with own name or parents' name in the documents and age gap of less than 15 years or more than 50 years between an elector and a parent. In the third phase, which was started in May this year, the categories were expanded to 11.

While hearing the plea by activists Anjali Bharadwaj and Amrita Johri, when Senior Advocate D S Naidu, appearing for the ECI, referred to the Bihar SIR, Justice Bagchi said, "In Bihar SIR, we said there are certain residual powers of ECI and particularly in respect of embarking on Special Intensive Revision. So you can't touch Form 6. Form 6, 7, 8 are cast in stone. You cannot make any change in them. But yes, you can add to those forms."

He said that in the Delhi scenario, the Commission "could instead of asking for a form, have asked for a declaration by the person... (as to) why he did not respond to (enumeration form)."

Justice Bagchi said Bihar "cannot be a binding precedent because in Bihar, ECI had not undertaken logical discrepancy as a category. We have permitted you in West Bengal as an interim arrangement. We have not finally adjudicated on the legality of logical discrepancy."

"We do not want to make any further comments as these matters are so unnecessarily commented upon. These statements we make are not conclusive. There are difficulties in every sensitive matter where entire dialectics become strained due to out of context publication of judicial proceedings," he said.

He wondered how an entry in the 2003 list, drawn up after the then SIR, can be reopened citing logical discrepancy. "Your scheme is that in 2003, everything was looked into in Special Intensive Revision. From 2003 to 2026, we have got summary revisions but not SIR. If that is so, a man in the 2003 list, how can this SIR reopen his entry on logical discrepancy?" Justice Bagchi said.

"What we are saying is a question which never fell for decision in the Bihar judgement, what we find is everyone shows the Bihar judgement and says everything is decided. You are arguing we have been under judicial review, so everything has been decided," he said.

Naidu said his reference to Bihar was that thereafter, as the SIR progressed, each state threw up its own challenges and the ECI devised ways to deal with those.

Appearing for the petitioners, Advocate Prashant Bhushan submitted that a press note issued by the ECI Tuesday said "at the start of SIR, 1,45,10,299 no. of electors were enrolled in the electoral rolls of NCT of Delhi. 100% distribution of Enumeration Forms was achieved during this phase from 30.6.2026 to 17.8.2026. As on 17.8.2026, a total of 97,53,577 no. of electors submitted their Enumeration forms. 47,56,722 electors did not return the Enumeration forms on account of being Absent, Shifted, Dead or Duplicate electors."

He said that out of 97,53,577 electors of the draft electoral roll, 19,34,243 electors were issued notice on ground of logical discrepancy identified by the system but "they have never defined in any document, anywhere, what they consider logical discrepancy".

Naidu said it was already done in West Bengal.

Justice Bagchi told the ECI counsel, "What you have done is you have created patterns. We will have to examine whether creating patterns is an application of mind by a human agency. There was no application of mind by a human agency. We don't want to make a comment here... We would like to consider that issue. Bihar SIR never considered logical discrepancy."

"It was done for the first time in West Bengal. And because of the fact that there were some issues which we had already gone into, we had permitted you...That does not mean that we have finally decided on it," he said.

On the Delhi SIR, the CJI told Naidu that in a big city like Delhi, there is a fluctuating population which keeps shifting work places depending on where people get some livelihood. "Instead of putting the burden on them to approach you, you approach them," he said.

"When you say enumeration form has been given (to the voters), then you are presuming that the address which was mentioned last time, the person is still residing there. But he is not," the CJI said.

Naidu said if somebody shifts, the procedure is that the person has to inform so that the list will be updated. If the person does not, the records will show the old address.

The CJI said when it's election season, people become active, and those who may have shifted residence will try to find out where their vote is. "But now when there are no elections and people are busy, don't expect that they will inform the authorities that they have shifted."

"Your one statement or circular in simple vernacular language and English can clarify that Form 6 is required to be filled up only by those who are first-time, want to register as voters in Delhi. (Not) those who were in the list of 2026, and those who have now not been able to fill up a form by virtue of the fact that they have either permanently or temporarily shifted... or, may be, were out of Delhi," the CJI said.

Justice Bagchi said that calling upon a voter, who was in the rolls earlier but got deleted, is an "error".

"You call upon him to fill a Form 6 declaring my name was never in the voter list, which is an error. You ask him for a further declaration, when were you born, where is your father, where is the connection etc etc. We understand your de nowo enquiry. But if you are relating back only to 2003 (rolls prepared after the then SIR), this exercise is understandable, because you have erased all lists post 2003. So everyone is a new voter. So then, your Form 6 or whatever you are asking for should say my name is not included in the 2003 voter list. But if you take 2026 (voter roll) as your cut-off and someone has shifted, then you have to permit them Form 8," he said.

Posting the matter for hearing again after two weeks, the bench said it is not issuing any order to extend the October 30 deadline and expects the ECI to act on its own.

"Discuss with your authorities. Make sure how you continue to invite both Form 6 and Form 8. Don't go by any cut-off as of now. Nothing is taking place in Delhi. So you continue to invite them. Issue some public notice in newspapers, online etc that this is a continuing process, there is no cut-off date, people can anytime submit Form 6 or Form 8. In Form 6, whatever document they will attach, you can verify. In Form 8 also, you can verify the documents," the CJI said.

Naidu said, "In two weeks, whatever steps we take, we will come to Your Lordships. In the meanwhile, the time would also be extended. We will ensure that."

PM's swipe at Cong

with counting still underway for two seats in UP. The Congress, which could win only one seat in Maharashtra's Nagpur, drew a blank in party-ruled Karnataka, where the BJP and its ally JD(S) swept all the four graduates and teachers seats.

In UP, where the high-stakes Assembly elections are just months away, the BJP won six of the 11 MLC seats, and the SP three.

In Karnataka, the Congress took a drubbing, losing all four seats with the BJP retaining three and the JD(S) winning one seat.

The BJP registered victory in North East Teachers, South East Graduates and West Graduates constituencies, defeating the Congress candidates. The JD(S) wrested the Bengaluru Teachers' constituency from the Congress.

While the outcome will not have an impact on the Congress's majority in the 75-member Upper House, where the party has 38 MLCs, it has boosted the Opposition coalition, which is likely to step up its pressure on the D K Shivakumar-led government in the coming days.

The BJP-JD(S) hailed the MLC poll results as a victory against the "Congress misrule" in the state. Calling the NDA's win "historic", senior JD(S) leader and Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy said it also sent a message for the state Assembly elections due in 2028.

In Maharashtra, however, the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) made a comeback, winning three of the five seats while the ruling BJP-led Mahayuti won two.

The Sharad Pawar-led NCP (SP), a constituent of the MVA, won the Pune and Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar Graduates constituencies. The BJP won the Pune Teachers seat while its ally Shiv Sena retained the Amravati Teachers constituency.

In Nagpur, the incumbent Congress MLC in the Graduates seat, Abhijit Vanjari, managed to retain it, defeating the BJP's Sudhakar Kohle after a contest that went down to the wire. Nagpur is the home turf of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis.

In Bihar, the Prashant Kishor-led Jan Suraaj Party (JSP) registered its first win in the MLC polls, where the BJP won three seats and Independents got two with the JD(U) and the Opposition RJD securing one seat each.

The JSP's Suresh Prasad Rai defeated sitting Congress MLC Madan Mohan Jha by 324 votes in the Darbhanga Teachers seat.

In the Patna Graduates constituency, the JD(U)'s Neeraj Kumar defeated the RJD candidate despite opposition from expelled JD(U) leader Anant Singh. In the Tirhut Teachers seat, the BJP's Narendra Prasad Singh trounced his nearest rival, Independent nominee Bhushan Kumar Jha.

The BJP's sitting MLC from Patna Teachers seat, Nawal Kishor Yadav, however, lost to the RJD's Sanjiv Kumar. In the Saran Teachers seat, sitting Independent MLC Afaq Ahmed was defeated by Independent candidate Rahul Raj. Independent candidate Bansidhar Brijwasi retained Tirhut Graduate constituency. The BJP also won Darbhanga and Kosi Graduates constituencies.

In UP, SP's Mansingh Yadav was declared elected from the Allahabad-Jhansi Graduates constituency. BJP's Manvendra Pratap Singh won the Agra Graduates seat. The party also retained the Bareilly-Moradabad Teachers seat, with its candidate Hari Singh Dhillon defeating SP nominee Danish Akhtar.

BJP's Umesh Dwivedi defeated the SP's Sushil Kumar by 6,992 votes in the Lucknow Teachers constituency. In Meerut, the BJP won both the Teachers and Graduates seats.

In the Gorakhpur-Faizabad division Teachers constituency, BJP's Dhruv Kumar Tripathi won the seat. SP's Lal Bihari Yadav retained the Varanasi Teachers constituency by defeating its nominee, with SP's Ashutosh Sinha also leading in the Varanasi Graduates seat. The SP was also leading in the Lucknow Graduates seat.

In the Agra Teachers seat, SP's Akash Agrawal defeated BJP candidate Hari Kishore Tiwari. The Congress and the BSP did not contest the MLC polls in UP as they said that they wanted to focus on preparations for the 2027 Assembly polls.

In Maharashtra, the NCP drew a blank in the MLC elections, losing the Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar Graduates seat held by its sitting MLC Satish Chavan to NCP(SP) candidate Pratapsinh Patil.

The results prompted senior NCP leader Praful Patel to call for introspection within the party. "Today's Vidhan Parishad election results serve as a definitive wake-up call. The time has come for urgent introspection to rebuild trust, realign our priorities, and fix our organisational structure," Patel said in an X post.

Although Patel did not name any leader, his remarks came amid questions raised over the Sunetra Pawar-led party's leadership and organisational functioning. Earlier, NCP state president Sunil Tatkare also described the MLC results as a "collective failure".

In Pune Teachers seat, BJP candidate Kaustubh Gawde defeated sitting Congress MLC Jayant Asagaonkar. The Amravati Teachers constituency saw sitting Shiv Sena MLC Kiran Sarnaik retain his seat. The results also triggered a political row over use of ballot papers. Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut said, "When polls are held on the ballot paper, BJP-led Mahayuti cannot sweep elections."

Ex-TMC minister Sen arrested

detained him and took him to Lal Bazar for questioning. On Thursday, Sen will be produced before the court, where the police will seek his custody for further investigation.

The ED had summoned Sen at its Kolkata office in connection with its probe into alleged financial irregularities in holding Durga Puja preview shows and the sale of passes between 2022 and 2025.

According to police sources, Sen did not comply with the police summons and had instead moved the Calcutta High Court where his anticipatory bail was rejected. He then moved the Supreme Court, where the matter is yet to be heard. Police sources said they received a tip-off that Sen will be appearing before the ED on Wednesday, and a huge police contingent moved to the CGO complex, where Sen was picked up at around 5 pm by the Kolkata Police Detective Department Special Cell and taken to Lal Bazar, where he was questioned and later arrested.

In June this year, an FIR was filed against the former TMC minister, his wife Madhuchanda Sen, and officials of MassArt Society over allegations of illegally selling high-priced Durga Puja preview tickets and privileged passes using the name and logo of UNESCO. The case originated from a complaint lodged by one Jaideep Mukherjee at Bowbazar police station in Kolkata.

The accused allegedly formed MassArt Society in 2022 and falsely claimed an official partnership with UNESCO to market high-priced donor passes and pre-Puja entry tickets for personal and financial gains. They were booked under relevant sections of the BNS, including criminal breach of trust, cheating, forgery, using forged documents, and criminal conspiracy.

The Mahanirban Road MassArt Society is an NGO founded in 2022, focused on art and culture in West Bengal.

Speaking to The Indian Express on Wednesday, a senior police officer said, "The exact amount of alleged cheating and money trail is still being verified... No precise figure can be commented at present. But he has been arrested, and a complaint has been made that the amount is around Rs 34 crore."

The Enforcement Directorate had earlier said that during the investigation, the agency found that a sum of nearly Rs 30 lakh was transferred via banking channels to former chief minister Mamata Banerjee, which, Indranil Sen has claimed, was paid in the form of royalty.

In September, the ED had raided 15 premises across Kolkata in connection with the case, including the residential and office premises of Sen and office bearers of the MassArt Society. MassArt Society has Madhuchhanda Sen as its president, Dhrubajyoti Bose as secretary, Sayantan Mitra as vice-President and Ranjan Chatterjee as treasurer, the ED said.

The investigation has revealed that over a two-year period (2023 and 2024) alone, more than one lakh Puja preview tickets were issued, the agency said. According to the ED, during search and seizure proceedings, incriminating digital devices and documentary evidence were found and seized under appropriate provisions, and further investigation is under progress.

BJP's door closed to Sen, says Suvendu

Addressing a press conference after chairing a Cabinet meeting on Wednesday, Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari reacted to Sen's arrest.

Adhikari said, "Investigation was going on for a long time both by the ED and Kolkata Police, they must have got evidence. I have nothing to say on this... Former CM (Mamata Banerjee) may also have a share, he used to roam around in her car and also sing with her." Adhikari then sang a song, adding, "I also heard the last song: 'Amar jabar somoy holo, dao bidai' (It is time for me to go, bid me farewell)."

Alleging that Sen had illegally taken money during his tenure as a minister in the previous TMC government, Adhikari said: "He used to take money out of the envelopes of singers, he has huge property. He has taken money from the Information Technology Department in the name of his wife's event management company. He has built a farmhouse in Singur. We did not even get more living space than our two-room flat."

Adhikari added: "He was the blue-eyed boy of the CPI(M). He was associated with the NGO of the late former CM's daughter. He changes shape from time to time, just as water takes the shape of its container... He had started praising us after the change of government. That will not work with us; the BJP's door is closed (for him)."

"We knew that Mamata and Indranil were complementary to each other. It would be wrong to say that he profited alone. Just as he used to feed and benefit from the CPI(M) earlier... He was the CPI(M)'s biggest campaigner. Likewise, he also fed and benefitted from Mamata. All institutional thieves will have to go to jail," the CM said.

Rahul vs Sitharaman

you? Indian business is not Modi and Shah's plaything. You lack courage. We don't. We will ensure justice for these crimes."

Reminding Gandhi that he is the Leader of the Opposition, Sitharaman said, "I suggest you refrain from politicising every issue. Also, casually labelling commercial and legal matters as criminal is unacceptable."

"You have repeatedly decried the successes of Indian industry & our entrepreneurs. Now, are you trying to incite our business leaders to join you in spreading distrust & toxicity? For decades, your party had smothered the spirit of the Indian entrepreneurs under the stifling 'Licence-Quota Raj' & inflicted poverty on crores of Indians," she said.

Underlining that the Modi government "values the Indian industry as job creators & drivers of economic growth," she said, "Our policies have been tailored to enable enterprise, support industry and encourage investment."

"Political parties, leaders, governments and institutions share an equal responsibility to support our industry, strengthen our farmers and secure the future of our youth. Therefore, it is essential to engage constructively rather than casting baseless aspersions to suit your narrow political motives," she said.

"The Constitution of India ensures justice to all its citizens & our Honourable Courts are entrusted with upholding it. History is witness to the shoddy manner in which you, your party and the PMs belonging to your party have demeaned the judiciary. So Rahul ji, refrain from seeing ghosts everywhere," Sitharaman said.

Gandhi responded by asking Sitharaman "which 'legal and commercial matter' required Tata Trusts and Tata Sons to be hosted at Amit Shah's residence". "When is crony number 1 going to appear in the game and which pieces of Tata is he going to get? Finally, all India's businesses except 3-4 of your cronies, already hate all of you and don't need any incitement," he said.

The Tata Group is facing one of its most serious governance battles in recent years with a widening rift between Tata Trusts chairman Noel Tata and the board of Tata Sons, the conglomerate's principal holding company. The dispute has raised fundamental questions about who exercises effective control over one of India's most prominent business groups.

The conflict intensified in September 2026 when the Tata Sons board approved a fresh five-year term for chairman N Chandrasekaran and moved towards pursuing a stock market listing. Noel Tata opposed both decisions, arguing that they conflicted with the position taken by Tata Trusts and raised questions about the board's authority and decision-making process.

Venu Srinivasan and Vijay Singh, both trustees of Tata Trusts, had approached the Charity Commissioner raising governance issues in Tata Trusts. The Tata Sons AGM was postponed due to lack of quorum.

Tata Trusts collectively hold approximately 66 per cent of Tata Sons, giving them a majority ownership stake and substantial influence over the group's governance. Noel Tata became chairman of Tata Trusts after Ratan Tata's death in October 2024. Since then, differences have emerged over trustee appointments, board representation, and the group's future direction.

A major point of contention is whether Tata Sons should remain privately held or list its shares on the stock exchanges. In March 2024, the Tata Sons board unanimously supported keeping the company unlisted. The two principal Tata Trusts subsequently reaffirmed that position in resolutions passed in 2025.

The Reserve Bank of India's September 2026 decision to reject Tata Sons' application to surrender its registration brought the issue back into focus. The company's classification as an upper-layer non-banking financial company has regulatory implications, including a potential listing requirement. Noel Tata argued that the RBI communication did not explicitly mandate a listing and that the company should explore alternative solutions.

The dispute has also centred on Chandrasekaran's reappointment. Tata Trusts, led by Noel Tata, questioned the validity of the board's decision, particularly the chairman's casting vote after Noel Tata opposed the proposal while fellow Trusts nominee Venu Srinivasan supported it.

Jio Platforms

for the company.

"In our first 10 years, we democratised data, bringing hundreds of millions into digital life. In our next 10 (years), we want to democratise every technology that can transform Indian lives: AI, cloud, connected devices, connectivity even from space, and digital services not yet imagined," he said.

"My heart overflows with gratitude. Gratitude to every individual, every institutional investor in India and abroad, who made our IPO a blockbuster success," he said, promising to take the company to greater heights, with the IPO being just a "starting line". With this issue, Jio became the group's 12th company to get listed on the stock exchanges. Shares of Reliance Industries ended at Rs 1,158 on the NSE, down 3.2%. Bharti Airtel lost 1.6%.

The Nifty 50 index, for context, ended 0.2% lower, having fallen over 1% intraday.

The issue, first announced in mid-2025, aimed to raise Rs 30,213 crore from the public exclusively through a fresh issue. This means all the money raised by the company will go to the company, with none going directly to any of the promoters or shareholders.

The company had set a price band of Rs 1,065-Rs 1,119 a share ahead of the issue and had raised Rs 8,110 crore from anchor investors, with mutual funds subscribing to over 34% of the shares allocated for institutional investors. The IPO received a strong response, with the portion allocated for qualified institutional buyers subscribed nearly 71 times what was available. The non-institutional category was subscribed around 14 times.

'Who gave supari to kill my aide? Kalighat, Camac Street or Diamond Harbour?': CM

Press Trust of India
Kolkata, October 28

CHIEF MINISTER Suvendu Adhikari on Wednesday "advised" his predecessor Mamata Banerjee to take rest at home and stay away from electoral politics as he pointed fingers at the TMC leadership for the murder of his former aide Chandranath Rath.

After attending the swearing-in ceremony in the Assembly of Hasirani Rath, mother of Chandranath Rath, and Shakharav Sarkar, who took oath as BJP MLAs following their victories in the Nandigram and Rejinagar bypolls earlier this month, the CM said, "Chandranath was murdered simply because he was my aide. The CBI has arrested seven people, including the shooters and contract killers. What remains to be established is where the Rs 2 crore 'supari' for the contract killing came from. Was it Camac Street, Kalighat or Diamond Harbour? Once that is known, the probe will be complete."

He was apparently referring to Camac Street, associated with the TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee, Kalighat, where Mamata Banerjee resides, and Diamond Harbour, the Lok Sabha constituency of Abhishek Banerjee.

Defending his decision to retain Bhabanipur and vacate Nandigram, Adhikari said he had denied Mamata another opportunity to contest a bypoll, adding that she should now step away from electoral politics. "Had I vacated Bhabanipur, the person I had defeated twice would have got another opportunity to contest election. I did not want to give her that opportunity. I trounced her in Bhabanipur, and I would urge her not to contest elections any more. You have crossed 75 years. There is no need to contest. You should take rest at home," he said.

CABINET MEETING

Fresh teacher recruits barred from political involvement: CM

New industrial policy also approved; CM to shared details on November 5

Atri Mitra
Kolkata, October 28

THE STATE government will no longer allow newly recruited government school teachers to be involved in politics, West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari said on Wednesday.

He informed that the decision was taken during a Cabinet meeting, while clarifying that the new policy will only be applicable to fresh recruits and not existing employees.

Addressing a press conference after the Cabinet meeting, Adhikari said this rule will also be incorporated into the School Service Commission process.

He said, "First the Left and then the Trinamool Congress destroyed education (in the state). They wanted to create Bangladesh.... We want to strengthen education."

Adhikari said that from now on, those recruited as teachers will not be permitted to fight any elections, be it parliamentary, civic or panchayat polls.

The decision has been opposed by many teachers' organisations, claiming that the move would harm the freedom of expression of a teacher.

However, Adhikari clarified that the new rule won't impact existing teachers already engaged in politics. He said, "We are not curtailing the rights of those who are already associated with politics. However, those who will be appointed as teachers in the future will not be able to engage in direct politics. Based on the Cabinet's decision, this rule has been incorporated into the School Service Commission's recruitment process."

Meanwhile, the Cabinet approved the state's new industry policy, which aims to attract fresh investments through incentives, faster clearances and changes to land-allocation rules, officials said.

CM Adhikari will formally announce the policy details on November 5, officials said. The government is looking to attract fresh investments through a package of incentives, a faster single-window clearance system and changes to land-allocation rules, he said.

Stampede victims' kin to get govt jobs

Kolkata: The Cabinet on Wednesday approved a proposal to give government jobs to the next of kin of those killed in the October 17 Chorbagan Durga Puja pandal stampede.

Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari said, "The Cabinet today approved the grant of government jobs to the next of kin of the Chorbagan stampede victims. Family members interested in employment will be directly recruited as permanent Group D staffers." He said the state government, however, cannot provide jobs to the family members of the two victims from Bihar since they do not have domicile certificates.

"But they will be given Rs 25 lakh compensation. Our minister Umesh Rai will soon visit their homes in Bihar and hand over the cheques." PTI



Ministers observe silence for Chorbagan stampede victims at a Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari, on Wednesday. ANI

Stampede probe hits blind spot — '17 of 30 CCTVs were showpieces'

Sweety Kumari
Kolkata, October 28

MORE THAN half of the 30 CCTV cameras at Kolkata's Chorbagan Durga Puja pandal, where a stampede claimed 19 lives on October 17, did not work and were just "showpieces", the investigation into the tragedy has revealed.

Investigators probing the incident have found that 17 out of the 30 CCTV cameras installed at the north Kolkata pandal were dysfunctional. The lack of adequate video footage has hindered the police's efforts to piece together the sequence of events leading up to the stampede.

The biggest hurdle for the forensic team is the lack of adequate footage of the pandal's exit gate. Of the three cameras installed there, two were not working, a source among the investigators said, adding that they are now relying on the footage recorded by the lone working camera.

"We seized two DVRs (digital video recorders) from Chorbagan. We were told one DVR contained footage from 14 cameras and the other from 16 cameras. However, recordings from only 13 CCTV cameras could be recovered from one of the DVRs," a senior police officer said.

To reconstruct the moments of chaos leading up to the stampede, forensic experts are now cross-matching available recordings from the functional cameras.

Investigators are also probing allegations that the pandal's interior lacked adequate lighting. They are questioning the artist who designed the pandal to analyse its planning and layout, and how the Puja organisers planned to handle crowds at the entry and exit points.

Officers are speaking to those who visited the pandal and the families of those killed in the stampede. "We have already questioned 25 people injured in the incident. Now, the police are working to piece together the entire sequence of events by using the available CCTV footage, eyewitness accounts, and information about the pandal's structure," an officer said.

Shortly after the tragedy on October 17, Kolkata Police arrested seven people, including key office-bearers of the Chorbagan Durga Puja committee.



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CAP Round 3 – 20.10.2026 to 27.10.2026
Institution Level Round – 27.10.26 to 31.10.2026

PB BS.c Nursing – Eligibility Criteria
- GNM passed with a minimum of 50% aggregate for Open & 45% for Reserved Category
- MNC Registration/ Any State Nursing Council Registration

Seats available- 18

MS.c Nursing – Eligibility Criteria
- Passed BS.c Nursing/ BS.c Hons. Nursing/ Post Basic BS.c Nursing with minimum 55% aggregate marks for Open Category & 5% relaxation for Reserved Category
- Minimum 1 year Experience after MNC/ Other State Registration

Seats available- (1) Medical Surg. Nsg – 02. (2) Community Health Nsg – 04, (3) Child Health Nsg -04, (4) Obst. & Gynec. Nsg – 02

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EXTRACT OF UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND HALF YEAR ENDED 30th SEPTEMBER, 2026

(₹ in lakhs except earnings per share)

S. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended			Half Year Ended		Year Ended
		30th September, 2026	30th June, 2026	30th September, 2025	30th September, 2026	30th September, 2025	31st March, 2026
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
1	Total income	22,015.67	23,074.39	19,489.86	45,090.06	39,929.47	77,469.59
2	Profit before tax for the period/year	3,138.92	3,642.86	2,574.88	6,781.78	5,433.90	10,552.29
3	Net profit after tax for the period/year	2,379.85	2,868.81	1,869.53	5,248.66	4,011.91	7,835.27
4	Total Comprehensive Income for the period/year [Comprising Profit for the period/year (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	2,126.33	2,884.67	2,086.92	5,011.00	4,292.32	7,515.21
5	Paid-up Equity Share Capital (Face value of ₹ 1 each)	2,818.83	2,818.83	2,813.83	2,818.83	2,818.83	2,818.83
6	Earnings per share in rupees: (Not Annualized)						
	- Basic (in ₹)	0.84	1.02	0.67	1.86	1.43	2.78
	- Diluted (in ₹)	0.84	1.02	0.67	1.86	1.43	2.72

Notes:

1 The above Financial Results were reviewed and recommended by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors of Kamdhenu Limited at their respective meetings held on 28th October, 2026. The unaudited financial results for the quarter and half year ended 30th September, 2026 have been reviewed by the Statutory Auditors of the Company.

2 The above is an extract of the detailed format of unaudited quarterly results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the unaudited financial results is available on the Stock Exchange websites, www.bseindia.com, www.nseindia.com and on the company website www.kamdhenulimited.com

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors of
Kamdhenu Limited

Sd/-
(Satish Kumar Agarwal)
Chairman & Managing Director
DIN: 00005981

Place: Gurugram
Date: 28th October, 2026

KAMDHENU GROUP

RG Kar case: Ex-Panihati civic chief sent to CBI custody

Press Trust of India
Kolkata, October 28

A COURT in Kolkata on Wednesday remanded former chairman of Panihati Municipality, Somnath Dey, to two days of CBI custody in connection with alleged tampering of evidence in the RG Kar case, senior official of the central agency said.

The Sealdah Court granted the CBI plea for his custody for further questioning. "Dey's interrogation was necessary to investigate the alleged tampering with evidence and establish sequence of events," the official said. The agency is also probing the hurried cremation of the victim's body. Advocate Amartya Dey, representing victim's family, opposed former municipal chairman's bail plea, alleging he approached the court without disclosing that his bail application was pending. The lawyer asked how Dey could seek bail before Sealdah Court while his plea was pending before the higher court, a CBI source said.

Arnab makes landfall, coastal areas on alert

Kolkata: Cyclone Arnab's early landfall Wednesday triggered weather alerts across Bengal, bringing heavy rain, winds, and transport disruptions, even as the RMC extended its yellow alert to additional districts.

The yellow alert was extended to Hooghly, Nadia, Bankura, Purulia, Purba and Paschim Bardhaman, Birbhum, and Murshidabad, as authorities stepped up coastal preparedness amid forecasts of rough seas, thunderstorms, and strong winds. Coastal districts are expected to receive isolated heavy rain and gusty winds reaching 40-50 kmph. RMC issued an orange alert for South 24 Parganas, and Purba and Paschim Medinipur districts. ENS

EXPRESS special

Why Minister's poetic turn on encounters hits discordant notes

BJP says police action reflection of govt's tough stance against crimes, Opp and rights bodies question encounters

Atri Mitra
Kolkata, October 28

THE KILLING of two accused in separate encounters with police in West Bengal in a day earlier this week – which marked the third such police encounter killing since the BJP stormed to power in the state in May this year – has prompted a poem from a state minister and heaps of praises from other ministers.

Such bids by the Suvendu Adhikari-led BJP government to take a "tough line" against crimes in the state have come, even as the Opposition and human rights bodies have criticised it, raising questions over the circumstances surrounding the police ecounters.

The Tuesday encounters took place in Gaighata and Samsergan]. In Gaighata, a man killed in police action in the early hours was identified as Prahlad Das, who was an accused in the rape and murder of a minor girl. In Samserganj, Samiul Sheikh, an accused in the murder of a local BJP leader, was killed in the police encounter.

State Urban Development and Municipal Affairs Minister Agnimitra Paul has now posted a poem, titled "Encounter", on Facebook. While she did not explicitly refer to police action, the timing of her post suggested that it was in response to the Tuesday incidents. In the opening lines of her poem, written in Bangla, Paul called for an end to crime and said people should be able to live in peace. She also expressed hope that the "darkness of fear" would now disappear and that those responsible for public safety would prevent the recurrence of various atrocities.

In the second stanza, Paul wrote that there could be no compromise with injustice and that firm action against crime was necessary. Acknowledging the difficulty of decision-making in challenging circumstances, she stated that courage came at a cost but stressed that nothing was more important than public safety.

In the concluding lines, Paul called for the state to stand by the people and for peace to return to every household. She also said there could be no compromise on public safety and that firmness was necessary to curb crimes. Her poem came out amid CM Adhikari's assertion that the police had been given a "free hand" to tackle two major concerns — crimes against women and narcotics trafficking – in the state.

Ministers hail

Minister of State for Industry Moumita Biswas Mishra also backed the police action, describing it as a reflection of the change the BJP had promised. "This is what change in Bengal looks like. This is the change people wanted," she said. Mishra alleged that women had been denied safety during the years preceding the BJP government, criticising both the Left Front regime and the previous TMC government in this regard. She claimed that crimes had not been adequately investigated during the Left Front rule, alleging that the previous governments had frequently played down criminal incidents.

Referring to the BJP government's approach, Mishra said Adhikari had made it clear after taking oath that hooliganism and the humiliation of women would not be tolerated. "The people of West Bengal have seen that today," she said, reiterating the government's stated "zero-tolerance" policy.

Panchayat Minister Dilip Ghosh, responding to a question about the Gaighata encounter, referred to a similar incident in Baruipur in South 24 Parganas district a few months ago.

"An incident like this had happened before as well, in South 24 Parganas. A murderer was fleeing. There was an encounter. Here too (in Gaighata), it has happened," Ghosh said. He said those committing serious crimes must be prepared to face the consequences, while also asserting that everyone must be brought to justice and that no one was above the law. "If someone disobeys the law, the same thing will happen to them," he said.

Arguing that the police have a responsibility to ensure justice, Ghosh said public trust in the force needed to be restored. "If trust is to be restored, the police will have to do some unpleasant things," he added.

The main accused in the rape and murder of a minor girl in Baruipur was killed in a police encounter in July, when he allegedly snatched a policeman's firearm and opened fire during a reconstruction of the crime scene. According to the police, the accused in both Gaighata and Samserganj encounters were similarly killed in "retaliatory firing" after they attempted to escape custody by "snatching firearms from the personnel escorting them and opening fire at the police".

Opposition hits out

The Opposition, however, castigated the BJP dispensation, questioning the circumstances surrounding the police encounters.

Senior MLA of the Mamata Banerjee faction of the TMC, Shobhandeb Chattopadhyay, said an encounter might generate publicity but stressed that the country has a legal system. He also pointed out that the Mamata Banerjee government had initiated amendments to the law to ensure speedy punishment in the rape cases.

CPI(M) leader Sujan Chakraborty questioned how the accused could have managed to snatch firearms from the police.

The Association for Protection of Democratic Rights (APDR), a human rights organisation, also expressed concern over the Gaighata incident. In a statement, its vice-president, Ranjit Shur, questioned the circumstances under which the accused had been taken for a crime-scene reconstruction at midnight. "Taking the prisoner for a reconstruction of the incident at midnight is highly suspicious. That too with the prisoner's hands left untied," he said, questioning how the accused had managed to snatch a police revolver.

• Mother of accused gunned down by police seeks 'justice'

THE MOTHER of a rape-murder accused, killed in an alleged police encounter in North 24 Parganas district, on Wednesday demanded "justice" for her son. She said that when the rape-murder victim's family "got justice", she should get it. The 23-year-old man allegedly snatched the service revolver of a police officer and opened fire when he was taken for crime scene reconstruction early on Tuesday. Claiming her son, who ran a barber shop, was "not of bad character", she said the people of their village would vouch for it. She said her husband fell ill after the incidents and is getting treatment. PTI



Minister Agnimitra Paul has penned poem 'Encounter'.



Police personnel deployed at Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, Kolkata on Tuesday. EXPRESS

'Peaceful protest a threat?': SRFTI students ask V-C as 60 policemen enter campus

Tanusree Bose
Kolkata, October 28

THE STUDENTS' union at Kolkata's Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute (SRFTI) Wednesday condemned the deployment of over 60 police personnel on campus on Tuesday night, and accused the administration of attempting to intimidate students and curb dissent.

In a statement, the students' union said the police personnel arrived at the request of Vice-Chancellor Santosh Ajmera.

"The police personnel gathered near the guest house located behind the students' hostel, where they had come to meet the V-C. Their presence in such large numbers has raised serious concerns among students about the growing normalisation of police presence within an educational space," the statement added. The police deployment at the institute under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting came after the students organised a convention at the main gate during the day and later held a *mashal juloos* (torch march) inside the campus.

Ajmera, however, defended the decision to call the police, saying the students' protest had taken an "ugly turn" in the evening. "Nearly 50 students, carrying lit torches, doing targeted and intimidating sloganeering for nearly 1 hour in different parts of the campus, including residential areas, created an atmosphere of fear and anxiety among all," he said in a written statement. SRFTI has been witnessing a standoff between the administration and students since last month, following clashes between students and members of an RSS affiliate.

The students' union claimed that the torch march was peaceful and ended at 6.30 pm with the burning of an effigy outside the campus gate. "Since when has a peaceful protest become a threat that warrants mobilisation of more than 60 police personnel at midnight? The VC is attempting to manufacture a false narrative of insecurity to criminalise student resistance, delegitimise democratic dissent, and intimidate students. By portraying a peaceful *Mashal Juloos* as a threat, he seeks to justify surveillance and militarisation of the campus while diverting attention from students' legitimate concerns for safety," the union said.

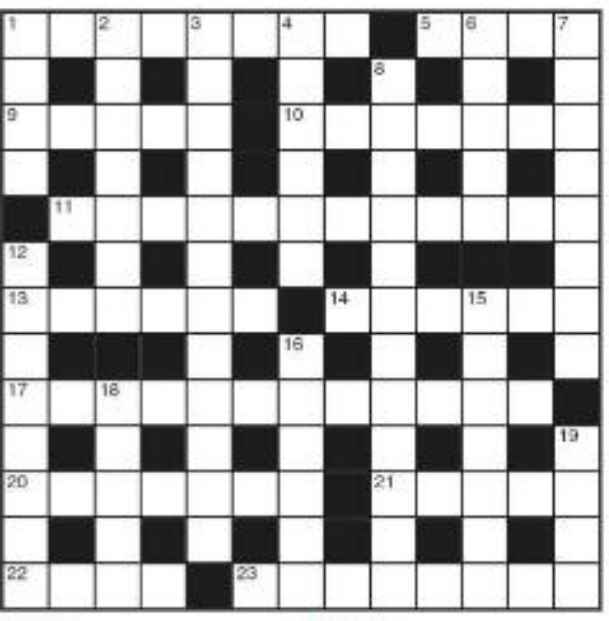
The students' union said a permanent police presence on an educational campus could create an atmosphere of fear, discouraging students from participating in democratic activities, and placing legitimate dissent under constant scrutiny. "When police presence becomes the administration's preferred response to political expression, the distinction between maintaining safety and suppressing dissent becomes dangerously blurred," it added.

V-C Ajmera said the burning torch march was held without seeking permission. "They can't just take the law into their hands and try to hijack the entire institution," he added. Ajmera said that he called the police to protect the institution and those residing on campus.

• SFI protests 'attacks by RSS outfits on campuses nationwide'

THE STUDENTS Federation of India Wednesday staged a protest at Presidency University against alleged "forays" of RSS-linked outfits into educational institutions, including SRFTI. The members of CPI(M)'s students' wing took out a rally denouncing alleged "attacks by RSS-linked bodies" on students of the SRFTI and ransacking of the Jadavpur University campus . "Our protest sought to highlight the rising attacks by right-wing forces on educational institutions across the country, and attempts to throttle democratic and liberal voices on campuses," SFI leader Beetan Islam said. PTI

• CROSSWORD 6132



ACROSS
1 Left for dead apparently (8)
5 Girl who gives assistance to many (4)
9 Fed up but tried anew (5)
10 Have something in mind (7)
11 They have an interest in conversion schemes (12)
13 Look into new liquid preparation (6)
14 Church worker with grave responsibilities (6)
17 It travels fast say the attendants (7,5)
20 What old scholars often dipped into (7)
21 Total capital withdrawn from golf club (5)
22 Habit to boast about (4)
23 Bank permit about to expire (8)

DOWN
1 Girlfriend who could be blind or stoned (4)
2 Press it rudely? (7)
3 Communist is hidden but is found again (12)
4 Name of inventor noised abroad (6)
6 One wasn't there to make such a defence (5)
7 Sauce required for a formal dinner? (8)
8 Private marshalling yard (6,6)
12 Changing gin later found drunk (8)
15 A plant from the list (7)
16 He has a stable job (6)
18 Fireside game?` (5)
19 Smart jokes about a king bring a court order (4)

SOLUTIONS CROSSWORD 6131 **ACROSS:** 1 Camembert, 8 Rogue, 9 Variety, 10 Twelve, 11 Merlin, 12 Inflated, 15 Cloister, 18 Gambit, 20 Loiter, 21 Miserly, 22 Spoor, 23 Stage door **DOWN:** 2 Adage, 3 Edible, 4 Botanist, 5 Trowel, 6 Agility, 7 Defendant, 11 Matchless, 13 Forgoing, 14 Monitor, 16 Steers, 17 Impend, 19 Igloo

JUMBLED WORDS

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

I can calculate the motion of heavenly bodies, but not the ____ of ___. - Isaac Newton (7,,,6)

LVEEE ○●○●●
AEHDLN ○○●●●○
SOLAS ●●●●●
ILYMPP ●○●●○○

SOLUTIONS: Levee, Lasso, Handle, Pimply
ANSWER: I can calculate the motion of heavenly bodies, but not the **mad**ness of **people**. - Isaac Newton

• OVER THE HEDGE

BY MICHAEL FRY & T LEWIS



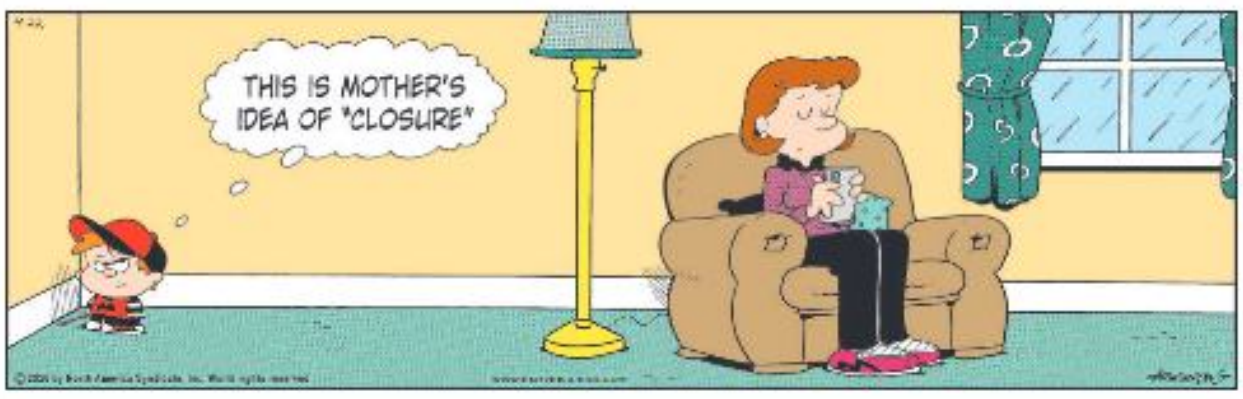
• CALVIN & HOBBES

BY BILL WATTERSON



• MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG



SUDOKU 6486

DIFFICULTY LEVEL 3s INSTRUCTIONS

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

DIFFICULTY LEVEL
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy;
3s = Medium; 4s = Hard;
5s = Very Hard;
6s = Genius

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

SOLUTION SUDOKU 6485

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

• ROYAL STARS

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

ARIES (MAR 21 - APR 20): Communications with others will be upbeat and enthusiastic today because you're in a positive frame of mind. It's a great day to socialise and enjoy sports events and fun times with kids. Tonight: Relax.

TAURUS (APR 21 - MAY 21): Financial negotiations will go well today, especially anything related to home and family or a home business. You might spend money on home improvements. (Check the moon alert.) Ex-partners and spouses might be on the scene. Tonight: Discussions.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21): Today the Moon is in your sign, dancing beautifully with Mars, Jupiter and Venus. You couldn't ask for more. This is a great day to get your hair done or have beauty appointments of any kind. Tonight: Check your money and possessions.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23): This is a feel-good day for you. You might be mulling over some moneymaking ideas. Plans to entertain at home will please you, along with efforts to redecorate or make where you live look more attractive. Tonight: You win.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUG 23): Today you're full of innovative ideas that can help you write, promote, teach, act and connect with others. People are attracted to you because they want to hear what you have to say. Look for ways to make money from communications. Tonight: Enjoy privacy.

VIRGO (AUG 24 - SEP 23): You make a fabulous impression on others today, which is why you can further your own best interests. You might receive money that was delayed or you might buy something you've been wanting for a while. Check the moon alert. Tonight: Be friendly.

LIBRA (SEP 24 - OCT 23): It's a fantastic day to travel. You're full of energy, curiosity and goodwill. You'll be generous and, in turn, people will be generous to you. Tonight: You're admired.

SCORPIO (OCT 24 - NOV 23): Financial discussions will favour you today, which is why this is a good day to discuss your finances. Check the moon alert before you agree to anything, and because Mercury is retrograde in your sign, double-check. Tonight: Explore and learn.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV 24 - DEC 22): You feel optimistic today; you feel that good things will happen. And there's a strong chance you're right. Relations with bosses and authority figures are excellent. Travel plans are favoured. Writing is blessed today. Tonight: Check your finances.

CAPRICORN (DEC 23 - JAN 20): This is a productive day at work and in your personal chores, including issues related to your health. Financial and practical support that you need will be there for you. Tonight: Be cooperative.

AQUARIUS (JAN 21 - FEB 19): Accept invitations to party today. Enjoy social outings, sports events, fun activities with kids and a chance to express your creative talents. Romance is blessed. Tonight: Get better organised.

PISCES (FEB 20 - MAR 20): Working from home as well as family discussions will go well today. In particular, exploring innovative ideas, writing and interacting with family members will be productive and rewarding. Delayed money might arrive. Tonight: Relax at home.

ADVERTORIAL

UP POLICE

MODERNISED, MOBILISED, MISSION-READY



Under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Uttar Pradesh is strengthening law and order through modern policing, advanced technology and robust security infrastructure. Increased police funding, new recruitment, strict action against mafias and enhanced women's safety initiatives are driving this transformation. With greater emphasis on personnel welfare, state-of-the-art surveillance and improved policing capabilities, the state is advancing towards a safer environment, stronger public confidence and more effective law enforcement.



UP Police Modernisation Gains Momentum

- **Police Budget Surge:** Increased from ₹16,280.05 crore in 2017-18 to ₹43,891.36 crore in 2026-27.
- **Higher Police Funding:** The budget rose from ₹16,280 crore to ₹43,891 crore.
- **Fivefold Increase in Vehicle Budget:** Raised from ₹126.72 crore to ₹627.35 crore.
- **Modern Equipment Boost:** Procurement budget increased from ₹266.55 crore to ₹734.55 crore.
- **Police Modernisation:** A budgetary provision of ₹112.29 crore.
- **Expanded Resources:** Greater availability of vehicles, modern equipment and essential facilities.



Police Expansion, Enhanced Security



- **Expansion of Police Force:** Approval granted for the creation of 32,497 posts across various categories.
- **Strengthening the Police Network:** 134 police stations, 95 police outposts, 73 cybercrime police stations and 7 women's police stations established.
- **Enhanced Women's Safety:** 78 women's police outpost counselling centres established across all 75 districts.
- **Crackdown on Electricity Theft:** Approval granted for anti-electricity theft police stations in all 75 districts.
- **Expansion of Special Forces:** Provision for 6 Special Security Forces units and 3 women's battalions of the Provincial Armed Constabulary (PAC).
- **Action Against Corruption:** Expansion of regional units of the Anti-Corruption Organisation and division-level police stations.
- **Police Infrastructure Development:** ₹783.52 crore approved for 166 construction projects; buildings for 123 completed projects, costing ₹821.62 crore, handed over to the concerned departments.
- **Accelerating Construction:** ₹709.91 crore paid to executing agencies for the construction of police stations, outposts, fire stations, forensic science laboratories and police housing.

Zero Tolerance for Crime and Mafias, Enforcement Intensified

- Crackdown on 68 Identified Mafias: Action taken against criminal gangs, their members and associates.
- Action Against Assets Worth Over ₹4,558 Crore: Illegal properties seized, demolished and freed from encroachment.
- Strict Action Against Criminal Networks: 1,508 gang members and associates targeted, 923 cases registered and over 653 arrested.
- Firm Action Against Criminals: From 20 March 2017 to 30 September 2026, 316 criminals were killed and 12,821 injured in police encounters.

Technology-Driven Security, Honouring Service: A New Identity for UP Police



- Operation Trinetra: 12,85,383 CCTV cameras installed to strengthen surveillance and public safety.
- Stronger Public Engagement: 21,32,467 respected citizens connected through the C-Plan app.
- Active Police Participation: 1,88,532 police personnel engaged in the public outreach campaign.
- Recognition of Outstanding Service: Police personnel honoured on Republic Day and Independence Day in 2026.
- Honouring Courage and Dedication: Gallantry, Distinguished Service and Meritorious Service Medals, along with DGP Commendation Discs, awarded to recognise exemplary service.

Health, Education and Insurance: Stronger Support for Police Families



- Enhanced Welfare Funds: Amenities Fund increased to ₹5.50 crore and Welfare Fund to ₹10 crore.
- Encouraging Meritorious Students: Scholarship grant increased from ₹50 lakh to ₹75 lakh.
- Cashless Healthcare: Processing completed for 497,992 health cards for police personnel and their dependants.
- Strengthened Insurance Cover: Accident insurance of ₹2.30 crore and life insurance coverage of up to ₹20 lakh.
- Insurance Benefits for Pensioners: Pensioners and family pensioners also included under insurance benefits.
- Support for Martyrs' Families: Financial assistance and family pension provisions to support the families of martyred police personnel.

DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



Role Reversal

IN AN interesting lineup before the Supreme Court, a challenge to Karnataka's ban on bike taxis will see the Centre's top law officer Solicitor General Tushar Mehta defending the Congress-ruled state. On the other side of the aisle, opposing the state's ban is Congress MP Abhishek Singhvi, who graciously said he had no objection to Mehta appearing for the state. The Supreme Court is likely to hear the case on November 16.

Unique Task

PARTICIPANTS ATTENDING a mid-career training programme for Indian Forest Officers at the Environment Ministry earlier this month were stumped by a peculiar exercise handed out by a senior official. The participating officers, with seven to nine years of experience, were asked to identify and suggest improvements in the functioning of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), which oversees the implementation of 'Project Tiger'. The senior official explained, it is learnt, that it is better to have criticism from within to improve administration, as IFS officers from different states often interact with the NTCA. The participants were asked to submit suggestions by the end of the training programme in early November.

In, Out

THE DELHI Jal Board (DJB) CEO post is vacant again — third time during the one-and-a-half years of the Rekha Gupta government. In May last year, Kaushal Raj Sharma, a UP-cadre IAS officer, was given the charge, only to be transferred in April this year. After him, the additional charge of Delhi Jal Board CEO was given to Vijay Kumar Bidhuri for about two months. In June, 1995-batch IAS officer Sajjan Singh Yadav was appointed to the post. The post fell vacant again last week after Yadav was transferred as Chief Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir.

Shah calls on Murmu

New Delhi: Home Minister Amit Shah called on President Droupadi Murmu at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on Wednesday. Sharing a photo on X, the President's office said, "Union Minister for Home Affairs and Cooperation Shri Amit Shah called on President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan." PTI

To plug winter evening shortage, 6 states seek extra power via short-term tenders

Pratyush Deep
New Delhi, October 28

AMID RISING electricity demand and unusual weather patterns, at least six states have turned to short-term tenders to secure additional power for the coming months to guard against potential shortages, especially during the evening hours.

Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Keralam have sought additional supplies for November and December at prices ranging from Rs 8.99 to Rs 41.50 per unit (kWh), according to data sourced from the Ministry of Power's DEEP (Discovery of Efficient Electricity Price) portal.

Some states, including Gujarat, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, have also floated tenders to procure additional power for January, February, March and even April-May next year, the data shows. However, most states have not been unable to procure the full quantum of power they had sought, despite their willingness to pay higher prices.

These procurements are over and above the power that states are entitled to draw under their existing power purchase agreements (PPAs) with generating companies. Industry insiders said most of the tenders are for round-the-clock (RTC) or peak-hour power.

This comes as India is struggling to meet electricity demand during evening peak hours, when solar generation falls and the limited battery storage capacity constrains the availability of power generated during the day. The evening power shortfall reached as high as 5.8 GW (giga watts) in October.

Industry insiders said the surge in short-term power procurement this year needs to be seen in the context of unusual weather conditions linked to El Niño, higher irrigation demand and increased industrial activity.

"When demand forecasts become uncertain, it becomes difficult to predict how much power will be needed. There is also the festival season for another month or so, followed by Christmas and other seasonal demand. Utilities need to have these kinds of backups available, which is why we are seeing this flurry of activity this year," an industry insider said.

While distribution utilities typically secure a substantial share of their electricity requirements through long-term PPAs, which can span 25 years, they meet additional or short-term requirements through power exchanges and competitive bidding for short-term contracts.

Unlike exchanges, where the quantity procured depends on available sell bids and market conditions, short-term tenders allow utilities to contract power for specified quantities and periods, providing greater certainty of supply once a contract is awarded.

EXPLAINED

Behind the rising demand

The surge in short-term power procurement this year is being linked to unusual weather conditions, higher irrigation demand and increased industrial activity. There is a struggle to meet electricity demand during evening peak hours, when solar generation falls and the limited battery storage capacity limits the availability of power generated during the day.

TN buying at highest prices

Among the states, Tamil Nadu is procuring power at the highest prices, with rates reaching Rs 41.50 per unit. The state had recently drawn attention for procuring electricity at Rs 37 per unit for October.

For November, Tamil Nadu floated a tender for 1,000 Megawatts (MW) but has allotted only 377 MW. Of this, 20 MW was allotted at Rs 35 per unit and 357 MW at Rs 37.50 per unit.

For December, the state has allotted 401 MW against its requirement of 1,000 MW, comprising 40 MW at Rs 35 per unit and 361 MW at Rs 41.50 per unit, data from DEEP portal shows.

Similarly, Keralam floated tenders for around 1800 MW for November but has allotted only 270 MW. The prices varied widely, from Rs 9.30 per unit for 100 MW and Rs 10 per unit for 105 MW to Rs 12.50 per unit for 40 MW and Rs 19 per unit for 25 MW, the data shows.

For December, Keralam has allotted 655 MW against tenders for around 2,100 MW. The prices range from Rs 9.30 per unit for 100 MW and Rs 9.95 per unit for 240 MW to Rs 9.99 per unit for another 240 MW, Rs 10.99 per unit for 25 MW, Rs 12.50 per unit for 25 MW and Rs 14.99 per unit for 25 MW.

Most states failed to procure full quantum

According to data available on the DEEP portal, Rajasthan has floated tenders to procure 1,500 MW of power for November but has allotted only 85 MW, at prices ranging from Rs 9.49 to Rs 9.99 per unit. For December, the state has floated tenders for around 2,000 MW, of which 95 MW has been allotted. Of this, 65 MW has been allotted at Rs 9.49 to Rs 9.99 per unit, while the remaining 30 MW has been priced at Rs 20 per unit, the data shows.

Similarly, Gujarat has floated two tenders for 1,000 MW each for November, one covering November 1-15 and the other November 16-30. For each period, the state has allotted 100 MW at prices ranging from Rs 8.99 to Rs 10 per unit. For December, Gujarat has allotted 675 MW of the 1,000 MW it sought, at prices ranging from Rs 8.55 to Rs 8.99 per unit, the data shows.

Maharashtra, meanwhile, has not allotted any power against its 500 MW tender for November. For December, it has allotted 50 MW against a tender for 500 MW, at a price of Rs 9 per unit, the data shows.

Madhya Pradesh floated a tender for 800 MW for the period from November 20 to February 15 next year and has allotted the entire quantity at prices ranging from Rs 3.99 to Rs 5.50 per unit.

Early Diwali: Cabinet clears DA hike for Central govt employees

Harikishan Sharma
New Delhi, October 28

THE UNION Cabinet on Wednesday hiked the Dearness Allowance (DA) and Dearness Relief (DR) by 3 percentage points over the existing rate of 60 per cent of the basic pay/pension, benefitting over 1.17 crore Central government employees and retirees.

The new rates will be effective retrospectively from July 1, 2026. The decision to "compensate" its employees and pensioners against price rise ahead of Diwali was taken in the Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday.

"The Union Cabinet has approved release of an additional instalment of DA to Central Government employees and DR to pensioners w.e.f. 01.07.2026, representing an increase of 3% over the existing rates of 60% of the Basic Pay/Pension, to compensate against price rise," an official statement issued after the Cabinet meeting said.

"The combined impact on the exchequer on account of increase in both Dearness Allowance and Dearness Relief would be Rs 10,016.10 crore per annum. This will benefit about 48.54 lakh Central government employees and 68.71 lakh pensioners," it said.

The Cabinet also approved a new scheme — Prime Minister Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana (PMVGSY) — which will be implemented over the next five years. The new scheme will replace the existing Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA), and it has a total outlay of Rs 7,395 crore with a Central share of Rs 4,869 crore. The total outlay of the RGSA was Rs 5,911 crore during 2022-23 and 2025-26.

Jaishankar headed to Atlanta for G20 ministers' meet; CHOGM next stop

Shubhajit Roy
New Delhi, October 28



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with Austria's Minister of Foreign Affairs Beate Meinl-Reisinger in New Delhi on Wednesday. PTI

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS Minister S Jaishankar will be headed to Atlanta in the US to attend the G20 Foreign Ministers' meeting to be held on October 30-31. This comes just days after US Secretary of State Marco Rubio visited India, October 20-22.

Jaishankar will also attend the Quad Foreign Ministers' meeting in Atlanta, along with the top diplomats from Australia and Japan. They were supposed to meet in Australia last week, but that couldn't take place due to scheduling conflicts. The Quad foreign ministers had last met in Delhi in May this year.

From Atlanta, Jaishankar will travel to Antigua & Barbuda to attend the CHOGM (Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting) from November 1 to 4. The External Affairs Minister's forthcoming trips are part of Delhi's engagement with multilateral groupings, and it offers an opportunity to have bilateral engagements with counterparts from other countries. Announcing Jaishankar's travels, Ministry of External Affairs official spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said on Wednesday, "External Affairs Minister will be attending the G-20 Foreign Ministers' meeting to be held in Atlanta... On the sidelines of it, he will also participate in a QUAD Foreign Ministers' meeting and have several bilateral engagements with his counterparts."

Jaishankar's visit is also being seen as laying the groundwork for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's possible visit to the US for the G20 leaders' summit in mid-December.

The visit to the US will once again give an opportunity for Jaishankar to meet Rubio and discuss the state of bilateral relations. As India and the US look to finalise a trade deal, stalled by tensions over American tariffs and India's purchase of Russian oil, Rubio and Jaishankar had focused on "energy security and defence cooperation" during their talks in Mumbai last week.

This is significant since the US is looking at selling energy and defence equipment to meet its $500 billion trade target by 2030. The two sides had also reaffirmed the importance of advancing the India-US strategic partnership.

At the G20 Foreign Ministers' meeting, the ministers are expected to discuss regional and global issues, including the war between US and Iran, which has created an energy crisis across the world including in India.

EXPRESS special

Kukis, Meiteis back on edge; the trigger this time may have been felled trees

Deeptiman Tiwary
New Delhi, October 28

THE SUNULOK Hills killings of October 19 which have reopened the Meitei-Kuki faultline in Manipur, after relative peace for some time, may have been triggered by a dispute over felling of trees.

An official probe has found that villagers in the area had complained to local militant groups that some people from the Meitei community were regularly felling trees and taking away wood in the Khongbal Sunulok Hills, along the Imphal East-Kangpokpi border, and had asked them to intervene.

Following this, some militants, along with local village volunteers, are suspected to have stopped a vehicle carrying Meitei men, who were allegedly in the area to collect wood. On seeing gun-wielding militants and village volunteers, they tried to flee, but the gunmen opened fire, killing three, officials said.

While officials suspect involvement of the Kuki National Front (Nehlun) in the killing of the Meitei men, it has denied any role. A security establishment officer said: "It appears the initial intention was to scare the Meiteis or at best to detain them and make them pay for their release. But things turned ugly and people were killed."

Sources among Kuki groups described the incident as unfortunate and ill-timed, as they have been locked in a conflict with Nagas for the past nine months and have been making efforts to mend ties with the Meiteis.

The Manipur Police has arrested three village volunteers for the killings, who subsequently led investigators to eight weapons hidden underground. "One of these guns appears to have been fired recently and a forensic examination is being conducted to establish if it was the same gun used for the killings," said another officer.



Security personnel deployed amid protests against recent violence between Meitei and Kuki groups, in Imphal. ANI

The investigation has also brought renewed scrutiny on Kuki militant camps operating under the Suspension of Operations (SoO) agreement. On October 20, security forces carried out a surprise inspection of the Sinai Camp in Semol village, close to the site of the killings, and reportedly discovered "serious discrepancies".

Under the SoO pact – which lapsed last month and is yet to be renewed – the Sinai Camp is officially designated to house 159 registered cadres of the Kuki National Army (KNA) and Kuki Liberation Army (KLA). Security forces said they found only 18 people at the camp, with just one of them a legitimately registered cadre.

According to officials, the remaining 17 were using fabricated identities to impersonate registered Kuki cadres – eight as KNA members and nine as KLA members. All 17 have been arrested and remanded in police custody.

"The militant groups were questioned about the missing members and told to produce them within the next two days. When they couldn't, the camp was taken over by security forces," an officer said.

Security personnel also seized 24 firearms and 38 magazines from the camp premises. A Manipur Police officer said that some magazines and ammunition were found to be missing, "and the same is being investigated".

On October 25, Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh visited the camp for an inspection.

Sources added that surprise inspections of Kuki camps were not new and have been on "since the killing of six abducted Nagas in May this year by Kuki militant groups". "Three-four camps have been subjected to these checks since," a police officer said.

In these inspections too, sources said, only 30-40% of the registered militants were found to be present, with militant groups reportedly explaining to security forces that some of their cadres had died while others had gone away.

Sources said the groups have been asked now to establish identities of all inmates at the camps and ensure their presence, without which the government could withhold the mandated stipend to be paid to militants living at the camps.

FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

'Selective action': Kuki-Zo Council warns of tough measures

ACCUSING THE government of selective action in dealing with ethnic violence in Manipur, the Kuki-Zo Council (KZC) on Wednesday threatened to withdraw its MLAs from the state government and ask Kuki-Zo armed groups under the Suspension of Operations (SoO) agreement to reconsider their cooperation with the government.

In a strongly worded statement, the KZC reiterated its demand for a separate Union Territory with a legislature, arguing that the existing political arrangement had failed to protect the community. It alleged that while the killings of Meitei and Naga civilians had prompted swift action by security forces, similar action had not followed the killing of Kuki-Zo civilians.

SC directs Raut to appear in person on Nov 17 in contempt case

Press Trust of India
New Delhi, October 28

THE SUPREME Court on Wednesday directed Shiv Sena (UBT) Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Raut to appear before it in person on November 17 in contempt proceedings over remarks concerning Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and the judiciary.

Observing that the issue pertains to the "entire institution of judiciary", a bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and Vipul M Pancholi also directed journalist Nikhil Wagle to appear virtually on the next date of hearing.

On October 16, the apex court had issued show-cause notices to Raut and Wagle in the matter. The top court, however, had exempted them from personal appearance on October 28, saying it would first consider their explanations.

After the hearing on Wednesday, Raut said he will remain present in the top court as directed. "I will remain present in the court," Raut said.

THE CONGRESS IS GRAPPLING WITH CONTROVERSIES AND THE STATE IS FACING A DROUGHT, BUT THE BJP'S LEADERSHIP UNCERTAINTY AND FACTIONALISM HAVE HAMPERED ITS RESPONSE

BJP's Karnataka puzzle: Party has an opening, but no clear game plan

CAPITAL CONTEXT
BY LIZ MATHEW

A WEEKLY LOOK AT POLITICS IN A STATE FROM THE VANTAGE POINT OF NEW DELHI

THE BJP has delivered an impressive performance in the recent Karnataka Legislative Council elections to four seats, but it is struggling to find its bearings in the state, party leaders have said.

While the attention may be slowly shifting to the coming electoral battles in Uttar Pradesh and Punjab early next year, Karnataka remains important for the BJP because it is the only southern state where it has been in power and can potentially return to the helm when the elections are next held in 2028. However, BJP insiders said the party was far from being battle-ready in the state amid lingering leadership problems, differences between senior leaders, and the absence of a clear strategy to take on the D K Shivakumar-led Congress government.

"The departure of Siddaramaiah was a huge opportunity for the party but its political performance since then illustrates its predicament," said a BJP leader familiar with developments in the south.

"The three elements that define Karnataka BJP today are: D K Shivakumar building bridges with Hindus through the Mutts and their leaders and already moving into poll mode; the leader of our ally JD(S), H D Kumaraswamy's self-assertion and almost taking over the leadership of the Opposition; and third, a very divided BJP, with a state president (B Y Vijayendra) being opposed internally by senior leaders."

A senior BJP leader said the state unit appears "leaderless and drifting at a time when the Congress is embroiled in controversies and internal rifts following the reluctant departure of Siddharamaiah". Karnataka remains the only major state where the central leadership is yet to finalise the leadership question. With state BJP president B Y Vijayendra's term set to expire on November 10, internal jockeying for the top post has intensified, sources said.

Vijayendra recently concluded a 10-day "Ballari Chalo" padyatra to focus the narrative on alleged corruption, unemployment, and the Congress government's alleged failure in delivering welfare schemes. However, as a result of the state unit's lack of cohesion, according to party insiders, it has not been able to corner the Shivakumar government over the severe drought in the state. The state has declared 227 of its 240 talukas as drought-affected for the kharif season.



BJP leaders celebrate after the party won four seats in the Karnataka Legislative Council polls, in Hubballi on Wednesday. PTI

BJP insiders said former CM and Haveri Lok Sabha MP Basavaraj Bommai was keen on focusing on national politics, while Union Minister V Somanna's ambitions in the state were well known. A recent meeting between Somanna and a few other state BJP leaders at his official residence in the national Capital and his attempts to bring back senior MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal have raised eyebrows in the state unit. Yatnal, a former state minister, was expelled from the party in March 2025 for six years following his constant criticism and political attacks on Vijayendra and his father B S Yediyurappa, a former CM.

A vocal Kumaraswamy

While the BJP tries to get its act together, Kumaraswamy has taken the lead as the Opposition's most vocal voice against the Shivakumar government. A BJP MP from the state said Kumaraswamy enjoys the trust and confidence of the BJP's national leadership, more than several state leaders of the party itself.

In the past two months, the JD(S) leader and Union Minister's public criticism of the Congress on issues such as the sting video controversy, the Karnataka Public Service Commission recruitment scam, farmers' issues and the Bidadi case has received significant attention. The video controversy centres on an alleged sting operation targeting Siddaramaiah. An unverified video linked to a 2011 incident recently surfaced on social media and news channels and has created a major political crisis in the Congress, with Kumaraswamy accusing his long-time rival Shivakumar of targeting his own party colleagues. The CM has dismissed the allegations. The Bidadi land controversy centres on the Greater Bengaluru Integrated Township (GBIT) project planned across roughly 7,500 acres of fertile agricultural land. Kumaraswamy has accused Shivakumar and the Congress government of turning fertile land in eight villages into a land-grab scam.

The BJP has gone from strength to strength in Karnataka since the 1980s, even as it struggled to gain a strong foothold in the rest of the South. In the recent past, it has made inroads in Telangana too. The BJP has high stakes in both Karnataka and Telangana — the party has a combined 25 of 45 MPs from these states — that are going for polls in 2028, months before the Lok Sabha polls the following year.

Kolkata

1 killed in Punjab as transporter opens fire at car 'suspecting gangsters'

Express News Service
Amritsar, October 28

ONE PERSON was killed and two others sustained critical injuries after a transporter allegedly opened fire at a car in Khemkaran town of Punjab's Tarn Taran district on Wednesday, police said.

The deceased was identified as Gursewak Singh, 50, an *arhtiya* (commission agent) from Assal Uttar village. The injured, Harkirat Singh and Sajanpreet Singh, were admitted to a private hospital in Bhikhiwind, according to doctors.

Police identified accused as Manjeet Singh and his brother Sandeep Singh. Both are residents of Khemkaran. According to police, Manjeet was returning from Gharyala temple with his wife and brother when he noticed another vehicle following his car. Suspecting that the car's occupants behind them were hitmen sent by gangsters, he allegedly opened fire at the vehicle near the railway gate between noon and 1 pm, police said.

The accused's family expressed grief. A family member said, "Manjeet was constantly receiving life threats from gangsters. Earlier, gangsters had even opened fire at our house, following which police provided a gunman. However, the gunman was withdrawn a few days ago, leaving our family living in absolute terror. This painful incident is purely an outcome of suspicion and fear".

SP (Headquarters) Sukhninder Singh said the incident had no direct link to any gangster-related activity.

7 feared dead as 'Arnab' batters Andhra; flood alert in 13 districts

Sreenivas Janyala & Sujit Bisoyi
Hyderabad & Bhubaneswar, October 28

OVER A lakh people were evacuated in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh as Cyclone Arnab crossed Andhra Pradesh coast on Wednesday, bringing heavy rain and strong winds, officials said. At least seven people were feared to be dead in Andhra Pradesh in the aftermath of the cyclone.

The Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority evacuated more than 84,000 people, warning that Kakinada, Konaseema and East Godavari districts would experience gale-force winds of 125-135 kmph as the landfall process continued.

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu held a review meeting at the Secretariat on Wednesday afternoon. IT Secretary Katamaneni Bhaskar said that heavy rainfall has been reported in the districts of Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram, Srikakulam, Anakapalli, Dr B R Ambedkar Konaseema, and Kakinada. National Highway 16 was blocked for a few hours due to uprooted trees and poles but has now been cleared.

The IMD's Cyclone Warning Centre issued a moderate to high flash flood risk warning for these districts as well as seven more districts until 5.30 am on Thursday due to Cyclone Arnab.

Naidu said 290 shelters had been set up, accommodating 84,396 people. The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), Navy and Coast Guard were on alert. More than 30,000 fishing boats had returned from the sea. In Gopalpur, 93 Andhra Pradesh boats and their crews were safe.



A tree lies uprooted following Cyclone Arnab in Visakhapatnam on Wednesday. Several vehicles were damaged in similar incidents across the region. PTI

Nearly 5,000 pregnant women had been shifted to health centres and hospitals, while 8,400 personnel were on standby to respond to power disruptions. Tankers and generators had been arranged to ensure safe drinking water supplies. At least seven people were feared to be dead either by falling trees or by electrocution, although the state government has given no official figures.

Officials indicated that, with the exception of Konaseema and West Godavari districts, the situation in other cyclone-affected districts is gradually returning to normal. The CM directed officials to ensure sanitation and a steady supply of drinking water.

In neighbouring Odisha, more than 30,000 people had been evacuated, with the southern region on high alert, Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari said. "The cyclone is presently within Andhra Pradesh, and it will later in the afternoon touch Odisha," Pujari said, adding personnel and equipment had been mobilised at vulnerable locations and evacuations were continuing.

Malkangiri was likely to be the worst hit among the southern districts. Authorities were moving people from low-lying and landslide-prone areas in Ganjam, Gajapati, Rayagada, Koraput, Malkangiri and Nabarangpur to shelters.

Schools and Anganwadis in 16 of Odisha's 30 districts remained closed. As many as 2,037 cyclone shelters had been readied with food, drinking water and other essentials. The administrations in Kalahandi, Kandhamal and Nuapada were on alert. Reports of uprooted trees had emerged from some southern districts, but no major damage had been reported, Pujari said.

According to the India Meteorological Department, the cyclone crossed the Andhra Pradesh-Yanam coast between 2am and 8am as a very severe cyclonic storm, with maximum sustained wind speeds of 125-135 kmph. The system weakened into severe cyclonic storm at 8.30 am, with wind speeds dropping to 110-120 kmph. It is likely to move north-northwestwards over the next 48 hours, crossing southern Odisha before tracking towards Chhattisgarh and weakening into a cyclonic storm and then a deep depression, the IMD said.

Pujari said 313 response teams had been deployed: 60 Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force teams, nine NDRF teams and 244 Fire and Emergency Services teams. "Achieving zero casualties is our primary motto," the minister added.

—WITH PTI INPUTS

Over 900 babies born in Odisha during cyclone

OVER 900 babies were born across Odisha during cyclonic storm Arnab, CM Mohan Charan Majhi said Wednesday.

He said 2,245 pregnant women had been safely shifted to different healthcare institutions ahead of cyclone, of whom 931 delivered during the period.

Majhi said the state government shifting pregnant women to hospitals to ensure safe deliveries amid the adverse weather conditions.

Some parents named their newborn boys Arnab, while girls were named Barsha. Other names included Toofan and Pavan for boys and Batasi for girls, officials said. PTI

BRIEFLY



A herd of blackbucks runs towards a capture enclosure during a rescue and translocation operation conducted by MP forest officials under Project Antelope, in Shajapur district on Wednesday,. PTI

MADHYA PRADESH

CM says over 1,200 blackbucks and nilgai safely rescued in Shajapur

MADHYA PRADESH CM Mohan Yadav on Wednesday inspected the blackbuck and nilgai rescue operation being carried out by the state Forest Department with the help of experts from South Africa in Shajapur district. The operation, which began on October 9, will continue till October 31 with a target to relocate 2,000 blackbucks. To deal with the problems faced by farmers , the rescue operation using the 'Boma' method was launched. The method involves luring animals using helicopters, tracking them, and herding them into a pen. At least 1,236 blackbucks and nilgai have been safely rescued from Shajapur district so far and transported to designated forest areas in Sheopur, Gandhi Sagar and Rani Durgavati Forest Sanctuary, he said. PTI

3 fishermen die inhaling toxic gas at Tadadi harbour

THREE FISHERMEN died and two others were affected after allegedly inhaling toxic gas as they cleared decomposed fish waste from a boat at Tadadi fishing harbour in Uttara Kannada district, police said on Wednesday. According to police, on Tuesday, the men were cleaning the boat's storage compartment when they inhaled gas emitted by decomposed Chaman fish waste. Fisheries Minister K S Basavanthappa visited their kins expressed his condolences, handed over cheques for Rs 10 lakh each and assured assistance for their children's education. PTI

Court sentences two to life in jail for bid to derail train

A COURT in Gujarat's Botad district on Wednesday sentenced two persons to rigorous imprisonment for life for trying to derail a train, injure and loot passengers' valuables. District and Sessions Judge (Botad) Manishsahay Parashar sentenced Ramesh Saliya and Jayesh Bavaliya after finding them guilty of placing heavy metal piece on track between Kundli and Botad, damaging Okha-Bhavnagar Terminus Express train in 2024. "... devised their plan watching YouTube videos on how to derail a train," district government pleader KM Makwana said. ENS

High level team to probe Kuno 19-month-old cheetah's death

Nikhil Ghanekar
New Delhi, October 28



The death of the cheetah is the first such reported incident since African cheetahs were introduced to Kuno National Park in 2022. FILE

THE UNION environment ministry on Wednesday said it has formed a high-level three-member team to probe the death of a 19-month-old male cheetah at Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park, a day after it succumbed to pellet injuries. The incident is the first reported killing of a cheetah since African cheetahs were introduced to Kuno in 2022.

KNG22, the 19-month-old cheetah that died, was rescued on October 25 after being found injured in Compartment no 748 of Sheopur territorial forest division. KNG22, cheetah Nirva's offspring, underwent emergency surgery during which five firearm pellets were recovered from its body.

The central team will comprise Inspector general of forests, National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA); additional director, Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB); and regional deputy director, WCCB.

"The team has been tasked with undertaking a thorough investigation into the circumstances leading to the death of the cheetah, examining all available evidence, and coordinating closely with the Madhya Pradesh Forest Department to ensure strict and swift action in the matter," a press note issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change said.

"It would also examine the implementation of security protocols, as well as monitoring and protection measures being undertaken to avoid any such incident in future. The central team would submit its findings and recommendations to the ministry for further directions to the state government and field authorities," the ministry stated.

An official aware of developments said country-made guns are known to be available in the region around Kuno. The job of the central team, the official added, would be to delve into what circumstances, and causes led to the eventual attack on the cheetah. The state government has already constituted a Special Task Force comprising forest and police officials to investigate the matter. The central team, the environment ministry said, will work in coordination with the state machinery.

An initial X-ray of the cheetah revealed multiple foreign bodies at different locations within its body, and treatment was initiated accordingly, as per a note issued by Sameeta Rajora, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) and Chief Wildlife Warden, MP, on Oct 27.

Following expert consultation, the cheetah was shifted to the Department of Veterinary Surgery and Radiology, Nanaji Deshmukh Veterinary Science University, Jabalpur, for investigation and intensive treatment.

Following KNG22's death, the total cheetah population in India stands at 58, comprising 52 cheetahs in Kuno National Park, four in Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary, and two in Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve.

Price cap: Generic cancer drugs see sharp price cuts, no change for single-source medicines

Anonna Dutt
New Delhi, October 28

TEN DAYS after the government capped the trade margins for 137 cancer medicines, the manufacturers announced their revised MRP on Tuesday, which will be effective from November 9. Of the 543 formulations — different brands and doses of the 137 selected drugs — the prices remained unchanged for 146, with another 21 formulations seeing reductions of less than Rs 100, according to the data.

The average change in price of all the formulations stood at just over Rs 5,000. The average reduction remained low despite a significant dip in prices of some medicines.

The prices of all drugs under patent, licensing, or other protection mechanisms, however, remained unchanged.

The price of commonly used patented immunotherapy medicines such as pembrolizumab (sold as Keytruda by Merck) — used for the treatment of lung cancer, breast cancer and several other indications — remained unchanged at Rs 2.16 lakh per 100 mg vial. An investigation by The Indian Express had shown that patients were unable to afford the drug even with the help of patient assistance programmes.

The price also remained unchanged for the patented immunotherapy drug ribociclib (Kryxana or Kisqali by Novartis), for which patients had gone to the Kerala High Court, urging the government to ensure affordability. The cost of a pack of 21 pills of 200mg strength remained unchanged at Rs 24,435.

"The list of revised MRP confirms our view that trade margin rationalisation is unlikely to affect the prices of patent drugs in the absence of competition as seen among generic manufacturers," said K M Gopakumar, co-convenor of Working Group on Access to Medicines and Treatments. He added that 34 of the 42 drugs that were part of the government's pilot project initiated in 2019 remained on the current list, "meaning the measure remained ineffective in controlling the cost of the medicines and making them affordable". In fact, ribociclib was one of the medicines that was part of the pilot, and yet its monthly cost rose from Rs 58,000 in 2022 to Rs 78,000 in 2025.

The data shows that the highest reductions were seen in the chemotherapy medicine Thiotepa (sold under the Samtepa by Samarth Life Sciences), for which the price went down by 91% from Rs 80,071 to Rs 7,150 for a 100mg vial. This was followed by the breast cancer immunotherapy drug Pertuzumab (Hertumab by Glenmark), for which the price reduced by 68% from Rs 94,951 to Rs 30,593 for a 30mg vial.

While the reductions announced by the companies have met the expectations of the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority, which in its recent meeting said the reductions in the MRP would broadly be in the range of 20% to 70%, the MRP of a significant number of medicines, especially the most expensive ones, remain unchanged.

Experts say that the price reductions would be more significant if the margin was capped over the manufacturing cost or importing a medicine rather than the cost at the first point of sale. Gopakumar had previously explained that the companies could manipulate the cost to wholesalers and stockists. "Take for example, a company may sell 1,000 vials of a medicine at an inflated price to the distributor and say that I will give you 500 vials free, meaning the company will be able to keep the prices artificially inflated even if they abide by the 30% margin capping," he had previously said.

For patented medicines, provisions that exist under the current Patent law have to be used to make them affordable, he added.

Ladakh admin hits back at Wangchuk's booze shop claims

Naveed Iqbal
Srinagar, October 28

THE LADAKH administration has dismissed claims that the Union Territory's liberalised excise policy has triggered protests and sit-ins as "baseless and totally imaginary", days after climate activist Sonam Wangchuk alleged that liquor shops were coming up "in every nook and corner" of Ladakh.

On October 22, Wangchuk claimed that protests had taken place in the Zanskar area over the sale of liquor. He has also repeated these claims on social media, sharing purported videos of women's protests.

The administration said Wednesday that it categorically rejected statements as "false", "baseless" and "totally imaginary". It clarified that the new Excise Policy 2026–27, notified in June, had been rolled back on August 6 "upon receiving feedback and suggestions from the people / social organisations".

The proposal to open wine shops under the new policy was withdrawn by the Lieutenant Governor, and the auction notice issued pursuant to it was cancelled. Following the rollback, the old excise policy for 2025–26, issued on April 4, 2025, was restored and remains in force, the administration said. Under restored policy, two liquor shops in Leh were permitted.

The administration said, "Only one liquor shop is operational in the entire Ladakh, as earlier it was two. Hence the statement of Mr Wangchuk is totally false and misleading".

Licences are issued to applicants who meet the prescribed norms, including the "distance criteria" from highway and educational institutions, the administration said. Officials said the records contradicted "Mr Wangchuk's deliberate campaign of falsehood and misinformation" that liquor shops were being opened in every nook and corner of Ladakh. The administration advised him to take a "brief pause" from making such statements and verify facts with official sources before feeding "completely false and imaginary claims" to media and the public.

BASED ON THE BOOKER PRIZE-WINNING AUTHOR'S ACCOUNT OF THE STABBING ATTACK ON HIM, PLAY TO OPEN PRITHVI THEATRE FESTIVAL IN MUMBAI ON NOV 2; WILL TRAVEL TO DELHI, CHANDIGARH AND BENGALURU LATER

Rushdie's plea for artistic freedom takes centre stage in Naseeruddin's *27 Seconds*

Alaka Sahani
Mumbai, October 28

REMOVING HIS glasses, the right lens of which is darkened, Naseeruddin Shah addresses the audience with a plea for the freedom of artistic expression. "Art is not a luxury. It stands at the essence of our humanity and it asks for no special protection except the right to exist. Without art, our ability to think, to see freshly, and to renew our world would wither and die," the actor-director says.

These lines are part of the closing dialogue of *27 Seconds*, Shah's upcoming play. The play is based on *Knife: Meditations After an Attempted Murder*, Salman Rushdie's autobiographical account of the stabbing attack on him in August 2022 at New York's Chautauqua Institution. The darkened lens is a reminder of the attack's lasting consequences: the Booker Prize-winning author permanently lost sight in his right eye.

The play, adapted by Kolkata-based Koushik Sen and Shah from Knife, will open the annual Prithvi Theatre Festival in Mumbai, with performances scheduled for November 2 and 3. Its title refers to the approximate duration of the attack, during which Rushdie was stabbed around 15 times in the neck, eye, chest, abdomen, hand and thigh. The assault left Rushdie, in his own words, "without a normal field of vision" and with "one-eyed man perspective".

Shah considered adapting *Knife* as a play about two years ago, following Sen's suggestion. What inspired him to adapt the writer's memoir is its insistence on "talks about the freedom of artistic expression", he says. "Knife is not a justification of Rushdie's approach to religion. We are not getting into that territory at all. It carries an important message, not just for our country but for the whole world. It's a plea for freedom of artistic expression. I thought it was dramatic enough to hold an audience's interest," Shah elaborates.

Calling the book "very humane and poignant", Shah says the play remains faithful to Rushdie's writing, although it is structured to meet the demands of the stage.



Naseeruddin Shah during a rehearsal for the play *27 Seconds* in Juhu, Mumbai. ANURAG AHIRE

Arghya Lahiri, a Mumbai-based theatre and cinema artist who is co-directing the production with Shah, says words spoken during the performance come from *Knife*. Talking about the process of adapting *Knife*, Lahiri says: "Koushik and Naseer worked on the stage adaptation a couple of years ago. They found a sort of structural hook to hang the show on. This year, Naseer further worked on the text." He is quick to clarify that Shah is not impersonating Rushdie in 27 Seconds. In the play, the actor's character is simply called the 'writer'.

For Lahiri, one of the most striking aspects of *Knife* is how it departs from Rushdie's familiar literary voice. Known for his playful and magical-realist fiction, the writer adopts a more reflective tone in this memoir, he observes. "In *Knife*, I was expecting an account of someone who had survived, first, the fatwa and then this horrific attack. It's visceral and absolutely urgent when it talks about those things," says Lahiri, "The book is full of ideas about art, censorship and the place of art in our lives."

For Lahiri, Rushdie's survival represents more than a triumph over physical violence. "Rushdie looked it in the face and he survived it. The attack didn't change the way he thinks, or his beliefs. What a remarkable victory that is. Now, I believe he's free."

Translating such a layered account into a theatrical performance, however, comes with its own limitations. The 100-minute-long play does not attempt to re-create the attack. "It is impossible to cover the ground that spanned months and years in a play — the attack, its aftermath, and the questioning that it brought. So, we're not even going to try. This is a depiction of events that we wanted to convey to the audience," he says.

For Lahiri, the play's closing appeal for freedom, equality and compassion is particularly significant when spoken by Shah. "Naseer has consistently used his public voice to stand behind such ideas. It's important that we reflect on it," Lahiri adds.

After the opening, *27 Seconds* returns to Prithvi Theatre for another run from November 24 to December 6. It will also travel to other cities, including New Delhi, Chandigarh and Bengaluru.

Kolkata

TN jail escape: 2 more arrested, two still at large; prison overhaul to be undertaken

Arun Janardhanan
Chennai, October 28

POLICE RECAPTURED two more prisoners who escaped from Tamil Nadu's Theni district jail late Monday night, taking the number of those back in custody to 15 on Wednesday. Two undertrials remain at large.

The state's prisons department, meanwhile, moved to arm watchtower personnel with self-loading rifles and authorised them to open fire when attacked or to prevent a jailbreak.

The latest arrests, of Ponmuthu Selvam and Regin, came as search teams continued combing the hills and forest areas around Theni and along the Kerala border.

The armed deployment marks the most visible response to a jailbreak that exposed weaknesses in how prisoners were housed, monitored and guarded.

Director General of Prisons and Correctional Services, Sandeep Rai Rathore, said personnel manning watchtowers were authorised to open fire when under attack or when a jailbreak occurred. He also said the arming of personnel would depend on security requirements and the prevailing situation.

Self-loading rifles were issued from the department's armoury on Tuesday. Armed watchtower duty began at central prisons that day and was extended to district jails on Wednesday. The measures cover nine central prisons, five special prisons for women and 13 district jails. The department has also cancelled personnel's leave, ordered them to return to duty and instructed staff to carry batons. A standard operating procedure has been issued to prevent escapes.

Rathore said five prisoners implicated in a crime registered at Vikramangalam police station in Madurai district had been lodged in the same ward at Theni. They played a key role in planning the escape, he said.

He said priority would be given to separating first-time offenders from hardened criminals and ensuring members of the same gang were not housed together.

Rathore said preliminary inquiries suggested that the two remaining fugitives had escaped on a motorcycle and added that they would be caught within a day or two.

A security audit of central prisons and district jails is nearing completion. Rathore said its findings, along with the Theni inquiry, would be examined for gaps, lapses and complacency.

BABA SIDDIQUE MURDER TRIAL

To get Anmol Bishnoi, Mumbai Police wants Central govt to step in

Sadaf Modak
Mumbai, October 28



Baba Siddique was killed on October 12, 2024

MUMBAI POLICE has approached the Maharashtra government to seek the Union Home Ministry's intervention to secure access to gangster Anmol Bishnoi, an accused in the murder of former minister and NCP leader Baba Siddique, as the trial against the other accused is set to begin.

This is the first such request that has been made by the Mumbai Police, according to sources familiar with the matter.

Bishnoi, who was deported from the US and arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on November 19, 2025, is lodged in Delhi's Tihar Jail. However, the Mumbai Police has been unable to secure his custody or ensure his physical presence before the special court in Mumbai because of a Union government order restricting his movement outside prison.

The police has sought the temporary withdrawal or relaxation of the order, issued on December 5, 2025, under Section 303 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), which bars Bishnoi from being removed from the prison while it remains in force. The request was sent to the state government last week. This is the first time the Mumbai Police has sought such intervention to access Bishnoi for the murder investigation.

Joint Commissioner (Crime) Anil Kumbhare did not respond to a message seeking comment.

Under Section 303, the government can direct that a person or class of persons not be removed from the prison where they are detained. The provision allows such restrictions to be imposed on grounds including the nature of the offence, the possibility of a disturbance of public order if the person is moved, and public interest. A similar order has been passed in the case of Bishnoi's elder brother, gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, who is lodged in Sabarmati Jail in Gujarat.

The restriction has complicated efforts to question Anmol, whom the Mumbai Police has named as a wanted accused and alleged mastermind in Siddique's murder. Siddique was shot dead outside his son Zeeshan's office in Bandra East on October 12, 2024. The police has alleged that the killing was carried out by members of the Anmol Bishnoi gang.

The issue has repeatedly come up before the special court. In July, Siddique's wife, Shehzeen, through her lawyers Pradeep Gharat and Trivenkumar Karnani, sought directions for the police to secure Anmol's custody and question him about the motive behind the murder.

Special Judge S R Navander had questioned the police over its failure to take steps to secure the presence of a wanted accused who was already in custody. The police subsequently told the court that the Union government's order had created a "legal embargo" on obtaining his physical custody, making effective investigation difficult. The court also sought details of the steps taken by the investigating agency.

On October 21, the court again directed the police to submit details of its efforts to secure the presence of the principal accused. On Wednesday, the police submitted a confidential report before the court, and the matter was adjourned to next week.

The issue has also drawn attention following the October 18 firing incident involving actor Tiger Shroff in Juhu. While neither Anmol nor Lawrence Bishnoi has been named as an accused in that case, an alleged overseas operative linked to them, Anil Pandit, has been named as the main accused. The incident triggered a political controversy, with Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray accusing the state government of failing to prevent such attacks and challenging it to bring Lawrence Bishnoi to Maharashtra.

EXPRESS special

Son dead, body 'seized' by police, father 'missing': A Punjab family's 'drug story'

Kamaldeep Singh Brar
Amritsar, October 28



Police personnel carry away the body of Daljit Singh. VIDEO GRAB

EVEN IN Punjab's storied fight against drug addiction, what happened on Tuesday was a first. As the family of Daljit Singh, 34, was making its way to a site in Mansa city where an agitation has been on against the killing of anti-drug activist Parvinder Singh Jhota, the police descended in huge numbers and made away with the coffin holding Daljit's body, dodging protesters and beating those who tried to block its way. A day later, the family says they have no clarity on where Daljit's body is, while his father remains "missing".

Daljit's family says he died of drugs; police have called it a "murder", without sharing any details.

On Tuesday, the family based in Bhamme Kalan village was trying to make its way to the site 15 km from their home, where the agitation over Jhota has been ongoing, to register their protest. Jhota was shot dead on October 13, when he confronted a pharmacist in Mansa for allegedly selling drugs, prompting protests across the state. Jhota's family was among the three "victims" of Punjab's drug problem whom Union Home Minister Amit Shah met during his recent visit to the state.

Daljit's wife Paramjit Kaur says he had been trying to quit his addiction, specifically to "chitta". The two have a 5-year-old daughter and a 14-year-old son; the mother and children are now sitting at the Jhota agitation site.

Says Paramjit: "He was sober for the last 21 days. But yesterday, he left home without informing us, apparently to meet someone, and only his body returned." The family believes he got hold of some drugs while he was out. Daljit's body was found near Bharawanandi village, 1 km away.

Daljit's father Jarnail Singh retired as a veterinary pharmacist, and is now often called upon by surrounding villages to treat cattle. The family says he took Daljit along in the hope of keeping him busy and steering him away from drugs.

A neighbour, Hardev Singh, says: "Jarnail tried very hard to help his son quit addiction, but the boy did not change."

To sustain the household and to fund the treatment of Daljit, and his mother who has been ailing for long, the family sold their three-acre land, neighbours say. They survived on whatever little money Jarnail's work got him.

On Wednesday, the neighbours were gathered at the family's empty home. One of them claimed that police brought Jarnail home late Tuesday night. "They wanted Jarnail and Paramjit to sign papers agreeing to Daljit's cremation. When they refused, the police took Jarnail away."

Hardev says: "Jarnail pleaded to stay back... but the police did not relent. He looked devastated. Now we have no contact with him. We do not know where he is or what condition he is in."

Despite repeated attempts, SSP Vibhav Chaudhary could not be contacted. PTI reported Chaudhary as saying that Daljit's body had been thrown by the wayside by someone, and three people rounded up.

DIG Harjeet Singh told The Indian Express that Daljit's postmortem had been done at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Bathinda, and the report was awaited. Regarding Jarnail, the DIG said he was not in police custody.

On the action against protesters, the police have said they were only trying to maintain law and order following "assault" on its personnel.

Hardev says that "sensing escalating police pressure", Daljit's family, including his wife, children, sister and mother, left the house quietly Wednesday morning to make it to the Jhota protest. "Avoiding main village roads, they used rural lanes to reach the site."

Former Punjab chief minister Charanjit Singh Channi visited the family at the site to offer condolences and his support. Speaking to the media, Channi said: "If the police have custody of both the father and the son's body, are they planning to forcibly cremate the body without the family's permission?" The actions are "a violation of human rights and dignity", a "torture of the family", he said.

The NHRC has taken prima facie cognizance of incidents surrounding Daljit's death, issuing notices to the Chief Secretary and DGP, and seeking a detailed Action Taken Report within two weeks.

Calling Daljit's death part of the larger Punjab story, Hardev says: "Parvinder Jhota also came to our village last year and caught some drug peddlers near a dhaba, seizing a bag full of capsules. To be honest, we did not fully understand him back then, we thought he was a little crazy."

Now, Hardev says, they realise what Jhota was trying to do. "He was working for the people and for their sons. He made a huge sacrifice. His family also made a sacrifice... No one can repay the debt owed to Jhota and his family."



Mann ki Baat on canvas

Union Home Minister Amit Shah attends an exhibition featuring art works based on Mann ki Baat in New Delhi on Wednesday. EXPRESS

Before end of his Rajya Sabha term, BJP fields Minister Hardeep Puri from MP

Liz Mathew
New Delhi, October 28



Bypoll to the Upper House will take place on November 12.

THE BJP on Wednesday named Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri as the party's candidate for the Rajya Sabha bypoll in Madhya Pradesh next month.

Puri currently serves as the Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas. His term as Rajya Sabha member from Uttar Pradesh is set to end on November 25.

The Madhya Pradesh Rajya Sabha seat fell vacant after former minister L. Murugan's resignation earlier this month. Murugan, who was the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Information and Broadcasting, resigned from both the government and the Rajya Sabha, triggering speculation of a possible reshuffle in the Union Council of Ministers. His term was due to end in April 2030.

On October 5, Puri and Union Minister of State B L Verma were left out of the BJP's list of Rajya Sabha candidates from Uttar Pradesh. With UP headed for Assembly elections next year, party sources said it was "important for the BJP leadership to keep the caste balance in the Rajya Sabha nominations from the state". The party's UP list included three OBCs, two Brahmins, two Dalits and one Thakur.

On the other hand, sources said, with Puri being "one of the most articulate ministers with the right mix of administrative experience and diplomacy, it is important that he remains in the government". His navigation of fuel supply lines, sources said, is also key to the imperatives of energy security amid continuing global disruption. Sources also pointed out that Puri is the only Union Minister from the Sikh community, and Punjab is headed for Assembly elections next year.

With the BJP enjoying majority in Madhya Pradesh, Puri is expected to sail through the bypoll scheduled for November 12.

50-year-old veteran, 23-year-old engineer: Microsoft's exit offer puts staff at crossroads

Vidheesha Kuntamalla
Dehradun, October 28

Official sources at Microsoft said India remained an important place for its business and talent to grow, describing the VEO as a voluntary, time-limited option for employees considering their next chapter

AT 50, a senior Microsoft employee based in Washington state had mapped out the next five years of a career spanning nearly three decades. Recruited in India, the employee moved to the United States over two decades ago and eventually became a Level 69 (partner-level employee) working on Artificial Intelligence services.

The plan was to work until 55. The employee, who did not wish to be identified, told *The Indian Express* that the hope was to qualify for a stock-vesting arrangement they understood to be available to long-time employees who reached that age after at least 15 years of continuous service.

Then, on Monday, Microsoft offered a way out.

The company's Voluntary Exit Offer (VEO) makes approximately 60,000 employees globally eligible to consider leaving with financial support. In India, where Microsoft employs around 23,000 people, the company has declined to disclose how many employees qualify. The offer comes as the technology giant expands its investment in artificial intelligence and cloud infrastructure, raising questions about how its workforce may change and what the decision means for employees at different stages of their careers.

In India, eligible employees have until December 1 to decide. The package is broadly similar to Microsoft's standard severance arrangements, including one month of base salary for every completed year of service, health insurance and career-transition services.

In a statement to *The Indian Express* Wednesday, a Microsoft spokesperson said the company remained committed to expanding its presence in India.

"Microsoft continues to invest in India's talent and technology ecosystem and is backing the country's AI ambitions with US$20.5 billion in committed investment between 2025 and 2029 across cloud and AI infrastructure, skilling and operations. We are also on track to fulfil our commitment of equipping 20 million people across India with AI skills by 2030," the spokesperson said.

Official sources at the company said India remained an important place for its business and talent to grow, describing the VEO as a voluntary, time-limited option for employees considering their next chapter.

"For most eligible employees, now won't be the right time to consider what's next outside of Microsoft, but we are giving them that option," sources said, adding that future workforce needs would continue to be determined by business priorities and that the offer was one of several approaches available to manage its workforce.

"I was not planning to retire right now. I was planning to work for at least a few more years," the US-based employee said.

Now, the choice is between accepting a known financial package and staying in a job whose future feels less certain.

"Employees have until December 9 to decide, with their last working day set for December 31. The payout would be made as a lump sum in January 2027, with a seven-day window to reconsider the decision. Those who accept would be ineligible to rejoin Microsoft for two years," the employee said.

In Hyderabad, a 23-year-old Microsoft software engineer has arrived at a very different decision.

The Azure engineer, at Level 60, has worked at the company for nearly three years and estimates that accepting the offer could bring around Rs 11 lakh, based on their understanding of the payout. But satisfied with the current role and team, the employee sees little reason to leave.

"I am happy with continuing working and I am in a peaceful team," the engineer said. "So I don't see any point in taking the offer."

"Each and every person in my team got the offer," the engineer said, describing those happy with their jobs, those who wanted to leave because they were unhappy with their teams or work, and those who already had another offer lined up.

"For the last group, the package could make a planned departure more attractive."

"Some people are really worried about this, as they are interpreting it as a forceful resignation, which is not the case," the engineer said.

The responses of employees at different levels of seniority also reflect how artificial intelligence is changing expectations of work, even though the company has not explicitly attributed the VEO to AI-driven job replacement.

For Indian professionals working in the United States on H-1B visas, the decision can carry another layer of risk. "Colleagues in my office who are particularly under the H1B are under a timeline to find a job; else they have to relocate and sell all their assets and move out of the country," the senior employee said.

In October, the Trump administration suspended Microsoft, Adobe and several major IT outsourcing companies from the PERM labour-certification programme, which employers use to sponsor foreign workers for employment-based green cards.

The move does not bar the companies from employing H-1B workers, but could complicate the route to permanent residency for affected employees.

Who is Divya Ahirwar, activist whose arrest is in spotlight in Madhya Pradesh

Ahirwar, a law student, was arrested in September for protests linked to Ken-Betwa project

Anand Mohan J
Bhopal, October 28

WHEN FORMER Rajya Sabha MP and senior CPI(M) leader Brinda Karat and Jai Kisan Andolan leader Amit Bhatnagar met Divya Ahirwar at Panna district jail on Tuesday, they found a young activist unwilling to seek bail.

Ahirwar, a municipal councillor from Bijawar in Chhatarpur district and a law student, told them she wanted to continue fighting for displaced families from inside prison.

"I will continue the struggle from jail," she said, according to a statement issued by the Jai Kisan Sangathan after the meeting.

Ahirwar has been in jail since her arrest in September. Her detention has become a focal point of the Chita Andolan, a protest against the displacement of families linked to the Ken-Betwa Link Project and other infrastructure schemes in Bundelkhand. The movement has demanded fair compensation, proper rehabilitation and action on complaints that families were excluded from surveys or evicted without settling their claims.

Her refusal to seek bail has given the agitation a new focus. As Bhatnagar returned to the protest site after ending a 28-day hunger strike, the movement also drew political leaders and displaced families back into the streets. "We have counselled her to seek bail. We will approach the High Court," Bhatnagar said.

Ahirwar alleged that she had been jailed for "raising legal questions on behalf of Adivasis and farmers." She also raised questions about the "manner of her arrest, alleged mistreatment in police custody, the absence of a medical examination and the failure to record her statement."

Police said Bhatnagar was arrested on September 28 from Banheri Kalan village in Madhya Pradesh's Panna district. She has been booked for attempt to murder and other charges in connection with a February 2026 protest against the Ken-Betwa River Link Project in Chhatarpur district that allegedly turned violent and resulted in an injury to a police constable.



Divya Ahirwar has been in jail since her arrest in September

Her organisation has claimed that Ahirwar has been booked in at least five criminal cases, including two attempt-to-murder cases and cases related to rioting. Bhatnagar maintains that the allegations are false and says the movement follows Gandhian principles.

The Congress has also criticised the Madhya Pradesh government over the arrest, with state unit chief Jitu Patwari visiting her in jail earlier this week.

Key to movement, her colleagues say

Ahirwar's father died in 2013, when she was in Class X, and her mother works as a labourer. Ahirwar helped educate young students from Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities by arranging free coaching.

She entered public life as an elected councillor in Bijawar and was part of the Aam Aadmi Party unit. She eventually left the party.

Bhatnagar said Ahirwar submitted an affidavit on the right to recall, stating that she would be willing to give up her councillorship if her constituents were unhappy with her work.

Ahirwar joined the movement on January 26, 2022, during the Samvidhan Bachao Padyatra. Her political work brought her in contact with local grievances, but the displacement dispute drew her into a wider struggle involving villages affected by dams, river-linking infrastructure and other regional projects.

She has become one of the public voices raising these issues. Her role became especially important whenever Bhatnagar was arrested. Rather than allowing the movement to lose momentum in the absence of its most visible leader, Ahirwar would take charge of organising and mobilising supporters.

The movement had struggled to maintain momentum as villagers encountered problems with surveys and compensation claims. In the initial stages, the movement was led by women, and Ahirwar helped mobilise them, beginning with small gatherings that later snowballed into hundreds of women walking several kilometres in tough jungle terrain to participate.

For Bhatnagar, who has worked alongside Ahirwar since the early days of the movement, her arrest represents the loss of a crucial organiser at a time when the agitation is gaining fresh momentum. He told The Indian Express that she has been instrumental in mobilising women from affected villages and has repeatedly taken the lead whenever he was arrested.

"She goes to villages and stays there overnight," Bhatnagar said, describing her work among families facing displacement.

Ahirwar, one of the few tech-savvy members of the group, also helped set up the movement's communications wing, shooting videos and managing social media engagement on the ground, where even mobile phone connectivity is sparse.

• GLOBAL

Israel election: Can Arab parties' record seat tally translate into power?

Tabshir Shams
New Delhi, October 28

WITH OVER 92% of the votes counted in the Israeli parliamentary election at press time, no single party or bloc — either the right-wing bloc led by incumbent Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu or the opposition "Change" bloc — looks set to win a 61-seat majority in the 120-seat Knesset.

Arab citizens' share in Israel's population (21%) means the Arab parties are pivotal. At press time, the Joint List — a three-party alliance of Hadash, Ta'al, and Balad — looked set to win 12 seats and the Ra'am party (United Arab List) seven. This would be a record seat tally for these parties.

The Arabs in Israel

Arab Israelis refer to the country's citizens of Arab descent, mostly composed of Palestinians who remained inside Israel's borders after the establishment of the State of Israel on May 14, 1948, and the Arab-Israeli war (1948-49). Although they have had the right to vote since the first election in 1949, they remain unequally represented and marginalised in housing, infrastructure, public safety and public resources.

Also, Israel has no written constitution. While its Declaration of Independence promised equality of political rights, the 2018 "Nation-State Law" defined the right to national self-determination as exclusive to the Jewish people.

Palestinians in Israel regularly complain that they are treated as "second-class" citizens. According to the Palestinian non-profit Adalah, there are over 65 laws in place that discriminate directly or indirectly against Palestinian citizens in Israel and residents of the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

The law governing elections is another constraint. As Israel is a democracy with a proportional representation system of elections, it has several lists and parties. Simply put, a party is an institution that seeks power within the established rules of elections, whereas a list is a list of candidates prepared for the elections sponsored by a party or by a group of parties.

Under Israel's Basic Law, lists can be barred if they reject Israel as a Jewish and democratic state, incite racism, or support armed struggle. In September, Israel's Central Elections Committee had voted to bar the Joint List and Ra'am under these provisions, but the Supreme Court unanimously overturned the bans.


Mansour Abbas, leader of Ra'am party. AP

Arab parties in government

Arab parties have sat in the Knesset for decades, but power has remained elusive.

In 2021, Mansour Abbas's Ra'am had joined the coalition government led by Naftali Bennett and Yair Lapid, becoming the first independent Arab party to enter an Israeli governing coalition. Abbas bargained for investment in Arab towns, housing, infrastructure and action against organised crime. But the coalition collapsed in 2022 after some right-wing MKs defected.

Alvite Ningthoujam, who teaches international relations at Symbiosis School of International Studies, Pune, said the Arab camp is split on strategy.

"Ra'am's approach offered a route to practical gains, but it also drew criticism that it came at the expense of wider Palestinian political demands," he told *The Indian Express*. "The Joint List has taken a more oppositional line, emphasising Palestinian national identity and resistance to the occupation."

The contrast is "not simply pragmatism versus principle", according to Ningthoujam. "It reflects different judgments about where Arab parties can gain leverage."

Shrinking space after Oct 7

The Hamas-led attack of October 7, 2023, and the war in Gaza (still ongoing) have hardened the divide. Arab citizens have had to press for equality at home while living with the daily toll and gruesome imagery of killing and displacement across the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

The political room for Arab parties has narrowed, as opposition to Palestinian statehood has spread across most of Israel's political spectrum. "The right wing and the centre differ only cosmetically on the future of a Palestinian state and on the Gaza crisis," said Omair Anas, associate professor of international relations at Ankara Yildirim Beyazit University, adding that the liberal centre is weak.

The arithmetic matters, too. Parties must win at least 3.25% of the vote to enter the Knesset. If a party fails to reach this minimum threshold, all votes cast for its slate are discarded, producing "wasted votes" that are reallocated among the parties that succeeded.

In 2022, a split in the Arab vote left Balad below the line, and its votes were wasted. In the March 2021 Israeli election, the two main Arab-led electoral lists — the Joint List and Ra'am — together received approximately 8.61% of all valid votes cast, winning 10 seats.

Political acceptance is a bigger obstacle. Until now, most leaders of the Jewish-led opposition bloc have ruled out joining forces with the Arab-led parties. The election could hand Arab parties the numbers to shape the next government, but no formal way to use them.

According to Ningthoujam, Arab parties may exercise influence even without joining a government. But the election will test more than whether Arab parties can become kingmakers, he said. "It will show whether parliamentary strength can become a real influence, even as their legitimacy as partners in government remains contested. Representation alone does not guarantee equal partnership."

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• LEGAL

Kochi road rage: When parents are liable for minors

Shaju Philip
Thiruvananthapuram, October 28

THE RECENT case of a 17-year-old allegedly ramming his car and killing a 57-year-old scooter rider in Kochi has drawn attention to the culpability of the guardian or the vehicle owner in juvenile driving cases. The minor is the son of an additional district judge, who was booked under Section 199A of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

'Vicarious responsibility'

Section 199A was enacted through the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2019, for fixing culpability on guardian/owner of a vehicle driven by a minor. Accordingly, the guardian/vehicle owner shall be deemed to be guilty with an imprisonment of three years and a fine of Rs 25,000. Besides, the juvenile would be tried under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, and the motor vehicle's registration would be cancelled for a year.

The commission of an offence under the MV Act by the juvenile is an essential ingredient of Section 199A. Offence against the vehicle owner under this Act will be attracted only if a juvenile is charged for either driving without licence [Section 181(3)], driving in violation of age requirement [Section 181(4)], or dangerous driving [Section 184].

Police must record the juvenile's offence in the station's general diary, and a social background report (SBR) should be filed before the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) under the MV Act. Only then can prosecution be initiated against the guardian or vehicle owner under Section 199A.

If the JJB concludes that the juvenile has not committed the offence, the proceedings against the guardian or owner under Section 199A cannot continue, leading to acquittal or discharge.

What happens in most cases

In the past, the Kerala High Court has quashed several prosecution proceedings against vehicle owners/guardians who were charge-sheeted under Section 199A. This is because the police booked owners/guardians but failed to either report the offence committed by the minor or file the SBR within stipulated time before the JJB.

In a 2024 landmark verdict, a HC bench held that Section 199A creates an independent offence against the guardian or owner, even though commission of an MV Act offence by the juvenile remains an essential ingredient. The verdict also said the guardian's liability hinges on the outcome of the minor's case in the JJB.

Significance of the Kochi case

If most of the driving incidents involving minors were mainly related to offences like driving without valid licence or rash driving or driving before attaining the mandatory age, the 17-year-old in the Kochi case also faces the non-bailable offence of culpable homicide not amounting to murder under Section 105 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), besides Sections 181 and 184 of the MV Act.

Under the JJ Act, there are three types of crimes: petty offences (maximum imprisonment of three years), serious offences (imprisonment up to seven years), and heinous offences (minimum imprisonment of seven years or more). The case will be open to a legal battle, as the Supreme Court in 2020 observed that a minor charged under Section 304 of the erstwhile Indian Penal Code (now Section 105 of the BNS) in a road accident case could not be considered as having committed a heinous offence and could not be tried as an adult.

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• CLIMATE

How El Niño shaped path, intensity of Cyclone Arnab

Odisha and West Bengal are more prone to Bay of Bengal cyclones. But during El Niño years, cyclones affect the Andhra and Tamil Nadu coasts



ANJALI MARAR

THIRTEEN DISTRICTS of Andhra Pradesh and Yanam district of the Union Territory of Puducherry were at risk of flash floods until 5:30 am on Thursday because of Cyclone Arnab, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

The IMD has also issued an 'orange' alert for heavy to very heavy rainfall in Odisha, Jharkhand, Bihar, east Uttar Pradesh and east Madhya Pradesh. Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh are under a 'yellow' alert for Thursday.

"Under the influence of the very severe cyclonic storm 'Arnab', moderate to heavy flash flood risk is likely over a few watersheds and neighbourhoods," the centre said in its latest bulletin.

Cyclone Arnab made landfall on India's east coast early on Wednesday. After crossing the Andhra Pradesh and Yanam coasts, the "very severe" cyclonic storm weakened into a "severe" cyclonic storm by afternoon. More than 1,80,000 people were evacuated in Andhra Pradesh and Odisha before its arrival. According to the IMD, the landfall process is now complete, with the system moving entirely over land.

How Cyclone Arnab intensified

Cyclone Arnab is the first cyclone of 2026 to form in the North Indian Ocean basin, which comprises the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea.

It began as a low-pressure system in the southeast Bay of Bengal on October 23 and intensified into Cyclone Arnab by October 26. It then rapidly strengthened into a "very severe" cyclone, with wind speeds ranging from 125 to 135 kmph.

Tropical cyclones are classified by their wind speeds. A 'severe' cyclone has speeds of 89-118 km/hour, while a 'very severe' cyclone has speeds of 119-221 km/hour.

Arnab moved towards land faster than the IMD had orginally forecast. Late on Tuesday night, the IMD advanced its landfall forecast from forenoon to the early hours of Wednesday. Landfall began around 1 am.

Arnab crossed the coast between Bapatla and Visakhapatnam with wind speeds equivalent to a "very severe" cyclone: 125-135 kmph, gusting to 140 kmph. Landfall is the process by which a cyclone's "eye" (or centre) crosses from the sea onto land, and cyclones wreak the most damage at this stage.

Storms usually lose steam after landfall as they run into the landmass and other obstacles, but Arnab did not. It held the same intensity for at least six hours after landfall before weakening into a "severe" storm.

According to the IMD, Arnab remained stationary over regions close to Narsapur (Andhra Pradesh) and Yanam (Puducherry) from 4 am, which slowed the landfall process. Landfall normally takes up to six hours or more, depending on the speed and size of the cyclone.

Heavy rain has battered parts of coastal Andhra Pradesh and Odisha since Tuesday. Visakhapatnam recorded 217 mm of rain, Kalingapatam 147 mm, Tuni 123 mm, Kakinada 118 mm, Machilipatanam 115 mm and Gopalpur 94 mm.

• HOW ARE CYCLONES NAMED?

- **The naming** of tropical cyclones in the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea began in September 2004 after a meeting of an intergovernmental panel in 2000.
- **Names were** initially provided by eight panel members — Bangladesh, India, the Maldives, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Thailand. In 2018, five more countries joined — Iran, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE and Yemen.
- **The nations** suggest a list of names, which are finalised by the panel. Countries must follow certain guidelines while proposing names. For instance, they must be short, easy to pronounce and inoffensive.
- **The Regional** Specialised Meteorological Centre at New Delhi officially assigns the names once a weather system meets the threshold of 62 kmph to be declared a cyclone.
- **The 13 member** countries are listed alphabetically, and their suggested names are used sequentially. Once all 13 names are covered, the list from which cyclones can be picked moves on to the next column, where countries are again arranged alphabetically. Once used, a cyclone name is not repeated.
- **The current** cyclone's name, **Arnab (pronounced Ornab)**, has been put forward by Bangladesh. The next name in the sequence is **Murasu**, proposed by India, which follows Bangladesh alphabetically in the list of 13 countries. Murasu is a Tamil word for drum.


A coastal road damaged by Cyclone Arnab in Andhra Pradesh's Kakinada district. AP

Bay watch

The Bay of Bengal is prone to storm surges in part due to its funnel-like shape. It is landlocked on three sides and is shallow for a large distance from the coast.

•

Cyclones on the northern hemisphere move west; so, India's east coast comes in line of a cyclone's path.

El Niño effect on cyclones

El Niño refers to the abnormal warming of surface waters in the Pacific Ocean. It suppresses monsoon rainfall, spikes temperatures and causes heatwaves in many parts of the world, including the Indian subcontinent. This year's El Niño is forecast to be among the strongest since records began. The World Meteorological Organization has warned that frequent cyclones will affect Asia.

Coastal districts in Odisha and West Bengal are the most prone to cyclones that develop in the Bay of Bengal. But during El Niño years, cyclones formed in this basin affect the Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu coasts. This is primarily linked to where a cyclone forms and the path it takes. A cyclone starts as a low-pressure system and intensifies into a depression, a deep depression, a cyclonic storm, and beyond.

In 2026, El Niño is intensifying rapidly. This also affects global wind patterns, causing unusual warming in regions such as the North Indian Ocean.

After withdrawal by mid-October , the southwest monsoon winds weaken. As a result, the monsoon trough, a band of low pressure that shifts north and south and brings rainfall to different parts of India, moves southwards.

During El Niño years, warmer oceans can further change wind patterns and air pressure near the equator.

In El Niño years, tropical cyclones in the North Indian Ocean tend to form along the lower latitudes. They are, therefore, more likely to move towards Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu than towards Odisha and West Bengal, IMD chief Mrutyunjay Mohapatra had explained earlier. Another El Niño year, 2014, saw Cyclone Hudhud barrel towards the Andhra Pradesh coast.

Cyclones that form under these conditions not only intensify rapidly but also move faster, as seen with Cyclone Arnab.

Tropical cyclones' fuel

Under the developing El Niño scenario, the sea surface temperature recorded along the Niño 3.4 region (which is used to measure El Niño's intensity) of the equatorial Pacific during July-September this year was 2 to 2.8 degrees Celsius above normal, indicating warm oceans.

Ocean temperatures of 26 degrees Celsius or above, at depths between 50 and 100 metres, are conducive to cyclone formation. Tropical cyclones are fuelled by ocean heat, and warm oceans can contribute to rapid intensification while a cyclone is at sea. Cyclone Arnab reached its highest intensity as a "very severe" cyclone in a single day.

Cyclone intensification is a highly complex process, influenced by a combination of favourable atmospheric conditions such as boundary layers, wind shear, convection, upper ocean circulation and air-sea interaction.

Arnab's path and impact

Heavy rain (64-115 mm in 24 hours) will continue to batter the coasts of northern Andhra Pradesh and south Odisha until Thursday. As Cyclone Arnab recurves northwards, its weakened remnants are expected to cross parts of Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar, Gangetic West Bengal, eastern MP and eastern UP over the next two days, bringing very heavy rain (115-204 mm in 24 hours).

• CORPORATE

How Jio listing helped Reliance group edge past Tatas, Adanis

George Mathew
Mumbai, October 28

JIO PLATFORMS has emerged as India's second-most valuable company, with a market capitalisation of Rs 13.05 lakh crore, after its shares closed the first day of trading at Rs 1,417.35, gaining 26.6% on the stock exchanges on Wednesday.

Reliance Industries (RIL) has retained the top position with a market capitalisation of Rs 15.17 lakh crore, according to the rankings as of October 28.

With the listing of Jio, Reliance group companies — including RIL, Jio Platforms and Jio Financial Services — now have a combined market capitalisation of Rs 29.57 lakh crore, making it India's biggest business group by market value and putting it ahead of the Tatas and the Adanis. Jio Financial Services has a market capitalisation of Rs 1.35 lakh crore.

The total market capitalisation of Tata group companies as of Thursday was Rs 25.1 lakh crore and Adani group firms Rs 16.5 lakh crore

New pecking order

Bharti Airtel, which occupied the second position until Tuesday, now ranks third with a market capitalisation of Rs 12.16 lakh crore. HDFC Bank ranks fourth at Rs 10.58 lakh crore, followed by ICICI Bank in fifth place at Rs 9.86 lakh crore.

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) ranks sixth, with a market capitalisation of Rs 8.89 lakh crore, followed by State Bank of India (SBI) at Rs 8.83 lakh crore. Bajaj Finance occupies the eighth position at Rs 5.71 lakh crore, while Larsen & Toubro ranks ninth at Rs 5.23 lakh crore. Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) is in tenth place with a market capitalisation of Rs 4.94 lakh crore. Infosys, with a market capitalisation of Rs 4.55 lakh crore, follows LIC.

The listing provides investors with a separate market valuation for Jio Platforms, a digital services and telecommunications business that was previously housed within RIL. Its standalone valuation could influence how investors assess the value of RIL and its various businesses.

• TOP INDIAN COMPANIES BY MARKET CAPITALISATION

1	Reliance Industries	Rs 15.17 lakh crore
2	Jio Platforms	Rs 13.05 lakh crore
3	Bharti Airtel	Rs 12.16 lakh crore
4	HDFC Bank	Rs 10.58 lakh crore
5	ICICI Bank	Rs 9.86 lakh crore
6	TCS	Rs 8.89 lakh crore
7	State Bank of India	Rs 8.83 lakh crore
8	Bajaj Finance	Rs 5.71 lakh crore
9	Larsen & Toubro	Rs 5.23 lakh crore
10	LIC	Rs 4.94 lakh crore


(From left) Akash Ambani, chairman of Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd; Isha Ambani, non-executive director of Jio Platforms Ltd; and Anant Ambani, non-executive director of Jio Platforms Ltd, on Wednesday. AP

RIL stock price implications

However, Jio Platforms' market capitalisation should not be interpreted as an equivalent increase in wealth for RIL or its promoter, the Ambani family. RIL already held a substantial stake in Jio Platforms before the listing, and the value of the business was at least partly reflected in RIL's share price.

Following the initial public offering (IPO), RIL's stake in Jio Platforms is expected to decline from 66.35 per cent to 64.41 per cent. At Jio Platforms' market capitalisation of Rs 13.05 lakh crore, RIL's 64.41 per cent holding would be worth approximately Rs 8.41 lakh crore, assuming the stated ownership and valuation figures are applicable after listing.

The market's response to the listing will therefore be crucial. If RIL's share price rises as investors reassess the value of its Jio holding, the promoter group's notional wealth could increase. For instance, a sustained 5-8 per cent rise in RIL's market capitalisation from Rs 15.17 lakh crore would increase its market value by approximately Rs 75,850 crore to Rs 1.21 lakh crore. Applying the promoter group's reported 50.44 per cent holding, this would translate into an increase of approximately Rs 38,258 crore to Rs 61,213 crore in the value of its stake, assuming ownership remains unchanged. These are illustrative scenarios, not forecasts. The actual impact will depend on Jio Platforms' trading performance, investor expectations and movements in RIL's share price.

Jio Platforms' entry into the market-capitalisation league has reshaped the rankings of India's most valuable companies, placing it second behind RIL. While the listing offers a clearer picture of Jio's standalone value, the meaningful measure of wealth creation for the Ambani family will be the change in the value of its existing holdings rather than Jio Platforms' entire market capitalisation.

WEB EXCLUSIVE
Cyclone Arnab underlines growing climate and infrastructure risk.
— *Anjal Prakash*
Log on to www.indianexpress.com

WORDLY WISE
To get the full value of joy you must have someone to divide it with.
— *Mark Twain*

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IN 1932
BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

Growth holds, but don't lose sight of pain points

THE UNDERLYING momentum in the Indian economy appears to be holding up in a challenging global environment. Several agencies have recently upgraded their estimates for India's growth this year — for instance, ADB and Moody's raised their forecasts for the year to 7 per cent, and OECD to 7.1 per cent. In the latest State of the Economy report, economists at the RBI have noted that a range of high-frequency indicators across both the industry and services segments indicate that the economy continues to show strength. There are, however, pain points that must not be lost sight of.

GST collections have been healthy. As the RBI report points out, GST revenue has, for four straight months, recorded double-digit growth. Alongside, electricity demand has been robust, and petrol consumption healthy. The Index of Industrial production has grown at 6.8 per cent in the first half of the year. Demand appears strong in both urban and rural areas — passenger vehicle sales have grown at an impressive pace in both segments, and sales of two-wheelers and tractors have been robust in rural areas. Exports have continued to grow at a good pace — merchandise exports were up 18.5 per cent in the first two quarters of this year, aided perhaps by the fall in the rupee. Government spending has also been supportive — the Centre's capex grew by 18 per cent during April-August.

However, a deficit monsoon is likely to impact farm output, while higher input prices will hurt profitability. There are few signs of a broad-based recovery in the private investment cycle. And there is visible weakness in the stock markets. Over the past year, the Sensex has fallen almost 14 per cent. Foreign portfolio investors have taken out $14.6 billion in 2024-25, $19.6 billion in 2025-26 and $17.3 billion so far this year. The rupee has come under intense pressure — it has fallen by around 5.5 per cent this year, and is currently trading around 95.2 per dollar despite several steps being taken by the central bank. Clearly, more needs to be done to shore up investor sentiment and attract foreign capital. Wide-ranging reforms focused on lowering trade barriers, improving the business environment and encouraging private investment, both domestic and foreign, are needed. The underlying issues that are still plaguing the economy need to be addressed urgently.

On care for elderly, Keralam sets an example

THE KERALAM Assembly's passage of the Senior Citizens' (Care and Protection of Rights) Bill, 2026, is a notable step towards upholding the dignity of the elderly. The legislation lays down rights to affordable care, legal aid, digital inclusion and safe public spaces. It also seeks to regulate old-age homes and home-care services, train caregivers and establish state- and district-level protection units. The legislation is alive to an important socioeconomic reality: Changing family structures are eroding traditional systems of elder care, even as the idea that ageing need not mean a life of dependence gains more ground. It seeks to move beyond a system that views senior citizens mainly as people who need family support or state welfare and recognises the right to "live independently at home, with institutional care as the last resort".

Keralam is experiencing one of India's fastest demographic transitions. The share of people aged 60 and above rose from 12.7 per cent in 2011 to 15 per cent in 2021. The state could have more elderly people than children in the next five years. The legislation is, therefore, timely. Implementation will, however, pose challenges. Older people need specialised care that addresses the multiple illnesses they often live with, their mobility problems and the mental-health concerns that can accompany ageing. The National Programme for Health Care of the Elderly, launched in 2010, recognised these needs. But a NITI Aayog report, 14 years later, flagged that "care infrastructure, customised to the special needs of elderly people, is inadequate." It also pointed out that most dedicated senior care centres are in urban areas, although most elderly people live in rural areas. Keralam will need to strengthen geriatric services in public hospitals, ensure that care centres mandated by the legislation meet prescribed standards, and expand home-based care.

The other question concerns the financial burden on the state. How much will the government spend on senior citizens' facilities, and what role can the private sector play? In the UK, Prime Minister Andy Burnham's recent call for a National Care Service for the elderly has sparked debate on funding-related concerns. Keralam also needs such a conversation. In India, more than a fifth of the population is expected to be over 60 by 2050. Lessons from the state, therefore, could inform policy well beyond it. Keralam's experiment will be closely watched.

Need a reprieve? Just water a brick

IN 1930, in his essay, "Economic Possibilities for Our Grandchildren", John Maynard Keynes predicted that, by the time his grandchildren came of age, they would be working a mere 15 hours a week. The rest would go in the contemplation of "how to live wisely and agreeably and well". Keynes had not reckoned with performance targets, LinkedIn, or the need to turn every passing interest into a revenue stream. In China, where marriage rates are dwindling and birth rates have fallen to never-before lows, some young adults have found a rather more modest solution to the tyranny of ambition: A brick. No dating apps to swipe through, no wedding banquet that might cost a small fortune, no offspring whose elite education needs to be planned and saved for. Just watering a brick occasionally and watching moss grow— or not. No sweat.

Keynes imagined leisure as the outcome of progress but modern life has become an exhausting audition in which everyone is expected to keep on demonstrating exceptional promise. Even downtime has acquired the trappings of competition: A walk is an opportunity to improve cardiovascular fitness; a book enjoyed must be chalked up on Bookstagram. And does travel even count if there aren't photographs with #happyfeet?

China's demographic troubles have complex economic and social roots, but the trend offers an insight into contemporary malaise. People may not necessarily be turning away from ambition; they might simply be seeking reprieve from the expectation to extract more from every minute. And when the costs of conventional adulthood seem prohibitive, joy must be gleaned from the puerile. A brick may not have much of a future, but at least it is not weighed down by the pressure to become a better version of itself.

Inter-State Council is a meeting point that has withered away. It must be rebuilt



THAROORTHINK
BY SHASHI THAROOR

IT'S BEEN rumoured for weeks that the government wished to reconvene Parliament (whose monsoon session has deliberately not been prorogued) in order to push through the delimitation bill that it hopes will lock in a two-thirds majority for the states in which the BJP is strong. Now it seems that isn't happening, either because the government isn't sure it has the votes, or because it fears that convening Parliament in the present environment will merely give the Opposition one more forum to raise a clamour about the Election Commission's malfeasance.

Whatever it eventually does, deciding the issue of delimitation in Parliament is not enough: It bypasses an essential element in our federal system, the states. Any delimitation should only follow a grand national conversation that takes the views of state governments into account. But what forum would permit them to express their views on a matter of such transcendent importance?

There's no obvious answer, unless the government is prepared to revive the Inter-State Council from its long-standing state of desuetude. Framed under Article 263 of the Constitution, the Council was conceived by the founders as a vital institutional mechanism to foster federalism, facilitate inter-governmental consultation, and harmonise the disparate interests of the Union and the states. Yet, despite its potential, the Council lay dormant for over four decades following Independence, only to be formally constituted in 1990 on the recommendation of the Sarkaria Commission.

This initial activation was heralded as a watershed moment for Indian democracy, promising a consultative platform where state governments could engage directly with the national executive on equal terms. However, it has been subject to institutional atrophy and systemic neglect. Deprived of operational autonomy, regular meetings, and independent authority, it remains largely ineffective, leaving a critical structural void at the heart of Indian federalism.

In the process, we have betrayed the visionary intent embedded within Article 263. The framers of the Constitution were conscious that they had created a federal structure that featured a strong centralising impulse in an extraordinarily diverse country. Article 263 was deliberately drafted in flexible and wide-ranging language, empowering the President to establish a council that could investigate and discuss subjects in which some or many states, or the Union and one or more states, have a common interest. It was designed to bring about better coordination of policy and action between the Centre and the states. No wonder the Sarkaria Commission identified the dormant Inter-State Council as the missing link in India's federal equilibrium. It envisioned, as the Constitution did, a body that would serve as the premier arena for inter-governmental negotiation, policy alignment, and political conflict resolution — a dedicated constitutional organ to navigate the complexities of power-sharing in a pluralist polity.

Unfortunately, rather than operating as a constitutional chamber mediating between the Centre and the states, the Council became an appendage of the Home Ministry, subject to its bureaucratic imperatives and political priorities. This subordination rendered it a minor department within a central ministry rather than an independent administrative entity capable of setting an unbiased national agenda. The Council's statutory obligation to meet regularly was repeatedly disregarded by successive governments; long gaps of several years between meetings became the norm. This circumscribed authority reflected a preference for unilateral central policymaking or for informal negotiations over institutionalised dialogue, and the Council never acquired the prestige and leverage necessary to influence legislative initiatives or policy decisions affecting states' rights, revenues, or constitutional questions like delimitation.

> India needs a continuous, systematic process of shared deliberation and consultation with the states. The Constitution gives us one. It's time we took it out of cold storage

The result of the Inter-State Council's atrophy is the erosion of trust between central authorities and states, especially those ruled by opposition parties. In contemporary governance, most policy challenges, ranging from economic and tax reforms to ecological preservation, public health crises, and internal security, cut across jurisdictions. When a platform like the Inter-State Council is inactive, central policies are made without meaningful consultation with state CMs. This top-down approach inevitably triggers political friction, administrative resistance and constitutional controversy — as is certain to occur over delimitation.

India needs a continuous, systematic process of shared deliberation and consultation with the states. The Constitution gives us one. It's time we took it out of cold storage, reconstituted it as a genuinely autonomous body and re-energised it to serve the demands of modern governance. The Council's secretariat should be reimagined as an independent statutory authority, staffed by a diverse pool of civil servants and technical experts. Its meeting schedule must be strictly institutionalised, ensuring that the Prime Minister, key cabinet ministers, and state chief ministers are convened at predictable, regular intervals to deliberate on matters of shared national importance. The Council should serve as the primary locus for negotiating major policy reforms, evaluating the local impact of national schemes, and mediating inter-state disputes regarding resource sharing, infrastructure, environmental management and constitutional change.

Rebuilding the Inter-State Council as an empowered body would fundamentally alter the trajectory of Indian governance. By providing a permanent, inclusive platform for transparent dialogue, the Council can bridge the structural gap between central legislative authority and state administrative execution. It would transform Centre-state relations from an erratic cycle of political confrontation into a cooperative partnership grounded in mutual respect and constitutional legitimacy. It would permit state views to be taken into account before national policies are made. In a nation characterised by vast socio-economic diversity and complex federal dynamics, a fully functional and independent Inter-State Council is not a luxury but a structural necessity.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi popularised the phrase "cooperative federalism", but it has remained a platitude without a platform. He now has a chance to give it substance — and he doesn't even require a law. The Inter-State Council is already in the Constitution. Just bring it to life.

The writer is a fourth-term Congress MP from Thiruvananthapuram

Lula phenomenon coincides with rise of a new voter in Brazil



PRITI SINGH

LUIZ INÁCIO Lula da Silva, who by the end of this term will create a record in Brazil's democratic history for being in power for 16 years, has defied the trend in Latin American elections, where most countries have been turning to the right. Javier Milei is in power in Argentina, while recent presidential elections in Chile and Colombia also saw conservative presidents coming back to power. Lula's opponent, Flávio Bolsonaro, has protested against the declaration of results, seeking an annulment. The polling hours were extended by two hours that evening after campaign teams from both sides cited inclement weather and transport problems that had prevented voters from reaching polling stations in time.

What led to this sudden turnaround is a matter of much debate. Was it the complacency of the Bolsonaro camp after their success in the first round and the increased vigour of campaigning by the "Lulistas"? Lula represents the Workers' Party (PT) in Brazil and is known for his welfare schemes and reforms favouring the poor in the country, especially Bolsa Família, a conditional cash transfer scheme launched by him when he first came to power.

Lula himself comes from a humble background, being a metalworker who rose to prominence as a union leader before becoming president in 2003. After completing his first two terms, he left office and later served time in jail on charges of corruption, only to re-emerge as president in 2023.

On the other hand, this is the first time Bolsonaro has run for president. He is a lawyer and politician affiliated with the Liberal Party (PL) and has been serving as senator for Rio de Janeiro since 2019. More importantly, he is the son of Jair Bolsonaro, a former far-right president. While the working class has been known to support Lula, the changes in recent years, with many industrial factories shutting down to make way for service industries and delivery-app technology companies, may explain a swing in votes towards Bolsonaro. Moreover, "change" is what most middle-class Latin American voters have been seeking. With rising levels of taxation and unemployment, a struggling economy and the "Uberisation" of the economy — including the growth of small businesses and food and goods delivery services — there are calls for closer attention to middle-class voters. This was evident from the number of abstentions, which had increased in the first round, even though voting is mandatory in Brazil.

In a 2013 study, the World Bank pointed to the emergence of a new kind of middle class called the "vulnerable" class between the poor and the middle class, which impacted electoral politics in Latin America. This class, which rose out of poverty but could not quite reach the middle class in the first decade of the 21st century, has developed high expectations and a sense of frustration, reflected in its voting patterns. Called the "Anger Vote" by some, this is what has been used to explain the flip-flop of voters across the Latin American region, who shift their votes from the left to the conservative right and vice versa in each electoral cycle. Lula's success, thus, coincides with a divided Congress, and he faces a tumultuous road ahead.

> In a 2013 study, the World Bank pointed to the emergence of a new kind of middle class called the 'vulnerable' class between the poor and the middle class, which impacted electoral politics in Latin America

In foreign affairs, Lula's win brings with it support for multilateralism and a stronger voice for the Global South, as he believes in Brazil's strategic autonomy and in diversifying its trade partnerships, along with support for climate change action. Bolsonaro emphasised closer relations with the US on trade, security cooperation and critical minerals. However, what these differences actually mean in practice is not very clear. While the governance styles of the two leaders vary, Brazil has certain core interests and institutions that will define its strategic policies, including control over its critical and rare earth minerals, constructive relations and trade with China, as well as with the US. India and Brazil also have an important partnership that is gaining strategic traction and is likely to strengthen further, irrespective of the leadership.

The writer is professor, Latin American Studies, Centre for the Study of the Americas, School of International Studies, JNU

On oil, the US keeps India guessing



SHIFALI GOYAL



DEBASHIS CHAKRABORTY

AN EDITORIAL in this newspaper ("Rubio visit prepares ground for reboot of ties', *IE*, October 28) argued that US Secretary of State Marco Rubio's recent trip to India has "hopefully prepared the ground for rebooting relations". But temporary relief is not a basis for treating the uncertainty as resolved. The Trump 2.0 era has forced countries to evaluate their trade options with the US. On October 16, President Donald Trump waived the specified duties and sanctions under the Lindsey O Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act. The Act authorised duties of up to 500 per cent on direct American imports from Russia, and of up to 100 per cent on goods from the five largest buyers of Russian crude and gas in the previous year if they made new purchases from October 18, and from the five largest facilitators of oil-sanctions evasion. China and India are the two major buyers targeted.

The waiver does not repeal the Act and can be withdrawn. Rubio has said the administration would take around 60 days to assess the implications. India has been given time, not a settlement. In August 2025, the combined duty on many Indian products was raised to 50 per cent, including 25 per cent linked to Russian oil. A February 2026 interim agreement remains unsigned.

The US has done this before. During the Trump 1.0 era, it left the Trans-Pacific Partnership, entered a trade war with China, and continued blocking appointments of jurists to the WTO Appellate Body. Since the Liberation Day tariffs of April 2025, its modus operandi has been to announce a duty, force the partner to react, then either strike a deal or raise the next threat. Many economies, including the UK, Japan, and the EU, have settled below their peak tariffs. Canada embraced retaliation. The Iran war disrupted the Strait of Hormuz, and oil prices rose. Asian oil importers including India, balancing energy security against export access, had more reason to look for non-Gulf barrels.

The US cannot shut Russia's oil trade by itself. The Act was the instrument to raise the cost of accessing the US market for major purchasers of Russian crude and gas. The 100 per cent tariff was never automatic, and the President's discretionary power makes it more of a bargaining instrument. China has played the strong card: After President Xi Jinping's recent visit, the two sides agreed to reduce tariffs and extended a trade truce. Though though not a settlement under the Act, this shows China's strategic leverage and how it has forced the US to lower its tariff hammer.

For India, the threat is not eliminated. The choice between Russian barrels and access to the US market remains. During his visit, Rubio said the India-US trade deal was "very, very close" and described India as a "refining superpower" that can process more Venezuelan crude. The visit put Venezuelan crude on the table as one option for India's crude mix, which could be used as a bargaining instrument. It did not close the trade deal or settle where the barrels will come from. What is critical is how long the waiver stays in place while the trade deal remains unsigned.

Goyal is research associate, CSEP and Chakraborty is professor at IIFT, Kolkata. Views are personal

DEAR EDITOR
I disagree
A fortnightly column in which we invite readers to tell us why, when they differ with the editorial positions or news coverage of 'The Indian Express'

40 YEARS AGO
October 29, 1986


INDIAN EXPRESS
Terrorists kill 9, loot 13 lakh

More violence in Punjab

SEWA SINGH Bhinder, vice-president of Gurdaspur district Congress-I and uncle of a former chief of Punjab and Delhi police, was among the seven persons killed by terrorists in the state in the past 24 hours.

PM for defensive measures

PRIME MINISTER Rajiv Gandhi said in New Delhi that the presence of outside navies in the Indian Ocean remained a source of worry and stressed that the country could not ignore any possible threat from this region while planning its defence. Addressing the first-ever joint conference of senior officers of the Army, Navy and Air Force, he said the proposal to make the Indian Ocean a zone of peace had not met with success yet. On the induction of sophisticated arms into Pakistan, he said it was regrettable that Pakistan had not evinced any serious interest in the normalisation of relations.

Congress impasse

THE IMPASSE in the Congress-I following working president Kamlapati Tripathi's stand on relinquishing the post appeared to be ending with him offering to step down. "If the Congress-I president, Rajiv Gandhi, gives me the slightest indication that he wants me to resign, I will quit immediately."

Samora Machel laid to rest

MOZAMBIQUE PRESIDENT Samora Machel, considered one of the greatest freedom fighters of southern Africa, was laid to rest with full state and military honours amid renewed determination by the government and the party to fight racism and colonialism. Machel, who became the symbol of armed struggle in the region and won freedom for his country from the Portuguese in 1975, found his final resting place in the Heroes Square.

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

The American people have a chance over the next week to speak in a clear voice.
— *The New York Times*

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Before UP polls, let's ask: Does voter list meet criteria of completeness, equity, accuracy?



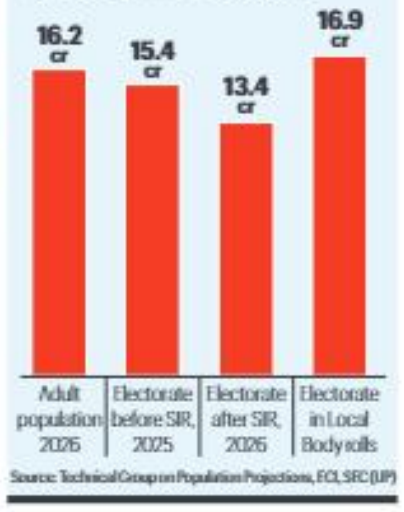
DESHKAAL

BY JEAN DRÈZE AND YOGENDRA YADAV



ILLUSTRATION: C R SASIKUMAR

MISSING VOTERS IN UP'S ELECTORATE



Source: Technical Group on Population Projections, ECI, SEC (UP)

AS ASSEMBLY elections approach in Uttar Pradesh, a sobering question arises — is it going to be a free and fair election? As it is, the recent elections in West Bengal have cast a shadow on the reputation of India's electoral system. The fairness of elections in UP raises a range of issues, from "old" ones such as the impartiality of the Election Commission and reliability of EVMs to more recent concerns, including suspicious alterations in the post-SIR voter lists, acceptance of mass deletion requests after the deadline, and the filing of unauthorised Form-7 objections. Here, we focus on the critical issue of "missing voters".

Uttar Pradesh had an estimated adult population of 16.2 crore as of 1 March 2026. The final SIR voter list, dated April 2026, has 13.4 crore names (down from 15.4 crore pre-SIR). Thus, about 2.8 crore voters seem to be missing, or 17.3 per cent of the adult population. It could even be more, if duplicates or other "surplus names" are still lingering on the final list. The gap is staggering.

UP's adult population estimate may be a little on the high side due to unanticipated out-migration. If so, the number of missing voters would be correspondingly lower. But there would be more missing voters elsewhere, because the effects of internal migration on population totals cancel out across states. Our all-India estimate of up to 14 crore missing voters ("Let's not be in denial — disenfranchisement is real", *IE*, October 20) would remain valid. The crisis is real, both within and beyond Uttar Pradesh.

Missing voters fall into two categories: Those who were unfairly deleted from the pre-SIR list ("deleted voters" for short), and those who were missing from the pre-SIR list and are still missing from the final list for lack of inclusion (let's call them "omitted voters"). The respective proportions of deleted and omitted voters are unknown as things stand.

An omitted voter is no less deprived of the right to vote than a deleted voter, unless it is a case of voluntary non-enrolment. Thus, voter exclusion is not a new phenomenon in India (according to a Lokniti survey, about 7 per cent of adults in 2025 did not have a voter ID). But a sound revision of electoral rolls should reduce, if not eliminate, exclusion. Instead, the ongoing SIR increases it sharply, aside from opening the door to arbitrariness and harassment.

Surjit Bhalla ("SIR needs reform. But let's go by numbers, not protestors' slogans", *IE*, October 24) is aware of the figures we have cited so far for UP, but he interprets them differently. He acknowledges that the SIR was carried out in unseemly haste, that it placed an unfair burden of paperwork on poor and migrant workers, that many "logical discrepancy" notices were unwarranted, that there is no evidence yet of claims about removing "infiltrators" and that the ECI's lack of transparency invites charges of bias. We agree with him on all this. But that still leaves a basic difference on the number of disenfranchised voters.

> The voter ID is a prized document for the vast majority of ordinary Indians, all the more so today when it becomes akin to a citizenship certificate. Thus, any significant shortfall from the adult population is an administrative failure to be examined and rectified

Bhalla's interpretation of the figures builds on one critical assumption: If a person is not on the voter list, it is their choice. In other words, all non-enrolment is voluntary. Based on this assumption, Bhalla argues (in his Substack 'Much ado about (almost) nothing', October 17) that "the right benchmark for a clean roll is not 100 per cent of adults but 100 per cent less those who do not register". In other words, a clean roll is an electoral roll with no duplicates, names of dead persons, or other "surplus names". It does not matter whether the roll covers 50 per cent or 90 per cent of adults, because enrolment is a matter of choice.

According to Bhalla, a "clean roll" (so defined) in Uttar Pradesh would not have more than 13.6 crore voters. Why? Because about 2.5 crore adult persons normally choose not to register themselves on the voters' list. And where does this figure come from? It builds on Lok Sabha election data for 2024, when nearly 40 per cent of the young adult population (age 18-29) in UP was not enrolled for voting. Bhalla treats this as voluntary non-enrolment, makes an ad hoc allowance for a smaller abstention in the older age group, and concludes that the real shortfall in UP is only 20 lakh (13.6 crore expected minus 13.4 crore actual). We should note in passing that this 40 per cent figure for non-enrolment of the young adult population in 2024 is the highest among all major states, and also much higher than earlier figures for UP itself. If Bhalla had adopted the non-enrolment figure for 2019, for example, his figure for shortfall would have been 93 lakh, not 20 lakh.

The premise of all these calculations — that all non-enrolment is voluntary — is untenable. Only someone who lives under a rock would believe that. The voter ID is a prized document for the vast majority of ordinary Indians, all the more so today when it becomes akin to a citizenship certificate. Thus, any significant shortfall from the adult population is an administrative failure to be examined and rectified. The ECI's own stated policy is "to ensure that no eligible voter is left out".

Coming back to the missing voters in UP, here is one further piece of damning evidence. It so happens that another constitutional body, the State Election Commission (SEC), carried out a parallel revision of the voter list of rural Uttar Pradesh around the same time as the SIR. After a thorough revision, involving over 2 crore deletions and additions, the size of the final rural voter list of UP in 2026 is 12.6 crore. Add to this the number of urban voters from the unrevised SEC list of 2023, and you get a figure of 16.9 crore for total voters in UP. This is much closer to the estimated adult population of 16.1 crore than the SIR total of 13.4 crore (all the more so after a small discount for surplus names in urban areas). The Election Commission of India has a lot to explain.

Voter lists are judged by three criteria: Completeness, equity and accuracy. The final SIR list in UP seems to fail on all three counts. There is a massive shortfall which systematically works against women and young voters. And there is mounting evidence of gross inaccuracies. Can such a voter list be the basis of a democratic franchise?

Drèze is visiting professor, Department of Economics, Ranchi University. Yadav is member, Swaraj India, and national convenor, Bharat Jodo Abhiyan.

The missing middle in India's growth story



ISHAN BAKSHI

THIS YEAR, five countries — Jordan, Micronesia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Vietnam — have moved up to the upper-middle income category as per the World Bank. Of these, Vietnam's case is instructive. In 2009, it crossed the threshold for lower-middle income status, meaning it took the country 16 years to move up the income classification. India, which entered the lower-middle income group in 2007, remains stuck in that category, 19 years later. China's ascent was even faster, reaching upper-middle income status in 2010, just 13 years after being classified as lower-middle income.

If incomes grow at 8.5 per cent in dollar terms — as opposed to 5.4 per cent over the past decade — it would take India around six years to reach the current threshold for upper-middle income status (not future inflation adjusted). Such a shift is not impossible. And while there are reasons to be optimistic about the country's growth prospects, there are harsh realities that must be confronted. Five statistics capture both the hope and the exasperation around the Indian economy today.

One, India's labour force has increased by more than 100 million in less than a decade as per the World Bank. During this period, the unemployment rate has trended lower, suggesting that somehow the economy has managed to create just about enough jobs. But being employed, or self-employed for that matter, is not the same as being productively employed. The poor grab whatever opportunities they can get. They don't have the luxury of staying unemployed. Roughly two-thirds of the increase in the labour force is accounted for by women, most of whom are self-employed and engaged in agriculture. In fact, 43 per cent of the labour force is still employed in agriculture and 79 per cent of the non-agri labour force is engaged in informal enterprises — sectors where value added is miniscule. A country becomes rich only when its labour force moves from informal to formal, from low- to high-productivity jobs.

Two, the number of registered factories has doubled, rising from 1.3 lakh in 2004-05 to 2.6 lakh in 2024-25. Yet manufacturing's share in the economy and employment hasn't gone up. Between 2020-21 and 2024-25, fewer workers found employment in formal manufacturing than in the gig economy. The factory floor has been one of the most effective pathways for mass upward mobility. But not in India. And while value added per worker has increased, wages per worker have grown at a slower pace than profits. A more capital-intensive mode of production has weakened workers' bargaining power, and a greater share of value added accruing to capital has led to higher inequality.

Three, for the better part of this decade, the government has spent billions upgrading the country's infrastructure. From highways to airports, freight corridors and ports, the much-needed upgrade has brought down the logistics costs, improved competitiveness. But what happens next? Public investment was meant to crowd in private investment. But the baton hasn't been passed over. Companies have repaired their balance sheets, and favoured returning money to shareholders and investing selectively.

Four, there has been a tremendous expansion in renewable energy over the past decade, with solar energy being the key driver. But this has created its own set of challenges. During summer this year, even as demand surged, the solar output had to be curbed due to surplus daytime energy and inadequate transmission infrastructure: Solar-energy generation is running ahead of storage and transmission infrastructure. The electricity sector is a constraint on India's manufacturing and tech ambitions. Factories need reliable and affordable power supply. Data centres and AI also require large and dependable sources of electricity. Storage, transmission and the investments therein are therefore critical for building a strong industrial and technological base.

Five, India currently has 9.4 lakh dollar millionaires as per the UBS Global Wealth Report. This places the country alongside Switzerland and marginally behind Spain. By next year, it could well be home to a million millionaires. This will have several implications. The trend towards premiumisation will only accelerate. Demand for foreign exchange will also increase as wealthier households will increasingly opt for overseas education, investments and travel. And while the affluent also contribute more to government tax revenues, these numbers also imply that the economy is producing richer people faster than it is giving rise to a broad middle class.

India needs to move its workforce from low to high-value jobs. It needs factories that can provide employment at scale and compete in global markets. For that it needs public infra, but also for private capital to take the baton. Only through high-productivity jobs can India create widespread prosperity.

The writer is senior associate editor, The Indian Express. ishan.bakshi@expressindia.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Military reform

GIVEN THAT strategy in warfare is changing fast due to technological advances, current single-service military commands are truly archaic ("On theatre commands, let's finish arguing, reach a settlement, before next crisis", *IE*, October 28). AI-guided algorithmic warfare requires a single commander with operational authority and the necessary forces. However, the political establishment's preference for the status quo is a hurdle.
— *Vasant Nalawade, Satara*

Strict regulation

TREES-CUTTING to widen roads, unregulated ready-mix concrete plants, construction dust, cement roads and concrete buildings are altering the urban environment. Trees that naturally help filter pollutants and regulate temperatures are being sacrificed for infrastructure that often leaves little room for nature ("Clean air needs targets, timelines, accountability", *IE*, October 28). Clean-air action plans must go beyond vehicle emissions and industrial pollution. Authorities must strictly regulate RMC plants, enforce construction dust-control measures, protect existing trees and ensure meaningful green spaces in urban development.
— *Dattatray S Girt, Pune*

Retrain workers

AI WILL inevitably reshape employment, but efficiency cannot become a convenient justification for indiscriminate layoffs ("Workforce shake-up is here to stay. Brace for it", *IE*, October 28). Companies benefiting from automation should invest in retraining employees for emerging roles. Governments, universities and industry must also align skill programmes with demand. Protecting every job is unrealistic; abandoning workers is equally shortsighted. Technological progress will command public trust only when productivity gains create broader economic opportunity, too.
— *Abhharna Barathi, Pune*



VIJAY SINGH

In France, protests frame costs of state silence

AN ACT of ominous violence took place on October 23 in Trappes and La Verrière, two immigrant townships 30 km from Paris. Six days after the scenes of violence and vandalism in France were attributed by the far right, without proof, to "Allah's revolutionaries", Kevin T, a White Frenchman, shot dead Pengo Bossio Wang, a Black martial arts amateur, critically injured a 12-year-old North African girl, and wounded three other people. It is hard to fathom how an innocuous month-old high-school protest could spiral into a heinous racist crime that President Emmanuel Macron called a "turning point" in the history of the Republic.

The French high schoolers' movement started in suburban Paris with a clutch of demands — buildings in a state of disrepair, lack of teachers, overcrowded classrooms, and importantly, the abrogation of a selection system called Parcoursup, by which students go through a sorting process rather too early in their youth. The government responded with silence. It had possibly forgotten what former president François Hollande had once said about high schoolers: They are like toothpaste. Once it comes out, it's difficult to put it back in. The action began at the school gates — sloganeering, trash-bin bonfires, school blockades. But the situation deteriorated when the authorities chose to crush the protests through police repression. In the violent clashes that followed, school kids were joined by disgruntled suburban youth. Thousands of students, aged between 14 and 18 years, were arrested, and when the news spread that lethal police weapons had caused permanent disabilities in a few children, anger turned into rage.

> State silence sows seeds of violence. It hides within its folds hubris, indifference and callousness

High schoolers took to the streets. Hundreds of thousands, whose history books had taught them about the revolutions of 1789 and May '68, thronged the boulevards. But it must be underlined that their demonstrations, for the most part, were peaceful and carnivalesque, full of bonhomie and political humour. The situation came to a head on October 17, when French trade unions, "yellow jackets", and school students joined forces for the "cost of living" protest; an estimated 800,000 descended onto the streets of France. The demonstrations in themselves were pacific, and if they culminated in scenes of violence, with monuments set ablaze, shops wrecked and pillaged, it was only due to masked external groups called "*les casseurs*" who had infiltrated the demonstration.

The obvious question: Who is responsible for this? The far left blamed the police, calling them out for their lack of presence and action against the looters at a time when it was most needed, and for their mishandling of the situation. The far right, making a dubious use of the right to freedom of expression, made blatant, ethno-racial references to the "suburban riff-raff", "Allah's revolutionaries" and the "predators in the suburbs". It was relentless in injecting hatred and poison into an already polarised France.

It is such words of baseless finger-pointing and hatred, given a privileged platform by the mainstream media, that explain how a man like Kevin T could kill and injure innocent people of colour. The media carries a responsibility. It must know: Words harm, they kill, they trigger weapons. Further, state silence sows seeds of violence. It hides within its folds hubris, indifference and callousness. It is the womb of frustration and anger. Four weeks after the protests began, President Macron has ended up accepting a bulk of the student demands. And at what cost — billions of euros of heritage and property reduced to ashes, mass arrests, injuries to protestors and cops, a divided France.

The writer is a filmmaker based in Paris



TIM CURTIS

To counter AI misinformation, invest in skills, literacy

IN TODAY'S information environment, algorithm-driven feeds, short-form videos and recommendation systems shape what we see and believe. Generative AI makes it easier to produce and distribute convincing fabricated content. The question is no longer how to access information, but how to judge what is reliable and trustworthy.

Media and information literacy (MIL) equips people to access, understand, evaluate and share information responsibly, enabling informed choices and meaningful participation in public life. UNESCO's Global Media and Information Literacy Week, marked this year under the theme "We All Play a Part: Media and Information Literacy for the People", underscores this shared responsibility.

India has more than a billion internet subscribers, according to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India. But connectivity does not automatically translate into the ability to navigate the information environment. A 2025 National Statistics Office survey found that only 18 per cent of people aged 15 and above reported being able to file a cybercrime complaint through the official portal. Digital platforms compete for attention, often rewarding emotionally charged content.

When access outpaces the ability to assess information, misleading claims can spread unchecked, often deepening polarisation. During the August floods in Nepal, videos with images taken out of context circulated online, illustrating how misinformation can distort public understanding when people need reliable information. The stakes are also high during elections. Two days before Slovakia's 2023 parliamentary election, an AI-generated audio recording appeared to falsely implicate political figures in electoral misconduct.

Governments must protect freedom of expression and access to information while addressing disinformation, hate speech and online violence. Labelling AI-generated content is useful, but cannot prevent deception or the misuse of genuine footage. No law or detection tool can, on its own, keep pace with the speed at which synthetic content spreads. People need the skills to make informed decisions. UNESCO's learning module, AI Answers. You Decide, explores how AI is designed to help learners critically assess AI-generated outputs. Students must learn to evaluate sources, recognise bias and understand how algorithms shape what they see. This requires trained teachers, practical resources and materials in local languages. India must also extend these skills beyond classrooms, particularly to rural communities, women, and people with disabilities. Community radio, local journalists and health workers can provide verified information in languages people understand, especially during emergencies. Newsrooms can strengthen trust by explaining how claims are verified and acknowledging what remains unknown.

> Students must learn to evaluate sources, recognise bias and understand how algorithms shape what they see. This requires trained teachers, practical resources and materials in local languages

Platforms must be transparent about recommendation systems, label synthetic media and respond swiftly during crises. UNESCO's Guidelines for the Governance of Digital Platforms provide a framework for transparency and accountability. In multilingual India, content moderation must work effectively beyond English and Hindi.

Creators and influencers also have a role. Equipping creators with verification skills and ethical guidance could help reduce the spread of misleading information.

Children are growing up in information environments shaped by AI before they have fully developed the skills to question them. Building MIL is therefore not simply about safer technology use. It is an investment in critical thinking, social trust, democratic participation and collective resilience.

The writer is director and representative, UNESCO Regional Office for South Asia

Kolkata

IIP: MINING OUTPUT SEES BIGGEST FALL IN 3 YEARS

Industrial growth slowed to 4-month low of 6.7% in Sept

Shubham Rana
New Delhi, October 28

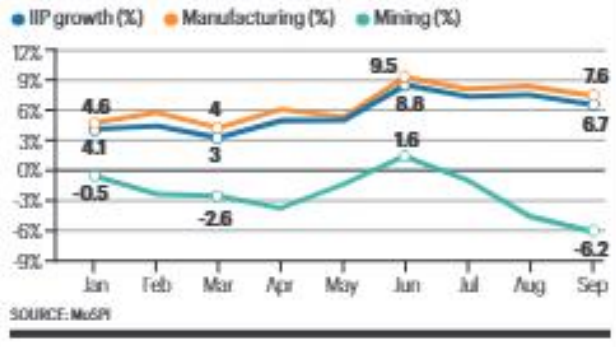
GROWTH IN India's industrial output, as measured by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), slowed to a four-month low of 6.7% in September, pulled down by the mining sector's worst performance in three years, data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on Wednesday showed.

The August IIP growth print was revised lower to 7.8% from the 8% provisional estimate. Industrial output had grown 6.1% in September 2025.

Manufacturing sector, which has the highest weightage in the new IIP series at 76%, expanded 7.6% in September, the slowest growth in four months. Within manufacturing, only 10 of the 23 sub-sectors performed better in September compared to August.

Sequentially, the general index rose 1% from August, the biggest month-on-month rise in three months. The sequential uptick in industrial activity suggests that an unfavourable base effect weighed on the headline growth in September. Industrial growth has averaged 6.8% in the first six months of the current financial year, higher than the 4.4% growth in the same period a year ago. Higher IIP growth this year has been driven by the manufacturing and electricity sectors. In September, mining sector output contracted 6.2% year-on-year, the biggest fall since September 2023. Mining and quarrying sector output has contracted in eight of the nine months in 2026. Economists said the sector's output fell in September due to disruptions caused by monsoon rains during the month.

• Mining output shrinks again



SOURCE: MoSPI

Apart from mining, activity in the other three industrial sectors remained largely resilient in September even as growth moderated from the previous month. "The resilience is consistent with the growth observed across key high-frequency indicators such as GST collections, automobile sales, e-way bill generation, and merchandise exports," said Rajani Sinha, chief economist at CareEdge Ratings. "This reflects that domestic economic momentum has held up well despite persistent global and domestic uncertainties," Sinha said.

"Manufacturing growth has been driven by the auto segment and electrical machinery with support from rubber products, computer, electronics and non-metallic machinery," said Madan Sabnavis, Chief Economist, Bank of Baroda. "Growth was down in case of wearing apparel and chemicals and pharma sectors. The export market was affected here by global disturbances," Sabnavis said.

Electricity and gas supply output growth slowed down to 11.2% in September from a 27-month high of 12.3% in August. Electricity generation from non-renewable sources grew 16.5% in September, the quickest pace of growth in 30 months. Renewable electricity, meanwhile, grew 4.3% in September, slower than 15.4% in August. Growth in output of water supply, sewerage, and waste management—the newest addition to IIP—eased to a four-month low of 5.8% in September from 6.3% in August.

In terms of the use-based categories, five of the six segments saw moderation in growth in September. Consumer non-durables was the only use-based segment where output performance was better than August. The segment's output grew 1.4% in September after contracting for two consecutive months. FE

DEMOCRATISED DATA IN FIRST 10 YEARS, NOW WANT TO DEMOCRATISE TECHNOLOGY: AKASH AMBANI

What could be Ambani family's notional wealth after Jio listing?

George Mathew
Mumbai, October 28

JIO PLATFORMS' debut on the stock exchanges on Wednesday, with a market capitalisation of Rs 13.05 lakh crore, is expected to boost the net worth of the promoters — the Mukesh Ambani family.

The combined notional value of the promoters' holding, including direct and indirect, in Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL), Jio Platforms Ltd (JPL), and Jio Financial Services Ltd (JFSL) works out to Rs 12.54 lakh crore as against Rs 8.73 lakh crore before Jio listing.

However, the notional value of these combined holdings does not necessarily result in an increase in their wealth. Since RIL owns a substantial stake in Jio Platforms, the value of that investment is already reflected, at least partly, in RIL's market capitalisation.

Adding the family's indirect interest in Jio Platforms separately could therefore result in double counting, analysts say.

Based on RIL's market capitalisation of Rs 15.17 lakh crore and the promoter group's reported 50.44% holding, the value of its stake in RIL works out to approximately Rs 7.65 lakh crore. The promoter companies' 48% holding in Jio Financial Services, valued at a market capitalisation of Rs 1.35 lakh crore, is worth approximately Rs 64,800 crore, or Rs 0.65 lakh crore.

Jio Platforms has a market capitalisation of Rs 13.05 lakh crore following its listing. RIL holds a 64.41% stake in Jio Platforms, putting the value of its holding at approximately Rs 8.41 lakh crore.

The Ambani family's indirect economic interest in Jio Platforms can be estimated by applying the promoter group's 50.44% holding in RIL to RIL's stake in Jio. On this basis, the family's indirect interest in Jio Platforms is worth approximately Rs 4.24 lakh crore.

The notional wealth — direct and indirect — of the family works out to Rs 12.54 lakh crore.

The indirect economic interest of the promoters in Jio Platforms is approximately 32.50% of Jio Platforms.

"However, the estimated Rs 4.24 lakh crore value of the family's indirect interest in Jio cannot be added to the full value of its RIL holding to calculate total wealth. RIL already owns Jio Platforms, and the value of that business is at least partly reflected in RIL's market price. Adding the indirect Jio stake separately would therefore risk double-counting the same underlying asset," analysts say.

The listing provides a standalone market valuation for Jio Platforms, allowing investors to compare its market value with that of RIL.

Whether this leads to a higher valuation for RIL will depend on how investors assess the value of its Jio holding, its other businesses and its assets and liabilities.

• The rising stakes

Particulars	Value	Calculation
Ambani promoter group's stake in RIL	₹7.65 lakh crore	**50.44%** of ₹15.17 lakh crore
RIL's stake in Jio Platforms	₹8.41 lakh crore	**64.41%** of ₹13.05 lakh crore
Family's indirect economic interest in Jio	₹4.24 lakh crore	**50.44%** of RIL's Jio holding
Promoter companies' stake in Jio Financial Services	₹0.65 lakh crore	**48%** of ₹1.35 lakh crore

What could change after the listing?

The immediate impact on the family's notional wealth will depend on the market response to Jio Platforms' listing and any resulting movement in RIL's share price. A sustained 5-8% rise in RIL's market capitalisation from Rs 15.17 lakh crore would increase its market value by approximately Rs 75,850 crore to Rs 1.21 lakh crore. Applying the promoter group's reported 50.44% holding, this would translate into an increase of approximately Rs 38,258 crore to Rs 61,213 crore in the value of its stake, assuming ownership remains unchanged. The actual impact will depend on market movements, investor expectations and the valuation assigned to RIL's businesses.

The key distinction is between the value of an existing investment and the additional wealth created by a change in its market price. Jio Platforms' listing makes the market's valuation of the business more transparent, but the actual change in the Ambani family's notional wealth will depend on subsequent market movements and the value of its other investments and liabilities.

How Jio beat Airtel's market cap on listing despite lower ARPU

Akash Mandal
Mumbai, October 28

JIO PLATFORMS' debut on the Indian stock markets at a 21% premium to its issue price was a considerable gain on a day when the market was largely subdued. It also dethroned Bharti Airtel to become the company with the second-highest market capitalisation in the Indian market at Rs 12.5 lakh crore.

This is despite lagging the Sunil Bharti Mittal-led telecom rival in key metrics like earnings and average revenue per user (ARPU) — considered among the most important metrics in the sector. So why did Jio manage to beat Airtel's market cap on its debut, and what do analysts think about the company's valuations and future returns?

Lagging Airtel in key metrics

For FY26, Jio reported consolidated revenue of Rs 1.5 lakh crore, much lower than Airtel's Rs 2.1 lakh crore. Its net profit of Rs 30,064 crore for the period was slightly lower than Airtel's Rs 30,113 crore. Despite double-digit growth over the past couple of years, Jio's ARPU of Rs 214 in FY26 was considerably lower than Airtel's Rs 257.2, which has risen to over Rs 260 in recent quarters. ARPU is the average amount an operator makes from each customer in a month, making it a key metric to assess a telecom company's profitability and efficiency. A report by New Street Research estimates that Airtel earns Rs 9.6 per GB, nearly double that of the Rs 4.9/GB that Jio makes. Jio does have a larger customer base of around 52.4 crore, against Airtel's 48.2 crore. But Airtel holds a distinct advantage in the premium segment, which translates to higher revenues, leading to a higher ARPU.

Reason behind the valuation premium

The secret behind Jio's premium over Airtel is the former's positioning. Unlike Airtel, which is known as a telecom conglomerate now offering satellite and other connectivity services, Jio has positioned itself as a technology company.

In fact, during his speech at the listing-day ceremony at the National Stock Exchange on Wednesday, Jio MD Akash Ambani emphasised the importance of AI, cloud, and digital services in the company's aim to "once again lead the next wave of technological transformation, making the world's most advanced technologies affordable, accessible, and meaningful for every Indian." The distinction in platforming may seem small on paper, but has wider implications. Tech companies almost always get higher valuations in the market globally due to the promise of exponential returns when the technology matures or becomes more accessible.

Walmart, for example, is among the highest revenue-generating companies in the world but has a much lower valuation of around $950 million than Nvidia's $5.2 trillion, despite the latter earning a fraction of the retail chain's annual revenue. In India, tech-first companies like Zomato's parent Eternal have much higher valuations than many cash-generating companies despite barely breaking even on an operational level without clear profits. The Jio group holds has key investments and commitments by global tech players like Google and Meta, which can lead to cheaper access to newer technologies.

"No doubt Airtel is a strong competitor, but Jio is not perceived as a telecom company. It is instead perceived as a tech company, or technology-led company. The (Reliance) group themselves calls it as a technology company," said Kranthi Bathini, equity strategist at WealthMills Securities.

FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

RBI to hire agency to manage social media presence

George Mathew & Akash Mandal
Mumbai, October 28

THE RESERVE Bank of India (RBI) is looking to sharpen its digital outreach, inviting bids from agencies to manage its social media presence round the clock, produce podcasts, create digital content, track online conversations and handle public responses. The move signals the RBI's push to strengthen how it communicates its policies, decisions and public awareness messages in an increasingly digital-first information environment. The agency is required to monitor online editions, says the minutes of the pre-bid meeting. Further, the RBI says profile "takedown due to creative issues/reasons are expected to be handled".

As per the tender notice issued by RBI's Department of Communication, it is seeking agencies to provide round-the-clock social media strategy and management, develop creatives for social media platforms, produce and manage podcasts, and undertake social media listening and analytics. FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Noel Tata to step down from 6 Tata company boards in November

George Mathew
Mumbai, October 28

NOEL TATA, Chairman of Tata Trusts, will step down from the boards of six major Tata Group companies on November 12, when he turns 70, in accordance with the group's retirement policy for non-executive directors. The planned exits are part of an established governance practice and the retirement policy, and have no connection with the ongoing differences between Tata Trusts and Tata Sons over the group's leadership and governance. Tata will cease to be non-executive chairman of Trent, Voltas, Tata Investment Corporation, and Tata International.

He will also relinquish his positions as non-executive vice-chairman of Tata Steel and Titan Company. However, he will continue as a Tata Trusts nominee director on Tata Sons board, the holding company of the group, and as chairman of Tata Trusts, which collectively holds about 66% of Tata Sons.

The retirement timeline is not a sudden development. Tata had indicated his intention to step down while addressing shareholders at Trent's annual general meeting in June. He subsequently made a similar announcement at Voltas's annual general meeting (AGM), saying it would be his last AGM as chairman of the company.

The Indian Express had reported in June on his decision to relinquish the chairmanship of Voltas following his announcement at Trent. The distinction is important at a time when the Tata Group is facing a governance dispute over the proposed reappointment of N Chandrasekaran as chairman of Tata Sons. Noel Tata had opposed the resolution approving Chandrasekaran's proposed third five-year term and the decision to pursue listing of Tata Sons, raising questions over the process and the role of Tata Trusts-nominated directors. His retirement from the six operating-company boards should not, however, be conflated with that dispute. The retirement age of 70 for non-executive directors applies across the group.

FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

'Bizarre' for world to incur more debt to deal with high debt, says NK Singh

ENS Economic Bureau
New Delhi, October 28

NOTING THAT the world is passing through "a severe crisis of multiple kinds", NK Singh, Chairman of the 15th Finance Commission, said on Wednesday that the "prescription" that to "deal with more debt is to incur more debt" looks "bizarre".

Singh was speaking at the launch of his new book, *Endeavours: An Ensemble of My Life*, which goes beyond economics and policy and into his passions: from classical music and homeopathy to his travels and time spent in Japan.

Answering Singh's question on global debt, economist Minouche Shafik — most recently the President of Columbia University, but before that a Deputy Governor of the Bank of England – said advanced economies, who seem to be able to get away with ever more higher levels of debt, seem "politically incapable of getting to grips with their fiscal situation". On the other hand, the markets are tougher on emerging and developing countries.

"Japan is the prototype for how high can your debt go? How long can you defy gravity? Once you reach 200% of GDP, does anything happen? You look at France today, the numbers are very, very scary; the politics is very scary. And I worry that given the politics, I think in many countries the vested interests resisting change – particularly in the advanced economies – are so entrenched that only a crisis will force political change," Shafik said.



From left: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Former Ambassador of India to the US Karan Singh, and 15th Finance Commission Chairman NK Singh in New Delhi on Wednesday. EXPRESS PHOTO/ANIL SHARMA

Asked by Singh to juxtapose the fractured world of today with the Non-Aligned Movement and Group of 77 described in a chapter of the book, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said that was the political company which was the "natural accompaniment" to that economic model.

"Once the course correction started in 1991-92 and the economic model changed, I think the political company also underwent a certain change," Jaishankar, also part of the panel discussion with Shafik and others, said.

FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

HUL to continue calibrated price hikes, says CEO

Akash Mandal
Mumbai, October 28

HINDUSTAN UNILEVER Ltd (HUL) will continue to undertake calibrated price hikes going ahead, in line with input cost inflation, as the West Asia conflict and higher oil prices have kept global commodity prices elevated.

"We have taken pricing to cover all the input costs that we have seen. Input costs remain elevated," HUL CEO Priya Nair said. "We do calibrated price increases only to cover the absolute impact of the higher cost. This helped us to protect our consumer franchise, sustain healthy volumes, and strengthen market position," she added. The company has raised prices of its portfolio by an average of 7.5% in July-September quarter to mitigate elevated input costs.

US Fed holds interest rates

Washington: US Federal Reserve held interest rates steady in the 3.75%–4.00% range. The decision comes less than a week ahead of critical US midterm elections that will determine whether President Donald Trump's Republicans retain control of Congress.

The Fed said inflation "remains elevated," upgrading its assessment of the economy, and hinting that further rate hikes may be coming depending on inflation. Markets are now focusing on the likely pace and extent of future rate increases as inflation remains elevated.

Inflation has been a key concern for the Fed, with prices being pushed higher by energy costs, tariffs, strong consumer spending and demand from the AI industry. REUTERS

• MARKETS

Sensex	NIFTY	Gold ▲	US Dollar ▲
73,246.03	22,698.85	₹1,42,707	₹95.23
-352.64	-50.90	Silver ▲	Oil ▼
-0.48%	-0.22%	₹1,93,442	$117.98

NOTE: GOLD, SILVER RATES AS PER INDIA BULLION AND JEWELLERS ASSOCIATION DATA GOLD PER 10G, SILVER PER 1 KG; CRUDE OIL (INDIAN BASKET) AS OF OCTOBER 27, 2026

Gujarat Sports Infrastructure Development Company Limited (GSID)

Place : GSID, Administrative Building, Sector-13/B , KH-3 Circle, Near Vavol Railway Crossing, Near EVM Ware House Office, Gandhinagar - 382016.

Tenders are invited by Gujarat Sports Infrastructure Development Company Limited (GSID) for the **Appointment Of Contractor for Design, Engineering, Procurement, Construction and Operation & Maintenance of SVP Sports Enclave - Package 1 (EPC - 2 Mode)**. Last date for submission of Pre-bid queries is **Date : 12.11.2026, up to 18:00** hrs. via email on **office.gsid@gmail.com** & Last Date for Submission of bids along with **Tender Fees and EMD by 23.12.2026 up to 16:00 hrs.** The tender documents will be available on **29.10.2026** on the nProcure Portal.

Date : 29.10.2026

General Manager - Planning & Coordination, GSID

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned by Government of Karnataka undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-procurement)

BESCOM invites tenders vide Enquiry No: BESCOM/2026-27/EL/WORK_INDENT1164/CALL-2 through e-procurement platform from eligible Bidders for "Reactive Power Compensation at 11kv Feeder Level by installing Capacitor Units in **Tumkur Circle** of CTAZ, BESCOM Jurisdictions on Total Turnkey on Percentage Quoting Basis."

Bid Documents available: 30.10.2026. **Last date for Bid Submission:** 06.11.2026 17:00 Hrs. **Opening of Bid Document:** 07.11.2026, 17:15 Hrs.

The Tenders can be obtained through KPP portal website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Aspiring Bidders need to register on KPP portal. Further Bidders can take assistance with KPP help desk contact numbers (+91-8046010000, +91-8068948777) or email at support@eprochelpdesk.com.

Sd/-
Chief General Manager (Ele..), Procurement, BESCOM

For Electricity related complaints call: 1912 Download "BESCOM Mitra" Mobile App

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER & BASIN MANAGER
BAITARANI BASIN, KENDUJHAR
E-mail: ceberbaitaranibasin16@gmail.com
e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE No. CEBBK-06/2026-27

The Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Baitarani Basin, Kendujhar, on behalf of the Hon'ble Governor of Odisha, invites online Percentage Rate bids in double cover system through e-Procurement from eligible contractors registered with the State Government and contractors of equivalent Grade/Class registered with Central Government/MES/Railways or other licensing authority.

1. Type of Work : Civil Work
2. Total No. of Works : 04 (Four)
3. Amount put to Tender (Excluding GST) : 1. Rs. 6,85,55,125/-, 2. Rs. 6,07,51,071/-, 3. Rs. 5,90,51,655/-, 4. Rs. 5,89,70,264/-
4. Period of Completion : 09 (Nine) Calendar Months
5. Class of Contractor : 'A' & 'Special' Class

PROCUREMENT DETAILS

Sl. No.	Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Name of Work	Bid Amount	Availability & Submission of Bid On-line	Date & Place of Opening of Technical Bids
01	Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Baitarani Basin, Kendujhar.	CEBBK-SE20-03/2026-27	Improvement to Kamarapalle Minor from RD 00m to RD 3740m under Salandi Irrigation Project.	Rs. 6,85,55,125/- EMD: Rs. 6,85,551/- Bid Doc.: Rs. 10,000/-	From 11:00 Hrs. of 26.10.2026 to 11.11.2026, 17:00 Hrs.	DT.12.2026 at 11:30 Hrs. at the office of the Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Baitarani Basin, Kendujhar.
02		CEBBK-SE20-08/2026-27	Improvement to both side embankment of River Salandi in between RD from 65.50 Km to 70.00 Km near village Hanisia and left side embankment of river Nalia from RD 5.30 Km to 9.80 Km near village Arsapal	Rs. 6,07,51,071/- EMD: Rs. 6,07,511/- Bid Doc.: Rs. 10,000/-		
03		CEBBK-SE20-09/2026-27	Improvement to Capital Embankment No- 2A on Salandi Right from RD 1.50 Km to 12.50 Km near village Kadebaranga to Ranila.	Rs. 5,90,51,655/- EMD: Rs. 5,90,517/- Bid Doc.: Rs. 10,000/-		
04		CEBBK-SE20-10/2026-27	Improvement to Both side Flood Embankment of river Nalia from RD 17.50 Km to 18.00 Km near village Taingapa.	Rs. 5,89,70,264/- EMD: Rs. 5,89,703/- Bid Doc.: Rs. 10,000/-		

Bidders shall participate online bidding only. Further details can be seen from the Govt. of Odisha e-Procurement Website www.tendersorissa.gov.in. Any addendum/corrigendum/ cancellation of the tender can be seen in the above website only.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer & Basin Manager
Baitarani Basin, Kendujhar

OIPR-32001/32495/1/26-27/0007

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER & BASIN MANAGER
TEL BASIN, BHABANIPATANA

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)
"e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE NO.- CE&BM, TEL-P1-05/2026-27
Bid Identification No: CETEL-BOUDH-03/2026-27

The Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Tel Basin, Bhabanipatana (WR Department) on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage rate bid in Double Cover system to be received in on ONLINE MODE only for the construction of works as detailed in the table below:-

1.	Nature of work	:-	Civil Works
2.	Number of works	:-	01 (One)
3.	Approximate amount put to tender.	:-	Rs. 7,69,08,428.00/-
4.	Class of Contractor	:-	'A' & 'Special' Class
5.	Period of completion	:-	9(Nine) Calendar months.
6.	Date & time of availability of Bid document in the portal	:-	Dt. 02.11.2026- 10.00 hours to 23.11.2026 up to 17.00 hours
7.	Last date & time of seeking Tender clarification.	:-	Dt. 16.11.2026 up to 17.30 hours
8.	Last date & time of Receipt of Bids in the portal.	:-	Dt. 23.11.2026 - up to 17.00 hours
9.	Date, time & place of opening of Technical bids of Double Cover.	:-	Dt. 25.11.2026 at 11.00 hours- in the office of the Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Tel Basin, Bhabanipatana

The bidders have to participate in online bidding only. The website for online bidding is http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer & Basin Manager,
Tel Basin, Bhabanipatana

OIPR-32001/32317/1/26-27/0010

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा
Bank of Baroda

REGIONAL OFFICE: BURDWAN REGION
2nd Floor, 54, G. T. Road
Bhangakuthi, Burdwan- 713101

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

ANNEXURE-A

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES ; "APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to Rule 9 (1)]

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 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), Mortgagor's and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" for recovery of below mentioned account/s. The details of Borrower/s / Mortgagor / Guarantor/s / Secured Asset/s/Dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below:–

Sr/ Lot No.	Name & address of Borrower/e/Guarantor s / Mortgagor (s)	Detailed description of the immovable / movable property with known encumbrances, if any	Total Dues.	Date & Time of E-auction	Reserve Price / EMD amount / Bid Increase Amount	Status of Possession (Constructive /Physical)	Property Inspection date & Time
1	1. Arpita Dhara W/o Subrata Dhara Shitalatola, Vill-pipilsi Jp Hat,howrah. Wb,west Bengal-711328 2. Mr. Subrata Dhara S/o Kalipada Dhara Vill-pipilsi Jp Hat,howrah. WB, west Bengal-711328 Branch: NABAGRAM Authorised Officer: Mr. Prallay Sarkar Contact person of the Branch : Mr. Rajat Pandit, 7044822189	RESIDENTIAL FLAT BEING NO.G-1 ON THE GROUND FLOOR(NORTH-WEST SIDE) MEASURING 1150 SQ.FT SUPER BUILT UP AREA(COVERED AREA 684 SQ.FT) AND COMMON CYCLE GARAGE & COMMUNITY HALL 24 SQ.FT(SUPER BUILT UP AREA)TOTAL SALABLE AREA 1174 SQ.FT SUPER BUILT UP IN THE FOUR STORIED BUILDING NAMELY"MADHUBAN APARTMENT-II" ,AT NAITI ROAD, NABAGRAM, NEAR BENGAL NURSERY, PIN-712246 IN THE NAME OF MRS ARPITA DHARA & MR. SUBRATA DHARA. Boundary are as under:- North-House of Sri. D. Bag & other, South-16 feet common passage, East-Property of Sri. D. Bag & others. West-Property of Sri. D. Bag & others	Rs. 21,89,967/- as on 08.01.2026 plus further interest & other charges w.e.f. 09.01.2026	16.11.2026 from 2 p.m to 6 p.m	Rs. 17,90,000/- Rs. 1,79,000/- Rs. 10000	Physical	any working day from 10:00 AM to 04.00 PM
2	1. Mr. Santu Das Address: SAFIABAD SAFIABAD EAST MIDNAPORE 721442 2. Mr. Samar Das, SAFIABAD SAFIABAD EAST MIDNAPORE 721442 Branch: CONTAI Authorised Officer: Prathy Sarkar Contact person of the Branch : Aminuddin-7044210203	Equitable mortgage of land and building situated at Mouza: Safiabad, JL No 497, KH No: 2013, LR Plot No-1329, PS Contai, Dist: Purba Medinipur area 2.825 decimal in the name of Mr. Santu Das, bounded by - On the North by: Road, On the South by: Plot No 1336, On the East by: Rest of plot no 1320, On the west by: Plot No 1323,1322,1224	Rs 2386319.43.00 as on 28.10.2026 plus interest & other charges w.e.f 29.10.2026	30.11.2026 from 2 p.m to 6 p.m	Rs. 2i,00,000/- Rs. 2,50,000/- Rs. 10,000/-	Physical	any working day from 10.00 AM to 04.00 PM
3	1. Shri Narugopal Chakraborty S/o Jiban Krishna Chakraborty Address: Tilottama Apartment, Flat No GD, Ground Floor India, H.N 262/216, Plot No-4289, Kundu Gali, Kharagpur, Dist-West Midnapore, Pin-721305 2. Smt. Munmun Chakraborty, W/o Shri Narugopal Chakraborty Address: Tilotama Apartment. Flat No GD, Ground Floor India. H.N 262/216. Plot No-4289. Kundu Gali. Kharagpur, Dist-West Midnapore, Pin-721305 Branch: Kharagpur Authorised Officer: Mr. Devkant Gupta Mob 8797070540 Contact person of the Branch : Mr. Devkant Gupta Mob 8797070540	Equitable Mortgage, of Flat bearing No -G/D Ground Floor situated at Tilottama Apartment, Mouza-Inda, JL No-232 , Plot No.-262/216, PS-Kharagpur, Dist-West Midnapore, West Bengal-721305 in the name of Mr. Narugopal Chakraborty & Mrs. Munmun Chakraborty having Build up area 603 sq ft. & Carpet area 526 sq feet. Boundary Description : East : Lift stairs & Common space, West :Flat No G.A. North-Lobby, South : Common Space, CERSAI ID 400051574286	Rs 20,35,162.80 as on 18.04.2026 plus interest & other charges w.e.f 18.04.2026	16.11.2026 from 2 p.m to 6 p.m	Rs. 16,90,000/- Rs. 1,69,000/- Rs. 10,000/-	Symbolic	any working day from 10:00 AM to 04.00 PM

Property under Sr No 1 & 2 is in the Physical possession and the same will be handed over to the H1 bidder Physically.

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer/link to the website/s link https://www.bankofbaroda.bank.in/e-auction.htm and online auction portal https://baanknet.com Also, prospective bidders may contact the authorized officer on Mobile

1. The sale is subject to confirmation by the Secured Creditor Bank.
2. Property for Sr. No. 3 are under Symbolic Possession and Bidder is purchasing the property in symbolic possession at his/own risk & responsibility.
3. Bank will hand over the possession of property symbolically (Sr. No. 3) only and successful Auction bidder/purchaser will not claim physical possession from the bank.
4. Bank will not be responsible or duty bound for handing over of physical possession (except Sr. No. 1 & 2) of the property.
5. Successful Auction purchaser will not been titled to claim any interest, in any case of return of money.
6. Successful Auction purchaser has to submit the Declaration Cum Undertaking confirming the above terms & conditions immediately after e-Auction.
7. Subsequent to sale if successful bidder fails to submit Declaration Cum Undertaking, the Bid EMD amount will be forfeited.

Date: 29.10.2026
Place :- Burdwan

For detailed terms and conditions

Authorised Officer
Bank of Baroda

DECLARATION

I, Md Sagar Ali, S/o - Late Hasim Sekh, resident of Village - Dararkandhi, P.O. & P.S. - Bhagwangola, Dist. - Murshidabad, Pin No. - 742135 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Md Sagar Ali to Sagar Ali and henceforth I shall be known as Sagar Ali in sworn before the Notary Public all purpose, vide affidavit no.03/26 at Lalbagh on 27-10-2026, Sagar Ali and Md Sagar Ali both are same and one identical person.

My client M/S Nilgiri Ferro Pvt. Ltd. For Director purchased 10 Satake of land vide Deed No. 257/26 and also purchased 5 Satake of land Vide Deed No. 7842/2025 from Nikhil Bakra, represented by his Attorney Sanad Agarwal, S/O Purusottam Agarwal and also purchased 14 cappa of land vide Deed No. 7842/2026 and purchased 24 Satake of land vide Deed No. 7841/2025 from Prabha Bakra and Nikhil Bakra represented by their Attorney Sanad Agarwal, S/O Purusottam Agarwal Vide Power No. 189/16, 419/12, 189/16, 81/12 of Mouza Jonai, J.L No. 27, L.R Khatian No. 6187 and L.R Dag No. 1693/5403 and other client Shreejee Fabrication for Director purchased 5 Satake and 21 satake of land vide Deed No. 5018/2026 and 5018/2026 from Prabha Bakra represented by her Attorney Sanad Agarwal, S/O Purusottam Agarwal Vide Power No. 81/2012, 193/2013 of L.R Dag No. 1660 and 1666 under L.R Khatian No. 4581, and of Mouza Jonai, J.L No. 57, P.S Chandrakona, Dist Hooghly and after that they applied for mutation at Chandrakona, B.L & L.R.O Chandrakona, Hooghly. If any objection by the principle or any other person against the Power they should file a written objection within 01 month on and after publishing this notice, otherwise legal action will be taken as per law.

Sd/- Anirban Chandra, Advocate
High Court, Calcutta

My clients Afruja Begam, wife of Kalam Sk. purchased 3.30 Sataka of land vide Deed No. 4003/26, and Sk. Sahab Ali, S/O Sk. Salim Purchased 1.65 Sataka of land vide Deed No. 2729/2026 and Sk. Taslim S/O Sk. Kalam purchased 3.305 Dec of land vide Deed No. 535/2026 from Sanat Kumar Mal, represented by their Attorney Sk. Kutubuddin, Vide Power No. 5443/2023 of Mouza Satghara, J.L No. 65, L.R Khatian No. 217 and L.R Dag No. 266 and other client Sk. Kutubuddin purchased 7 Sataka of land vide Deed No. 2862/26 from Keya Pan represented by her Attorney Ishshak Mallick Vide Power No. 40/2026 of L.R Dag No. 2249, under L.R Khatian No. 4818, of Mouza Krishnapur, J.L No. 190, P.S Chandrakona, Dist Hooghly and after that they applied for mutation at Chandrakona, B.L & L.R.O Chandrakona, Hooghly. If any objection by the principle or any other person against the Power they should file a written objection within 01 month on and after publishing this notice, otherwise legal action will be taken as per law.

Sd/- Anirban Chandra, Advocate
High Court, Calcutta

Notice is hereby given to all concerned that the original deed of Sale dated 25.07.1983 registered at the office of the D.S.R.-Alipore, South 24 Parganas recorded in Book No. I, Vol No.279 pages from 28-35, being No. 10234/1983 relating to the land measuring an area of 2 Cottahs 4 sqft. at Mouza-Barhansberia, J.L. No.-47, comprised in R.S. Dag No. 929 under Khatian No.173 P.S.-Sonarpur, District -24 Parganas (S) under Ward No.29 of the Rajpur Sonarpur Municipality purchased by Smt. Parul Bala Das, since deceased. The above deed being No.10234/1983 have been misplaced from the custody of my client Radha Das of A47, Lakshmi Narayan Colony, Kolkata-700047 and in that connection my said Client lodged G.D. Vide G.D.E No.1331 dated 16.08.2022 before Narendrapur P.S. and now my client and her co- sharer intends to sell the said land to any intending purchaser.

If, any person or persons and or any firm/firms having any claim or demand regarding the above mentioned property thereof may intimate to me in writing with documentary evidence within 15 days from the date of this notice, failing which my client will sell the said property, thereafter any claim in this regard shall not be entertained in future.

Sd/- Satyabrata Patra, Advocate
High Court, Calcutta

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

West Bengal Tourism Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of West Bengal Undertaking)
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
NIT No.03/(15)/WBTDCL OF 2025-26 (Technical)
Tender ID-2026_WBTDC_1047230_1

WBTDCL invites e-Tender for the work : "Restoration and Adaptive Reuse of the Registry Building at Chandannagar, Hooghly (Phase-I)". From the reputed, bonafide and experienced agencies in similar works. Start date & time of documents download : 30.10.2026-15:40 Hrs. Last date & time of Bid Submission : 21.11.2026 - 15:00 Hrs. Details are available in website: wbtdcl.wbtourism.gov.in / wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, West Bengal Tourism Development Corporation Limited.

ICA/T/19268(3)/2026

EAST COAST RAILWAY

CORRIGENDUM No. 02 to Tender Notice No.: EPC-GECONVBBS 2026932, Dt.: 09.09.2026

THE FOLLOWING MODIFICATIONS HAS BEEN MADE AGAINST ABOVE TENDER NOTICE WHICH MAY PLEASE BE NOTED.

Particulars	As Published	Now to be read as
Tender Closing Date, Time	10.11.2026, 12:00 Hrs.	10.12.2026, 17:00 Hrs.

For details the intending tenderer(s) are advised to visit the website: www.ireps.gov.in

Chief Administrative Officer (Con)/
PR - 233/C.926-27 Bhubaneswar

"IMPORTANT"

Whilst care is taken prior to acceptance of advertising copy, it is not possible to verify its contents. The Indian Express (P) Limited cannot be held responsible for such contents, nor for any loss or damage incurred as a result of transactions with companies, associations or individuals advertising in its newspapers or Publications. We therefore recommend that readers make necessary inquiries before sending any monies or entering into any agreements with advertisers or otherwise acting on an advertisement in any manner whatsoever.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Dinesh Chandak S/O Ramkishan Chandak and Father of Darsh Chandak aged 15 years residing at 13, Kyd Street, daydeti mansion, 7th Floor, Opposite MLA Hostel, Kolkata - 700016 do hereby declare vide affidavit no. 1388 dated 25.03.2026 in the Court of the Judicial Magistrate 1st Class at Calcutta that my son's name has been recorded as Darsh Chandak in all the educational certificates and other relevant government documents. By the virtue of this affidavit, I change my son's name from Darsh Chandak to Ishan Chandak for the reason of astrological purposes and henceforth from now onwards he will be known as Ishan Chandak for all future purposes.

ওয়েষ্ট বেঙ্গল গ্রামীণ ব্যাঙ্ক / West Bengal Gramin Bank

Bankura Regional Office, College Road, PO & Dist.: Bankura, West Bengal-722101, E-Mail: mdobankura@wbgbank.in

PREMISES REQUIRED FOR HALIUDANALI BRANCH UNDER BANKURA REGION

West Bengal Gramin Bank requires suitable readily available and well constructed hall type office accommodation having Carpet Area of around 1000 sq. ft. on lease basis preferably in the ground / first floor with good frontage and all facilities including adequate power along with space for on- site ATMs (100 Sq.ft.) at (Vill Haludkanali, PS-Ranibandh, Dist. Bankura, Pin -722148) if needed. Premises offered should have all clearance certificates from statutory authorities.

Interested landlords / Power of attorney holders of such premises in the desired locality may send their offers in the prescribed format (both Annexures to be duly signed and submitted in separate envelopes) available on Bank's Web Site https://www.wbgb.bank.in or the same may be obtained from the above address during office hours. The complete offer should reach the undersigned on or before 17th November, 2026 at the above address.

No brokerage. Bank reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers at its sole discretion without assigning any reasons therefore.

Regional Manager
Bankura Regional Office, West Bengal Gramin Bank

LOSS OF DEED

This is to bring to the notices of all concerns, that one original registered Deed of Conveyance dated 09/12/2022 registered before A.D.S.R. Uttarpara, District Hoogly duly recorded in Book no. I, Volume no. 0621-2022, Pages no. 278341 to 278375, Deed no. I-062107305/2022 of Subhankar Singh, Son of Santosh Singh and Shalini Singh, wife of Santosh Singh, mortgaged as security, against the housing loan for the property i.e. one self-contained flat admeasuring 1305 Square feet Super Built-up area on the 2nd Floor, Flat No. 201, East-North-West side, Maa Apartment-situated at Holding no.201, Debai Pukur Road, Police Station Uttarpara, District Hoogly, Mouza - Kotrung, L.R. Plot no. 1556/2732, L.R. Khatiyan no. 3968, Uttarpara Municipality Ward no. 004, which was equitable mortgaged before LIC HFL, a non-banking financial corporation having its Back office at Hindustan Building, 4 Chitta Ranjan Avenue, Police Station Bowbazar, Kolkata 700072 vide loan no. 210000018308, was and is not traced out at present, thus, Bowbazar Police Station GDE no. 1689 dated 20/11/2025 has been lodged. If anyone, found the same or have any claim over the said Deed should inform/submit to the under-signed within 15 days of issue of this notice. Otherwise, No Claim shall be entertained and the said original Deed no. 1-062107305/2022 registered before A.D.S.R. Uttarpara, District Hoogly shall be deemed as **LOST. The certified copy of the Deed of Conveyance along with the General Diary shall act and be considered as the ORIGINAL DEED.**

Sd/- Madhumita Adhikary, Advocate
District & Sessions Court, Alipore 18, Judge's Court Road Alipore Bar Association
Bar Library-10, Seat-38, Kolkata - 700027, Enroll No.WB/443/2006 Mob : 9836932113

पंजाब नैशनल बैंक punjab national bank

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E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

ASSET RECOVERY MANAGEMENT BRANCH (ARMB): PURULIA

ARMB PURULIA, RAJA BANDH PARA, SASADHAR GANGULY ROAD, PURULIA (W.B.)-723101, E-MAIL: cs8301@pnb.bank.in

E Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets Under SARFAESI Act, 2002 and Proviso to Rules 8(6) r/w Rule 9 (1) of the SI (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 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 is mentioned in the table below against the respective properties.

Date/Time of E-Auction: 18.12.2026, 11:00 AM to 04:00 PM and Last Date of Deposit of EMD: 18.12.2026 till 03:00 PM
ARMB, Purulia, Mr Mukesh Kumar, Chief Manager (Authorized Officer), Mobile No.-8789236771 E- Auction Collection A/c Details: Account Name- RTGS -INTERBANK ACCOUNT, A/c 830100317118A (IFSC- PUNB0830100)

SCHEDULE OF THE SECURED ASSETS

S. No.	Name of the Branch / Name of the Account / Name & addresses of the Borrower/Guarantors Account	Description of the Immovable Properties Mortgaged/Owner's Name (mortgagors of property(ies))	A) Dt. Of Demand Notice u/s 13(2) of SARFESI ACT 2002 B) Outstanding Amount as on C) Possession Date u/s 13(4) of SARFESI ACT 2002 D) Nature of Possession Symbolic/ Physical	A)Reserve Price (Rs. in Lacs) B)EMD C)Bid Increase Amount
1	Barjora (046420) M/S Tescon Partner 1. Niranjan Nandi S/O Mr. Sambhunath Nandi 2. Shishir Nandi S/O Mr Sambhunath Nandi Mortgagor 3. Mrs. Sachana Nandi W/O Niranjan Nandi Guarantor 4. Mrs. Sadhya Nandi W/o Shishir Nandi Address :- School Danga, Vill + PO - Barjora, Dist- Bankura-722202, West Bengal 5. Mr. Ganesh Akhuly C/O Basudev Akhuly 6. Joba Akhuly C O Ganesh Akhuly Address:- Roy Colony, Vill + PO - Barjora, Dist- Bankura-722202, West Bengal	All that piece and parcel of land and building comprised in Registered Deed No- I-878 of 2005 dated 14.06.200 5, J.L. No.- 46, L.R. Plot No. 2256, 2258 & 2257, Khatian No- 5104, measuring 5.00 satak situated at Mouza – Barjora, PS-Barjora, Dist. Bankura in the name of Mrs. Sachana Nandi W/o Sri. Niranjan Nandi. ***Physical Possession ***	A) 14/06/2022 B) Rs.2,90,63,813.90 (As on 31.03.2021), with further interest at the contracted rate, less recovery if any, w.e.f. 01.04.2021 plus other charges C) 30/08/2022 D) Physical Possession	A) Rs.12.75. Lac B) Rs.1.28 Lac C) Rs.0.10 Lac
2.	Barjora (046420) M/s Gandheswari Bhandar Proprietor & Mortgagor: Mr. Avijit Das S/o- Mr. Satya Kinkar Das Guarantor & Mortgagor: Mrs. Rosy Das W/o Mr. Avijit Das Address to All: Barjora College Road, P.O. + P.S.: Barjora, Dist.: Bankura, West Bengal-722202	All that piece and parcel of Bastu land and Building measuring 7 Decimal standing thereon comprised in J.L. No.- 46, Plot No. – RS- 1235 LR- 1619, RS- 1246/LR- 1620 & RS-1245/LP- 1614, L.R. Khatian No. 7351 & 7352, Mouza-Barjora, P.S. – Barjora, District- Bankura (West Bengal). The property stands in the Name of Mr. Abhijit Das, S/O – Satyakinkar Das & Smt. Rosy Das, W/O- Sri Abhijit Das vide bearing deed no. I-01284 dated 22.07.2015 Registered before Office of the Additional District Sub- Registrar Office at Gangajalghati. Boundary Details: - North:- Land of RS Plot No. 1234 South:- 12 feet wide common pitch road, East:- Land of RS Plot No. 1234, 1247 & 1248. West :- 6 feet wide common road ***Possession Constructive***	1) 28.07.2026 2) Rs.24,99,402.79 (As on 30.06.2026), with further interest at the contracted rate, less recovery if any, w.e.f. 01.07.2026 plus other charges. 3) 09.10.2026 4) Symbolic Possession	A) Rs.50.21 Lac B) Rs.5.02 Lac C) Rs.0.20 Lac
3.	Barjora (046420) Mr. Avijit Das and Mrs. Rosy Das Borrower & Mortgagor: Mr. Avijit Das and Mrs. Rosy Das Address to All: Barjora College Road, P.O. + P.S.: Barjora, Dist.: Bankura, West Bengal-722202		1) 28.07.2026 2) Rs.13,35,565.38 (As on 30.06.2026), with further interest at the contracted rate, less recovery if any, w.e.f. 01.07.2026 plus other charges. 3) 09.10.2026 4) Symbolic Possession	

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 "WHITEVER THERE IS BASIS"
2. The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule hereinabove have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorised Officer, but the Authorised Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation.
3. The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Website https://baanknet.com on date and time mentioned above.
4. For detailed term and conditions of the sale, please refer https://baanknet.com & www.pnb.bank.in.

Details of Encumbrance known to the secured creditors: As per the Record available with us, following cases are pending before court, forum, tribunal etc. in the Account of M/S Tescon:-

1. Money Suit (Commercial) 23/2024 (Previously Money Suit 19 of 2021) Pending Before Ld. Commercial Court, Asansol
2. Tender case No. 134 of 2023 before Ld. Employee Insurance Court, Calcutta (Status – Not Known)
3. MAT (Tender of Mandamus Appeal) No. 2203 of 2023 (CAN/4/2025) Pending before the Hon'ble Calcutta High Court
4. Title Suit 146 of 2023 Pending Civil Judge Sr. Divn., Bankura.
5. Original Application (OA) filed by Bank vide OA 236 of 2022 pending before the Ld. Debt Recovery Tribunal 2 Kolkata
6. FMAT (Admission of Civil Appeal from Order) No. 389 of 2022 pending before the Hon'ble Calcutta High Court
7. CO (Civil order/Misc. Case) 2219 of 2023 filed by Bank pending before the Hon'ble Calcutta High Court
8. CO (Civil order/Misc. Case) 2600 of 2023 pending before the Hon'ble Calcutta High Court
9. MAT/F/ 1837 of 2026 pending before the Hon'ble Calcutta High Court
10. Securitization Application SA 40 of 2025 pending before the Ld. Debt Recovery Tribunal 2 Kolkata

Details of Encumbrance known to the secured creditors: As per the Record available with us, following cases are pending before court, forum, tribunal etc. in the Account of M/s Gandheswari Bhandar & Mr. Avijit Das and Mrs. Rosy Das

1. Original Application (OA) filed by Bank vide OA 634 of 2026 pending before the Ld. Debt Recovery Tribunal 2 Kolkata.
2. Securitization Application SA 455 of 2025 pending before the Ld. Debt Recovery Tribunal 2 Kolkata.

Date: 28/10/2026
Place: Purulia

Authorized Officer,
Punjab National Bank, Secured Creditor

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

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

Follow us on X @SCRailwaykolkata
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C Railway can be seen on our website : www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

E-Tender Notice No. C-SG-PT-TCAS-08 Dated: 22.10.2026

Dy.CSTE/Projects/Tele/SC acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders for the for the following work.

Tender Number and Date : C-SG-PT-TCAS-08 Dated: 22.10.2026 **(Corrigendum No.01, dated 27.10.2026) Name of Work** : Design, supply, installation, testing and commissioning of on board KAVACH equipments in locomotives & trackside KAVACH equipment at station/ LC/IBS/ABS locations along with associated works for Train Collision Avoidance System (TCAS) in NED & SC divisions (218.5 kms) and 10 locomotives of SC Railway. **Estimated Project Cost** : Rs. 46,05,28,687.51/- **Bid Security** : Rs. 92,10,600.00/- **Completion Period of Work** : 12 Months **Bid Closing Date (Bid Due Date)** : 23.11.2026 at 15.00 hrs **Bid Opening Date** : 23.11.2026 after 15.00 hrs **Validity of Offer** : 120 Days from Bid Closing Date **Cost of Tender Booklet** : Rs.0/- **Reason for issue of Corrigendum** : Updating tender document (Page No. 11)

All bidding is in Indian Railway e-tendering portal **www.ireps.gov.in**. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender.

Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer / Projects / Tele / Secunderabad

Tender Notice

On Behalf of The President of India, Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer, Secunderabad Division, South Central Railway, Secunderabad invites Open Tenders for the Following Works Through E-procurement of the Tenders

S.No. :1 Tender No & Date : C_SG_36 627 Dt. 24.10.2026 Closing Dt.:14.11.2026 **Name of the work**: 1.Signalling arrangements in view of proposed slewing of Road 5 & 6 and Point No. 41 at Hyderabad (HYB) station yard.-----8. Telecom arrangements for Construction RUB in Lieuof LC No: 8 at Railway KM: 15/1-3 (Between Ammuguda-Moulali) & Road KM 4/6-8 of Mirjalguda – Neredmet road in Medchal Malkajgiri Distict.-Reg (Total 8 works) **Approx Value Rs.** : Rs. 2,03,07,984.44/- **Bid Security/ EMD RS.** : 4,06,200/-

S.No. : 2 Tender No & Date : C_SG_36 626 Dt. 23.10.2026 Closing Dt.:14.11.2026 **Name of the work**: 1. Signalling arrangements at CHZ - Improvements/ development of station building circulating area on 2nd Entry side.----7. Augmentation of Maintenance Tools for Telecom Systems to Enhance Reliability and Reduce MTTR (Improvement of Telecom Maintenance Efficiency through Modernization of Preventive and Corrective Maintenance Tools)" (Total 7 Work) **Approx Value Rs.** : Rs. 2,92,56,806.96/- **Bid Security/ EMD RS.** : 5,85,100/-

For further details visit the website **www.ireps.gov.in**

Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer / Co-ord /Secunderabad

A885

For further tender conditions/ details and for downloading the tender documents Please visit website at https://www.ireps.gov.in or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

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इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank
इलाहाबाद ALLAHABAD

KHARAGPUR MAIN BRANCH
O. T. Road, Inda, Kharagpur
Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal
Pin - 721 305

POSSESSION NOTICE

(For Immovable Property)
[Under Rule 8(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002]

Whereas :

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Indian Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice Dated 17.04.2025 calling upon :

1. M/s. Sen Fertilizer Shop, Proprietor : Mr. Arup Sen (Borrower), Vill and P.O. - Sankoa, P.S. - Kharagpur Local, Dist - Paschim Midnapore, Pin - 721301.
2. Mr. Arup Sen (Proprietor / Mortgagor), S/o. Manik Chandra Sen, Vill and P.O. - Sankoa, P.S. - Kharagpur Local, Dist - Paschim Midnapore, Pin - 721301.

with our Kharagpur Main Branch to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice being Rs. 30,92,711.00 (Rupees Thirty Lakhs Ninety Two Thousand Seven Hundred Eleven only) as on 17.04.2025 within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act with Rule 8 and 9 of the said rules, on this 27.10.2026.

The Borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Indian Bank, Kharagpur Main Branch for an amount of Rs. 30,92,711.00 (Rupees Thirty Lakhs Ninety Two Thousand Seven Hundred Eleven only) as on 17.04.2025 and interest and other charges thereon.

"We draw attention to the provisions of Section 13(8) of the SARFAESI Act and the Rules framed there under which deals with your rights of redemption over the securities."

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Mortgaged Assets : Land & G+1 building, in the name of Arup Chandra Sen, S/o. Late Manik Chandra Sen at Vill / Mouza - Sankoa, J.L. No. 386, RS LR Plot No. 1871, L.R Khatian No. 41 under Sankoa 2 No. Gram Panchayat, P.O. - Sankoa, P.S. - Kharagpur (L), Dist - Paschim Midnapore, West Bengal, Pin - 721301, measuring 51 Decimal Land out of which 9 Decimal Bastu Land and built up area 1466.23 Sq.ft. near Sankoa Bazar. Being Sale Deed No. I-252 dated 19.02.1973 and bounded by : North : 10 link Common Passage, South : S. Jana & Owner, East : Mahadev Mallick & Others, West : Land of Owner.

Date : 27.10.2026
Place : Kharagpur

Authorised Officer
Indian Bank

MADHYA GUJARAT VIJ COMPANY LIMITED

MGVCL

Corporate office:- 5th Floor, Sardar Patel Vidyut Bhavan, Race Course, Vadodara. Customer Care No. 19124
Tender Notice No.: (ID 357075 & 357063) &
GeM Bid GeM Bid No.: GEM/2026/B/6067153
MGVCL Web site: www.mgvcl.com
Dept-GoG: http://guj-epd.gov.in

Online tender is invited for Purchase of (1) MS Angle-65x65x6mm, MS Angle-50x50x6mm, MS Channel - 100x50x5 mm, MS Flat 50x6 mm and MS Round bar 16mm, (2) RSJ MS Beam items (i.e. Sizes :116x100mm-9 MTR & 116x100mm-11 MTR) as per specification, terms & conditions of MGVCL tender for annual CPP requirement of 2027-28. Tender documents available on web-site: https://mgvcl.nprocure.com (for on line submission, view and down load) and GUVNL / MGVCL websites www.gseb.com & www.mgvcl.com (for view and download). Interested vendors may surf the above web sites. Note: Be in touch with our websites till opening of tender.

AND

Online tender is invited for Purchase of MS Angle 50 X 50 x 6mm, MS Round bar 16mm, MS Flat 50 x 6mm as per MGVCL's specifications, specimen, terms and conditions of GeM Bid / MGVCL under RDSS. Tender documents available on web-site: https://gem.gov.in (for online submission, view and download) and GUVNL / MGVCL websites www.gseb.com & www.mgvcl.com (for view and download). Interested vendors may surf the above web sites.

Additional Chief Engineer (Proc)

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Engineer, Sarvagnanagara Division,
9th C Main, HRBR Layout 1st Block,
Kalyannagara Bangalore-560 043

No: EE/SGN/KPPP/TEND/09/2026-27 Dated: 28.10.2026

NOTICE INVITING SHORT TERM TENDER (NIT)
(Two Cover System Notification) Tender Document KW4

(Through GOK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)

The Executive Engineer (Sarvagnanagar Division), BNCC Zone-1, Bangalore invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in Greater Bengaluru Authority or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organizations. For the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
01.	Providing Thermoplastic Painting for Rumbler strips, Lane Marking, Junction Markings, different types fo sign boards, pilican signals and Kerb stones, HRPC and other safety furnitures as per Traffic police requests in Sarvagnanagara Division (Call-03) Approximate value of work : Rs. 320.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs. 4,80,000/- . Cost of Tender Form in Rs (Non-refundable) inclusive of GST: As per E-Procurement Portal (1.00 lakh through e-payment balance Rs. 3,80,000/- Lakhs through BG/FDR should be submitted before opening of Technical bid.

Calendar of Events : (1) Tender Documents may be downloaded from KPPP portal : 29.10.2026 (2) Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on : 31.10.2026 at 11.30 AM in the office of the Executive Engineer, BDA Building, 9th C Main Road, HRBR Layout, 1st Block, Banasawadi, Bengaluru. (3) Last Date & Time for Receipts of tenders : 07.11.2026 upto 4.00 P.M (4) Date of Opening of Technical Bid : 09.11.2026 After 11.00 A.M. (5) Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid : (Will be intimated after obtaining approval for Technical Evaluation).

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Sarvagnanagara Division, Zone-1 BNCC

HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD

HPSIDC

Regd. Office:-New Himrus Building,
Circular Road, Shimla-171001(HP)
CIN: - U70109HP1966SGC 002683, GSTIN: 02AACCT0331N1ZO
Tel No.0177-2621426/2624751/2625339 Fax: 0177-2624278
E-mail: sidc-hp@nic.inVisit us at: www.hpsidc.org

NOTICE INVITING E-AUCTION

HPSIDC invites online bids for allotment of various categories of industrial plots in Industrial Estate Davni (Baddi), District Solan (H.P.) through the NIC e-Auction Portal (https://eauction.gov.in).

Particulars	Details
Number of industrial plots to be allotted	11 (Eleven nos.)
Key dated for e-Bidding	Document Submission End: 09.11.2026 at 05:00PM Participant Approval Start : 10.11.2026 at 10:00 AM Participant Approval End : 16.11.2026 at 05:00 PM Start of bidding : 18.11.2026 at 11:00 AM End of bidding : 18.11.2026 at 03:00 PM

Terms and Conditions:

1. The bidder is required to register on the NIC e-Auction Portal (https://eauction.gov.in) prior to participation.
2. Bidders shall deposit a participation fee of Rs. 2,360/- including GST per plot through online mode in the HPSIDC designated bank account.
3. Bidders shall also deposit the prescribed Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) for each property through online mode within the stipulated time as notified. All documents prescribed under the "KYC and Supporting Documents" Annexure, including proof of payment of EMD and participation fee indicating the respective UTR/reference numbers, payment amounts, dates and details of the bank account from which the payments have been made, along with the bidder's bank account details and all other requisite documents prescribed in the e-Auction documents, shall mandatorily be uploaded online on the NIC e-Auction Portal within the stipulated submission period, in accordance with the requirements and procedure detailed in the e-Auction documents available on the HPSIDC website (**www.hpsidc.org**).
4. Detailed information, including plot particulars, area, EMD amount, e-Auction schedule, eligibility criteria, terms and conditions, and procedure for participation, is available on the HPSIDC website, **www.hpsidc.org**, under the **e-Auction** section. Any corrigendum, amendment or clarification relating to the e-Auction shall be published exclusively on the Corporation's website, and bidders are advised to visit the website regularly for updates.
5. Industrial plots shall be used only for permissible industrial activities in accordance with the notified land use and applicable HPSIDC conditions.
6. After completing the prescribed online submission on the NIC e-Auction Portal, bidders shall also submit one complete set of self-attested hard copies of the uploaded documents to the Managing Director, HPSIDC, New Himrus Building, Cart Road, Shimla-171001 (H.P.), so as to reach by 10.11.2026 at 11:00 A.M. The envelope shall be superscribed "CONFIDENTIAL – DOCUMENTS FOR e-AUCTION" and shall clearly mention the Auction ID and Plot/Shop/Site Number. Physical submission shall not substitute mandatory online submission, which must be completed within the notified online deadline.

No. 1188/2026-2027/HP MANAGING DIRECTOR

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, JICA FUNDED PROJECTS, PHED, JAIPUR

Room No.-12, Vikas Road, Gandhi Nagar, Jaipur – 302015
E-mail: cephedjica@rajasthan.gov.in;

No.: CE/JICA/Chouhtan CP 03-00101-6973286 Dated:.....

Corrigendum No.-01
(IFB No.-01/2026-27)

In continuation to this office detailed IFB No.-01/2026-27 by which online bids were invited through e-procurement system of Rajasthan Government, subsequently Addendum No.-01 issued by this office on dt. 09.10.2026 for "Work of Narmada Based Water Supply Project for 163 Villages of Dhorimanna and Chouhtan Block, Distt. Barmer (Package CP-03, Chouhtan-1 under JICA funded Rajasthan Rural Water Supply & Fluorosis Miligation Project Phase II on SPR basis with one-year Defect Notification period & 10 years O&M. (CP-03)" the following amendments are hereby notified: -

S. No	Description	As per IFB-01/2026-27	Now Amended As
1	Last Date and Time for Submission of Online Bids	26.10.2026 upto 11:00 AM IST	26.11.2026 upto 11:00 AM IST
2	Last Date and Time for Physical Submission of Challan copy of Cost of Bid Document, RISL Processing Fee and Bid Security	26.10.2026 upto 11:00 AM IST	26.11.2026 upto 11:00 AM IST
3	Date and Time for Opening of Technical Bids	26.10.2026 at 03:00 PM IST	26.11.2026 at 03:00 PM IST

All other terms, conditions and stipulations of the Original IFB, Addendum No.-01 and Bid Documents shall remain unchanged.

(Neeraj Mathur)
Chief Engineer
JICA Funded Projects,
PHED, Jaipur.

DIPR/C/17959/2026

Govt. of Karnataka

Bangalore Medical College & Research Institute

(An Autonomous Institute of Govt. of Karnataka)
Office of the Director cum Dean, Fort, K.R Road, Bengaluru - 560002.
Telephone: 080-26700810: Tele Fax: 080-26704342
email: director_bmcri@yahoo.co.in

No.BMCRI/Sup(2)/01/2026-27 Date:27.10.2026

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

E-tender has been invited as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements act 1999 for the Purchase of Diet Items for BMCRI attached Hospitals, Bengaluru. The Tender documents may be downloaded from E-procurement website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 28.10.2026 and last date for submission of tenders through E-procurement website is 30.11.2026 upto 5:00 pm. Those tenders which are not submitted with E.M.D will be rejected.

For further details contact Director cum Dean, Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute, Bengaluru.

Sd/- Director cum Dean
Bangalore Medical College &
Research Institute, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/3374/CCL/2026-27

Additional Chief Engineer

Public Health Engineering Department Region-I
Jyoti Nagar, Sahkar Marg, Jaipur
0141-2740170 | ace1.jpr.phed@rajasthan.gov.in

No. ACE/JPR-I/NIT-03/2026-27/ Date :-.....

CORRIGENDUM/ADDENDUM NO. 01
Notice Inviting Bid No. 03/2026-27

In continuation to this office NIT No. 03/2025-2026, issued vide this office for the "Providing, Laying, Jointing, Testing and Commissioning of pipeline for drinking water supply in municipal area of Baswa, District Dausa including 05 year O&M after completion of one year defect liability period, under Budget Announcement 170.05/2025-26", following amendments are hereby notified:

S. No	Event	As per Original Tender Document	Now Amended as
1	Availability of bid document	From 28.09.2026 at 10:00 AM to 22.10.2026 upto 6:00 PM	From 28.09.2026 at 10:00 AM to 03.11.2026 upto 6:00 PM
2	Date & time for online submission of bid document	From 28.09.2026 at 10:00 AM to 22.10.2026 upto 6:00 PM	From 28.09.2026 at 10:00 AM to 03.11.2026 upto 6:00 PM
3	Last date & time for Physical Submission of Bid Security and other mandatory Documents	23.10.2026 up to 01:00 PM	04.11.2026 up to 01:00 PM
4	Date & Time for Opening of Technical bid.	23.10.2026 up to 03:00 PM	04.11.2026 up to 03:00 PM

UBN No. - PHE26z7WLOI805943
NIB CODE- PHE26z7A2799

(Bhawani Singh Shekhawat)
Additional Chief Engineer
PHED Region-I, Jaipur

DIPR/C/17997/2026

ONLINE TENDERING

Project Implementation Unit, Gandhinagar (Health & Family Welfare Dept.)
TENDER NOTICE PIU - 108 /2026-27

Online tenders for Health Care facilities Civil works of Various Districts Gujarat as below are invited by the Superintending Engineer , Project Implementation Unit, NRHM/PIU Building 4th Floor, Civil Hospital Campus, Gandhinagar-382012, Ph. 079-23231434, 23231393,

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Est.Cost in Lacs (Rs.)	Tender Fee/EMD (Rs.)	Approved Regd. Class	Time Limit in Months	ID NO
1	Construction Of Critical Care Block for Upleta Hospital Campus at Rajkot.	1642.00	Rs.18,000/- Rs.16,42,000/-	"AA" Class and Special Building Category-1	18	PM ABHIM
2	Construction of Nursing College & Hostel at GMERS Morbi, Gujarat	5153.70	Rs.30,000/- Rs.51,54,000/-	"AA" Class and Special Building Category-1	18	9070

Pre Bid Did 17.11.2026 upto 12.00 hrs.
On Line Submission Did. 30.11.2026 upto 18.00 hrs.
Submission of Tender Fee, EMD & Other Original Documents on Did 30.11.2026 Online (Documents Shall have to be Scanned & put up Online. The Original Documents shall have to be submitted within 7 Days through R.P.A.D Only)
Bid Opening of tender did 01.12.2026 upto 12.00 hrs.

INF-1732-2026-27

GOVT. OF BIHAR

BIHAR COMBINED ENTRANCE COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION BOARD

I.A.S. Association Building, Near Patna Airport, Patna-14.

Website : bceceboard.bihar.gov.in / Helpdesk : helpdesk.bceceboard@bihar.gov.in

UNDER GRADUATE MEDICAL ADMISSION COUNSELLING
(UGMAC)-2026 for MBBS/ BDS/ B.V.Sc. & A.H./ B.F.Sc. in Govt. Medical / Dental / Veterinary Colleges / College of Fisheries and Private Medical / Dental Colleges of Bihar

Adv. No.- BCECEB(UGMAC)-2026/17 Dated 28.10.2026

Notice regarding Extended Online Counselling Programme for Stray Vacancy Round

In continuation to Adv. No. BCECEB(UGMAC)-2026/16 dated 22.10.2026, it is informed to all eligible & interested NEET(UG)-2026 qualified candidates and all concerned that Provisional Seat Allotment Result for Stray Vacancy Round Counselling of UGMAC-2026 has been published on Board's website.

The counselling programme for Stray Vacancy Round Counselling is hereby Re-scheduled as follows:

Sl.	Programme	Re-scheduled Date
i.	Stray Vacancy Round Provisional Seat Allotment Result publication date	: 28.10.2026
ii.	Downloading of Allotment order	: 28.10.2026 to 31.10.2026
iii.	Documents Verification and Admission (Stray Vacancy Round)	: 29.10.2026 to 31.10.2026

2. Rest of the terms / conditions of Adv. No.- BCECEB(UGMAC)-2026/14 Dated 18.10.2026 and 2026/16 dated 22.10.2026 will remain the same.

Controller of Examination

यूको बैंक UCO BANK

(A Govt. of India Undertaking)

ZONAL OFFICE, SILIGURI,
RajaniBagan, Off Hill Cart Road, Ward no. 11,
Siliguri, (W.B.) – 734001

DEMAND NOTICE

NOTICE U/S 13(2) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002

This Demand Notice is hereby given under section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 hereinafter calling upon the undermentioned Borrower/ Guarantor to repay the amounts outstanding for the Credit Facilities granted to them on their Guarantee within 60 days from the date of this notice.

If, you, the undermentioned borrower guarantor of the respective accounts fail to repay to the Bank the below mentioned amount with further interest and incidental expenses, costs etc. in terms of this notice u/s 13(2) of the said Act, the Bank will exercise all or any of the rights detailed under Sub-section (4) of Section 13 and under other applicable provisions of the said Act.

You, the under mentioned borrower guarantor of the respective accounts, are also put on notice that in terms of Sub-section 13 of Section 13 of the said Act, you shall not transfer by sale, leases or otherwise the said secured assets detailed below of this notice without obtaining written consent of the Bank.

The details of the account and secured assets along with amount outstanding is given below and further interest thereon till realization, including other costs, charges and expenses are to be paid by the respective borrower/ guarantor to the Bank.

Sl. No	Name of the Borrower / Guarantor / Mortgagor with Address and Branch Name	(1) Nature of Loan (2) Amount due (3) Date of 13(2) Notice sent by Speed Post (4) NPA Date	Description of Property Mortgaged to Bank
1.	M/s Agarwal Creations Address: Near Durga Iron Godown, Bholnatha Para, South Ektasal, Eastern Bypass, Siliguri – 734006 Guarantor & Partners: 1. Mrs. Twinkle Agarwal Resident of address Near Durga Iron Godown, Bholnatha Para, South Ektasal, Eastern Bypass, Siliguri–734006, 2. Mr. Dipak Agarwal, Resident of address Beside Hindi High School, New Mallandaly, Siliguri-734005 3. Mr. Dhruv Agarwal Resident of address Near Durga Iron Godown,Bholnatha Para, South Ektasal, Eastern Bypass, Siliguri–734006 4. Mr. Shibu Singha Resident of address Tiknikata, Darjeeling,Siliguri-734012, Branch: UCO Bank Burdwan Road Branch (1706), 1st Floor, Jaipal More, PO-Siliguri Bazar, Siliguri(W.B.) – 734005	1. Cash Credit(s) - Account No.: 17060510001936 2. ₹ 50,81,406.00 (Rupees Fifty Lakh Eighty One Thousand Four Hundred Six only) as on 13.10.2026 (inclusive of interest up to 30.09.2026) with further interest and incidental expenses, costs 3. 13-10-2026 (sent by speed post on 15-10-2026) 4. 29.09.2026	PART-I - All the hypothecated assets, viz. Current Assets including Stocks, Book Debts, Receivables, Consumable Stores & Spares and Hypothecated Movable Plant & Machinery, etc. mentioned in the documents. PART-II - (Description of Immovable Property) CERSAI Security ID:- 400859438497 Asset ID:- 200059899423 All that piece and parcel of Vacant land measuring 8 (Eight) Decimals or 5 (Five) Kathas, recorded in L.R. Khatian Nos. 2057 & 2061, L.R. Plot no. 317, Situated within Mouza Tiknikata, J.L. No. 74, Pargana Patharghata, Touj No. 91, Sheet No. 01, Under Matigara Gram Panchayat Area, Within the jurisdiction of P.S. Matigara, registered vide Deed No. 8448 dated 17/10/2012 in the name of Mr. Dipak Agarwal & Mr. Shibu Singha in the office of A.D.S.R. Bagdogra, District – Darjeeling, in the State of West Bengal. Details of Boundaries (As per Deed): North: 20 ft Wide Pucca Road, West: Sold Land Of Kalipada Ganguli, East: House of Arabinda Dey Sarkar, South: Land of Nanda Sarkar

Date: 29.10.2026, Place: Siliguri Authorised Officer, UCO Bank

Dr. NTR UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES : A.P.: VIJAYAWADA-520008

NOTIFICATION FOR MPT COMMON ENTRANCE TEST 2026-27

Applications through online are invited from the candidates who fulfilled the eligibility criteria for appearing the Common Entrance Test pertaining to MPT Courses for the academic year 2026-27 under Competent Authority quota and Management Quota seats in Private Physiotherapy colleges affiliated to Dr. NTR UHS, Vijayawada/ Competent Authority quota seats in Physiotherapy colleges under Mohan Babu University, Tirupati & Apollo University, Chittoor.

Schedule for Registration of Online Application and Uploading of Scanned Certificates:	from 10.00 A.M. on 30.10.2026 to 10.00 A.M. on 09.11.2026
Detailed Notification/ Prospectus/ Regulations	Website https://drntr.uhsap.in

VIJAYAWADA, DATE: 29-10-2026 Sd/- REGISTRAR.

E-Tender Notice

e-Tenders are invited for Supply and Installation of Water Purifier (RO) Cum Cooler under SSM fund in N.I.e.T.No.-. 01/HBDO/SSM/ 2026-27 Documents and other details is available in the website tenders.wb.gov.in. The last date of submission for NIeT up to 14.00 hours on dated 06/11/2026 respectively. Further, contact with the office of the undersigned for any queries in the office hours.

Sd/-
Block Development Officer
Hariharpara Dev. Block

"IMPORTANT"

Whilst care is taken prior to acceptance of advertising copy, it is not possible to verify its contents. The Indian Express (P) Limited cannot be held responsible for such contents, nor for any loss or damage incurred as a result of transactions with companies, associations or individuals advertising in its newspapers or Publications. We therefore recommend that readers make necessary inquiries before sending any monies or entering into any agreements with advertisers or otherwise acting on an advertisement in any manner whatsoever.

Tamil Nadu Power Distribution Corporation Ltd.

Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process)

Specification No.	Tender Inviting Authority	Name of the Work
M-275	CE / MM	Procurement of 160 KVA - 11 KV-433V EEL-2 DTs
M-276	CE / MM	Procurement of 600 Nos of 160 KVA 22 KV 433V EEL-2 DTs

For details of works / Procurement / Due date of submission / Opening, viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit the websites www.tnpdcl.org, www.tenders.tn.gov.in, www.tntenders.gov.in DIPR/3288/Tender/2026

Government of Tamil Nadu
Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department

Vellore City Municipal Corporation

Tel: 0416 - 2220578

Bids for Selection of Service Provider for Collection & Transportation of Solid Waste through various activities to the Designated Processing Facility/ Dump Site/ Depositing Centres and Operation and Maintenance of Micro Composting Centres (MCCs) in Vellore City Municipal Corporation for 18 months (Two cover system)

(Roc No:10791/2026/H1, Dated:29.10.2026)

1. Bids are invited from eligible and reputed agencies for the Selection of Service Provider for Collection & Transportation of Solid Waste through various activities to the Designated Processing Facility/ Dump Site/ Depositing Centres and Operation and Maintenance of Micro Composting Centres (MCCs) in Vellore Corporation
2. The details of the bid shall be obtained from web portal: www.tntenders.gov.in and Corporation website https://www.tnurbantree.tn.gov.in/vellore/
3. The tender document shall be downloaded from 29.10.2026 from the portal www.tntenders.gov.in
4. Pre-bid meeting will be on 12.11.2026 at 11.30 AM at Vellore City Municipal Corporation.
5. The last date for downloading the tender document and the last date for uploading / submission of filled up tender document is up to 3.00 P.M. on 30.11.2026
6. The received bids will be opened at 3.30 P.M. on 30.11.2026 at the office of Vellore City Municipal Corporation
7. The value of each project, Bid Security – (RTGS/e-BG), and the eligibility criteria for the bidder etc., are given in the bid document.

Commissioner,
Vellore City Municipal Corporation

DIPR/ 3291 /TENDER/2026

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION AND WATER SUPPLY DEPARTMENT

Tiruchirappalli City Municipal Corporation

Roc No. H1/12457/2026(Main) Telephone No. : 0431 - 2415393 Dated: 28.10.2026
Tender Notice No. 03 / 2026 - 2027

Bids for Selection of Service Provider for Collection & Transportation of Solid Waste through various activities to the Designated Processing Facility/ Dump Site/ Depositing Centres and Operation and Maintenance of Micro Composting Centres (MCCs) in Tiruchirappalli City Municipal Corporation for 18 months.

1. Bids are invited from eligible and reputed agencies for the Selection of Service Provider for Collection & Transportation of Solid Waste through various activities to the Designated Processing Facility/ Dump Site/ Depositing Centres and Operation and Maintenance of Micro Composting Centres (MCCs) in Tiruchirappalli City Municipal Corporation.
2. The details of the bid shall be obtained from website: www.tntenders.gov.in
3. The tender document shall be downloaded from 29.10.2026 from the portal www.tntenders.gov.in
4. Pre-bid meeting will be on 12.11.2026 at 11.30 AM at Main Office Tiruchirappalli City Municipal Corporation.
5. The last date for downloading the tender documents and the last date for uploading / submission of filled up tender document is upto 3.00 P.M. on 03.12.2026.
6. The received bids will be opened at 3.30 P.M. at 04.12.2026 at the office of Tiruchirappalli City Municipal Corporation.
7. The value of each project, Bid Security – (RTGS/e-BG), and the eligibility criteria for the bidder etc., are given in the bid document.

Commissioner,
Tiruchirappalli City Municipal Corporation

DIPR/3285/TENDER/2026

Government of Tamil Nadu
Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department

Dindigul City Municipal Corporation

Bids for Selection of Service Provider for Collection & Transportation of Solid Waste through various activities to the Designated Processing Facility/ Dump Site/ Depositing Centres and Operation and Maintenance of Micro Composting Centres (MCCs) in Dindigul City Municipal Corporation for 18 months
(Roc.No. 12885/2026/H2, Dated: 28/10/2026

1. Bids are invited from eligible and reputed agencies for the Selection of Service Provider for Collection & Transportation of Solid Waste through various activities to the Designated Processing Facility/ Dump Site/ Depositing Centres and Operation and Maintenance of Micro Composting Centres (MCCs) in Dindigul City Municipal Corporation
2. The details of the bid shall be obtained from web portal: www.tntenders.gov.in and Corporation website commr.dindigul@tn.gov.in
3. The tender document shall be downloaded from 29/10/2026 from the portal www.tntenders.gov.in
4. Pre-bid meeting will be on 10/11/2026 at 10.00 AM in Dindigul City Municipal Corporation.
5. The last date for downloading the tender document and the last date for uploading / submission of filled up tender document is up to 3.00 P.M. on 30/11/2026
6. The received bids will be opened at 3.30 P.M. on 30/11/2026 at the office of Dindigul City Municipal Corporation
7. The value of each project, Bid Security – (RTGS/e-BG), and the eligibility criteria for the bidder etc., are given in the bid document.

Commissioner
Dindigul City Municipal Corporation

DPR/3269/Tender/2026

Government of Tamil Nadu
Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department

Madurai Corporation

Tel: 0452-2540333

Bids for Selection of Service Provider for Collection & Transportation of Solid Waste through various activities to the Designated Processing Facility/ Through Transfer station or Directly /Dump Site/ Depositing Centres and Operation and Maintenance of Micro Composting Centres (MCCs) in Madurai Corporation for 18 months
(Roc.H1 / 015820 / 2026, Dated: 28.10.2026)

1. Bids are invited from eligible and reputed agencies for the Selection of Service Provider for Collection & Transportation of Solid Waste through various activities to the Designated Processing Facility/ Through Transfer station or Directly / Dump Site / Depositing Centres and Operation and Maintenance of Micro Composting Centres (MCCs) in Madurai Corporation
2. Estimate Amount : Rs. 270.00/- Crore
3. The details of the bid shall be obtained from web portal: www.tntenders.gov.in and Corporation website: https://maduraicorporation.co.in
4. The tender document shall be downloaded from 29.10.2026 from the portal www.tntenders.gov.in
5. Pre-bid meeting will be on 11.11.2026 at 11.30 AM at Madurai Corporation.
6. The last date for downloading the tender document and the last date for uploading / submission of filled up tender document is up to 3.00 P.M. on 30.11.2026
7. The received bids will be opened at 3.30 P.M. on 30.11.2026 at the office of Madurai Corporation
8. The value of each project, Bid Security – (RTGS/e-BG), and the eligibility criteria for the bidder etc., are given in the bid document.

Commissioner,
Madurai Corporation

DIPR/ 3276 /TENDER/2026

Tamil Nadu Power Generation Corporation Ltd

Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process)

Specification No.	Tender Inviting Authority	Name of the Work
47	CE / Electrical / NCTPP - III	BM Rectification of damaged ESP fields 2/ nos during AOH

For details of works / Procurement / Due date of submission / Opening, viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit websites: www.tangedco.gov.in, www.tntenders.gov.in, www.tenders.tn.gov.in DIPR/3273/Tender/2026

BOARD OF INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION, ANDHRA PRADESH

Cyber City, Beside Sona-vision Showroom, Tadepalli, Guntur-522 501.

ESE51-15026(31)/1/2022-C SEC-BIE Dated : 28-10-2026

E-procurement Short Tender Notice

The Secretary, Board of Intermediate Education, Andhra Pradesh, invites E-procurement Tenders from reputed and experienced Software Development and Data Processing and Result Preparation (SDDPRP) Agencies for conduct & processing of results (General & Vocational) of Intermediate Public Examinations (IPE) March 2027 and Intermediate Public Advanced Supplementary Examinations (IPASE) May 2027. For further details visit **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in.**

P. Ranjit Basha I.A.S, SECRETARY

AP POWER GENERATION CORPORATION Ltd., VS, VIJAYAWADA-520004

(A Govt. of A.P Undertaking)

NOTIFICATION for AP Govt e-Procurement
TENDER ID No.1005239

APGENCO invites open tenders for Design, Engineering, manufacturing, inspection, testing, supply, loading, transporation, unloading, On-site installation & Commissioning of 2 no.800HP Diesel Hydraulic Locomotives with mandatory spares along with buy back of 02no scrap locos (Sl.No.189 & 190) for CHP at Dr.NTTPS and 02 no 800HP Diesel Hydraulic Locomotives along with one spare HDR - IV or equivalent Tmasmission Unit for CHP of Dr.MVR.RTPP through AP e-procurement. EVC Rs. 10, 12,02,162/-.

Schedule available Date & Time : 27.10.2026 20:00 Hrs onwards
Bid submission Closing Date & Time: 10.11.2026 - 13:00 Hrs
For further details visit: www.apgenco.gov.in or https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in

Release Order No: 5529PP/CL/ADVT/1/1/2021-22 Dt: 28/10/2026

Kolkata

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

Corrigendum Notice
(8th Corrigendum) for Tender

e-N.I.T No- WBIW/CTU/ CE(S)/e-NIT-16 (e)/2026-27, S.L.no.-1. Tender Id : 2026_IWD_1036871_1, under Central Tender Unit, Irrigation & Waterways Directorate. Following changes are made in 8th corrigenda Bid submission end date is "06.11.2026, up to 11:00 Hours." instead of 28.10.2026, upto 11:00 Hours, and Technical Bid opening date is "06.11.2026 after 16:30 Hours." instead of 28.10.2026 after 16:30 Hours. "All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged. All necessary details may be obtained from West Bengal Government e-tender portal wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- S.E, Central Tender Unit. ICA/T19264/(3)/2026

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

Corrigendum [12th] Notice for Tender

e-N.I.T No- WBIW/CTU/CE(S)/e-NIT-11 (e)/2026-27, S.L. no.- 1, Tender Id : 2026_IWD_1028121_1, under Central Tender Unit, Irrigation & Waterways Directorate. Following changes are made in 11th corrigenda Bid submission end date is "06.11.2026, up to 11:00 Hours." instead of 28.10.2026, up to 11:00 Hours. and Technical Bid opening date is "06.11.2026 after 16:30 Hours." instead of 28.10.2026 after 16:30 Hours." All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged. All necessary details may be obtained from West Bengal Government e-tender portal wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- S.E, Central Tender Unit. ICA/T19266/(3)/2026

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

PWD TENDER NOTICE

EXTENSION OF NOTICE INVITING QUATATION NO : 32 of 2026 2027 OF EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, HOOGHLY DIVISION, P.W.D. Tender reference No : 'W B P W D / E E / H O O G H L Y DIVISION/NIQ_32/2026-27. Tender ID No : 2026_WBPWD_5076272_1. Previous Bid submission closing date(online) : 27.10.2026, at 11:00 a.m. Extended Bid Submission Closing Date (online) : 04.11.2026 upto 11:00 a.m. Details may be downloaded from : https://etender.wb.nic.in or may be seen from the office of the u/s in working hours or from the Departmental Website http://pwdwb.in Corrigendum, if any will be published in website only. Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Hooghly Division. ICA/T19285/(3)/2026

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

Corrigendum Notice
(Corrigendum-6) for Tender

e-N.I.T No- WBIW/CTU/CE(S)/e-NIT-17 (e)/2026-27, S.L. no.-1 Tender Id : 2026_IWD_1036884_1, under Central Tender Unit, Irrigation & Waterways Directorate, Following changes are made in 5TH corrigenda Bid submission end date is "06.11.2026, up to 11:00 Hours." instead of 28.10.2026, up to 11:00 Hours, and Technical Bid opening date is "06.11.2026 after 16:30 Hours." instead of 28.10.2026 after 16:30 Hours." All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged. All necessary details may be obtained from West Bengal Government e-tender portal wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- S.E, Central Tender Unit. ICA/T19265/(3)/2026

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

2nd CORRIGENDUM

2nd Corrigendum of e-Auction Notice Nos. WBIW/CTU/RFP-139(e)/2026-27, WBIW/CTU/RFP-140(e)/2026-27, WBIW/CTU/RFP-146(e)/2026-27, WBIW/CTU/RFP-147(e)/2026-27 & 3rd Corrigendum of e-Auction Notice Nos. WBIW/CTU/RFP-141(e)/2026-27, WBIW/CTU/RFP-142(e)/2026-27, WBIW/CTU/RFP-143(e)/2026-27, WBIW/CTU/RFP-144(e)/2026-27, WBIW/CTU/RFP-145(e)/2026-27 & their corresponding Auction ID : 2026 WB 5843, 2026 WB 5844, 2026 WB 5851, 2026 WB 5852, 2026 WB 5845, 2026 WB 5847, 2026 WB 5848, 2026 WB 5849, 2026 WB 5850 respectively under Central Tender Unit, I & W Dte, GoWB.

Last Date & Time for Online Submission of Technical Bid is extended up to 27.11.2026 at 16:00 hrs. All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged. Other details regarding schedule dates of e-Auction may be obtained from the Website https://eauction.gov.in from 29/10/2026 at 10.00 Hours. Sd/- (Kalyan Kumar Dey) Superintending Engineer Central Tender Unit, I&W Dte.

ICA/T19267(3)/2026

WBPDCL

METALIZING AND MACHINING OF LOWER JOURNAL BEARING HOUSING OF COAL MILL XRP-803
UNDER BMD DEPTT.

Notice Inviting E-Tender
Ref No. WBPDCL/Tend-Adv/26-27/KTPS/CC-6319, Dtd: 28/10/26
NIT No: WBPDCL/KTPS/NIT/E4171/26-27

E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtenders.gov.in by the General Manager, KTPS, WBPDCL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for "Metalizing and machining of Lower journal bearing Housing of coal mill XRP-803 under BMD Deptt." Tender Document Download Start Date: 02/11/2026 at 11.00 Hrs., Bid Submission End Date: 25/11/2026 at 15.00 Hrs. Contact Person: Mr. Krisanu Gupta, Sr. Manager (PS) (Contract Cell), KTPS. Contact No.: 8336909047. E-mail: kgupta@wbpdcl.co.in. For details please visit: https://wbtenders.gov.in

ICA/T19293(3)/2026

WBPDCL

BIENNIAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FOR MISCELLANEOUS CIVIL WORK AT C, D, FH TYPE & OTHER PART AT KTPS TOWNSHIP AND ITS ADJOINING AREAS

Notice Inviting E-Tender
Ref No. WBPDCL/Tend-Adv/26-27/KTPS/CC-6318, Dtd: 28/10/26
NIT No: WBPDCL/KTPS/NIT/E4181/26-27

E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtenders.gov.in by the General Manager, KTPS, WBPDCL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for "Biennial maintenance contract for miscellaneous civil work at C, D, FH type & other part at KTPS Township and its adjoining areas". Tender Document Download Start Date: 13.11.2026 at 11.00 AM., Bid Submission End Date: 08.12.2026 at 14.00 PM. Contact Person: Mr. Utpal Chakraborty. Contact No.: 9874189135. E-mail: cc_utpal@wbpdcl.co.in.
For details please visit: https://wbtenders.gov.in

ICA/T19292(3)/2026

WBPDCL

REPLACEMENT OF DIFFERENT HP VALVES, PIPES, BENDS & REDUCER
UNDER TM DEPTT. DURING REVIVAL OF UNIT #3

Notice Inviting E-Tender
Ref No. WBPDCL/Tend-Adv/26-27/KTPS/CC-6320, Dtd: 28/10/26
NIT No: WBPDCL/KTPS/NIT/E4167/26-27

E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtenders.gov.in by the General Manager, KTPS, WBPDCL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for "REPLACEMENT OF DIFFERENT HP VALVES, PIPES, BENDS & REDUCER UNDER TM DEPTT. DURING REVIVAL OF UNIT #3". Tender Document Download Start Date: 02/11/2026 at 11.00 Hrs., Bid Submission End Date: 25/11/2026 at 15.00 Hrs. Contact Person: Mr. Krisanu Gupta, Sr. Manager (PS) (Contract Cell), KTPS. Contact No.: 8336909047. E-mail: kgupta@wbpdcl.co.in.
For details please visit: https://wbtenders.gov.in

ICA/T19294(3)/2026

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

CIRCLE OFFICE, STRESS ASSET MANAGEMENT DIVISION, DURGAPUR, (CO SAMD DURGAPUR)
Nachan Road, Benachity, Durgapur, Paschim Bardhaman, W.B. / e-mail: codgprec@pnb.bank.in
BO: G T ROAD ASANSOL

DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE ACT

Registered Post with A/D
Date:16.10.2026

To,
SAYAN KUMAR DATTA, S/o Late Swapan Kumar Datta BC F2, Subhadra Tower, S B Gorai Road, Raghunath Chak, Asansol, West Bengal- 713304
BASARI DATTA, W/o Late Swapan Kumar Datta, BC F2, Subhadra Tower, S B Gorai Road, Raghunath Chak, Asansol, West Bengal- 713304

Sub: Notice u/s 13(2) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter called 'Act')

Dear Sir(s),

1. At your request, you have been granted by the Bank, through its ASANSOL G T ROAD (319300) from time to time, various credit facilities by way of financial assistance against various assets creating security interest in favour of the Bank. The relevant particulars of the said credit facilities and the security agreement(s)/document(s) executed by you are stated in Schedule 'A' and 'B' respectively excluding pledge of movables. You have availed the financial assistance with an undertaking for repayment of the said financial assistance in terms of the said agreement(s) / document(s).
2. You have also created mortgage by way of deposit of title deeds/ Registered mortgages creating security interest in favour of the Bank. The documents relating to such mortgage are also stated in Schedule 'B'.
3. The relevant particulars of the secured assets are specifically stated in Schedule 'C'.
4. You have also acknowledged subsistence of the liability in respect of the aforesaid credit facilities by executing confirmation of balances and revival letters and other documents from time to time. The operation of and conduct of the above said financial assistance/credit facilities have become irregular and the debt has been classified as Non-Performing Assets on 28.01.2026 (Balance Outstanding on NPA date Rs.8,64,733.72 (Rupees Eight Lakh Sixty-Four Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty-Three and paisa Seventy-Two Only)) in accordance with the directives/guidelines relating to asset classifications issued by the Reserve Bank of India consequent to the default committed by you in repayment of principal debt and interest thereon.
5. The said financial assistance is also secured by the personal guarantee of: NA
   Despite repeated requests, you have failed and neglected to repay the said dues / outstanding liabilities.
6. Therefore, the Bank hereby calls upon you u/s 13(2) of the said Act by issuing this notice to discharge in full your liabilities stated hereunder to the Bank within 60 days from the date of this notice. Your outstanding liabilities (in aggregate) due and owing to the Banks is the sum of Rs.9,29,737.72 (Rupees Nine Lakh Twenty-Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty-Seven and paisa Seventy-Two Only) as on 30.09.2026. You are also liable to pay future interest at the contractual rate on the aforesaid amount together with incidental expenses, cost, charges, etc.
7. If you fail to repay to the Bank the aforesaid sum of Rs.9,29,737.72 (Rupees Nine Lakh Twenty-Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty-Seven and paisa Seventy-Two Only) as on 30.09.2026 with further interest and incidental expenses, costs as stated above in terms of this notice u/s 13(2) of the Act, the Bank will exercise all or any of the rights detailed under subsection (4) of Section 13 and under other applicable provisions of the said Act.
8. You are also put on notice that in terms of sub-Section 13 of Section 13 you shall not transfer by sale, lease or otherwise the said secured assets detailed in Schedule 'C' of this notice without obtaining written consent of the Bank.
9. We invite your attention to the provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act which speaks about the time available to the borrower/guarantor to redeem the secured assets.
10. The Bank reserves its rights to call upon you to repay the liabilities that may arise under the outstanding Bills Discounted, Bank Guarantees and Letter of Credit issued and established on your behalf as well as other contingent liabilities.
11. This notice is without prejudice to the Bank's right to initiate such other actions or legal proceedings as it deems necessary under any other applicable provisions of Law.

SCHEDULE "A"
Name of Borrower: SAYAN KUMAR DATTA

Account No.	Nature of Facility	Outstanding inclusive of interest as on date of NPA i.e. as on 30.09.2026	Un applied interest w.e.f. to	Penal Interest (Simple)	Cost/ Charges incurred by Bank
319300ID00000059	TLPIP - TERM LOAN -AGAINST IMMOVABLE PROPERTY	Rs.9,29,737.72 (Rupees Nine Lakh Twenty-Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty-Seven and paisa Seventy-Two Only)	-	-	-
Total Amt. in Rs. :	Rs.9,29,737.72 (Rupees Nine Lakh Twenty-Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty-Seven and paisa Seventy-Two Only)				

SCHEDULE "B"
List of Documents (Details of Security Documents including all supplementary documents & Documents evidencing creation of mortgage)

Sl.No.	Name of the document	Nature of security	Date of Execution	Amount Secured (Rs.)
1	ANNEXURE II	IMMOVABLE PROPERTY	02.02.2022	1000000.00
2	ANNEXURE III	IMMOVABLE PROPERTY	03.02.2022	1000000.00
3	PROPERTY DECLARATION FORM	IMMOVABLE PROPERTY	02.02.2022	1000000.00

SCHEDULE 'C'
Part – I
(Hypothecation of Movable Properties)

Type of Security	Security Description
NA	

Part – II
(Equitable Mortgage of immovable properties)
Property:
All that part & parcel of residential Flat Being No." F-2" situated in the Second Floor having its Super-built up area 900 Square Feet consisting two bed rooms, one drawing cum dinning, two latrines cum bathroom, one kitchen, one balcony together with a Four Wheeler Parking Space on the ground floor measuring an area 135 (one hundred thirty-five) square feet of the building name "SUBHADRA TOWER" Block "C" in the Dist. Of Burdwan, P.S. Hirapur, Sub-Division & A.D.S.R. Office Asansol, within Mouza Asansol Municipality, J.L No-20, within the limit of Asansol Municipal Corporation all that "Bastu" land, Ward No. 3 all that homestead land comprised in R.S. Plot No. 3989, L.R. plot No. 4124, under R.S. Khatian No. 18216, L.R. Khatian No. 17548, measuring 12 (Twelve) Cottahs 06 (Six) Chhitaks 19 (Nineteen)Square Feet along with the multistoried building (G+4 storied) standing thereon namesd and known as "SUBHADRA TOWER, Block "C" consisting of various self-contained residential flats in each floor and shops/parking space in the ground floor with all the easement rights. Being deed no 230507693 for the year 2021 in the name of Late SWAPAN KUMAR DATTA (PAN NO.: ACVPD3878N), S/O Late Sailendra Kumar Datta & BASARI DUTTA @ BASARI DATTA (PAN NO.: BNVPD3682G) W/O Late Swapan Kumar Datta, daughter of late Kripendra Sarkar. Butted and Bounded by: On the North : By the House of Laxman Sharma. On the South : By Subhadra Tower Block – D. On the East : By the House of Narayan Chandra Roy. On the West : By the House of Ujjal Chowdhury.

Yours faithfully,
For Punjab National Bank
(RAJU KUMAR SINGH)
AUTHORISED OFFICER

Date: 16.10.2026
Place: Durgapur

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

SALE NOTICE, E-AUCTION DATED: 26.11.2026

CIRCLE OFFICE, STRESS ASSET MANAGEMENT DIVISION, DURGAPUR, (CO SAMD DURGAPUR)
Nachan Road, Benachity, Durgapur, Paschim Bardhaman, W.B. / e-mail: codgprec@pnb.bank.in

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
LAST DATE & TIME OF SUBMISSION OF EMD (Earnest Money Deposit) AND DOCUMENTS 26.11.2026/ UPTO 3.00 PM
Sale of immovable property mortgaged to Bank under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 (No.54 of 2002)

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 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 constructive/physical symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorized 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.

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES [The Sold Properties are under Constructive Possession/ Physical possession of the Secured Creditor]

Sl No	BRANCH NAME / Name & Address of the Borrowers / Guarantors	Description of the Immovable Properties Mortgaged, Owner's Name (Mortgagers of property(ies)) & Possession	A) Date of Demand Notice u/s 13 (2) B) Date of Possession C) Outstanding as on	A) Reserve Price B) EMD C) Bid Increase Amt (In Rs.)	Date & Time of E-Auction
1	B/O: 020220-ASANSOL Account: RAJ KISHOR BARANWAL & KANCHAN BARNWAL Borrower/Guarantor: RAJ KISHORE BARANWAL, S/O Onkar Prasad Baranwal, Upper Para, Opp Sarathi Club, Asansol, West Bengal-713301 KANCHAN BARNWAL, W/O Raj Kishore Baranwal, Upper Para, Opp Sarathi Club, Asansol, West Bengal- 713301	All that part and parcel of residential flat being flat no. 3 in multi storied building (G+8) on the third floor of the building known as "SASHI RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL COMPLEX" containing super built up area 846 Sq. Ft. with undivided proportionate share of land situated at Dist. Paschim Bardhaman, P.S. Asansol (S), Addl. Dist. Sub- Registry Office: Asansol within Mouza: Asansol Municipality, J .L. No. 20, under the limits of Asansol Municipal Corporation upon land measuring about 4786 Sq. Ft. being R.S. Plot No. 24028, 24031 & 24032 under R.S. Khatian No. 9446 & 13367, Abdul Latif Lane, Ward No. 13(44) in the name of Shri. RAJ KISHOR BARANWAL & Smt. KANCHAN BARNWAL being Deed No. 020500045 for the year 2018. Possession Constructive PROPERTY ID: PUNBABA49317413	A) 16.02.2026 B) 06.05.2026 C)Rs.29,28,934.44 (Rupees Twenty-Nine Lakh Twenty-Six Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty-Four and Paisa Forty-Four Only) as mentioned in the above notices.	A) Rs.19.98 Lakh B) Rs.1.99 Lakh C) Rs.10000.00	26.11.2026 10:00 A.M. To 04:00 P.M.
2	B/O- 003200-ASANSOL, BASTIN BAZAR Account: MD SHAHID PERWEZ Borrower/Guarantor: Md Shahid Parvez S/o Late Mohammad Ibrahim, Railpar, Charbi Mohalla, K T Road, Asansol-713301 Jahida Khatoon, W/o Late Mohammad Ibrahim, Railpar, Charbi Mohalla, K T Road, Asansol-713301 Md Arif Raza Bedil S/o Late Mohammad Ibrahim, Railpar, Charbi Mohalla, K T Road, Asansol-713301 Md Arshad Parvez S/o Late Mohammad Ibrahim, Railpar, Charbi Mohalla, K T Road, Asansol-713301 Md Royaz Ahmed S/o Late Mohammad Ibrahim, Railpar, Charbi Mohalla, K T Road, Asansol-713301	All that piece and parcel of land and two storied building situated at Mouza-Asansol, Distt-Paschim Bardhaman, JL No 20, Kh No. 4032, CS Plot No. 4746, Railpar, Charbi Mohalla, Asansol. Area– 3.50 decimal in the name of Jahida Khatoon, Md. Sahid Parwez, Rayaz Ahmed, Arif Raja Bedil & Arshad Parwez covered by Deed No 3216 of 1992. Possession Constructive Property ID : PUNR82220056	A) 18.07.2018 B) 06.10.2019 C) Rs. 13,13,667.00 (Rupees Thirteen Lakh Thirteen Thousand Six Hundred Sixty-Seven Only) as mentioned in the above notices with up-to-date interest.	A) Rs.22.15 Lakh B) Rs.2.22 Lakh C) Rs.10000.00	26.11.2026 10:00 A.M. To 04:00 P.M.
3	BO: 020420-COKE OVEN Account: NILKANTHO HALDER Borrower/Guarantor/ Partner: Mr. Nilkantha Halder Mrs. Shukla Halder Address: Gopalpur, Uttar para, Sukanta Pally, Durgapur, Paschim Bardhaman, Pin-713212	All the piece and parcel of residential Land & building situated on Plot No.6135/6908, Kh No.1767 & 3789, LR Kh No.3833, JL No-65, area of land more or less 5 cottah, Mouza-Gopalpur, PO- Panagarh, PS-Kanksa, Dist Paschim Bardhaman, in the name of Nilkantho Halder S/o Khudiram Halder covered Deed No. I-2639 of 2000. Possession Constructive Property ID : PUNRABA40420300	A) 08.07.2021 B) 19.10.2021 C) Rs.17,83,185.20 (Rupees Seventeen lac eighty-three thousand one hundred sixty-five and paise twenty only) as mentioned in the above notices with up-to-date interest.	A) Rs.38.65 Lakh B) Rs.3.87 Lakh C) Rs.10000.00	26.11.2026 10:00 A.M. To 04:00 P.M.
4	B/O: 200420-RUPNARAYANPUR Account: DIPANKAR SAHA & CHANDRABALI SAHA Borrower/Guarantor: Mr. Dipankar Saha, S/o Dipak Kumar Saha, Netaji Colony Kalisanko, Salanpur, Kalisanko, Burdwan, Rupnarayan West Bengal- 713335 Mrs.Chandrabali Saha W/o Dipankar Saha, Vill: Netaji Colony, PO-Sialkulberia, Dist Burdwan, West Bengal- 713335	All that piece and parcel of property situated at District Bardhaman, Thana Salanpur, Sub-Division Asansol, A.D.S.R. Office Kulti, Mouza Kalisanka, J L No. 46, R.S.Khatian No. 64, L.R.Khatian No 262, R.S. and L.R. Dag No 131, LOP No: 165, Bastu Land measuring 4.14 Kathas in the name of Dipankar Saha, S/o Dipak Kumar Saha being deed no I-3439 for the year 2014. Possession Constructive Property ID : PUNR78949712725	A) 13.01.2025 B) 08.04.2025 C) Rs.7,77,072.60 (Rupees Seven Lakh Seventy-Seven Thousand Seventy-Two Only) as mentioned in the above notices.	A) Rs.16.99 Lakh B) Rs.1.60 Lakh C) Rs.10000.00	26.11.2026 10:00 A.M. To 04:00 P.M.
5	BO: 020220-ASANSOL Account: HODA FOOT WEAR Borrower/Proprietor/Guarantor: HODA FOOT WEAR Borrower/Guarantor:Hoda Foot Wear, C/o – Sahid Hoda Ansari, 71 N, Bastin Bazar Bye Lane, Asansol, West Bengal- 713301 Sahid Hoda Ansari, 71 N Bastin Bazar Bye Lane, Asansol West Bengal, Asansol-713301 Rustam Javed Ansari, 71 N Bastin Bazar Bye Lane, Asansol West Bengal, Asansol-713301	All the piece and parcel of one Commercial Godown Room on the first floor of G+2 multistoried building named as "Yousuf Manjil" being holding no 26/26, B B Road ward no 11 (old) & 46(new), PS-Asansol under Asansol Municipal Corporation measuring 142.22 Sq.Ft. along with undivided proportionate share of land, common passage including staircase, lobby in the super build area located and situated at Bastin Bazar Road, Mouza-Asansol, JL No 20, RS Khatian NO 930, RS Plot No 9128,9124, registered in the name of Mr. Sahid Hoda Ansari & Mr. Rustam Jawed Ansari both are the son of Late Samsul Hoda Ansari being Deed No I-4645 of 2012. Possession Constructive Property ID : PUNRABA40452942	A) 19.06.2024 B) 18.12.2024 C) Rs. 14,34,575.94 (Rupees Fourteen Lakh Thirty-Four Thousand Five Hundred Seventy-Five and Paisa Ninety-Four Only) as mentioned in the above notices.	A) Rs.11.35 Lakh B) Rs.1.14 Lakh C) Rs.10000.00	26.11.2026 10:00 A.M. To 04:00 P.M.
6	BO: 200820-RUPNARAYANPUR Account: CHANDRABALI SAHA Borrower/Proprietor/Guarantor: Mrs. Chandrabali Saha, W/o Dipankar Saha, Netaji Colony, PO_ Sialkulberia, PS Salanpur, Asansol- 713335 Dipankar Saha, Netaji Colony, PO_ Sialkulberia, PS Salanpur, Asansol- 713335	All the piece and parcel of land and building measuring 7.6 decimal situated at Mouza-Kalisanko, JL No.46, RS Plot No.131, Corresponding to LR Plot No. 131, LR Khatian No.262 as deed & LR Khatian No.629 as per Parcha, PS- Salanpur within the ambit of Kalliya Gram Panchayat, LOP No.165, situated at Kalisanko Asansol, Dist.- Paschim Bardhaman registered in the name of Chandrabali Saha bearing gift Deed No.4732 dated 10.12.2021 at ADSR Kulti. Possession Constructive Property ID : PUNR78953414502	A) 20.07.2024 B) 21.12.2024 C) Rs. 19,32,206.51 (Rupees Nineteen Lakh Thirty-Two Thousand Two Hundred Six and Paise Thirty-One Only) as mentioned in the above notices.	A) Rs.6.75 Lakh B) Rs.0.68 Lakh C) Rs.10000.00	26.11.2026 10:00 A.M. To 04:00 P.M.
7	BO: 030510-ASANSOL Account: SHAIKH IMTIAZ ALAM Borrower/Guarantor/ Partner: Shaikh Imtiaz Alam BF Mazhar Court Upper Chelidanga, PO Danga, Asansol, Pin-713304	All the piece and parcel of the land and a covered garage on Sunita Apartment, measuring area 186 Sqft, situated at JL No.20, RS Khatian No.6284 to 6287, Plot No.RS 3995, CS 2919 & 2920, Holding No889(N), Hill view north (near Hill View Church), Asansol-713304, Dist-Paschim Bardhaman, Ward No. 06/49. Deed No.491 of 2018 in the name of Shaikh Imtiaz Alam. Possession Constructive Property ID : PUNR82220174	A) 08.03.2021 B) 08.12.2021 C) Rs.5,51,956.15 (Rupees Nine Lac Fifty-One Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty-Six and paisa Fifteen only) as mentioned in the above notices.	A) Rs.3.76 Lakh B) Rs.0.38 Lakh C) Rs.10000.00	26.11.2026 10:00 A.M. To 04:00 P.M.
8	BO: 470600-PANDABESWAR Account: SUBRATA NEOGI Borrower/Guarantor/ Partner: Sri Subrata Neogi, S/o-Late Sanjib Neogi Mrs Bandana Neogi Address: Ramnagar, Vill+PO-Pandabeswar, Pin-713340	All the piece and parcel of the land and building situated at Mouza-Baidyanathpur, JL No 5, Kh No 1407,367 & 2508, RS & LR Dag No 690/1877, Area of land 3.63 cottah, ADSR Raniganj, Pandaveswar, under Baidyanathpur Gram Panchyat, Dist Paschim Bardhaman, Pin 713340, registered in the name of Sri Subrata Neogi, S/o Late Sanjib Neogi, deed no I-63 dated 06.01.2015. Possession Constructive Property ID : PUNROVC10328435	A) 04.02.2022 B) 05.09.2023 C) Rs.10,28,859.39 (Rupees Ten Lakh Twenty-Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety-Six and Paisa Fifty-Nine Only) as mentioned in the above notices with up-to-date interest.	A) Rs.31.37 Lakh B) Rs.3.14 Lakh C) Rs.10000.00	26.11.2026 10:00 A.M. To 04:00 P.M.
9	B/O: 030510-ASANSOL Account: SHIV SHAKTI AGRO PRODUCTS Borrower/Guarantor: SHIV SHAKTI AGRO PRODUCTS Address: Bartoria more, Village- Goaladih, PO: Naturia, Purulia, West Bengal, India-723121 Sangita Bansal (Partner) Address: Chalbalpur, Sitarampur, Kulti, Chittaranjan Road, Dist – Paschim Burdwan, West Bengal – 713359 Rajani Agarwal (Partner) Hindustan Park, Street No.1, Asansol Municipal Corporation, West Bardhaman, West Bengal 713304 Ajay Kr Bansal , Hindustan Park, Street No.1, Asansol Municipal Corporation, West Bardhaman, West Bengal 713304	Property 1: 1. Hypothecation of entire stocks, entire book debts, plant and machineries and all other current assets of the borrower. 2. All the piece and parcel of the equitable mortgage on the factory land, building and shed situated at at Bartoria More, Vill – Goaladhi, PO & PS – Naturia JL No. 112, LR Khatain No. 397, 370, 369 and 378, RS & LR Plot 91, 94, 76, 79, 91, 80 Classification Karkhana Dist Purulia, West Bengal- 723121, New Lease executed vide I 1362 of 2025., Area 3.72 Acres. Owner Names 1. Rajni Agarwal W/o Naresh Kumar Agarwal 2. Sangita Bansal W/o Ajay Kumar Bansal Deed of Lease no I 1362 of 2025. (underlying of sale deed no I-260, I-261, I-262, I-1638 and I-1690 of 2017 and Gift deed I-1087 of 2025) Boundaries - North : Pond, South : Vacant Land of Others, East : Tarun Beuri House, West : Common passage 20 foot ***Possession Constructive*** Property ID : PUNBLR162430600	A) 22.05.2026 B) 11.08.2026 C) Rs.28,33,12,610.22 (Rupees Twenty-Eight Crore Thirty-Nine Lakh Twelve Thousand Eight Hundred Ten and Paisa Twenty-Two Only) as mentioned in the above notices.	A) Rs.10.10 Cr B) Rs.1.01 Cr C) Rs 1,00,000/-	26.11.2026 10:00 A.M. To 04:00 P.M.
		Property 2: All piece and parcel of the Equitable mortgage of property situated at Hill Colony Kulti, near Kamala Nursing Home, PO+PS-Kulti, Paschim Bardhaman 713359, Mouza Kulti, LR Plot No. 1173, 1174, 1175, LR Khatian No. 2827., Deed No. 4402/2010, Area 22 bigha 01 cottah 15.42 shhitak Owner name: Mr. Ajay Kumar Bansal S/o Ratan Lal Agarwal Boundaries: North: Land of others, South: Land of Others, East: Land of others, West: 3 Feet wide road ***Possession Constructive*** Property ID : PUNBLR163937220	A) Rs.2.04 Cr B) Rs.0.20 Cr C) Rs 50,000/-	
10	BO: 047620-APCAR GARDEN(ASANSOL) Account: SUMAN GUHATHAKURTA Borrower/Guarantor/ Partner: Suman Guhathakurta Baishnab Bandh, PO-Bumpur- 713325 Payel Konar, Budha Gram, Asansol (South), Pin- 713301 Subhadeep Konar, Budha Gram, Asansol (South), Pin 713301	All the piece and parcel of land and building situated at Vill- Budha, Near Saraswati Mandir/Konars Kernel, Mouza- Asansol Municipality, RS Plot No 4698 with RS Khatian no 16338, JL No 20, Ward no 6 of Asansol Municipal Corporation, area 1440 Sq Ft, Deed No 05375/2013, ADSR Asansol in the name of Mrs. Payel Konar. Possession Constructive Property ID: PUNB82220194	A) 27.10.2021 B) 18.02.2022 C) Rs.18,30,421.00 (Rupees Eighteen Lakh Thirty Thousand Four Hundred Twenty-One Only) as mentioned in the above notices	A) Rs.21.12 Lakh B) Rs.2.11 Lakh C) Rs.10000.00	26.11.2026 10:00 A.M. To 04:00 P.M.

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 hereinabove have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorized Officer, but the Authorized Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation.
3. The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Website https://www.bsanknet.com on 26.11.2026 @ 10.00 AM to 4.00 PM
4. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to website: www.bsanknet.com,
5. For any queries regarding the terms and conditions of the sale, the interested bidders may contact S BALAJI (Chief Manager) Mob: 9831779780.

STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8 (6) & RULE 9 (1) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST ENFORCEMENT AMENDMENT RULES, 2002.

Date: 29.10.2026
Place: Durgapur

S BALAJI, Chief Manager
AUTHORISED OFFICER, PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK

STATUTORY SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8 (6) & RULE 9 (1) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002

Kolkata

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

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

ASSET RECOVERY MANAGEMENT BRANCH (ARMB): PURULIA

ARMB PURULIA, RAJA BANDH PARA, SASADHAR GANGULY ROAD, PURULIA (W.B.)-723101, E-MAIL: cs8301@pnb.bank.in

E Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets Under SARFAESI Act, 2002 and Proviso to Rules 8(6) r/w Proviso to Rule 9 (1) of the SI (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 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 is mentioned in the table below against the respective properties

Date/Time of E-Auction: 26.11.2026, 11:00 AM to 04:00 PM and Last Date of Deposit of EMD: 26.11.2026 till 03:00 PM ARMB, Purulia, Mr Mukesh Kumar, Chief Manager (Authorized Officer), Mobile No.-8789236771 E- Auction Collection A/c Details: Account Name- RTGS -INTERBANK ACCOUNT, A/c 830100317118A (IFSC- PUNB0830100)

SCHEDULE OF THE SECURED ASSETS

S. No.	Name of the Branch / Name of the Account / Name & addresses of the Borrower/Guarantor Account	Description of the Immovable Properties Mortgaged/Owner's Name (mortgagors of property(ies))	A) Dt. Of Demand Notice u/s 13(2) of SARFESI ACT 2002 B) Outstanding Amount as on C) Possession Date u/s 13(4) of SARFESI ACT 2002 D) Nature of Possession Symbolic/ Physical	A)Reserve Price (Rs. in Lacs) B)EMD C)Bid Increase Amount
1.	NEJIA THERMAL POWER STATION (149520) Prasenjit Biswas Borrower: Mr. Prasenjit Biswas S/o Late Hirendra Nath Biswas Vill-Mallara, Po Mallara, PS. Gangajalghati Dist. Bankura.West Bengal 722142 Guarantor & Mortgagor: Mr Rabi Lachan Maji S/o Bhutnath Maji Vill: Sadanandapur, P.O.: Chousal, P.S.: Gangajalghati, Dist- Bankura, West Bengal- 722142	"All that piece and parcel of land and building comprised in Deed No. 2662 of 2009, area 08.00 Decimal situated at Mouza- Basudebpur, JL No. 13, Khatian No. 764 & 765, Dag No. 467, PS. Gangajalghati,Distt. Bankura West Bengal in the name of Mr. Rabi Lachan Maji S/o Bhutnath Maji." ***Possession Constructive***	A) 03.11.2016 B) Rs.21,00,991.71 (As on 30.09.2016), with further interest at the contracted rate, loss recovery if any, w.e.f. 01.10.2016 plus other charges) C) 27/02/2020 D) Symbolic Possession	A) Rs.10.91 Lac B) Rs.1.09 Lac C) Rs.0.10 Lac
2.	NEJIA THERMAL POWER STATION (149520) Borrower & Mortgagor: Sukhamay Maji S/o: Bhutnath Maji Address: Vill: Sadanandapur, P.O.: Chousal, P.S.: Gangajalghati, Dist.- Bankura, West Bengal- 722142	"All that piece and parcel of land and building comprised in Registered Deed No- I-2663 of 2009, Area: 08.00 Decimal, Mouza: Basudebpur, J.L. No.: 13, Khatian No. 765, Dag No.467, P.S.: Gangajalghati, Distt.: Bankura (WB) in the name of Mr. Sukhamay Maji" ***Possession Constructive***	A) 03.11.2016 B) Rs.21,39,684 (As on 30.09.2016), with further interest at the contracted rate, loss recovery if any, w.e.f. 01.10.2016 plus other charges) C) 18/02/2019 D) Symbolic Possession	A) Rs.16.29 Lac B) Rs.1.63 Lac C) Rs.0.10 Lac
3.	Nejia Thermal Power Station (149520) Mr. Surajit Bhattacharjee Borrower: Surajit Bhattacharjee S o Ashok Kumar Bhattacharjee Guarantor & Mortgagor: Saraswati Bhattacharjee W o Ashok Kumar Bhattacharjee Address to All: Vill & Po- Mallara, Dist- Bankura, West Bengal-722142	All that piece and parcel of land and building comprised in Deed no 354/2001 dated 21.02.2001, Book No.1, Vol. No.3, Pages from 477 to 489, JL No. 05, Kh. No 4177, Plot No. 3734, Area 4.00 Decimal Mouza Mallara, Ps.: Borjora, Dist.- Bankura, Pin-722142, West Bengal in the name of Saraswati Bhattacharjee. Boundaries as per Physical Verification: - North: Pond, South: By 12ft wide Road, East: By House of Chandana Chatterjee, West: By 7 Ft Road. ***Possession Constructive***	A) 01.09.2017 B) Rs. 33,61,542.61(As on 31.08.2017), with further interest at the contracted rate, loss recovery if any, w.e.f. 01.09.2017 plus other charges C) 14.03.2019 D) Symbolic Possession	A) Rs.22.98 Lakh B) Rs.2.29 Lakh C) Rs.0.10 Lakh

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 hereinabove have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorised Officer, but the Authorised Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation.
3. The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Website https://baanknet.com on date and time mentioned above.
4. For detailed term and conditions of the sale, please refer https://baanknet.com & www.pnb.bank.in.
5. Details of Encumbrance known to the secured creditors: Not Known,

Date: 28/10/2026
Place: Purulia

Authorized Officer,
Punjab National Bank, Secured Creditor

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

यूको बैंक UCO BANK (A Govt. of India Undertaking)

ZONAL OFFICE, SILIGURI
HILL CART ROAD, SILIGURI - 734001

E-AUCTION NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
DATE OF E-AUCTION: 17/11/2026

E-AUCTION will take place through portal named https://www.baanknet.com on 17/11/2026 between 01:00 PM to 05:00 PM with unlimited extension period of 10 minutes for each BID.
LAST DATE & TIME OF SUBMISSION OF EMD AND DOCUMENTS ON BEFORE 17/11/2026 UP TO 4:00 PM

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 proviso to Rule 8(6) read with Rule 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 properties mortgaged/charged to the UCO Bank, the symbolic/physical (mentioned in property details column against each property wherever applicable) possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of UCO Bank, will be sold on 17/11/2026 on "As is Where is", "As is What is" and "Whatever there is" basis for recovery of Bank's dues.

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE / MOVABLE PROPERTIES

Sl. No.	Name of the Branch & Account	Details of property & Name of the owner of the property	A. Outstanding Amount B. Demand Notice Date C. Possession Date	Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Incremental Amount	Date of Inspection	Date/ Time of e-Auction
1.	Branch: Fulbari (3279) Borrower Name: Mr. Avijeet Ghosh Guarantor(s): Mrs. Priyanka sen Ghosh Account Number: 32790810004975 Branch Manager: Ashutosh Bhaskar Contact Number: 7783844044	Property ID: UCBA234456284 All Piece and Parcel of Shop Room (Marble Floor), measuring 153.00 sqft including super build up area situated in the ground floor of a G+4 storied residential cum commercial building, together with undivided proportionate share of land measuring 1(One) Katha 12.50 Chattak appertaining to and forming part of R.S. Plot No. 8177 and 8181, recorded in R.S. Khatian No. 5766, JL No. 110(88), Holding no. 60/534 2nd84, Ward No. 6 under Siliguri Municipal Corporation area situated at Hill cart Road PO Siliguri, Mauza Siliguri, Pargana Baikunthapur, PS. Sub-div and Addl distt sub-registry office Siliguri BL and LRO Siliguri Municipal area dist Darjeeling in the state of West Bengal registered vide deed no. 040202646 dated 28/12/2015 in the name of Mr. Avijeet Ghosh. Boundaries of shop Room : North:16 ft wide S.M.C Road, South: Property of Sri Avijeet Ghosh, East: Shop of Late Kala Chand Ghosh, West: Shop of Sri Santosh Gupta Boundaries of Land : North: S.M.C Road, South: Land and House of Smt Meghmala Rakshit, East: Land and House of Late Kala Chand Ghosh, West: Land and House of Smt. Meghala Rakshit (Property is under Bank's Symbolic Possession)	A. ₹ 15,00,859.71plus unapplied interest, charges, expenses & costs. B. 24/12/2025 C. 25/03/2026	₹ 21,60,000.00 ₹ 2,16,000.00 ₹ 10,000.00	30/10/2026 From 11:00 AM to 16/11/2026 04:00 PM	17/11/2026 from 01:00 PM to 05:00 PM With Unlimited 10 Minutes Auto Extension for each Bid
2.	Branch: Raipur Birbhum(1710) Borrower: Mr. Somnath Ghosh Co-Borrower: Mrs. Bandana Ghosh Account Number: 1710061000 7150 Branch Manager: Rahul Kumar Contact Number: 9304425408	Property ID: UCBA231902671 All that piece of land measuring 5.39 decimal along with Single storied building in the name of Smt. Bandana Ghosh, W/O- Milan Ghosh located at Holding No-189/9/Ka/01, Makrampur, Po+P.S.- Bolepur, Ward No-01(14), Dist-Birbhum, Pin-731204, State-West Bengal. Mouza Bolepur, J.L No-97, Plot no-L.R-1/772, Khatian No-L.R-6069 having Deed no I-3136 dated 10-04-2018 Boundaries of the Property - North : 6ft Wide Earthen Road then Bandhu Mahal Durga Mandir, South : Vacant Land Of Mr. Kashi, East : Building Of Bablu Ghosh and Common Passage, West : Railway Property (Property is under Bank's Symbolic Possession)	A. ₹ 18,98,428.72 plus unapplied interest, charges, expenses & costs. B. 05-09-2024 C.02-12-2024	₹ 18,47,000.00 ₹ 1,84,700.00 ₹ 10,000.00	30/10/2026 From 11:00 AM to 16/11/2026 04:00 PM	17/11/2026 from 01:00 PM to 05:00 PM With Unlimited 10 Minutes Auto Extension for each Bid
3.	Branch: Burdwan Road (1706) Borrower(s): Mr. Sahadat Ali Co-Borrower(s):Mrs. Razia Khatun Account Number: 17060610020111 Branch Manager: Debadyuti Sarkar Contact Number: 8250690743	Property ID: UCBAR0646791 All that piece and parcel of land measuring 3.50 Katha or 5.76 Decimal, recorded in R.S. Khatian Nos. 940/1, 940 4, 940/5 & 938 3, corresponding to L.R. Khatian Nos. 786, appertaining to and forming part of R.S. Plot No. 228 & 425, corresponding to L.R. Plot no. 377 & 379. Situated within Mouza Binnaguri, J.L. No. 03, Pargana Baikunthapur, Sheet No. 20(R.S.) & 20 (L.R.), Under Fulbari-II Gram Panchayat Area, Within the jurisdiction of P.S. New Jalpaiguri, Registry office at A.D.S.R. Bhaktinagar, District - Jalpaiguri, in the State of West Bengal in the name of Md. Sahadat Ali., Boundaries of the Property- North: 16 ft CC road, South: Land of Arindam, East: Land of Arindam, West: 16 ft CC road (Property is under Bank's Symbolic Possession)	A. ₹ 23,60,745.75 plus unapplied interest, charges, expenses & costs. B. 17/11/2025 C. 10/02/2026	₹ 18,90,000.00 ₹ 1,89,000.00 ₹ 10,000.00	30/10/2026 From 11:00 AM to 16/11/2026 04:00 PM	17/11/2026 from 01:00 PM to 05:00 PM With Unlimited 10 Minutes Auto Extension for each Bid
4.	Branch: Burdwan Road (1706) Account Name: Mrs. Kanchan Jha Co-applisant- Mr. Santosh Kumar Jha Account Number: 17060610015636 Branch Manager: Debadyuti Sarkar Contact Number: 8250690743	Property ID: UCBA206196279 All that piece and parcel of residential flat measuring 800sq.ft(super buildup area) at 2nd floor and a car parking space measuring 135 sq.ft at ground floor along with proportionate share of land of a P+4 storied Residential building named as "KUBER SHREE" in the name of Smt. Kanchan Jha, W/o Shri Santosh Kumar Jha, located at Santosh Nagar, Ward No-V(S.M.C),under Borough Committee no-I(Siliguri Municipal Corporation). P.O.-Siliguri Bazar, P.S-Siliguri, District-Darjeeling, Pin-734005, State-West Bengal recorded in R.S. Khatian No-178 or 2384(old), appertaining to and forming part of R.S. Plot No-2139(3654, Mouza-Siliguri, J.L.No-110(88), Pargana-Baikunthapur, within area of Siliguri Municipal Corporation, Ward No-V bearing holding no-512/584 2 having deed no-I-606/2022 dated 18.02.2022 registered at office of Additional district Sub-Registrar Siliguri, Darjeeling., Boundaries of Property - North-25ft wide S.M.C Road South-10Ft wide Road, East-14ft wide Road West-16ft Wide road and land and house of others (Property is under Bank's Physical Possession)	A. ₹ 23,61,643.60 plus unapplied interest, charges, expenses & costs. B. 16-02-2024 C. 08-05-2024	₹ 27,54,000.00 ₹ 2,70,400.00 ₹ 10,000.00	30/10/2026 From 11:00 AM to 16/11/2026 04:00 PM	17/11/2026 from 01:00 PM to 05:00 PM With Unlimited 10 Minutes Auto Extension for each Bid

Terms and conditions:

1. The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. Detailed terms and conditions of the sale is available/published in the following websites web portal named https://www.baanknet.com
2. The properties are being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS", "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS". The intending bidders should make their own enquiries regarding the encumbrance, title of property put on auction and claim/right dues affecting the property, the time and cost involved in taking physical possession(for properties under symbolic possession) prior to submitting their bid. All the accrued statuary dues including property tax, energy charges etc shall be borne by the successful bidder. The Authorised Officer/ Secured Creditor shall not be responsible in any way for any third party claims/right/dues and also for the delay, costs and /or legal issues involved in taking physical possession ()in case of property under symbolic possession).
3. The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule hereinabove have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorized Officer, but the Authorized Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation.
4. The highest successful bidder shall have to deposit 25% (twenty five percent) of the bid amount, less EMD amount deposited, immediately and the remaining amount shall have to be paid within 15 days from the date of auction. In case of failure to deposit the amount within the time as stipulated, the amount paid will be forfeited by the Authorized Officer and Authorized Officer shall have the liberty to cancel the auction and conduct a fresh auction.
5. The Successful bidder purchaser would bear all the charges/ fee payable for conveyance deed, taxes including Service Tax/TDS (As per Section 194 IA for properties valued Rs. 50 Lacs & above) if any.
6. The Authorized Officer reserves the right to accept any or reject all bids, if not found acceptable or vary the terms of the auction or postpone cancel/adjourn/discontinue the auction at any time without assigning any reason and without any cost or compensation whatsoever there and the decision of the Authorized Officer in this regard shall be final and conclusive.
7. This publication is also 15 days' notice to all borrower(s), guarantor(s) and mortgagor(s).
8. The aforesaid properties shall not be sold below the Reserve Price mentioned above.
9. The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Website https://www.baanknet.com on Date 17/11/2026 and starts at 01.00 P.M.
10. It is open to the Bank to appoint a representative and to make self-bid and participate in the auction.

Date: 26/10/2026
Place: Siliguri

Chief Manager and Authorized Officer
UCO Bank (Secured Creditor)

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

INDO-TIBETAN BORDER POLICE(ITBP)



Constable Trimohan Singh

ITBP salutes its braveheart Constable Trimohan Singh of 32nd Battalion, who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty on this day in Uttarakhand in 2023.

Metro Railway, Kolkata

ATTENTION INS ACCREDITED ADVERTISING AGENCIES

Applications are invited from INS accredited advertising agencies for empanelment in Metro Railway for PR works. Name of Work: Empanelment of Advertising Agencies in Metro Railway, Kolkata. Earnest Money to be deposited: ₹ 1,00,000/- (Rupees One Lakh only). Cost of the Application Form: ₹ 5,900/- (including 18% GST) (non-refundable). Last date of download the Application Form: Up to 12:00 hrs. on 18.11.2026. Last date of submit the Application Form: Up to 16:30 hrs. on 18.11.2026. Date & time of opening of Application Form: On 18.11.2026 at 17:00 hrs. onwards. All details are available on the website: https://oldmtp.indianrailways.gov.in (NEWS AND RECRUITMENT > Empanelment of Advertising Agencies). Venue for submission of Application: CPRO's Office, 5th Floor, Metro Rail Bhavan, 33/1, J.L. Nehru Road, Kolkata-700071. The application should be submitted in a sealed envelope addressed to the Chief Public Relations Officer, 33/1, J.L. Nehru Road, Metro Rail Bhavan (5th Floor), Kolkata-700071.

Notification No. MRK-HQ0PUBR(EOFF)/7/2024/Notification-2026

Chief Public Relations Officer

Follow us at: /metrorailwaykol /metrorailkolkata

भारतीय कंटेनर निगम लिमिटेड CONTAINER CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD.

(भारत सरकार का उपक्रम (उद्यम)) (A Navratna Undertaking of Govt. of India)

NSIC New MDBP Building, 3rd Floor, Okhla Indl. Estate (Opp. NSIC Okhla Metro Station), New Delhi-110020

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

CONCOR invites E-Tender in Single Packet System of tendering for the following work:-

Tender No.	CON/Kosa-ER/PCD-Mandideep/Rail Work/E-105825/2026-27	
Name of Work	Balance work of Development of Kachcha Yard area with CC Block pavement at ICD-Mandideep, Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh)	
Estimated Cost	Rs. 272.82 Lakhs (including GST)	Completion Period : 04 (Four) Months
Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 5,45,600.00 (through e-payment)	
Cost of Tender Document	NIL	
Tender Processing Fee (Non-refundable)	Rs. 3,540/- inclusive all taxes & duties (through e-payment)	
Date of Sale of Tender (online)	29.10.2026 (from 15:00 hrs.) to 15.11.2026 (up to 17:00 hrs.)	
Date & Time of submission of Tender (online)	16.11.2026 up to 17:00 hrs.	
Date & Time of Opening of Tender (online)	17.11.2026 at 15:00 hrs.	

For financial eligibility criteria, experience with respect to similar nature of work, etc., please refer to detailed tender notice available on website www.concorindia.co.in, but the complete tender document can be downloaded from website www.tenderwizard.com/CCIL only. Further, Corrigendum/ Addendum to this Tender, if any, will be published on website www.concorindia.co.in, www.tenderwizard.com/CCIL and Central Procurement Portal (CPP) only. Newspaper press advt/corrigendum shall not be issued for the same.

Executive Director (Projects), Phone No.: 011-41222200

Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

Regd Office: P.S.E.B. Head Office: The Mall, Patiala-147001 (Punjab)
Corporate Identity No. U40109PB2010SGC033813

Tender Enquiry No. 04/Sr.Xen/DS/Divn./Banga/26-27 Dated: 27.10.2026

Outsourcing of Labour For LT-HT Network Safety Compliance and System Strengthening Project by upgrading the LT-HT distribution infrastructure to ensure full compliance with statutory safety clearances as mandated by relevant electrical safety codes", to mitigate operational risk and ensure regulatory conformity in municipal council-cum-2 areas Under DS Division Banga.

Website:- www.pspcl.in

1.	Start date for downloading of Specification/tender documents from https://epunjab.punjab.gov.in	: 27.10.2026
2.	Last date for downloading of Specification/tender documents from https://epunjab.punjab.gov.in	: 10.11.2026 at 15:00 hrs
3.	Last date for uploading for Tender documents, Tender documents fee and EMD/PEMD	: 10.11.2026 at 15:01 hrs
4.	Date for opening of tender cost, EMD/PEMD	: 11.11.2026 at 14:00 hrs
5.	Date for opening of Techno-commercial bid	: 11.11.2026 at 15:00 hrs

Detailed NIT/specification/Terms and condition as per PSPCL Rules may be downloaded from PSPCL website (www.pspcl.in). Corrigendum if any, will not be published in newspaper, as such the website may be visited regularly for any update.

No. 16581/PB C-1822/26

ଓଡ଼ିଶା ବିଦ୍ୟୁତ୍ ଶକ୍ତି ସଂଚାରଣ ନିଗମ ଲିମିଟେଡ ODISHA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାରଙ୍କ ଏକ ଉଦ୍ୟୋଗ) (A Government of Odisha Undertaking)

Regd. Office: OPTCL Tech Tower, Janpath, Saheed Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751007

E-TCN NO.-CGM(Telecom)-07/2026-27: Bids invited from reputed manufacturers in two part bidding system for Supply of 48F/24F OPGW Fibre The estimated cost of the tender is **Rs. 2,82,93,450/-**.The last date & time of Submission of Bid Dt. 28.11.2026 up to 11:00 A.M.

For details, visit OPTCL's official website **http://www.optcl.co.in and www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL.**

HIPR-69/2026-27

/optcl.odisha /optcl_odisha

I I I T Bhubaneswar

Imagine. Innovate. Inspire.

(A University established by the Government of Odisha)

No.: IIIT-Bh/Ph.D/90 Date : 28.10.2026

ADMISSION (Ph.D)

IIIT Bhubaneswar is an ambitious initiative of the Government of Odisha to establish a next Generation Institute of Technology and has been conferred University status.

Application received date for Doctoral Programme (Ph.D) as follows :

Starting date of online application : 8th October 2026
Last date of submission of online application : 1st December 2026
Date of written test and interview : 7th December 2026
Date of publication of result : 10th December 2026
Date of provisional registration : 17th December 2026
Date of commencement of classes : 4th January 2027

For further details, please visit : https://www.iiit-bh.ac.in/Admission/ph-d/

Sd/-
DIRECTOR

AT : Gothapatna, PO : Malipada, Bhubaneswar - 751003, Odisha, India, Web : www.iiit-bh.ac.in

The Executive Engineer, TUDA (Tripura Urban Planning & Development Authority) invites e-tender against PNIeT No.: 99/CE/CP/EE/TUDA/2026-27 dated, 16.10.2026 for "3 nos Flood/Storm water discharge pump house and 1 no. vehicle mounted movable water pump machine for discharge of flood water under Belonia MC under SASCI 2025-26 (Phase-I).

with following salient details.

DNIeT No:. 88/CE/CP/EE/TUDA/2026-27; dated 16.10.2026

1. **Estimated Cost: Rs.2,77,77,650.73 (Rupees Two Crore Seventy-Seven Lakh Seventy-Seven Thousand Six Hundred Fifty and paisa Seventy-Three**
2. **Bid Fee: Rs. 8,000.00 (Rupees Eight Thousand Only)**
3. **Earnest Money: Rs 5,56,000.00 (Rupees Five Lakh Fifty-Six Thousand Only). Payment of Earnest Money is mandatory.**
4. **Time of Completion: 365 days**
5. **Last date & time for online Bidding: 12/11/2026 up to 15:00 Hours**
6. **Bid Opening Date and Time: 12/11/2026 up to 16:00 Hours**
7. **Pre-bid meeting: 27/10/2026 at 16:00 Hours**

For more details kindly visit https://tripuratenders.gov.in

Submission of Bids physically not permitted.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Tripura Urban Planning & Development Authority (TUDA)
Agartala, West Tripura

ICA/C/ 2429/26

OFFICE OF THE
DAHAPARA GRAM PANCHAYAT
UNDER MURSHIDABAD-JIAGANJ DEV BLOCK
PIRTALA, MURSHIDABAD, PIN-74302
e-mail:dahaparagp@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-Tender are invited through online Bid System under Following Tender. **Tender (NITe)No:-01/DGP/VBG RAM G/2026-27, Dated:28-10-2026.** The last date for ONLINE submission of tender **06-11-2026 up to 15:00 Hours.** Furthur details **https://tenders.wb.gov.in/nicgep** contact to office hours.

Sd/- BIMALENDU MANDAL
(E.A in Charge, DahaparaGP)

NOTICE

I, Shefali Saha, D/o: Binod Bihari Saha, w/o. Monoranjan Saha, R/o: Golap Khan Lane, Nalua Para, Vtc: Krishnagar, P.O. Krishnanagar, Sub District: Krishnagar-I, District: Nadia, State: West Bengal, Pin Code: 741101, I Would Declare That in Some Documents My Name Wrongly Mentioned As Sefali Rani Saha But My Actual Name is Shefali Saha For All Purposes.

NOTICE

We,1. Abdul Jabr, s/o- Abdul Samad, 2. Misrun Bibi, w/o- Abdul Jabr, 3. Nasreen Bano, w/o- Naushad Ali, 4. Meraj Alam, 5. Javed Alam, both s/o- jainul Abedin, 6. Mehrun Nesa, s/o- Noor Alam Ansari, 7. Noor Alam Ansari, s/o- Rafi Ahmed Ansari, 8. Md. Samir 9. Md Aman 10. Md Irfan, Both s/o- Md Amir, 11. Md Jabed Akhtar, s/o- Ahamed Rasul, 12. Asgari Begum, w/o- Md. Rafik Khan, all residing at 1-232, Barabagan Road, P.S. Metiabruz, Kolkata- 700024. I have through chain by purchased a land/ property schedule stated bellow from power of attorney holder Mahera Ali, D/o- Sk. Akbar Ali, A.D.S.R. Behala. POA No. 257/19, Our Deed No-I-01838/2020, (D.S.R-II, Alipore), I-01833/2020, (D.S.R-II, Alipore), I-01830/2020, (D.S.R-II, Alipore), I-09080/2024, (D.S.R-II, Alipore), I-15296/2026,(D.S.R-III, Alipore), I-12583/2026, (D.S.R-III, Alipore), If anybody has any objection on mutation of said Land/ property, please inform office of BL&LRO, Kolkata Block, K.M.C. Building, Room No. 328, S.N. Banerjee Road, Kolkata. 700013. In writing or over email blroalm@gmail.com. Within one month from the date of this advertisement land schedule, Mouza- Garden Reach, Sheet No. 94, Plot No. 111,113,124.

SUTI-I PANCHAYAT SAMITY
AHIRAN, MURSHIDABAD

NOTICE INVITING EOI

Applications are invited from eligible Agencies/Firm/Venders/ NGOs/Co-operative Societies/ SHGs for allotment of the Plastic Waste Management (PWM) Project at Gambhira Mouza, Harua GP, on licence basis for business operation. No licence fee/rent for the first one (01) year. Last date of submission **09.09.2026** for details EOI and term & condition, contact the office of the undersigned. or e-mail; **bdosuti1@gmail.com**

Sd/- Executive Officer
Suti-I Panchayat Samity



IND VS ZIM

Vaishnavi stars with five-for as India sweep ODI series



20-year-old Vaishnavi Sharma scalped 5 wickets. CRICMAS

Press Trust of India
Vadodara, October 28

VAISHNAVI SHARMA'S five-wicket haul and Pratika Rawal's classy half-century headlined India's thumping eight-wicket win over Zimbabwe in third Women's ODI as the hosts completed a 3-0 series sweep here on Wednesday.

Young Indian left-arm spinner Vaishnavi Sharma foxed the Zimbabwean batters with her flight and guile, limiting the visitors to 131 all out in 39.5 overs.

Playing her third ODI, Vaishnavi ran through the opposition to end with figures of five for 39 in 10 overs.

Pratika ensured a straight forward chase for India with a brisk 59 not out off 56 balls. Batting at four, Shafali Verma blasted 51 not out off 26 balls to end the formalities in just 17 overs. Captain Smriti Mandhana sent Yastika Bhatia to open the innings alongside Pratika but the left-hander squandered the opportunity. She went for a cross batted stroke off her very first ball to be caught at mid-on.

Following her 100 and 61 in the first two games, Pratika once again milked the Zimbabwe bowlers. A four on either side square of the wicket got her going before she went on to post her 10th half-century in her 30th ODI. Shafali then joined Pratika in the middle and typically accelerated the proceedings with a barrage of boundaries.

It was the first time India and Zimbabwe played a bilateral series. India had also won the preceding T20 series 3-0. The visitors on the other hand got much needed experience of playing a top side. A series of soft dismissals early in the innings put pressure on Zimbabwe team, which has been struggling with its batting all through the white-ball tour of India.

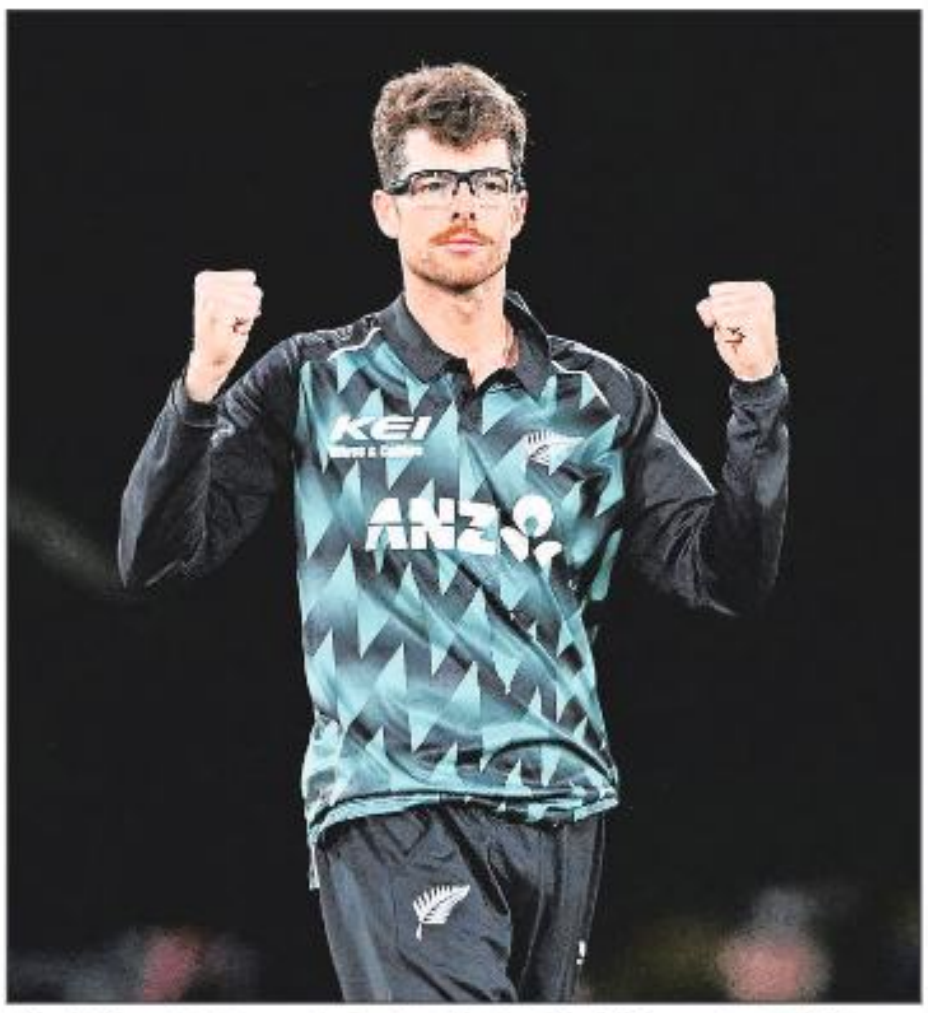
BRIEF SCORES: Zimbabwe 131 all out in 39.5 overs (Modester Mupachikwa 37; Vaishnavi Sharma 5/39) lost to **India** 133/2 in 17 overs (Pratika Rawal 59 not out, Shafali Verma 51 not out) by eight wickets.

NEW ZEALAND VS INDIA T20 SERIES

Santner: An outlier among unorthodox T20 spinners

Shows how a traditional left-arm spinner can be effective despite modern bats and plethora of power-hitters

Sandip G
New Delhi, October 28



In three high-scoring T20 Internationals against India, New Zealand's left-arm spinner Mitchell Santner has scalped seven wickets at just seven runs an over.

THE SPINNER'S deceit begins with his eyes. Shane Warne's eyes transmitted mischief; Muttiah Muralitharan's gleamed with a magician's glee; Ravi Ashwin's flickered with a sniper's coldness. The eyes of Mitchell Santner convey nothing, partly because he wears glasses for night games, but chiefly because his eyes are still and firm, locked on the moving parts of a batter. His vision is wonderfully clear.

India's batters across formats know the threat. He devastated them in the Test series at home in 2024, and this series he is the only bowler they have feared. So far Santner has seven wickets in three games, at seven runs an over.

Most spinners watch the batter's feet before release. Santner watches all of him, the feet, the hands, the head, to read the mind through micro-movement and weight distribution. "You need to watch every part of them as closely as possible. At times, especially when it's flat or if I think the batter is going to do something, I watch him even harder," he said during the 2023 World Cup. He breaks stride in his run-up to decipher "if they're going to charge at me or try something." His stutter-step is a penalty taker's, forcing the goalkeeper to commit first so that he can alter his plan.

His deception with the ball is simple; it's also flexible. He has just the basic left-arm spinner's variations: the one that goes away and the other that cuts in with the arm. But within the orthodox ball, he has two varieties. The over-spun ball that drops and bounces, the side-spun sibling that spins away sharply.

So he spins the ball sharply to flummox batters on sub-continent turners, but foxes them with bounce and drop in SENA nations. He undercuts the ball with a more round-arm release, and from wider off the crease, for the arm ball. A ball he calls the saucer ball for its flatter trajectory.

He doesn't guard his secrets fiercely. He explains his variations in a video with *Cricket Life Stories*: "I get the palm forward for side-spin... For the over-spun ones I get my palms higher. Then I bowl the kind of under-spinner, the kind that really skids off the pitch. So I lay the palm back, lay the wrist off that way (shows an anti-clockwise rotation of the palm)," he says.

Opening door knob

For the over-spun delivery, he lets the index finger roll over the ball, like opening the door-knob with left hand, the seam pointing almost 45 degrees to the slip cordon. For the side-spinner, he keeps the ball more perpendicular to the pitch. He knows batters, watching him as intensely as he watches them, could decipher his variations from the minute changes in his release and action.

But they can't judge in absolute terms his flight, drop and pace, the subtleties he learned from watching Daniel Vettori.

"The balls he bowled looked similar, but came out differently," he observed. Like Vettori, he has mastered the visual deception of drop, facilitated by the revolutions he imparts on the ball. It's his foremost advice to young spinners: "Learn how to give revvs and then build accuracy. Not the other way around."

His speed-spectrum is wizardly. The average ball clocks 85 kph, but some drop to 75 and some touch 95, with no discernible change in arm-speed.

His outwitting of Naman Dhir in the second T20I was an instance of all three elements blending ideally. He has been shifting between high pitch and low pitch like a seasoned musician. The deliveries to the left-handed Tilak Varma touched the mid-90s, but those to Dhir hovered in the mid-70s. He teased him with flighted balls outside the off-stumps, whereas those to Tilak were flatter and onto his body. He sensed Dhir's urges to loft him over extra cover. He pulled the fielder into the ring and threw the ball. He saw his front foot triggered to stride out.

He floated the ball over his eye-line. Dhir's front foot leapt out and the hands followed, set to thump the ball over the ropes. Except that he couldn't reach the pitch of the ball. He lost his balance, miscued the ball to the fielder at extra cover and fell over in his follow-through.

In the unorthodox spin-verse of T20s, he is an outlier. Let his still, placid eyes not deceive you.

• STRINGS IN SANTNER'S BOW

He bowls two varieties of the orthodox ball: the over-spun delivery that bounces, and the side-spun one that turns more. Then there is the arm ball that skids on. But his deception is multi-layered.

DROP-DEAD GORGEOUS: He is a master of this effect. The over-spun balls carry top-spin, which makes them drop short of where the batter expects. Attempting to play him from the crease, not least hitting him in the air, is fraught with risk.

SPEED MASTER: Few modern spinners operate effectively over such a vast speed range. One ball skids at 95 kph; another, with the same action, loops at 75 kph. Then there is everything in between. Batters can premeditate, at their own peril.

TAKING FLIGHT: For drop to trick batters, he has to flight the ball. At 183cm, he gains a lot of natural flight. He uses different release points, yet manages sufficient flight with all of them. Whichever trajectory he bowls, his length seldom wavers, even if his line sometimes does.

Living her uncle's dream: Kashvi, 15, is WPL's youngest

Shuvaditya Bose
New Delhi, October 28



Uma Kashvi with her uncle Sai Satya Vijay. EXPRESS

SAI SATYA Vijay's phone has not stopped buzzing since Wednesday evening. The calls arrive every other minute — from friends, family, coaches and even cricketers, among them Shreyanka Patil and Jemimah Rodrigues.

The frenzy has good reason: Vijay's niece, Uma Kashvi, has become the youngest player ever to be picked in a Women's Premier League (WPL) auction.

The 15-year-old will be on the Delhi Capitals roster after being acquired at her base price of Rs 10 lakh.

"I am in Bilaspur with Kash, alongwith his mother. We are all on cloud nine. I have been crying constantly since she was picked in the auction. People are trying to console me, but these are tears of a dream coming true. It's a result of a lot of effort," Vijay tells *The Indian Express* from Madhya Pradesh, where Kashvi is representing Karnataka in the Women's U-19 T20 Challenger Trophy.

Kashvi's journey began when she was seven. The spark was a dream her uncle never had a chance of realising.

"I played inter-district cricket in Andhra, but couldn't go further because in those days, parents were not supportive of their kids' cricketing aspirations. But I am still a huge fan of Sachin Tendulkar. Every year on his birthday I cut a cake and pray at a temple. Ever since Kash was a kid, I was determined that she would achieve what I could not," Vijay says.

The child was enrolled at an academy opposite their home in Bellandur, but Vijay would not stop there. He knew the value of something he himself had lacked — personal supervision.

"My focus was on making her physically fit. In the morning, we used to go for runs. She would complete 3,000 steps. Then from 4 to 6:30 in the evening, she would have her group session at the academy. After that, I would bowl 30 overs of sidearm to her every day. For the first one year, there was not a single day when she did not have a ball mark on her body.

"That is the kind of effort that went into making her the cricketer she is today. But she also accepted everything. She had fallen in love with cricket by that time," the part-time IT professional recalls.

All-rounder

As Kashvi works her way through the congratulatory messages, among them one from her new captain and idol Jemimah that reads 'Welcome home', her ecstatic mother – a SAP lead at a corporate entity - conveys the news to her father.

He's a vice-president at an IT firm. Academics ruled the roost in the household, but it was never a deterrent for the teenager. "Kash doesn't go to school but has scored 90 percent throughout her academic career so far. She demands the highest standards from herself even in studies. She simply won't accept low grades, she gets very unhappy if her marks go down," the proud uncle claims.

When Kashvi was 13, Vijay took her to coach Arjun Dev's New Innings Cricket Enterprise — the academy that shaped Shreyanka. It took only a few sessions for Dev to see that her talent belied her age.

"It was clear that she was way beyond her years in terms of maturity and understanding of the game. She knows how to play cricket, she knows how to win games. So it was almost a challenge for us to make her unlearn that. But she would always find a way to win. That was her standout quality," Dev tells this masthead.

The coach believes that watching Shreyanka's ascent from close quarters only increased Kashvi's hunger to shine. "In a way, seeing someone close who has made it to the next level makes you feel like, 'Okay, I'm almost there', or 'I can do this to get there'. She is quite close to Shreyanka, she has had many conversations with her. Shrey is also super-happy that Kash is now in the WPL."

Vijay left his full-time IT job to give more attention to his niece's cricket development. Today, it all makes sense.

"Vaibhav Sooryavanshi was the youngest to be picked at an IPL auction, and Uma Kashvi is the youngest to be picked at a WPL auction. Today, she entered the record books," he signs off.

Inglis-Carey partnership lifts Aus

Reuters
Cape Town, October 28

JOSH INGLIS scored an unbeaten 85 as Australia reached 330 for four at the close of the second day of the decisive third Test against hosts South Africa at Newlands on Wednesday. Australia are one run ahead of South Africa's score of 329 and in control of the match as they eye a commanding first-innings lead.

Inglis, who came into the side for the injured Steve Smith, shared an unbeaten 145 partnership with Alex Carey (51 not out) for the fifth wicket.

South Africa toiled in the field as all Australian batters except Marnus Labuschagne (0) got in and scored runs.

The Newlands wicket is traditionally best for batting on days two and three and so it proved as there was little seam or swing for the home side's pace attack. "We knew that they were going to come hard through periods, and it was just about building partnerships," opener Matt Renshaw, who scored 74, said. "It felt like a nice wicket. There's a few balls starting to spin, a few balls that popped. The guys that have applied themselves have scored runs. It's a rapid outfield, so that also helps the scoring rate."

Renshaw and Travis Head (41) added 58 for the first wicket before spinner Simon Harmer (2-84) removed the latter with his first ball of the match. Head chopped the ball on to his stumps playing off the back foot.

BRIEF SCORES: South Africa 329 in 82.3 ovs (Marques Ackerman 95, Aiden Markram 78; Mitchell Starc 6/72) vs **Australia** 330/4 in 90 ovs (Matt Renshaw 74, Josh Inglis 85 batting, Cameron Green 65, Alex Carey 51 batting; Marco Jansen 2/37)

After underwhelming India A returns, Sindhu hits century

Devendra Pandey
Mumbai, October 28



Nishant Sindhu made just 49 runs in three matches against Australia A but found form with Haryana in the doldrums. PTI

Mumbai bowled out the visitors for 270 at the Bandra-Kurla Complex, taking a first-innings lead of 160, and asked them to pad up again.

NISHANT SINDHU tried his best to delay the inevitable but his hundred couldn't prevent Haryana following on after Musheer Khan's six-wicket haul on the third day of the Ranji Trophy game against Mumbai.

Mumbai bowled out the visitors for 270 at the Bandra-Kurla Complex, taking a first-innings lead of 160, and asked them to pad up again. At stumps, Haryana were 73 for 2 as Mumbai seek full points from their home fixture.

However, Haryana would be pleased to see the 22-year-old Sindhu providing an ample glimpse of his substantial talent. He was in need of a bigger score, especially after murmurs of him being unimpressive for India A in the last few series.

His unbeaten 105 would have brought relief, especially after he had got out for 92 in their last game against Chandigarh. The youngster put his head down on Wednesday and chose his shots wisely, never looking in a hurry despite losing partners regularly.

The left-hander brought up his seventh first-class hundred with a boundary through mid-wicket. Sindhu is a player the selectors have been keeping an eye on for sometime now. Asked how he controlled his nerves in a tough situation, he responded, "The need was to bat long, the wicket was not completely flat. It will deteriorate further, so I will have to bat with more focus tomorrow."

He had to tone down his normally attacking game, and said the advice from the likes of MS Dhoni has served him well.

"When you are young, you tend to think that this is my game and I will play this way. But I have learnt to play according to the situation," he said, referring to his experience in the IPL.

His knock against Mumbi came off 251 balls with eight fours and a six. Haryana trail by 87 runs going into the final day with Sindhu batting on 22 and Yashvardhan Dalal on 13, with the hosts eyeing an outright victory.

Earlier in the day, Sindhu and Dheeru Singh added 94 runs for the third wicket. Mumbai looked desperate for a breakthrough and got one when left-arm spinner Musheer Khan bowled Dheeru with the help of some turn off the pitch.

His innings of 45 runs came off 100 balls but his dismissal opened the door for Mumbai. Musheer tasted more success with wickets of Yashvardhan Dalal and Parth Vats as well as No. 10 Aman Kumar to finish with figures of 6/85.

It's been a dream outing for Musheer as he had struck a hundred in the first innings. Tanush Kotian chipped in with three wickets.

BRIEF SCORES: Mumbai 430 vs **Haryana** 270 (Nishant Sindhu 105 not out, Dheru Singh 45; Musheer Khan 6/85, Tanush Kotian 3/70) & 73/2 (Nishant Sindhu 22 batting) follow-on.

TN lose way before Siddarth steadies ship

Venkata Krishna B
Chennai, October 28



Andre Siddarth made an crucial half-century for Tamil Nadu. PTI

TAMIL NADU'S chase of 128 against Railways should have been straightforward but for their batsmen's hara-kiri on a turning track with variable bounce. One could hear shouts of "*Nambunga da, nambunga da* (trust yourself) from their desperate head coach Yo Mahesh. It was about asking the batsmen to trust their defence and complete what turned out to be a tricky chase after they were reduced to 91 for 5.

Eventually, No.5 batsman Andre Siddarth, with an unbeaten 56, ensured the team crossed the finish line for a second consecutive home win this season. The day started with TN bundling out Railways for 108, with the visitors, who were nine wickets down, adding just one run to their overnight total. TN chose to shuffle their batting order with Vimal Khumar — after successive ducks — pushed down the order and Athish SR opening in his place alongside N Jagadeesan.

With the pitch taking plenty of turn, TN needed a good start and a couple of steady partnerships. The 34-run opening stand was crucial. Railways hit back with three quick wickets. Jagadeesan was bowled by Taufik Uddin Mondal when he went for an expansive heave. Athish was caught at long-on when he tried to clear the ropes against left-arm spinner Raj Chouhdary, while Sonu Yadav, promoted to No.3 in search of some quick runs, was caught at long-on.

While Baba Indrajith's presence brought calm in the middle, Siddarth had to endure a nervy start. The plan was to stay aggressive. But TN's top-order, with exception to Indrajith, played recklessly.

Facing the spinners, Siddarth went for the sweep, at times the wide version. When on 5, he slog-swept leg-spinner Pradhyumn Parikh. The delivery was pitched outside off-stump but luckily for Siddarth, Bhargav Meral dropped the chance at covers.

That's when the shouts of "*Nambunga da, nambunga da*" (trust yourself) began. It was not without reasons. Siddarth, one of the bright prospects, is lanky and uses his feet to spinners. But unlike Indrajith, he doesn't prefer to take a forward stride to defend against tweakers or to smother the turn. Instead, he prefers to play from the crease, often off the back-foot. On such tracks, with variable bounce, it is a suicidal plan, as chances of being bowled or LBW remained a threat.

But that dropped catch was what Siddarth needed. "When Bhargav dropped my catch, I felt that it was a wake-up call for me. I had to stay till the end because it was not an easy wicket to bat on. I felt this knock gave me immense confidence going into the next game because this was one of my best knocks," he said of his unbeaten 56 off 128.

While the 50-run stand calmed TN's nerves, Indrajith's dismissal was a setback.

The target was only 40 runs away, but such is the fragile nature of this TN line-up, it still seemed daunting.

Shortly, Pradosh Ranjan Paul went for an expansive reverse-sweep and ended up getting trapped in front as Railways sniffed an unlikely win.

But thankfully for TN, Siddarth and Vimal brought the assurance they badly sought. The lofted shots were cut out. Out came the defence and the prods with singles and twos being the preferred safety route. But this was an innings, that once again showed the downside of TN batsmen playing Ranji on the back of First Division cricket.

Such tracks, or even worse ones, are common in the Chennai circuit. So these are not alien to the batsmen. But even in those games, the batsmen hardly post big scores. Their innings on such tracks are often a lottery, so taking an aggressive route is what they choose, which means they seldom trust their defence to play solid knocks. "At first, I wanted to take on the bowling because the wicket was kind of tricky. But after some time, everyone just seemed to play normally and I found that my normal game was much suitable than, you know, trying to go and attack with reckless shots," Siddarth added.

BRIEF SCORES: Railways 184 & 108 (R Sai Kishore 4/39) lost to **TN** 165 & 130/5 (Andre Siddarth 53 n.o; Toufik Uddin Mondal 4/50).
Pts: TN 6, Railways 0.

• RANJI ROUND-UP

GROUP A
At Vadodara: Jammu & Kashmir 313 & 8/1 trail vs Baroda 616 (Priyanshu Moliya 321 not out; Sahil Lotra 4/160) by 305 runs
At Nagpur: Goa 220 and 41/1. Vidarbha 1st Innings 442/8 in 134.2 overs (Dhruv Shorey 168, Akshay Wadkar 63).

GROUP B
At Mulapadu: Andhra 231 lead vs Chhattisgarh 216/8 (Amandeep Khare 74 not out; Tripurana Vijay 3/73) by 15 runs.
At Secunderabad: Punjab 431 & 57/0 (Hamoor Singh 27 not out) lead Hyderabad 380 by 108 runs.
At Rajkot: Assam 281 and 65/7 in 26 overs (Sibsankar Roy 32 batting; Parth Bhut 6/7) vs Saurashtra 387 all out in 131.4 overs (Hetvik Kotak 80 batting, Ravindra Jadeja 21; Mohit Thakur 4/126).

GROUP C
At Ranchi: Delhi 515/5 declared lead vs Jharkhand 131/4 (Utkarsh Singh 43 not out; Dev Lakra 1/13) by 384 runs.
At Mangalapuram: Bengal 350 & 198 lead vs Kerala 141 & 53/4 (Vishnu Vinod 19 not out; Pradipta Pramanik 4/21) by 355 runs

GROUP D
At Dehradun: Rajasthan 272 & 290/5 declared (Karan Lamba 100 not out; Mayank Mishra 3/115) lead Uttarakhand 194 & 38/0 by 331 runs.
At Chandigarh: Chandigarh 685/5 dcld vs Himachal Pradesh 340/3 in 104 overs (Innesh Mahajan 121, Shubham Arora 96, Pukhraj Mann 50 not out).

SILVER AT WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Breaking the heavyweight barrier

Kajal becomes first Indian wrestler to win a medal in 76kg category at Worlds

Pritish Raj
Sonipat, October 28

THIRTY-FIVE years after the Women's Wrestling World Championships began, an Indian wrestler finally stood on the podium in the heavyweight category on Wednesday.

Eighteen-year-old Kajal Dhochak came within seconds of winning gold before losing 6-8 to double European champion Anastasiya Alpyeyeva of Ukraine in the final at the World Championships in Astana. But the Sonipat wrestler made history nonetheless, becoming the youngest Indian to win a medal at the Worlds. "I think if someone had said that India would win a heavyweight medal at the World Championships this year, people would have laughed. But today, our faith in this 18-year-old kid stands vindicated," former national women's team coach Kuldeep Malik told *The Indian Express*.

Kajal joined Kuldeep's Sports Academy in Sonipat at the age of 14 and has honed her skills there over the past four years. Her age, the coach believes, leaves plenty of room for improvement. "The best part is that she is still a teenager. Her body will grow, increasing her raw strength, and we will work on her defence," Kuldeep said.

Kajal was leading on criteria with the score tied at 4-4 and just 30 seconds remaining when a defensive lapse allowed the experienced Ukrainian to execute a takedown and score four points. Kajal managed a takedown of her own with 13 seconds left, but it was too late to turn the bout around.

While Kuldeep was visibly disappointed by the defeat, he had no hesitation in calling it one of the biggest achievements of his academy. "It is one of the biggest results for me and my academy. An 18-year-old heavyweight medallist from India in her debut season has a nice ring to it," he said.

For much of this century, Indian wrestlers in the lightweight and middleweight categories have led the country's charge on the global stage, accounting for its major Olympic and World Championships medals. "There are many reasons, but one of the biggest is the lack of sparring partners. I have three or four kids in the 76kg category, and they keep competing against each other," Kuldeep said.

Other heavyweight wrestlers, including Priya Malik and Olympian Reetika Hooda, have voiced similar concerns. The shortage of competition at home meant Kajal had to test herself across the U20, U23 and senior levels this year. Before losing in the final, Kajal had won 22 consecutive international bouts. Her season included gold medals at the U20 World Championships, U20 Asian Championships and U23 Asian Championships, as well as at the Budapest and Ulaanbaatar Ranking Series. She also competed in the Pro Wrestling League and trials for international competitions. "Usually, wrestlers don't compete this much, but we wanted Kajal to learn as much as she could at the international level. Regular competition in her category is important because we don't have much competition at the national level," said Ajay Malik, Kuldeep's son, who also trains Kajal.



Kajal Dhochak won a historic silver at the Wrestling Worlds. WFI



> "I see this as a massive learning curve for her. Throughout this campaign, Kajal displayed her potential. I think one more season at the senior level and you have a wrestler ready for the Olympics"
>
> **KULDEEP MALIK,** KAJAL'S COACH IN SONIPAT

Kajal has enjoyed one of the most impressive debut seasons by an Indian wrestler at the senior level. Yet, Kuldeep believes there are still a few pieces missing from the puzzle. "Three S are very important in wrestling: speed, strength and strategy. Today, Kajal wrestled with her body but not with her mind," he said. "I see this as a massive learning curve for her. Throughout this campaign, Kajal displayed her potential. I think one more season at the senior level and you have a wrestler ready for the Olympics," added Kuldeep.

Once Kajal returns, the coach and wrestler will work on strengthening her defence and fine-tuning her standing wrestling. "Kajal needs to improve her leg defence. She stands upright, which gives her opponents an opening. She needs to bend a little so that they don't get an angle to attack her legs. These are the finer details we need to work on," Kuldeep said.

The coach also hopes Kajal's medal will encourage more Indian girls to take up the heavyweight categories, helping address the shortage of competition. "A medal at the World Championships can certainly push more kids to take up this category, and we can look at having more competition," he said. The defeat in the final may have denied Kajal a golden finish, but her breakthrough season has established her as one of India's most promising wrestlers, with the potential to make an impact at the highest level.

Neelam pinned

In the 50 kg category, Neelam won a historic silver medal after losing to Japanese legend Yui Susaki by fall in the final. Neelam joined Kajal on a historic night as for the first time two Indian women wrestlers finish with a silver medal at the World Championships.

Kajal falls short but her Sonipat academy sees a silver lining

Pritish Raj
Sonipat, October 28

AS KAJAL Dhochak warmed up for her World Championships final in Astana, her training academy in Sonipat was scrambling to get a web stream of the bout on a big screen. With no television broadcast, coach Kuldeep Malik was close to giving up and resigning himself to watching the action on a phone. But one of Kajal's training partners, and close friend, Divya Sharma, was determined to get the bout on the smart TV.

"*Arey, coach sahab, abhi ho jaayega. Bout mein 20 minute baakt hai* (It'll be done, coach sahab. We still have 20 minutes before the bout)," Divya shouted as Kuldeep sought an update.

Fifteen minutes before Kajal's bout, the stream finally appeared on the TV. The room erupted in cheers. "Get all the chairs and grab your places near the TV," Divya instructed, as the young wrestlers scrambled for seats. Kuldeep and Kajal's senior, former Asian Games medallist Sonam Malik, watched from a little distance.

The moment Kajal stepped on the mat, the room in Sonipat began to resemble a wrestling arena. Kuldeep and his trainees crowded around the screen, their eyes following every movement, their attention fixed on the contest.

Up against two-time European champion Anastasiya Alpyeyeva of Ukraine, Kajal conceded a point for a push-out and another for passivity to trail 0-2. Yet there was little panic among the audience back home. They knew their fellow trainee was capable of fighting her way back.



Trainees at Kuldeep Malik's sports academy watching the Wrestling World Championships. PRITESH RAJ

Kuldeep, meanwhile, was analysing every movement and predicting Kajal's next move. More often than not, she did exactly what he expected. The coach later admitted that his running commentary was less about tactical insight than keeping his own nerves in check. "I have been coaching for so many years and have been in the corner as a national coach. But every time a kid I have trained takes the mat, the nervous energy starts overflowing," he said.

Kajal drew level at 2-2 by the end of the first period, earning points through a push-out and a running-the-mat sequence. Alpyeyeva opened the second period with a double-leg attack, but Kajal responded with a takedown of her own to make it 4-4 and take the lead on criteria.

Kuldeep was quick to spot a vulnerability, though. "She needs to bend a bit while standing against opponents. Her posture exposes her legs, and that's what the Ukrainian took advantage of," he said.

With 20 seconds left, Alpyeyeva struck with another takedown and put Kajal in a dangerous position, stretching her lead to 8-4. Kuldeep was analysing the action even as the clock ticked down. "Once you concede two points in the ground position, the wrestler should stay strong in defence and not give away any more," he said.

Thirteen seconds remained, and Kuldeep still believed Kajal would attack. She did, finding one last takedown to cut the deficit to 6-8. But the comeback came too late. The final whistle confirmed a narrow defeat for the 18-year-old. "It was not meant to be for our girl today," Kuldeep said.

The disappointment, however, did not linger for long. The laddoos brought to celebrate Kajal's medal were still waiting, and Kuldeep began distributing them among the trainees. The colour of the medal mattered less than the achievement itself. "At the end of the day, it's a World Championship medal," he said.

Mourinho has mellowed, but he can still beat Barcelona

Sandip G
New Delhi, October 28

THE KNEE slide on the touchline on Sunday night was not as theatrical as the sprint across the Nou Camp 16 seasons ago. Jose Mourinho's Inter Milan had lost that night, 1-0, fighting stubbornly with 10 men to preserve their 3-2 aggregate over Pep Guardiola's all-conquering Barcelona, but the Portuguese called it "the sweetest defeat of my life." Later, Real Madrid's president Florentino Perez dropped him to the hotel in his limousine. A few weeks later, Perez unveiled Mourinho as the "galactico", setting off another chapter in a love-hate triangle story.

Mourinho, one of Bobby Robson's coaching staff in the mid-90s and then a prime managerial candidate before Guardiola's ascent, had once sworn that he would land in Bernabeu "only to destroy them". But there he was, gliding out to plot against his former employers. His vow is working inversely. Barcelona have not beaten him in six *Clasicos*.

Age has mellowed Mourinho, extinguished some of his fire and vanity. The one-liners don't bite the listener, although he still retains his wit and way with words. Like when he said before the *Clasico*: "The *clásico* is just another game in the championship but to say it's a game like any other would be to lie, totally unreal." There were no dramatic pauses between words, or antagonism. He delivered the line with matter-of-fact calmness. His brigade did the same on the pitch, a no-frills exhibition of composed football, free of incidents and drama, or bitterness. There was just an odd line of sarcasm in his post-match talk. "The VAR room fell asleep," he said with a smirk, reflecting on Joao Cancelo's heavy challenge on teenaged winger Yan Diomande.

But self-admittedly, he is not the stormy petrel he once was. "I've matured, I'm more at peace. A win no longer represents the moon to me, and a defeat no longer means hell," he had said a few years ago. "I can go home and not watch a football match, not think about football. I can do that. At the start of my career, I couldn't. I was switched on 24 hours a day. I had to find a kind of maturity. Today I feel comfortable with my personality as a man," he explained. He also knew that his stocks had plummeted, that the super clubs no longer court him.



Jose Mourinho shakes hands with Barcelona coach Hansi Flick. AP

> *Age has mellowed Mourinho, extinguished some of his fire and vanity. The one-liners don't bite the listener, although he still retains his wit and way with words*

However, he can still deliver a tactical coup. The plan against Hansi Flick's Barcelona was simple. Suffocate, steal and strike. They let the hosts' ball-happy midfield dominate possession, but cut out the passing avenues, decelerating the quick offensive transition. Jude Bellingham (dropping from his advanced area), Bernardo Silva and Tchouameni fiercely man-marked Rodri, Pedri and Fermin Lopez. Passes often found the wrong men, and the symphony juddered.

All three were exceptional, especially Silva. He is eight years older than Pedri, less mobile and agile than him, but with supreme positional sense and an intuition about his adversary's next move, he outwitted Barca's conductor. Barcelona somehow clung onto the ball, but when they lost it, Madrid counterattacked swiftly, without losing shape, the forwards pouncing in the twitch of an eyelid.

When Madrid attacked, they went full-throttle. The centre-backs, the much-maligned Ibrahim Konate and Dean Huijsen, bombed forth. Marc Cucurella's stifling of Lamine Yamal was admirable. He clung onto him like a shadow, and although the Spaniard spun and sped past him a few times, he recovered and impeded his vision. He is a defender born to be a Mourinho lieutenant. His bark and bite are qualities the manager appreciates. "The kid is very good and difficult because, besides being good, he's clever. He tried everything to get Cucu a yellow card, but Cucu held his own very well," Mourinho said.

The first goal originated from the left-back sweeping the ball cross-field to Yan Diomande. Defender Gerard Martin cleared the ball, but it rebounded off Mbappe's body into the goal. A fortuitous goal, but one that Madrid fully deserved.

Although Barcelona equalised, Mourinho stuck to his plans. He did not make any change in haste. His troops knew Barcelona would commit more men upfront. Shots piled on, but Madrid thwarted them. Even as pressure mounted, they didn't pull the shutters down, but waited for one decisive opportunity wherein they would deliver the knockout blow.

Three minutes away from stoppage time, the knockout blow came. Jude Bellingham linked past Gabriel Jesus, swiping the thin air, to set Eduardo Camavinga away. He passed to Guler, made the run upfront, received the ball back, sliced past Pau Cubarsi with a svelte touch and squared it to Mbappe. The Frenchman wouldn't miss from such a close range. Silence descended on Nou Camp, and Mourinho slid on his knees, his tongue out.

It wouldn't be among his most iconic celebrations, even though it was Madrid's first win at Barcelona in three years, but he has etched another chapter in his complex love-hate triangle with the *El Clasico* rivals.



STATEMENT OF STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND HALF YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2026

The Board of Directors of Hero MotoCorp Limited ('the Company') at its meeting held on October 28, 2026, approved the un-audited (standalone and consolidated) Financial Results of the Company for the quarter and half year ended September 30, 2026.

The Financial Results are available on the website of Stock Exchange at www.nseindia.com and www.bseindia.com and also on the Company's website at https://www.heromotocorp.com/en-in/company/investors/annual-report.html?key1=quarterly-results and can be accessed by scanning the QR Code.

For and on behalf of Board of Directors
Dr. PAWAN MUNJAL
Executive Chairman
DIN: 00004223

Date: October 28, 2026
Place: New Delhi

Note: The above information is in accordance with Regulation 33 & 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015

	Key Parameters	Standalone			Consolidated		
		Quarter ended September 30, 2026	Quarter ended September 30, 2025	% Change	Quarter ended September 30, 2026	Quarter ended September 30, 2025	% Change
Financial Highlights	Revenue from operations	Rs. 14,687 crores	Rs. 12,126 crores	▲ 21%	Rs. 14,971 crores	Rs. 12,218 crores	▲ 23%
	Profit after Tax (PAT)	Rs. 1,456 crores	Rs. 1,393 crores	▲ 5%	Rs. 1,861 crores	Rs. 1,321 crores	▲ 41%

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9A-TEND 3.9A KITCH

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Kolkata