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JOURNALISM of COURAGE

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Happening today

● **DELEGATIONS FROM** Ukraine, Russia and the United States are scheduled to begin US-mediated trilateral talks in UAE to discuss ending the war, de-escalation, and post-war security frameworks.

● **KERALA PUBLIC SERVICE** Commission chairman M R Baiju is scheduled to appear before a special investigation team probing alleged irregularities in examinations and appointments.

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Business as Usual

By EP UNNY



TMC MP SLAMS SUVENDU GOVT: 'WHEREVER BJP IS IN POWER, THERE IS A CULTURE OF ENCOUNTERS'

Fourth in 4 months: Rape-murder accused killed in Bengal 'encounter'

Under fire, CM says: If someone tries to kill police, will police throw rasgullas?

Sweety Kumari
Kolkata, November 9

A MAN accused in the rape-murder of a 12-year-old girl was shot dead in an encounter near the West Bengal-Bihar border in Uttar Dinajpur district on Monday morning, police said.

This is the fourth such incident since the BJP government came to power in Bengal in which an accused in heinous crimes such as rape and murder has been killed in an encounter.

The 12-year-old girl went missing in Uttar Dinajpur district on November 3 after leaving home on her bicycle. Two days later, her body was recovered from a forest area near the Kulik river.



The site of the encounter in Uttar Dinajpur district, Monday. EXPRESS

The girl's family filed a complaint with police, alleging that she had been gang-raped and murdered. One of the accused was named as Dilip Roy, who police tracked down after a four-day manhunt.

Senior police officers said teams closed in on Roy around 3 am Monday as he was trying to cross into Bihar, and he allegedly opened fire at them. "He suffered critical injuries in the retaliatory firing and was rushed to Raiganj Medical College and Hospital, where doctors declared him dead," said a police officer.

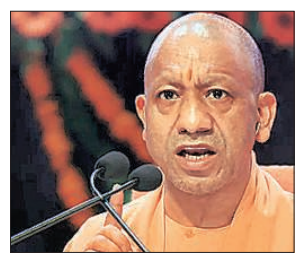
Hours after the encounter, Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari extended his complete support to Bengal Police. "If someone tries to kill the police, will the police throw rasgullas? Is the police supposed to keep guns in pockets? The police

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

1.27 cr Hindu voters missing from UP rolls... have filed plea before EC: Yogi

Number of minority voters has risen 1.65%, says UP CM

Lalmani Verma
Lucknow, November 9



False propaganda on SIR by Opposition: CM Yogi

AMID THE Opposition's campaign against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has claimed that 1.27 crore Hindus have been excluded from the electoral rolls in Uttar Pradesh, while the number of Muslim voters has increased by 1.65%.

The CM said the BJP had appealed to the poll body to include those who had been left out despite there being evidence of them being voters, and asked how the names of these Hindu voters had gone missing and who was behind it.

Speaking at the Aaj Tak Panchayat news programme Sunday, the UP CM hit out at the Opposition over "false propaganda" on SIR and dared Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav to demand the rollback of SIR.

"UP *ki sacchai kya hai*? Akhilesh Yadav *ko bolo na ki maang kare ki* SIR *wapas liya jaye. Wo maang nahi karega. Isliye nahi maang karega kyuki* UP *ke andar* SIR *ke pehle jitne* Muslim *matdata they unn* Muslim *matdataon main* 1.65% *ki vriddhi hui hai* SIR *ke baad. Aur* Hindu *matdataon ki maine bataya na kya sthiti hai*. (What is the reality in UP? Ask Akhilesh Yadav to demand the rollback of SIR. He will not demand because the number of Muslim voters has increased by 1.65% in UP after SIR. And I have spoken about the situation of Hindu voters)," Adityanath said.

"That is why we have given our memorandum to the Election Commission, asking why this happened," the CM said, adding, "I am speaking about those 1.27 crore Hindu voters who have their names in the electoral list of UP panchayat polls, but their names do not exist in the electoral rolls of the Election Commission of India. How have these names gone missing? Who was behind this? There are 66 lakh such voters; 55 lakh are those Hindus voters who are getting benefits of the government's welfare schemes, but their names are missing

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

ON EVE OF RUSSIA-UKRAINE PEACE TALKS

India ready to help set up food corridors, says Zelenskyy after phone call with Modi

Jaishankar and Lavrov also discuss conflict, ongoing diplomatic initiatives

Shubhajit Roy
New Delhi, November 9



PM Narendra Modi last met President Zelenskyy at the G7 summit in France in June. FILE

AHEAD OF the US-brokered two-day peace talks between Russia and Ukraine in Abu Dhabi starting Tuesday, India on Monday reached out to the top political leadership in Kyiv and Moscow. Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy while External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar spoke to Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov.

In a post on X after his phone call with Modi, Zelenskyy said they discussed "Russia's blocking of grain exports via the Black Sea" and added that India was ready to "mediate in establishing food corridors".

This is the first time Zelenskyy has spoken out on the Indian proposal to broker a ceasefire in the Black Sea, which has witnessed attacks on Ukrainian grain exports.

In a post on X, Modi said he "reiterated India's firm commitment to contributing in every possible way towards a peaceful resolution".

"Glad to have had a productive telephone conversation with President Zelenskyy. We

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Nvidia CEO admits affair, company opens probe into his relationship with 'China spy'

Trump defends Jensen Huang: 'Honorable guy... think he probably has an excuse for it'

Tripp Mickle, Maggie Haberman, Jonathan Swan, Julian E Barnes & Ana Swanson
San Francisco, November 9

NVIDIA SAID Sunday that it was opening an investigation into Jensen Huang, its chief executive and co-founder, after he acknowledged to the company's board that he had been intimate with a business executive who US intelligence determined was a Chinese spy.

Huang's relationship with the woman, who goes by Alice Huang, became a US government concern after surveillance revealed that she was feeding information directly to Beijing. The revelation raised troubling possibilities because

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

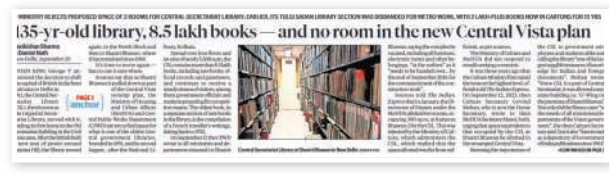


Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang with Alice Huang at a restaurant in Taipei, Taiwan on May 22 last year. REUTERS

RUBIO WARNED OFFICIALS ABOUT CEO'S TIES WITH SPY

CHINA DISMISSES SPY PLOT, CALLS IT SMEAR CAMPAIGN PAGE 10

Ahead of hearing in SC, Govt sets aside space for Central Secretariat Library



The SC had taken suo motu cognizance of *The Indian Express* report

Damini Nath
New Delhi, November 9

THE UNION Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has allocated space for the Central Secretariat Library — currently housed in Shastri Bhawan, which is set to be demolished as part of the Central Vista redevelopment plan — at the government office complex in Netaji Nagar, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

On September 30, *The Indian Express* had reported that while all ministries and departments had been asked by the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) to vacate Shastri Bhawan by the end of September so that construction work could start, the library was yet to be allocated adequate space.

Taking suo motu cognizance of *The Indian Express* report, the Supreme Court, on October 5, had asked the government to file a detailed affidavit on its plans to relocate the library, including the area to be allocated and "actual layout plans". The court is set to hear the matter on November 16.

In an office memorandum issued on November 6, the Directorate of Estates, under MoHUA, said space had been allocated for the library at the Government Pool Office Accommodation (GPOA)-2,

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Delhi logs most polluted Diwali in 5 years, little respite day after

PM 2.5 reading at one station over 83 times the national 24-hour safe limit

Sophiya Mathew
New Delhi, November 9

DELHI RECORDED its worst Diwali-day air since 2021, with the average Air Quality Index (AQI) touching 376 Sunday, according to data maintained by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). This was higher than the corresponding Diwali-day readings in the past four years: 345 in 2025, 328 in 2024, 218 in 2023 and 312 in 2022.

The pollution build-up continued into Monday, with the city's average AQI showing 370 at 9.05 am, with eight monitoring stations recording readings above 400, in the 'Severe' category.

Real-time station data from the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) showed that the highest hourly PM 2.5 (fine particulate matter) reading on Sunday was recorded at Jahangirpuri: 4,985 µg/m³ between 7 pm and 8 pm — over 83 times the national 24-hour safe limit of 60 µg/m³ and more than 330 times the WHO's 24-hour guideline of 15 µg/m³.

Other key stations such as Anand Vihar saw PM10 (particulate matter) peak at 3,450 µg/m³ during midnight, and

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EXPLAINED

Challenges remain

With the national capital's AQI the worst since 2021 on Diwali day, it underlines the immense challenges that authorities face: firecracker restrictions were widely violated, with at least 430 FIRs registered in 10 police districts. Meanwhile, a 10-year-old boy lost his life after a firecracker burst in his hands.

BENGAL CM BACKS BURSTING OF CRACKERS: 'SANATAN TRADITION' PAGE 3

7-fold rise in farm fires in Punjab, Delhi claims plot

Anju Agnihotri Chaba, Kanchan Vasdev & Devansh Mittal
Jalandhar, Chandigarh, New Delhi, November 9

PUNJAB'S EFFORTS to curb paddy stubble burning suffered a major setback on Diwali day, with the state recording 1,152 active farm fire events Sunday — the highest single-day spike of the ongoing season.

The farm fires detected on November 8 marked a sevenfold rise over the 163 recorded on November 7. The number was also almost double the previous highest single-day count of 584 this season, on November 3.

The Diwali cases pushed the cumulative count of farm fires in Punjab to 4,459 on November 8, against 3,622 on the

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

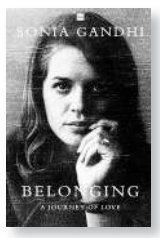
POLITICS PAGE 4

HASINA SEEKS FRESH PASSPORT AS DHAKA INSISTS ON EXTRADITION

INSIDE PAGE 3

TIGRESS SLIPS OUT OF BUXA AGAIN, MOVING TOWARDS ASSAM

Excerpts from Sonia Gandhi's book, *Belonging*, on the days leading up to her momentous decision in 2004 to not become Prime Minister



The book published by HarperCollins India is releasing in India today

'One part of me rejected being PM outright... another spoke about duty... I longed for Rajiv's presence'

EXPRESS special

SOME MONTHS before the election, my children and I had discussed the issue of my possible prime ministership. One of them asked me straight out whether I would accept the post... "Absolutely not!" I'd said... "Are you sure?" they pressed me. "I'm very clear," I said emphatically. Neither Rahul nor Priyanka felt that I should become prime minister. They'd lived through the trauma of their grandmother's assassination and the brutal murder of their father... They looked relieved and I, too, felt lighter, having said my views out loud on the question for the first time. And there the matter rested. I never spoke of it to anyone else. Throughout the election, I'd give a noncommittal answer whenever I was asked this question... We were in a battle for our survival and I had to keep my party together... It wasn't an option to allow a leadership struggle to arise... I just knew instinctively that the person to carry forward the legacy of past Congress governments would have to be someone with long experience in government and an impeccable record of integrity...

Years ago, when I took the first step of the journey that had brought me to this point, I knew in my heart what my husband and my mother-in-law would have expected of me. I had felt an inner call of duty towards them and all that they had fought for throughout their lives. But now I was at sea; I had to search within my troubled self for an answer. One part of me rejected the idea completely, the other part was calling on my sense of obligation — towards the party workers who'd be hurt and disappointed by my refusal, but also to the people who'd given us their vote... One minute I was clear, the next, I was torn.

A meeting had been fixed with the leaders of the alliance... "We'll convince her," they'd assured my colleagues... Like a movie in slow motion, the scenes I witnessed move through my mind's eye. A meeting is going on with some of the leaders of the alliance in Rajiv's conference room at the far end of my house. They've been talking in turns for over an hour, urging me to agree to their proposal, while I listen silently. As the discussion comes to an end, they look towards me for a response. I muster up as much courage as I can and I say my piece.

There is an uproar amongst them, they stand up and move towards me. I, too, stand up. They physically surround me. "We will not accept this," one of them says. "You cannot take this decision, Madam," says another. Their tone is forceful, almost aggressive. "We will not take no for an answer." I am shaken. I feel overpowered. "*Theek hai*," ("All right,"), I mumble... The assembled leaders don't even wait for me to finish my sentence, they begin to congratulate me, one by one. "She has agreed, she has agreed," someone says. I just stand there, numb...

I hadn't noticed that the windows of the conference

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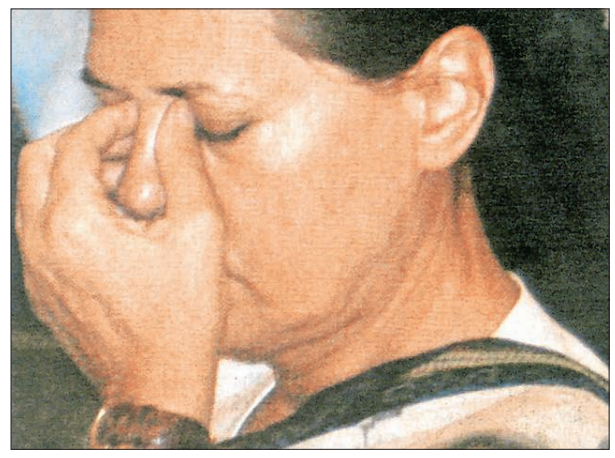


Sonia Gandhi announcing that she will not take the Prime Minister's post and recommending Manmohan Singh's name in 2004. ARCHIVE

'Despite four fire brigades': Collector apologises as blaze wipes out MP family

Anand Mohan J
Bhopal, November 9

SIX MEMBERS of a family, including three children and a two-month-old infant, were killed after a massive fire engulfed a three-storey residential-cum-commercial building in Barhi town of Madhya Pradesh's Katni district on Diwali night.

The accident raised questions about the local fire brigade's preparedness after the fire tenders pressed into service were allegedly unable to douse the blaze, despite several hours.

Faced with angry residents, Katni Collector Ashish Tiwari apologised to the victims' family and residents, acknowledging that the administration could not save the six lives despite deploying four fire tenders.

"Despite four fire brigade vehicles being at the spot, the six lives could not be saved. I apologise for it. Despite the fire tenders and rescue teams being on the ground, due to some reasons, the lives could not be saved," Tiwari said.

He assured them that action would be taken to ensure such a situation is not repeated.

The Collector said fire brigade personnel would be "sent for training at the Fire Institute in neighbouring Nagpur." He promised improvements in facilities at the local government hospital after residents complained that no doctor was available there during the emergency.

The fire broke out around 12.15 am on Monday at the ground-floor shop of Puran Agrawal — a trader dealing in crockery and plastic goods. The building, which housed the shop on the lower floor and residential premises above it, was stocked with goods for the Diwali season. The blaze spread rapidly through the three-storey structure, trapping family members who were sleeping upstairs.

According to police, the administration received information about the blaze around 12.30 am, and the first fire brigade reached the spot by 12.45 am.

Additional fire tenders were subsequently requisitioned, with a request reaching the control room around 1.30 am. However, highly inflammable material stored in the shop made it difficult to contain the flames.

Preliminary investigation into the incident has zeroed in on the fire originating from earthen diyas left burning during Diwali celebrations at the ground-floor shop. However, an investigation will establish the exact cause.

Fire tenders were pressed into service from different areas, including Vijayraghavgarh and Kymore besides Katni. The administration is probing allegations that some of the firefighting equipment had malfunctioned at the time.

The building's structure also complicated the rescue operation. It reportedly had only one entry and exit point, making it difficult for firefighters and rescue personnel to reach the upper floors. According to Katni Superintendent of Police Abhinay Vishwakarma, the State Disaster Emergency Response Force (SDERF) team, deployed alongside local personnel, "eventually had to drill a passage through an adjoining building to reach those trapped inside."

The rescue operation continued for several hours. Local residents, including several youths, also joined in the efforts to contain the blaze and help the rescue teams.

Police said walls were broken through after the fire had been partially brought under control to reach those trapped inside. The SDRF team arrived with its full contingent around 5 am. Eye witnesses also reported the infant was found in the arms of the dead mother. The fire was finally contained after five hours.

The six deceased were identified as Puran Agrawal (77), his wife Chandrakala (75), daughter-in-law Poonam, granddaughters Arya (14) and Anvi (6), and a two-month-old infant. Two members of the family, including Puran Agrawal's son Ritesh, managed to escape.

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav expressed grief over the deaths and announced financial assistance of Rs 4 lakh for the family of each deceased person. This is the second fire incident that has claimed an entire family in the state on the same day.

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

Most polluted Diwali

RK Puram saw a similarly high at 1,698 µg by 5 am Monday. PM2.5 peaked at Patparganj at 2,597 µg/m³ by 1 am, Monday, whereas at Nehru Nagar it was 2,808 µg/m³ at 3 am, Monday.

On the CPCB's network, the highest uncapped average PM2.5 reading reported Sunday was 998.90 µg/m³ at the North Campus (Delhi University) AQI station.

The increase was not limited to particulate matter. Hourly averages of several gaseous pollutants such as carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide and sulphur dioxide, too, rose during the evening and night, indicating a broader rise in combustion-related emissions, although these readings alone cannot establish how much came from fireworks alone.

According to the Decision Support System (DSS) for Delhi, farm fires remained a relatively minor contributor to Delhi's pollution despite a sharp uptick in stubble-burning incidents in neighbouring Punjab. The DSS estimated their contribution at 3.5 per cent on Sunday, declining to roughly 2.9 per cent by Monday. In contrast, the transport sector remained the largest contributor, accounting for 19 per cent of the city's pollution on Sunday.

The DSS, developed by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), is a modelling tool used for identifying pollution sources and air quality forecasts. It excludes fireworks from its emissions counts.

Despite restrictions on the sale and use of conventional firecrackers in Delhi, and a stipulated 10 pm deadline for bursting permitted green crackers, violations continued across the capital, with residents seen bursting firecrackers well past midnight.

At least 430 FIRs were registered across 10 police districts for flouting the restrictions.

Police officers told *The Indian Express* that personnel had taken action at several locations wherever violations came to their notice, including attempting to stop people from bursting crackers and counselling residents about the restrictions in place.

Delhi's two main government hospitals, meanwhile, treated over 170 Diwali-related burn injuries, most of them caused by firecrackers. In a separate case, a 10-year-old boy died after a firecracker burst in his hands in Outer Delhi's Narela area, the police said.

Although Monday's average AQI moved to the 'Very Poor' category at 344, it was the third-lowest post-Diwali AQI recorded since 2015. Historically, the post-Diwali average AQI has never been lower than the AQI recorded on Diwali day, except once, during the pandemic year of 2022. The improvement can be attributed to an increase in wind speed, with southwesterly winds reaching up to 15 kmph, according to India Meteorological Department (IMD).

This Diwali also saw higher-than-seasonal temperatures, the IMD said. The maximum temperature across Delhi ranged between 29 and 31 degrees Celsius, up to three degrees above normal. Warmer surface temperatures, along with improved wind speeds, aid the dispersion of pollutants and reduce the likelihood of them getting trapped near the surface.

Delhi Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa said the shifts for mechanised road-sweeping machines (MRSM) have been increased in the aftermath of the pollution spike. "More MRSM machines will also be deployed in the coming days. All water sprinklers that are taking rounds in different key localities... their shifts have been doubled."

"Changing meteorological conditions have helped improve pollution levels, with clearer conditions recorded today (Monday). The biggest immediate challenge remains preventing the dumping and open burning of municipal solid waste and biomass. But we have strengthened our enforcement teams...on ground," he said.

—with inputs by SAKSHI CHAND

Average AQI pre-Diwali, Diwali day and post-Diwali

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Pre-Diwali	353	401	302	338	287	339	314	259	220	307	296	**369**
Diwali	343	435	319	281	337	414	382	312	218	328	345	**376**
Post-Diwali	360	445	403	390	368	435	462	302	358	339	351	**344**

Good (0-50) Satisfactory (51-100) Moderate (101-200) Poor (201-300) Very Poor (301-400) Severe (401-500)

Source: Central Pollution Control Board

Farm fires

corresponding date in 2025 — an increase of 23.1 per cent.

The tally, however, remained below the 6,029 recorded on the same date in 2024.

The numbers are based on district-wise satellite data for active fire events during the kharif paddy season, with the monitoring period beginning on September 15. With the recommended wheat sowing deadline of November 15 approaching, officials said the pressure to clear paddy residue could be a factor behind the increase.

The surge, meanwhile, triggered a political blame game between the BJP, which governs neighbouring Delhi, where eight monitoring stations recorded "severe" Air Quality Index (AQI) readings of above 400 on Diwali, and the ruling AAP in Punjab.

Delhi's Labour Minister Kapil Mishra alleged stubble fires were set in Punjab on Diwali evening as part of a "conspiracy". Mishra did not blame the farmers, but said people entered fields and set them afire. Hitting back, AAP leader and Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Cheema accused the BJP of targeting farmers in the state while ignoring farm fires in Haryana and UP, where the party is in power.

Addressing a press conference, Mishra said, "We started getting calls from Punjab farmers last evening, saying that fires were being set in their fields at night. While farmers were celebrating Diwali at their homes, their fields were being set ablaze by people who were then fleeing." He said the government then sought satellite data, which showed farm fires at around 1,200 locations on Diwali evening, compared with 125 places the evening before. "How did it increase 10 times? This is a conspiracy against farmers, against Diwali, against Delhi, against Punjab," he said.

Alleging that Punjab farmers do not want to burn stubble and suffer the effects of air pollution, Mishra appealed to Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann to register FIRs against those responsible for the fires and order an investigation. AAP's Cheema said, "Punjab's farmers are not indulging in any illegal activity. Over the past five years, the AAP government led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has distributed a large number of machines and equipment to farmers to manage paddy stubble. Farm fires have come down considerably compared to earlier years. Yet, BJP leaders leave no opportunity to malign Punjab and its farmers."

He said, "Between Punjab and Delhi lies a 300-350 km stretch of Haryana. A large part of Delhi's adjoining area also borders Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. Do these states fall in some other country? Why does the BJP not talk about farm fires there? The only reason is that it is in power in these states."

AAP's media in-charge Baltej Pannu said, "When paddy harvesting had not even started in Punjab, BJP leaders in Delhi had started saying that smoke coming from Punjab had covered Delhi."

The Diwali spike was not confined to a few pockets of Punjab. As many as 20 of the state's 23 districts recorded more active fire events on November 8 than on November 7, while the remaining three — Gurdaspur, Pathankot and Rupnagar — recorded no change. District-wise, Sangrur recorded the highest number of fresh fires on November 8, at 194, followed by Ferozepur (157), and Bathinda (132).

Library

Netaji Nagar, which is about 7 kilometres from its current location. "The competent authority has approved the relocation of Central Secretariat Library, Ministry of Culture, to the newly built GPOA Block-02, Netaji Nagar," it said.

According to the office memorandum, the library has been allocated several rooms on the ground floor of the building. While it did not mention the size of the area, MoHUA sources said around 4,000 square metres of space had been set aside for the library.

In January, the Directorate of Estates had allocated two rooms, covering about 300 square metres in total, for the library at Kartavya Bhawan-2. This was rejected by the Ministry of Culture as inadequate. The library currently occupies four floors of Shastri Bhawan, spanning nearly 5,500 square metres and containing 8.5 lakh books.

When the Central Vista redevelopment project was being planned, the Ministry of Culture had written to MoHUA seeking adequate space for the library in the revamped Central Secretariat. "It is, therefore, requested that an overall space of approx 5,466 square metres may be allocated in the Common Central Secretariat...," Govind Mohan, who was then the Culture Secretary, had written to MoHUA on September 12, 2023. Mohan is currently the Home Secretary.

MoHUA had written to Culture Ministry on January 16 this year saying "the competent authority" had approved allocation of two rooms in KB-2 for the library. In an X post on October 1, MoHUA had said: "...space for the Central Secretariat Library has been provided for in the Kartavya Path redevelopment plan. Necessary process for construction of the library is underway."

CM Yogi

from electoral rolls; and 4.5 lakh voters from the 18-19 age group are missing from the electoral rolls."

"We have made an appeal regarding them (missing voters), (saying) you get these names included in the electoral rolls," Adityanath said.

The SIR exercise in UP began on October 27, 2025, and concluded on April 10. The final rolls were published on April 10. While the state had 15.44 crore electors before the SIR began, after the SIR exercise, the number now stands at 13.39 crore. Last week, it emerged that the UP Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) has directed district election officers to match Assembly electoral rolls with those of panchayats and urban local bodies after a difference of nearly 2.4 crore voters emerged between the panchayat poll electoral rolls and the rural voter count.

In a post on X, responding to the video clip of the CM's interview, Akhilesh Yadav made three demands regarding the elections. "Aadhaar card to be linked with voting; instead of paper or plastic, 'metal cards' should be made so they cannot be forged; use fingerprints or iris-based biometrics because no two people have the same biometrics and the BJP will not be able to get fake voting done."

"If Yogi ji accepts that the SIR exercise was not done transparently, why does he not support the impeachment motion to remove the CEC? The CM should demand action against the Chief Election Commissioner and the UP Chief Electoral Officer. CM should take action against those district-level officers who are part of the state government and were engaged in SIR," SP spokesperson Udaiveer Singh said, adding that the CM should also explain how he got the data.

UP Chief Electoral Officer Navdeep Rinwa said he would reply to all queries related to the SIR on November 17 after the draft roll of the special summary revision is released.

As per the schedule, after the draft roll is out, the claims and objections period will be from November 17 to December 16. The final electoral rolls will be published on January 4, 2027.

Fourth in 4 months: Rape-murder accused killed in 'encounter'

dealt with it as per the law. The police were attacked, and they did what they had to do."

State minister and Raiganj MLA Kaushik Choudhury said: "The misrule that has continued for 15 years... the new West Bengal will be freed from that misrule. People need to be reassured that regarding our security, women's safety, we have a zero-tolerance policy, and this is our highest priority... The second objective is to send a message to those who have the mindset of committing such crimes: this is a new government... police have been given a free rein... and will no longer act as someone's puppet; the police will deliver justice."

This incident marks the fourth encounter killing of a rape or murder accused in West Bengal since the BJP took charge. On July 8, Prabhas Mondal, accused of raping and murdering a 13-year-old girl, was shot dead at Baruipur in South 24 Parganas district. Police said he tried to snatch a police officer's firearm and was gunned down in retaliatory firing.

On October 27, Prahlad Das (23), accused of the rape-murder of a 13-year-old, was shot dead in Gaighata, North 24 Parganas. Police said he snatched an officer's service revolver when he was taken to the crime scene after midnight for reconstruction. Police said Das opened fire at the police team and was killed in retaliatory firing.

The same day, at Samsherganj in Murshidabad, Samiul Sheikh (46), accused of murdering BJP worker Sujit Mondal, was killed in an encounter with the police. Sheikh, police said, was shot dead when he tried to snatch a policeman's weapon.

Trinamool Congress MP Kalyan Banerjee targeted the BJP government, saying the "culture of encounters did not exist in West Bengal". "Wherever the BJP is in power, there is a culture of encounters. West Bengal is a culturally rich state and believes in the rule of law. But now this 'encounter culture' has been brought here. This is not in accordance with the law. Those who are guilty should be punished through the legal system, but carrying out encounters is not right," he told news agency ANI.

Modi-Zelenskyy phone call

reviewed our wide-ranging bilateral cooperation and agreed to further strengthen India-Ukraine ties," Modi said. "I thanked President Zelenskyy for sharing his perspectives on the ongoing conflict, its humanitarian aspects and various efforts to restore peace," he said.

Zelenskyy said that he briefed Modi on the latest diplomatic developments. "It is important that India identify what steps it can take and what dialogue it can pursue with other leaders to help bring the war to an end. Food security could be one such area. We discussed Russia's blocking of grain exports via the Black Sea. India is ready to mediate in establishing food corridors, and we are counting on these efforts to continue," Zelenskyy said in his post.

"Russia must understand that the global economy and hundreds of millions of people around the world are suffering because of blocked sea routes. We agreed that our teams will stay in touch on these and other bilateral issues," he said.

"We are actively preparing on every item on the agenda for the meeting in Abu Dhabi. Ukraine has always taken a constructive approach, and Russia must show the same readiness to de-escalate," Zelenskyy said. "The Prime Minister has said more than once, including directly to the Russian leader, that now is the time to end the war, not to continue it," he said.

Meanwhile, Jaishankar said in a post on X: "Spoke this evening with Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov of Russia. Our conversation focused on the Ukraine conflict and ongoing diplomatic initiatives."

Last month, Ukraine's Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha had said that India has put forward a "comprehensive" and "broad" proposal to end the war. Russian President Vladimir Putin had said earlier that Modi "constantly raises the question about putting an end to the conflict" and has "very good ideas".

Jaishankar had also said earlier that India has got a "little more involved beyond advocacy" and was having conversations with both Russia and Ukraine, trying to be "helpful" on the safety of shipping in the Black Sea, grain and energy exports and on "non-attack possibilities".

The broad contours of the proposal revolve around easing the especially intense fighting since July around the critical Black Sea region, which would allow Ukraine's agricultural products to reach the world; Russia halting attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure; and Ukraine refraining from attacking Russian positions along the line of contact.

Nvidia CEO probe

Jensen Huang is one of the most powerful figures in the AI revolution as well as an influential ally of President Donald Trump.

In a message to the company, Huang apologized. "I was unfaithful to my wife," he said. "My actions hurt her and our children. There is no excuse for what I did. I am deeply sorry."

Nvidia's board said that it had "no reason to believe that either national security or Nvidia secrets were compromised," but that "the board's inquiry will examine all available information." It said Huang "fully supports the review and has committed to cooperating with it."

The independent board members will choose an outside counsel to investigate. John Rizzo, a company spokesperson, said Huang wouldn't be part of the selection process.

Huang, 63, will continue to lead the company during the investigation, the board said. As a co-founder, he has set up a unique structure at Nvidia where he dictates all aspects of its business while overseeing some 60 people who directly report to him.

"Today's news will not slow Nvidia," Rizzo said. "Jensen is committed to continuing to lead Nvidia as CEO without interruption."

In a brief comment to reporters Sunday evening as he was about to leave Florida, Trump defended Huang. The President said he would "certainly take him" on his upcoming trip to China. "I haven't heard he's done anything wrong," Trump said. "He dealt with somebody, but you know, so does everybody else."

Trump said he had not spoken to Huang about the situation. "I just know he's a fine person, but you never know what's going on," Trump said. He added that he had no regrets about his own lack of action when he was told about a year ago that the US intelligence community was electronically surveilling Alice Huang.

"I think he's an honorable guy. I think he probably has an excuse for it. You have to hear it. No, you can't do that with people," Trump said. "He has done an amazing job for our country."

When asked if Jensen Huang should stay on as CEO of Nvidia, Trump said: "I think so. Oh yes, sure."

Public scrutiny of Jensen Huang's ties with Alice Huang began after *The New York Times* reported last month that American intelligence agencies had discovered that Huang had developed a close relationship with a Chinese citizen and chip buyer, who US officials concluded was gathering intelligence for Beijing.

The chip buyer was Alice Huang or Huang Le, whose biography said she worked in China as a TV reporter before becoming a top executive at a Singapore-based data center company that had become one of Nvidia's biggest customers in Southeast Asia. It has bought more than $4.8 billion in chips since June 2024.

Nvidia has continued doing business with Alice Huang's company, Megaspeed, even after the Times reported last year that the Commerce Department was investigating whether the company was helping China smuggle restricted AI chips. (Jensen Huang and Alice Huang are not related.)

Nvidia and Jensen Huang initially said there was nothing problematic or unusual about his relationship with Alice Huang. In an interview with Bloomberg News last month, he said that his interactions with Alice Huang had been "related to Megaspeed, and it was all completely normal and not unusual." —NYT

Sonia Gandhi's book

room were open, and Priyanka was standing outside one of them. She told me later that she'd stood there the whole time. As the men in the room surrounded me, it struck her that I was being browbeaten into acceptance. She tore into the house to look for Rahul, tears running down her face... "What's happened?" he asked, disturbed at seeing his sister so distraught. "She's said yes to them! They're all around her, she's said yes!" "What has she done! Where is she?" he said, and both of them came striding towards me with perturbed expressions... : my two children who saw themselves as my protectors after the death of their father. I was already exhausted by the vehemence of the alliance leaders; now I had to face them.

"You said yes?" thundered Rahul. "They wouldn't listen to me," I replied, "I don't want to do it, you know I don't. I was being pressurised." "Pressurised? You are being pressurised?" he demanded. "What about us?" He stormed off... "Look, Ma, you've always been clear about this," Priyanka said. "Don't get forced into it. Do what you've decided to do. We're both here to help you handle it." Her eyes were red, and I also felt like crying... As I stood in the half-light of the corridor at the threshold of my bedroom, the feeling of something dark looming over us overcame me...

An instinct kept warning me that my actions would have far-reaching consequences, not just for my party but for India. What we needed was firm and able governance, to steer India away from divisive politics. More than anything else, we needed development and progress. My entry into politics had been driven by the conviction that the BJP, propelled by the RSS and its many fanatical wings, would encourage strife between communities and subvert the Constitution...

I knew very well that the noise being made now by them, and the propaganda they had drummed up through the election campaign, wouldn't abate if I accepted. The BJP and its allies would for certain use my "foreign origin" as an issue, they would stir up emotions... subsume every other good — of the past, and of the coming years. How could I agree to holding the office of prime minister knowing it could wound my country, the country that I loved? No, never!

... Priyanka and Robert left for their home. Suman and Manju went to sleep in the guest room. Rahul was in his room. I retreated into my bedroom and lay quietly as always on my husband's side of the bed. One voice within me said, "Sonia, this is a ridiculous proposition. You were born and brought up in Italy and here you are, being chosen to lead a nation of more than a billion people at the other end of the world." Another voice replied, "This is your country; you owe your whole adult life and allegiance to it. When you lost the man you loved, it took you in its arms as one of its own. Its people have comforted you and nurtured you through shattering tragedies. How can you abandon your responsibility...?" I longed for Rajiv's comforting presence. As I was drifting into sleep out of sheer exhaustion, my mind suddenly cleared itself of the last shreds of doubt. "Sonia, be true to yourself," I could hear myself say. "You've always known it. Just leave it!"

I woke up in a few hours, went straight to my son's room... "I've made up my mind. I'm going to stick to my stand," I told him. He stepped up to me and with his arms around me said, "It's the right decision." I felt at peace for the first time since the election results had been declared...

◆◆◆

I enter the hall to thunderous applause. The members of Parliament stand up..., thumping their palms on wooden ledges... I find my place at the centre of the long table for the leaders of the party and remain standing till someone gestures for them to stop, and we all take our seats.

One of them reads out a speech imploring me once again to accept the post... I thought I'd simply read out my speech and nominate Dr. Manmohan Singh. But here I am now... as, one by one, more speeches follow, each one outdoing the other in attempting to persuade me to change my resolve. I'm moved... but I know that the decision I have taken is one I truly own.

I am called to the lectern and as I rise to walk towards it, applause echoes through the assembly... I pull out my piece of paper and put my glasses on, then an eerie silence falls... I can hear my breath above the whirring of the fans. I look up at my children sitting in the front row, Priyanka catches my eye and smiles... I begin to read out my speech:

"Throughout these past six years that I have been in politics, one thing has been clear to me. And that is, as I have often stated, that the post of prime minister is not my aim. I was always certain that if ever I found myself in the position that I am in today, I would follow my own inner voice. Today that voice tells me I must humbly decline this post."

... Pandemonium erupts. My colleagues... surround the lectern. "No, no, no!" they shout, some gesticulating wildly. I notice one of my colleagues has begun to cry, another follows. I stop my speech halfway feeling faint, unable to breathe. I try to retreat from the podium, but there are people all around me...

One of my colleagues... escorts me out of the hall for a reprieve. My children follow me out. They stand with me for a few moments, then I re-enter the hall. I step up to the lectern to resume my address...:

"You have unanimously elected me your leader... It is this faith that has placed me under tremendous pressure to reconsider my decision.

"Yet I must abide by the principles which have guided me all along.

"Power in itself has never attracted me, nor has position been my goal.

"My aim has always been to defend the secular foundation of our nation and the poor of our country — the creed sacred to Indiraji and Rajivji.

"... That is a long and arduous struggle, and I will continue it with full determination... But I appeal to you to understand the force of my conviction. I request you to accept my decision...

"As one of you and as president of the Congress Party, I pledge myself to work with you and for the country. My resolve will in fact be all the more firm..."

Now they listen to me somewhat calmly... I ask the assembled MPs to let me designate my successor, and... call out the name of Dr. Manmohan Singh. I step down from heading the Congress Parliamentary Party and Dr. Singh is nominated as its leader. Once again applause erupts, all of them stand up... some have tears running down their faces. My children stand up too. I notice that they, too, are clapping. I collect my papers from the lectern and walk away. The ordeal is finally over.

HAD EARLIER SECURED PROTECTION FROM COERCIVE ACTION

TMC MLA arrested over rape, extortion



TMC MLA Paresh Ram Das arrested from Kolkata airport in Kolkata, Monday. PTI

Mamata camp questions timing: 'He wanted to leave rebel Ritabrata camp & join us'

Sweety Kumari
Kolkata, November 9

TMC MLA Paresh Ram Das was arrested by West Bengal Police from Kolkata airport on Monday in connection with an FIR filed on September 5 this year, accusing him of rape, extortion and other criminal offences.

Das, who won from Canning West Assembly constituency in May this year, told mediapersons outside the airport that he was not aware of the charges pressed by the police. "I am being made to sign papers. I don't know what allegations are against me or why I have been arrested," he shouted.

Police, on the other hand, said that the MLA was wanted in several criminal cases, including the one in the September 5 FIR.

According to police, Das was apprehended while he was about to board a flight to Mumbai to evade the ongoing criminal investigation against me. The operation was carried out by a Special Operation Group (SOG) of the Baruipur District Police in close coordination with the Bidhannagar Police Commissionerate following specific intelligence on his movements.

The CID had previously summoned Paresh Nath in connection with the violence during the panchayat elections. During CID questioning, he reportedly fell ill and was admitted to the SSKM Hospital. He later secured interim protection from arrest in June from the Calcutta High Court, arguing that the FIRs filed in May were politically motivated in the wake of the change in the government in the state.

Apart from the September 5 FIR, the MLA faced a string of serious allegations, including murder attempt, Arms Act violations, and illegal encroachment of the Matla riverbed for the construction of an ashram.

Meanwhile, the Mamata faction of the TMC questioned the timing of the MLA's arrest.

"I do not know the details of Paresh Ram's case, but the timing raises questions. As long as he was with Ritabrata faction of the Trinamool, the police took no action. He (Das) recently wanted to return to Mamata-di's camp. Only then did the police claim that he "wanted to flee" and therefore "must be arrested," Kunal Ghosh, the spokesperson of Mamata faction of the TMC, said.

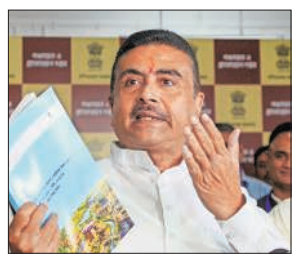
However, the Ritabrata faction of the TMC, defended police action, saying, "The police must have found some evidence regarding the allegations against Paresh Nath-babu, leading to the arrest," said Arup Roy of the Ritabrata faction.

Delhi Police serves notice to Mamata in 2013 protest case

Kolkata: A team of Delhi Police personnel visited the Kolkata residence of former West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday and served her a notice in a 2013 case of alleged assault of a public servant during a protest. The case No. 57/13, registered on April 9, 2013, at the Parliament Street Police Station in New Delhi, accuses Mamata of obstructing public servant, assaulting a public servant, rioting, unlawful assembly, among others. ENS

Even as Kolkata's AQI worsens, CM backs firecracker bursting: 'There's resurgence of Sanatan traditions'

ENS & PTI
Kolkata, November 9



Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari

KOLKATA'S AIR quality plummeted to hazardous levels on Diwali night, hitting an AQI of 623 at 11 pm on Sunday, according to aqi.com, an online monitoring system that follows US standards. At the same time, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), which follows Indian standards, recorded a moderate average citywide AQI of 154, with Jadavpur hitting 176.

CPCB data showed a steady decline through the night, bringing the citywide average to 173 by 4 am on Monday. By Sunday, Jadavpur's AQI reached 207, falling into the 'poor' category, while Ballygunge recorded 184, Fort William recorded 180, Bidhannagar recorded 170, Victoria recorded 138, and Rabindra Sarobar registered 119, all in the 'moderate' category.

Residents reported widespread violations of firecracker restrictions, with banned crackers heard across several neighbourhoods throughout the night into the early morning hours.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari on Monday claimed that noise pollution was largely under control during this year's Kali Puja and Diwali celebrations, defending the bursting of green firecrackers as part of the festivities while blaming communist critics for what he described as their discomfort over the resurgence of Sanatan traditions in the state.

Adhikari said the administration had taken necessary measures to enforce the Supreme Court's guidelines on noise pollution, though he acknowledged that some firecrackers were burst beyond the permitted hours. "Some green firecrackers might have been burst after 10 pm, but the police took action against those responsible. I feel the situation was largely under control," the chief minister told reporters in Digha in Purba Medinipur district.

Reacting to complaints of deafening firecracker noise across Kolkata and other parts of the state on Kali Puja night, Adhikari said, "The complaints are being raised by communists." Questioning the criticism over the use of fireworks during the festival, he said, "People will celebrate Diwali and burst green crackers. Why should that be such a problem? Where is the harm?" The chief minister alleged that sections of his political opponents were uncomfortable with what he described as the resurgence of Sanatan traditions in Bengal, accusing the Left of having reduced Hindu religious festivals to cultural events while distancing themselves from religious practices.

"Some people have a problem because of this resurgence of Sanatan traditions. They do not wear a tilak, do not have the Bipattarini thread on their hands or tulsi beads around their necks," he said.

Tollygunge MLA Papia Adhikari had earlier claimed that bursting firecrackers would cure several diseases. On Monday, she claimed that her statements were being deliberately twisted to garner TRP. The actor-turned-politician also stated that whenever she says something, people who oppose her use it to increase their TRP.

However, Sonarpur Dakshin MLA Roopa Ganguly posted a now-deleted message tagging Kolkata police for help, asking when the noise would stop so she could sleep. Radio jockey Agnijit Sen, known as Mirchi Agni, posted on X that firecrackers, likely including chocolate bombs, had been going off near his Jadavpur home from 6 pm until nearly 1.45 am.

Agnimitra Paul, Minister of Urban Development and Municipal Affairs, confirmed that loud, illegal firecrackers were set off until 2 am, noting that she experienced the disturbance firsthand as a South Kolkata resident. Accompanied by administrative officers and police personnel from Rabindra Sarobar and Ballygunge police stations, Paul took to the streets to assess the situation.

She urged citizens to be more aware, warned of strict legal provisions the government could invoke, and called for public cooperation so one person's celebration does not cause trouble for others.

Hospital doctor found hanging in hostel; family alleges murder

Press Trust of India
Kolkata, November 9

A young doctor at the state-run NRS Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata was found hanging in his room in a private hostel in the eastern parts of the city, with his family alleging that he was murdered, police said on Monday.

A police officer said that Abhijit Sarkar (28) had allegedly posted a message on his WhatsApp status that said, "I can't take it anymore." Sarkar, a resident of Nadia district, was working as a house staff member at the hospital where he completed his MBBS in 2018, the officer said.

"Hostel authorities informed his family around 4 pm on Sunday that he had been found hanging inside his room. He was rushed to RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, where doctors declared him dead," he said.

His family has rejected the possibility of suicide and lodged a complaint with the Nagerbazar Police Station, alleging that he was murdered.

"The family members claimed that Sarkar had shared several cryptic posts on social media over the past few days, indicating that he might have been feeling unsafe or threatened," the police officer said. "We are examining his mobile phone and social media posts. The post-mortem report will help establish the cause of death," a senior police officer said.

Techie found dead with stab wound, girlfriend and her mother arrested

Sweety Kumari
Kolkata, November 9



Sarthak Sarkar, 25, lived with his girlfriend in Garia on rent.

A YOUNG Live-in couple in Kolkata went out Sunday afternoon and bought firecrackers for Diwali and mutton for dinner. Hours later, 25-year-old IT professional Sarthak Sarkar was dead, and his girlfriend, Sanchalika Basu, and her mother, Moumita, were arrested. Mystery shrouds what happened in those hours.

Police said Sarthak and Sanchalika lived together in a rented flat in Kolkata's Garia area. Sarthak's family lives in Barasat, and he worked at an IT firm in Salt Lake Sector V.

According to local residents, Sarthak and Sanchalika appeared at ease on Sunday evening. "They looked happy and were acting normally, just like any other day," a neighbour told police. The meat vendor the couple visited said they were frequent customers. He said they held bags full of crackers when they went to his shop on Sunday.

Around 1:30 am, residents heard loud arguments from the couple's flat. As the altercation escalated, neighbours went to the apartment to intervene. A shocking sight greeted them. Sarthak lay collapsed on the bed, bleeding from severe neck wounds. He was rushed to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

Investigators say the couple argued over some issue on Sunday night. Sanchalika allegedly attacked Sarthak with a sharp object. Police are also probing the role of Sanchalika's mother, Moumita, who was present in the flat and allegedly did not raise an alarm or seek help as Sarthak bled to death.

Sarthak's father, who works with the West Bengal Education Department, said that the family knew about his relationship with Sanchalika and that she had visited their Barasat home.

He added that the family did not know Sarthak lived with her at the Garia flat. The family said Sarthak would frequently spend nights away from home. When asked, he would cite work pressure.

Baruipur SP Aravind Kumar Anand said police are yet to find what led to Sarthak's death. "Two people have been arrested; investigation and interrogation are on. A case was filed following a complaint by (Sarthak's) family," the officer said. "We are examining the sequence of events, determining the weapon used, and interrogating both women," he added.



Waterlogged streets in the Tala area of Kolkata on Monday. EXPRESS

Tala flooded after water pipeline burst; train services also affected

Sharanyo Basu
Kolkata, November 9

PARTS OF north Kolkata's Tala region were inundated on Monday morning after a major leakage in the water supply pipeline near the Tala pumping station.

Tala tank supplies water to primarily north and central parts of Kolkata, extending to Bhowanipore and certain south Kolkata areas.

According to Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) sources, neighbourhoods along Chittaranjan Avenue, Bidhan Sarani and AJC Bose Road, Rajabazar, Park Circus, College Street, Ballygunge, and Kasba will experience disruptions in water supply. There have also been reports of disruptions in the electricity supply in some neighbourhoods.

"Our team is working hard to bring normalcy and restore the situation. We have prepared an alternative system and are hoping that, within a day, we will bring normalcy," said Kolkata Municipal Commissioner Smita Pandey, who reached the waterlogged neighbourhood after the water pipeline burst.

"A major water leakage has been detected at a major diameter just beneath the Tala railway bridge under the railway tracks," a KMC official said.

Meanwhile, services of Kolkata Circular Railway were disrupted as railway tracks got flooded. Several trains were also rescheduled due to waterlogging in the Stable Yard Line. The Eastern Railway announced that 13181 Kolkata-Silghat Town Kaziranga Express, 13137 Kolkata Azamgarh Weekly Express, 13151 Kolkata Jammu Tawi Express, and 13161 Kolkata-Balurghat Express were all rescheduled to Monday afternoon.

Tala Tank, considered the world's largest overhead water reservoir and a heritage site, was constructed in 1909. The tank, owned by Kolkata Municipal Corporation, is fed by Palta Water Works near Barrackpore. It has withstood bombs, earthquakes, and storms for over a century. The tank underwent renovation in 2023.

BASU IS AN INTERN AT THE INDIAN EXPRESS

A TEAM OF 60 MEMBERS FORMED AGAIN TO LOCATE HER

Born to roam: Dooars Rani digs out of Buxa enclosure, back on Assam track

Ravik Bhattacharya
Kolkata, November 9



The three-year-old tigress dug her way out of the two-foot thick and 4-foot deep concrete base of the enclosure. EXPRESS

FOR 10 days, teams pursued tigress Dooars Rani, which had wandered into Assam after escaping from Buxa Tiger Reserve in Bengal, located and tranquilised it and brought it back to where it belonged.

But in this big cat's stripes, there is another trait: an escape artist. For five days after being brought back on November 3, Doars Rani roamed the reserve's 2.2 hectares acclimatization enclosure, possibly scanning for another opening.

And then it came.

The three-year-old tigress, which is part of the first relocation programme of Bengal, dug under the 2-foot thick and 4-foot deep concrete base of the enclosure to make a tunnel to freedom around 2 pm Sunday, according to forest department sources. Her last location was near the 27-mile forest settlement inside the Buxa Tiger Reserve. "The tigress somehow dug under the enclosure's foundation and made a tunnel to escape. Its absence was noticed around 2 pm Sunday. Its radio collar is working and we are tracking it," said a senior forest department official.

After crossing the Bala river, Dooars Rani is heading to where she was brought back from — Assam.

For officials, tracking the apex predator through radio signals as it navigates deep forests through shadow zones is tough.

After visiting the enclosure along with senior forest department officials, West Bengal Forest Minister Manoj Kumar Oraon told reporters, "She escaped from the enclosure. We saw that over the past three to four days, she was trying to escape from the enclosure by targeting various points along its perimeter. She had dug a hole of 2-2.5 feet in diameter."

"We were planning to release her in a day or two. Now, she is roaming in Buxa and following the same path she took (earlier) when she went to Assam. We will try to stop her from crossing the Sankosh river and enter Assam," he said.

To the west of the river is Alipurduar district while directly across the eastern bank lies the Kokrajhar district.

Oraon reiterated that it's a natural instinct for tigers to travel long distances after their release in the jungle. "After roaming around it settles down. It is natural. We have her location and are keeping a watch. She is doing fine. She is 5-7 km away from the enclosure," he said.

Again a team has been cobbled — 60 forest guards, three elephants and senior officials — to bring the tigress back. Last time, a joint operation by forest departments West Bengal and Assam was launched. Do0ars Rani was finally captured in Ghilaguri in Dotma area of Assam's Kokrajhar district.

On September 30, T-138 or Dooars Rani T-138 was flown in on a military aircraft to Hasimara Air Force Station in Alipurduar. It was then taken to the Rajabhatkhawa forest area under Buxa Tiger Reserve — a protected forest and National Park spread across 760 sq km in North Bengal's Alipurduar.

The release on October 2 was meant to mark the beginning of a phased recovery in Buxa, which is historically an important tiger landscape in north Bengal. Habitation degradation, changes in land use and a decline in prey availability have significantly affected the conditions needed to sustain a resident tiger population in Buxa, the Environment Ministry had said in a statement. On October 24, the tigress strayed into the Raimona National Park in Assam, traversing over 100 km from Buxa.

Near Assam's Hatigarh village it killed three domesticated pigs and four piglets before moving to Narayanpur village in Gossaigaon sub-division in Kokrajhar district, following the Barsijhora village near Dotma town in Kokrajhar, which was cordoned off Monday. To ensure an undisturbed habitat for the tigress in Buxa, and expand the area's prey base, the forest department had relocated 242 households from core villages.

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NOTICE

The Graduate School, ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi is in the process of conducting elections for the executive body of IARI Alumni Association for the tenure of three years from January 1, 2027 to December 31, 2029. In this context, a database containing current information of all the alumni of IARI is being updated. A list of Alumni is displayed in the IARI website **(https://www.iari.res.in/en/alumni-association.php)**. All the Alumni are hereby requested to verify the list and to confirm your enlistment. In case if you find any error, or your name is missing, please use the URL given below to update your details in the IARI Alumni Information Management System (IARI-AIMS) at **https://tinyurl.com/4eebvham** before November 18, 2026. Updated individual information up to the above date shall only be included in the voter's list as well as for considering the candidacy.

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Ref No. RB/REG/257/2026 Dated: 06/11/2026

Press Release for Cancellation of Recruitment Notifications for Teaching Posts

This is for information of all concerned that the recruitment processes of various Teaching posts (i.e. Assistant Professor, Associate Professor and Professor) advertised vide the following Employment Notifications issued from time to time and whose appointment procedures are still pending, are cancelled due to administrative reasons by the Executive Council of the University in its meeting held on 06/10/2026:

(i) Estt./5166/2015 dated 26/11/2015
(ii) Estt./5271/2016 dated 07/01/2016
(iii) Estt./6024/2017 dtd. 13/12/2017 (iv) Estt./6025/2017 dtd. 13/12/2017
(v) Estt./6454/2018 dtd. 27/09/2018 (vi) Estt./6455/2018 dtd. 27/09/2018
(vii) Estt./6959/2019 dtd. 22/08/2019
(viii) Estt./6960/2019 dtd. 22/08/2019

Modalities for refund of application fee and the posts for which the said refund can be claimed will be notified on the University Website: **www.rbu.ac.in** in due course. Please visit University Website from time to time.

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DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



Keeping Busy

IT HAS been a busy time for Environment Ministry and its officials who oversee India's participation and put forth its position at the conferences of international conventions on desertification and biodiversity. The conference on combating desertification in Mongolia in August was followed by one on biodiversity in Armenia, and from later this week, Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav and his team of officials will be in Antalya, Turkiye, for the UN's annual climate conference. Ahead of the climate conference, a delegation led by Yadav was also in Fiji and Tuvalu for the pre-climate conference talks.

Demolition Time

The CENTRAL Public Works Department (CPWD) is getting ready to bring down Shastri Bhawan and Krishi Bhawan to make way for new Central Secretariat buildings. Last week, workers began putting up scaffolding to cover the facade of Shastri Bhawan before the demolition. At the same time, the last few offices left in the two complexes are beginning to move out. It is learnt that the Department of Consumer Affairs, which is currently at Krishi Bhawan, has been allotted space at a government office block in Netaji Nagar. The CPWD will be setting up a facilitation desk at the new building to help with the shifting.

Revanth to launch statewide tour, vows to sweep away BRS, BJP

Hyderabad: Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Monday announced he would tour the state after Sankranti festival in January next year and trigger a "tsunami", which would sweep the BRS and BJP.

After the conclusion of three-day tour of his constituency Kodangal, he said he would reach out to people under the programme titled 'Praja Balam' (people's strength).

Before winding up his speech, he raised the slogan 'aur ek baar, Congress sarkar' (Congress government, once again). On the state's agricultural situation, he said despite drought conditions caused by rainfall deficit, the government has sufficient rice stocks for one year, the CM said. PTI

BANGLADESH GOVT EXAMINING AUTHENTICITY & LEGAL GROUNDS OF APPLICATION: SALAHUDDIN

Hasina seeks fresh passport, Bangla minister for extradition

Shubhajit Roy
New Delhi, November 9

THREE MONTHS after she expressed her desire to return to her country, deposed prime minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina on Monday requested a new passport to facilitate that journey in December.

After fleeing Bangladesh in August 2024 following a student-led mass uprising, Hasina has been living in India for more than two years.

In a letter to Bangladesh's Acting High Commissioner to India, Preeti Rahman, in Delhi, Hasina's lawyers wrote, "In view of the reported revocation of her existing Bangladeshi passport and National Identity Card by the interim government and other authorities,... respectfully request that you take the necessary steps to issue a new Bangladeshi passport and NID for our client."

The letter also asked for the application to be processed "expeditiously" on the basis of her Bangladeshi nationality and in accordance with "obligations arising under international human rights instruments".

However, Bangladesh High Commission's spokesperson, Saidur Rahman, responding to questions about the letter, told *The Indian Express* Monday, "Former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who was ousted following the student-people uprising, has not applied for a new passport or National Identity Card (NID)."

"We have received an email from a law firm requesting the issuance of a new passport and NID in the name of Sheikh Hasina. However, we are not sure whether the request is genuine. There is no way for us to verify whether the request was actually made on behalf of Sheikh Hasina, as the email sent by the law firm did not include any authorisation letter or supporting documents proving that the firm was authorised by her to make such a request," Rahman said.

"However, we have forwarded the email to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for necessary consideration," the spokesperson added.

The Bangladesh government, led by PM Tarique Rahman, has been seeking Hasina's



Hasina fled to India in 2024 after a student-led uprising

extradition and the Indian government had said earlier that this request is "being examined".

In Dhaka, Bangladesh Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed said the government is examining the authenticity and legal grounds of the application submitted by Hasina, the state-run BSS news agency reported.

At a press briefing, the minister said the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Law were looking into the matter. The relevant ministries would review all legal provisions before deciding on any necessary action, he said.

"...I can say that we have sent a formal request through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the country where a convicted fugitive has taken shelter, seeking her extradition in accordance with the extradition treaty and applicable laws," Ahmed said.

> **"We are not sure whether the request is genuine. There is no way for us to verify whether the request was actually made on behalf of Sheikh Hasina, as the email sent by the law firm did not include any authorisation letter or supporting documents."**
>
> **SAIDUR RAHMAN,** SPOKESPERSON, BANGLADESH HIGH COMMISSION

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Humaiun Kobir described Hasina's application as "utterly ridiculous", reiterating that Bangladesh would seek her return from India through the existing extradition treaty.

"She has been sentenced to death. Bangladesh does not issue passports to terrorists," he told reporters Monday.

He said Hasina, convicted of crimes against humanity, should be handed over to Bangladesh under the bilateral extradition treaty rather than return as an ordinary traveller, *BSS* reported.

"We have an active extradition treaty with India. You do not need a passport to bring back terrorists and criminals. This is a matter of handover, and a judicial process is already in place," he said. "If she genuinely wants to return to Bangladesh, she should ask the Indian government to hand her over under the extradition treaty," he said.

Meanwhile, the Awami League Monday said Hasina has stated her intention to return to Bangladesh in December and face the legal proceedings against her. The passport and NID applications mark an "important step towards fulfilling that stated intention after more than two years in India," it said.

(WITH AGENCY INPUTS FROM DHAKA)

EXPRESS special

I hereby declare... a lakh times over: The Trinamool war of affidavits in EC

Atri Mitra
Kolkata, November 9

THERE HAVE been claims of a truck being illegally intercepted; questions about why a truck travelling from Kolkata to New Delhi took a route passing through Haryana; fingerpointing over the costs of road vs air transport; and allegations of police being misused for party work.

At the heart of this lie lakhs and lakhs of affidavits being put together by rival factions of the Trinamool Congress to present before the Election Commission of India (ECI) for laying claim to the party symbol, name and funds.

The TMC is far from the first to do the paper chase. The AIADMK went through this in 2017, with 10 lakh affidavits in total submitted by the E Palaniswami and O Panneerselvam factions, as per an ECI statement. The Shiv Sena's split in 2023 was an even more elaborate exercise, with the Uddhav Thackeray faction alone claiming to have submitted 23 lakh affidavits. Later the same year, the NCP's two factions, led by Sharad Pawar and Ajit Pawar, reportedly put up 40,000 and 60,000 affidavits respectively.

The Mamata Banerjee-led TMC faction has written to senior state government and police officers alleging that the ruling BJP is using the police to obtain affidavits in favour of the dissident TMC group and claiming that "illegal and arbitrary directions" had been made for the issue and distribution of stamp papers for filing affidavits before the ECI.



Former CM and TMC chief Mamata Banerjee; (right) leader of the Democratic TMC Ritabrata Banerjee

In a letter to the DGP and Kolkata Police Commissioner, the Mamata TMC national joint secretary and RS member, Dola Sen, said police personnel had been directed to collect "dummy affidavits" from non-TMC members to bolster the rival faction's claims. On the other hand, the Mamata faction was finding it difficult to even obtain stamp papers for their affidavits, Sen said.

"OCs and ICs (in-charges) of police stations are using force and influence to get signatures on affidavits in favour of the traitor group led by Ritabrata Banerjee and Arup Roy," Sen wrote, adding that with each of the 607 police stations asked to collect over 1,100 affidavits, at least six lakh affidavits would be gathered thus.

Police officers refused to comment on the matter.

Soon after Sen's police complaint, the rebel faction, which goes by the name Democratic Trinamool Congress and has pledged support to BJP, alleged that a truck carrying its documents to the ECI, which had set off from Kolkata on October 24, was "targeted" near the Haryana-Delhi border. The leader of the Democratic TMC, Ritabrata Banerjee, claimed that unidentified people tried to take control of the vehicle and remove the affidavits, but party workers thwarted the attempt.

Speaking to ANI on October 28, Banerjee said: "Our documents were dispatched from Kolkata early on the 24th; we do not have the capacity to transport them via a chartered flight – unlike the other side. Our personnel were also in the truck. At the Haryana border around 2.50 AM (I received a call at 3 AM) individuals forced their way in, made our people get out, brandished weapons, and drove the vehicle away."

The Mamata faction dismissed the claims. While Sen said the people would have the final say on which is the real TMC, Lok Sabha MP Kalyan Banerjee expressed surprise over the truck's alleged route. "We will win in this entire episode," he told *The Indian Express*.

Subsequently, CM Suvendu Adhikari offered to probe the matter if Ritabrata registered an FIR. Ritabrata told *The Indian Express:* "We have already submitted our documents to the ECI. We submitted lakhs and lakhs of affidavits and those who tried to snatch our container were unsuccessful. We have filed a complaint on the matter."

Speaking to *IANS* Thursday, Ritabrata again made the trucks vs air comparison, adding: "Six of our trucks have arrived at the ECI, and the remaining three are on their way. The unloading of documents from one truck has been completed."

After the TMC split in the wake of its rout in this year's elections, the ECI froze the use of the name All India Trinamool Congress and its symbol on September 17 till there was a "substantive determination" of which was the real TMC. It also asked the two factions to submit affidavits from its leaders and workers to prove their mass base, so as to lay claim to the TMC name and symbol.

'Many migrate': Ladakh MP questions polls in winters

Naveed Iqbal
Srinagar, November 9

LADAKH MP Mohmad Haneefa Jan has written to Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena, questioning the "logic" of holding panchayat and urban local bodies (ULB) elections in the Union Territory in winter months, when a number of people migrate to warmer regions.

Social and religious groups in Kargil, along with Jan, have also called for a complete shutdown in the region on Tuesday citing "bureaucratic overreach."

The MP said that holding the elections in the winter months could deprive many eligible voters of a fair opportunity to participate in the democratic process. In his letter, the MP sought to draw the administration's attention to the critical "geographical, climatic, logistical and administrative considerations" that, he said, must be taken into account before announcing the schedule for the forthcoming elections to the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (LAHDCs).

The administration had announced that panchayat elections throughout the UT will be held on November 21.

The administration had also notified delimitation for 100 constituencies that will form part of the newly formed Autonomous Hill Development Councils, elections to which are yet to be announced although they are speculated to be held in December.



Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel in Ahmedabad on Monday. PTI

2028 deadline for drug-free Gujarat, report use, sale of narcotics: Shah

Express News Service
Ahmedabad, November 9

UNION HOME Minister Amit Shah Monday appealed to the people of Gujarat to take the lead in making Gujarat "drug free" by 2028. He emphasised that drugs weaken the young generation of the country and money received through this menace is being misused to spread terrorism in the country.

Shah was addressing a public meeting in the Ranip area of Ahmedabad to inaugurate or lay the foundation stone of projects worth over Rs 1,024 crore.

Addressing the gathering, Shah referred to a high-level meeting convened Saturday in which, among other things, the most important issue discussed was to make Gujarat drug-free. Shah underlined that people can provide tip-offs about any illegal sale of drugs anywhere in the state on a toll-free number 1033 from December 1.

"After December 1, if a padiki (packet) of drugs is being sold anywhere, I appeal to all citizens of Ahmedabad to report it on the 1033 tollfree number and the Bhupendra Patel-led government will put those drug peddlers behind bars," Shah said.

"This addiction hollows out our youths. It ruins our future. It weakens the bodies and minds of young people while diluting their ability to think, listen, remain attentive and maintain concentration. Money from this drug trade is used to spread terrorism in the country. While we have succeeded in making the country free from Naxalism, we should not rest... we must work to creating a drug-free India by December 31, 2029," he added.

Shah then appealed to the people of Gujarat to make the state drug-free by December 2028 — one year before the national target.

He said, "I come from Gujarat. PM (Narendra Modi) is from Gujarat. Gujarat does not need to wait till 2029."

Shah said that Centre and Gujarat government cannot fight this battle alone. "It is the responsibility of every teacher to observe changes in a student's behavior such as red eyes, dozing off in class, or an inability to focus and to ensure that the student undergoes testing and to communicate with their parents," he said.

Parents, he said, also have to keep a close watch on their adolescent children.

He asked citizens to call 1033 after December 1 to report if they observe anyone consuming or selling drugs. "Your name will not be disclosed," he said. Treatment must be sought without shame, he said, adding that centres will be established to help young people to fight against addiction and their identities will not be disclosed.

After excess ethanol claims in Karnataka, Keralam starts petrol testing, inspections



Officials collect petrol samples for quality inspection from a fuel station in Kowdiar in Thiruvananthapuram, Monday. PTI

Shaju Philip
Thiruvananthapuram, Nov 9

FOLLOWING KARNATAKA'S allegation that petrol containing ethanol in excess of the prescribed limit was being sold in the state, the Congress-led Keralam government Monday launched inspections and sample-testing in select districts to check for alleged malpractice.

As per the Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas notification, oil companies are directed to sell ethanol-blended petrol containing up to 20% of the organic compound. Three public sector OMCs — IOCL, BPCL and HPCL — had rejected Karnataka's allegations, saying E20 petrol supplied across India conforms to BIS specifications, and questioned the sampling and testing procedures used by the state authorities.

Following a direction from the Keralam Civil Supplies Minister, Anoop Jacob, officials of Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department inspected nine fuel outlets in four districts and collected samples to ascertain whether petrol is being sold with ethanol blended in excess.

The minister said, "No incident of ethanol being blended beyond the prescribed limit has been reported in Keralam so far. However, the direction for inspection was given in view of the reports from Karnataka that petrol sold had found ethanol in excess. Besides, I had got certain complaints in this regard and there were reports about vehicles developing snags allegedly due to ethanol in excess."

He said, "Hence, we have decided to test the quality of petrol sold in the state. Consumers have every right to know. Samples were collected from nine outlets of IOC, BPCL and HP in Kozhikode, Kannur, Thiruvananthapuram, and Ernakulam districts."

"From each outlet, six sets of samples were collected in containers prescribed by the Petroleum and Explosive Safety Organisation," the minister said.

Put on hold Census 2027 exercise in Manipur until April 30, directs HC

Directs considering 7 representations highlighting ongoing unrest in state

Express News Service
New Delhi, November 9

CITING ONGOING ethnic tensions and previous notifications from the Centre, the Manipur High Court has directed that the Census 2027 exercise remain suspended in the state until April 30, 2027.

"The census exercise for the state of Manipur will continue to be put on hold/kept in abeyance till April 30, 2027," the court said in its order dated November 4.

The division bench of Chief Justice M Sundar and Justice A Guneshwar Sharma also directed the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India to consider seven representations from Manipur that highlighted the ongoing "unrest" in the state. "It is open to any individual or entity to send a representation within three weeks (November 25)...," the bench said.

The HC said that even after authorities have considered the representations and taken a decision, the Census exercise in Manipur will be paused for four more weeks to "...enable persons concerned with the matter to come to this court, if they are either aggrieved or not satisfied" with the orders passed by the Registrar General.

The high court's directions came while hearing a PIL filed by the Kangleipak Students' Association and the International Peace and Social Advancement, along with a writ petition filed by Secretary General of the United Committee Manipur, Shanta Singh Nahakpam.

The representations were made following a recent Union government decision to undertake the enumeration process — the second and penultimate phase of a census.

In light of the current situation in Manipur, the petitioners had voiced concerns about the proper identification of the displaced population and that additional steps were required to ensure that the process is undertaken accurately.

In a representation to the Registrar General, Nahakpam said that "distortion of demographic data due to displacement (and) skewed allocation of resources and welfare benefits" were some of the risks of a hurried Census.

In a notification dated September 5, the Centre said that "houselisting operations for Census 2027 for the state of Manipur" was deferred. In another notification dated October 30, the Centre said the enumeration process will not be conducted in Manipur.

Pumped hydro project in tiger corridor gets in-principle forest nod

Corridor connects forests of Panna Tiger Reserve, across Satna & Panna districts, to Ranipur Tiger Reserve in Chitrakoot

Nikhil Ghanekar
New Delhi, November 9

A UNION Environment Ministry panel has recommended an in-principle approval to divert 511 hectares of forest land within the Panna-Ranipur Tiger Corridor to make way for the 1,800 MW Panari Pumped Storage Project.

The Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) recommended clearance for the project by Sri Siddharth Infratech and Services spanning Satna and Panna districts during its October 23 meeting, chaired by DG of Forests and Special Secretary, Environment Ministry.

The tiger corridor connects the forests of the Panna Tiger Reserve, across the Satna and Panna districts, to the Ranipur Tiger Reserve in Chitrakoot, Uttar Pradesh.

"A total of 211.7 hectares of the proposed area falls under compartment P-132, 133, 135, 136, 137, which is part of NTCA-approved North Eastern Tiger Corridor of Panna Tiger Reserve," the meeting's minutes noted.

As per tentative enumeration figures, around 1.32 lakh trees are proposed to be felled, including 70,240 in Satna and 62,278 in the North Panna forest divisions.

The project was first taken up for appraisal on February 27, but a decision was deferred to await recommendations from the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife. Later, the SC-NBWL, chaired by the Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav, recommended the project for wildlife clearance with specific conditions during its July 9 meeting.

The project will consist of two reservoirs, which are to be constructed afresh. The NBWL had appraised the project as it lies within an "ecological sensitive tiger landscape and supports movement of tigers, leopards, dholes, wolves, sloth bears, gaurs, sambar and chital", with some components overlapping the satellite core areas of the Panna Tiger Reserve.

The conditions specified included the construction of three 30m-wide wildlife overpasses across the frequently used Baghain River. Against the diversion of the 511.91 hectares of the forest land, the MP government has identified 531.84 hectares of non-forest land as compensatory afforestation (CA) land, the FAC minutes noted.

Six die as car crashes on UP highway, bursts into flames

Manish Sahu
Lucknow, November 9

SIX PEOPLE were burnt alive after the car they were travelling in crashed into a road divider and an electricity pole before overturning and catching fire on the Panipat-Khatima highway in Muzaffarnagar early Monday morning.

On receiving information, a police team rushed to the spot and, with the help of fire brigade personnel, launched a rescue operation.

The fire was eventually brought under control, and all six occupants, who had sustained severe burn injuries, were pulled out from the Hyundai Aura and rushed to a hospital. However, doctors declared them dead. All six were related and hailed from Narnaul district in Haryana. They were on their way to Haridwar when the accident occurred, said Muzaffarnagar Senior Superintendent of Police Suraj Kumar Rai

During preliminary investigation, police found that the accident occurred around 4.50 am when the car was travelling at high speed and the driver allegedly lost control.

Police suspect that the car caught fire after its fuel tank ruptured in the impact of the crash, though the exact cause is yet to be established.

Climate meet begins, report says 2026 among warmest years ever

Amitabh Sinha
New Delhi, November 9



Outside the COP31 venue in Antalya, Turkiye, Monday. AP

THE ANNUAL year-ending climate meeting opened in the Turkish city of Antalya on Monday with another sobering reminder from the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) about the steadily worsening climate situation. In its latest State of the Climate Report, released on the opening day of COP31 climate meeting, the WMO said the year 2026 could end up as one of the warmest ever, almost certainly as among the top four warmest years.

The average global temperature between January and September this year was 1.47 degree Celsius higher than pre-industrial times (the average of 1850-1900 period), the WMO report said. It is higher than the full-year averages in 2025 and 2023, and only slightly lower than 2024 which remains the warmest year on record.

The remaining months are unlikely to bring down the average so far this year, considering the prevailing El Nino conditions. Thus, it is very likely that 2026 ends up as the second warmest year after 2024.

The State of the Climate Report, an annual publication from the WMO which is considered one of the most authoritative assessments of global climate change, also revealed that greenhouse gas emissions were still going up, and had reached new record levels in 2025. Measurements from benchmark monitoring stations indicate a continued increase in 2026 as well.

Even after three decades of global discussions, international legal arrangements, and allocation of resources, the world has not even begun reducing its emissions.

For the climate negotiators assembled in Antalya for the two-week conference, this is no new information. But the negotiators are now more helpless than ever in changing the situation in any significant manner in the short term at least.

COP31 is one of the most low-key climate conferences in years. No major decisions or outcomes are expected. Most of the discussions are likely to be focused on finding ways to speed up the implementation of climate actions that have been promised. But that too runs into a familiar stalemate — the need for more money. The recent case of Nepal, which has been promised US$ 20 million from the Loss and Damage Fund against a requirement of at least US$ 2 billion for recovery and reconstruction following the devastating flash floods in August, shows the huge gap that exists between what is required to be done, and what the world as a whole is able to come up with to meet the challenge.

A similar gap exists in climate action as well. The world has to collectively reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by at least 43 per cent from 2019 levels by 2030 to give itself the slimmest chance of keeping global temperature rise within 1.5 degree Celsius of pre-industrial times. But at the current rate of climate action, even a 2 per cent reduction seems unlikely. As the latest State of the Climate Report points out, the emissions have not even begun to reduce.

That's the reason two reports by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) earlier this year concluded that the 1.5 degree Celsius target had now gone firmly out of reach. This was the first such assessment by any scientific assessment. Until now, all climate assessments always used to offer a narrow window of opportunity, however unrealistic, of meeting the 1.5 degree Celsius target set by the 2015 Paris Agreement.

Simon Stiell, executive secretary of UN Climate Change, said COP31 needed to "supercharge" the global efforts to tackle climate change, but was also realistic in what it could deliver.

"No COP is a silver bullet. No single conference can bridge the chasm between science and reality. We must deal with the world as it is, not as we might wish it to be. Every recent COP has delivered strides forward. This one must too," he said.

Like all previous COP hosts, Turkiye has decided to launch a few voluntary initiatives to create a momentum for greater climate action, the most important of which is seeking to increase the share of electricity in global energy consumption to at least 30 per cent by 2035 from the current 20 per cent. It is not very evident but even today electricity serves only a small fraction of the world's energy needs. Most of the energy consumption happens in non-electric forms, like oil and gas.

But newer and cleaner sources of electricity, like solar, wind or nuclear, can be consumed only in the form of electricity. That means all the processes that currently use oil or gas or other non-electric forms of energy due to a variety of reasons need to get electrified. Turkiye has proposed a global coalition to make efforts to achieve at least 30 per cent electrification. But this is a voluntary initiative that countries can choose to join if they wish to. This is not a decision that will come out of the negotiated COP process.

Desperate, troubled, has no answers: Opp slams PM over 'dimagi Naxal' jibe

Express News Service
New Delhi, November 9

"My challenge stands. Let him debate me on who is anti-national and who is controlled by foreign forces. Any time, any place," Gandhi said

TARGETING PRIME Minister Narendra Modi over his "dimagi Naxalites" remark during Diwali celebrations at a CRPF camp in Karanpur in Chhattisgarh's Bastar district, the Opposition Monday said that Modi has no answers to the questions they are raising while challenging him again to a debate on "who is anti-national and who is controlled by foreign forces".

In a post on X, Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi said that the CRPF personnel in the audience "didn't buy the PM's lies". "Dear CRPF jawans, your faces said it all: you didn't buy the PM's lies... He called us Naxals."

"My challenge stands. Let him debate me on who is anti-national and who is controlled by foreign forces. Any time, any place," Gandhi said.

He said it was his "guarantee that after the debate, the PM won't have the guts to stand in front of a single jawan again". On multiple occasions earlier, Gandhi has "challenged" the PM to an "open debate" with him.

On Sunday, Modi said, "Armed Naxalites have vanished from the forests, but intellectual (dimagi) Naxalites have captured many organisations. Even today, they are provoking people against the Constitution and democracy of the country. These intellectual Naxalites have also infiltrated several political parties and various organisations. We must identify them, defeat them, and secure the nation."

Congress MP and party's communication in charge, Jairam Ramesh, said that the "PM has not spared the country his usual abusive language even on Diwali". "Once again, he has called some of his political opponents 'intellectual Naxals'. Most objectionable is that he abused an extremely solemn and non-political occasion for this, wore the uniform of the security forces, and hurled a barrage of mud at his political opponents. This is an open assault on all norms of propriety and tradition. But when have these gentlemen ever cared about principles and ideals?" said Ramesh. "The PM is clearly desperate, troubled, and restless. It is clear that the time to pack up is fast approaching," he said.

TMC Deputy Leader in the Rajya Sabha, Sagarika Ghose, told *The Indian Express*, "The truth is plain: instead of debating the real issues of our times including the expose into the functioning of the Election Commission and its impact on India's constitutional democracy, Modi is engaging in name calling the Opposition and defaming those who are defending the Constitution." "Name-calling is the last refuge of those who have much to hide and the clearest sign that the Modi government today has no answers to the direct questions raised by the Opposition," Ghose said.

"Militarism and majoritarianism are the BJP's core agendas", CPI's P Sandosh Kumar told *The Indian Express*.

"The target is very clear. With this uncivilised speech, those who fight for people's rights will be dealt with harsh methods. Modi should learn from the failure of his international associates like (US President Donald) Trump and (Benjamin) Netanyahu," he said.

2 Baramulla youths acquitted in terror case after 6 yrs in jail

Bashaarat Masood
Srinagar, November 9

A JAMMU and Kashmir court has acquitted two youths from Baramulla after they spent six years in custody under anti-terror laws, while highlighting contradictions and infirmities in the prosecution's case.

Feroz Ahmad Khan, the Special Judge designated under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), acquitted Huzaif Firdous Bhat of Choora, Sopore, and Ajaz Ahmad Bhat of Kreeri, Baramulla, who were arrested six years ago after police claimed to have recovered weapons from their possession.

"On an overall assessment, the court finds that the prosecution evidence suffers from such material inconsistencies and infirmities that it would be unsafe to base a conviction upon it," the court said while acquitting the two.

On September 16, 2020, the J&K police claimed to have arrested Huzaif and Ajaz during searches at a barricade on the National Highway near Kanispora in Baramulla.

Police had claimed that during checking of their vehicle, in a joint operation by the J&K police, the Army's 52 Rashtriya Rifles and the 53rd battalion of the CRPF, two hand grenades, 100 rounds of ammunition and two posters of the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) outfit were recovered. Police registered a case against them under Sections 18, 23 and 39 of UAPA and 7/25 of the Arms Act.

The court observed that while there was no independent witness to the recovery of the arms and ammunition, glaring contradictions were found during the deposition and cross-examination of the police witnesses.

"... One witness says that PW-1 conducted the search (while) another attributes the search to Jaipal; another states that PW-4 conducted the search; while PW-3 and PW-4 admit that the recovery was not made in their presence," the court said in its observations.

The court added that while one witness said 100 rounds of ammunition were recovered, another said only 40 rounds were recovered. It also highlighted that while a witness said posters of LeT were recovered from their possession, another witness said posters of Jaish-e-Mohammad were recovered.

Moreover, the accused told the court that they were picked up "from their respective residences during night time".

"... While minor discrepancies arising from lapse of time or imperfect recollection may ordinarily be ignored, contradictions which go to the root of the prosecution story and create doubt about the occurrence, recovery, identity of the recovered articles or their connection with the accused cannot be brushed aside as inconsequential...," the court said in its judgement on November 5.

EXPRESS special

Raipur man who went to Russia for job lands in jail, kin seek CM's help

The family has alleged that he was put behind bars on fake charges

Jayprakash S Naidu
Raipur, November 9

IN SEPTEMBER, 38-year-old Tikeshwar Sahu from Raipur left home for Russia. He had received a job offer through Telegram and had hoped to secure a better future for his wife, two children and parents. He also had plans to bring them over to Russia in the future.

Days later, he informed his family that he was in jail over trumped up charges and was being forced into joining the Russian Army in its war against Ukraine.

On November 4, Sahu's wife Manorama wrote to Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai and Raipur Commissioner of Police, Sanjeev Shukla, seeking a probe, diplomatic intervention, legal assistance, medical care, and his safe return to India.

The Sahus' case bears a striking resemblance to the plight of another family in Chhattisgarh. Last month, *The Indian Express* had reported about 21-year-old Vineet Kumar Dubey from Bilaspur who had left for Russia on September 29. Like Sahu, he had also travelled on a tourist visa after receiving a job offer through Telegram. Families of both the men said neither had been adequately informed about the nature of the work before leaving India.

A senior official from the Raipur Police Commissionerate, requesting anonymity, told *The Indian Express*, "We have received the complaint (in Sahu's case). As per procedure, we shall send it to the state home department, which, in turn, will send it to the Ministry of External Affairs for further action."

Sahu's family said they last shared a normal call with him on September 16 before his phone was switched off. For the first few days, they thought he was facing network problems amid the war.

But a few days later, they received a picture of a handwritten letter on their phone. It was a Russian number but the handwriting was unmistakably Sahu's. In the letter, he claimed that he was being falsely implicated in a case involving illegal substances and was being forced to join the Russian Army, said a family member.

After they made repeated requests to the number, Sahu was allowed to make a five-minute video call to his family.

"He was crying a lot on the phone. He told us that he was in jail. He said he was being pressured to join the Russian Army," the family member said.


Tikeshwar Sahu

Sahu, who worked as a store manager in Raipur, was promised a lucrative job as a delivery agent in Russia and was told that his tourist visa would be converted into a work visa once the job was confirmed, said his family members. Sahu left Raipur for Delhi on September 7 and travelled to Russia the following day, reaching Moscow before flying to Volgograd. On arrival, he was given 5,000 Russian rubles by the person who promised him a job.

His relatives alleged that he was being pressured into signing documents declaring his consent to join the Russian military.

The family said they were worried about Sahu's health, particularly because he has a thyroid condition for which he takes medication. They alleged that he had not received his medicines after being detained and had also been assaulted.

To secure his release, the family hired a lawyer in Russia. They have spent Rs 1.5 lakh on his fees. On October 22, the lawyer informed them that Sahu had been hospitalised after his blood pressure rose, they said. The family has not received a clear update on his condition or when he might be released.

His relatives alleged that Sahu was being pressured into admitting that he was supplying an illegal substance, and feared the accusation was being used to prolong his detention and force him into military service.

Sahu's relatives said they had emailed the Indian and Russian embassies. While the Russian embassy had not responded, the Indian embassy, in an email reply, told them it was trying to ascertain the details and would provide an update, they said. The family also approached the DGP headquarters in Naya Raipur in September. They subsequently approached political leaders and the state secretariat, and filed an application through the Prime Minister's grievance portal.

The family's financial state has worsened as they struggle to pay the Russian lawyer before each hearing. But right now, their only concern is to get Sahu home, safe and sound.

"We want the government to intervene and bring him back. We do not know what is happening to him, and we are extremely worried about his health," a relative said.

Goa: Minor sexually assaulted; minister blames outsiders

Pavneet Singh Chadha
Panaji, November 9

A FOUR-YEAR-OLD girl was allegedly sexually assaulted in North Goa on Sunday, police said. Even as the police continue their search for the accused, who remains unidentified so far, Goa Tribal Welfare Minister Ramesh Tawadkar said that "90 per cent" of such crimes in the state are committed by "outsiders".

"People from outside the state come here and 90 per cent of people involved in such cases are those who have come to Goa from outside [the state]," he added. Tawadkar further said people could not be stopped from coming to Goa to earn their livelihood.

"The government is playing its role to control such crimes. Police should also tighten enforcement in the state to prevent such incidents," Tawadkar added.

Police said multiple teams were conducting raids to trace the accused.

According to the police, the survivor, daughter of a daily-wage labourer, was found crying on Sunday night by a passerby near a taxi stand after which the locals informed the police. The minor girl was rushed to a hospital for treatment, said police.

Officers said preliminary probe suggested that the accused abducted the minor girl and took her to the basement of a dilapidated building next to a lane, which is used as a dumpster, and raped her.

Rahul Gupta, SP, North Goa, told the media, "Some suspects have been rounded up. The minor girl's condition is stable."

Brought feminist authority, humour into her art, created unique narrative style

Trisha Mukherjee
New Delhi, November 9

AT ARTIST Arpita Singh's retrospective at Delhi's Kiran Nadar Museum of Art (KNMA) in 2019, one particular canvas caught attention: *My Lollipop City: Gemini Rising*. At first glance, the blue canvas appeared to be a map of Delhi, with all the landmarks — Jantar Mantar, Lotus Temple, Red Fort. A closer look revealed it was an incorrect map. Singh herself cautioned: "The Map is Faulty/Do Not Follow It."

It was a whimsical take on the busyness of a city that Singh called home for close to eight decades, after her family migrated from undivided Bengal in 1946. It was in this adoptive city that she died Monday morning. She was 90.

"She died on the way to the hospital, having succumbed to age-related health complications," Roshini Vadehra, Director at Delhi's Vadehra Art Gallery that represents Singh, told *The Indian Express*.

A diploma holder in Fine arts from Delhi College of Art (then Delhi Polytechnic), Singh along with fellow artists Paramjit Singh, who she later married, Eric Bowen and Rajendra Dhawan, formed 'The Unknown', an artist collective that worked outside the traditional academic restraints to experiment.

"They were a generation of artists making what was called the Delhi art scene, and Arpita was quite centrestage. Prior to that, the centre was Bombay. She never allowed herself to be rolled over. She was one of the makers of the art scene in the city," said fellow artist Nilima Sheikh.

She recalled meeting Singh for the first time while still a student. "It was a fangirl moment," she said. Sheikh went on to exhibit with Singh, alongside Madhvi Parekh and Nalini Malani, in what was a landmark feminist exhibition in 1987.



Arpita Singh's *My Lollipop City: Gemini Rising*. VADEHRA ART GALLERY

For Vadehra, Singh, a Padma Bhushan awardee, was "equally a friend and a constant source of wonder".

Chronologically, her career places her a little after India's great modernists, including the Bombay Progressives MF Husain, SH Raza and KH Ara.

But her style, inimitably detailed with a penchant for narrative storytelling, made her incredibly contemporary, a quality that can partly be attributed to the four years she spent learning textile embroidery, particularly Kantha, at the Weavers' Service Centre in the sixties. Her famous, densely packed white dashes that fill her canvases like micro strokes evoke the repetitive stitch pattern of Kantha.


{ ARPITA SINGH 1936-2026 }

Singh's early phase was an intense exploration of lines, dots, scratches and texture, eventually developing into an expressive style that blended figures, text, images, abstraction, and everyday observations.

"She opened up ways of painting and drawing for subsequent generations. She was breaking norms all the time," said art historian Roobina Karode who curated the 2019 retrospective at KNMA.

In the seemingly playful *My Lollipop City*, for instance, Singh unravels the many layers of Delhi. "A lot of her paintings are about the city and what happens on the street — how the street starts invading your private space and the idea of safety," Karode said.

Those who have known Singh closely agree that she was not one for long conversations — succinct and unpretentious. The same was true of her art. "She was pointed and cryptic. She would convey her point strongly and clearly," said Karode.

In Singh's 1993 painting, People Around the Table, her authenticity finds its way onto her canvas. It shows a decadent table laid out with dressed-up guests sitting around it, except one — a naked woman who faces away from the table and out of the frame at the viewer.

"In life, she spoke little, but she spoke with an intensity around issues that mattered to her, and that she made the focus of her practice," said historian and curator Kishore Singh, adding, "In her studio nothing came in the way of her work mornings and afternoons, paintbrush in hand, asking for help only when she could no longer open the caps of her paint tubes and jars."

"She would reject you if you said more than your work did," said contemporary artist Anju Dodiya who first met Singh as an admirer in 1989 in Delhi.

It was Singh's feminist authority that left a lasting impression on Dodiya. "She had a complete sense of authority as an artist. She would paint an overweight, ageing woman sitting in her bra. She was defiant, confident and courageous, but it was all in her work. It wasn't about putting down statements," Dodiya said.

Singh could discern individual stories in a crowd, hear the silence amid noise and find significance in the everyday. She wanted her viewers to see that too — be it an innocuous money plant on the table or an unremarkable yellow wall.

"I had once asked her how she arrived at her colours and she said, 'Behind you, I see the yellow colour. It will come back to me when I paint, and I will put a portrait with a yellow frame," Karode said.

Sheikh remembers Singh telling her once — if you want to be an artist never do two things — drive a car and bake a cake. Both, in Singh's household, were her husband's responsibility; a wry rejection of the "double burden" often borne by women.

Singh's final rites were held Monday afternoon at the Lodhi crematorium in Delhi.

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा
Bank of Baroda

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E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

ANNEXURE-A SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF MOVABLE PROPERTIES APPENDIX-IV-A [See proviso to Rule 6 (2) & 8 (6)/ 9(1)]

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of MOVABLE Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 6 (2) & 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the borrower(s), Mortgagor(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immoveable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis for recovery of dues in below mentioned account/s. The details of Borrower/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/s / Guarantor/s / Mortgagor(s)	Total Dues	Date & Time of E-auction	1. Reserve Price 2. EMD Amount 3. Bid Increase Amount	Status of Possession (Symbolic / Physical)	Moveable Assets Inspection date & Time
1	**1. Eva Nursing Home** Godrail Pally Near gour Kanya Bus Stand Makdumpur English Bazar Dist:-Malda, West Bengal 732103 **2. Sri Tapas Sikdar, S/o- Kshitish Chandra Sikdar, ,** **3. Smt. Lakshmirani Sikdar (Guarantor), W/o-Sri Tapas Sikdar** At- Ramkrishna Mission Road, Mission Ghat, P.O.-Mokdumpur, P.S. English Bazar, Dist.- Malda, Pin-732101, West Bengal W. No-08, H.No- 26/27(A)	**Rs. 2,67,38,744.52 + interest and charges w.e.f. 31-10-2026**	**14.12.2026 Time- 2.00 PM to 6.00 PM with unlimited extenslon of 10 mInutes**	**Rs. 3,70,37,034.00/-** **Rs. 37,03,703.40/-** **Rs. 50,000.00/-**	**Symbolic**	**From 07-12-2026, 02:00 PM to 04:00 PM Concerned Officer Mr. Deepak Kumar Mobile: 9631001100 (with prior appointment)**

Detailed description of the moveable assets with known encumbrances, if any (owner / Mortgagor name Eva Nursing Home & Sri Tapas Sikdar & Smt. Lakshmirani Sikdar)
ANNEXURE-I MOVEABLE ASSETS WITH RESERVE PRICE

Sl. No.	ITEM DESCRIPTION	Reserve Price (Rs.)
1	Ground Floor Glass and ACP Channel Installation Change	6,793.76
2	First Floor Glass and ACP Channel Installation Change	27,175.03
3	Second Floor Glass and ACP Channel Installation Change	54,350.06
4	Third Floor Glass and ACP Channel Instaillation Change	54,350.06
5	Fourth Floor Glass and ACP Channel Installation Change	47,556.30
6	Electric Wearing for Panel Board	20,381.27
7	Panel Board Installation Charge	20,381.27
8	Ups Installation Charge	13,587.52
9	Ups Electric Wearing Charge	13,587.52
10	A.C Installation Charge and Wearing Charge	27,175.03
11	GIZER,Exzost fan,Sound Systems,Computer Wearing Charge	27,175.03
12	Electric Miter Wearing Charge	20,381.27
13	Building Outside Electric Wearing Charge and Glow sign board	33,968.79
14	X-ray Room Wearing and Armor Cable Wearing Charge	35,327.54
15	CR 15X	5,08,889.96
16	ELYSA READER E21	84,527.49
17	YUMIZEN CA60	1,08,678.19
18	ST-200 CL ELECTEOLYTE ANALYZER	1,06,866.89
19	ABX MICROS ES60 OTB	2,11,318.70
20	URINE ANALYSER (CLINITEK STATU	45,282.58
21	LABOMED LX-300 BINO LED	28,980.85
22	COLORIMETER 8 FILTERS(018)	9,056.51
23	BLOOD MIXER MACHINE	5,132.03
24	HOT AIR OVAN 12X12X14	9,660.28
25	CENTRIFUGE M/C.(8T)C-854/8	24,147.14
26	ESR STAND SPRING	1,509.42
27	INCUBATOR DIGITAL 12x12x14	12,075.35
28	Electric Wiring point for Ground floor	54,689.75
29	Electric Wiring point for 1st floor	48,745.21
30	Electric Wiring point for 2nd floor	71,334.46
31	Electric Wiring point for 3rd floor	83,223.53
32	Electric Wiring point for 4th floor	72,523.36
33	Electric Wiring point for 5th floor	24,967.06
34	Total Armerd cable wring	1,18,890.76
35	8 Recaption table+ front glass + Steal chair	1,18,890.76
36	3 Doctors Chambar + Three office room	1,69,843.94
37	3 Doctors Room table + chair + Patient bed + Sofa	1,01,906.37
38	1st floor + 2nd floor + 3rd floor glass + Lab Table + USG, ECG table	2,37,781.52
39	General Beds, MS with Mattréss, IV Rod (Qty-8)	96,647.78
40	Bedside Locker, Std (Qty-8)	45,303.65
41	Over Bed Table, Fixed (Qty-4)	24,161.94
42	Bed side Screen 4 panel (Qty-2)	10,570.85
43	IV Stand (Qty-4)	9,966.80
44	OT Table for Minor OT-2 section	11,325.91
45	Instrument Trolley SS	9,438.26
46	Instrument set for Minor OT	14,333.36
47	Spot Light LED	17,200.03
48	Basic Diathermy	60,916.77
49	Suction Machine 1/2hp	14,333.36
50	12 Channel ECG	82,416.80
51	3 Channel ECG	39,416.73
52	Spirometry(Ultrasonic)	1,11,083.52
53	X-Ray (100 mA) High Frequency	2,50,833.74
54	Table with Bucky	26,427.13
55	Chest Stand	5,375.01
56	Lead Jacket (Qty-2)	15,101.22
57	Labour Table-3 Sec, SS Frame	64,500.11
58	Spot LED Light	18,121.46
59	Radient Warmer	64,180.16
60	Phototherapy	25,083.37
61	Baby Bassinet	24,161.94
62	Baby Cradle	7,173.08
63	Crashcart (Medicine Trolley)	16,611.34
64	Semi Fowler Beds (Cabin) with Mattress(Qty-3)	50,966.60
65	Bedside Locker Std(Qty-17)	96,270.25
66	Over Bed Table(4)	24,161.94
67	Nebulizer(2)	17,200.03
68	General Beds with Mattress, IV Rod(Qty-14)	1,69,133.61
69	Fetal Doppler	39,416.73
70	IV Stand(Qty-10)	24,917.01
71	Bedside Stool -SS Top(Qty-10)	16,611.34
72	Fowler Bed with Mattress - Manual(Qty-9)	2,37,844.14
73	Bed Side Locker Delux(Qty-9)	61,159.92
74	IV Stand -SS(Qty-9)	23,784.41
75	Ventilator - Adult/Paed(Qty-2)	12,90,002.11
76	entilator - Neonatal	8,95,834.80
77	Monitor with optional IBP(Qty-8)	5,44,667.56
78	Syringe Pump(Qty-10)	2,15,000.35
79	Infusion Pump(2)	93,166.82
80	Over Bed Table - Adjustable(Qty-8)	75,506.08
81	Crashcart	18,121.46
82	Defibrillator	1,18,250.19
83	BIPAP(Qty-2)	1,21,833.53
84	ABG Machine	3,22,500.53
85	Nebulizer(Qty-2)	1,791.67
86	Laryngoscope (Adult/Paed/Neonatal)(Qty-2)	13,616.69
87	Radlant Warmer(Qty-4)	2,43,667.07
88	Phototherapy(Qty-4)	1,00,333.50
89	Bed Side Locker Std(Qty-4)	24,161.94
90	IV Stand(Qty-4)	9,966.80
91	Table top Pulse Oximeter(Qty-4)	1,29,000.21
92	Neonata Bubble CPAP	2,50,833.74
93	Infusion Pump	46,583.41
94	Bed for Pediatric with Mattress(Qty-5)	77,393.73
95	Bed Side Locker Std(Qty-5)	30,202.43
96	IV Stand(Qty-4)	9,966.80
97	Nebulizer for Neonat(Qty-2)	2,293.34
98	Crashcart	18,121.46
99	Suction Machine 1/4 hp	11,466.69
100	Monitor for PICU with Nellcor Sp02(Qty-5)	3,40,417.22
101	OT Table C-Arm Compitable with Ortho attachment - Electric	1,69,888.67
102	OT Table - Hydraulic	56,629.56
103	OT Light - Double Dome LED 160/160 lux(Qty-2)	2,22,167.03
104	Anesthesia Workstation 3 Gas with Vapo(Qty-2)	9,31,668.19
105	Monitor with EtCO2(Qty-2)	3,08,167.17
106	Suction Machine 1/2 hp(Qty-2)	28,666.71
107	Laproscopic Set - High Definition	16,12,502.64
108	Lap. Hand Instrument Set	1,25,416.87
109	Open Surgery Instrument Set(Qty-4)	2,15,000.35
110	Diathermy 400 wt	1,07,500.18
111	Autoclave Machine Vertyicle(Qty-2)	93,166.82
112	Syarige Pump(Qty-2)	43,000.07
113	C-ARM	16,12,502.64
114	Fowler Bed 4 Fold(Qty-2)	60,404.86
115	Monitor -5 para(Qty-2)	1,07,500.18
116	Defibrillator - Biphasic	1,18,250.19
117	Strether Trolley SS Top with Safety Belt(Qty-2)	52,854.25
118	Folding Stretcher - 2 fold(Qty-2)	18,121.46
119	Wheel Chair - Folding(Qty-2)	18,876.52
120	Consumable Item	1,51,012.15
121	Instrument Cabinet, Mayo Trolley, Strelization Drum, Tray of different Sizes, Sterilization Drum etc	1,88,765.19
122	Lfe Line .50 mm Cable RD(Qty- 10 Coil)	3,416.32
123	Life Line .75mm Bk Cable-180mtr(Qty- 4 Coil)	3,372.95
124	Life Line .75mm Bl Cable-180 Mtr(Qty- 4 Coil)	3,372.95
125	Life Line .75mm GN Cable-180mtr(Qty- 4 Coil)	3,372.95
126	Life Line .75mm RD Cable-180myr(Qty- 4 Coil)	3,372.95
127	Life Line .75mm YL Cable-180mtr(Qty- 4 Coil)	3,372.95
128	Life Line 1.0mm BL Cable-180mtr(Qty- 4 Coil)	4,509.53
129	LIFE LINE 1.0 MM CABLE(BLK)180 MTR(Qty- 4 Coil)	4,509.53
130	LIFE LINE 1.0 MM CABLE(RD)180 MTR(Qty- 4 Coil)	4,509.53
131	Life Line 1.0mm GN Cable-180mtr(Qty- 4 Coil)	4,509.53
132	Life Line 1.0mm YL Cable-180mtr.(Qty- 4 Coil)	4,509.53
133	Life Line 1.5mm Bik Cable-180mtr.(Qty- 3 Coil)	4,929.27
134	Life Line 1.5mm Blue Cable-180mtr.(Qty- 3 Coil)	4,929.27
135	Life Line 1.5mm Red Cable-180mtr.(Qty- 3 Coil)	4,929.27
136	Life Line 1.5mm Yelow Cable-180mtr.(Qty- 3 Coil)	4,929.27
137	2.5MM WIRE 180 MTR YL (HAVELLS)(Qty- 3 Coil)	7,844.52
138	LIFE LINE 2.5 MM CABLE(BLK) 180 MTR (Qty- 4 Coil)	10,459.36
139	LIFE LINE 2.5 MM CABLE(BLU) 180 MTR (Qty- 4 Coil)	10,459.36
140	LIFE LINE 2.5 MM CABLE(RD)180 MTR(Qty- 4 Coil)	10,459.36
141	Life Line 4.0mm BK Cable-180mtr	3,955.34
142	Life Line 4.0mm BL Cable-180mtr	3,955.34
143	Life Line 4.0mm RD Cable-180mtr(Qty- 2 Coil)	7,910.68
144	6.0mm Wire Havells 180 Mtr BK(Qty- 3 Coil)	17,772.98
145	6.0mm Wire Havells 180 Mtr BL(Qty- 2 Coil)	11,848.66
146	6.0mm Wire Havells 180 Mtr RD(Qty- 3 Coil)	17,772.98
147	6.0mm Wire Havells 180 Mtr YL(Qty- 2 Coil)	11,848.66
148	SC 10 MM RD Cable(Qty- 2 Coil)	11,323.75
149	SC 10 MM BK Cable	5,661.87
150	SC 10 MM YL Cable	5,661.87
151	SC 10mm BL Cable	5,661.87
152	Life Line .75mm Bk Cable-180mtr(Qty- 3 Coil)	2,685.84
153	Life Line .75mm GN Cable-180mtr(Qty- 3 Coil)	2,685.84
154	2.5MM WIRE 180 MTR YL (HAVELLS)(Qty- 3 Coil)	8,328.68
155	LIFE LINE 2.5 MM CABLE(BLK) 180 MTR (Qty- 3 Coil)	8,328.68
156	IZZOK 10A.FUSE (BR) FIRE PC (Qty-300 Pcs)	4,131.28
157	IZZOK 10M ULTRA PLATES (WHITE) PLR (Qty-100 Pcs)	4,179.52
158	IZZOK 10M ULTRA PLATES (MT.BLUE) PLR (Qty-50 Pcs)	4,449.91
159	IZZOK 12M. BIGG BOSS PLATE (RR) PLAYER (Qty-250 Pcs)	18,375.42
160	IZZOK12M BIGG BOSS PLATE (WH)PLAYER (Qty-150 Pcs)	7,731.64
161	IZZOK 12M (H) ULTRA PLATES (GR. RED) PLR(Qty-200 Pcs)	9,446.04
162	IZZOK 12M G.I. BOX (PLAYER) (Qty-50 Pcs)	2,038.13
163	IZZOK 12M (H) ULTRA PLATES (WH) PLR (Qty-80 Pcs)	3,832.77
164	8"X10" CUTTING P. SWITCH BOARD PREETI PLAST 1 B=5 P (Qty-200 Pcs)	7,625.31
165	8"X6" CUTTING P. SWITCH BOARD PREETI PLAST 1 B=5 P (Qty-150 Pcs)	4,165.93
166	15 Amp1 Way Plastic Switch Borad (Rhino)(1box-10p)(Qty-100 Pcs)	1,203.85
167	15AMP 2WAY PLASTIC SWITCH BORAD (1BOX-10PC) KRISH (Qty-100 Pcs)	1,426.69
168	GSN GOLD PVC TRUNKING PROFILE 3 4" CLASSIC (Qty-500 Pcs)	12,908.14
169	SILVERLINE MCB DB BOX 6X8 (Qty-100 Pcs)	19,332.32
170	SQUARE BOX PT (1box = 50pcs) (Qty-500 Pcs)	1,909.05
171	PRIMCO PLAST PVC TRUNKING PROFILE 3/4" (25X12MM) (Qty-250 Pcs)	6,917.74
172	Izzok 1M 6a. 1 Way Switch (Flaton) (Wh) PLR (Qty-100 Pcs)	12,344.26
173	IZZOK 16A.TOP (WH) ACC (Qty-200 Pcs)	4,011.03
174	IZZOK 1M 16A.-1WAY Switch (Flaton) PLR (WH) (Qty-800 Pcs)	14,641.91
175	IZZOK 18M BIGG BOSS PLATE (WH) PLAYER (Qty-200 Pcs)	14,796.80
176	IZZOK 1M/2M PVC SURFACE BOX PLR (Qty-500 Pcs)	8,920.20
177	IZZOK 2PIN TOP (ACC) (Qty-1000 Pcs)	5,435.01
178	IZZOK 2X1 SOCKET (BR) FIRE (Qty-3050 Pcs)	31,081.44
179	IZZOK 2M ULTRA PLATES (WH) PLAYER (Qty-300 Pcs)	4,946.53
180	IZZOK 1M MINI DIMMER(WH) PLAYER (Qty-400 Pcs)	15,489.77
181	IZZOK 10A.FUSE (BR) FIRE PC (Qty-50 Pcs)	688.55
182	IZZOK 10A, FUSE (WH) FIRE PC (Qty-50 Pcs)	688.55
183	IZZOK 12M. BIGG BOSS PLATE (RR) PLAYER (Qty-100 Pcs)	7,350.17
184	IZZOK 10M F/AW ULTRA (MT..RED) PLATE (Qty-10 Pcs)	1,719.30
185	IZZOK12M BIGG BOSS PLATE (WH) PLAYER (Qty-30 Pcs)	1,546.33
186	IZZOK 12M (H) ULTRA PLATES (GR. RED) PLR (Qty-100 Pcs)	4,723.02
187	IZZOK 1M 6A. 1 WAY SWITCH(WH) PLAYER (Qty-1300 Pcs)	12,982.87
188	Izzok 10A S/P MCB WH PLAYER (S) (Qty-6 Pcs)	492.53
189	IZZOK 1M 6A.2WAY SWITCH (FLATON)PLR (WH) (Qty-1050 Pcs)	15,572.31
190	IZZOK 100A. BUSBAR (Qty-10 Pcs)	11,413.51
191	IZZOK 10A.FUSE (BR) FIRE PC (Qty-290 Pcs)	2,754.19
192	Izzok 10A S/P MCB WH PLAYER (S) (Qty-14 Pcs)	1,149.25
193	IZZOK 1OM FAW ULTRA BASIC (G.RED) (Qty-25 Pcs)	2,135.28
194	IZZOK 10M FW ULTRA (MT..RED) PLATE (Qty-10 Pcs)	1,719.30
195	IZZOK 10M ULTRA PLATES (MT.BLUE) PLR (Qty-10 Pcs)	889.98
196	IZZOK 10M ULTRA PLATES (WHITE)PLR (Qty-10 Pcs)	4,179.52
197	IZZOK 12M (H) ULTRA PLATES (GR.RED) PLR (Qty-100 Pcs)	4,723.02
198	IZZOK 16A.TOP (WH) ACC (Qty-200 Pcs)	4,011.03
199	IZZOK 18M PVC SURFACE BOX PLAYER. (Qty-100 Pcs)	5,657.16
200	G.I 6 MODULAR BOX (1b = 15p) (Qty-200 Pcs)	8,580.52
201	3 Moduler Gi Box (Rhino) (Qty-500 Pcs)	9,270.08
202	Primco Plast Pvc Trunking Profle 38MM (Qty-300 Pcs)	17,766.36
203	Sprite No.1 Pipe (1) 10.800-KGS	605.40
204	Sprite No.1 Pipe (1) 12.850 KGS	720.31
205	Sprite No.1 Pipe (1) 10.250 KGS	574.57
206	Switch Fuse Unit 16A 240V N.L (Qty-30 Pcs)	6,450.67
207	Switch Fuse Unit 32A 240V D.P (Qty-30 Pcs)	13,184.65
208	IZZOK 1M 6A.2WAY SWITCH (FLATON)PLR- (WH) (Qty-200 Pcs)	2,966.15
209	IZZOK 2M BIGG BOSS PLATE (PB) PLAYER (Qty-800 Pcs)	26,338.04
210	IZZOK 4M BIGG BOSS PLATE (RR) PLAYER (Qty-700 Pcs)	26,603.00
211	IZZOK 1M 16A. 1WAY Switch (Flaton) PLR (WH) (Qty-1250 Pcs)	22,877.98
212	IZZOK 1M 25A.SP MCB (WH) PLAYER (Qty-150 Pcs)	6,167.37
213	IZZOK 1M/2M PVC SURFACE BOX PLR (Qty-150 Pcs)	2,676.06
214	IZZOK 1M 4STEP REGULATOR CHROME (WH) PLAYER (Qty-80 Pcs)	5,652.41
215	Izzok 1M 6a. 1 Way Switch (Flaton) (Wh) PLR (Qty-1500 Pcs)	18,516.39
216	IZZOK 10A.FUSE (BR) FIRE PC (Qty-200 Pcs)	2,754.19
217	IZZOK 12M G.I. BOX (PLAYER) (Qty-100 Pcs)	4,076.25
218	IZZOK 1M 16A. 1WAY Switch (Flaton) PLR (WH) (Qty-850 Pcs)	15,557.03
219	IZZOK 18M G.I. BOX (PLAYER) (Qty-60 Pcs)	2,956.10
220	IZZOK 1M 4 STEP REGULATOR (WB) PLAYER (Qty-350 Pcs)	16,364.12
221	IZZOK 1M 6A. 1 WAY SWITCH(WH) PLAYER (Qty-1450 Pcs)	14,480.89
222	SVSH05-12W SURFACE RD WH (Qty-320 Pcs)	57,067.56
223	G.I 8 MODULAR BOX (1b = 15p) (Qty-1000 Pcs)	40,864.45
224	G.I. 2 MODULAR BOX (1BOX-45p) (Qty-2000 Pcs)	31,020.30
225	8X6 CUTTING PLASTIC SWITCH BOARD (RHINO) 1BOX-5PC (Qty-800 Pcs)	23,979.25
226	5 WAY RHINO (1 BOX-10 PCS.)(Qty-1000 Pcs)	12,473.34
227	3X3 SQUARE BOX (RHINO) (1 BOX-50 PCS) (Qty-1500 Pcs)	6,389.53
228	Gsn Gold Pve Trunking Profile 20/25 mm Classic 6ft. (Qty-2000 Pcs)	42,066.95
229	GSN GOLD PVC CONDUIT PIPE 25MM 9FT (11.800 KGS)	928.65
230	GSN GOLD PVC CONDUIT PIPE 25MM 9FT (12.100 KGS)	952.25
231	GSN GOLD PVC CONDUIT PIPE 25MM 9FT (14.700 KGS)	1,156.88
232	GSN GOLD PVC TRUNKING PROFILE 3/4" CLASSIC (Qty-2500 Pcs)	28,686.64
233	PRIMCO PLAST PVC TRUNKING PROFILE 3/4" (25X12MM) (Qty-2000 Pcs)	55,341.95
234	PRIMCO PLAST PVC TRUNKING PROFILE "1" (32X12MM) (Qty-1500 Pcs)	42,066.95
235	7 WAY RHINO (1 BOX-10 PCS) (Qty-800 Pcs)	13,690.78
236	Sprite No.1 Pipe (1) 10.200 KGS	571.76
237	Sprite No.1 Pipe (1) 10.300 KGS	577.37
238	Sprite No.1 Pipe (1) 10.400 KGS	582.97
239	Sprite No.1 Pipe (1) 12.870 KGS	721.43
240	Sprite No.1 Pipe (1) 12.880 KGS	721.99
241	Sprite No.1 Pipe (1) 11.550 KGS	647.44
242	Life Line (Yellow) 10.200 KGS	582.92
243	Life Line (Yellow) 13.400 KGS	765.80
244	Sprite No.1 Pipe (1) (10.450 KGS)	585.78
245	Switch Fuse Unit 16A 240V N.L (Qty-200 Pcs)	43,004.49
246	Switch Fuse Unit 32A 240V D.P (Qty-150 Pcs)	65,923.23
247	Change Over Switch 32A 240V D.P (Qty-80 Pcs)	41,951.18
248	SWITCH FUSE UNIT 32A 415V T.P (Qty-80 Pcs)	53,641.88
249	SUPER SPRITE (10.800 KGS)	512.29
250	SVSH10-5W PANEL BL RD (Qty-60 Pcs)	7,362.94
251	SVSH 10-16W PANEL GR RD (Qty-500 Pcs)	72,601.49
252	SVSH03-3W PANEL RD BLUE (Qty-500 Pcs)	40,151.11
253	SVSH03-3W PANEL RD GREEN (Qty-500 Pcs)	41,985.42
254	SVSH03-3W PANEL RD PK (Qty-500 Pcs)	49,818.63
255	SVSH03-3W PANEL RD RED (Qty-500 Pcs)	31,305.64
256	3 WAY RHINO (1 BOX-20 PCS) (400 PCS)	3,655.04
257	2 WAY RHINO (1 BOX-20 PCS) (250 PCS)	1,995.67
258	8X10 Cutting Plastic Switch Borad (1 Box-5p) Rhino (200 PCS)	8,288.38
259	20 MM PVC BEND (80 PCS)	367.95
260	20mm Pvc Band (Ivory) (25pic/pkt) (20PKT)	1,257.12
261	Panel PVC Round Sheet (1pkt = 50pcs) Krish (200 PCS)	608.72
262	15 Amp1 Way Plastic Switch Borad (Rhino)(1box-10p) (100 PCS)	1,203.85
263	4 Moduler Gi Box (Rhino) (30 PCS)	671.36
264	Sprite No.1 Pipe. (1) (12.020 KGS)	677.34
265	MAYUR NO 1-YELLOW (7.800 KGS)	480.10
266	MAYUR NO 1-YELLOW (8.800 KGS)	541.65
267	MAYUR NO 1-IVORY (10.800 KGS)	656.17
268	SVSH10-9W PANEL PK RD (Qty-350 Pcs)	59,642.40
269	GRIE 8M ITALIAN EXPRESSO PLATE (Qty-200 Pcs)	29,869.44
270	STRIKER 5W GREEN	16,292.79
271	SVSH10-5W PANEL BL RD (Qty-200 Pcs)	24,543.13
272	SVSH10-5W PANEL GR RD (Qty-200 Pcs)	24,579.82
273	GSN GOLD PVC TRUNKING PROFILE 3/4" CLASSIC (Qty-300 Pcs)	7,744.88
274	Hydrant Valve ss (Qty-7)	18,096.13
275	Hose Reel 30mtr	3,704.72
276	RRL Hose with coupling (Qty-7)	17,668.66
277	MS Hose Box (Qty-7)	14,961.36
278	Short Branch SS (Qty-7)	3,847.21
279	25 mm Ball Valve	249.36
280	Non Returning Valve(100 mm)	5,842.06
281	Elbow (150mm) (Qty-5)	2,849.78
282	Flinch (150mm) (Qty-4)	1,852.36
283	Butterfly valve 150 mm	3,277.25
284	Butterfly valve 100 mm (Qty-5)	11,399.14
285	Extinguisher (Qty-5)	11,969.09
286	NRV	6,768.24
287	Wafer Valve	2,992.27
288	Butterfly valve 80 mm	1,994.85
289	Pump 15 hp	50,227.44
290	Pump 5 hp	22,442.05
291	Smoke detector (Qty-36)	19,236.04
292	MCP(Qty-5)	1,959.23
293	Hotter(Qty-5)	1,959.23
294	Panel 6 zone	8,905.57
295	Pipe 150 mm(36 mtr)	47,448.90
296	Pipe 100 mm (40 mtr)	30,777.66
297	Pipe 80 mm (40 mtr)	50,761.77
298	Pipe 25 mm (270 mtr)	59,631.73
299	Hardware materials	54,651.73
300	30 HP Top discharge Outdoor unit (make Samsung)	2,10,905.11
301	22 HP Top discharge Outdoor unit (make Samsung)	1,71,360.40
302	0.8 Tr Wall Mounted unit (make Samsung) (Qty-4)	25,835.88
303	1.0 Tr Wall Mounted unit (make Samsung)	6,920.32
304	1.3 Tr Wall Mounted unit (make Samsung)	8,172.57
305	1.6 Tr Wall Mounted unit {make Samsung) (Qty-2)	16,872.41
306	2.0 Tr Wall Mounted unit (make Samsung) (Qty-2)	17,399.67
307	2.3 Tr Wall Mounted unit (make Samsung)	8,963.47
308	1.6 Tr Cassette unit (make Samsung)	15,883.79
309	2.3 Tr Cassette unit (make Samsung) (Qty-2)	33,349.37
310	3.3 Tr Cassette unit {make Samsung)(Qty-4)	71,971.37
311	4.1 Tr Cassette unit (make Samsung) (Qty-2)	38,490.18
312	6.5 Tr Ductable unit (make Samsung) (Qty-2)	85,680.20
313	Indoor unit Y Joint (make Samsung) (Qty-20)	44,817.34
314	Indoor unit Cord less remote (make Samsung) (Qty-9)	6,228.29
315	Indoor unit Corded remote (make Samsung) (Qty-2)	2,439.23
316	Lfe Line.50 mm Cable RD (10 Coil)	3,416.32
317	Life Line .75mm Bk Cable-180mtr (4 Coil)	3,372.95
318	Life Line .75mm Bl Cable-180 Mtr (4 Coil)	3,372.95
319	Life Line .75mm GN Cable-180mtr (4 Coil)	3,372.95
320	Life Line .75mm RD Cable-180myr (4 Coil)	3,372.95
321	Life Line .75mm YL Cable-180mtr (4 Coil)	3,372.95
322	Life Line 1.0mm BL Cable-180mtr (4 Coil)	4,509.53
323	LIFE LINE 1.0 MM CABLE(BLK)180 MTR (4 Coil)	4,509.53
324	LIFE LINE 1.0 MM CABLE(RD) -180MTR (4 Coil)	4,509.53
325	Life Line 1.0mm GN Cable-180mtr (4 Coil)	4,509.53
326	Life Line 1.0mm YL Cable-180mtr. (4 Coil)	4,509.53
327	Life Line 1.5mm Blk Cable-180mtr. (3 Coil)	4,929.27
328	Life Line 1.5mm Blue Cable-180mtr. (3 Coil)	4,929.27
329	Life Line 1.5mm Red Cable-180mtr. (3 Coil)	4,929.27
330	Life Line 1.5mm Yelow Cable-180mtr. (3 Coil)	4,929.27
331	2.5MM WIRE 180 MTR YL (HAVELLS) (3 Coil)	7,844.52
332	LIFE LINE 2.5 MM CABLE(BLK) 180 MTR (4 Coil)	10,459.36
333	LIFE LINE 2.5 MM CABLE(BLU) 180 MTR (4 Coil)	10,459.36
334	LIFE LINE 2.5 MM CABLE(RD)180 MTR (4 Coil)	10,459.36
335	Life Line 4.0mm BK Cable-180mtr	3,955.34
336	Life Line 4.0mm BL Cable-180mtr	3,955.34
337	Life Line 4.0mm RD Cable-180mtr (2 Coil)	7,910.68
338	6.0mm Wire Havells 180 Mtr BK (3 Coil)	17,772.98
339	6.0mm Wire Havells 180 Mtr BL (2 Coil)	11,848.66
340	6.0mm Wire Havells 180 Mtr RD (3 Coil)	17,772.98
341	6.0mm Wire Havells 180 Mtr YL (2 Coil)	11,848.66
342	SC 10 MM RD Cable (2 Coil)	11,323.75
343	SC 10 MM BK Cable	5,661.87
344	SC 10 MM YL Cable	5,661.87
345	SC 10mm BL Cable	5,661.87
346	Life Line.75mm Bk Cable-180mtr (3 Coil)	2,685.84
347	Life Line .75mm GN Cable-180mtr (3 Coil)	2,685.84
348	2.5MM WIRE 180 MTR YL (HAVELLS) (3 Coil)	8,328.68
349	LIFE LINE 2.5 MM CABLE(BLK) 180 MTR (3 Coil)	8,328.68
350	i) ANNU FLOW BC ADV (BUBBLE CPAP) ACDEL KYRON WITH STANDARD ACCESSORES, ii)STAND, iii)KHS-2000 -HUMIDIFIER, iv) HME FILTER	1,75,909.80
351	i)EPOC READER & POWER SUPPLY BATCH; 44489, ii) EPOC NXS HOST BATCH: T1H12XMC00350, iii) EPOC POS-III PRINTER BATCH: 2205120145, iv)EPOC CARRY CASE BATCH: EPOCBAG.	2,35,469.42
352	C-RAY PRO PLUS WITH PC BASED MEMORY	9,03,279.67
353	SA-CREST SYRINGE DRIVER (Qty-40Pcs)	7,76,429.49
354	ELECTROLAB MAKE SURGICAL DIATHERMY MODEL-M600 (Qty-3 Pcs)	2,27,469.56
355	100MA MOBILE LINE FREQUENCY X-RAY	2,03,555.99
356	WALL MOUNT CHEST STAND	6,361.12
357	BMC BIPAP Y25 T (RESMART G II) (Qty-4Pcs)	2,06,239.08
358	i)X-RAY MACHINE XRAD-300 (CANON TUBE),ii) MULTI-POSITION TABLE MANUAL TILT W/GRID 8:1	3,75,306.34
359	i) HOLTER RECORDER TRAC NEO T1, ii) HOLTER NEO T1 SOFTWARE	1,78,111.48
360	i) PENLON PRIMA 320 ANESTHESIA WORKSTATION, ii) BPL PEN- ISO-PO

Gokul row: Setback for Cong on chairman election eve as HC denies stay on ordinance

At Kolhapur rally, Cong MLC alleges plot by Mahayuti to 'dismantle' milk union

Alok Deshpande, Omkar Gokhale, Kalyani Lad & Manoj More
Mumbai, Kolhapur, Pune, November 9



Gokul dairy members and farmers protest in Kolhapur, Monday. PTI

THOUSANDS OF dairy farmers protested in Kolhapur Monday, days after the Maharashtra government gave voting rights to four government-nominated directors on the Gokul dairy board.

The decision – upheld earlier in the day by the Bombay High Court, which refused to stay the government ordinance – could overturn the outcome of last month's elections and hand control of the state's largest milk cooperative, Kolhapur Zilla Sahakari Dudh Utpadak Sangh Maryadit, to the ruling Mahayuti alliance.

In last month's elections, a panel led by Congress MLC Satej Patil won 13 of the 25 elected director seats, defeating the Mahayuti-backed panel, which secured 12.

Shortly after, the Mahayuti-led government decided to appoint four directors with voting rights, turning around the arithmetic and potentially shifting the control of the cooperative to its favour.

If the four nominees vote with the Mahayuti-backed directors, the ruling alliance will have 16 votes against Patil's 13. The chairman's election is scheduled to be held in Kolhapur on Tuesday, November 10, with all 29 directors, including the four government nominees, eligible to vote. The government has decided to apply the ordinance to the existing board despite opposition to its retrospective implementation.

On November 2, a bench led by Justice Abhay Ahuja, while hearing a separate petition filed by Satej Patil's panel, directed a fresh meeting be convened on November 10 after issuing notices to all 25 elected directors.

On November 6, the state government promulgated the ordinance, prompting the petitioners to challenge it.

Rejecting the plea for interim relief on Monday, Justice Neeraj P Dhote, presiding over the vacation bench, said the government's actions, including the ordinance, would depend on the outcome of the pending writ petition. "In my view, no case for interim protection or stay of the impugned ordinance exists. Resultantly, the prayer for an interim order/stay is rejected," the court held. Senior advocates appearing for the petitioners argued that the ordinance was a colourable exercise of power, alleging that it had been issued with an ulterior motive to alter the outcome of the Gokul elections. They also sought a stay on what they described as a patently arbitrary decision.

Representing the state, senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi and government pleader Neha Bhide, along with advocates for the Mahayuti-backed directors, opposed the pleas, arguing that the ordinance had been issued in accordance with the law.

The court left it open to the parties to approach the regular bench and directed the election officer to preserve the proceedings, ballot papers and other relevant documents.

It also ordered that after the counting, the ballot papers of the 25 elected directors and four government-nominated directors be kept separately, as the validity of the ordinance remains under challenge.

Stating that the Gokul dairy board did not merely relate appointing directors, Congress MLC Satej Patil alleged that the move "is a sinister plot by the Mahayuti government to dismantle the Gokul Milk Union and the cooperative sector".

He also alleged that the Mahayuti government was trying to tether Gokul to Amul "by appointing experts from Sangli". "We will never allow this attempt to destroy Kolhapur's self-respecting cooperative movement to succeed," Patil said, speaking after leading a protest march from Dasara Chowk to the District Collector's office in Kolhapur on Monday.

It drew thousands of farmers and political leaders from western Maharashtra.

He also publicly named the four proposed nominees – Shivaji Adnaik from Panhala, Dr Pravinchandra Hendre, a gynaecologist, Krishnat Patil from Kagal and advocate Prashant Patole from Sangli – and questioned their appointment.

"How many of them actually own buffaloes, who knows?" Patil asked. He said hundred years ago, Shahu Maharaj introduced cooperative laws. "In that very land of Shahu Maharaj, today, the cooperative movement is being trampled."

Meanwhile, farmer leader Raju Shetti, in his address, alleged that the Mahayuti government was trying to forcibly take over Gokul. "The government has no respect for democracy. It wants to use force to take over Gokul," he said.

Kannauj Cong leader shoots lawyer dead after Diwali clash

Bhupendra Pandey
Lucknow, November 9

A 42-YEAR-OLD advocate was allegedly shot dead by the general secretary of the Congress district unit following an altercation on Diwali evening in Uttar Pradesh's Kannauj district, police said.

The accused, Amol Dikshit, fled after the shooting and is yet to be arrested. The victim has been identified as Anuj Chaturvedi. The incident transpired around 6.30 pm on Sunday when Anuj's cousin, Abhishek alias Basant Chaturvedi, got into an argument with Dikshit, who runs a grocery shop near his house, Additional SP, Kannauj, Ajay Kumar told *The Indian Express*.

During the argument, Dikshit allegedly slapped Basant, following which the two exchanged abuses. Basant then called Anuj and told him about the incident, Kumar said.

Anuj, accompanied by his friend Deepak Pathak, reached Dikshit's shop on a motorcycle. Basant was also there. The three men got into an argument with Dikshit, who was sitting with his parents at the shop. As the argument escalated, Dikshit took out his licensed pistol from a drawer and allegedly fired four to five rounds at Anuj, leaving him critically injured.

TN library scam" Palaniswami for judicial probe

Tiruppur: AIADMK chief Edappadi K Palaniswami Monday sought a probe by a retired High Court judge to uncover the truth in the multi-crore library book procurement scam. He flayed the ruling TVK for going ahead and inaugurating the Periyar Arivulagam Library in Coimbatore, recently, without carrying out an inspection of the books and the infrastructure. PTI

Name Change

I, Dipanjana Mitra, W/O- Rama Prasad Dutta, residing at 345, B.B.D Road, P.O- Bhadrakali, P.S- Uttarpara, Dist- Hooghly, Pin- 712232. In my daughter Piyasa Dutta's birth certificate my name has been recorded as Dipanjana Dutta. Now I shall henceforth be known as Dipanjana Mitra as declared before the Judicial Magistrate 1st Class at Serampore Hooghly Court vide affidavit no.22157 dated 06/11/2026 Dipanjana Dutta and Dipanjana Mitra both are the same and identical person.

SALUTE THE SOLDIER



CAPT GURJINDER SINGH SURI, MVC (POSTHUMOUS)
IC-56980Y Capt Gurjinder Singh Suri, Maha Vir Chakra laid down his life while fighting the enemy during "OPERATION BIRSA MUNDA" in J&K while on attachment with 12 BIHAR. In the true traditions of the Indian Army, Capt Gurjinder Singh Suri displayed conspicuous bravery, excellent presence of mind and extraordinary junior leadership by killing three dreaded enemy. He will always be remembered and missed by all of us in the Army Ordnance Corps for his supreme sacrifice and gallant act.
DG OS & Sr Colonel Commandant and all ranks of the AOC

GORKHA RIFLES
5041534P L/HAV TUL PRASAD PUN



On this day 5041534P L/Hav Tul Prasad Pun of 5/1 Gorkha Rifles made the supreme sacrifice during 'OP RAKSHAK', Jammu & Kashmir on 10 Nov 1998 in a true act of valour. The brave soldier will always be remembered for his enthusiasm. To this brave heart we pledge that we shall always be guided by his immortal spirit and make his name proud.

INDO-TIBETAN BORDER POLICE (ITBP)



Assistant Commandant Surender Pal Singh Guleria
Vill.- Manayana
Distt.- Mandi
(HimachalPradesh)



Head Constable Lalit Singh
Vill.- Via Tara Nabiyal
Distt.- Pithoragarh
(Uttarakhand)

ITBP salutes its bravehearts Assistant Commandant Surender Pal Singh Guleria and Head Constable Lalit Singh of 10th Bn, who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty on this day in J&K in 2000.

CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE



Veer Balidani
Head Constable
Om Prakash
154 Bn
1-8-1962 To
10-11-2010



Veer Balidani
Head Constable
Balram Tigga
154 Bn
5-10-1964 To
10-11-2010

DG and all Ranks of CRPF pay solemn tribute to two valiant troopers of 154 Bn, who made the supreme sacrifice after sustaining grievous injuries in a cowardly attack by militants in district Baramulla, J&K on 10 November 2010. CRPF salutes the bravehearts and pledges never to let their sacrifice go in vain.



Veer Balidani
Constable
Yumnan Romio Meitei
177 Bn
1-3-1986 To
10-11-2007

DG and all Ranks of CRPF pay solemn tribute to Constable Yumnan Romio Meitei of 177 Bn, who made the supreme sacrifice after sustaining grievous injuries while valiantly countering an ambush by militants in Sopore, Baramulla, J&K on 8 November 2007. CRPF salutes the braveheart and pledges never to let his sacrifice go in vain.



Veer Balidani
Constable
Banshi Lal Lauch
33 Bn
15-11-1979 To
10-11-2006

DG and all Ranks of CRPF pay solemn tribute to Constable Banshi Lal Lauch of 33 Bn, who made the supreme sacrifice after sustaining grievous injuries in an IED blast in Assam on 10 November 2006. CRPF salutes the braveheart and pledges never to let his sacrifice go in vain.

17-yr-old Dalit girl dies 6 days after gangrape

Manish Sahu
Lucknow, November 9

ON THE evening of October 31, a 17-year-old Dalit girl told her family that she was stepping out of their home in Uttar Pradesh's Firozabad district to relieve herself. She never returned.

Her family searched for her everywhere, contacting her friends and relatives, but to no avail. The next day, a local resident spotted her lying unconscious in a field — around a kilometer from the house.

Police said she had been allegedly gangraped and assaulted by three men, including her friend. She was initially rushed to a local hospital, but doctors referred her to Agra. On November 6, after battling for her life for six days, she died, said police.

Police arrested the victim's friend, Rishi Yadav, 21, and his elder brother Jagat Yadav, 28, following an encounter on November 2, during which both sustained bullet injuries to their legs. The third accused, Rishi's friend, Ashiq alias Shivanshu, 24, was arrested the following day. Police said the involvement of the accused, all from neighbouring villages, was established through technical surveillance and analysis of call detail records. All three belong to the OBC category.

Bengaluru cabbie who killed wife, 6 others was bailed out by her in 2018 dacoity case

Express News Service
Bengaluru, November 9





Indushekhar is accused of killing wife Sunitha M J (right) and 6 others

TWO WEEKS before he allegedly killed his wife and six members of her family, 52-year-old Bengaluru cab driver S Indushekhar attended a court hearing in a 2018 dacoity case in which his Toyota Etios was used as a getaway vehicle.

He is among six persons under trial in the June 7, 2018, case, now set for a December hearing. Indushekhar, who was arrested within days of the dacoity based on technical evidence, was released on bail on the basis of a surety given by his wife Sunitha M J, whom he allegedly killed along with her mother on October 16.

The Bengaluru Rural trial court granted bail in 2022 to the cab driver by noting the filing of a surety affidavit by "M J Sunitha W/o S Indushekar aged about 35 years, a sale deed property, along with Aadhaar Card, tax paid receipt, demand register and declaration".

"He was arrested around seven years ago in a chain snatching case in Madanayakanahalli," Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh said on November 6. The Toyota Etios car was recently used to transport and dump the bodies in isolated, mountainous forest regions in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu between October 16-31.

The car was tracked down in 2018 on the basis of a Police Vaani sticker it carried. After his arrest, Indushekhar claimed he was a police informant and journalist for a local publication called 'Police Vaani'.

His car also bore the sticker of *Taana Varadi*, a monthly publication in Kannada and English registered on January 21, 2026, with Indushekhar as its editor and publisher.

Court records in the 2018 case indicate that Indushekhar denied his presence at the scene of the dacoity on June 7, 2018, by claiming to have been driving on an Uber trip in another car from Bengaluru to Belagavi. Police probes, however, revealed that Indushekhar's car was used during the robbery.

During an initial bail hearing in July 2018, Indushekhar produced bills to claim he was driving between Bengaluru and Belagavi on June 7-8. A sessions court rejected the bills as being created as alibi for bail.

On June 25, 2024, Indushekhar and five others were charged with robbing a couple of gold worth Rs 4.5 lakh during a temple festival. The specific charge against Indushekhar is that he participated in the 2018 dacoity "at the Vaderahalli village in Madanayakanahalli using a fake number plate on a Toyota Etios car with the registration KA 02 AF 1488 and a Police Voice nameboard".

Besides his wife Sunitha and her mother, Indushekar is alleged to have killed Sunitha's brothers, their wives, and his 7-year-old nephew.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
Office of the Additional Chief Engineer,
Drainage Circle, Baleshwar.
Email id: sedcbls@yahoo.cqm

32001/1291/2627

"e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE NO.- ACEDCBLS-I3 /2026-27

1	Name of work: -	Drainage works (Under D.I.P. Scheme)
2	Total No. of Project: -	07 No of Individual work.
3	Estimated cost of individual works: -	Varies from Rs. 4,75,59,122/- to Rs. 6,94,69,922/- (Excluding G.S.T.)
4	Period of completion: -	11 (Eleven) to 18(Eighteen) Calendar Months
5	Bid Identification Number: -	ACEDCBLS/DDBLS-01-13/2026-27 ACEDCBLS/DDBLS-02-13/2026-27 ACEDCBLS/DDBLS-03-13/2026-27 ACEDCBLS/DDBLS-04-13/2026-27 ACEDCBLS/DDBLS-05-13/2026-27 ACEDCBLS/DDBLS-06-13/2026-27 ACEDCBLS/DDBLS-07-13/2026-27
6	Date & Time of availability of Bid document in the Portal: -	From Dt.11.11.2026 at 10.00 hours to Dt.25.11.2026 at 17.00 hours
7	Date & Time for receipt of Bid document in the Portal: -	From Dt.11.11.2026 at 10.00 hours to Dt.25.11.2026 at 17.00 hours
8	Date of Opening of Technical Bid: -	Dt.26.11.2026 at 11.30 hours in the Office of the Additional Chief Engineer, Drainage Circle, Baleshwar.
9	Date of Opening of Financial Bid: -	To be uploaded in portal.
10	Cost of Tender Paper	Rs.10,000.00
11	Procurement Officer/ Name & address of the officer inviting Bids: -	Additional Chief Engineer, Drainage Circle, Baleshwar.

Further details can be seen from the Govt. Web site **www.tendersorissa.gov.in**

Sd/-
Additional Chief Engineer
Drainage Circle, Baleshwar

OIPR-32001/32128/1/26-27/0014

BENGALURU METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Traffic (Com) Department, 2nd Floor, Shanthinagar TTMC, K.H. Road, Bengaluru-560027. Telephone No: 080-22537575
Website : **www.mybmtc.com** e-mail : **ctmc@mybmtc.com**

COMMERCIAL ASSET-TENDER NOTIFICATION NO: 01/2026-27 (Call-2) (e-Procurement Platform)

No. BMTC/CO/TR/COM/5/2615/2026-27 Dated: 07.11.2026
Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation invites offers/bids from the interested Firm/Agency/Company for Maintaining/Running of vacant Commercial Assets at various land parcels through e-procurement platform.

Date of Pre-Bid meeting	**17.11.2026 at 11:00 hrs**	**Place: Chief Traffic Manager (Com) Chamber, 2nd Floor, Central Office, BMTC, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru.**
Last date & time for submission of bids		**07.12.2026 up to 17:00 hrs.**
Opening of Technical bids		**09.12.2026 at 11:00 hrs.**
Opening of Financial bids		**To be intimated later**

TENDER NOTIFICATION NO: 27/2026-27 (e-Procurement Platform)

No. BMTC/CO/TR/COM/F2-2160/2612/2026-27 Dated: 07.11.2026
Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation invites offers/bids from interested Firm/Agency/Company for granting of Advertisement rights for displaying on back Panel of 1000 TATA Electrical Buses through e-procurement platform.

Date of Pre-Bid meeting	**17.11.2026 at 11:00 hrs**	**Place: Chief Traffic Manager (Com) Chamber, 2nd Floor, Central Office, BMTC, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru.**
Last date & time for submission of bids		**07.12.2026 up to 17:00 hrs.**
Opening of Technical bids		**09.12.2026 at 11:00 hrs.**
Opening of Financial bids		**To be intimated later**

Further, EMD amount, measurement and all othre necessary details in this regard can be obtained in the e-procurement portal **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or by Contacting: 09240214000; 09240214001; 080-22483777 & 7760991222. E-mail: **ctmc@mybmtc.com.**

Sd/- Chief Traffic Manager (Com) (Tender inviting Authority)

ANDHRA PRADESH STATE CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED
(A STATE GOVERNMENT UNDERTAKING)
HEAD OFFICE, Door No.10-152/1, Sri Sai Towers, 4th & 5th Floor, Ashok Nagar, Besides Siris Company, Bandaru Road, Kanuru, Vijayawada-520007.

No.Proc/2026/KMS 2026-27 **TENDER NOTICE** Dated: 09-11-2026

Andhra Pradesh State Civil Supplies Corporation Limited (APSCSCL) invites bids from Empaneled Traders/Empaneled Bulk Buyers/Manufacturers of broken rice products for sale of Broken Rice generated in the account of Improved Rice under State Pool (Non-NFSA) KMS 2025-26 (Rabi) lying at different mill premises at various districts under APSCSCL, Head Office, Vijayawada through E- Auction. The intending Empaneled Traders /Empaneled Bulk Buyers/Manufacturers of broken rice products may participate in the e-auction conducted by M/s NCDEX e Markets Ltd (NeML) on behalf of Andhra Pradesh State Civil Supplies Corporation Limited (APSCSCL) on the website www.neml.in as per the following schedule: **(a) Start Date for filing Bid: 10.11.2026, (b) Last Date for Submission of Bid: 13.11.2026 upto 05:00 PM. (c) Date & time of start of e-auction: 18.11.2026 from 10.00 AM. (d) Date & time of close of e-auction: 18.11.2026 upto 01.00 PM.** Detailed instructions to bidders and terms & conditions governing the E-Auction may be seen at **www.neml.in** . Andhra Pradesh State Civil Supplies Corporation Limited (APSCSCL) reserves the right to reject any or all bid(s) or cancel or withdraw any lot or quantity of stocks and/or scrap the sale of Broken Rice through e-Auction at any stage without assigning any reasons and without any liability.

Sd/- VC & Managing Director, APSCSCL: Vijayawada.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER ELECTRICAL CIRCLE (R&B) NIRMAN SOUDHA BHUBANESWAR
E-mail seec.bbsr2010@gmail.com
Bid Identification No.S.E.E.C (R&B) 40/2026-27

34001/1136/2627

No 5320 / **Date 07.11.2026**

The Superintending Engineer, Electrical Circle (R&B) Odisha, Bhubaneswar on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids for E.I. works which are to be received through online bidding, double cover system as detailed in: **https://tendersorissa.gov.in.** The details of bid documents will be available in the above website from **dt.12.11.2026** at **05.00 P.M. to dt.27.11.2026 up to 05.00 P.M.** The bidders must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate of Class II or III. Bids received online shall be opened dt.30.11.2026 at 11.30 A.M. in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, Electrical Circle (R&B) Odisha, Bhubaneswar. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal **www.tendersorissa.gov.in.** Addendum/Corrigendum, if required, will be available only in the Website.

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer
Electrical Circle (R&B) Odisha, BBSR

OIPR- 34001/34006/1/26-27/0041

Odisha: Four bursting crackers manhandle woman IPS officer, held

Sujit Bisoyi
Bhubaneswar, November 9

POLICE ON Monday arrested at least four people in Odisha's Cuttack for allegedly manhandling a woman on-duty IPS officer following a dispute over bursting firecrackers during Diwali celebration.

Police said a confrontation broke out between police personnel and some locals at Nayasadak area in the city over bursting of firecrackers beyond the permissible time limit.

As per the guidelines issued by the Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB), bursting of firecrackers was allowed for only two hours -- 7 pm to 9 pm – on Sunday.

Some local residents were bursting crackers on the main road till 10.30 pm, causing difficulties for people travelling by that route, police said.

On receiving information, the police team headed by Ananya Awasthi, currently posted as the assistant commissioner of police (ACP), reached the spot and stopped the locals from bursting crackers.

This led to a heated argument between police and the local youths, which later escalated into a physical altercation, officials said.

In multiple videos of the incident that surfaced later, the accused could be seen misbehaving with and pushing Awasthi – a 2022-batch IPS officer.

At least 10 people were detained and questioned following which four were arrested by the Lalbagh Police Station personnel in Cuttack.

"Based on CCTV footage, we have identified and arrested at least four persons. We are verifying other footage to identify others. Strict action will be taken against all those involved in the unruly behaviour," said Cuttack deputy commissioner of police Rishikesh Dnyande Khilari.

The accused were booked under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) sections dealing with causing grievous hurt to a public servant, wrongful restraint, rioting, negligent conduct with respect to fire, criminal intimidation, and breach of public peace, among others.

Police said more people are likely to be arrested in connection with the incident.

TN cop confronts group bursting crackers on road, dies after scuffle

Arun Janardhanan
Chennai, November 9

A SPECIAL sub-inspector died after confronting a group of young men who were bursting firecrackers and filming social media reels in the middle of a road in Tamil Nadu's Theni on Diwali night, police said. Three local youths were arrested in connection with his death.

The officer, K Senthil Kumar, 56, was returning home from duty in plainclothes when he came across the group at about 10.30 pm on Sunday, in Samadharmapuram, Theni Allinagaram.

The group was setting off firecrackers in the roadway and obstructing traffic while filming the videos, according to a police official. Senthil Kumar, who was attached to the office of the Theni DSP, stopped and asked the group to clear the road. "He told them to set off the crackers at the roadside," an officer said. The group ignored him and began arguing with him.

The officer then took out his phone and began recording. An officer known to the incident said he sent the video to his office, and alerted the police control room and asked for a patrol team to be sent. A police official said members of the group surrounded and assaulted Senthil Kumar after he began filming.

In accounts of the scuffle, police sources said the officer tried to apprehend one of the young men and was struck with an elbow by another. He lost his balance and collapsed unconscious.

A police patrol team arrived and took him to a private hospital in the area.

He was later transferred to the Theni Government Medical College Hospital at G Vilakku, where he was declared dead. Police said Senthil Kumar had a history of heart-related ailments. The precise cause of death is still under investigation. Police sources said the post-mortem examination would help establish what caused his death.

Theni's superintendent of police visited the scene on Monday. The police are examining CCTV footage as part of their efforts to identify those involved. The three people arrested are from the locality, police said.

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda

TALAPARK BRANCH
29/1/1A, Northern Avenue, Kolkata-700030

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

ANNEXURE-A
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
"APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to Rule 8 (6) & or 9(1)]

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) & or 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 immoveable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of **Bank of Baroda,** Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is"** basis for recovery of dues in below mentioned account/s. The details of Borrower/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/s/ Guarantor/s / Mortgagor (s)	Detailed description of the immovable property with known encumbrances, if any	Total Dues	Date & Time of E-auction	Reserve Price / EMD amount / Bid Increase Amount	Status of Possession (Symbolic / Physical)	Property Inspection date & Time
1	**TANMOY DASGUPTA** Address- House No.-168, Bidhan Park, Barasat, North 24 Parganas, Pin-700124 (West Bengal)	**All Piece and Parcel of Equitable Mortgage of Bastu Land lying and Situated within Mouza- Murali A.D.S.R. Office Kadambagachi, Touzi No -12, J.L. No - 99, L. R. Dag No - 812, L.R. Khatian No - 265 and 580, Measuring About 01 Cottah 13 Chittacks 00 Sq. Ft. , within P. S – Duttapukur, under Choto Jagulia Gram Panchayat, Municipality City – Barasat - I, District- North 24 Parganas, West Bengal - 743248, property in the name of Mr. Tanmoy Dasgupta, Vide Deed No. I-1788/24.** Butted and Bounded as follows: On the North By : 6' Ft wide common Passage, On the South By : Other's Property , On the East By : Land of Bapi Saha, On the West By : Owner's Property and 8 Feet wide road	**Rs.13,41,164.30/- and as on 20.12.2025 (inclusive of interest up to 13.12.2025) and unapplied interest thereon and other charges at the contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment**	**26/11/2026** Time- 2.00pm to 6.00pm	**I. Rs.9,53,100/-** **II. Rs.95,310/-** **Iii. Rs.10,000/-**	Physical	**Any working Day 3:00pm-5:00pm Concerned Officer- Mobile- 9903198218 (with prior appointment)**

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer/link to the websites 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 9903198218

Date: 09.11.2026 **(Dhiraj Jaiswal)**
Place: Kolkata **Authorized officer, Bank of Baroda**

The Indian EXPRESS
~ FOUNDED BY ~
RAMNATH GOENKA
IN 1932

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

Walking the fiscal tightrope won't be easy

HALF WAY through the financial year, the Union government's fiscal position presents a mixed picture. On the revenue side, recent data from the Controller General of Accounts shows that gross tax collections have grown at a subdued 6.1 per cent during April-September this year, marginally slower than the full year growth factored in the budget estimates. Disinvestment proceeds, though, are expected to exceed expectations, driven by the IDBI stake sale. On the expenditure side, capital spending by the Centre is showing signs of slowing down, while there is the growing likelihood of the subsidy bill exceeding initial estimates. Together, these trends raise the risk of a fiscal slippage this year.

Direct taxes have grown at a fairly healthy pace, corporate taxes more than personal income taxes. But the bigger drag has been due to excise revenue. Collections have fallen sharply due to the excise duty cuts on petrol and diesel — revenue has been just Rs 1.07 lakh crore so far this year, as compared to Rs 1.38 lakh crore over the same period last year. But, according to ICRA, this could be "partly offset by excess collections on the customs duty front, which has expanded by a strong 16.5 per cent in H1 (first half) FY2027". On disinvestment, so far the government has mopped up Rs 55,757 crore and another Rs 6,366 crore in asset monetisation. Add to this the government's share in the IDBI stake sale — Fairfax Financial Holdings has been selected as the buyer for a 60.72 per cent stake in the bank for Rs 52,878 crore — and the target of Rs 80,000 crore this year is likely to be surpassed.

On spending, capital expenditure, which had grown at a staggering 23.7 per cent in the first quarter, slowed down to just 2.8 per cent in the second quarter. But, the subsidy bill is likely to overshoot its budgeted amount. According to CareEdge Ratings the "fertiliser subsidy bill to exceed budget estimates, rising to Rs 2.5-2.7 trillion as against the budgeted Rs 1.7 trillion". This will add to pressures on the fiscal deficit. The Union budget had pegged the fiscal deficit at 4.3 per cent of GDP. But, CareEdge ratings expects it to be in the range of 4.3-4.5 per cent. Economists at SBI also expect the deficit to be higher by Rs 1.2 lakh crore due to revenue loss on account of excise cuts, and increase in the fertiliser and petroleum/LPG subsidy. This fiscal arithmetic raises the possibility of expenditure rationalisation in coming months.

Court's relook at detention protects liberty

ON NOVEMBER 5, the Supreme Court (SC) reaffirmed a fundamental principle of natural justice that is also a feature of India's constitutional scheme. While overturning the denial of bail by the Tripura High Court in a Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act case, a bench comprising Justices Ujjal Bhuyan and A S Chandurkar held that "There is no such thing called temporary disruption of liberty". Any person detained by the state must be produced before a magistrate within 24 hours. *Sujit Das and Others v Union of India* rightly does away with the specious distinction between "detention" and "arrest", which is often used to short circuit the constitutional protections under Article 22. The proverbial clock begins ticking when the police take someone into custody, the Court has said, not after a formal arrest is made. Given the context of police excesses and laws that make bail difficult, the SC's assertion that "fundamental rights cannot be tinkered with so lightly, not even under the special statutes" is welcome.

At the heart of the judgment is a recognition of the role of the magistrate. It is at this stage that the claims of the arresting agency are first tested. Given that the "worst violations of human rights" often occur, as the Court said, during prolonged detentions, it is imperative for the magistrate and lower judiciary to scrutinise every arrest. In fact, Sujit Das follows from other recent SC verdicts, including *Prabir Purkayastha v State of Delhi* (2024), in which an arrest under the UAPA was voided because it did not follow the basic procedures laid down in law.

In *National Investigation Agency v Zahoor Ahmad Shah Watali* (2019), the SC said that while deciding on bail in UAPA cases, the state's version must, *prima facie*, be accepted. In the years since, the Court has carved out crucial exceptions, such as in *Union of India v K A Najeeb* (2021), which said that bail provisions under special laws must be seen in the context of prolonged trials and in *Sheikh Javed Iqbal v State of Uttar Pradesh* (2024), where it said that Watali cannot be treated as an absolute precedent to deny bail. Now, by dissolving the false dichotomy between "detention" and "arrest", the Court has gone a step further in championing liberty. The principle it has laid down must be given substance in the magistrate's office and the police *thana*.

A home for Bismillah Khan's shehnai

WHEN SHEHNAI maestro Ustad Bismillah Khan was at the peak of his career, a wealthy American admirer offered him a chance to settle in the US. Khan said, "But where will you get the Ganga from?" The matter was settled. Khan's music could travel anywhere, but he remained anchored to his favourite city, "Banaras", whose rituals, rhythms and piping hot kachoris from Kulsum Halwai shaped him as a musician.

But the city has struggled to protect the home Khan left behind. The demolition of a portion of Khan's 90-year-old disputed ancestral home by his grandson, Mohammad Sibtain, is a reminder of how fragile the legacy of India's greatest musicians can be. Sibtain says the structure was dilapidated and unsafe, and that he planned to dedicate part of the ground floor of the house to a museum dedicated to the Bharat Ratna musician, in collaboration with the Varanasi Municipal Corporation (VMC). While Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav has slammed the BJP, the VMC has said it had not received the family's request yet for a museum and had no role to play in the demolition.

How does one preserve the spaces that hold memories of a nation's cultural figures? Unlike the West, India has no system for acquiring and conserving such homes. While some, such as those of Ustad Alauddin Khan (managed by family until recently), and Girija Devi, are being restored years after their demise, many others have received little institutional attention. Most home museums remain privately owned and maintained. It makes for a stark contrast with how other countries preserve their heritage. Mozart's birthplace in Salzburg and Beethoven House in Bonn remain two of the biggest tourist draws for Austria and Germany. The demolition of a section of Khan's home should serve as a wake-up call for the government to move beyond commemorating cultural icons to safeguarding their legacies.

ECI's belated u-turn doesn't undo injustice of mass exclusion

DESHKAAL



ANJALI BHARDWAJ



AMRITA JOHRI



YOGENDRA YADAV

NOW, IT is disenfranchisement with a Diwali discount. On the eve of the festival, the Election Commission of India (ECI) issued a directive offering concessions to voters excluded by SIR in the seven states where the exercise has still not officially concluded. The concessions are not trivial. The ECI has conceded many of the procedural demands of the anti-SIR activists. The trouble with this festival offer is that the discount voucher has expired for all but a handful of the disenfranchised voters. For the rest, the ECI's communication is an admission of guilt and a cruel reminder of the unfair bulldozing of the voters' list in the name of SIR.

Following *The Indian Express*'s expose and the renewed anti-SIR stir, the ECI had already backtracked from many procedural irregularities. A report in this newspaper ('Election Commission completes Form 6 U-turn,' *IE*, November 4), lists these U-turns. But most of these are internal to the functioning of the ECI.

The latest volte-face is different. The ECI's letter of November 6 to the Chief Electoral Officer of seven states — Delhi, Maharashtra, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Telangana and Nagaland — is the most significant public-facing reversal on SIR by the ECI. It offers multiple reliefs to the 4.52 crore voters whose names were excluded from the draft SIR electoral rolls in these states. The all-India figure of such exclusions on grounds of "Absent, Shifted, Dead, Duplicate" (ASDD) is 13.3 crore. Now, in these seven states, the deadline for submission of enumeration forms has been waived. Voters who could not submit their forms by the deadline can still do so, with an explanation for the delay. Those who have shifted residence do not need to go through the torture of Form 6 and pretend to be a new voter. They can simply fill the enumeration form with a statement of their new address and come back to the rolls. Homeless persons, including those slum dwellers whose colonies were demolished, would now be saved from documentary harassment. A simple field verification by the BLO will suffice to include their names. The ECI would give wide publicity to these measures to ensure that no deserving voter is left out.

Two retractions of far-reaching implications are buried in the fine print of this communication. So far, the ECI has insisted that any wrongfully excluded voter has only one route to come back to the voters' list: Falsely declare to be a "new voter", fill Form-6 and come back to the rolls with a fresh EPIC number that leaves no trace of the past of that voter. Now the ECI has discovered a new provision in the law, Rule 21(1) of the Registration of Electors Rules 1960, that allows the ERO to take remedial action to correct names omitted due to "inadvertence or error". In another welcome turnaround, the ECI now directs that those excluded voters whose names are restored will be reassigned their old EPIC number. So far the ECI had stoutly resisted such suggestions. The two reversals confirm that the ECI has been bluffing for the last 16 months.

The ECI's climbdown did not happen on its own. An unwilling ECI had to be pushed by some scathing observations of the Supreme Court. This was during a hearing on a petition filed by two of the co-authors (Bhardwaj and Johri), questioning the SIR process in Delhi. While hearing this case on October 28, the Court underlined that forcing persons on the ASDD list to fill Form 6 was an "error" and a "structural incongruity". The bench headed by the CJI said that such voters should be allowed to fill Enumeration Form or Form 8 if they are marked as permanently shifted or as absent/ untraceable. The Court also observed that the legality of "Logical Discrepancy" was an open question.

> Even in the revised form, the SIR continues to shift the onus of being on the voters' list onto the voter

Yet the ECI dragged its feet. Instead of acting on the SC's oral directives, the ECI issued a clarification on November 3, doubling down on Form 6's use. In the weird clarification, the ECI assured the voters that notwithstanding the explicit wording of Form 6 of being a first-time voter, it would not be a false declaration and any apprehension regarding prosecution for false declaration is misplaced. In other words, the ECI said: We know you are making a false declaration, but don't worry, we won't prosecute you.

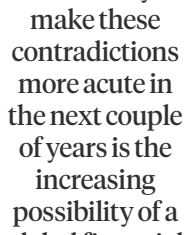
We don't know what prompted a rethink within two days. All we know is that there is a complete change of orientation. This is a stunning moral victory for the anti-SIR campaign. The ECI now speaks a language that it used to speak for 75 years, a language of inclusion, of ensuring that no eligible voter is left out.

Yet it does not redeem SIR, even if belatedly. If the ECI believes that the revised procedures are fair, it does not tell us why these were not made available to the three-fourths of the Indian states where SIR is done and dusted. Why should the voters in Bengaluru, who witnessed greater exclusion than Delhi, not have the benefit of these reliefs? What about states like Bihar and West Bengal that have had elections based on egregious deletions during SIR? Even in these seven states, where the SIR was practically over, what happens to all those voters who already submitted Form 6? Would they get their old EPIC back? The big question is: Will the ECI go out of its way to undo the massive exclusion in these and other states? Or, would it allow these new directions to remain on paper and file a report that only a handful of voters came back on the rolls?

Despite these sweeping reversals, the SIR continues to retain its structural features that run against the democratic principle of universal adult franchise. Even in this revised form, the SIR continues to shift the onus of being on the voters' list on to the voter. Its overturning of the presumption of citizenship continues. It continues to operationalise lineage-based voting rights. Even if these reliefs were available to everyone, the SIR retains its disenfranchising impulse. If anything, this belated backtracking underscores the value of democratic street protests. This admission of guilt by the ECI serves to strengthen peoples' resolve: With dicount or without discount, SIR is an unfair deal. It must be rolled back.

Bhardwaj and Johri are RTI activists and members, Satark Nagrik Sangathan and NCPRI. They are also litigants on the SIR process in Delhi. Yadav is member, Swaraj India, and national convenor, Bharat Jodo Abhiyan. Views are personal

Behind uprisings across the world — millions living on edge



AMIT JULKA

IN THE *Great Transformation*, Karl Polanyi presciently observed that allowing the market mechanism to "be the sole director of the fate of human beings" would result in social destruction. As political protests engulf Europe and India, along with electoral upsets redefining Brazilian and American politics, there is a tendency to give routine answers — the emergence of "disorder", the revolt of a frustrated youth against corruption, Trump-fatigue, and so on. It is, however, imperative that we understand the structural features and the limits of this political moment.

In the face of their own history, French politicians denounced the violent protests engulfing the country, attributing foreign involvement; never mind that the protests started over worsening conditions in French schools.

As the protests expanded, they mobilised deep-seated societal frustrations — each missed rent payment, ballooning grocery bills, and the ennui of an alienated life found expression in a revolt against the system. This disorder was, however, momentary — it found its ideological expression as unions began to organise the protests around the cost of living crisis. Critics argued that while the frustration is understandable, governments just don't have the money.

In Albania, discontent against a seaside resort promoted by Ivanka Trump expanded into a nationwide movement against the privatisation of the nation's coastlines by government-favoured oligopolies. "Corruption" and "cost of living" are disingenuous masks for hiding a larger structural failure. It is not as if the problem is a few corrupt men and temporary spikes of inflation — the people are simply tired of the commodification and marketisation of every aspect of their life. Want to walk on a beach? Rent a pricey resort. Want to live under a roof? Rent a dingy apartment (the speculators have bought all the apartments).

Here too, the movement morphed into a broader resentment over cost of living and government corruption. But "corruption" and "cost of living" are masking a larger structural failure. It is not as if the problem is a few corrupt men and temporary spikes of inflation — what is happening is not simply the marketisation of human life, but the renting of it. From houses to music to public commons, you simply can't own; you just rent.

A similar story played out across the Atlantic. While Lula's victory against Bolsonaro is being credited to a last-minute social media push, what equally mattered was a nationwide movement for the 40-hour work week. It boiled down to the same thing — millions of working-class people are living miserable lives with no scope for improvement. The hope once promised by neoliberalism — that they too will one day join the middle class has vanished.

Rather, the market pauperised the middle class, leaving millions on the edge.

A few degrees north, the United States's midterm elections were described as a political revolt against Trump and the rising inflation due to the Iran war. But there was also a progressive morality at the heart of this economic resentment, testified by the loss of many AIPAC-sponsored candidates.

However, going forward, the main challenge to the progressives will not come from the Republicans but from the mainstream wing of their own party and their media affiliates. Hours after the results, the old guard led by Hakeem Jeffries wasted no time in trying to discipline the movement. While Jeffries said that there was no question of impeaching the President, a CNN host tried to play off winning Democratic candidates against each other, asking the Texan James Talarico how he would stand up to the "far-left" Abdul el-Sayed.

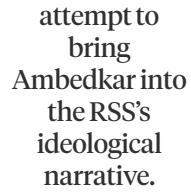
What may make these contradictions more acute in the next couple of years is the increasing possibility of a global financial crash, given the massive overinvestment in AI. This will increase both precarity and political unrest, prompting attempts to quell it and return to a neo-liberal status quo.

At the same time, there will be an increased demand on governments to provide succour. The trouble, however, is that governments themselves are hostage to the vagaries of international finance, and thus may find themselves with neither the capacity nor will to tame the beast (remember Obama in 2008). National governments will face a collective action problem; either they put up a united front or capitulate to capital, risking social unrest. Across the aisle, popular movements seeking purely national solutions to their problems will also face the same realisation — internationalise or perish.

The writer is assistant professor, Department of International Relations, Ashoka University

> What may make these contradictions more acute in the next couple of years is the increasing possibility of a global financial crash, given the massive overinvestmen t in AI. This will increase both precarity and political unrest

Caste harmony on whose terms? RSS has no answers



HARINDER S HAPPY

AN ARTICLE by Aditi Narayani Paswan ('RSS and the long road to Samajik Samrasta', *IE*, October 26) presents the RSS's engagement with caste as an evolving journey. But there is a fundamental problem with this notion: It confuses removal or rejection of certain caste-based prejudices with annihilation of the caste system.

Paswan's first line, "... the RSS is reaching out... to a broader spectrum of castes and communities," is telling. It shows that the RSS was not an organisation of all castes and communities and ignores the rising assertion among Dalits, due to which they are rejecting the subordination of dominant and "upper" caste groups. This is one of the main causes of the "outreach".

The idea of *samajik samrasta* (social harmony) raises an important question: Harmony between whom, on whose terms, and under what distribution of power? Caste is a system of graded inequality. Different castes occupy unequal positions in the distribution of resources, dignity, authority and power. B R Ambedkar's critique was directed at this structural arrangement.

In the *Annihilation of Caste* (1936), Ambedkar made it clear that caste could not be destroyed through superficial reforms while the authority of the doctrines sustaining it remained intact. A Dalit child playing in a *shakha* or being invited to an upper-caste household is not the same as a Dalit having an equal share in agricultural land, access to employment, and the power to challenge dominant caste authority.

Paswan's piece celebrates the RSS's emphasis on one temple, one well, and one cremation ground. These are significant sites of everyday caste exclusion. However, why should the discussion end there? We need to find out who the people are who are opposed to such ideas. Who owns agricultural land? Who controls the village economy? Who determines wages? Who holds positions of authority in the gram panchayat? Who controls religious institutions? Who has the power to impose social and economic boycotts? Who is expected to perform caste-assigned occupations? Who are in the decision-making bodies of the RSS?

One of the most problematic aspects of Paswan's article is its attempt to bring Ambedkar into the RSS's ideological narrative. It presents the engagement of RSS-associated figures with Ambedkar's writings as evidence of ideological convergence. Agreeing with passages of his work does not necessarily mean accepting his political project. Ambedkar was a radical critic of the caste order, its religious foundations and the power structures that reproduced it. His conversion to Buddhism in 1956 was a rejection of the religious order that had historically sanctioned his community's oppression. The distinction between appreciating Ambedkar and appropriating Ambedkar deserves serious attention.

Perhaps the most fundamental ideological contradiction lies in the RSS's project of Hindu consolidation — bringing different caste communities together under a common Hindu identity. What happens when the assertion of Dalit identity, independent political organisation, or conversion challenges that larger identity? What happens when they demand land, political representation, their seats in universities and lateral entry in UPSC, a share in institutional power and freedom from Brahmanical authority rather than simply inclusion? These questions cannot be answered through the language of *samrasta*.

> One of the most problematic aspects of Paswan's article is its attempt to bring Ambedkar into the RSS's ideological narrative. Agreeing with selected passages of Ambedkar's work does not necessarily mean accepting his political project

The writer, a PhD scholar at JNU, New Delhi, is research associate, Centre de Sciences Humaines, Delhi

40 YEARS AGO

November 10, 1986


SAREES
INDIAN EXPRESS
GOOD MORNING
EAGLE
Major fire at Bombay airport
50 feared dead in stampede at Ayodhya
Govt may set up judicial service
Cop killed in Punjab, Several trains cancelled
'Cinema Bandh' called off

Stampede in Ayodhya

AT LEAST 50 pilgrims were feared killed and over 30 injured, 15 of them critically, in a stampede during the *kartik parikrama* in Ayodhya. Thirty-two bodies have been recovered so far .Among the dead were 21 women and a number of children. Senior district officials have gone to the site to supervise rescue operations. The stampede occurred when the barrier ropes gave way.

On crackdown in Tamil Nadu

THE CRACKDOWN by the Tamil Nadu government on the Sri Lankan Tamil militants and their subsequent house arrest "has nothing to do with the good offices of India to find a political solution to the ethnic problem in the island republic." This was stated by an External Affairs ministry spokesman. The action was taken in the light of the "developments affecting the law and order situation" in Tamil Nadu. Asked whether the Centre had been consulted prior to the action, the spokesman said law and order was a state subject.

Cinema bandh called off

THE 31-day-old "cinema *bandh*" in Maharashtra was called off by the film industry's action committee following an agreement. Chavan said the imposition of sales tax on lease of films will be held in abeyance till the Godbole Committee submits its report. It is expected to by December end. The CM announced an ad hoc relief of Rs 10 crore to the film industry.

Visa fees hiked

INDIAN MISSIONS abroad are understood to have been instructed to increase the visa fees for British nationals visiting India. The single entry visa fee accordingly is being raised from £12 to £20, double entry fee from £24 to £40 and long-term entry fee from £25 to £50.

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

Countries that have contributed least to global warming should not be left to bear its heaviest costs.

— Daily Star

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Why I envy Abdul El-Sayed and his freedom to be himself



SHAZIA ILMI



ILLUSTRATION: C R SASIKUMAR

INDIA'S LIBERALS have discovered a new Muslim hero. Unfortunately, he lives in Michigan. Fortunately for him, he lives in Michigan. Abdul El-Sayed, the Egyptian-American Democrat, has offered an unexpected lesson in negotiating faith, identity and political loyalty. More interestingly, he has held up an uncomfortable mirror to India's self-appointed guardians of secularism.

Confronted with accusations that he intended to impose Sharia law, El-Sayed humorously announced that he actually favoured the shawarma law. Its first commandment? A shawarma containing lettuce is not a shawarma, it is a sandwich masquerading as one.

Imagine the cute audacity. A Muslim politician making light of religious paranoia without demanding an apology from civilisation. Then came the Muslim Brotherhood question. Republican opponents attempted to associate him with the Islamist organisation through old writings and alleged family connections. El-Sayed denied any affiliation and challenged the assumption that his religion implied allegiance to the organisation. Invoking John F Kennedy, who faced suspicions about his Catholic faith, El-Sayed insisted that his political allegiance was to the American Constitution.

On Iran, he questioned the wisdom of spending American resources on foreign military adventures while citizens struggled with rising costs and other problems. His argument concerned American priorities, not religious solidarity.

Three propositions emerge. Religion need not be a political straitjacket; being Muslim does not imply allegiance to Islamist organisations; shared faith does not automatically dictate foreign policy. Hardly revolutionary ideas. Yet in the politics of Muslim identity, revolutionary indeed. The enthusiasm for El-Sayed among sections of India's liberal commentariat raises an awkward question: Would political parties here ever make room for an Indian Abdul El-Sayed?

Picture an Indian Abdul making El-Sayed's Sharia-shawarma joke in public. Would the Congress party agree to allow him in their vicinity, for fear of upsetting the mullahs? He explains that his faith is personal, his political obligations constitutional, and being Muslim does not oblige him to support Sharia as state law.

El-Sayed was not ridiculing Islam. He was ridiculing the assumption that a Muslim politician must harbour only a religious agenda. Now transplant that argument to Uttar Pradesh. Our Abdul challenges religious intermediaries, refuses to treat the All India Muslim Personal Law Board as the final authority on Muslim political opinion, and insists that constitutional rights require no clerical approval.

The resulting furore is easy to imagine. Demands for clarification, televised theological disputes, accusations of insulting Islam, perhaps even calls for a fatwa.

Forget a Congress ticket or a Samajwadi Party nomination from a Muslim-majority constituency. He would not make the cut. Not because his position is unconstitutional or anti-Muslim, but because his independence would upset established equations between parties, religious intermediaries and their presumed vote banks.

Consider the recent Aligarh Muslim University elections. The victorious Noman Ashraf invoked Sharjeel Imam and Umar Khalid, questioned their detention and spoke of Gaza, Palestine, Iran and Sudan. Defending due process is perfectly legitimate. But the prominence of these issues reveals the competing priorities of identity and everyday governance in campus politics.

> India does not lack independent Abduls. It lacks political parties willing to include those Muslims who refuse to toe the stereotypical line

Now imagine an Indian Abdul, a Muslim candidate who speaks not of Sharjeel Imam or Palestine but of hospitals, schools, jobs and opportunities for all, irrespective of religion. His electoral appeal, and whether Congress or the SP would offer him a ticket in a Muslim-majority constituency, remain open questions. The irony is that Abdul might have to establish his credentials as a Muslim representative before being heard as a representative of Muslim interests. He could promise to build a hospital for everyone, yet still be asked why he hasn't spoken about Gaza.

Abdul El-Sayed's respect for Judaism throughout his campaign is an important part of the contrast. As a Muslim politician, he has spoken of Jewish safety as being as precious to him as the safety of his own daughters. His participation in Jewish celebrations demonstrate a willingness to honour another faith without compromising his own.

El-Sayed's point was that a Muslim need not prove his Americanness by renouncing his faith. An Indian Abdul's predicament would be that he might have to prove his Muslimness by surrendering his political independence.

Consider another test. An Indian Abdul condemns SIMI's Islamist politics and finds it narrow and limited. He calls Sharjeel Imam's controversial chicken-neck speech reckless and divisive. He honours Inspector Mohan Chand Sharma, killed during the Batla House encounter, without qualifying his tribute with a political disclaimer.

None of these positions is contradictory. Yet a Muslim politician articulating them risks being accused of pandering to the majority. The familiar vocabulary is never far away.

A sell out! *Quam ka gaddar*. The speed with which a Muslim can be converted from an independent citizen into a communal traitor is one of the more efficient operations in Indian politics.

In Michigan, El-Sayed's opponents attempted to turn his Muslim identity into a question of national loyalty. In India, the policing of Muslim political opinion will come from the same clique who lament the absence of the Indian Abduls.

Muslim voters need employment, functioning schools, economic opportunity and public safety. Yet their political representation is frequently reduced to communal controversies, religious negotiations and demonstrations of collective grievance. All with an undercurrent of the implicit sense of religious persecution.

El-Sayed refused to allow others to turn his faith into an instruction manual for his politics. Like him, a Muslim leader in India need not just be a representative of his Qaum. His Ummah is a bigger world. That's his constitutional mandate.

An Indian Abdul should be free to reject Islamist organisations, criticise inflammatory speeches and defend constitutional rights without repeatedly proving his Muslim credentials. India does not lack independent Abduls. It lacks political parties willing to include those Muslims who refuse to toe the stereotypical line.

I envy Abdul El-Sayed and his freedom to be himself. To embrace his faith without being imprisoned by it, to reject Islamist politics without renouncing his identity, and to hold nuanced positions without having to apologise for their complexity. I envy him, too, his audience and his voters, who were willing to listen to those distinctions rather than demand the comfort of predictable loyalties.

In Michigan, Abdul refused to let religion dictate his politics. In India, he might find his candidature rejected in a backroom, where the ideology is checked, the clerics consulted and the shawarma sent back for lacking sufficient communal seasoning.

The writer is national spokesperson of the BJP

Is the worst over for the Indian economy?



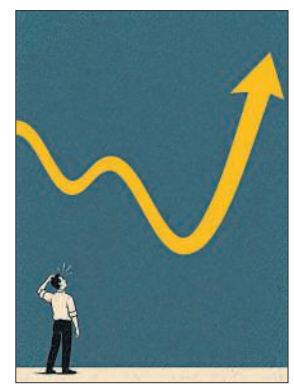
ISHAN BAKSHI

THE RBI has been in a tough spot for some time now. It's been fighting multiple battles: Trying to curb inflation, arrest the rupee's decline and prevent a steep rise in government bond yields. Whether it should have been engaging on all these fronts is another matter. But the manner in which it has gone about doing so suggests the absence of a coherent strategy.

Take inflation for instance. Price pressures have been building up in the economy for a while now as the RBI's own forecasts have indicated. In fact, in October, inflation is likely to have breached the upper threshold of the central bank's targeting framework. And so, given that monetary policy typically works with long lags, interest rates should have been raised earlier and by more.

So why did the central bank wait till October to raise rates and by just 25 basis points? There are three possible explanations. One, it had failed to anticipate the build-up of price pressures in the economy. Though the contrast between the August monetary policy statement and the minutes of that meeting is hard to explain. Two, it feared that growth would collapse. That the underlying growth momentum is weak contrary to what the headline numbers suggest — this could explain why real interest rates have been kept negative. Or three, that higher rates would increase government borrowing costs — on October 21, it rejected all bids at the Rs 23,000 crore t-bill auction as investors demanded higher yields.

Its approach to defending the rupee also raises questions. While it kept real interest rates negative, the RBI drew down its forex reserves in order to intervene in the currency markets. But this alone did not yield the desired results. This should have been expected. Considering the size of the forex market — the daily turnover in both the onshore and offshore markets was pegged at $185 billion in 2025 as per the Bank for International Settlements — the RBI simply does not have enough firepower to indefinitely carry out a defence of the currency. China's attempt to use its reserves to defend the currency in 2015 should have been instructive – it lost hundreds of billions of dollars in trying to defend its dollar peg as per some estimates. So alongside, the RBI has had to also rely on financial engineering and all sorts of counterproductive measures — these have created a whole set of other problems, from liquidity to hedging costs — in order to stem the currency's fall.



Over the past week or so, things appear to have turned around. The rupee has strengthened, bond yields are down and markets have edged higher. Perhaps RBI's blunt instruments have played a part. But more consequential are changes in the external environment.

For the past few years, foreign capital has been flowing out of the country. The AI boom was sucking capital from around the world. Alongside, higher bond yields in the developed economies, particularly the US, had raised the risk free rate, attracting capital. And the conflict in West Asia had kept oil prices elevated, raising the demand for dollars. All this had exerted pressure on the rupee.

However, these trends now appear to be softening. The AI euphoria seems to be ebbing — stocks in the AI ecosystem such as NVIDIA, TSMC and SK Hynix are correcting. Oil prices have also fallen significantly following the US mid-term elections – Brent crude oil is trading below $98 per barrel. This will help ease price pressures. And US bond yields are down as well. With Indian assets becoming cheap amid a significant market correction and a weakening rupee, foreign capital has begun to trickle back in — foreign portfolio investors have been net buyers of $4.1 billion of equity in the first week of November.

The question now is whether the tide has turned? Is the worst over?

There is some breathing room now. But things could easily reverse. Hostilities in West Asia could resume. Oil prices could jump. There could be a capital flight towards safety. RBI's trade-offs are unlikely to disappear. It cannot keep real interest rates negative to support growth when inflation is high, while intervening in the currency markets to shore up the rupee, drain liquidity and contain bond yields indefinitely. It has to choose. Shifting from inflation to exchange rate targeting was a bad idea. If the world is more uncertain, you would want more shock absorbers not less. And the currency is a shock absorber. Worries about the electoral cycle should not guide economic policy. Whether in matters of the rupee or petrol prices. Political problems should not become economic problems.

The writer is senior associate editor, The Indian Express.
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Execute or exit

WITH THE Paris Agreement's goal of keeping global temperature rise down to 1.5°C above industrial levels becoming unattainable, the need is to act, led by developed countries ("'Implementation COP' must live up to its name," *IE*, November 9). The paradox is that the US, which has retreated from the Paris Agreement, leads the world in damage caused. The climate catastrophes in the recent past highlight the urgent need to jump into action.

Y G Chouksey, Pune

India's opportunity

INDIA SHOULD treat the Net Zero transition as an industrial opportunity, not just a procurement exercise. ('Net Zero transition brings opportunity to build, not just import, technology,' *IE*, November 9) Importing equipment may accelerate deployment initially, but lasting energy security requires domestic research, skilled workers, reliable supply chains and competitive manufacturing. This does not justify protectionism or costly duplication; collaboration and technology transfer remain essential.

M Barathi, Bengaluru

To cure our air

THE ARTICLE regarding Delhi-NCR's air pollution crisis highlights a crucial flaw in our environmental strategy: Relying primarily on the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) is akin to treating chronic illness with temporary first aid ('Tackling air pollution requires science-based plan, not just GRAP,' *IE*, November 7). Air pollution in the Indo-Gangetic Plain does not abide by municipal boundaries; addressing it requires regional cooperation across neighboring states. Policies must target baseline emissions through targeted structural reforms. Until urban governance evolves, every winter will remain a predictable public health emergency.

Sanjay Chopra, Mohali

The storyteller, now powered by AI



ANEES SALIM

I WAS kind of obsessed with watching reels about kittens. I loved their naughtiness and innocence, their sprightly movements and fights for food, until I realised that their innocence was the work of AI. I still watch them, but with less interest and less involvement. For me, AI-generated kittens are still passable, but I wouldn't touch an AI-written book even with a long pole.

Nearly a year ago, I had a call from a long-time friend who excitedly told me that "we are finally going to write a novel." We? I thought. Hadn't it always been "I"? How "I" couldn't get started, how "I" couldn't get the plot right, how "I" couldn't get off the writer's block, and how "I" couldn't get the story moving. And all of a sudden it was "we". I thought he was going to co-author the book with his wife, who, to the best of my knowledge, dreamed of writing a whodunit herself while he was interested in nothing but historical novels. As someone who believes that writing is, and has to be, a solo act, I cautioned him about the co-authoring venture, telling him how differences could crop up, outlooks could clash, and styles could jar. He asked me not to worry; his co-author was not his better half but AI. I had a change of heart and told him he should consider writing the book with his wife instead; at least she is human. He said his wife had also started to write her own novel, and she was relying as much on AI as him. They were, in fact, in a race, and she was already in the final chapter while he had just crossed the halfway mark. 'Maybe AI likes women better,' he joked. My response was cold and cynical, but I appreciated the fact that at least he 'was honest about relying on AI.

> I earn a living by writing advertisements; I am frowned upon by my colleagues for my dislike of AI. One of them even predicts that one day, I will realise what AI can do

Another call I received more recently was less honest. The caller requested me to write a blurb for a book he was all set to publish. I had never thought he was aspiring to be an author; he always claimed wildlife photography was his calling. I guessed he had written a book on wildlife, but my guess proved to be wrong. He had penned a book on, of all things, metaphysical cosmology. Why cosmology? And why on earth metaphysical cosmology? His answer surprised me: Cosmology is an easy subject to write on, and metaphysical cosmology is fun. He sent me the manuscript shortly afterwards. Barely into the second page, I knew it was not "I" but "we" who wrote the book. When I asked him questions, intentionally difficult ones, he called me pompous and never called me again.

I earn a living by writing advertisements, and I am constantly frowned upon by my colleagues for my "unreasonable" dislike of AI. One of them even predicts that one day, when I am drained of my last idea and the final thread of craft, I will wake up and realise what AI can do to both my advertising and literary careers. I keep telling him that I would rather beg, borrow, or even steal.

Once upon a time, when we said there was a storyteller in everyone, we were probably hinting at the possibility of how everyday life could be fictionalised. With the advent of AI, the phrase has a new meaning. Now, when we say there is a storyteller in everyone, we are probably hinting at the power of AI.

Imagine this scenario: You write a book with the help of AI, you get it out through vanity publishing, you receive hundreds of five-star paid reviews, and, at the end of it all, you win the award for the best novel, constituted by an AI giant. Then I will consider writing as an art without soul, an art without purpose. Call me pompous, or call me a misfit.

Salim is a Kochi-based author

The republic of non-toppers is speaking up



PRANNV DHAWAN

THE COCKROACH movement is not a youth tantrum about jobs and paper leaks. It is a revolt of India's non-topper class against a theory of citizenship that has governed the country for decades. Under this theory, the topper who clears entrance exams is the constructive citizen. They build institutions, staff the state, and write policy. Everyone else is ballast. They are just beneficiaries of the topper's labour or a demographic dividend gone sour.

This system has a hidden clause where merit works as moral immunity. For the officer presiding over petty extraction or the professional cushioned by the presumption that rank equals virtue, credentials do not merely open doors; they close inquiries. Meanwhile, the institutions manufacturing this merit are failing. This summer, national medical entrance results were cancelled after a paper leak, affecting over two million students. Many families had sold possessions to pay coaching fees. The so-called meritorious system is not just exclusionary; for millions, it is ruinous.

The non-toppers no longer see this as their failure, but that of the prescribed route. Disenchantment has led this majority to reject the toppers' definition of merit, and their monopoly over serious political movements. They are not waiting to become toppers before they speak. For them, political struggle does not demand exceptional discipline or ideological purity. Their political struggle, without any heroes, looks refreshingly ordinary.

This is setting two processes in motion. First, it is reclaiming nationalism. Protesters carry the tricolour and claim public spaces and reject the idea that only toppers get to speak for the nation. They are redefining nationalism beyond tokenistic patriotism, national security, pride, cultural identity, etc., taking it to the next logical level for a 79-year-old nation-state. That is, to include the rights to employment, fair examinations, to question public institutions, protest, demand transparency, and the right to receive equal treatment from the state, "merit" notwithstanding.

> Non-toppers see this as the failure of the prescribed route. Disenchantment has led them to reject the toppers' monopoly over political movements

Second, it represents the "second plebeianisation" of politics. Like the 1990s plebeianisation of politics that broke the upper-caste hold on legislatures, this movement is democratising public discourse. The non-topper wants to be the author of policy rather than its object. They demonstrate that citizenship is an active public practice, not a passively possessed credential. They assert that their "lack" of achievement does not disqualify them from respect and authority. As Francis Fukuyama reminds us, democracy is built on *isothymia*, the desire to be respected as an equal. By demanding the right to matter without a rank, the movement is reclaiming dignity from a system that converts structural failure into personal shame.

This process of assertion by non-toppers is being driven by an economic reality. The flawed system of "merit" has reached its limits. Even those securing regular salaried roles average just Rs 26,850 a month. Toppers and non-toppers increasingly face the same broken labour market and indifferent state. The divergence that once justified the hierarchy is narrowing and the toppers are joining this struggle for "new citizenship".

The CJI used "cockroach" as an insult. Young Indians have reminded him of the creature's defining trait: It survives. It outlasts those who try to stamp it out. A republic that treats its citizens as pests will eventually discover that they are the republic.

The writer is a lawyer based in Delhi and spokesperson, CJP

Kolkata

PRESIDENT SEES SCOPE FOR DEAL WITH DEMOCRATS, SAYS AGREEMENT IS 'DOABLE'

Trump says his deportation policy may have been 'too tough' for voters

Praises Rubio as 'great' among potential 2028 presidential contenders beyond Vance, says 'yet to decide whether to be involved in race'

Associated Press
Washington, November 9

PRESIDENT DONALD Trump, in his first major interview since his party lost control of the House and Senate in the midterm elections, said he thinks his administration was too aggressive on deportations and that he thinks he can work with Democrats in the new Congress on some kind of immigration deal.

Trump said his deportation policy was part of the reason Republicans lost, telling *CBS's 60 Minutes* in an interview that aired on Sunday: "I think it might be too tough, yeah."

He added that he thinks he could reach an agreement with the new Democratic majority.

"The deal would be we would work something out. And I think it's something —I think that's something that's actually doable," he said in the interview.

Trump did not give specifics about what that deal would look like — and shortly after taping the interview on Friday, Trump named the key architect of his hard-line immigration agenda, Stephen Miller, as his new chief of staff.

"Trump says his immigration crackdown went too far," Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer scoffed on social media Sunday after the interview aired. "Apparently, his solution was to put the man responsible for it in charge of the White House. That's not a course correction. That's a promotion."

The president's immigration crackdown was a prominent feature of his return to office with major operations in multiple cities sending arrests soaring.

Two US citizens — Renee Good and Alex Pretti — were killed by federal officers during protests against the operations.

Democrats have said oversight of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Department of Homeland Security is a priority for the new Congress.

Trump said he believes that "killers" and "drug dealers" in the country illegally should be deported, but suggested he was open to the idea of a deal that would let others stay "if they're good people working in a landscaping company, or working in a hotel, or doing something, right? And in some cases, paying taxes."



President Donald Trump speaks with reporters before boarding Air Force One in West Palm Beach, Florida on Sunday. AP

On the race among Republicans to succeed him for the 2028 presidential election, Trump hinted at staying neutral.

Asked whether he'd endorse a potential successor, Trump said "probably, not necessarily."

"We have a tremendous bench. I have so many people that I have great relationships with," he said in the interview.

Asked about possible candidates other than Vice President JD Vance, Trump only named Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who is viewed as a possible 2028 contender. "I think Marco's great," Trump said. "But there are many others and I'd rather not mention their names. There's some senators that are excellent. I know 'em all, I like 'em a lot. "So I may or may not get involved. I don't know. Maybe I'm better off not getting involved," Trump said.

Asked how his net worth went up by $3 billion since returning to the White House, Trump said he doesn't pay much attention to it and said his sons look after the family business.

"I devote almost no time to my net worth. I don't care. I make — I have a lotta money, and far more than I ever thought I'd have. And I guess it's gone up. I don't even know," he said.

Two arrested after separate security breaches near White House

Reuters
Washington, November 9

THE US Secret Service arrested two people near the White House on Monday after one person drove a car onto the sidewalk and another jumped a barricade at Lafayette Park in front of the presidential compound.

President Donald Trump was at home during the incidents. The White House was placed on lockdown briefly and roads around the park closed.

A car crashed into the sidewalk that surrounds Lafayette Park just before 10 am, a Secret Service spokesperson said in a statement.

"The driver was combative with law enforcement, but was quickly placed under arrest," it said. "Around the same time, a second individual jumped a barricade near the northwest corner of Lafayette Park. That individual was also quickly placed under arrest."

Secret Service said both incidents were under investigation.

It was not clear if the two incidents were related.

Rubio warned Trump officials of Nvidia CEO's link to spy

Maggie Haberman, Jonathan Swan, Julian E Barnes & Tripp Mickle
November 9

SECRETARY OF State Marco Rubio oversaw a classified memo this spring warning Trump administration officials that Nvidia chief executive Jensen Huang was in a close relationship with a suspected Chinese spy, people briefed on the matter said.

The document drew on electronic surveillance of Alice Huang, a Chinese citizen and executive at a Singapore-based company buying Nvidia's advanced artificial intelligence chips. The company was under investigation for illegally smuggling them into China.

US officials concluded that Alice Huang was in a close relationship with Jensen Huang, who is no relation, and had been recruited to spy by China's Ministry of State Security.

Rubio's role has not previously been reported. The memo highlights how senior officials knew of the relationship and espionage concerns even as Jensen Huang remained an influential voice with President Donald Trump on AI policy.

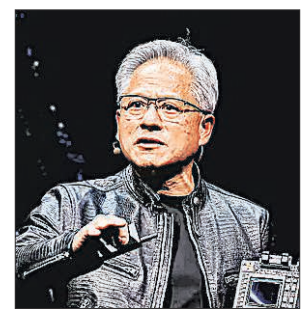
Huang has opposed tighter export controls on advanced AI chips and pushed to sell all but Nvidia's newest technology to China, a key US AI rival.

The memo was circulated to officials before Trump's trip to China in May, the officials said.

Huang was initially left off the list of business and technology executives invited to accompany Trump. It is unclear whether the memo was linked to his exclusion.

Some officials were concerned about Huang's influence on Trump's policy of lightly regulating AI, the people said.

After media reports highlighted Huang's absence, Trump asked him to join the trip during an Air Force One stop in Alaska.



Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang

Trump drafted a social media post calling him "the Great Jensen Huang" and saying he would ask Chinese President Xi Jinping to "open up" China to the business leaders.

The New York Times reported that Trump had been briefed about a year earlier that US intelligence agencies were surveilling Alice Huang and believed she was a Chinese intelligence operative.

The surveillance revealed a close relationship between her and a US citizen. Officials sought to "unmask" the citizen, whose identity is routinely protected in foreign surveillance, and learned it was the Nvidia chief. Trump chose not to act. He views Nvidia's chips as vital to US competition with China in AI and the company's success as important to the stock market.

Asked on Sunday whether he regretted taking no action after Jensen Huang admitted to his company that he had an affair with Alice Huang, Trump said: "No, I don't think so." He said Huang should remain Nvidia's CEO, calling him "an honourable guy" who "probably has an excuse for it. You have to hear it."

Alice Huang speaks English well and has relationships with executives at the highest levels of the AI chip industry, including with Jensen Huang and the leaders of Gigabyte, one of the top assemblers of Nvidia supercomputers, people who have met her said.

It is unclear when Alice Huang first met Nvidia's leader. In 2024, around the time the two of them were photographed together with other industry executives at a bar in Taipei, Taiwan, her company, Megaspeed, began a multibillion-dollar purchase of advanced AI microchips.

Nvidia officials have said that Jensen Huang's interactions with Alice Huang were "not unusual or unexpected" and consistent with the kinds of meetings he has with any of Nvidia's many customers.

The company has also said customers such as Megaspeed do not receive classified business information. NYT

China dismisses Nvidia spy plot claim, calls it a smear campaign

Associated Press
Bangkok, November 9

CHINA DENIED Monday that there was a spy plot to ensnare Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang, calling the spying allegations unsubstantiated and a smear campaign against Beijing.

"The so-called Chinese spy allegation is unsubstantiated. It is nothing but smears against China," Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Guo Jiakun said on Monday.

The chips company CEO is at the center of a controversy over whether he drove sales of advanced computer chips to China, in spite of US tech restrictions aimed at limiting China's ability to access these advanced technologies. Nvidia is one of the world's most valuable publicly traded companies.

Russia, Ukraine trade strikes ahead of US-brokered talks

Associated Press
Kyiv, November 9

RUSSIA BATTERED Ukraine's power grid again and Ukrainian forces hit another of Russia's biggest oil refineries, officials said Monday, hours before delegations from Moscow and Kyiv were due to meet for new US-brokered talks on how to end the fighting.

US President Donald Trump said in a *60 Minutes* interview that aired Sunday that Moscow and Kyiv are "very close" to a deal, despite the "tremendous hatred" between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

He said that Ukraine would have "a little bit different shape" under the settlement, but he didn't elaborate.

Trump has previously made statements about developments in the war which haven't materialised.

The three-way talks between envoys from the US, Russia and Ukraine are due to start in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, on Tuesday.



A school damaged in a Russian strike in Kyiv on Monday. AP

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Monday that Trump's team has placed "collective security," covering not just Russia and Ukraine but also a wider area, at the top of the agenda for the two days of discussions.

Russian forces targeted four electrical substations in Ukraine's Kyiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Cherkasy and Vinnytsia regions, Russia's Defence Ministry said Monday.

Zelenskyy said Monday that the European Union had agreed to activate a special emergency mechanism that speeds up funding for power grid repairs. Russia launched 317 drones of various types including 105 jet-powered drones at Ukraine overnight, Ukraine's air force said.

Meanwhile, an attack by long-range drones developed by Ukraine during the war started a fire at the KINEF oil refinery, one of Russia's largest, close to St. Petersburg and more than 1,200 kilometres from the Ukrainian border, Leningrad Governor Alexander Drozdenko said Monday.

G7 allies to assess impact of Trump's midterm setback at talks in Paris

Reuters
Paris, November 9

G7 FOREIGN ministers gathered in Paris on Monday aiming to gauge whether a US midterm defeat for President Donald Trump alters the administration's approach to Ukraine, West Asia and ties with its closest allies, four G7 diplomats said.

The diplomats signalled the Democrats' gains could narrow the White House's room for manoeuvre, but warned against expecting a return to traditional US multilateralism while foreign policy remains very much under Trump's control.

The meeting, moved at short notice from Marseille to Paris for security reasons after weeks of protests across France, will see US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, viewed as a potential 2028 presidential contender, make his first appearance before allies since the elections.

Iran is expected to feature prominently in discussions.



G7 foreign ministers at the start of their summit in Paris, Monday. AP

Washington's G7 allies have repeatedly voiced scepticism over the war and fear further US military action could worsen rather than resolve the crisis.

Ukraine is also likely to top the agenda, with the ministerial meeting coming ahead of trilateral discussions on Tuesday in Abu Dhabi between Ukraine, Russia and the United States. Officials from France, Britain, Germany, NATO and the European Commission will also be in the Emirati capital, France's Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot said on Sunday.

In a sign of friction among Europeans, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni warned on November 5 that Europe risked becoming irrelevant in efforts to end the war in Ukraine if member states continued pursuing separate diplomatic tracks, rather than agreeing on a common representative and strategy, an issue that is likely to come up at the G7.

Diplomats painted a sombre picture of the situation in Ukraine.



Pope in Argentina

Pope Leo XIV with Argentine President Javier Milei at Casa Rosada in Buenos Aires. This is the first visit by a Pope to the South American country in nearly 40 years after John Paul II. Leo urged Milei to safeguard democracy, respect the limits of political power and called for economic growth to benefit the disadvantaged. "The economy must serve the person, not the person the economy," Leo said upon his arrival. AP

Germany to get first female president after Merz backs conservative Aigner

Reuters
Berlin, November 9

GERMANY LOOKS set to get its first female head of state next year after Chancellor Friedrich Merz nominated Ilse Aigner on Monday as his conservatives' candidate to replace President Frank-Walter Steinmeier in the largely ceremonial role.

With the support of Merz's conservatives, their Social Democrat partners in Germany's ruling coalition and the Greens, Aigner is very likely to be elected in January by the Federal Convention comprising members of the lower house of parliament and delegates from Germany's 16 federal state parliaments.

Aigner, who is currently speaker of the Bavarian parliament and has previously served as a federal minister of agriculture, said that, if elected, she would work to overcome divisions in German society. "Our country and our democracy – yes, they are under attack from within and without," she said, standing alongside Merz. "Extremists are celebrating their triumphs, and ideologies are on the rise. Division is being fuelled, and consensus is being disparaged," she said.

• BRIEFLY

PAKISTAN

TV anchor shot dead at home in Rawalpindi; husband arrested



Rabia Ahsan

A PAKISTANI television anchor was shot dead at her Rawalpindi home in the Gulshanabad area of the city Sunday, the *Dawn* reported. City Police Officer Hassan Mushtaq Sukhera said her husband has been taken into custody and the weapon seized. Rabia Ahsan worked as an anchor and programme host with a local TV channel. Sukhera, SSP Operations and forensic experts visited crime scene. According to Sukhera, a domestic worker told police the victim's husband claimed that it was a case of accidental firing. PTI

TURKEY

16 killed in explosion at steel plant

AN EXPLOSION at a steel and iron plant in western Turkey killed 16 people, President Tayyip Erdogan said on Monday. Initial findings suggest a ceiling crane snapped and fell into an arc furnace during steel casting. Fourteen were injured, three seriously, while rescue teams searched for 10 people trapped beneath the rubble, authorities said. AP

CHINA

14 killed, 25 injured as fire engulfs high-rise

A FIRE on Sunday at a high-rise building in Taiyuan, the capital of China's northern province of Shanxi, killed at least 14 people, *Xinhua* news agency said Monday. State media said 25 people were still in hospital, nine with serious injuries, citing authorities. Authorities are probing the cause of the fire, state media said. REUTERS

• WORK ONGOING AT FIVE TRENCHES AT THE CRUMBLING BALA HISSAR (HIGH FORT IN DARI) IN KABUL; 'IT'S LIKE A SUBMARINE COMING OUT OF THE OCEAN', SAYS AN ARCHAEOLOGIST WHO IS PART OF THE PROJECT

Coins, ceramics, palace remains: Fortress restoration unearths Afghanistan history

Elena Becatoros
Kabul, November 9

PERCHED HIGH above the southern edge of Kabul's old city, the imposing fortress of Bala Hissar has endured centuries of invasions, uprisings and conflict that scarred Afghanistan and left the citadel crumbling.

Now, an extensive, yearslong project by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, or AKTC, is painstakingly conserving Bala Hissar. The aim is to turn the site into a public archaeological park, complete with landscaped gardens, restaurants and a museum.

Despite decades of neglect and war, archaeological treasures gradually unearthed within the walls of the strategic fortress in the Afghan capital are revealing over two millennia of the country's tumultuous history.

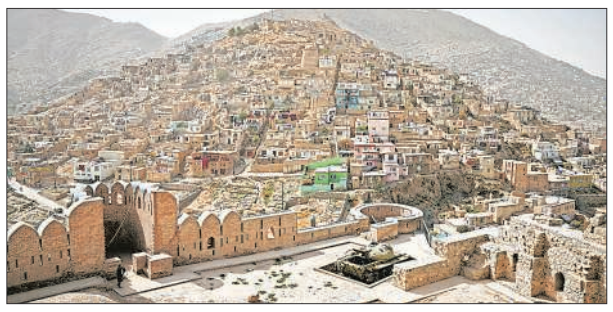
The excavations are uncovering an astonishing wealth of finds, from evidence of ancient human habitation to the remains of a Buddhist monastery and the luxurious baths of a Mughal palace.

"We never thought we would find so much," said archaeologist Babak Rafiei-Alavi, standing at one of Bala Hissar's excavation sites as workers with trowels painstakingly sifted the earth. "It's like a submarine coming out of the ocean."

Work in five separate trenches at the site has unearthed ancient coins, fragments of Buddhist statues, glazed Islamic ceramics, oil lamps, countless pieces of pottery and the remains of palaces, monasteries and dwellings.

"In some parts we were expecting something. But not this," Rafiei-Alavi said of the discovery of remnants of a Mughal palace, complete with murals, a throne-like structure and a star-shaped pool carved into the rock at the top of the hill.

The location of Bala Hissar, which means High Fort in Dari, is key to its significance. Cascading down a prominent outcrop of the Kuh-e-Sher Darwaza mountain ridge, the fortress occupies a commanding position above the old city that helped it protect access routes to Kabul.



Bala Hissar was an important religious settlement and political centre of power along a crucial trade route connecting the Indian subcontinent to Central Asia and beyond. AP

Bala Hissar also was an important religious settlement and political center of power along a crucial trade route connecting the Indian subcontinent to Central Asia and beyond. It was "part of a string of pearls of these types of cultural and human settlements," Aga Khan Cultural Services Project Manager Mustafa Nouri said.

Through the ages, the site has served as a fortress, palace complex, arsenal, administrative center, prison and military garrison. "Bala Hissar embodies every stage of Afghan history until the American presence and the post-American presence," Nouri said.

Only traces remain of its royal palaces and Buddhist monasteries. But an enduring characteristic has been the site's use as a strategic defensive location, from the first century B.C. to the Mughal empire, Anglo-Afghan wars, Soviet invasion, civil war and the US-led coalition. Part of the site's lower areas are still used by Afghan military.

"Effectively, whoever controlled Bala Hissar controlled Kabul, and controlled the region," Nouri explained.

While Bala Hissar suffered repeated destruction and rebuilding through the centuries, the heaviest blow came when British troops avenged the 1879 killing of British envoy Sir Louis Cavagnari and his entourage inside Bala Hissar by destroying much of the complex.

Today, the sprawling site still bears the scars of years of neglect and Afghanistan's repeated conflicts.

Planning for the AKTC's ambitious conservation project began in 2017, with work starting the following year. Initial surveying and documenting, including with ground-penetrating radar and 3D laser scans, were followed by emergency stabilization to prevent further collapse of the historic fortifications.

The French Archaeological Delegation in Afghanistan was initially involved in excavations, but work temporarily halted after the Taliban seized power in Afghanistan in 2021.

The French delegation did not return. But the AKTC continued operating and has carried out its most extensive work since 2022, Nouri said. AP

MEASURES BEING CONSIDERED INCLUDES HIGHER PENALTIES AND FIRs AGAINST VIOLATORS

Unidentified vehicles raise illegal activity risks at barrier-less plazas

Dheeraj Mishra
New Delhi, November 9

ON THE Delhi-Jaipur section of NH-48 in Rajasthan, at least one in 10 vehicles crossing the Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF) toll plaza at Shahjahanpur are classified as "unidentified" and do not pay the user fee. Similarly, around 2% of vehicles crossing Delhi's Mundka-Bakkarwala toll plaza and 3% at the Manoharpura plaza on NH-48 could not be identified.

This has prompted the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) to hold inter-departmental discussions involving investigating agencies and the GST authorities to devise a mechanism to identify such vehicles and take action against them, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

The issue has raised concerns within the department that these vehicles could potentially be involved in illegal activities such as smuggling, illegal sand mining and other criminal activities, or be used to evade Goods and Services Tax (GST), as the e-way bill system is linked to FASTag.

This is also resulting in significant revenue losses for the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and banks, as there is no mechanism to recover the toll where vehicles cannot be identified.

How vehicles go unidentified

Technically, an unidentified vehicle is one in which either the number plate and FASTag are not visible or are covered while passing through the toll gate, or the number plate is fake or impersonated.

Under the MLFF, or barrier-less tolling system, operational at seven fee plazas, the toll is deducted only when the FASTag and its linked number plate match. In cases where a FASTag has insufficient bala-nce, an e-notice is issued, allowing commuters 72 hours to pay.

Sources said that imposing a penalty of more than twice the toll amount and registering an FIR are among the measures being considered. A final decision is expected within a month.

NHAI launched MLFF in May, with Choryasi in Gujarat's Surat becoming the first toll plaza to implement the facility. This put India in the league of select nations such as the United States, Taiwan, Singapore and Australia, which have adopted the advanced tolling system. However, concerns over its misuse and vehicles passing through without paying the toll remain, given the absence of human intervention at the toll gate.



Multi-Lane Free Flow system was launched in May, with Choryasi in Surat becoming the first toll plaza to implement the facility. NHAI

"We are developing a dedicated internal portal to identify such vehicles. The data will be shared with all the relevant departments. Impersonating a number plate is a serious crime, not a normal toll violation. We have this data now because of the MLFF system. At the existing boom-barrier toll plazas, only a functional FASTag was required; there was no requirement to match it with the vehicle's number plate. However, under MLFF, the FASTag and the vehicle's number plate must match," said the source.

Numbers on the rise

The data indicates that the number of such vehicles is increasing every month.

Manoharpura, where MLFF went live on July 1, recorded over 99,500 unidentified vehicles out of the 31.74 lakh vehicles that crossed the toll plaza by October 21.

Similarly, Shahjahanpur toll plaza, where MLFF went live on August 1, recorded 2.60 lakh unidentified vehicles out of around 24 lakh vehicles that crossed during the period.

Paranur toll plaza in Tamil Nadu, where it went live on October 1, recorded over 500 unidentified vehicles in first 20 days of operation. The problem of unidentified vehicles is more concerning on the Gurgaon-Jaipur section of NH-48 because the entire corridor is barrier-less, with MLFF operational at all three toll plazas: Daulatpura, Manoharpura and Shahjahanpur. This means that an unidentified vehicle can cover the entire corridor without paying any toll.

"The matter is being reviewed every 15 days. The MLFF is also being awarded in a staggered manner. This will ensure that even if vehicles pass through a barrier-less toll plaza, they can still be identified using information recorded at boom-barrier toll plazas. We can identify these vehicles by matching their model and colour details from the VAHAN database with FASTag transactions recorded at boom-barrier toll plazas. We need a 10-minute window to do this, for which AI will be used to integrate different sets of data and identify violators," said the source. MLFF is an NHAI initiative aimed at ensuring seamless passage of vehicles through toll gates, eliminating congestion and the need to stop at toll plazas to pay the toll.

FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

10 yrs after demonetisation, cash remains king despite booming digital payments

George Mathew
Mumbai, November 9

TEN YEARS ago, on November 8, the Modi government announced the demonetisation of high-value currency notes of Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 in a dramatic bid to curb black money and push India towards a cashless economy. A decade later, however, cash remains king, with currency held by the public having more than doubled since demonetisation.

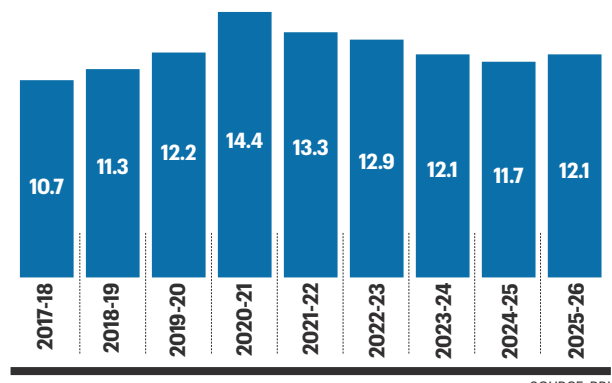
Currency with the public, which stood at Rs 17.97 lakh crore on November 4, 2016, plunged to Rs 7.8 lakh crore in January 2017 following the November 8 announcement. It has since surged to Rs 42.55 lakh crore as of October 15, 2026, as per the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data, an increase of nearly 137% over its pre-demonetisation level.

Though digital payments have jumped manifold, high cash holdings raise questions about lasting impact of demonetisation on India's dependence on physical currency. While the economy has expanded considerably over the past decade, growing at 6-7% annually in several years, currency-to-GDP ratio has also returned to around its pre-demonetisation level. In other words, despite massive push towards digital payments and formalisation, cash has not been driven out of economy. Instead, its circulation recovered alongside economic growth.

The announcement and its impact

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced demonetisation at 8 pm on November 8, 2016, in a televised address to the nation. The announcement rendered the then-existing Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 notes invalid as legal tender from midnight on November 9. These two denominations together accounted for approximately 86% of the currency in circulation at the time, triggering an unprecedented cash crunch that disrupted shops, offices, businesses and households.

INDIA'S CURRENCY-TO-GDP RATIO (in %)



SOURCE: RBI

The government had projected demonetisation as a decisive strike against black money, counterfeit currency and the financing of illegal activities. It was also expected to accelerate digital payments, encourage formalisation and reduce India's dependence on cash. Ten years later, however, the more than doubling of currency with the public tells a different story: demonetisation may have temporarily drained cash from the system, but it did not fundamentally alter India's appetite for physical currency.

The sudden withdrawal of notes roiled the economy in November 2016, with demand falling, businesses facing a crisis and GDP growth declining by nearly 1.5 percentage points.

Many small businesses were hit hard and shut down after the note ban created a liquidity shortage. The shock of suddenly invalidated high-denomination notes disrupted daily commerce, forced people to queue for hours at banks and ATMs, and pushed individuals and businesses to rethink how they managed cash.

In the years that followed, printing of new Rs 500 and Rs 2,000 notes (the latter was later withdrawn from circulation), increased cash holdings and a persistent preference for cash across large parts of the economy drove the stock of currency with the public to levels well above pre-demonetisation norm.

Cash holdings rose sharply in 2020-21, driven by a rush to hold cash as the government announced a stringent lockdown to tackle the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic. People began accumulating cash to meet their grocery needs, which were largely met by neighbourhood stores, and other essential expenses, including medical bills.

Currency with public

As per RBI's definition, currency with public is calculated by deducting cash held by banks from total currency in circulation (CIC). CIC refers to currency notes and coins issued by the central bank within a country that are physically used to conduct transactions between consumers and businesses. During calendar year 2026 as of October 16, cash with the public increased by Rs 5.26 lakh crore, a rise of 14.1%, as per RBI data.

The rise in currency in circulation in absolute terms does not tell the full story, as GDP growth has remained strong and even touched 7.8% in first quarter of FY26. Since demonetisation in 2016, currency in circulation has risen steadily every year, with the CIC to GDP ratio having surged to 14.4% in 2020-21 from 8.7% in 2016-17. The ratio remained at 12.1% in FY26 as against 12.1% in March 2016.

However, when compared with other countries, the ratio is over 16% in Japan, 7.3% in the US, where dollar also circulates internationally, and 10.2% in China. FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Nvidia's shares slide as chip giant probes CEO over spy claims

Reuters
Seoul/Sydney, November 9

NVIDIA SHARES declined on Monday after an internal investigation into whether CEO Jensen Huang had been targeted by a foreign intelligence effort put his future at the AI chipmaker under scrutiny.

The internal probe followed a media report that Huang had a close relationship with a Chinese businesswoman who allegedly passed information to Beijing. Huang told Nvidia's employees that he had been unfaithful to his wife, without disclosing relationship details.

The investigation, announced Sunday, has put a spotlight on Huang's future given Nvidia's status as the world's most valuable chipmaker and the CEO's role as the most prolific salesman of the AI boom.

He is Nvidia's fifth-largest shareholder with a roughly 3.6% stake, according to LSEG data, and keeps a tight grip on the company through an unusually flat structure in which dozens of executives report directly to him.

But unlike Meta Platforms or SpaceX, Nvidia has no dual-class shares that would give its co-founder majority voting control.

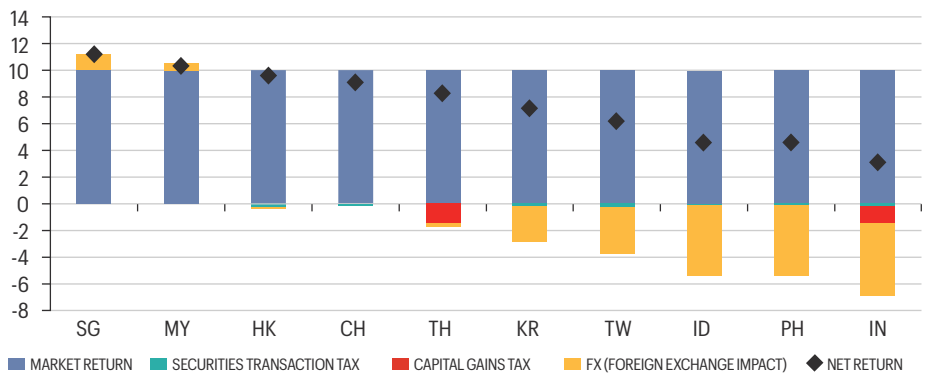
Nvidia's shares pared losses from an 8% slide to now down 6%, extending last week's selloff and pushing the stock to fresh multi-month lows.

At current levels, the chipmaker would lose more than $280 billion in value from its last closing price.

Shares in its key Asian chip suppliers rebounded Monday after last week's selloff of AI-related stocks, with TSMC closing 4.7% higher, while Samsung Electronics and SK Hynix ending 0.6% and 0.4% higher, respectively.

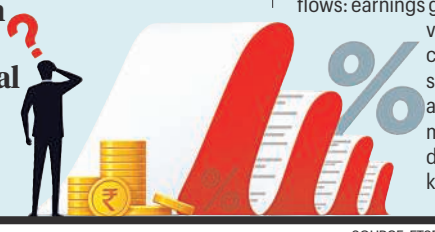
How taxes, weak currency erode FII returns on Indian stocks

HSBC on Monday upgraded Indian shares to 'overweight' from 'neutral', noting that some of the pessimism among foreign investors is due to the rupee's sharp fall.



> "... identical local currency gains across Asian markets can translate into materially different realised returns once currency movements are taken into account. In India, rupee depreciation can substantially erode those gains, with capital gains tax reducing returns further."
> HSBC STRATEGISTS

WITH SPECULATION rife that the tax on foreign investors' long-term capital gains may be removed at the upcoming 2027-28 Union Budget, HSBC said tax relief alone may not be enough to attract foreign flows: earnings growth, valuations, currency stability, and broader macro backdrop remain key drivers.



SOURCE: FTSE RUSSEL. FACTSET, HSBC

Citi, HSBC bet on India as AI rotation, fall in oil prices fuel revival of market

Reuters
Bengaluru, November 9

GLOBAL BROKERAGES are turning more bullish on revival in Indian stocks, with Citi raising its end-2027 Nifty 50 target to 28,000 and HSBC upgrading the market to "overweight." The calls come after Nifty surged more than 10% over seven sessions through Friday with foreign investors buying more than $4.1 billion of shares this month, marking the strongest inflow in more than 2 years.

Meanwhile, emerging markets and Nasdaq have tanked amid a rout in AI stocks.

Indian markets spent much of 2026 underperforming global peers as investors chased AI-linked investments and higher oil prices dented the outlook for Asia's third-largest economy. But a sharp drop in oil prices and a fall in AI stocks since the US mid-term elections have prompted a rethink. "Decent earnings, lower oil prices and more measured AI spending are aligning to support India, with a potential rotation from crowded AI trades adding to foreign inflows," said Citi analysts.

A $10-per-barrel decline in crude could narrow India's current account deficit by 30 to 40 bps, ease inflation by roughly 50 bps and lift Nifty earnings per share by about 2%, Citi said.

CAPEX RISES EVEN AS STATES CURB REVENUE SPENDING

States' capex maintains H1 momentum

Prasanta Sahu
New Delhi, November 9

STATES' AGGREGATE capital expenditure (capex) likely grew fast in the first half of the current financial year, even as they restrained revenue spending.

Capex by seven major states reviewed by *FE* rose 23.4% year-on-year to Rs 1.51 lakh crore in April-September of FY27, building on 47.7% growth in the same period last year, indicating a continued emphasis on infrastructure creation. The increase was supported by a 17% rise in tax revenue collections, which reached Rs 7.41 lakh crore during April-September, compared with 9.4% growth in H1FY26, as per the Comptroller and Auditor General of India data.

Assam and Andhra Pradesh led the capital spending push, with investment rising 51.7% and 40.4%, respectively, to Rs 15,437 crore and Rs 16,447 crore.

Karnataka also recorded a strong 30% increase to Rs 21,297 crore, while Telangana's capex rose 24.9% to Rs 27,743 crore. Maharashtra, the largest spender among the seven states, increased capex by 19.1% to Rs 31,405 crore. However, Jharkhand contracted, with capex down 33.2% to Rs 4,339 crore, from Rs 6,500 crore a year ago. FE

Budget may aid local mfg of 100 heavily imported goods

Press Trust of India
New Delhi, November 9

THE GOVERNMENT is likely to extend support measures in the forthcoming Budget to boost domestic manufacturing of 100 products, including intermediates and capital goods across sectors, an official said.

Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), under the Commerce and Industry Ministry, has completed an exercise to identify 100 such products, for which India is heavily dependent on imports.

These goods may include items from sectors such as auto components, chemicals, and machinery. The official said the identification exercise was completed after comprehensive consultations with various ministries and the private sector.

Rupee breaks six-day winning streak on state banks' dollar bids

Mumbai: The rupee snapped a six-session winning run on Monday, amid thin trading volumes, as dollar bids from state-run lenders outweighed the recent positive momentum.

The rupee hit a six-month high of 93.69 per dollar, extending last week's rally of more than 1% but closed slightly lower at 93.9275, from the previous close at 93.9050.

Some traders said state-run banks' dollar purchases could be on behalf of the central bank, whose recent measures have helped address the persistent supply-demand imbalance in the forex market.

A decline in crude oil prices alleviated pressure on the currency, with foreign investors returning to equities.

Emkay Global's Madhavi Arora expects the Reserve bank of India's (RBI) to use any sustained improvement in inflows to rebuild its foreign exchange buffers rather than allow a sharp appreciation in the rupee. RBI's sizeable net short forward position and India's continuing current account funding needs are likely to cap the currency's upside, she said. REUTERS

BRIEFLY

Google Cloud India head joins Sarvam

***Mumbai*: AI company Sarvam on Monday announced that Sashikumar Sreedharan, most recently Managing Director for India at Google Cloud, has joined as President and Chief Business Officer. He will also join the company's board. Sreedharan will run Sarvam's business across enterprises and government, and widen its work with digital-native companies, developers and partners. Marketing, Finance, Forward Deployed Engineering, Service Delivery and Commercial Operations will also fall under him. PTI**

China keeps new rare earth curbs on hold until Jan

***Beijing:* China on Monday announced a two-month extension of export-control waivers due to expire this month, preserving part of a wide-ranging deal struck after a summit between Presidents Xi Jinping and Donald Trump. The Ministry of Commerce said that the pause will be extended for two months until January 10, and gave no other details. In April 2025, China had introduced export controls on certain rare earths, and expanded them in October of that year. REUTERS**

MARKETS

Sensex	NIFTY	Gold ▼	US Dollar ▲
81,106.65	25,044.65	₹1,41,452	₹93.93
107.25	58.25	Silver ▼	Oil ▲
0.13%	0.23%	₹1,82,828	$96.39

NOTE: GOLD, SILVER RATES AS PER INDIA BULLION AND JEWELLERS ASSOCIATION, AS OF NOV 6
GOLD PER 10G, SILVER PER 1 KG; CRUDE OIL (INDIAN BASKET) AS OF NOV 6, 2026

GLOBAL TURBINE ORDERS TOP 100 GW VS ANNUAL MANUFACTURING CAPACITY OF 60-70 GW

AI power rush: Data centres eye used turbines, jet engines

Reuters
Bengaluru/Frankfurt/ London, November 9

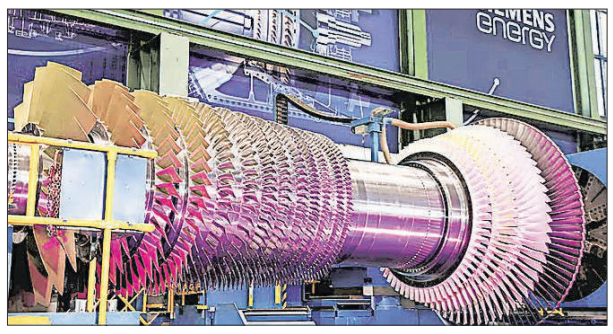
UTILITIES, DEVELOPERS and firms racing to power artificial intelligence (AI) data centres are scouring the world for second-hand gas turbines, reviving mothballed machines and converting retired jet engines, as lead times for costly new equipment stretch into next decade.

Despite growing scepticism over the perils of AI technology and a recent selloff in related stocks, demand for energy-hungry data centres is soaring, creating a bottleneck for essential power infrastructure and equipment, such as turbines. "Delivery conversations (are) firmly focused on the 2030 to 2031 window," Aurora Tenorio, Senior Analyst at energy consultancy Wood Mackenzie, said about the US turbine market. That is prompting companies to search for second-hand and refurbished equipment as well as turbines based on jet engines rather than wait for order backlogs to clear, according to more than a dozen brokers, service firms and suppliers. "That secondary market is very, very hot right now," said Ana Amicarella, CEO of EthosEnergy, an equipment services provider. "We also have seen an escalation in the prices of what people are demanding."

Can this market be the answer to the power supply squeeze?

Probably only partially, said Noor Qureshi, an Associate at Enverus Intelligence Research.

"The market is already constrained, with limited excess supply, so it is unlikely to offset a meaningful share of the delays," she said. Turbines are also just one obstacle, with air permits, grid access and other factors also causing delays. There are no reliable estimates of how much the secondary market is contributing to the global turbine supply worth about $25 billion a year.



Demand for energy-hungry data centres is soaring, creating a bottleneck for essential power infrastructure, equipment. REUTERS

Its emergence, though, attests to the impact of the data centre boom. AI infrastructure firm Crusoe, for example, in April ordered 13 so-called aeroderivative gas turbines from US-based ProEnergy — based on jet engines made by GE Aerospace — describing it as a strategic move to scale fast.

The turbines, with a joint capacity of 650 MW, will be deployed at Crusoe's AI data centre projects in the US.

ProEnergy and Crusoe did not respond to *Reuters* requests for additional information.

Data centres and their operators have emerged as big customers of gas turbines, a market that almost solely catered to traditional utilities a few years ago. Today, worldwide orders top 100 GW, said Wood Mackenzie, well above estimated global production capacity of between 60 GW and 70 GW.

• GLOBAL

In Nvidia spy row, role of Singapore firm and shadow of US-China AI race

Soumyarendra Barik
New Delhi, November 9

AMERICAN CHIPMAKING giant Nvidia has launched an investigation into reports that Chinese intelligence targeted its chief executive, Jensen Huang, through a woman who was a former executive at the firm Megaspeed.

The controversy brings renewed scrutiny to the Singapore-based data centre operator that American authorities have investigated since 2024, over suspicions of aiding China in accessing restricted US artificial intelligence (AI) chips.

The company had also raised concerns in Washington about whether American export restrictions can effectively prevent Chinese businesses from accessing advanced AI computing power via third countries.

What are the allegations?

Recent media reports claimed that Huang had a relationship with a woman named Alice Huang. In a message on Sunday, he confirmed the claims, stating, "I was unfaithful to my wife... There is no excuse for what I did. I am deeply sorry."

Nvidia said a committee of independent directors would investigate the allegations, while stating that the board had no reason to believe company secrets or US national security had been compromised.

The global AI boom has propelled Nvidia into becoming one of the world's most valuable companies (currently valued at over $4.5 trillion), as technology giants such as Google and Amazon spend billions of dollars building AI infrastructure powered by its advanced chips. Nvidia's graphics processing units have become central to training and running sophisticated AI models.

The allegations have now brought renewed scrutiny to Huang's lobbying of the Donald Trump administration to ease restrictions on Nvidia's chip exports to China. US officials have pointed out that Beijing could use advanced American AI technology to strengthen its military capabilities, while Huang has argued that supplying certain inferior-quality chips to China would help stem innovation within its domestic industries.

But after the spying allegations, the possibility that a Chinese intelligence operative had personal access to Huang has led to questions about Beijing's influence.

While American export controls prohibit the unauthorised shipment of certain advanced chips to China, Chinese companies can potentially obtain access to comparable computing power by renting infrastructure housed in other countries. Such arrangements are not necessarily illegal.

What is Megaspeed?

Megaspeed is a Singapore-registered company that provides AI computing capacity through data centres in Southeast Asia. Its origins can be traced to 7Road, a Chinese cloud-computing company that US lawmakers have described as having links to the Chinese government.

Despite Nvidia maintaining that Megaspeed has no Chinese shareholders, its business dealings have led to questions. According to trade records cited by *The New York Times*, a Malaysian affiliate of Megaspeed purchased at least $4.8 billion worth of advanced AI equipment containing Nvidia technology between June 2024 and February 2026. The company has reportedly supplied computing capacity to Chinese tech giant Alibaba and other Chinese businesses.

The US Commerce Department started investigating Megaspeed's operations in late 2024, after an official visiting one of its data centres in Malaysia reportedly found Nvidia equipment still packed in boxes. It implied that the chips could have been shipped elsewhere.

American officials then examined whether Megaspeed was diverting chips to China. The investigation was transferred to the US Department of Justice this year.

Singaporean authorities have confirmed an ongoing investigation into Megaspeed for suspected breaches of domestic laws. However, neither the American nor Singaporean investigations have publicly established that Megaspeed illegally diverted chips to China. Megaspeed has denied wrongdoing, while Nvidia has maintained that its checks found no evidence of diversion.

In May 2026, short-selling firm Culper Research published a report alleging that Megaspeed had received financial backing linked to Alibaba through intermediary companies. Culper disclosed that it held a short position in Nvidia, meaning it stood to benefit from a fall in the company's share price. Its allegations remain unproven.

Why do the allegations matter?

The latest allegations centre on Alice Huang, a Chinese citizen and former Megaspeed executive whom US intelligence officials reportedly concluded was passing information to Beijing. Reports have also suggested that China's Ministry of State Security had recruited her.

China has rejected the espionage allegations. On their part, Singaporean authorities have said the nation does not enforce unilateral US export restrictions, but will act against companies fraudulently circumventing foreign controls.

The controversy comes amid Washington's efforts to restrict China's access to advanced AI technology, particularly Nvidia's most powerful processors, which can have military and intelligence applications. Huang's close relationship with Trump is also under the scanner.

Three Republican chairmen of US House committees have requested a closed-door briefing from Huang on November 18, citing significant national security concerns over China's access to American technology and information.

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explained@indianexpress.com

• MOBILITY

Used vehicles: Ease of transactions depends on state

Dheeraj Mishra
New Delhi, November 9

THE SALE of pre-owned or used vehicles has emerged as a strong market in India, growing significantly every year. Used cars are even expected to outsell new ones — up from the current 1.3:1 used-to-new ratio to 1.7:1 by 2030 — thanks to lower upfront costs for middle-income households. But complex rules and a lack of transparency often force people to rely on intermediaries, adding to the cost.

Ease of owning a vehicle

According to the Ease of Vehicle Ownership Index, a new report released by Union Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways Harsh Malhotra on Wednesday, Andhra Pradesh leads among 15 states surveyed in terms of a smooth process involving used vehicle transactions.

Andhra Pradesh scored 5.91 out of 10, followed by Kerala (5.74), Tamil Nadu (4.58), and Delhi (4.58). Uttar Pradesh came last at 2.47, just behind Bihar (2.51) and West Bengal (2.56). That no state crossed a score of six shows that even top performers don't have the entire ecosystem in place, and most states face structural challenges.

The key problem

The report, prepared by startup industry body IndiaTech.org in partnership with consumer organisation Consumer VOICE, is based on the performances of states on six metrics: clarity and consistency of ownership transfer rules; functional availability and reliability of online systems; speed, predictability and procedural burden; fee clarity, application tracking and grievance mechanism; consumer protection, dealer support and trade infrastructure; and official fees versus actual all-in market cost of transfer.

• GROWING MARKET

- The report said India's pre-owned vehicle market was valued at $36.4 billion in 2024-25 and is expected to grow to $73.5 billion in 2030.
- Data also indicates that 60-65% of buyers in the used vehicle market are first-time car owners.

The index covered 15 states — Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Karnataka, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Telangana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Haryana, West Bengal, Bihar, and Uttar Pradesh — which account for more than 85% of India's organised used-car market.

According to the report, cost is the weakest pillar — an area in which 12 states scored below 3.5. This means people have to pay well above the cost prescribed for the transfer of vehicles, thanks to multiple manual stages, court notaries, vehicle inspection and multiple departmental signings.

It said registration certificate (RC) transfer times run from seven to 10 days in Andhra Pradesh, where buyer, seller and lender authenticate biometrically, to more than 30 days in Uttar Pradesh. In 13 of the 15 states, applicants file online and are still asked to deliver physical copies to the RTO. The uneven road tax among states adds another layer to the problem.

Possible solutions

The report recommends that a stepwise timeline for the transfer of vehicles should be fixed through an amendment to the Motor Vehicles Act. It also said that DigiLocker and mParivahan documents should be accepted as primary evidence at every RTO to end the dual online and physical submission.

There should be real-time integration between banks and VAHAN, so that hypothecation is removed automatically when a loan closes, it said. Authorised dealers should be allowed to clear pending challans during a transfer without the owner's OTP.

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• GEOPOLITICS

War or peace: How Trump can deal with Iran next

The Republican rout in the midterms puts Iran in a better bargaining position. Will a defeated Trump lash out or pursue an interim deal instead?



EXPERT EXPLAINS
BASHIR ALI ABBAS
SENIOR RESEARCH ASSOCIATE, COUNCIL FOR STRATEGIC & DEFENSE RESEARCH, NEW DELHI



A billboard depicting (from left) US special envoy to the Middle East Steve Witkoff, US President Donald Trump, Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu, and US Vice President J D Vance, in Tehran on November 3. AP

THE US midterm polls have left the Democratic Party in firm control of both Houses of the US Congress, with the Republican Party suffering historic losses even in traditional strongholds.

Behind the "Blue Tsunami" was the cost of living crisis in the US, exacerbated by President Donald Trump's tariffs and, crucially, the war he started against Iran — which drove up fuel prices domestically and globally. Indeed, after the results, Vice President J D Vance acknowledged on X that "the reason we lost is the war [with Iran]". Trump has himself called this "largely true".

The question now is whether a defeated Trump will lash out by resuming the war with Iran or pursue a deal instead. Early after the polls, he seemed disinclined towards more war. But, on Thursday, he tried to keep the possibility open.

Vance, perhaps driven by the need to distance himself from Trump before the 2028 presidential election, has been clearer. He said that for voters to return to the party, the administration would have to "end the war, focus on inflation, put America first (and) change our relationship to Israel".

With the new Congress set to take office in early January, the US now appears simultaneously on the verge of both war and a deal with Iran.

The path to war

For the Trump administration, all military measures thus far have essentially been attempts to weaken Iran's bargaining position for an eventual deal. But this prolonged entanglement in West Asia has significantly affected its domestic standing, as proved by the midterm polls. Trump's approval rating now stands at 38%.

In recent months, Vance has reportedly privately accused Israel's (now caretaker) Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, of being "wrong on everything" about Iran. This shows Washington DC's loss of faith in Netanyahu's military approach.

If anything, the US's post-midterms predicament has strengthened Tehran's bargaining position. This, in turn, may force Trump to save face through yet another visible show of force, even if a deal remains the ultimate objective.

But Trump's principal challenge, since even before the midterms, has been that Tehran retains as much agency as Washington in determining when a round of strikes ends. In the run-up to the polls and ever since, Tehran has asserted that there's no US military pathway — whether swift or prolonged — that will not result in escalatory retaliation, especially with potentially longer-range missiles being used without "geographic restraint".

This significantly cuts into Washington's space for calibrated military action that absorbs the cost of Iranian retaliation but still keeps Tehran at the table.

The regional Arab states, which faced the brunt of Iran's retaliatory attacks earlier this year, know that another round of fighting will hobble them economically and are proactively pushing for any possible interim arrangement.

The US achieved no strategic objective through the war it started with Israel in late February. Resuming it would do even less for its bargaining position in the ongoing negotiations for an interim deal.

Democrats' dilemma

Come January, Democrats will have to choose whether to back a Trump-led deal with Iran, or be seen as prolonging the war.

•

Ironically, this closing "lame duck" window arguably presents the last opportunity for Washington to attempt another military intervention.

The path to a deal

In the run-up to the midterms, it was the aforementioned lack of an achievable objective that prevented US military action, or support for Israeli action.

Iran remains interested in forcing the US to return to the core terms of the collapsed interim peace deal from June. This is reflected in its demands, including cessation of hostilities, end of the US blockade, sanctions relief, release of frozen Iranian funds, and reparations, among others.

Iran also wishes to retain the pathway to peace set out in the June memorandum of understanding (MoU) — the US meeting these demands, followed by Iran reopening the Strait of Hormuz (retaining the right to coordinate shipping with Oman), and then both sides then moving to nuclear talks. For Tehran, this supersedes the need to preempt hostilities with Washington.

Iran refrained from responding to Israel's large-scale aerial provocation close to Iranian airspace in October. It is also now reportedly amenable to a two-day implementation window for an interim deal — Day 1 would see Iran admitting International Atomic Energy Agency inspectors in return for a lifting of the US blockade and release of frozen Iranian funds; Day 2 would see Iran reopening the Strait of Hormuz and the initiation of talks over its reported 440 kg stockpile of 60% enriched uranium. This is a marked step-down from Iran's seven-day roadmap presented to the US in September.

Even if the midterm results dissuade the Trump administration from military action, it would need Iranian nuclear concessions in the interim deal. This is unlike the June deal, which effectively agreed to defer nuclear negotiations for 60 days. This is untenable for Tehran, especially as it blames Washington for undermining key provisions of the MoU.

The clock is ticking

For the Trump administration, time is running out for a smooth path to removing sanctions on Iran.

On September 18, Trump had signed the Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026. This statute had extended the expiry of the original 1996 Iran Sanctions Act from December 2026 to December 2031. For permanent sanctions relief, a Congressional vote is inevitable.

Moreover, it was a Republican-led House and Senate which had passed the 2015 Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act that sought to review Barack Obama's nuclear deal. Now, this same Act binds the Trump administration to submit any nuclear deal with Iran to Congress with a 60-day review period. So, notwithstanding the actual complexity of Congress-linked options facing Trump, an interim agreement remains the only viable path presently.

But Democrats, too, will soon have to choose — back a Trump-led deal, or be seen as prolonging the war. That, however, remains a problem for after January. Ironically, it is also this closing "lame duck" window which arguably presents the last opportunity for Washington to attempt another military intervention.

Ultimately, it will be Iran's willingness (or lack thereof) to offer nuclear concessions during an interim deal that will determine whether Washington turns to the military to save face.

This is notwithstanding a "Black Swan" scenario where Netanyahu or his successor conducts fresh unilateral strikes on Iran and allows Washington to intervene, declare a ceasefire, and secure credit for "ending" the war — which it had started.

• HISTORY

How one Chinese city became the fireworks factory of the world

Rishika Singh
New Delhi, November 9

A MAJORITY of the Diwali fireworks set off across India can be traced to the production hub of Sivakasi in Tamil Nadu. Globally, though, one country — and one city — holds the pole position in selling fireworks.

Liuyang, in southern China's Hunan province, has been associated with fireworks since their invention during the Tang Dynasty (618 to 907 CE). Today, it accounts for about 60% of China's fireworks market and roughly 70% of its exports. As a whole, China accounts for a whopping 90% of global fireworks production.

This trajectory has been shaped by history, economics, and debates about preserving culture and the environment.

Fireworks shoot off from Liuyang

Several legends are associated with fireworks, including the quest for immortality. Chinese alchemists were said to have mixed several powders, including saltpetre (which supplies the necessary oxygen) and sulphur (the fuel), when they accidentally created the early fireworks. The powders were packed inside bamboo.

The primary constituent of fireworks is gunpowder (also invented in China). "For centuries, fireworks production in Liuyang was a precarious cottage industry. Families mixed black powder by hand and filled shells manually — a system that combined artisanal skill with serious safety risks and heavy pollution," said a State media report.

But this legacy did not directly carry forward to the Communist republic established in 1949. It was, in fact, the 1972 visit of US President Richard Nixon to China that led to the industry seeing a "serious revival" and a "transfer of accumulated Western know-how back to China," a *CNN* report said.

A large labour base was also readily available, reducing input costs. Other factors that likely helped were the relatively lax regulations around the dangerous work, and that it did not need sophisticated machinery.

Domestic demand also helps in sustaining the industry, which benefits from the grand displays associated with holidays like the Lunar New Year. One State media outlet described it as part of China's "emotional" economy, driven by entertainment and experiences.



Firework production began as a cottage industry in Liuyang, China. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

"Fireworks, once viewed merely as holiday consumables, have been repositioned as a year-round cultural attraction. Since 2023, the city has hosted 142 major displays, attracting more than 7 million visitors," a 2026 report said.

Pollution, safety in focus

Safety has increasingly become a part of China's fireworks story. Over the decades, factory incidents have led to regulations and temporary bans, including one relaxed only around 2006. Just this May, a factory explosion in Liuyang killed 26 people. Months before, local governments were said to be loosening restrictions to ring in the Lunar New Year.

The government has argued that steps have been taken to modernise the industry. This has included "AI-enabled cameras feeding into a centralized risk-warning system" and separating "dangerous chemical-handling procedures" from humans.

Worsening air quality is also part of the equation, much like in India. After bans in Beijing in 2018, one State media report quoted author Feng Jicai as stating, "The fireworks were originally intended to scare away the 'nian', a mythical beast that preyed on people and livestock at the turn of the year, but was afraid of loud noises... For centuries, Chinese people embraced the new year with the sound of fireworks."

In 2017, due to "strong opposition from rural people," a ban was lifted just two days after its introduction in Henan province.

NOTICE

It is hear by declared to the public in general that the original title Deed being no. 00026, Registered in the Book no. I, Volume no. 01, pages from 145 – 148, dated 03.01.1985 registered at ADSR BARASAT, which is lying in the name of one **RAMENDRA CHANDRA ROY (Since Deceased)**, S/o Lt. Ram Kumar Roy, of R.592/F, New Queater Kolkata Airport, Kolkata- 52, Dist. 24 Pgs.(N), in respect of the property under Mouza -MOLLA PARA, JL no. 76, Dag no. 49, Khatian no. 115, has been lost and lodge a GDE being no. 635, dated 09.10.2026. If anybody find the said deed of conveyance in that Case he or she be please to return the same making communication in the Mobile No. 6291807979.

Sd/- SUROJIT BANERJEE, Advocate

S. E. RAILWAY - TENDER

For and on behalf of The President of India Sr. DEE/TRS/SRC South Eastern Railway invites against **e-tender notice:** TRS-SRC-52-FTC-26-2157. **Description of work:** Cleaning of Traction Motor Blower filters, Machine room blower filters, oil cooling blower roof dynamic filter with radiator and Hotel load filter of 3 phase WAP-7 Electric Locos at Electric Loco Shed, Santragachi for two years. **Tender Value:** ₹ 1325959.86 including GST. **EMD:** ₹ 26500.00. **Cost of tender document:** NIL. **Date of opening:** 04/12/2026 at 15:30 hours. **Completion period:** 24 months. **Date of Submission:** up to 15:00 hrs. of 04/12/2026. Interested Tenderers must visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for all details, description, specification, corrigendum of the tender and submission of their bids. **(PR-994)**

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

Office of The Chief Engineer (Kaveri), 5th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore-560009.

No: BWSSB/CEKTE/TA/15/2026/368/2026-27 Date: 05.11.2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Through KPP portal only)

BWSSB, invites tenders in two stage tender system from eligible contractors for the work of **Construction of Roads and Side Drains inside Chokkanahalli (65ML) GLR premises.**

Amount put to tender: **Rs.125.093 Lakhs.** EMD: **Rs.2.00 Lakhs.**

Last date and time for Receipt of tenders will be on **24.11.2026 upto 15.00 hours.** The bids will be opened on **25.11.2026 after 16.00 hours.** The details regarding the tender and participation in the kpp portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the signed office during working hours.

Sd/-
DIPR/CP/AAPL/RO3611/26-27 **Chief Engineer (Kaveri).**

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

KMDA TENDER NOTICE
e-NIT No. EE(E/M)/JNNURM-I/T-06/ 2026-27

Online two-part percentage-premium e-tender on turn-key basis is invited by the Executive Engineer (E/M)/JNNURM-I, E/M Sector, KMDA, 6th floor, Unnayan Bhawan, Salt Lake City, Kolkata-700091, from from the agencies having successfully completed the work of 'Operation and Maintenance work of a Pumping Station and of a H.T. Sub Station not less than 984 m3 / hr capacity in Drinking Water Project using the Surface Water' in any Government / Govt. Undertaking/ Autonomous Bodies / Semi-Govt./ Statutory Bodies / Local Bodies, for the work, **Name of Work, Estimated Amount, Earnest Money to be Deposited, Time of Completion,** Round the clock guarding, operation & minor maintenance of 3200 m3 / hr capacity Raw water Pumping station with sub- station at Glasskol Ghat, Titagarh for 34 months., Rs.66,16,438.40, Rs.1,32,329/- (Balanced amount to determine @ 2% of contract / accepted amount is to be deposited before issuing of order), 34 months, **Date & time limit for submission of Tender:** 02.12.2026 upto 12:00 hrs., for details contact the above office or visit both websites. **(KMDA-731)**

www.kmda.wb.gov.in
www.wbtenders.gov.in ICA/T19829(3)/2026

It is hereby informed to the general public that Pradeep Ghosh, Himarani Ghosh, Ramakrishna Ghosh and Bholanath Ghosh are registered as A.D.S.R. Janai office under the original documents of the Power of Attorney Book No.- I, Deed No. 7767/2026, 1596/2021 and 3351/2022, Mouja-Pairagachha, J. A No.-55, Hal L.R Khatian No. 132, 3092, 3090, 3089 under The properties belonging to the Suna category of former R. S. and Hal L. R. plots No. 1725 and 1723 were appointed by Shri Arup Kumar Pal and Atanu Kumar Ghosh as agents for the purpose of selling the property with a total of 15.7543 Decimal The said agents sold the property with a total of 4.13 Decimal including 3.28 Decimal of the property at plot No. 1723 and 0.85 Decimal of the property at plot No. 1725 to my client Karuna Modak in the year 2026, vide the Sale Deed No. 8210/2026 registered from the ADSR Janai office of Hooghly district. And now my client Karuna Modak has applied for mutation in the office of Chandltala-2 No. B. L&L R O. If the donor or any other person has any complaint, then the complaint must be filed with the said land office within 01 month from the date of publication of the advertisement, otherwise action will be taken as per the law after that period.

Sd/-
(Soumendra Nath Majl) Advocate, Howrah Judge's Court

पंजाब नैशनल बैंक (भारत सरकार का उपक्रम) pnb punjab national bank (Govt. of India Undertaking)

PASCHIM MEDINIPUR CIRCLE
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PREMISES REQUIRED

Punjab National Bank requires suitable ready built and well-constructed hall type building for Branch having Carpet Area including space for **ATM / E-Lobby (1200 Sq.ft. to 1800 Sq.ft.) on lease / rental basis at Village / Post : Bidhannagar, Dist - Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal, Pin - 721 101**, Premises should be preferably in **Ground Floor** and if in first floor with lift facility for shifting of existing **Bidhannagar Branch**. Premises offered should have all clearance certificates from statutory authorities. Interested owners / registered Power of attorney Holders of such premises in the desired locality who are ready to lease out their readily available premises on long term lease basis preferably for 15 years or more may send their offers in the prescribed format available on **Bank's Website : www.pnbindia.in** or the same may be obtained from **Circle office Paschim Medinipur or from Bidhannagar Branch** during office hours. The complete offer duly sealed & signed and should reach the undersigned on or before **23.11.2026 by 5.00 P.M. at PNB Circle Office, BE-1, Bidhannagar East, Paschim Medinipur, Pin - 721 101**.

No brokerage will be paid by the Bank. Bank reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers at its sole discretion without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

Date : 10.11.2026 **Sd/- Circle Head**

PUBLIC NOTICE

(In accordance with the RBI Directions No RBI/DOR/2025-26/340 DOR.HOL.REC.259/16.13.100/2025-26 dated November 28, 2025)

C D EQUIFINANCE PRIVATE LIMITED

Regd Office: S.B. Tower, 3rd Floor, 37, Shakespeare Sarani, Kolkata-700017. Tel No: +91 33 4488 0000, E-mail: compliance@cdef.in, Website: www.cdef.in

1. This Notice is being issued jointly by (i) CD Equifinance Private Limited registered under the Companies Act, 1956, having its Registered Office at S.B. Tower, 3rd Floor, 37, Shakespeare Sarani, Kolkata-700017 (**"Company"**) and registered with the Reserve Bank of India (**"RBI"**) as a non-banking financial Company, and (ii) M/s. PD Legacy Trust, a private family trust constituted under the Indian Trusts Act, 1882, having its Registered Office at S.B. Tower, 3rd Floor, 37, Shakespeare Sarani, Kolkata-700017 (**"Trust"**) in accordance with the Reserve Bank of India (Non-Banking Financial Companies – Acquisition of Shareholding or Control) Directions, 2025 bearing reference number RBI/DOR/2025-26/340 DOR.HOL.REC.259/16.13.100/2025-26 dated 28th November, 2025 issued by the RBI, and other applicable laws.
2. As of date of this Notice, Mr. Pranay Desai holds 50,60,282 (Fifty Lakh Sixty Thousand Two Hundred Eighty-Two) out of 51,26,004 (Fifty-One Lakh Twenty-Six Thousand and Four) Equity Shares in the Company. Pursuant to the proposed transaction, it is proposed that Mr. Pranay Desai settle 49,57,761 (Forty-Nine Lakh Fifty-Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty-One) (which constitutes approximately 96.72% of the Share Capital in the Company) Equity Shares of the Company held by him in PD Legacy Trust, by way of gift and without any consideration, as part of family arrangements. The aforesaid transaction will not result in any change of control and management of the Company.
3. This Notice is intended to provide the public with a Notice of the proposed change in Shareholding of the Company as a result of the above transaction.
4. Any clarifications may be addressed to Ms. Munmun Ghosh, Chief Compliance Officer at the Registered Office of the Company (given above) within 30 (thirty) days from the date of this Notice or at their e-mail id Munmun.ghosh@cdef.in/Compliance@cdef.in.

The public Notice is being issued jointly by the Company and M/s. PD Legacy Trust.

Sd/- For CD Equifinance Private Limited
Sd/- For PD Legacy Trust

Place : Kolkata
Date : 9th November, 2026

SMALL INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT BANK OF INDIA

sidbi

SPECIALISED ASSET RECOVERY BRANCH (SARB)/ASSET RECOVERY VERTICAL UNIT
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Phone: 044-66636055 / 66636024
Website - www.sidbi.in

NOTICE OF SALE
Sale notice for sale of Movable Properties
[See proviso to rule 6(2)]

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Movable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 6(2) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower and Guarantor(s) that the below described movable properties charged/ hypothecated to Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), the Secured Creditor, the constructive possession of which has been taken on 25/02/2026 by the Authorised Officer of Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and " Whatever there is" on 26/11/2026, starting 11.00 A.M to 3.00 P.M with unlimited extension of 15 minutes duration each till conclusion of the sale for recovery of Rs.84,42,454 /- (Rupees Eighty-Four Lakh Forty-Two Thousand Four Hundred Fifty-Four Only) as on 10/10/2026 together with interest thereon and other monies due to the SIDBI from Nirma Knitting Centre (Borrower / Hypothecator), Shri Abhijit Tikadar, (Proprietor/Guarantor):

Particulars of Assets	Possession Type	Earnest money deposit [EMD]	Reserve Price
First Charge by way of hypothecation in favour of SIDBI on all the movables (save and except book debts) including the movables, plants, machinery, machinery spares, tools & accessories, office equipment, computers, furnitures and fixtures, both present and future and whether installed or not and whether now lying loose or in case or which are now lying or stored in or about or shall hereafter from time to time during the continuance of the security of these presents be brought into or upon or be stored or be in or about all the Hypothecator's factories, premises, and godowns or wherever else the same may be or be held by any party to the order or disposition of the Borrower or in the course of transit or on high seas or on order of delivery, howsoever and wheresoever in the possession of the Borrower and either by way of substitution or addition. The major items hypothecated are:	Constructive	Rs. 6,90,000/- (Rupees Six Lakh Ninety Thousand Only)	Rs. 69,00,000/- (Rupees Sixty-Nine Lakh Only) + applicable GST

S.No.	Description of the assets	Quantity	Manufacturer / Supplier
1	KOEL MAKE - DG SET	1	Power Irrigens, Authorized Dealer of Kirloskar
2	High Speed Triple System Fully Fashionable - CNC Flat Bed Knitting Machine & MFAs	8	Shibanka Textiles Pvt. Ltd.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Small Industries Development Bank of India, Secured Creditor's website i.e., www.sidbi.in

Date : 10/11/2026
Place: Chennai

Sd/-
Authorized Officer
Small Industries Development Bank of India

BANK OF BARODA

MAKDUMPUR BRANCH
B G 54, PS: English Bazar, Malda WB-732103
E-mail: vjmald@bankofbaroda.bank.in

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

ANNEXURE-A
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES APPENDIX-IV-A [See proviso to Rule 8(6) or 9(1)]

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 6 (2) & 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the borrower(s), Mortgagor(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immoveable property mortgaged/ charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis for recovery of dues in below mentioned account/s. The details of Borrower/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/s / Guarantor/s / Mortgagor(s)	Detailed description of the immovable property with known encumbrances, if any (owner / Mortgagor name Eva Nursing Home & Sri Tapas Sikdar & Smt. Lakshmirani Sikdar)	Total Dues	Date & Time of E-auction	1. Reserve Price / 2. EMD Amount / 3. Bid Increase Amount	Status of Possession (Symbolic / Physical)	Property Inspection date & Time
1	**1. Eva Nursing Home** Godrail Pally Near gour Kanya Bus Stand Makdumpur English Bazar Dist:-Malda, West Bengal 732103 **2. Sri Tapas Sikdar, S/o- Kshitish Chandra Sikdar, 3. Smt. Lakshmirani Sikdar (Guarantor), W/o-Sri Tapas Sikdar** At- Ramkrishna Mission Road, Mission Ghat, P.O.-Mokdumpur, P.S. English Bazar, Dist.- Malda, Pin-732101, West Bengal W. No-08, H.No- 26/27(A)	All right title and interest in property bearing JL 68, Khatian no RS 900 LR 3306, 3307, 3308, 3309, 3310, 3365, Plot no RS 1016,1017,L R 975, Area 21.16 decimal upon which a flat measuring 1075 sq ft on 5TH floor Flat no A along with an Open space on basement measuring 120 sq ft being no 06 situated at Ramkrishna Mission Road PS English Baar PO & Dist Malda belonging to Tapas Sikdar & Lakshmi Rani Sikdar, **Surrounded by: On towards North by:** Property of Sarbari Sarkar **On towards South by:** Municipal Road **On towards East by:** Staircase **On towards West by:** Property of Sukhendu Sekhar Roy & others. **Boundary of Property with- On towards North by:** Doba **On towards South by:** Municipal Road **On towards East by:** Municipal Road & Mahananda River **On towards West by:** Saradindu Sekhar Roy & Others.	**Rs. 2,67,38,744.52 + interest and charges w.e.f. 31-10-2026**	**26.11.2026 Time- 2.00 PM to 6.00 PM with unlimited extension of 10 minutes**	**Rs. 50,45,625.00/-** / **Rs. 5,04,562.50/-** / **Rs. 10,000.00/-**	**Symbolic**	**From 19-11-2026 02:00 PM 04:00 PM** Concerned Officer Mr. Deepak Kumar Mobile: 9631001100 (with prior appointment)
2	**1. Eva Nursing Home** Godrail Pally Near gour Kanya Bus Stand Makdumpur English Bazar Dist:-Malda, West Bengal 732103 **2. Sri Tapas Sikdar, S/o- Kshitish Chandra Sikdar, 3. Smt. Lakshmirani Sikdar (Guarantor), W/o-Sri Tapas Sikdar** At- Ramkrishna Mission Road, Mission Ghat, P.O.-Mokdumpur, P.S. English Bazar, Dist.- Malda, Pin-732101, West Bengal W. No-08, H.No- 26/27(A)	All that piece and parcel of land measuring about 5.40 Decimal with single storied building Standing thereon comprised being Khatian No. 840(Eight Hundred forty), 2628 (Two thousand six hundred twenty eight), 6160 (Six Thousand One Hundred sixty), 7090, New L.R. 14572, Plot No. R.S. 1057, L.R. 7295, Mouza-Pirojpur, J.L. No. 69, under P.S. and Municipality English Bazar, Ward No. 04, Holding No. 46/72/37, Dist. Malda. Within the limits of English Bazar Municipality in the District of Malda, Having Single Stored 1000 (One Thousand) Sq.ft. 20 (Twenty) years Old Construction, Floor of which is cement Polish, **Butted and bounded as Follows: On the North:** Rahul Debnath & Others, **On the South:** House of Manik Chandra Das **On the East:** No.2 Government Colony Road **On the West:** Nivas Apartment.	**Rs. 2,67,38,744.52 + interest and charges w.e.f. 31-10-2026**	**26.11.2026 Time- 2.00 PM to 6.00 PM with unlimited extension of 10 minutes**	**Rs. 1,45,80,000.00/-** / **Rs. 14,58,000.00/-** / **Rs. 20000/-**	**Symbolic**	**From 19-11-2026 02:00 PM 04:00 PM** Concerned Officer Mr. Deepak Kumar Mobile: 9631001100 (with prior appointment)

Property is under symbolic Possession and Bank will hand over the property symbolically to auction purchaser.
For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided in **https://www.bankofbaroda.bank.in/e-auction.htm** and **https://baanknet.com** / Also, prospective bidders may contact the authorized officer / Branch Manager, **Mobile: 9631001100**

1. The sale is subject to confirmation by the Secured Creditor Bank.
2. Property is in 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 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.
5. Successful Auction purchaser will not be entitled 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: 07.11.2026
Place: Malda

Authorized Officer
Bank of Baroda

The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd

KMML

(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking) Sankaramangalam, Kollam-691 583
Phone: 0476-2651215 to 2651217, e-mail: md@kmml.com, URL: www.kmml.com

TENDER NOTICE

For more details please visit E-Tendering Portal, https://etenders.kerala.gov.in or www.kmml.com

Sl No.	Tender ID	Items
1	2026_KMML_885982_1	Fabrication & Supply of Sulphuric Acid Storage Tank F557
2	2026_KMML_885995_1	Fabrication & Supply of Recycle Gas Cooler
3	2026_KMML_885952_1	Fabrication & Supply of Bottom Shell Segment for Chlorinator
4	2026_KMML_885170_1	Local clearance and transportation of goods from Kollam to TP Unit

Chavara 09.11.2026 **Sd/- Managing Director for The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd**

पंजाब नैशनल बैंक (भारत सरकार का उपक्रम) pnb punjab national bank (Govt. of India Undertaking)

PASCHIM MEDINIPUR CIRCLE
BE-1, Bidhannagar East, Paschim Medinipur, Pin - 721 101

PREMISES REQUIRED

Punjab National Bank requires suitable ready built and well-constructed hall type building for Branch having Carpet Area including space for **ATM / E-Lobby (1200 Sq.ft. to 1800 Sq.ft.) on lease / rental basis at Village / Post : Jamda, Dist : Jhargram, West Bengal, Pin - 721 507,** premises should be preferably in **Ground Floor** and if in first floor with lift facility for shifting of existing **Jamda Branch**. Premises offered should have all clearance certificates from statutory authorities. Interested owners / registered Power of attorney Holders of such premises in the desired locality who are ready to lease out their readily available premises on long term lease basis preferably for 15 years or more may send their offers in the prescribed format available on **Bank's Website : www.pnbindia.in** or the same may be obtained from **Circle Office, Paschim Medinipur or from Jamda Branch** during office hours. The complete offer duly sealed & signed and should reach the undersigned on or before **23.11.2026 by 5.00 P.M. at PNB Circle Office, BE-1, Bidhannagar East, Paschim Medinipur, Pin - 721101.**

No brokerage will be paid by the Bank. Bank reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers at its sole discretion without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

Date : 10.11.2026 **Sd/- Circle Head**

HDFC BANK

HDFC Bank Limited
Branch: 4, Mangoe Lane, 5th Floor, Surendra Mohan Ghosh Sarani, Kolkata- 700001.
Tel: (033)- 6608-6234 CIN L65920MH1994PLC080618 Website: www.hdfcbank.com

POSSESSION NOTICE
(For Immovable Property)

Whereas the Authorised Officer of **HDFC Bank Limited** (erstwhile HDFC Limited having amalgamated with HDFC Bank Limited by virtue of a Scheme of Amalgamation approved by Hon'ble NCLT-Mumbai vide order dated 17th March 2023) **(HDFC)**, under the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("said Act") and in exercise of powers conferred under Section13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices under Section 13 (2) of the said Act, calling upon the following borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) and Legal Representative(s) to pay the amounts mentioned against their respective names together with interest thereon at the applicable rates as mentioned in the said notices, within 60 days from the date of of the said Notice/s, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc till the date of payment and / or realisation.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s)	Outstanding Dues	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession	Description of Immovable Property (ies) / Secured Asset (s)
1.	**Borrower:** Mr. Bhabatosh Saha **Co- Borrowers:** Mr. Biswajit Saha Mr. Promotosh Saha Mrs. Archana Saha Mr. Chirantan Saha Mrs. Sima Saha Mrs. Bijoya Saha Mrs. Soma Saha Mr. Abhinaba Saha Archana Apparels Pvt. Ltd.	Rs. 2,08,82,545/- as on 31.12.2025	14.01.2026	06.11.2026 (Physical Possession)	All that piece and parcel of bastu land admeasuring more or less 2katha 14chittak 18 sqft of total land admeasuring more or less 42decimal situated under Premises No. of 64/8/2/296 of Kolkata Corporation under Registration No. 6, JI No. ; 34 Mouza-Baderaypur village under District Collector Touzi No. ; 56, the then Jamindar and resident of Jadavpur daulat ali sahev under district settlement record and under khatian no 18 under Dag No. 199 On the South: 4ft length and 44ft wide passage and On the west: 12 feet wide Road combination both the road considering 8 kotha and 44 sqft land the total admeasuring bastu land of 2 katha 14 chittak 18 sqft of bastu land with bastu structure with teen and tali shed with bera along with three room, one toilet, tube well, electric connection with meter tower connection under Police Station-Jadavpur .The said property is butted and bounded as follows : On the South: 4ft length and 44ft wide passage, On the West : 12 feet wide Road.
2.	**Borrower:** Mr. Bhabatosh Saha **Co- Borrowers:** Mr. Biswajit Saha Mr. Promotosh Saha Mrs. Archana Saha Mr. Chirantan Saha Mrs. Sima Saha Mrs. Bijoya Saha Mrs. Soma Saha Mr. Abhinaba Saha Archana Apparels Pvt. Ltd.	Rs. 1,79,11,912/- as on 31.12.2025	14.01.2026	06.11.2026 (Physical Possession)	ALL THAT piece and parcel of bastu land measuring about 3 (Three) Cottah be the same a little more or less together with one single storeyed brick built building having its built up area 610 sqft (56.67 sq. mtrs) approx., lying and situated in Dag No: 199, appertaining to Khatian No.18 in Mouja- Baderapur, J.L no: 34, lying within the Calcutta Municipal Corporation being premises no: 64/8/2/293, Raipur Road, known as (2/170, Sree colony), Police Station Jadavpur, Calcutta-700092, sub-registry office at Alipore, District South 24-Parganas, which is butted and bounded as under:- On the North: Raipur Road, On the South : land of Palad Chandra Roy, On the East: Land of Prafulla Kumar Chatterjee, On the West : Raipur Road.
3.	**Borrower:** Mr. Bhabatosh Saha **Co- Borrowers:** Mr. Biswajit Saha Mr. Promotosh Saha Mrs. Archana Saha Mr. Chirantan Saha Mrs. Sima Saha Mrs. Bijoya Saha Mrs. Soma Saha Mr. Abhinaba Saha Archana Apparels Pvt. Ltd.	Rs. 1,06,67,012/- as on 31.12.2025	14.01.2026	06.11.2026 (Physical Possession)	The property being a plot of land admeasuring 01 cottah 15 chittaks 16 sq. ft. (131.13 sq. mtrs) approx., situated at Mouza: Raipur, Pargana: Khaspur, J.L. No.: 33, RS No.: 31, Touzi No.: 56, Khatian No.: 283, Dag No.: 782, within the limits of Ward No.: 18 of Kolkata Municipal Corporation, Premises No.: 64/2, Raipur Road, P.S.: Jadavpur, Dist.: South 24 Parganas, alongwith the construction thereon present and in future (the said property). The said property is butted and bounded as follows: On the North: Property of Dag No.: 782(P), On the South: Property of Dag No.: 782, On the East: Property of Dag No.: 781, On the West: Road.
4.	**Borrower:** Mr. Prasenjit Bhabak **Co- Borrower:** Mrs. Mousumi Bhabak	Rs. 24,69,138/- as on 30.06.2025	18.10.2025	06.11.2026 (Physical Possession)	ALL THAT a self-contained residential Flat being No.3D, measuring super built-up area 815 (Eight Hundred Fifteen) Sq. Ft (75.716 Square metre approximate), on the Third(3rd) Floor of the Five(G+4) storied building known as "GANAPATI APARTMENT", North-West Side plus proportionate common area be the same a little more or less, with lift facility, along with all proportionately undivided share in the land rights and along with all common facilities situated at a plot of Bastu land measuring an area of 9.50 (Nine Point Five Zero) decimals be the same a little more or less, lying and situated at Mouza Masunda, J.L. No. 34. Re.Sa. No. 96 comprised in R.S. Khatian No.-685, Sabek L.R. Khatian No. 1745, LR Khatian No: 3587,3603,3611,3612 appertaining to R.S. Dag Nos. 232, 232/1716 and 232/1718 corresponding to L.R. Dag Nos. 1218, 1219 and 1346, referred to hereinafter being Premises at Aswini Dutta Road, within local limits of New Barrackpore Municipality, Ward No. 06, Holding No. 49, within the jurisdiction of the office at A.D.S.R. Sodepore, under Police Station-Khardaha, then Ghola, presently New Barrackpore, in the District of North 24 Parganas, Kalkata - 700131, which is butted and bounded by: ON THE NORTH : 07 Ft. wide common passage, ON THE SOUTH : 13 Ft. wide AswiniDutta Road, ON THE EAST : 10 Ft. wide common passage, ON THE WEST : House of Ashoke Chowdhury.

*with further interest as applicable, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc incurred till the date of payment and / or realisation.

However, since the borrower/s / Legal Heir(s) and Legal Representative(s) mentioned hereinabove have failed to repay the amounts due, notice is hereby given to the borrower/s / Legal Heir(s) and Legal Representative(s) mentioned hereinabove in particular and to the public in general that the Authorised Officer/s of **HDFC** have taken physical possession of the immovable property (ies) / secured asset(s) described herein above in exercise of powers conferred on him/them under Section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on the dates mentioned above.

The borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) and Legal Representative(s) mentioned hereinabove in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the aforesaid Immovable Property(ies) / Secured Asset(s) and any dealings with the said Immovable Property (ies) / Secured Asset(s) will be subject to the mortgage of **HDFC**.

Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) attention is/are invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset/s.

Copies of the Panchanma drawn and Inventory made are available with the undersigned, and the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) is / are requested to collect the respective copy from the undersigned on any working day during normal office hours.

Place : Kolkata
Date : 10.11.2026

For HDFC Bank Ltd.
Sd/- Prasun Banerjee / Hirak Paral
Authorised Officers

Regd. Office: HDFC Bank House, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel (West), Mumbai - 400013

BANK OF BARODA

BARUIPUR BRANCH
1st floor Kiron Heights, Sibani Pith Baruipur, Opp 218 Bus stand, South 24 Paraganas, PIN – 700144.
Phone_033-2433-5582, Email:baruip@bankofbaroda.bank.in

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

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

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable/ Movable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) & 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable / movable 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/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/s / 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	**Borrower : Late Ramesh Chandra Halder** Address: Charabidya, Basanti, West Bengal-743329	Equitable Mortgage of All that piece and parcel of one self contained residential flat No D at Ground Floor measuring 512.5 square feet super built up area more or less of the three storied building together with undivided proportionate share of land lying and situated at mouza Baruipur, C.S. Dag No.318, R.S Dag No. 318/16174,Khatian no.540 RS Khatian no.5507, J.L. No.31 and Municipality holding no.183, Ward No 11, PS Baruipur within the Limit of Baruipur Municipality, District South 24 Parganas. **Bounded and Butted by North**_Flat of Kashinath Dutta ,**East**_ 8 feet Wide Common Municipal Road, **West**_House of Ashok Chakraborty, **South** _House of Paramita Mallick. **The property in the name of Late Ramesh Chandra Halder. Encumbrance: not known**	**Rs.13,15,574/-** (Rupees Thirteen Lakh Fifteen Thousand Five hundred and Seventy Four) plus unapplied interest, cost and other charges thereon.	30.11.2026 from 02 p.m. to 06 p.m (With unlimited extension of 10 minutes)	**Rs.13,15,000/-** / **Rs.1,31,500/-** / **Rs.10,000/-**	Physical	Any working day 3.00 pm-5:00 pm Concerned Officer- Moumita Roy Mobile- 9064495625 (with prior appointment)

For detail terms and condition of sale of the properties under physical possession and other detail terms and conditions of sale, please refer / visit to the website link **https://www.bankofbaroda.bank.in/ e-auction.htm and https://baanknet.com.** For more details if any prospective bidders may contact the authorized officer on Tel No.033-24335582, Mobile 9064495625

Date: 07.11.2026
Place :- Kolkata

For detailed terms and conditions SCAN HERE

Authorised Officer
Bank of Baroda

STATURORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8 (6) & RULE 9 (1) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST ENFORCEMENT AMENDMENT RULES, 2002.

ওয়েষ্ট বেঙ্গল গ্রামীণ ব্যাঙ্ক West Bengal Gramin Bank

(Scheduled Bank Owned by Government)

Ojas/RITES Building, Tower-C, 6th To 9th Floor, Plot No. DJ/20, Action Area 1D, New Town, Kolkata-700160

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

West Bengal Gramin Bank invites sealed bids under the Two-Bid System from eligible and experienced manufacturers/printers for printing, manufacturing, personalisation and supply of Wall Calendars, Table Top Calendars, Executive Notebooks, Normal Notebooks and Spiral Note Pads for the Calendar Year 2027, under two separate sections, vide Tender Ref. No. WBGB/HO/GSAD/5944/2026-27 dated 07/11/2026. For detailed eligibility criteria, specifications, tender schedule and other terms and conditions, please visit the Bank's website **www.wbgb.bank.in** under the Notice & Tender section.

GENERAL MANAGER

Maharashtra Industrial Township Limited

MITL

(A Government Undertaking)
Regd. Off.- Udyog Sarathi, MIDC Office, Marol Industrial Area, Andheri East, Mumbai-93
Tel. No. 022-26879956 website: www.auric.city CIN: U74999MH2014SGC260132

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Selection of City Manager for Operation and Maintenance of, Roads, Drains, Culverts, Minor and Major Bridges, Water Supply, Sewerage, Sewage Treatment Plants, Common Effluent Treatment Plants, ICT Infrastructure and Associated City Infrastructure at AURIC Shendra Bidkin Industrial Area, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, Maharashtra on Public Private Partnership (PPP) Basis.

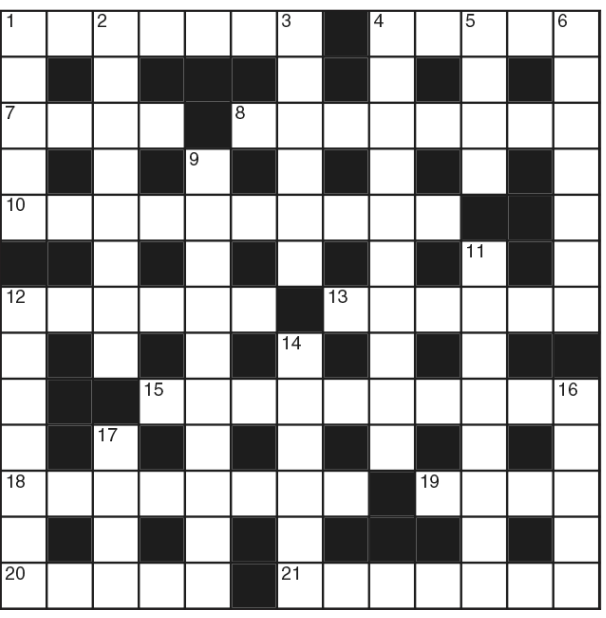
(Tender No.: MITL/SBIA/EOI/2026-27/01)

The tender details are available at **https://aitl.eproc.in, www.auric.city.** Interested applicants are requested to submit their document responses online by 1500 hrs on or before 26th Nov 2026. A non-refundable processing fees of INR 25,000/- + GST shall be paid along with the submission through MITL's online e-procurement portal.

Sd/-
Managing Director, MITL

Kolkata

• CROSSWORD 6142



ACROSS
1 I find reformed smoker irritating (7)
4 What I'm called when I do it all wrong (5)
7 Praise expressed for a noble fellow (4)
8 Part of Canada producing a vine crop (8)
10 Disreputable press cited for contempt (10)
12 Church councils saying wickedness has the advantage? (6)
13 A whole lot of work for chimney sweeps (6)
15 Unable to work so no longer a monk? (3,2,5)
18 A rest for every living being (8)
19 It's an achievement not having seconds in big meal (4)
20 Wood spirit (5)
21 Farm vehicle pulling muck cart back (7)

DOWN
1 Did little after I'd made the running (5)
2 One reeks terribly of jet fuel (8)
3 Turned on a bad parent (6)
4 The appeal of a fashionable career (10)
5 They are naturally charged for half portions (4)
6 It keeps warm but leaves me short-changed (7)
9 His success is proved by capital gains (4-6)
11 Dictates one way to prove gold genuine (4,4)
12 Writers have a small room with a key on board (7)
14 Second in importance (6)
16 Chopper blade going up and down (5)
17 She's short but not rude (4)

SOLUTIONS CROSSWORD 6141 **ACROSS:** 1 Hairstylist, 9 Overall, 10 Grace, 11 Kids, 12 Deflated, 14 Extras, 16 Astern, 18 Proceeds, 19 Aver, 22 Rinse, 23 Elation, 24 Teetotaller **DOWN:** 2 Ahead, 3 Roam, 4 Tolled, 5 Legalist, 6 Startle, 7 Bookkeepers, 8 Wedding ring, 13 Pavement, 15 Trounce, 17 Advent, 20 Voice, 21 Paul

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've read some of your modern free verse and wonder __ __ __ free. - John Barrymore (3,3,2)

BDREO

CRIMS

IOPPTT

IKSSHW

SOLUTIONS: Bored/Robed, Scrim, Tiptop, Whisks
ANSWER: I've read some of your modern free verse and wonder **who set it** free. - John Barrymore

• OVER THE HEDGE

BY MICHAEL FRY & T LEWIS



• CALVIN & HOBBES

BY BILL WATTERSON



• MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG



• ROYAL STARS

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

ARIES (MAR 21 - APR 20): This is an interesting day to explore new ideas. Grab any chance to travel. You also might be attracted to someone. This is a mildly accident-prone day for you. Tonight: Explore and learn.

TAURUS (APR 21 - MAY 21): You might feel generous to others today. However, your judgment could be a tad off, so, don't give away the farm. It will also be wise for you to double-check banking details. Something unexpected might occur in these areas. Tonight: Check your finances.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21): Be prepared to go more than halfway when dealing with others today to keep everyone happy, including yourself. You'll be convincing when talking to others. This also might be a romantic day. Tonight: Listen and cooperate.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23): Today you might develop a crush on a co-worker or have a brief passing flirtatious look with someone. It's also a productive day; nevertheless, your work routine will be interrupted. Equipment might break down. Stay cool. Tonight: Get better organised.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUG 23): This is definitely a romantic day for a date or fun opportunities to socialise with someone. Something unexpected might catch you off guard. Perhaps someone of an age difference. Parents should be vigilant with your kids to avoid accidents. Tonight: Socialise.

VIRGO (AUG 24 - SEP 23): Tread carefully at home today, especially with female relatives. Something unexpected might ruffle some feathers. You might see ways to make some improvements at home. You also might be sidetracked with a romantic fantasy. Tonight: Relax.

LIBRA (SEP 24 - OCT 23): This is a great day to chat with others, especially with a potentially romantic connection. It's also an accident-prone day, and a day full of interruptions. Tonight: An interesting conversation.

SCORPIO (OCT 24 - NOV 23): Keep an eye on your money and possessions today to avoid theft or damage. Avoid knee-jerk reactions or impulsive purchases that you might regret later. A work-related romance might begin for some of you. Tonight: Check your money and belongings.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV 24 - DEC 22): Today the Moon is in your sign dancing with four other planets, making you feel sympathetic, friendly, practical and full of common sense, as well as excitable and persuasive. Go with what works for you. Tonight: You're in the zone!

CAPRICORN (DEC 23 - JAN 20): This is a popular time for you, especially because younger people are suddenly back in your life. You also make a great impression on authority figures. However, today, you might want to hide and explore a secret romance. Tonight: Enjoy privacy.

AQUARIUS (JAN 21 - FEB 19): A friend might do something that surprises you today. One possibility is that a platonic friendship could turn flirtatious. You feel sympathetic and affectionate to someone. Tonight: Be friendly.

PISCES (FEB 20 - MAR 20): People notice you today. You'll be confident and ready to take charge. You also might be sympathetic and generous to someone. An aspect of romance is also in the picture depending on how you relate to others. Tonight: You're admired.

SUDOKU 6498

DIFFICULTY LEVEL 2s 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

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

SOLUTION SUDOKU 6497

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

Uttarakhand Urban Sector Development Agency (UUSDA)
Urban Development Department, Government of Uttarakhand
777, Saatvik Tower, Kaulagarh Road, Rajendra Nagar, Dehradun
Telephone +91-135-2753894, Tele-fax +91-135-2754895
Email: uusdip@gmail.com, Website: www.uusda.uk.gov.in

Adv. No: UUSDA/P-105/1906 **Date: 09.11.2026**

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)
(Rebid-1)

Urban Development Department (UDD), Government of Uttarakhand (GoU) has received financing from European Investment Bank (EIB) for the **Uttarakhand Water and Sanitation Project (UWSP), in the State of Uttarakhand.** The project aims to develop and strengthen urban infrastructure in Uttarakhand through the implementation of water supply systems and other essential urban infrastructure components. and intends to apply part of the proceeds of the Loan for the works as mentioned in the table below.

The **"Program Director",** Uttarakhand Urban Sector Development Agency (UUSDA), Government of Uttarakhand" **(the Employer)** invites online bids through the Uttarakhand state e-procurement portal **https://uktenders.gov.in**, from eligible Bidders for the execution of the work as detailed below:

Name of Work	Package No.	Invitation of Bid No.	Last Date & Time of Submission
Development of Water Supply Scheme (Tube wells, rising mains, OHTs, Distribution System & House Service Connections including Allied Works) with 2 years O&M at Sitarganj Town in Uttarakhand.	WS-STR-01	UWSP/OCB-I/WS/ STR-01 (Rebid-1)	28th December 2026 till 03:00 PM, (15:00 Hrs.)

Date of publication of bid document	12.11.2026 at 05:00 PM, (17:00 Hrs.)
Date of Pre- Bid Meeting	25.11.2026 at 11:30 AM, (11:30 Hrs.)
Bid documents may be uploaded from	19.12.2026 at 03:00 PM, (15:00 Hrs.)
Last date of submission of original EMD at the Promoter's Office	27.12.2026 at 04:00 PM, (16:00 Hrs.)
Last Date/Time for downloading of the bid document	28.12.2026 at 02:30 PM, (14:30 Hrs.)
Date/Time for opening of the Technical bid	28.12.2026 at 03:30 PM, (15:30 Hrs.)

The prospective bidders can download the detailed bid document in the prescribed format and upload the bid on the website, **https://uktenders.gov.in**. Program Director, UUSDA reserves the right to reject any or all the proposals or to cancel the entire process without assigning any reason thereof. Further details of the bid document including subsequent addendum/corrigendum/cancellation etc. may be downloaded from the website **https://uktenders.gov.in**.

Program Director
UUSDA

''हमारा संकल्प आपका सहयोग बेहतर कल''

e-Tender Notice

The Authority, Bhagwangola Gram Panchayat invites e-Tender through e-Procurement System from the bonafied & resourceful Contractors for NIeT No. 01/BGOLA GP/ VBG RAMG/2026-27, Memo No. 243 / Bgola , Dated– 05/11/2026. Last date of Bid submission - 23/11/2026 upto 2.00PM. For more details visit web site:- http://tenders.wb.gov.in

Sd/-
Executive Assistant, Bhagwangola G.P.
Bhagwangola-I Block, MSD

e-Tender Notice

The Authority, Swaruppur Gram Panchayat invites e-Tender through e-Procurement System from the bonafied and resour-ceful contractors for NIeT Nos. **i)** 03(06)/ CFC 15th FC TIED/SWPGP/2026-27(2nd Call), **ii)** 04(04)/ CFC 15th FC UNTIED / SWP GP/2026-27 (2nd Call). Both dated: 04/11/2026. Last date of bid submission for NIeTs:- 14/ 11 / 2026 upto 03.55PM. For details visit https://tenders.wb.gov.in

Sd/-
Executive Assistant, Swaruppur G.P.
Hariharpara Block,Murshidabad

Office of the Block Development Office
Sagardighi :: Murshidabad.
NOTICE INVITING e-Tender
e-tender are invited through online bid system under following tender(NIeT) No:- 06/EN/SPS/2026-2027, (FUND-15th CFC) (SI No 01 to 28) Dated:-05/11/2026.
The last date of online submission of tender is 19/11/2026 upto 14:00 hours.For details please visit website: http://wbtenders.gov.in

SD/-
Block Development Officer
Sagardighi, Murshidabad

SURI MUNICIPALITY
SURI :: BIRBHUM
Abridged Notice Inviting Tender Tender Notice No WBMAD/ULB/SURI/ e-NIT-3-2nd CALL/2026-27 Dt.07/11/2026 Memo No – 2382/SM/e-Tender Dt.07/11/2026 Tender ID **2026_MAD_1049013_1 to 6**
Executive Officer Suri Municipality invites Tenders for 6(Six) nos of work Tender Submission closing Date : 21.11.2026 at 06.59 PM. Detailed information including downloading and uploading time are available from the website wbtenders.gov.in
Sd/-Executive Officer
Suri Municipality

यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Union Bank of India
भारत सरकार का उपक्रम A Government of India Undertaking

Union Bank Of India, Regional Office, Greater Kolkata : 3, Middleton Row, Kolkata- 700071

PREMISES REQUIRED ON LEASE

"Bank requires a well-constructed commercial RCC premises admeasuring **1700 sq.ft. ± 10%** variance in carpet area in ready possession /under construction (to be completed by 2 months) **at Baguiati in North 24 Parganas District of West Bengal, preferably in VIP Road at left hand side heading towards airport,** at prime location in the ground floor with all amenities and sufficient parking space. Landlord needs to construct Strong Room of "B" Class as per BIS Specification and provide minimum 25 KW Electricity Connection in the name of Bank. For further details, please visit Bank's website **www.unionbankofindia.com / e-Procurement portal www.eprocure.gov.in. Last date for submission of bids in prescribed format is 24.11.2026 upto 1500 hrs.**
The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason whatsoever".

Regional Head

Note: The date of publication and tender uploading may change due to technical reasons. However tender opening days will be as per approved days after uploading tender.

यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Union Bank of India
भारत सरकार का उपक्रम A Government of India Undertaking

Union Bank Of India, Regional Office, Greater Kolkata : 3, Middleton Row, Kolkata- 700071

PREMISES REQUIRED ON LEASE

"Bank requires a well-constructed commercial RCC premises admeasuring 60 sq.ft. to 100 Sq.ft. in carpet area in ready possession at the places within the vicinity (max. 500 mts.) of the existing branch premises **of South Sinthee (64360) Branch (66A, Kali Charan Ghosh Road, W-Block, Sinthee, Kolkata-700050)** at prime location in the ground floor with all amenities and sufficient parking space in front of the ATM / CRM. Landlord needs to provide minimum 5 KW Electricity Connection in the name of Bank. For further details, please visit Bank's website **www.unionbankofindia.com / e-Procurement portal www.eprocure.gov.in. Last date for submission of bids in prescribed format is 24.11.2026 upto 1500 hrs.**
The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason whatsoever".

Regional Head

Note: The date of publication and tender uploading may change due to technical reasons. However tender opening days will be as per approved days after uploading tender.

HDFC BANK
HDFC Bank Limited
Branch: 4, Mangoe Lane, 5th Floor, Surendra Mohan Ghosh Sarani, Kolkata- 700001.
Tel: (033)- 6608-6234 CIN L65920MH1994PLC080618 Website: www.hdfcbank.com

POSSESSION NOTICE
(For Immovable Property)

Whereas the Authorised Officer of **HDFC Bank Limited** (erstwhile HDFC Limited having amalgamated with HDFC Bank Limited by virtue of a Scheme of Amalgamation approved by Hon'ble NCLT-Mumbai vide order dated 17th March 2023) **(HDFC)**, under the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("said Act") and in exercise of powers conferred under Section13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices under Section 13 (2) of the said Act, calling upon the following borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) and Legal Representative(s) to pay the amounts mentioned against their respective names together with interest thereon at the applicable rates as mentioned in the said notices, within 60 days from the date of of the said Notice/s, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc. till the date of payment and / or realisation.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s)	Outstanding Dues	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession	Description of Immovable Property (ies) / Secured Asset (s)
1.	**Borrower :** Mr. Dhananjay Bauri	Rs. 21,19,736/- as on 31.05.2026	31.07.2026	06.11.2026 (Symbolic Possession)	All that plot of land admeasuring 3.56 cottahs equivalent to 5.8740 decimals (238.21 sq. mtrs.), more or less, alongwith cement floored one storied house admeasuring 700 sq.ft. (65.05 sq. mtrs.), more or less, lying and situated at District- Paschim Bardhaman, P.S.- Faridpur, Sub-Division and ADSR Office - Durgapur, JL No. 42, Mouza-Ichapur, LR Khatian No.91, RS & LR Dag No.1609, alongwith undivided proportionate share of land and construction thereon, present and future (said property) The plot is butted and bounded as follows:- On the North: Plot of Dr. H.N.Singh, On the South: Sub-Plot No. D-6, On the East: 20 foot unpaved road, On the West: Plot of Dr. H.N.Singh.
2.	**Borrower:** Mr. Bidyut Sengupta	Rs. 29,81,908/- as on 31.01.2026	04.03.2026	06.11.2026 (Symbolic Possession)	ALL THAT the Unit in or portion of the building being Flat No.02 on the First floor (1st floor) at "NOLINI" Apartment measuring a Super built up area 1010 Sq.Ft.(93.83 Sq.Mtr) more or less with a Four Wheeler Parking measuring are 135 Sq.Ft (12.54 Sq. Mtr) more or less , together with proportionate share in ALL THAT piece and parcel of Bastu Land measuring 12 (Twelve) Decimal, more or less situate, lying at and being Mouza-Fuljhore,J.L No-82,L.R, J.L No.:-107, R.S. Plot No.-463 (P),L.R. Plot No.-5743,5744,Khatian No.-5504, L.R. Khatian No.6876, Holding No. 246/N within Ward No-24, under the Durgapur Municipal Corporation , Sub-Registration office Durgapur, District-Burdwan presently Paschim Bardhaman entire land is butted and bounded as follows: IN THE EAST:- Jawahar Lal Nehru Road, IN THE WEST:- Plot No.439, IN THE SOUTH:- Plot No.436, IN THE NORTH:- Plot No.437.
3.	**Borrower:** Mr. Rajat Chakraborty **Co- Borrower:** Mrs. Anita Chakraborty	Rs. 13,38,174/- as on 30.11.2026	20.01.2026	06.11.2026 (Symbolic Possession)	All that the property being Flat No. 1A, admeasuring 78 sq. mtrs (approx), on Is Floor of the building, situated at Mouza: Hatiara, JL No.: 14, Dag No.: 4471, Khafian No.: 784, within the limits of Ward No.: 20, P.S.: Newtown, Dist.: North 24 Parganas, Kolkata: 700157 alongwith all rights over the allotted car parking spaces (if any) and the undivided proportionate share of the land and construction thereon present and in future.

*with further interest as applicable, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc incurred till the date of payment and / or realisation.
However, since the borrower/s / Legal Heir(s) and Legal Representative(s) mentioned hereinabove have failed to repay the amounts due, notice is hereby given to the borrower/s / Legal Heir(s) and Legal Representative(s) mentioned hereinabove in particular and to the public in general that the Authorised Officer/s of HDFC have taken symbolic possession of the immovable property (ies) / secured asset(s) described herein above in exercise of powers conferred on him/them under Section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on the dates mentioned above.
The borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) and Legal Representative(s) mentioned hereinabove in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the aforesaid Immovable Property(ies) / Secured Asset(s) and any dealings with the said Immovable Property (ies) / Secured Asset(s) will be subject to the mortgage of HDFC.
Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) attention is/are invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset/s.
Copies of the Panchanma drawn and Inventory made are available with the undersigned, and the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) is / are requested to collect the respective copy from the undersigned on any working day during normal office hours.

Place : Kolkata
Date : 10.11.2026

For HDFC Bank Ltd.
Sd/- Sandipan Bhattacharya / Hirak Parai
Authorised Officers

Regd. Office: HDFC Bank House, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel (West), Mumbai - 400013

E-AUCTION-SALE OF PROPERTIES OWNED BY GOLDEN FOREST (INDIA) LIMITED

located in villages Thangadpally, Thallasingaram, Choutuppal, Panthangi, and Lingojiguda in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District, and Ramagundum village in Peddapalli District of Telangana pursuant to the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India

1. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India **("Hon'ble Supreme Court"),** vide the orders dated August 19, 2004 and September 05, 2006 passed in Transferred Case (Civil) No. 2 of 2004 titled Securities and Exchange Board of India vs. Golden Forest (India) Ltd. & Anr. **("the Orders"),** constituted the committee to invite claims from investors of the Company, to identify the properties of the Company, its subsidiaries/associate companies **(the "Golden Forest Group Companies")** and to take possession and sell the properties thereof, so that the realised sale proceeds can be paid to the investors, who have invested their funds in any of the said companies.

2. The Hon'ble Supreme Court vide an order dated May 15, 2025, in the matter of W.P.(C) no. 188 of 2004 Raiganj Consumer Forum Vs Union of India & ors, has directed the Income Tax Department, Government of India to conduct a public auction for the disposal of certain properties of Golden Forest (India) Limited.

3. Consequently, the Request for Proposal (RFP)/Tender document for land measuring around 381 acres and 28 guntas in Thangadpally village, 226 acres and 10 guntas in Thallasingaram village, 42 acres and 22.5 guntas in Choutuppal village , 33 acres and 24 guntas in Panthangi village and 491 acres and 28 guntas in Lingojiguda village of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District of Telangana and a property measuring 682.94 square yards in Ramagundum village of Peddapalli District of Telangana have been published, which can be accessed at: **https://gfil.enivida.com**

4. Details for participation in e-auction are available in RFP/Tender document. Key dates are as follows:
- **a. Date of Publication of RFP:** November 10, 2026
- **b. Start Date of Submission of Bids:** November 10, 2026
- **c. Last date for submission of Queries:** November 25, 2026
- **d. Bid Due Date and Time:** 05:00 PM of January 11, 2027
- **e. Start Date of e-Auction:** March 05, 2027
- **f. One time registration fee for the e-auction portal:** Rs. 5,000 plus GST

APPLICABLE CONDITIONS

A. All properties will be sold on an **"as is, where is, whatever there is"** basis and the purchaser will be responsible for all claims, liabilities and/or encumbrances relating thereto.

B. The Committee – GFIL or the Income Tax Department or any of their advisor, including SBI Capital Markets Ltd. will in no way, be responsible for any variation/difference/mismatch in the extent of ownership, size, area, specification of the Properties mentioned in Notice of Sale or the Tender Document and bidders are requested to submit their bids only after conducting their own independent due diligence exercise with respect to the title, size, area, location, extent of ownership and any other information that the bidders may consider relevant to the properties.

PT Usha's IOA presidency on the brink after election setback

Express News Service
Mumbai, November 9

PT USHA'S four-year tenure as Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president appears all but over after she failed to secure a place among the eight Sportspersons of Merit (SOMs) elected to the General Assembly on Monday.

Usha, who became the first woman to head the IOA when she was unanimously elected in December 2022, now faces an uphill task to remain in contention for a second term, with the next Executive Council elections scheduled for December 5 in New Delhi.

Four women and four men have been elected as SOMs, with the women's category going to a vote after six candidates remained in the fray. Former shuttler Saina Nehwal, legendary long jumper Anju Bobby George, former archer Dola Banerjee and former women's hockey captain Rani Rampal were elected.

Olympic medallists Gagan Narang, Vijender Singh and Yogeshwar Dutt, along with former table tennis player Kamlesh Mehta, were elected unopposed in the men's category on Saturday.

Usha's impending exit would mark the end of a tumultuous tenure, characterised by infighting and repeated confrontations within the IOA. She had also become the public face of India's bid to host the 2036 Olympic Games, as well as the country's preparation to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games in Ahmedabad. Her failure to make the cut is therefore significant beyond the immediate leadership contest, although she retains an outside, if unlikely, chance of entering the December 5 election.

Anju topped the women's voting with 53 votes, followed by Rani with 50, Dola with 45 and Saina with 43. Usha finished fifth with 40 votes

Last chance, via NSF

Under the IOA Constitution, a presidential candidate must be an SOM or a member of the General Assembly. Usha can still become eligible if a National Sports Federation nominates her to the General Assembly. However, she is not likely to be among the two representatives nominated by the Athletics Federation of India, making that route difficult.

Anju topped the women's voting with 53 votes, followed by Rani with 50, Dola with 45 and Saina with 43. Usha finished fifth with 40 votes, while former basketball player Anitha Paul Durai received six.

All 80 existing SOMs — 40 men and 40 women — formed the electoral college, with all of them casting their votes in the virtual election conducted between 9 am and 5 pm on Monday. The elected eight will join the IOA General Assembly, with one male and one female SOM also set to secure places on the Executive Council.

The election was marked by allegations of campaign violations and attempts to influence voters. Usha lodged a complaint with Electoral Officer Sanjay Kumar Srivastava, accusing Dola of violating the Model Code of Conduct by circulating a WhatsApp message seeking votes for the 'New Bharat Panel'.

The message allegedly named four candidates and urged voters to support them.

Commonwealth Games gold medallist weightlifter Sathish Sivalingam also complained to the electoral officer about an alleged organised effort to influence voters in favour of a candidate who was also the IOA president, claiming that IOA resources were being used for the purpose. He did not name Usha.

The process had already drawn scrutiny after eight male candidates withdrew before Saturday's deadline, leaving Narang, Vijender, Dutt and Mehta elected unopposed. Among the withdrawals were World Athletics vice-president Adille Sumariwalla, former table tennis player Sharath Kamal and former shuttler B Sai Praneeth. Five women also withdrew from the contest.

• BRIEFLY



Jemimah Rodrigues sustained a high-grade tear in her right hamstring while in The Hundred on August 3. FILE

Jemimah returns as India name squads for SA tour

JEMIMAH RODRIGUES' return to all India squads for next month's tour of South Africa was the major talking point as the right-hander prepares to resume her international career after an injury layoff. Test Squad: Smriti Mandhana [C], Shafali Verma, Pratika Rawal, Harmanpreet Kaur, Jemimah Rodrigues, Harleen Deol, Richa Ghosh [WK], Yastika Bhatia [WK], Deepti Sharma [VC], Sree Charani, Sneh Rana, Kranti Gaud, Nandni Sharma, Jintimani Kalita, Sayali Satghare; **ODI Squad:** Smriti Mandhana [C], Shafali Verma, Pratika Rawal, Harmanpreet Kaur, Jemimah Rodrigues, Harleen Deol, Richa Ghosh [WK], Yastika Bhatia [WK], Deepti Sharma [VC], Sree Charani, Vaishnavi Sharma, Kranti Gaud, Nandni Sharma, Jintimani Kalita, Sayali Satghare; **T20I Squad:** Smriti Mandhana [C], Shafali Verma [VC], Jemimah Rodrigues, Harmanpreet Kaur, Niki Prasad, Richa Ghosh [WK], G. Kamalini [WK], Anushka Sharma, Deepti Sharma, Sree Charani, Prema Rawat, Amanjot Kaur, Kranti Gaud, Nandni Sharma, Renuka Singh Thakur, Arundhati Reddy, Sayali Satghare ENS

Sanjay to lead India for New Zealand tour

OLYMPIC BRONZE medallist Sanjay will lead a young Indian hockey team on a three-match tour of New Zealand from November 15 to 23, marking 100 years of sporting ties between the two countries.
SQUAD: Goalkeepers: Mohith HS and Pawan; **Defenders:** Sanjay, Nilam Xess, Sharda Nand Tiwari, Talem Priyobarta, Anmol Ekka, Yashdeep Siwach; **Midfielders:** Angad Bir Singh, Aditya Lalage, Rabichandra Singh, Vishnukant Singh, Manmeet Singh, Rosan Kujur, Venkatesh Kenche; **Forwards:** Ajeet Yadav, Uttam Singh, Karthi Selvam, Arshdeep Singh, Araijeet Singh Hundal PTI

Lakshya eyes World Tour Finals boost

THE ALL Bolstered by a timely win at Germany, India ace shuttler Lakshya Sen will look to strengthen his bid for a place in the season-ending BWF World Tour Finals when he competes at the Kumamoto Masters Japan Super 500 tournament, beginning on Tuesday. The World No. 13, who ended a difficult phase by returning to the podium at the Hylo Open, will open his campaign against world No. 24 Chi Yu Jen of Chinese Taipei. Sen is currently 10th in the BWF World Tour rankings and needs to break into the top eight to qualify. The BWF World Tour Finals will be held from December 9 to 13. PTI

McLaren's Norris wins Sao Paulo GP

MCLAREN DRIVER Lando Norris was so excited after winning Sunday's rainy Sao Paulo Grand Prix at Interlagos that his traditional Champagne celebration went awry, while Mercedes had another weekend to remember after securing its ninth F1 constructors' title. Norris, the 2025 Formula 1 champion, won Sunday from pole position with the Red Bulls of Max Verstappen and Isack Hadjar completing the podium. Norris had his second consecutive victory in Brazil after a race he led for 47 of 71 laps, with Brazil football great Neymar waving the checkered flag. AP

Four fities carry new-look Pak to 281/5 vs SL

OPENING BATTER Tayyab Arif and Mohammad Taha made impressive debuts as new-look Pakistan drove to 281-5 on the opening day of the first Test against Sri Lanka. Arif made an aggressive 57 off 51 balls and Taha showed lot of grit at No. 3 to score 51 off 105 deliveries on a greenish wicket that lured Sri Lanka captain Kusal Mendis to bowl first. Babar Azam's flamboyant 50 off 58 balls that featured seven fours and Saud Shakeel's unbeaten 57 also gave Pakistan early advantage before bad light stopped play.
BRIEF SCORES: Pak 281/5 (Shakeel 57*, Arif 57, Taha 51, Fernando 2-64) vs **SL** AP

Warner stands with Khawaja for speaking up on Sandpapergate

Express News Service
New Delhi, November 9

THERE HAS been quite a bit of criticism regarding Usman Khawaja's recent comments about the Sandpaper Gate incident. "It was all of us. Not the batters, not the bowlers, not the staff. All of us," Khawaja told the Sydney Morning Herald last week, drawing polar opinions for raising the topic again after eight years. Australian Test opener Nic Maddison accused Khawaja of using the incident as a marketing strategy to sell his autobiography 'Sabr.'

"It is obviously disappointing that it keeps coming up. But it is that time of year, isn't it, when Christmas comes along, and people have books to sell, so things come out," Maddison said ahead of New South Wales' Sheffield Shield clash against South Australia in Sydney.

However, David Warner was on the other end of the spectrum in opinions; He was one of the three players who took the brunt of the punishment after posting a video on Instagram supporting Khawaja.

"This isn't about reopening old wounds. It's about acknowledging that some wounds never properly healed. I stand with my brother Usman Khawaja. Speaking your truth takes courage, especially when people would rather you stay silent. Time passing doesn't replace accountability, and asking questions shouldn't be mistaken for holding grudges. Respect, honesty and accountability. That's all anyone can ask for," Warner wrote, captioning the post. "It's been eight years since I've spoken on this topic. And Uzzie (Usman Khawaja), I throw my full support behind you. I thank you for what you've done. It's 100% accurate what you've said. Now everyone knows the truth. It's out there. People wanted to know it; you've come out and said it, and now people are saying, 'Why eight years on?' Talking about selling a book—this is Usman's story. This is what Usman believes," Warner said.

NEW ZEALAND VS INDIA ODI SERIES

Rahul once again assumes role of India's cricketing firefighter

Batsman has no highlight reels, but his calmness when wickets fall is a constant

Shankar Narayan
Mumbai, November 9

KL RAHUL walked in at 47/4 in Wellington on Saturday, with Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma gone and the chase slipping away. He did not try to rescue it with one big over. He put away the loose deliveries when they came, watched Shreyas Iyer, Naman Dhir and Anshul Kamboj depart, and was unbeaten on 26 off 38 balls when rain stopped play. India had won by four runs on DLS.

While the spotlight is on Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, Rahul has quietly held the fort in India's middle order, batting between numbers four and seven. It was not a headline innings. He does not have a 360-degree game or the shots that make highlight reels. But he brings something India need just as much: the ability to walk in when the innings is in trouble, handle the pressure, rebuild and make up for lost time.

That composure when wickets fall has long been a feature of his batting. The proof goes back years. Three years ago, with India reduced to 2/3 in their ODI World Cup opener against Australia in Chennai, Rahul helped see off the difficult phase, rotated the strike and built a 165-run partnership with Kohli. As the pressure eased, he began finding the boundaries more regularly, finishing unbeaten on 97 and guiding India to a six-wicket win.

Earlier that year, in another chase against Australia in Mumbai, India were 16/3 while chasing 189 before slipping to 39/4. Rahul first steadied the innings with Hardik Pandya and then joined Ravindra Jadeja after Pandya's dismissal. The pair began cautiously before opening up. Rahul remained unbeaten on 75 off 91 balls, guiding India to a five-wicket win.

• Number Plate

1461

• Since January 2023, Rahul has scored 1,461 runs at an average of 63.52 in 39 innings at numbers five and six in ODIs.

It is not only about chases. He showed it while batting first against New Zealand at Mount Maunganui in 2020. India were 62/3 when Rahul joined Iyer, and the pair added 100 runs for the fourth wicket. After Iyer's dismissal, Rahul shared another 107-run stand with Manish Pandey and eventually finished with 112, helping India recover and post 296.

There is a method in it. He does not try to hit his way out of trouble. Instead, he looks to arrest the slide, build a partnership and bring the innings back on track before increasing the scoring rate. His first instinct is to give the innings stability, but there is an understanding that every situation calls for a different approach. In Wellington, staying at the crease was the priority. In the other three innings, once India had stability, he shifted gears.

Batting versatility

His ability to slot into different roles is another strength. He has opened in red-ball cricket and batted at numbers five and six in ODIs, and batting coach Sitanshu Kotak pointed to that flexibility before the third ODI in Hamilton. "I think KL Rahul's biggest advantage is, I have said this before also, he can open in red-ball, he can play in the middle-order in the ODIs, and whenever required he goes at No. 5. He is so good at No. 6 also. He plays according to the needs of the team," Kotak said on Monday.



KL Rahul has scored 2,578 runs at an average of 57.28 when batting between four and seven. CREIMAS

"And since I have joined, I think, I can't remember many matches where he's batted and not contributed. He has played some unbelievable innings and, under pressure, he never looks under pressure. I have never seen KL Rahul under pressure. You always see him very stable. It is brilliant to have someone like him who has that experience and temperament," he added.

Kotak also pointed to his range: "Someone who can rotate, who can hit boundaries when required. He can easily hit a few sixes."

The numbers back him. Across 77 matches, batting between four and seven, he has 2578 runs at an average of 57.28, with six hundreds and 14 fifties. Since January 2023, he has scored 1461 runs in 39 innings at numbers five and six, averaging 63.52 at a strike rate of 98.98 with three hundreds and six fifties. Since the start of 2025, he has amassed 719 runs in 21 innings at an average of 65.36 and a strike rate of 115.96, with two hundreds and two fifties.

While Rohit and Kohli continue to hog the attention, Rahul has emerged as India's man for a crisis. He may not always grab the headlines, but on the helpful surfaces at the ODI World Cup in South Africa next year, his ability to absorb pressure, rebuild an innings and keep the scoreboard moving could prove invaluable.

In Wellington, he was still there when the rain came.
INDIA VS NZ, 3RD ODI: LIVE on Sony Sports Network and Sony LIV, 7:30 a.m

(With stats inputs from Lalith Kalidas)

YOUTH OLYMPICS

Hurdler Shourya wins India's first track medal

Express News Service
New Delhi, November 9



SHOURYA AMBURE **(in pic)** the first Indian athlete to win a track medal at the Youth Olympics with her bronze medal in the women's 100m hurdles at Dakar, Senegal. The 17-year-old from Maharashtra clocked her personal best of 13.59s to finish behind China's Zhang Keyi who won the gold medal with a personal best of 13.17s, while France's Anna Peeters took silver in 13.57s.

This is the second time Shourya has lowered her personal best after she clocked 13.77s in the semi-final earlier to record a new PB. In the final, she shaved it off by 0.18s. Shourya also set the new U18 national record in the event and became the only female Indian athlete to medal in track and field.

Starting in lane six, Shourya had a good start and remained in the podium position before Zhang took a clear lead for gold and Peeters held a slight advantage over the Indian athlete to finish second.

This is India's fifth medal in athletics at the youth Olympics.

One of the promising names on the junior circuit, Shourya is making a comeback after an ACL injury which she suffered last year during a training session. At the start of the year, she underwent the surgery and made a comeback at the Youth Nationals.

"I actually tore my ACL in December 2025, so it's been very very difficult to get out of my rehab. I'm really proud of myself that I could come here at the Youth Olympics and even medal," Shourya told the Olympic channel after his event. "I've been dreaming about this since 2022. For four years, I've been working for this medal. I'm so, so happy."

Tanvi, the badminton prodigy building her game brick by brick

Shivani Naik
Mumbai, November 9

TANVI PATRI, just 15, has her favourites and takes qualities from each. But she does not come across as overly impressionable. She builds her own Lego blocks in her spare time, and her badminton looks geared towards developing in much the same way.

"Viktor Axelsen, Lin Dan, Tai Tzu Ying..." she recites in a media interaction facilitated by the Badminton Association of India after returning from the Youth Olympics with a silver. "I like their attitude. They don't give up easily, even when they are trailing. Their strokes are great in close situations. And they are always patient." Patience is the ingredient she sees as all-important.

She came back from 10-19 down in the decider before going down 24-26 to China's Zhang Yi Xin, the reigning world junior champion. Tanvi displayed plenty of patience, and her coaches point to her poise before every serve. PV Sindhu praised her never-say-die attitude, but Tanvi realises that success timelines can have physical impediments.

"Earlier, I used to say I will aim to win medal at LA 2028, but injuries happened in the last year: knee, back and then hamstring," she says. So the goals are revised to the Asian and World U19 junior championships next year, with the Los Angeles Games still in view. But the string of injuries has left her keeping the ranking goal realistic: Top 30 in the BWF list.

Neither her family nor her coaches at Bengaluru set a lot of store on juniors' achievements, and she isn't lingering over the lost final. "I was happy with silver, there was nothing else to do. I gave my best. Maybe reduce the errors at the start. But I wasn't sad about the silver. I know I should focus on main Olympics, this juniors is just bonus," she says.

Many of her fundamentals come from the years she spent in China, where her father Rabinarayan worked for Nike, and they were about emphasis on shot quality. Accompanying her father to his shuttle club to play doubles, she was spotted by a Chinese coach who saw potential. She lost her first open tournament in Jiangsu but won the next week, prompting coaches to pay more attention to her. "My first coach in China was Xu, who passed away last year. I'm still in touch with the second coach, Wu, and they taught technique and footwork. They stressed on focussing on playing a stroke technically well rather than playing it 100 times," she recalls.



Tanvi Patri poses with her Youth Olympics silver medal. BAI

On her Indian coaches falls the larger mantle of taking her technically solid game to the next level, including managing her injuries. "Indian coaches have helped me with speed," she says, naming each of her six coaches at Bengaluru. Her smash needs the zing, though her timing and placement are way beyond her years. "Powerwise I need to improve my smash. Sometimes it goes out when I go for lines. So I need to improve accuracy on lines. Also half smashes and the depth on full-blooded smashes."

Studying in Class 10, as her mother tutors her, Tanvi needs to clear her Boards next February. "I go to school only for exams. Because after training I get very tired. When I open a book, I feel sleepy," she chuckles, saying she's not a big fan of academics.

Tanvi landed in Bengaluru on advice of the Chinese coach. "They told us Prakash Padukone is a good centre, so we emailed them and I got invited for trials," she says of starting out in India at 10. She has added An Se-young to the players she learns from. "She wins all tournaments... and somehow manages even when trailing."

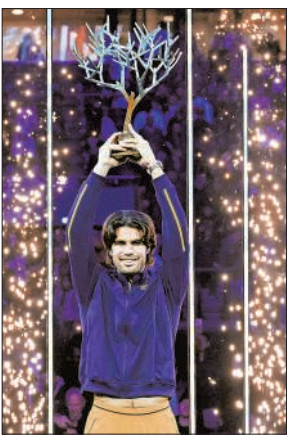
When Zhang started peppering her with slow drops in the final, Tanvi course-corrected and played a better third from the faster side, something of a weakness at the moment. A large part of her comeback from 10-19 down was confidence at the net. "At the net sometimes it worked, sometimes it didn't. But as the shuttle became slow, lifts went well," she recalls.

It has reinforced her with confidence she won't forget soon. "Even if down in points, I could play. If I'd hit the smash inside I could've got the point. When it's neck to neck I need to learn to play the shuttle inside the court." Of the lifts going out from the faster side, she says: "Not thinking much except to reduce errors."

Her comparison of the Indian and Chinese systems is pithy and pointed. "In China, big infrastructure (academies, coaches) are allowed for everyone," she says. Another China habit she misses is the skating rink visits on Saturday and Sunday. "It helped in body balance on court. India doesn't have those skating parks, so instead I like those puzzle-type things."

And Lego. Building her own blocks.

Paris Masters victor Alcaraz confident ahead of ATP Finals



Carlos Alcaraz beat Ben Shelton in the final. AP

Associated Press
Paris, November 9

CARLOS ALCARAZ feels proud of taking "one step forward mentally" after following up his Vienna title last week with a 7-6 (5), 7-5 victory over Ben Shelton in the Paris Masters final.

The Spanish showman, who missed more than four months of the season because of an injured right wrist, continued his late-season surge in style. He has won all three finals he has reached since the U.S. Open two months ago. Alcaraz took his total to five titles for the year and 29 overall, including the Japan Open last month.

Second-seeded Alcaraz threw his arms out wide in celebration after clinching victory on his second match point with a two-handed backhand winner down the line at the indoor Plenitude Arena. The seven-time Grand Slam champion cracked a broad smile and briefly appeared to cry after earning a ninth Masters title and first in Paris.

"It is something I have been chasing for a long time. Some of the toughest defeats I ever had in my career I have had here," Alcaraz said. "Finally I got my level here. I found the right path and the right way to do things."

With the season-ending ATP Finals in Turin starting next Sunday he feels in a good position to win that trophy for the first time, too.

"I would say this week I made one step forward mentally," Alcaraz said. "Trying to be positive, trying to stay strong mentally. I'm happy I controlled my emotions every single match."

Alcaraz won for the fourth time in five meetings with Shelton, who had beaten Alcaraz in a quarterfinal marathon at the U.S. Open ending at 3:33 a.m. Shelton went on to reach the final, where he lost to Alexander Zverev. Alcaraz saved six break points in the first set of Sunday's final and overcame a break of serve in the second set by breaking the third-seeded Shelton straight back — no mean feat considering Shelton had 12 aces compared to six for Alacaraz.

"He is always in a position to attack after that serve," Alcaraz explained. "It is really difficult to dominate that ball. It is not only coming fast, it is coming with a lot of power."

The 23-year-old Alcaraz did not drop a set in Vienna. But it was harder work in Paris and he almost went out on Friday, saving two match points against Taylor Fritz in their quarterfinal. The 24-year-old Shelton was seeking his eighth title overall and third Masters, having twice won the Montreal title.

COMFORTABLE JOB SHUNNED FOR CHESS GLORY

Shrivatri repays family's faith to become India's 100th GM

Former software engineer ends MP's wait for its first grandmaster

Amit Kamath
Mumbai, November 9

AS ASHOK Shrivatri tried to explain the enormity of his son Anuj's achievement, his voice was occasionally drowned out by fireworks going off in the background. It was a fitting soundtrack. Anuj became India's 100th grandmaster on Sunday, and the first from Madhya Pradesh. For the Shrivatri family in Bhopal, Diwali could not have been brighter.

Anuj secured the title by winning the 7th ASEAN Plus Individual Open Chess Championship in the Philippines. India's 100th grandmaster came 38 years after Viswanathan Anand became the country's first.

"*Madhya Pradesh main jo soonapan chal raha tha, woh poora ho gaya* (The drought that was there in Madhya Pradesh chess scene of not having a grandmaster, that's ended)," Ashok tells *The Indian Express* over the noise of firecrackers in the background.

Sunday brought an end to the family's long wait for Anuj to become a grandmaster. He had become an International Master in 2020, just before the pandemic brought chess to a halt. By the time the world opened up again, however, other commitments had taken priority, including a day job.

"Anuj would have become a grandmaster much earlier. He became an IM long back, at the age of 19. Then COVID hit and it cost him many years because he focused on his studies for a few years. At that time, since there were no tournaments he could play in for a few years, so he had no option," says Niklesh Jain, one of Anuj's early coaches who later became his mentor.



Anuj Shrivatri (L) with Viswanathan Anand. NIKLESH JAIN/ CHESSBASE INDIA

POST-PANDEMIC SPURT

1st GM	25th GM	50th GM	75th GM	100th GM
Viswanathan Anand, 1988	Harika Dronavalli, 2011	M.S. Thejkumar, 2017	Pranav V, 2022	Anuj Shrivatri, 2026

It took India 31 years to get its first 65 grandmasters. Since the Covid-19 pandemic, starting with G Akash in July 2020, the nation has had 35 GMs in six-odd years.

Anuj was a school topper who went on to pursue a BTech at Lovely Professional University, specialising in AI and Machine Learning. He then secured a job as a software engineer with a German firm. Initially working from home in Madhya Pradesh, he was later offered the opportunity to move to the company's base in Germany - the sort of offer that could change a life. But Anuj's heart was elsewhere. He chose to give up a stable, well-paying job to pursue his dream on the 64 squares.

> **"There were so many times that I would take a pay cut so that I could accompany Anuj when he was young to tournaments. We always had one bag ready at home to travel with him."**
> ASHOK SHRIVATRI, ON HIS SUPPORT FOR SON ANUJ

"You need to focus at least eight to nine hours on your chess if you want to chase success in the sport. Juggling that and a software engineering job was not possible," recounts Ashok. When Anuj decided to quit his well-paying job, Ashok did not try to dissuade him. Instead, he backed his son's decision.

"*Apne liye sabse pehle chess tha* (For us, chess always came first)," says Ashok. He goes on to explain that chess was something he had been enamoured with in his youth but could never pursue seriously.

Family's sacrifice

The family's support came at a cost. Ashok and his wife, both teachers, put much of their savings into helping their son pursue chess.

"Whatever savings we had annually would be poured into making him a better chess player. If Anuj said he wanted to play in a tournament, anywhere in the world, I would just say, '*Plan karlo*'. He just returned from a bad trip to a tournament in Malaysia. But when he said he wanted to play in another event in the Philippines, I could not refuse. We have never thought about things like bank balance," says Ashok.

"There were so many times that I would take a pay cut so that I could accompany Anuj when he was young to chess tournaments. We always had one bag ready at home to travel with him for a tournament."

Hailing from Katni in Madhya Pradesh, Anuj took to chess in 2011, when he was seven. VK Tiwari was his first coach and played a key role in shaping his understanding of the game. Over the years, Anuj learnt from several coaches, including Jain, but never had one for an extended period. What he did inherit from his father was his *junoon* for chess, along with an insatiable hunger to learn from everyone he encountered.

"The two most important qualities about Anuj was his competitive spirit and his hunger for knowledge," says Niklesh Jain. "We had gone to Spain for a tournament once where he had earned his first IM norm. On that trip I would have to wrest away chess books from his grasp, because he would get so immersed in them. I would have to do that so he could rest." It was this combination of *junoon*, an insatiable hunger for knowledge and a willingness to take a risk with his career that eventually gave India its 100th grandmaster.

GMs of all trades, master of 1 — Total Chess debuts

Amit Kamath
Budapest, November 9

CALL IT the triathlon of chess. Or a tournament to figure out the grandmaster of all trades. Or a radical experiment to recreate chess into a fast-paced television product. Starting Tuesday, a never-seen-before chess tournament — Total Chess — will make its debut; trying to crown the one chess player who has the chops to ace all three formats of the sport: fast classical, rapid and blitz.

A veritable who's who of the chess world — ranging from five-time world champion Magnus Carlsen to the Indian troika of Praggnanandhaa, Vaishali Rameshbabu and Arjun Erigaisi — have started to arrive in Budapest to compete in a trailer tournament of sorts. This year's Total Chess pilot event is a testing ground to gauge player sentiments about the format before a full-scale Grand Slam-esque tour is launched in 2027 that will culminate with a Total World Champion.





Magnus Carlsen (L) will be among the contenders, along with Praggnanandhaa and Arjun Erigaisi. EXPRESS

Shortened format

At the heart of this new experiment is a shortened classical chess format, called fast classical, where players get 45 minutes on the clock with a 30-second increment per move rather than the usual two hours with increments that are in use at other events like the World Championship, the Candidates, the FIDE World Cup and Grand Swiss. The format of Total Chess in itself is particularly treacherous. So much so that even Magnus Carlsen, the greatest active chess player in the world, will not be a favourite, unlike every other event he decides to participate in.

"As far as I have understood the format, I don't think anyone has a clear way to say that they will make it to the top four. First, blitz plays a major role (because players play nine rounds of blitz on to figure out group placings and seedings). Then you have to win your group. That in itself seems like it's not given. Even for Magnus, it's not at all given. It's a difficult format. Anyone can win the group stage. So I don't think anyone is like a favorite more than anyone else," R Praggnanandhaa told *The Indian Express*.

Praggnanandhaa believes that among the Indians, Arjun is the one who has better credentials in the faster time control events. "Arjun is also really good at all formats. He's also higher rated than me in rapid and blitz. And of course, he won bronze medals at the 2025 World Rapid Championship and the World Blitz Championship," says Pragg.

While the rapid and blitz time controls will not be radically different at Total Chess, the fast classical format will be a venture into the unknown for most players.

"We don't have much experience of playing this format before. I don't think I've ever played the 45-minute-plus-30 format. It's going to be interesting. Since this is the first tournament, I don't think anyone can come up with a good strategy," said Pragg. "I've done decent prep for the tournament. But I think the first tournament in Budapest will also give us some clarity on how to go about it."

The sport already has the Classical World Champion, which is the most prestigious title in chess, beside the World Rapid Champion and the World Blitz Champion, who are crowned each year. Starting in 2027, chess will also see a Freestyle World Champion being crowned. Will these new world champion titles dim the luster of the Classical World Championship in the eyes of elite players?

The organisers of the Total Chess event and FIDE have both said that the new World Championship will be an addition, and not a replacement to the existing hierarchy.

"We are trying to build something for the future," Kjell Madland, the CEO of Norway Chess, who is also the brains behind the new championship, had told *The Indian Express* earlier this year.

The players agree that while the Classical World Championship is irreplaceable, the Total Chess World Championship could become an integral part of the chess calendar.

"At least among players, the Classical World Championships will still stand at the top. The focus for all the players will be looking at the Classical World Championship. Because even if you win the Total World Championship, you earn a spot at the Candidates tournament. But maybe this tournament can become a tradition in chess like the World Rapid and Blitz," R Praggnanandhaa said.

(The writer is in Budapest at the invitation of Total Chess)

'It was very unhealthy': Players after postponed Chennai Open final

Venkata Krishna B
Chennai, November 9

AT FIRST, it was a two-and-a-half-hour delay because of rain. Then came the most agonising wait of all for Indonesia's Janice Tjen and Poland's Magda Linette. Having made the final of the WTA Chennai Open originally scheduled for Sunday, they had to wait 16-and-a-half hours in the hope that pollution levels in the city would come down enough for them to be able to take the court at the SDAT Stadium.

Monday's final – which started at 11am – was not without incident either. Linette went on to lift the title by beating the defending champion 5-7, 6-1, 6-4, but not before the organisers had to suspend play for 10 minutes around 1pm, this time due to excessive heat (30.1 degree Celsius).

On Sunday, after Naima Karamoko and Simona Waltert won the doubles title beating Vaishnavi Adkar and Rutuja Bhosale 6-2, 6-0, the singles final couldn't start at the scheduled 6.30 pm because of rain. The organisers later announced that it would begin at 9pm. However, as the evening wore on and the courts took time to dry, Chennai's Air Quality Index (AQI) worsened.

According to AQI.in, at 8:17pm on Sunday, Chennai topped the live global pollution rankings with a reading of 910. While the data released by the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board said the city's average was 178 (poor category) as of 10pm on Sunday, visibility because of smog was an issue across the metropolis.

"First we had rain, obviously. We didn't mind the crackers because of the noise. It was more about the pollution and the health factor," Linette said about the conditions on Sunday evening and the discussions she and her opponent had with the organisers before leaving the court.

The Polish player went on to explain how it was in the middle on Sunday evening and why they had no choice but to postpone the final till Monday morning.

"It was a tough decision. But you had a moment where once you saw the numbers (AQI) in general, first of all, we couldn't put ourselves in this hazard. It is also not good for the ball boys, it's not good for anyone right now, for people watching," she said. "So I was really glad that the organisers got that and managed to stay one more day because it was just very unhealthy and we definitely wouldn't have played as well as we did today."

Hazardous air

Moments after the two players left the court after the final was postponed to Monday, Tjen put out a story by her coach Chris Bint on her Instagram page. It was a visual capturing the smog in Chennai, with the AQI reading an alarming 1556. The caption from Bint read: "And they still wanted the match to go ahead."

In an official statement, the Chennai Open organisers said smoke from fireworks had prevented the final from going ahead on Sunday. "

The skies opened soon after the conclusion of the doubles final, and heavy smoke later engulfed the SDAT Tennis Stadium due to Diwali fireworks, preventing the singles championship match from getting underway," it said.

Both finalists had their reservations about the match going ahead as scheduled on Sunday. They had a brief discussion with tournament supervisor Sheetal Iyer before packing their bags and leaving the court.

It is learnt that the organisers did push for the final to go ahead as planned, but as the situation worsened, they were left with no choice but to postpone. Even the broadcasters raised concerns about visibility at the venue and, after a long discussion, the final was rescheduled. Hiten Joshi, tournament director and Tamil Nadu Tennis Association CEO, said: "The supervisor had to make a final decision on it. And of course, the supervisor was looking to try to play as much as possible, if it is possible. Because there are so many things to be taken into account. There are people who come to watch, all the programmes already pre-arranged for a lot of people, travel - and they have to get permission from the WTA body in these emergencies.

"She (Iyer) also wanted to wait and see if anything was possible. Of course, the player's safety is important."

There were also apprehensions as to how the title clash could go ahead amidst the noise of fireworks in the background. Tjen, at the conclusion of her semifinal, had admitted that playing amidst the din was a new experience to her.

On Monday as well, as the two players fought for the title, one could clearly hear the sound of crackers going off in the background. Asked if the organisers could have slotted the final on a different day, Joshi said they had to follow WTA guidelines.

"We know very well it's the rainy season, that's a problem for all the seven days. We are just unlucky that it rained for that few minutes, otherwise the night would have been done by the time everything else happened," Joshi rued.



Air pollution delayed the summit clash between Magda Linette (in pic) and Janice Tjen at the WTA 250 event. PTI

EX-BOWLING COACH ON LION-HEARTED PACER

Shami hated the GPS vest, but bowled with one of the straightest seams



PARAS MHAMBREY

YOU SEE a lot of these guys wearing the GPS vest, right? The tracking thing. Mohammed Shami hated that.

Every time, the trainer would come in and say, "*Shami Bhai, pehen lo yaar*" (Shami Bhai, please wear it). And Shami would say, "*Nahi yaar, mujhe khujli hoti hai. Ya main ye pehnunga, ya bowling karunga.*" (It itches. Either I wear this or I bowl.) The trainer would plead that it gave us data. Shami would disagree. I always enjoyed that conversation.

He is exactly like the funny interviews you must have seen. That attitude never leaves him, on the field or off it. He likes his family. He likes his friends around him. He is not the guy you see out on tour, going anywhere but the hotel. He likes his house. If he is somewhere in UP, he will go to his house. Very simple in that sense.

His plans on the field were simple too. I would ask myself: what is the critical bit of information about this batter? You give him that. Then a little more, maybe the dismissals. What is the pattern, a leg before, a particular gully area? Make sure those details are spot on.

Because if you go and tell him, I want you to do this, I want you to do that, I know he wouldn't agree. He knew exactly how he wanted to prepare before a series or a Test match, and he went about doing that. So that was it. Just let him do what he wanted.

He had exceptional skills. India is going to miss him. Just look at the record. On the subcontinent or anywhere else, he has picked up wickets, and our pitches are not conducive to fast bowling. What he produced there is phenomenal.

He will surprise you with his pace. He is much quicker than he looks on TV. Watch him from close quarters and you realise how much more gas he has, sharper and quicker through the air than he comes across. That is part of the mystery.



Mohammed Shami retired from Tests with 229 wickets. PTI

> ***Mohammed Shami will surprise you with his pace. He is quicker than he looks on TV. Watch him from close quarters and you realise how much more gas he has***

Then there was the seam. I don't think anyone else in the world, other than Sreesanth, had that kind of seam presentation. Dead straight.

Other bowlers' seams are generally slightly tilted, right? His was dead straight. When you see a seam up, you usually know the line or the angle the ball will take. But with someone presenting that seam consistently, you don't know if it is coming in or going out. That creates doubt in the batter's mind. Add his control, the line and channel he bowled, and you see why there were so many bowled and leg-before dismissals. The intent was very clear. His commitment cannot be doubted. He would give his 100 per cent on the given day and come back, and that is all you expect from a senior bowler. I have never seen him undersell himself.

If he had a good day, he was the same. If he did not, he was still the same. He would go walkabout, chatting with others. He was not the kind to sit in a corner and sulk because his day had gone by. Whether it was a good day or a bad one, when you looked to him, he was there for the team. That is a great attitude to have, especially in a senior bowler.

He will be recognised as one of the better bowlers in our country, and in the world. Definitely. Ishant (Sharma) has played 100 Test matches. But in the 60-odd Tests (229 wickets from 64 matches) that Shami played, the performance ranks high. Maybe 10, 15 years down the line, people will look back and say, fine, Shami was one of the classiest bowlers India has produced.

Funny guy, Shami. He never wore the vest.

(As told to Tanishq Vaddi)

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