The Editorial Page: Court dismantles unconstitutional buffer zone between detention & arrest 8

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2026

The Indian EXPRESS

JOURNALISM of COURAGE

KOLKATA, LATE CITY, 16 PAGES

₹6.00 (₹12 in North East states, ₹20 in Andaman) • www.indianexpress.com

DAILY FROM: AHMEDABAD, CHANDIGARH, DELHI, JAIPUR, KOLKATA, LUCKNOW, MUMBAI, NAGPUR, PATNA, PUNE, VADODARA

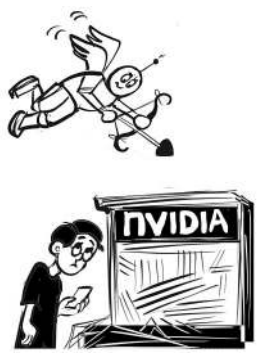
Happening today

• PRESIDENT DROUPADI Murmu will confer the Swachh Survekshan 2025-26 awards.

TRACK THIS AND MORE ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Business as Usual

By EP UNNY



RUSSIA, UKRAINE AT U.S.-BROKERED TALKS IN ABU DHABI

Ukraine talks begin, India pushes for safe Black Sea, quick end to war

In touch with both sides to contribute towards return of peace in region: MEA

Shubhajit Roy
New Delhi, November 10

AS US-BROKERED talks between Russia and Ukraine began in Abu Dhabi Tuesday to try and end the nearly five-year war, India said it was "in touch with both sides" and other "interested parties" to "contribute" towards the "return of peace" to the region.

Ahead of the talks, which were last held in February this year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy who said India was ready to "mediate in establishing food

THE IDEAS PAGE P9
AT ABU DHABI, NEW DIPLOMATIC PUSH ON UKRAINE. STAKES HIGH FOR INDIA AND WORLD

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan (centre) during trilateral talks between Russia and Ukraine mediated by the US, in Abu Dhabi, Tuesday. AP

e EXPLAINED

Vital to trade and security

The larger Black Sea region is key to trade and security interests of both Ukraine and Russia. It is the grain export hub of Ukraine, a major agricultural exporter. Russia too exports significant volumes of grain through the Azov-Black Sea region, an area it considers vital for military power projection.



West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari at ISKCON Mecheda in Purba Medinipur during Annakut celebrations on Tuesday. ANI

Suvendu slams Left but praises Buddhadeb: 'He was a very honest man'

Says TMC had no role in Nandigram land movement: 'Won't be seen for next 100 years'

Atri Mitra
Kolkata, November 10

EVEN AS he reiterated his promise to reopen cases against the Left Front leaders in connection with the 2007 Nandigram land agitation, West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari on Tuesday praised Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, the then chief minister, calling him "a very honest man".

Addressing an event at Gokulnagar in Nandigram in Purba Medinipur district to mark the 19th anniversary of police firing that left 11 people dead, the BJP chief minister said, "After November 10, 2007, there was a bloody sunrise. I pay my respects... I will not name him. He has passed away – the then chief minister. Standing at the Writers' Building, he had said, "They have been paid back in their own coin". However, the late chief minister was a very honest man in his personal life. The party was bad."

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

THE BIG PICTURE
THE GANGA TAKES A PAUSE
PAGE 7

INSIDE
DU HISTORY FACULTY SAYS KEPT OUT OF PG SYLLABUS REVIEW, WRITES TO V-C
PAGE 6

'UNSPOKEN DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITY': SONIA ON MANMOHAN

Pranab's desire to be PM shocked me, says Sonia; his daughter asks is ambition crime



Outside a bookstore in Khan Market in New Delhi, Tuesday. ANIL SHARMA

Ritu Sarin
New Delhi, November 10

THE LATE Pranab Mukherjee, former President and a Congress veteran, once dropped a big hint about his Prime Ministerial ambitions and suggested a "change at the top" during a chat with then-UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi. This was in 2010, with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh firmly in the saddle in the UPA government's second term. Gandhi has written about this conversation in her memoir, *Belonging: A Journey of Love*, published by HarperCollins India.

Mukherjee, Gandhi has written, had developed "serious differences" with then Finance Minister P Chidambaram.

INSIDE PAGE 5
'MY RAJIV WAS DEAD. HE WAS GONE... I DIDN'T WANT TO LIVE WITHOUT HIM'

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Book courts Babri vote bank, papers over Bofors, family wrongs: BJP

Asad Rehman
New Delhi, November 10

CRITICISING CONGRESS Parliamentary Party (CPP) chairperson Sonia Gandhi's memoir, *Belonging: A Journey of Love*, the BJP on Tuesday said the "underlying thinking throughout the book revolves around the Babri (Masjid) vote bank".

Accusing her of trying to "justify" the Emergency, being "silent" on the Bofors scam, and making "claims completely contrary to the actual facts" on the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, the party said the book seeks to "sugar-coat the historical wrongs perpetrated by the Nehru-Gandhi family".

"Sonia Gandhi's book has made it clear that the underlying thinking throughout the book revolves around the Babri vote bank. She has revealed that vote-bank politics associated with Babri is deeply rooted in her thinking," said BJP national spokesperson Pradeep Bhandari.

"She says she cried for Babri Masjid. Did Sonia Gandhi shed

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Govt nominee votes tilt Gokul result in Mahayuti favour, Cong-led panel loses

Shubham Kurale & Manoj More
Kolhapur, Pune, November 10

WEEKS AFTER losing the election to the board of Maharashtra's largest dairy, Gokul, the candidate of the BJP-led Mahayuti alliance was elected the cooperative's chairman Tuesday. This came a day after the Bombay High Court upheld the Maharashtra government's decision to give voting rights to four government-nominated directors on the Gokul dairy board.

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader and former Chandgad MLA Rajesh Patil was elected the dairy's chairman after the government-nominated directors tilted the contest in his favour. This triggered backlash from the Opposition, which accused the ruling alliance of "usurping power", and some farmer leaders in Kolhapur, where the cooperative is located.

In the October 19 election to the dairy's board, the Rajarshi Shahu Shetkari Samvichari Aghadi panel, led by Congress MLC Satej Patil, won 13 of the 25

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Newly elected chairman of Gokul dairy Rajesh Patil in Kolhapur, Tuesday. PTI

Year after his acquittal, Rampur terror attack accused shot dead

Manish Sahu
Lucknow, November 10

A YEAR after his release from jail following his acquittal by the Allahabad High Court in the 2007 terror attack on a CRPF camp that claimed eight lives, 52-year-old Mohammad Shareef was shot dead by unidentified men in Rampur Tuesday.

Shareef was riding pillion, behind his 21-year-old son, on a motorcycle when the assailants, also on a motorcycle, opened fire in the Khajuria area. Police said the assailants had covered their faces.

Shareef's son Abu Wais Khan told police that they were returning home when two youths, on another motorcycle, approached them near the Panwaria village crossing, opened fire at his father and fled.

Area residents alerted police who took Shareef to a hospital where doctors declared him dead. His son escaped unhurt.

Police said two bullet wounds were visible on Shareef's body. "The picture

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

At Barefoot College, social activist gave 'cop-outs, dropouts, washouts' new life

Hamza Khan
Jaipur, November 10

SOCIAL ACTIVIST and rural development pioneer Bunker Roy, who set up the renowned Barefoot College teaching basic engineering, medicine and arts to villagers, died Tuesday at the age of 81. His last rites were held Tuesday evening in Ajmer's Tilonia, the village he had made his home over half a century ago.

In a statement, his family



{ BUNKER ROY 1945-2026 }

members and fellow activists said that "Bunker Roy passed away peacefully at 6.15 am with Aruna (wife and activist Aruna Roy) and others around him. He went as he wanted to, in his own home in Tilonia, surrounded by some of the countless people who loved and cared for him deeply and admired him for his lifelong contribution to people, society, India, and the planet."

Born Sanjit Roy in 1945 in an upper-middle-class Bengali family, Roy was educated at the

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

• THEY SAY TITLE ALONE DOES NOT GUARANTEE SPONSORS, ELITE INVITES

100 grandmasters for India but for most, real test of wits begins after the title

Amit Kamath
Mumbai, November 10

ON SUNDAY, India crossed an enviable milestone in chess: 38 years after Viswanathan Anand became India's first grandmaster, the nation now has 100 GMs. Ashok Shrivatri, the 22-year-old from Madhya Pradesh, will go down in chess history as the one to take India's GM count to triple figures.

There are many more in the frantic race to become the next GM, the sport's most prestigious honorific prefix and the top official title offered by FIDE. But unlike other life paths, such as pursuing an educational degree and a cushy job, becoming a grandmaster comes with no guarantees.

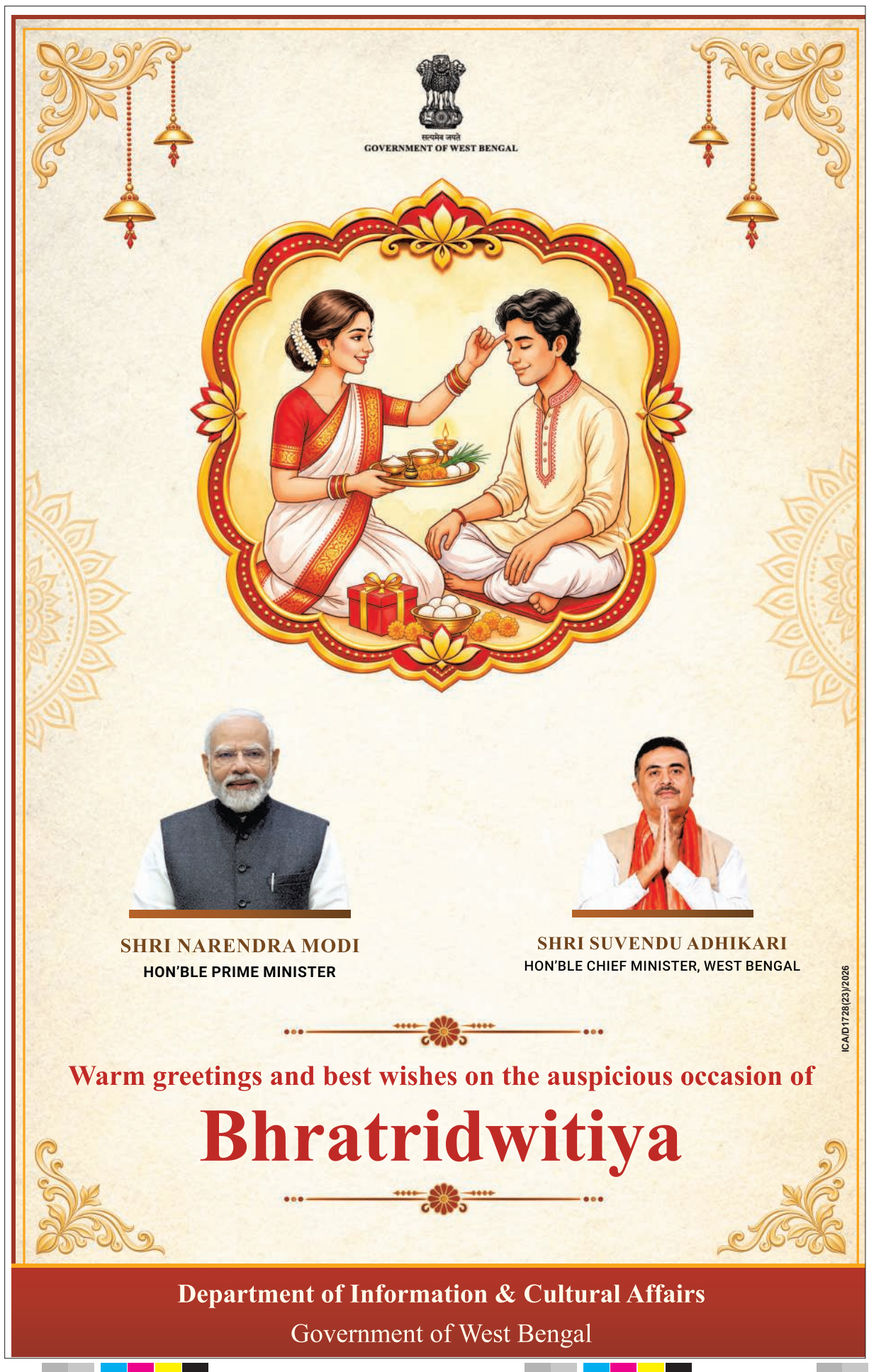


Pranav V became India's 75th grandmaster in 2022 at the age of 16. His current rating is 2679. LENNART OOTES/FIDE

The "super grandmasters", who have crossed an Elo rating of 2,700, are usually invited to elite tournaments like Norway Chess, Tata Steel in Wijk aan Zee and Prague Masters — and India currently has five of them: R Praggnanandhaa, Arjun Erigaisi, D Gukesh, Nihal Sarin and Anand. But for most of the rest, just travelling to the next tier of tournaments, even if they get an invite, can burn a hole in the pocket.

"Becoming a grandmaster by itself does not lead to your life changing drastically. I became a grandmaster a few

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



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

Ukraine talks begin

corridors" in Ukraine. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, meanwhile, spoke to Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov.

India's proposals revolve around easing the intense fighting since July around the critical Black Sea region — this will allow Ukraine's agricultural produce to reach the world; Russia halting attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure; and, Ukraine refraining from attacking Russian positions along the line of contact.

Responding to questions at a media briefing, Randhir Jaiswal, spokesperson for the Ministry of External Affairs, said, "On the issue of the Ukraine conflict, India has consistently maintained that dialogue and diplomacy are the way forward. In recent months, the Prime Minister has expressed that 'endless war must give way to end of war'. In keeping with this idea to bring peace, India has engaged both sides with certain ideas such as safety of shipping in the Black Sea, addressing immediate concerns of Russia and Ukraine on grain and energy exports, and non-attack possibilities."

"Yesterday, the Prime Minister spoke with President Zelenskyy. They shared perspectives on the ongoing conflict, its humanitarian aspects and various efforts to restore peace. Prime Minister reiterated India's firm commitment to contributing in every possible way towards a peaceful resolution," he said.

"Following this, the External Affairs Minister spoke with Foreign Minister Lavrov on the ongoing diplomatic initiatives focused on the conflict. On the issue of the food corridor, we have exchanged ideas. India remains in touch with both sides, as well as other interested parties, to contribute towards the return of peace to the region," Jaiswal said.

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

Jaishankar too had said India was now 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".

Of particular interest in the proposal is the larger Black Sea region, a key grain export hub for the world. The fighting there could put at least 400 million people in Africa, West Asia and Asia at risk of food shortages, malnutrition and hunger.

Ukraine, in particular, is a major agricultural exporter. Russia has targeted Ukrainian port facilities and vessel operations around the Greater Odesa region on the Black Sea coast. Ukraine has three key deep-water ports there — Odesa, Chornomorsk and Pivdennyi — which handle around 90% of its agricultural exports.

Since mid-July, Ukraine has also stepped up attacks on grain vessels, maritime infrastructure and ports on the Sea of Azov and the vital Kerch Strait that connects it to the Black Sea.

Russia exports significant volumes of grain through the Azov-Black Sea region — an estimated 42-44 million tonnes, or 77-81% of its total grain exports, is transported through this area.

This is why the trilateral talks in Abu Dhabi are being closely tracked. Last week, US President Donald Trump indicated that a broad deal was possible on ending the war in Ukraine and guaranteeing security in Europe.

Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner who, along with US envoy Steve Witkoff, is trying to broker a settlement, said he believed that there were "some good ideas how to bridge" the differences between the two sides. He told delegates that recent contacts with both sides had "really identified, narrowed the gaps", and that Trump was committed to achieving peace.

"He really has asked us to put extra effort into trying to find a solution that hopefully ends the war but also leaves both sides in a much stronger position to start pursuing the full potential of what their two amazing countries have the ability to reach," Kushner said at the start of the meeting.

Ukraine's chief delegate Rustem Umerov, in his opening remarks, said Kyiv was focused on achieving security guarantees and a lasting peace. Russian delegation chief Vladimir Medinsky said Moscow hoped for progress towards peace in the interest of the people of both countries.

India is also keen that the war in West Asia too comes to an end, and has called for free and safe navigation through the Strait of Hormuz.

Responding to questions on Strait of Hormuz, Jaiswal said, "We continue to call for free and safe navigation through the Strait of Hormuz. We are in touch with all concerned parties to avoid attacks on civilian shipping and seafarers, including vessels under the Indian flag and Indian seafarers." Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri was in the UAE last week, and Delhi had been in touch with Iran, Israel and the US among others over last several weeks. WITH AGENCY

Suvendu

Mamata hid info in poll affidavit, planning to take legal action: CM

Kolkata: Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari on Tuesday said he is likely to initiate fresh legal proceedings against his predecessor Mamata Banerjee, alleging that she had concealed crucial information in her election affidavits while contesting the 2026 Assembly polls.

Adhikari also said the role of the returning officer who had accepted Banerjee's nomination papers despite objections raised during scrutiny would be investigated, opening another legal front in the political confrontation between the two leaders.

"She (Mamata) concealed several important details in her election affidavit. During scrutiny, several candidates had raised objections in this regard. Despite this, the returning officer concerned rejected those objections and cleared her nomination. The discrepancies were not taken into account during scrutiny," he said.

"I plan to initiate legal proceedings over this. Such things cannot be allowed," Adhikari told reporters on the sidelines of a programme to pay tribute to those killed in the 2007 Nandigram movement at Gokulnagar in Purba Medinipur. ENS, PTI

Adhikari also praised veteran CPI(M) leader Biman Bose. "Bimanbabu is still alive; he is in his eighties. Paying him respect as well. He had said, "A new sun has risen in Nandigram". Today is November 10. Nineteen years have passed. Even that day, I remained steadfast in my resolve, and I still am today. I am standing firm. And those who tried to stop me are no more," the chief minister added.

Claiming that the CID investigation into the Nandigram firing incident failed to culminate in a complete judicial process, leaving those responsible unpunished, Adhikari promised again to reopen the cases.

"I have said that fresh FIRs will be filed and cases reopened against those responsible," Adhikari said, naming CPI(M) leaders Abhay Ghosh of Goghat, Manoranjan Patra of Taldangra, Tapan Ghosh of Garbeta and Himanshu Das of Khejuri, among others. "They had come from outside, dressed in black, in an organised manner. Action will be taken according to the law," he added.

Adhikari, who was with the TMC at the time of Nandigram land agitation, said the Trinamool Congress had no role in the Nandigram movement. "It was the people of Nandigram who fought against the then CPI(M) government. They did not get justice. If an FIR is filed, we will reopen the case and take action," he added.

Adhikar also attended the Nandigram Martyrs' Remembrance Programme at Karpalli in Nandigram. The event was organised under the banner of the Bhumi Uchhed Pratirodh Committee, which spearheaded the land agitation.

Addressing the gathering, Adhikari launched a sharp attack on the TMC. "Last year, I had said that I would come here in 2026, but you would not find both the name and symbol of the corrupt TMC. Has my prediction not come true? Now I say the TMC will not return for the next 100 years. Write it down," he said.

"Trinamool had no role in the Nandigram movement. Bhumi Uchchhed Protirodh Committee (BUPC) had fought against the CPI(M) government," he said, adding, "Jora Phool (twin flowers) and Ghass Phool (flower on grass) have both been uprooted. You will not see the Trinamool Congress again, not even in the next 100 years."

PTI adds: Later in the evening, Adhikari visited a Kali Puja organised by Mamata Banerjee's estranged brother Babun Banerjee. The Kali Puja of Kalighat Sebak Sangha, where he was the guest, is being held just two houses away from the former chief minister's home. As the chief minister stepped out of his vehicle, Mamata's younger brother approached him, touched his feet, and welcomed him with a garland. Other members of the family were also present. "It felt very good. I told Dada (elder brother) just one thing: you keep moving forward. We are with you," Babun told reporters after the visit.

The visit assumes significance against the backdrop of the bitter public fallout between Babun and Mamata following the Trinamool Congress's defeat in the Assembly elections in May. In the aftermath of the electoral setback, Babun had launched a blistering attack on the TMC leadership, blaming senior party functionaries for the defeat and claiming that his sister had disowned him long ago.

Bunker Roy

premier Doon School in Dehradun and St Stephen's College in Delhi. He was also India's squash champion thrice. But, a visit to Palamu in Bihar (now Jharkhand) during the famine in the mid-1960s upended his worldview. As he told *The Indian Express* in 2015: "I went to the wrong school, wrong college and came back with a lot of arrogance." "After my education, I had a lot of fancy degrees and was told that I could overcome any problem. Then I went to a village in Bihar to help with the famine in 1966, and that experience of not being able to adapt to even a small village changed my life," he said.

Roy spent nearly a year-and-a-half travelling across the country, studying voluntary agencies, formulating his plans, and eventually settling in Tilonia. Here, along with his farmer friend Meghraj, he began with the simple task of drilling in open wells for water recharge, in one of India's most water-stressed regions.

In 1972, he started his experimental school, the Social Work and Research Centre (SWRC), which came to be globally known as the Barefoot College. Rooted in the Gandhian principles of self-reliance, dignity and decentralisation, the institution was built on the belief that the knowledge, skills and wisdom of rural communities are powerful resources for their own development. In Roy's own words, there were no failures in Tilonia. "Every failure is a beginning. Everyone had a chance in Tilonia. This is a place for cop outs, drop outs and wash outs."

The Barefoot College pioneered community-led approaches to rural development across areas such as solar energy, water conservation, education, healthcare, livelihoods and women's empowerment. One of its most transformative initiatives was the training of rural women, many of whom had never had formal education, as solar engineers. Popularly known as 'Solar Mamas', these women brought electricity to remote communities across the world.

In a statement Tuesday, the Barefoot College said Roy's "legacy will live on". "From night schools for rural children to community-based water management and renewable energy initiatives, his work demonstrated that meaningful development must be rooted in local ownership and participation."

The citation for the Padma Shri awarded to Roy in 1986 termed his work the 'Tilonia Movement', and noted, "the idea was to start a process of generating awareness and at the same time demystifying technology, making it simple, effective, inexpensive and accessible".

In 2010, he was named as one of the '100 Most Influential People in the World' by TIME magazine in the 'Thinkers' category. The other recognitions to Roy included the Jamnalal Bajaj Award for Application of Science and Technology for Rural Development (1985), the Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement (2004), the Skoll Award for Social Entrepreneurship (2005), the Blue Planet Prize (2011) and the Clinton Global Citizen Award in 2013.

Last year, King Charles III of the United Kingdom wrote to Roy saying that "I am constantly singing your praises whenever I can, especially in Africa. There is much to discuss as I have many initiatives going on around the world..." Then Prince Charles, the royal first visited the Barefoot Collège in November 1975, and then again in February 1992 with Princess Diana.

In life and in work, he was complemented by wife Aruna, whom he first met while both were classmates at Delhi University. Aruna left the IAS in 1975 to join Roy in Tilonia. An eminent activist herself, she was a key architect of the grassroots movement that led to the Right to Information Act in 2005.

In her memoir *The Personal is Political*, Aruna wrote: "The need for an RTI law was built brick by brick, incident by incident. If the IAS showed what should not be, Barefoot College SWRC gave me a platform to evolve what should be."

Congress leaders Ashok Gehlot, Jairam Ramesh, Shashi Tharoor and Sachin Pilot were among those who paid tributes to Roy. While Gehlot recalled visiting the Barefoot College recently, Pilot said his contribution to rural empowerment would always be remembered. Tharoor said that the work of Roy, his senior from St Stephen's College, demonstrated that villagers without formal education possessed skills and ability to bring change to their communities.

Long-time associate and social activist Nikhil Dey noted that their approaches were different, but "Bunker would be unequivocal in his support". "Which is why the Barefoot College gave birth to many independent organisations across the country, who worked together and did not break away from the Tilonia family."

Writer Amitav Ghosh called Roy "a true hero", while academic Amitabh Mattoo said "India has lost one of the few men who took Gandhi literally".

Pranab's desire to be PM

"...and on one occasion, in 2010, I think, after expressing his frustration, he shocked me with the suggestion that perhaps it was time for a change at the top, which I understood as a hint of his long-held desire to become prime minister," she wrote.

"I gently changed the subject, and though he may have been disappointed, he never made me feel he held it against me. Our party did nominate him in 2012 as the UPA candidate for president, the highest office in our republic, and he was elected. I often called on him, mostly just to converse with the erudite and knowledgeable politician that he always remained," Gandhi added.

Pranab Mukherjee served as President from 2012 to 2017. He died in 2020. His years in Rashtrapati Bhavan saw the UPA being voted out of power and the NDA forming the government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. President Mukherjee also shared a warm rapport with Prime Minister Modi, the latter describing him as a "father figure".

Gandhi also trashed allegations that she sent for files from the Prime Minister's Office, interfered with administrative matters, and made key appointments. "Though I had been the subject of worse accusations over the years, the fabrication that distressed me most was that I was looking into official files – something improper for anyone outside the government," she wrote.

She wrote that there was an "unspoken division of responsibility between the prime minister and me, one that worked smoothly: the government under Dr. Manmohan Singh, and the party under me". "A core group met weekly with the prime minister to ensure coordination between the two. Its other members were Pranab Mukherjee, who had been a minister in Indira Gandhi's cabinet in the '70s; the politically insightful Arjun Singh, a former chief minister of Madhya Pradesh; A. K. Antony, a former chief minister of Kerala; and Ahmed Patel," she wrote.

In a response on X, Pranab Mukherjee's daughter and former Congress leader Sharmistha Mukherjee questioned if it is a "crime to be ambitious". "What's there to get 'shocked' about? Is it a crime to be ambitious, especially when that 'ambition' was supported by decades of experience in politics & governance, hard work & a brilliant mind? Once, when asked by me whether he wanted to become PM, he very candidly answered that 'any politician worth his salt has this ambition'," she said in her post.

"My father came from a very humble background. Whatever he achieved in his life was through sheer merit & hard-work. There was no-one to serve him positions, including PM-ship, on a platter due to dynastic entitlements. If a well-deserving person harbours ambition to become Prime Minister, what's wrong in that, unless Sonia ji was 'shocked' by the fact that anyone outside Gandhi-Nehru family could even dare to nurture such an ambition & furthermore dared to 'hint' it to her?"

"In this same context, I read that she said she felt 'he never held it against me'. From what I read in his diaries & whatever conversation he had with me, I would like to reassure her that he DID NOT hold it against her or anyone else. He was a pragmatic person with deep understanding. He understood her reasons & insecurities that all human beings are prone to," she wrote.

BJP

even a drop of tear when gurudwaras were targeted and thousands of innocent people were killed during the 1984 Sikh massacre that happened during the Congress rule?Sonia Gandhi cried profusely for the Batla House terrorists, but did she weep for the brave CRPF jawans who were martyred in the line of duty protecting our nation and people," BJP's national spokesperson C R Kesavan said in a post on X.

In an interview to *The Guardian* before the release of her book, Gandhi had recalled crying as she watched the Babri Masjid demolition on television on December 6, 1992.

"The Bofors scam is missing from the book. The country witnessed corruption in the Bofors scam, but the Gandhi-Vadra family remains silent on it. Votebank politics and corruption are habits of the Gandhi-Vadra family, and they will lose again in 2029," Bhandari said.

"Sonia Gandhi could have titled her memoir as 'Whitewashing' instead of 'Belonging', because the motive of this book appears to be to sugar-coat the historical wrongs perpetrated by the Nehru-Gandhi family and camouflage the cardinal sins committed by the Congress party," Kesavan said, accusing her of trying to "justify and normalise the notorious Emergency".

BJP leader H S Phoolka questioned Gandhi's account of the anti-Sikh riots. "She claims that on the night of October 31, Rajiv Gandhi asked Army Chief General (A S) Vaidya to call in the Army. However, General Vaidya supposedly decided on his own that the Army personnel stationed around Delhi were Sikhs and that Sikh troops should not be called in. She says that the Army was instead summoned from distant locations such as Dehradun, which delayed its deployment. These claims are completely contrary to the actual facts," he said.

Hitting back at the BJP, Congress's Rajya Sabha member Rajeev Shukla said the party was trying to give the book a "political spin". "She is perhaps the first person in the family after (Jawaharlal) Nehru ji who has written an autobiography. She has penned down all her thoughts. So, I think people should respect her thoughts, respect the sentiments that she has expressed. This should not be turned into a controversy," he said.

"The BJP is trying to give this a political spin. What is the need for this? I saw a statement by a BJP spokesperson who asked if Babar lives in her heart. When Babri Masjid was demolished, Atal ji had criticised it. Did Babar live in his heart? Advani ji had called it a grave mistake. Did Babar live in his heart? Jaswant Singh strongly condemned it. Did Babar live in his heart? A few BJP spokespersons know neither history nor background," said Shukla.

Meanwhile, Shiv Sena leader Shaina NC said: "You speak of belonging, we ask who is this belonging for? In 1991, 1984 and 2004, you made the country cry, and now you speak of belonging. Is this belonging about votes? The way you rejected the chair back then, and the way you presented yourself thereafter, was portrayed as an act of sacrifice and penance. We would like answers to several questions. As far as the Ram Temple, Article 370 and Hindutva are concerned, these are not achieved by crying. Your actions are what establish you as a leader."

100 GMs

months ago, and not much has changed. Sponsors aren't knocking on my doors. And I have not received any invitation from prestigious tournaments," said a young grandmaster who did not wish to be named. Chennai-based Ilamparthi A R became India's 90th grandmaster in October 2025 at the age of 16. Ilamparthi points out that being a grandmaster does make it slightly cheaper to play in chess events, but he has had to spend his own money to cover most of the expenses.

"While life hasn't changed much for me since becoming GM, the only thing that has changed is that in tournaments organisers will give you 'conditions'," says Ilamparthi, who trains at the Chess Thulir academy in Chennai with grandmaster Shyam Sundar Mohanraj. What Ilamparthi means is that organisers usually foot the bill for accommodation, and sometimes full board and lodging, but the flight costs are still borne by the grandmasters.

There are exceptions to this as well. At an event like Sharjah Masters, even grandmasters have to pay entry fees that can go up to $100, besides all other costs. There are other events in Europe where no "conditions" are offered by organisers because the prize money on offer is high. At the moment, having become a GM, the only invitation that Ilamparthi has received is to play in leagues, like in Turkey.

Kanyakumari's Aswath S was India's 98th grandmaster, earning the title in July at the age of 17. Aswath, who also trains at Chess Thulir, said that becoming a grandmaster is usually the start of another race: to get to a rating threshold of 2,600 and then to 2,700.

Four years ago, Pranav V became the 75th grandmaster of India. He has since been playing in league after league, trying to raise his rating. While becoming a GM reduced the financial burden of playing in tournaments, his costs have gone up in other areas, like hiring superior coaches and trainers, who have steeper rates.

"And after you cross 2600 rating, the training gets even more expensive. Then, once you get past the 2700-mark, you will start hiring other people for your team, like seconds," he says.

Akash Ganesan was India's 66th grandmaster, getting there in 2020 at the age of 23 after taking a mini-break of four years from chess to focus on his academics and become an engineer. He has a different, less cynical perspective than many of the recent grandmasters.

"There is a lot of recognition you get from being a grandmaster. The way people look at you is very different from when you are an international master. Back in 2014, becoming a grandmaster was a very big deal. We had comparatively fewer grandmasters and the sport was getting bigger," he says.

Akash is one of those grandmasters who leveraged his title to transition into coaching — a lucrative side hustle because they can command steep hourly fees. Akash currently runs a chess academy called Madras School of Chess, in partnership with Vishnu Prasanna.

To chase the dream of becoming a grandmaster, players have given up other parts of their life to focus full-time on the battlefield of 64 squares. Some families have even sold their property, like that of GM Aronyak Ghosh. Many parents have quit jobs to become full-time chaperones to their young children travelling around the world chasing grandmaster norms.

So when life does not change all that much after becoming a grandmaster, and there are barely any sponsors or elite tournament invitations knocking on your door, why are thousands of players desperately chasing the title? International Master Deboushnik De, who is among those thousands, laughs and counters with a question of his own. "I understand the question: what after becoming a grandmaster? But you could ask the same question to Gukesh, too: what after becoming world champion? Being a grandmaster is never the final destination; it's just one significant step in a chess career," he says.

Terror accused killed

will become clear after the post-mortem examination," Rampur Additional SP Anurag Singh said. "Shareef's son told us that the assailants had covered their faces and opened fire while their motorcycle was still moving," Singh said.

After his release from jail last year, Shareef had been living with his family in Badanpuri village.

His younger brother Shaheen said, "Shareef had gone to Khajuria police station with his son, Abu Wais Khan, on a motorcycle after being called by the police. The two were returning home after meeting police personnel and had travelled barely 200 metres when motorcycle-borne assailants approached from behind and opened fire on Shareef... Police had summoned Shareef to the police station on earlier occasions as well."

Shareef was arrested in connection with the terror attack on a CRPF camp in Rampur on the night of December 31, 2007. Seven CRPF personnel and a rickshaw-puller were killed. Five others were injured in the attack.

Police arrested Shareef along with Jung Bahadur from Moradabad, Kausar from Pratapgarh, Khan from Bareilly and Sabauddin from Bihar. Two Pakistani nationals, Shahzad and Farooq, were also arrested in the case. Police said they had recovered AK-47 rifles, magazines, grenades and other items from the accused.

In November, 2019, a local court in Rampur awarded the death sentence to Shareef, Sabauddin and the two Pakistani nationals, Imran Shahzad and Mohammad Farooq. Jung Bahadur was sentenced to life in prison while Gulab Khan and Mohammad Kausar were acquitted due to lack of sufficient evidence.

In October 2025, the Allahabad High Court set aside the order of death penalty to the four men and life imprisonment for the fifth, citing defects in the investigation that struck at "the root of the case". It mainly cited gaps related to eyewitness accounts and the safekeeping of evidence.

It, however, sentenced the five to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment under Section 25 (1-A) of the Arms Act, 1959, related mainly to possession, and imposed a fine of Rs 1 lakh on each.

The High Court ruled that the "period of imprisonment undergone by the appellants will be adjusted towards... sentence awarded to the appellants".

Gokul

director seats, while the Mahayuti-backed Chhatrapati Shahu Shetkari Vikas Aghadi panel secured 12 posts. However, the 12 from the Mahayuti initially stayed away from the board meeting on the chairman's election, denying Patil's panel the 14 members allegedly required for a quorum under Gokul's existing bylaws. The ruling alliance said the quorum requirement was not introduced after the election.

The deadlock raised the possibility of an administrator being appointed. The 13 directors allied with Satej Patil held a separate meeting and declared Shashikant Patil Chuyekar the chairman. However, the dairy administration did not recognise the decision and the Opposition group moved Bombay HC. The Maharashtra Cabinet on November 4 approved an ordinance giving the government the power to appoint five directors to cooperatives with an annual turnover over Rs 500 crore, with four of them having voting rights. This turned the Gokul contest in Mahayuti's favour and led LoP Rahul Gandhi to accuse BJP of attempting to "steal the majority" in the dairy. The ordinance was promulgated on November 6.

On Monday, the HC refused to put a stay on the election and allowed the four nominated directors to vote, but said their votes must be kept in a separate ballot box. Rajesh Patil on Tuesday bagged 16 votes, while Chuyekar got 13.

Satej Patil Tuesday accused the Maharashtra government of "trampling upon all democratic norms". "If the government wants to snatch power, then why hold elections? The government's behaviour goes against the spirit of the Constitution," he told *The Indian Express*.

Targeting CM Devendra Fadnavis, Patil said, "It was an attempt to throw us off guard. The election process does not require a quorum, yet the government did it anyway. An ordinance was issued just to seize power in Gokul."

Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut accused BJP of attempting to "overturn a democratic mandate". "One needs great courage to accept defeat, but I do not see that courage in BJP. Such attempts to manipulate the Gokul election do not suit Maharashtra's political legacy," he said.

Defending the government's decision, Fadnavis said it was in accordance with the law. "I am supporting the institution (Gokul Dairy), not any individual. I am not behind any particular person. The four nominated board members had experience in the cooperative sector and the Deputy Registrar of Cooperative Societies had certified their credentials," he said.

Rajesh Patil thanked the farmers associated with Gokul and said he would focus on taking the dairy to the national level. "I will also work towards recovering the losses incurred in last financial year, while keeping aside politics in the union." Rajya Sabha MP Dhananjay Mahadik, a political rival of Satej Patil whose family wields control in Kolhapur, credited Fadnavis and Deputy CMs Eknath Shinde and Sunetra Pawar with resolving the issue. He said the alliance had agreed to limit Rajesh Patil's tenure to a year.

State Medical Education Minister Hasan Mushrif, who had teamed up with Satej Patil in the election five years ago, welcomed the pact between the allies and thanked Fadnavis and his Cabinet colleagues Chandrakant Patil and Prakashrao Abitkar for their support.

However, farmer leader and Swabhimani Shetkari Sanghatana founder Raju Shetti warned that the "people of Kolhapur will not remain silent". "The haste with which Mahayuti government introduced the ordinance and twisted the chairman's election outcome," he said.

Rajesh Patil's win is also significant in the context of the local political equations in Kolhapur, particularly the apparent rapprochement between LS MP Sanjay Mandlik and Mushrif, who had been at loggerheads in the past. Rajesh Patil is Mandlik's brother-in-law. In 2021, Rajesh Patil's wife and Mandlik's son both had lost to the panel led by Satej Patil and Mushrif, who was then in the undivided NCP.

Nippon india Mutual Fund
Wealth sets you free

Sweet.
Salty.
Spicy.



**Every plate has a favourite.
There's a Mutual Fund for every investor too.**

Just as a festive Diwali plate brings together a mix of flavours, colours, shapes and sizes, Mutual Funds offer a variety of investment choices too. From equity, debt and hybrid funds to those that invest in commodities. With different investment approaches and time horizons, there's more than one way to find your flavour in investing.

MUTUAL KA FESTIVAL

Disciplined form of investing

Professionally managed by experts

Aim for better long-term benefits from the power of compounding

mf.nipponindiaim.com/EdgeOfKnowledge

Contact your Mutual Fund Distributor or Registered Investment Advisor I Give us a missed call on **8000112244**

An investor education and awareness initiative of Nippon India Mutual Fund

Helpful information for investors: All Mutual Fund investors have to go through a one-time KYC (Know Your Customer) process. Investors should deal only with registered mutual funds, to be verified on SEBI website under 'Intermediaries/ Market Infrastructure Institutions'. For redressal of your complaints, you may please visit https://scores.sebi.gov.in. For more info on KYC, change in various details & redressal of complaints, visit mf.nipponindiaim.com/investoreducation/ what-to-know-when-investing

Nippon India Mutual Fund | MF/022/95/1

Mutual Fund investments are subject to market risks, read all scheme related documents carefully.

rediffusion.in

Kolkata

19TH ANNIVERSARY OF NANDIGRAM FIRING

Kunal questions party's no-show, acknowledges 'aggressive' Suvendu

Rival Ritabrata camp says 'great realisation but late'

Press Trust of India
Kolkata, November 10

SENIOR MAMATA faction TMC leader Kunal Ghosh on Tuesday questioned his party's organisational failures in Purba Medinipur district and its absence from the Nandigram Martyrs' Day observances, accusing the leadership of losing touch with ground realities even as he acknowledged Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari's aggressive organisational strategy in the district.

It is alleged that 11 people were killed on this day in 2007 by CPI(M) cadres, to forcibly reclaim control of Nandigram, where the political footing of the then ruling party had waned.

Ghosh, in a series of critical remarks, said that remembering the martyrs of the Nandigram movement through social media posts was not enough, and party leaders and workers should have visited the memorial and paid their respects.

He pointed out that the movement spearheaded by then opposition leader Mamata Banerjee against land acquisition in 2007 had brought numerous TMC leaders and workers onto the streets, and questioned why the party was



TMC MLA Kunal Ghosh

conspicuously absent from the martyrs' memorial this year.

Ghosh, also an MLA, said the sight of the memorial being painted saffron was deeply undesirable. "Trinamool Congress observes Martyrs' Day every year. Then why were its leaders and workers not seen in Nandigram to pay tribute?" he asked, calling for introspection within the party.

Rebel TMC MLA Sandipan Saha, from the faction led by Ritabrata Banerjee, described Ghosh's remarks as a "great realisation by Kunal Ghosh, but a late realisation".

Referring to the CM's approach, Ghosh said, "Whether (chief minister) Suvendu is right or wrong is a separate issue. But he moved ahead with an aggressive organisation. We need to examine who was appointed as district observers on our side and how the organisation was run." The TMC leader also recalled his own involvement in Nandigram before the 2023 panchayat elections, claiming that he had been assigned responsibilities in the area and organised programmes that contributed to the party's relatively better performance in the rural polls. He alleged that his views were not sought when senior party leaders subsequently took charge of political activities in the area ahead of the Lok Sabha elections.

Ghosh said being associated with the party did not mean he would unquestioningly endorse every decision, asserting that he had his own opinions and grievances. He questioned how Purba Medinipur was allowed to slip into the BJP's hands and hinted at possible internal problems within the party.

ROW OVER ABVP POSTER

Expelled from Presidency, student alleges bias: 'Was not given chance to defend'

Sharanyo Basu
Kolkata, November 10

DAYS AFTER Kolkata's Presidency University expelled a student and banned a former student from entering the campus for allegedly defacing an ABVP poster on campus, the duo alleged bias in the academic action taken against them.

A final-year postgraduate student from the sociology department was expelled on November 6, and former student Olivia Banerjee, also from the same department, was banned from taking part in post-academic activities for allegedly defacing the ABVP poster last month. The action was taken a day after senior RSS functionary Jishnu Basu delivered a lecture at an ABVP event on the campus on November 5.

A day after the university's decision, Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari had said, "The ABVP has been cleaning cockroaches, termites, 'dimagi naxals' and others from the campuses of Presidency and Jadavpur."

The Indian Express spoke to the former student Olivia Banerjee, and the PG student who wished to not be named. The duo said, "We were merely informed of the decision by the university authorities on Friday evening. We only received the disciplinary committee report on Monday... The CCTV footage was not shown to us, and we were not given an opportunity to present our defence."

The student said, "A unilateral decision of this magnitude, taken without procedural transparency, severely compromises the integrity of university governance." They alleged there was no cross-hearing either.

Meanwhile, Banerjee maintained, "I was the one who wrote over the ABVP poster. The expelled PG student did not do anything."

"There are no student representatives in the disciplinary committee, nor do we have a students' union here..."

Banerjee also questioned the grounds for taking academic action against someone not currently enrolled in the university.

The expelled student added, "It was an AI generated poster of ABVP, not a portrait of Swami Vivekananda. It does not amount to any insult... Misrepresenting this context severely compromises the nature of the penalty meted out to me."

The duo said they have appealed to the Dean, Students' Welfare, against the decision of the enquiry committee, saying any legal recourse would be thought of only after reaching out to the Vice-Chancellor.

The incident dates back to October 15, when the ABVP complained that obscene words had allegedly been written on one of its posters, carrying an image of Swami Vivekananda, pasted on a campus wall. The ABVP also staged a protest outside the campus.

A five-member committee was subsequently formed to investigate the incident. Higher Education Minister Jagannath Chattopadhyay had also assured strict action in the case.

Alumni, faculty support students

Meanwhile, the students have received support from many of the university's alumni and faculty members.

On Monday, a group of Presidency alumni, including historian Tanika Sarkar, art historian Tapati Guha-Thakurta, and former bureaucrat and ex-Rajya Sabha MP Jawhar Sircar, demanded the revocation of the expulsion of the student. In a letter to the V-C, the alumni said they were "aghast" at the decision and suspected that "external forces had motivated such punitive alacrity on administration's behalf".

Dr Kalyan Kumar Das, who teaches English at the university had written on his Facebook a day after the expulsion, "I don't teach my students to become morons incapable of speaking truth to power! Let that sink in, powers that be!"

Several student organisations, including the Students' Federation of India (SFI), All India Students' Association (AISA), Independents' Consolidation (IC), Revolutionary Students Front (RSF), All India Democratic Students' Organization (AIDSO), and SRFTI Students' Union, have condemned the decision.

V-C's son joins protest

The Association for Protection of Democratic Rights (AfPDR), a civil and democratic rights organisation staged a protest meeting outside the university campus on Monday, seeking revocation of the decision.

Arka Sen Chakraborty, a student of the university and son of Vice-Chancellor Nirmalya Narayan Chakraborty, also spoke at the protest meeting to register his dissent against the decision, alleging "political pressure" behind it.

Political theorist and varsity alumnus, Partha Chatterjee's statement was also read at the protest, in which he referred to the decision as "persecution in the name of nationalism, sanatan dharma, anti-atheism and anti-leftism". Historian and alumnus Gautam Bhadra said, "An institution is a space of power. Still, we need dialogue between students and teachers in an educational institution to move forward."

Meanwhile, ABVP Presidency University unit president Mridul Banik alleged a "larger conspiracy" behind the incident.

Repeated calls, messages and e-mails by *The Indian Express* to the university Registrar for a comment on the students' allegations went unanswered.

— SHARANYO BASU IS AN INTERN AT KOLKATA OFFICE OF THE INDIAN EXPRESS

Police inspector suspended over posts 'targeting state govt , CM'

Sweety Kumari
Kolkata, November 10

A KOLKATA police inspector has been suspended pending an inquiry for allegedly posting derogatory remarks against the West Bengal government and Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari on social media.

Police Inspector Ekhlaque Ahmed, who used to serve as the officer-in-charge of the Medical College, Kolkata, outpost under the Central Division, was recently transferred to the 1st Battalion of the Kolkata Armed Police. He was placed under suspension with effect from November 9 following an order issued by Kolkata Police Commissioner Ajay Kumar Nand.

The suspension order said Ahmed's continuance in office pending an inquiry into his conduct was "prejudicial in the interest of public service". The order said he would receive 50 per cent of his basic pay and admissible allowances during the suspension period.

Civic volunteer held for 'leaking police info' to arrested TMC MLA

ENS & PTI
Kolkata, November 10



MLA Paresh Das appears before the Alipore court on Tuesday. EXPRESS

A DAY after TMC MLA Paresh Ram Das was arrested from Kolkata airport over rape and extortion charges, police on Tuesday said they have caught a civic volunteer on suspicion of leaking confidential information about police operations to the MLA.

The civic volunteer, whose name has not been disclosed, was posted with the Intelligence Branch (IB) at Canning in South 24 Parganas district, sources in the police said. Das is an MLA from the Canning West seat.

The civic volunteer was initially detained at the airport on Monday afternoon when the TMC leader was arrested. "The civic volunteer may have been passing on sensitive information about police movements and the ongoing investigation against Das. His alleged links with the MLA and the nature of their communication are now being examined," an officer said.

The investigators are questioning the civic volunteer to establish how he contacted the legislator. "We are examining all possible links, including the alleged flow of confidential information. The seized mobile phones and other evidence are being analysed to establish the facts," the officer said.

Police, meanwhile, said that they have recovered Rs 2 lakh in cash and six mobile phones from the arrested MLA. "Our officers are examining the call records, contact lists and other digital evidence stored on the devices to establish whom Das was in contact with and whether the phones were used for different purposes," the officer said.

The Canning West Assembly 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.

Meanwhile, the Mamata faction of the TMC questioned the timing of the MLA's arrest. The Ritabrata faction, however, defended police action against Das.

Jawan held for 'molesting' Army officer's daughter

Press Trust Of India
Kolkata, November 10

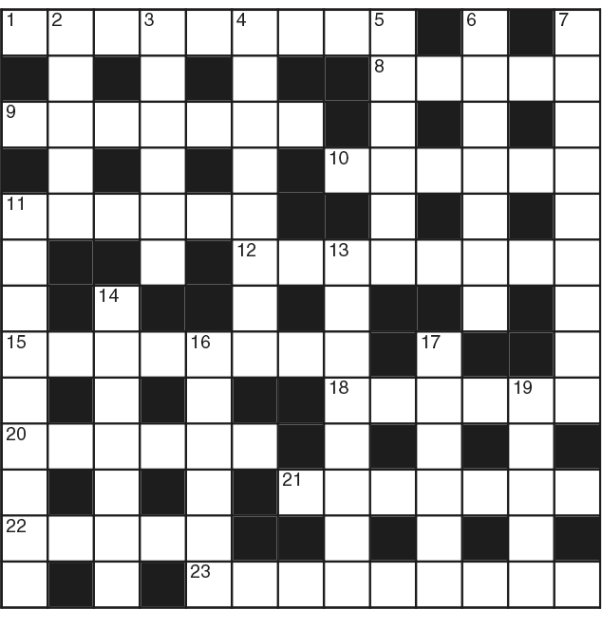
A JAWAN has been arrested for allegedly molesting the minor daughter of an Army officer at a military residential complex in Kolkata, a police officer said Tuesday. The accused was arrested on Sunday night following a complaint lodged by the girl's mother, the officer said.

According to the complaint, the incident took place on November 5 when the Army officer's daughter had gone to a park inside the residential complex to play with other children.

"The accused was identified after investigators examined CCTV footage from the residential complex. We have also recorded the statements of security personnel deployed at the park at the time of the incident. The investigation is underway," the Kolkata Police officer said.

The accused, who was deployed for security purposes at the complex, allegedly approached the girl, picked her up, and molested her, causing serious injuries to her lips, he said.

• CROSSWORD 6143



ACROSS

1 Van driver's warning on one side of the building (9)
8 Swiss river heron in distress (5)
9 She'll have flowers left or in hand (7)
10 Aim to be awkward? (6)
11 Seem a very quiet listener (6)
12 Last despite great efforts (5,3)
15 I can head this way for the ranch (8)
18 Almost none start before time (6)
20 Close so ran back to a disturbance (6)
21 Ardent Olympian getting a look in (7)
22 Less in sum perhaps (5)
23 I can act it out providing one plans the moves (9)

DOWN

2 Part of a ship or dock (5)
3 With the organ study over got paid employment (6)
4 When the others fall don't let yourself do so (8)
5 A singer in a trio? (6)
6 Flowers say gone astray (7)
7 Good breeding quality (9)
11 Many cheer the reformation of Satan (9)
13 Wing patterns have changed (8)
14 Making a record — from scratch? (7)
16 Possibly it goes to a selfish type (6)
17 Pungent plant the Italian found in rock climbing (6)
19 The French atmosphere comes from her (5))

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.

That is the greatest fallacy, the wisdom of old men. They do not grow __. They grow ____. Ernest Hemingway (4,.,7)

LEASE ○○○○○ AOPCLU ○○○○○○

SCRIP ○○○○○ CERUFW ○○○○○○

SOLUTIONS: Easel, Crisp, Cupola, Curfew
ANSWER: That is the greatest fallacy, the wis dom of old men. They do not grow **wise**. They grow **careful**. - Ernest Hemingway

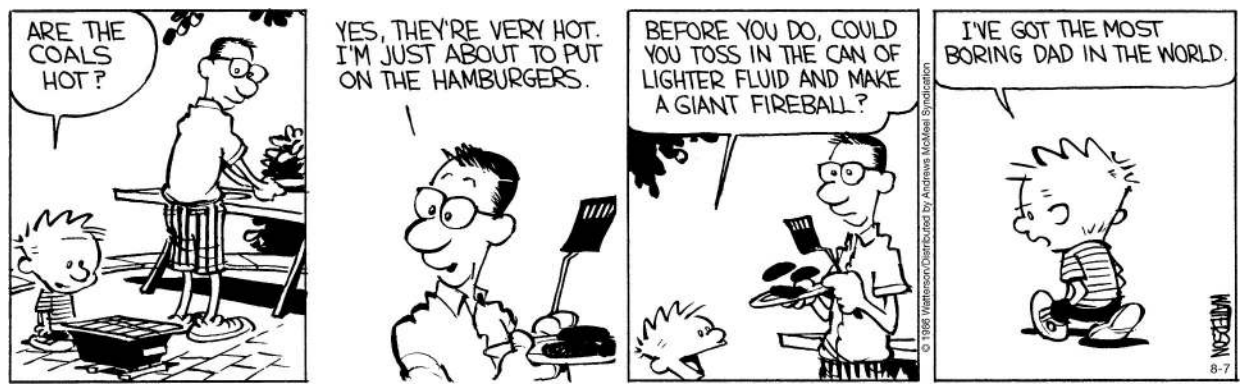
• OVER THE HEDGE

BY MICHAEL FRY & T LEWIS



• CALVIN & HOBBES

BY BILL WATTERSON



• MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG



SUDOKU 6499

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

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

• ROYAL STARS

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

ARIES (MAR 21 - APR 20): This is a lovely day to chat with others and enjoy their company. It's also a great day to travel or make travel plans. You want to do something to expand your world. Tonight: Explore and learn.

TAURUS (APR 21 - MAY 21): Remember to get more sleep. Meanwhile, people from your past are back in your world. Discussions about how to share something like an inheritance or jointly held property will go well. It's a good day to ask for a loan. Tonight: Check your finances.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21): Cooperate with others today, even if this means being patient with silly, goofy mistakes at work. Enjoy socialising with friends and children. Tonight: Be friendly and cooperative.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23): Some of you have experienced old flames being back in your world. Others have been in contact with kids they haven't seen in a while. Relations with co-workers are especially enjoyable today. It's also an excellent day to entertain at home. Tonight: Get better organised.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUG 23): Romance, the arts, fun social outings and vacations are on the menu today. Make an effort to do something that pleases you. Enjoy socialising. Reach out to others. Everyone is more mellow and easy-going today, including you. Tonight: Play.

VIRGO (AUG 24 - SEP 23): The pace of your days has accelerated recently with a busy schedule of appointments, errands, increased reading and writing and talking to everyone. Today is the perfect day to take it easy and relax at home. Tonight: Relax at home.

LIBRA (SEP 24 - OCT 23): Your communication skills are excellent today. Many of you will make money from your ability to communicate through sales, marketing, teaching, acting, writing and editing. Tonight: Talk and learn.

SCORPIO (OCT 24 - NOV 23): Trust your moneymaking ideas today. If shopping, you will be pleased if you have a chance to buy something pretty for yourself or a loved one. A small gift is a gesture that shows you're thinking about them with affection. Tonight: Check your money.

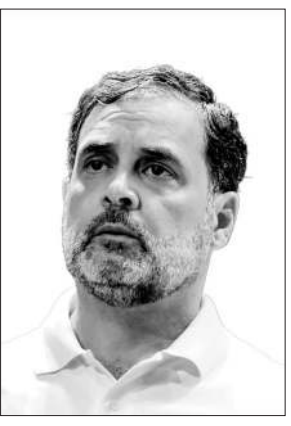
SAGITTARIUS (NOV 24 - DEC 22): Today the Moon is in your sign dancing nicely with Venus, which increases your appreciation of beauty in the world around you. It's a great day for romance or any kind of socialising with others. Accept invitations to party. Tonight: You win.

CAPRICORN (DEC 23 - JAN 20): Your life has been more popular lately, as some of you have been interacting with younger people, especially people from your past. Relations with authority figures are excellent, even romantic. Today, is the perfect day to rest. Tonight: Enjoy privacy.

AQUARIUS (JAN 21 - FEB 19): Friendships will be warm and reassuring today. A platonic relationship might become romantic. Do something to enjoy the arts or make travel plans. Get out and socialise. Tonight: Be friendly.

PISCES (FEB 20 - MAR 20): People notice you today, this is a good thing, as you appear attractive, charming and approachable. Someone might be attracted to you romantically. This is an excellent day for any special gathering, so look your best. Tonight: You're admired.

DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



Much-awaited Reshuffle

THERE IS growing curiosity among Congress leaders over the proposed reshuffling of AICC secretaries. Senior leaders of the party, including Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi and MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, have already 'interviewed' around 200 probable candidates for the key posts over the past few weeks. Those eyeing the posts have been enquiring from senior party leaders about the official announcement on the reshuffle. Sources say the announcement can come any time over the next few days.

Clearing the Court Air

AT A time when Delhi grapples with severe levels of air pollution, the process for servicing and maintenance of air purifiers installed at the Supreme Court has started. On Tuesday, the CPWD floated a tender with an estimated cost of Rs 7.86 lakh for the overhauling of 50 air purifiers in the main building and replacing the filters of 30 others in the complex. The CPWD has given potential bidders 60 days to complete the work.

'My Rajiv was dead. He was gone... I didn't want to live without him'

In her memoir, '*Belonging: A Journey of Love*', Congress leader Sonia Gandhi shares some of the most private chapters of her life. A look at some of them:



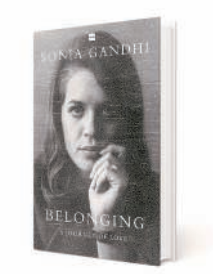
A photograph by Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, from the author's private collection. Sonia Gandhi's memoir, *Belonging: A Journey of Love*, hit the stands on Tuesday.

On Rajiv Gandhi's assassination

Sonia Gandhi has narrated how her daughter, Priyanka, informed her about the suicide blast at Sriperumbudur that killed Rajiv Gandhi.

She quotes Priyanka as saying: "I just got a call. There's been a bomb explosion. They are saying that twelve people around Papa are dead, but he is okay. It can't be possible. If twelve people have died, he must be injured, he must be in hospital. We'll have to go to Madras, Mama. Start getting dressed."

"...I couldn't breathe. I stood up, she stepped forward and held me in her arms. I could feel her heart thumping wildly against my chest," she writes.



Priyanka then says, "I'm going to the office to check. Mr. George said he would find out, but he hasn't called back, and he isn't picking up the phone." Vincent George was Rajiv Gandhi's personal secretary who later worked with Sonia Gandhi too.

Priyanka returned a while later. She announced "Papa is dead". "I looked into her eyes, desperately hoping this was a nightmare from which I would awake. She looked back at me, her gaze piercing mine, mirroring my horror," Gandhi writes.

"I crumpled in my daughter's arms. 'I should have gone with him,' I cried out, again and again. 'Why didn't I go with him?' She said nothing. Disbelieving, clinging to hope, I dialled Mr. George myself. 'Just tell me, is it true?' His voice faltered. 'Yes — it is true, Sahab is no more.' I felt as if my world had gone dark, and that darkness had swallowed me whole," she writes. "...My Rajiv was dead. He was gone. I would never see his beautiful face again, I would never feel him holding me, I would never again know the safety of his embrace. I wanted to die. I didn't want to live without him."

The Bofors scandal

Gandhi writes about the Bofors scandal, one of the biggest challenges her husband faced as Prime Minister. According to her, "Rajiv had declared that no agents would be, or were, involved in the arms purchases, but after a protracted series of disclosures, enquiries, accusations, and denials, it was established that indeed there had been agents — opening the door to allegations of corruption."

An Opposition campaign was "supported by a corporate house and some within the Congress party", she writes. "It took no time for Rajiv to be targeted as the culprit. He was accused of being a recipient of bribes from the Bofors firm."

"In an ongoing trial by media, a barrage of charges was hurled at Rajiv by those determined to bring him down... We were all deeply affected by the onslaught; even the children were hurt and indignant."

On Maneka Gandhi

Gandhi writes about "differences" between her brother-in-law Sanjay and Maneka. "When annoyed, she would use expletives, even in the presence of my mother-in-law, that were taboo in the home; they embarrassed him and shocked us," she writes. She also writes about Maneka drifting away from the family after Sanjay died in a plane crash. Indira Gandhi felt that at 23, Maneka was "still too young and immature to be given a leadership role".

"My mother-in-law was disturbed by Maneka's rush to secure a political position... When baby Feroze's first birthday drew close in March 1981, my mother-in-law suggested a small get-together with some of Maneka's friends and their children, but she was rebuffed. She learnt later that a birthday party for her grandchild had indeed taken place — but in the house of Vasundhara Raje, the daughter of the dowager Rajmata of Gwalior, a staunch supporter of the RSS and a political opponent of Mrs. Gandhi. It was clearly intended to wound her," Gandhi writes.

On 1984 riots

About the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, Gandhi writes that she is certain that Rajiv himself "could not in any way have authorised those heinous acts on innocent men, women and children". "In retrospect, it's evident that the system had undergone a time of cataclysmic upheaval in which the structure of government had come under strain — perhaps even broken down," she writes. "The riots of 1984 remain a tragic and shameful chapter in the history of our nation."

On losing first born

Gandhi writes that she gave birth to a boy on January 18, 1969 but the joy was short-lived for the family. It was a normal delivery, she writes. "Later Rajiv took me to see him, a tiny, perfectly formed boy, with thick, black hair and long, slim fingers... We fell in love with him immediately, but Rajiv had been told already that there were doubts about his survival. With Amie Aunty beside him, he broke it gently to me when at 6:30 in the morning the end came."

"I cried my heart out, and Rajiv, in spite of his 'stiff upper lip' upbringing, also wept copiously," she writes.

On battling cancer

Gandhi, who has never spoken earlier about her medical condition, shares that a year after surgery for breast cancer in 2010, another growth was detected in her pancreas during a follow-up test. When the malignancy was first detected in 2010, she writes that although she had confidence in the doctors in India, she opted for treatment abroad because of the media frenzy it would create here. "I felt shaken and worried, there was no time to lose, my children and I were told, and my mind began to race to a possible scary outcome... I wasn't keen to be at the centre of a media frenzy that would have inevitably accompanied a surgery in Delhi... "

After the surgery at the European Institute of Oncology in Milan, Gandhi recalls how the surgeon informed her that everything had gone on well and there were no residues. A year later, during routine follow-up tests, a growth was detected in the pancreas. "This came as a shock to me and the children.... Following many consultations, my doctors felt I needed immediate surgery..." This time, she went to Erasmus University Medical Centre in Rotterdam, where she was treated by well-known pancreatic surgeon Dr Casper van Fijck.

Retired officials rehired also come under model code: EC

Goa, Manipur, UP, Uttarakhand and Punjab will go to polls next year

Express News Service
New Delhi, November 10

THE ELECTION Commission of India (ECI) on Monday directed authorities in five election-bound states that restrictions under the model code of conduct (MCC) that apply to government officials should extend to retired officials re-employed or engaged by state governments.

Writing to the chief secretaries and chief electoral officers of Goa, Manipur, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand, where Assembly elections are expected early in 2027, the ECI said it previously issued instructions that government employees must not participate in election campaigns or support any individual or party during elections.

"The provisions of the Model Code of Conduct apply to all organisations/committees, corporations/commissions, etc. funded wholly or partially by the Government, and their employees. Further, the relevant Conduct Rules, in the States, prohibit the Government servants from taking part in political activities and elections," the ECI said.

The ECI said that the same restrictions should extend to retired government employees engaged or re-employed in various capacities by the states, noting that there were "no specific guidelines or rules relating to their political neutrality and conduct during MCC period".

"The Commission hereby directs that restrictions and prohibitions applicable to Government Servants shall similarly apply to the aforesaid category of individuals during MCC period. Further, they shall not summon any election-related officer of the constituency or district where elections have been announced for any official discussions/meetings or hold video conferences/meetings with any such officer. Any omission or commission of any act in contravention of Commission's directions shall be viewed seriously," the ECI said.

The ECI's directions come at a time when preparations for the Assembly polls are underway. Ahead of the election announcement, the three-member Commission also usually visits the states. Teams of senior EC officials have been visiting the states.

Fadnavis backs UCC, says plan on to soon introduce it in state

Express News Service
Mumbai, November 10



Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis

BACKING THE Uniform Civil Code (UCC), Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis on Tuesday said the state government was committed to introducing the set of personal laws, as they had constitutional validity.

"The process of UCC draft is underway. We are going to bring the UCC soon," he told media persons during Diwali Milan, held at his official residence.

Slamming AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, both of whom objected to the BJP's decision to bring the UCC, the CM said, "Under the Constitution's Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP), UCC has the mandate." "Dr Ambedkar's Constitution has given us fundamental rights and DPSP. One such directive states that every state should bring a Uniform Civil Code. Who has written this? The Constitution of India. It is a Constitutional responsibility," he said.

The CM, however, added that the Directive Principles cannot be implemented like fundamental rights, as they require consensus among people.

He added, "The Leader of Opposition, Rahul Gandhi, had launched a campaign to undermine every Constitutional body, including (the) ECI, Supreme Court, Parliament and CAG. They are using the Special Intensive Revision as a pretext to attack democracy and the Constitution. Therefore, BJP had to take to the streets and counter the Opposition's fake narrative... The Congress wants to bring an ultra leftist regime in the country. But people will not accept it," said Fadnavis.

Breaking silence on rumours of a merger of the NCP with NCP (SP), Fadnavis said, "Only Sharad and Sunetra Pawar can tell (that). If any decision were taken, we would have been informed."

Keralam minister walks away as Vande Mataram is sung in full

Shaju Philip
Thiruvananthapuram, November 10

THE VANDE Mataram controversy continues to haunt the Congress government in Keralam, where the party's official stand is to sing the first two stanzas in all state government functions. However, the song was sung in full at an official function attended by senior Congress leader and Health Minister K Muraleedharan in Kasaragod on Monday, prompting him to return to his seat midway.

The minister was attending the inauguration of a laboratory at a family health centre at Mulleria, Kasaragod, held by the health department.

The confusion was evident as Kasaragod MP Rajmohan Unnithan, MLA Kallatra Mahin and district collector Sreedhanya Suresh also returned to their seats before the rendition was over. On Tuesday, BJP district president M L Ashwini said, "This is a serious violation of the protocol. They have insulted the national song. We will... initiate legal action against officials who insulted the national song."

Muraleedharan said the state government can't allow the Centre's protocol in functions it conducts. "Don't teach me patriotism... We will not allow the BJP agenda to be implemented in state-run functions."

In first polls since creation of 6 new districts, Ladakh to elect hill councils on December 4

Naveed Iqbal
Srinagar, November 10

FRESH ELECTIONS to the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (LAHDCs) will take place on December 4.

For the first time, eight elected hill councils will take shape in Ladakh with the addition of six new districts to the union territory this year. A total of 1.87 lakh electors will cast their vote to pick 100 councillors who will form the next LAHDCs.

Ladakh Chief Secretary Ashish Kundra made the announcement in Leh on Tuesday. He said the delimitation of these new constituencies is complete, and the nomination process is set to begin this week. It will close on November 17.

Terming this a watershed moment for democracy in Ladakh, he said, "This is a crucial inflexion in the larger tourney of democracy and the demands which have been raised and people should participate. They must demonstrate that they are for democracy and this is their desire."

Meanwhile, the Kargil region of Ladakh observed a complete shutdown on Tuesday over the conduct of these polls. On Monday, the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) raised concerns about holding LAHDC polls in Ladakh's harsh winter weather. Ladakh MP Mohmad Haneefa Jan also raised this with Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena, in a letter sent to his office.

However, Kundra argued that schools in Ladakh remain open until around December 10, and weather conditions may remain favourable for voting. Kudra also dismissed allegations that since two LAHDCs are now being replaced with eight, the new elected bodies will be "disempowered" in any way.

Previously, concerns were raised over dilution of powers of the new bodies in smaller districts. "The powers of LAHDCs are enshrined in the LAHDC Act, and they will continue to exercise those functions," he said.

Panchayat and Urban Local Body Polls for Ladakh will take place on November 21. As per the gazette notification for LAHDC polls, the process is to be completed by December 8, but the official date for results is yet to be announced.

With regard to calls for a boycott of polls from some social and religious bodies, Kundra said, "On one hand they argue that there is bureaucratic rule and then they say they will not participate in elections... I can only appeal to the leaders of Kargil and Leh to participate in the elections and demonstrate to the central government that yes, we want democracy and we want to strengthen democratic institutions, and that is how we will build a body that will take shape at the Apex level in Ladakh."

Regarding the preparations for the elections, he said that Deputy Commissioners have been instructed to provide heating systems in voting booths on December 4.

● THOUGH BJD ROUTED IN POLLS OVER 2 YEARS AGO, BJP FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO SHRUG OFF ITS FORMER ALLY THAT, DESPITE ITS PROBLEMS, HAS BOTH THE CADRE AND GROUND SUPPORT TO KEEP FIGHTING

After sweeping Odisha in 2024, why BJP has failed to build on its momentum

CAPITAL CONTEXT
BY LIZ MATHEW

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

AS THE BJP took a hit in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections in states where it was expected to perform well, such as Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra, Odisha stepped up to save the party by delivering 20 vital parliamentary seats that pushed its overall tally to 240. That regional wave provided Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the required leverage to secure a historic third consecutive term, anchoring a coalition government alongside regional allies such as the TDP and JD(U).

Now, over two years down the line, the BJP that also formed the government for the first time in 2024 is struggling to sustain the post-election momentum. BJP insiders say that the Naveen Patnaik-led Biju Janata Dal (BJD), the main Opposition party and former ally, continues to hold significant ground presence and vote share despite its electoral rout. In the Assembly election, the BJD was marginally ahead with a 40.22% vote share while the BJP managed to get 40.07% of the votes.

In recent months, the BJD has targeted the BJP-led Central government over the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2026, or the MMDR Amendment Act, arguing that it strips the state of crucial financial and constitutional rights and is anti-federal in nature. The BJD has also added its voice to the Opposition's chorus against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

"Prime Minister Modi began his post-2024 Lok Sabha election victory speech at the BJP national headquarters chanting 'Jai Jagannath' thrice instead of his usual 'Jai Shri Ram'. It was seen as his appreciation for what Odisha contributed to his return to power. People in Odisha expected a lot from the PM, but what it got is MMDR," said former Lok Sabha MP Tathagata Satpathy.

BJP insiders said some senior party leaders in the state were "unhappy" with the state government's inability to keep up the momentum in the perception battle. BJP parliamentarians Pradeep Kumar Panigrahy (Berhampur MP), Sangeeta Singh Deo (Bolangir MP), and Balabhadra Majhi (Nabarangpur MP) have recently complained, in separate letters, to the state government about the slow pace and the poor quality of infrastructure construction in their constituencies.

"Another point of discontent was triggered when Nitin Nabin revamped the national team. The state was completely sidelined. No new face from Odisha was inducted in the national team, though the state has a prominent role to play in the 2029 elections," said a BJP leader. Both Baijayant 'Jay' Panda and Sambit Patra were in the previous team as national vice-president and North East Coordinator, respectively.



Odisha CM Mohan Charan Majhi addresses the grievances of people, at Circuit House in Keonjhar last week. X/@MOHANMODISHA

Some BJP leaders said Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has a clean image but has not done enough to wield power, because the "ecosystem remains the same" as under the Naveen Patnaik government. "The cadre still feel we are left out and the BJD leaders still call the shots at the ground level," said a young BJP leader from Odisha. "Control over development projects at the block levels is an important source of influence for those working on the ground. However, ground-level contracts remain the BJD's forte."

However, a senior party MP from the state came to the CM's defence, saying "transition" takes time. " After 24 years (of Naveen Patnaik -led BJD in power), one cannot change things overnight. If we change things rapidly, we will be accused of being dictatorial or undemocratic. We have to do it officially and properly. When it comes to contracts, the BJD networking at the ground knows the tricks, while our karyakartas do not even apply for many. Also, regional party-ruled states have a way to do things too," he said.

The CM's defenders in the party said internal divisions — mainly due to the one-upmanship some senior leaders engage in — often slow down the CM. However, others pin the blame on him.

"The Chief Minister has not been able to appoint a regular DGP yet. This is a perfect example to show how incompetent the government is," said a source. Majhi has also not expanded his Council of Ministers since taking power. The state currently has 16 ministers, including the CM, and can induct six more.

BJD's hurdles

The BJD has ground cadre and support, but its leadership crisis is far from over. Once a strong BJP ally — they shared power in a coalition for nine years — the Naveen Patnaik-led party initially maintained equidistance from the BJP and the Congress after losing power, but there has been a shift in recent months.

After it backed the Cockroach Janta Party's (CJP) July protests on the NEET exam paper leak issue, the BJP branded it "an ally of anarchists". Two of its Rajya Sabha MPs, Manas Mangaraj and Sulata Deo, have joined Opposition protests calling for the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. Like the INDIA bloc, the BJD has also alleged "vote theft" through SIR. However, the party has made it clear it does not want to be seen as part of the INDIA bloc either.

With the formal entry into the party of former IAS officer Sujata Rout Karthikeyan, the BJD's second-rung leadership and sections of the cadre are struggling to readjust themselves to the new internal dynamics. Karthikeyan is married to Patnaik's close aide V K Pandian, whose role in the party came under fire in the 2024 elections.

Some BJD leaders pointed out that Patnaik has reiterated that he would remain the party's face in the next elections. Unlike Pandian, who was labelled an outsider and is seen as a political liability in the party, Karthikeyan, who hails from Kendrapara, is viewed by many as Patnaik's potential successor in the long run.

Kolkata

Rashtrapati Bhavan security man critical after being shot at during Diwali

Manish Sahu
Lucknow, November 10

A 26-YEAR-OLD man, who was deputed with the Rashtrapati Bhavan security, was seriously injured after he was shot in the head during a dispute over bursting firecrackers in Uttar Pradesh's Baghpat on Diwali night, police said.

Saurabh Tomar had come home to celebrate Diwali with his family, who live in Gopalpur Khadana. Police said they received information about the firing around 10 pm on Sunday. During the preliminary inquiry, police learnt that Saurabh was bursting firecrackers on the road along with his family when two neighbours, brothers Dheeraj and Monu, objected to it and got into an argument with Saurabh's brother, Vineet, 28.

Police said the disagreement soon escalated into violence as Dheeraj allegedly pulled out a country-made pistol and opened fire. The bullet first struck a wall before hitting Saurabh in the head.

The accused also allegedly assaulted Vineet and threatened the family with dire consequences before fleeing. Family members rushed Saurabh to a hospital, where doctors performed surgery and removed the bullet. His condition is now reported to be stable.

Police registered an FIR against Dheeraj and Monu on charges of attempt to murder. Circle Officer Anshu Jain said, "Efforts are underway to trace and arrest the accused."

Strong bipartisan support in US for India ties: MEA on midterms

Rejects lawsuit by Khalistan terrorist Pannun, calls his charges fabricated and malicious

Shubhajit Roy
New Delhi, November 10



MEA Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal addresses a press conference, in New Delhi on Tuesday. ANI

IN THE first response on the US midterm elections in which Democrats won both Houses of the US Congress, defeating US President Donald Trump's Republican Party, India said on Tuesday that it is an "internal matter" of the US but underlined that the India-US bilateral ties enjoy "strong bipartisan support" across the political aisle.

External Affairs Ministry's official spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, while responding to questions, said: "The midterm elections are an internal matter of the US. I have no specific comment on them, beyond underlining that the India-United States relationship enjoys strong bipartisan support in the US. We continue to work to further strengthen our Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership with the US."

Two years into the US Presidential term, Trump has suffered the biggest rebuke as the Republican Party was defeated in the Senate as well as the House of Representatives.

Widely billed as a referendum on Trump's second term as President, the US midterms have dealt a striking blow to his actions that impacted the US and the world, including India.

The India-US ties have gone through ups and downs over tariffs, trade, visa restrictions, deportations, and US close ties with Pakistan's military in the last two years.

The regular comments by the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), and the US federal government commission that monitors religious freedom conditions worldwide, have also added to Delhi's worries.

Responding to the latest US-CIRF comments, Jaiswal said, "As I have said before, the US-CIRF is a biased and ill-informed organisation with a blatantly political agenda. It is particularly telling that the US-CIRF and its Commissioners have consistently chosen to remain silent on attacks on religious places in the US and on the hate crimes and racial abuse targeted at the Indian community in the US. A prejudiced entity can hardly be taken seriously."

In a post on X last week, the USCRIF had quoted one of its Commissioners, David Anderson, as saying: "Over the last several weeks, Sikh gurdwaras in India have been targeted with vigilante attacks, including attempts to harm religious leaders. The USG should link security assistance to the Indian government's response to violence that stops people from exercising FoRB [Freedom of Religion or Belief]."

It also quoted another one of its Commissioners, Joe Grogan, as saying: "Attacks on houses of worship in India, including churches, gurdwaras, and mosques, undermine FoRB rights enshrined in international law. The USG should continue to press the Indian government to hold perpetrators of such violence accountable & protect places of worship."

With ties between India and the US going through a rough patch, Delhi has hired lobbyists to maintain communication channels open.

The Indian Express reported on November 7 that US Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA) filings revealed that lobbying firm SHW Partners LLC facilitated eight phone calls between Indian officials and senior White House figures in May and June 2026.

The MEA spokesperson, when asked about the FARA filings, said, "It is a normal practice in the US for diplomatic missions to engage lobby firms to facilitate outreach and engagement with the US Administration, members of the Congress, and other relevant stakeholders. Incidentally, past filing records give ample examples of lobbyists facilitating contacts with US Administration leaders and personnel. So there should be no confusion on this account."

"Such engagements are undertaken in accordance with the applicable US laws, including the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA), under which the activities of these firms are publicly disclosed. India has been engaging lobby firms in Washington DC since 1948," he said.

The MEA spokesperson also rejected the lawsuit filed by Khalistani terrorist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun against Indian officials in the United States, after a US federal court allowed him to pursue the service of summons on National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and former Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW) chief Samant Goel through Indian courts.

Responding to the development, the MEA spokesperson said, "We reject the fabricated and malicious attacks on our high officials. Also, we reject the frivolous lawsuits. A request for the service of judicial documents in India can only be routed through India's designated central authority, which is the Ministry of Law and Justice."

The development relates to an order by the US District Court for the Southern District of New York in the civil lawsuit filed by Pannun.

DU history faculty says kept out of PG syllabus review

Vidheesha Kuntamalla
Dehradun, November 10

THE DEPARTMENT of History of Delhi University has questioned the functioning of an Expert Committee constituted by the Vice-Chancellor to review its Post Graduate third-semester syllabus, claiming that the head of the department, who is a member of the panel, was being kept out of final decisions. It has also disputed some of the changes recommended by the Expert Committee, including that a paper taught for over a decade be dropped as it was "ideologically loaded".

According to the minutes of a Department Council meeting held on September 10 and accessed by *The Indian Express*, HoD Anirudh Deshpande told the faculty of the History Department that he was "not being made a party to final decisions" regarding the syllabus review. The council subsequently "expressed dismay at the composition of the Expert Committee" and asked Deshpande to convey its concerns to Vice-Chancellor Yogesh Singh.

On October 9, Deshpande wrote to the V-C on behalf of the department, placing on record concerns raised by the faculty over the composition, functioning and recommendations of the Expert Committee. Both Expert Committee Chairperson Shriprakash Singh and Deshpande refused to comment on the matter when contacted.

The History Department's objections comes amid wider concerns over changes to syllabi of various courses at DU under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. *The Indian Express* reported in August that several history papers taught at DU for decades, including 'The Delhi Sultanate: Structures of Authority in Medieval North India (13th-14th Centuries)', did not feature in the revised PG syllabus.

The October 9 letter pointed to the number of PG papers still awaiting notification. "Almost half of our DSE (Discipline Specific Elective) papers in the Semester III syllabus are yet to be notified," the letter said. These include papers on the history of caste, gender, labour and the Northeast.

The letter sought an early meeting with the V-C for discussion on issues "affecting the working of the department". *The Indian Express* reached out to V-C Singh over calls and messages but did not receive a response.

Dr Ankit Agrawal, Assistant Professor of History at PGDAV College and a member of the Expert Committee, denied that Deshpande or the Department's views had been sidelined. "All papers brought by the History Department were discussed by the Expert Committee, and nothing was rejected out of goodwill and with an intention to make things better. Experts only made suggestions for the department to incorporate... The HoD participated in all the meetings, discussed the papers, and his opinions were taken into account," Agrawal said.

The varsity earlier defended its syllabus review exercise, saying some papers in History had been altered even after they were cleared by DU's Standing Committee, including changes to course units and reading lists. Dean of Academic Affairs K Ratnabali told *The Indian Express* then that the Expert Committee for History was constituted by the V-C to examine courses that required further review. In the October 9 letter to the V-C, Deshpande referred to online meetings held by the Expert Committee on July 30 and August 5, where Chairperson Singh told members to submit written suggestions, to be passed on to V-C.

CRPF plans to procure kamikaze UAVs with 15-km strike capability

Express News Service
New Delhi, November 10

THE CENTRAL Reserve Police Force (CRPF) is planning to acquire kamikaze unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) that are capable of striking targets up to 15 km away while livestreaming video of the ground beneath.

The Directorate General of CRPF has circulated draft qualitative requirements and trial directives for what it calls OFC+RF-based FPV kamikaze drones — first-person-view UAVs — that fly to a designated objective carrying a high-explosive warhead, transmit surveillance imagery back to the operator, and then destroy themselves on impact.

The draft, issued on November 5, has been sent to original equipment manufacturers and vendors for information by November 25.

The CRPF said the drone must be small and light — not more than 7 kg — with capability to land vertically within a 5X5 metre box. "It must fly at 150 kmph or more with full payload, operate in winds of 35 km/h or more during take-off, flight and landing, and stay airborne for a minimum of 30 minutes at 1,000 m AMSL [above mean sea level] without the warhead and spool, or 20 minutes with them, with endurance falling by a tenth for every additional 1,000 m of altitude," the note said.

Three workers die at Tata's Hosur plant for iPhones, inquiry on

Arun Janardhanan
Chennai, November 10

THREE CONTRACT workers died on Monday evening while servicing a wastewater treatment tank at a Tata Electronics factory near Hosur, Tamil Nadu, that makes casings and other components for Apple's iPhones.

Officials in Krishnagiri district said they suspected the workers had inhaled toxic gas. The police said the cause of death would be determined after their autopsies.

The plant, in Vanniyapuram near Uddanapalli, performs one of the more demanding jobs in Apple's effort to make more of its phones outside China. Its products include back panels and precision-machined metal casings.

On premium smartphones, the casing serves as the frame on which other components are mounted, and its manufacture requires specialised tooling and surface finishing. A separate Tata plant in the same compound assembles finished iPhones. India now makes about a quarter of the world's iPhones, according to *Reuters*.

According to the office of the Krishnagiri district collector, the three men were part of a four-person maintenance crew. B Akmal was the first to collapse after trying to look inside the filtration tank.

M Sarathikumar went to check on him and also collapsed. P Kaveri then went in after the two men. The fourth worker called for help. All three were pulled out and taken to a private hospital in Hosur, where they were pronounced dead.

A top official attached to the Directorate of Industrial Safety and Health told *The Indian Express* that the crew lacked proper safety measures for the work.

"A unit of the American company Ecolab, Nalco Water, operated the treatment plant and had engaged another company through a subcontract that employed the men. The bodies were taken to the Government Medical College Hospital in Krishnagiri for post-mortem examinations. We are conducting a detailed inquiry today," the official said.

The district administration opened an inquiry. Apple and Tata have also ordered investigations. The factory was already closed for Diwali when the accident happened.

A fire in a chemical storage area in September 2024 had halted component production at the Hosur site. At the time, the plant was the only Indian supplier of iPhone back panels to both Foxconn and Tata's own assembly operations.

This year, the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB), the pollution regulator, had intervened over allegations that wastewater had contaminated nearby farm wells. Tata said it had addressed the regulator's questions and that the board had dropped further action.

Spotlight on some TVK MLAs, CM Vijay calls a meeting today

Arun Janardhanan
Chennai, November 10



The government led by Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay completed six months in office on Tuesday. ANI

AT A time when the public behaviour of some of his TVK MLAs is under scrutiny, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay has summoned his party legislators to Chennai for an emergency consultative meeting Wednesday. The high-level meeting chaired by Vijay is scheduled to take place at the TVK headquarters in Panaiyur in Chennai.

The Vijay government completed six months in office on Tuesday, but questions remain about the actions of a few TVK MLAs that could push the party into a corner. MLA C Arul Vignesh has denied allegations that he had sent a district Collector an obscene message and harassed her. While Congress MP Jothimani claimed the Collector had filed a formal complaint, it has yet to be officially confirmed.

In Thuraiyur, the complaint began with a shortage of drinking water and a pile of uncollected garbage. Karthik Kumar, a resident who took those grievances to MLA M Ravishankar, said the legislator slapped and kicked him. Ravishankar is the deputy speaker of the Tamil Nadu Assembly.

History repeating?

Vijay promised a different standard of government. Six months on, his TVK is facing an accusation familiar from the years of DMK and AIADMK rule, when ruling-party legislators were accused of throwing their weight around and relying on the administration to manage the fallout. Party sources say TVK is preparing an internal inquiry into both cases. So far, it has announced no disciplinary action against either MLA.

For Vijay, who runs a minority government, the most consequential step under discussion would also expose the limits of his authority. Party sources say the leadership is considering asking Ravishankar to give up the deputy speaker's post. If he refuses, removing him would take a resolution under Article 179(c) of the Constitution, with 14 days' notice and the support of a majority of all the members of the Assembly. TVK would need votes beyond its own ranks to remove one of its own.

The video from Thuraiyur is dark enough that the faces are hard to make out. "Which village are you from?" one man asks as he repeatedly slaps another. The man being hit keeps saying he voted for Vijay. Kumar says he was the man being hit and identifies Ravishankar as the man who struck him.

Kumar said his neighbourhood had been short of drinking water for a week. He said his appeals to municipal officials went nowhere and calls to his MLA went unanswered. On Diwali night, he approached Ravishankar at his residence in Manachanallur. Kumar later received treatment at the government hospital there.

In a second recording, sitting beside Ravishankar, Kumar denied being assaulted and said social media had misrepresented a commotion. In a third, he said Ravishankar and a police inspector, whom he identified as Kirubanithi, had forced him to record the denial after threatening him and his family. He said it took about six takes.

Police said they had received no complaint about the alleged assault. Ravishankar issued no statement and could not be reached by phone for comment. School Education Minister A Rajmohan said an investigation would follow if Kumar filed a formal complaint.

Cancer drug prices slashed by up to Rs 6,000 as trade margin caps kick in

Anonna Dutt
New Delhi, November 10

Eight medicines saw a change of over Rs 50,000 per unit. This includes the prostate cancer drug manufactured by Astellas Pharma

CANCER DRUG prices dropped by an average of nearly Rs 6,000 after the government's trade margin cap on 137 medications came into effect on Monday.

However, an analysis of the final revised prices from the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) reveals the reduction is not evenly distributed among the medicines. The most expensive patented and single-source drugs have more or less retained their high prices.

Revised prices of 1,366 formulations — doses, package sizes, and brands — submitted by the manufacturers were analysed. No change was found in the prices of 201 of the 1,366 formulations, while prices of another 255 formulations reduced by less than Rs 100. This means, in total, 456 medicines saw only negligible change in their prices.

However, eight medicines saw a change of over Rs 50,000 per unit. This includes the prostate cancer drug enzalutamide, manufactured by Astellas Pharma, whose price dropped by around Rs 2 lakh.

Importantly, the most expensive drugs actually saw the lowest drop in prices.

Only four of the 57 formulations that cost more than Rs 1 lakh per unit recorded a drop in prices. This also translated into no change in prices of the patented and single-source drugs — i.e. drugs marketed by only one manufacturer in India.

As per the data, there were at least 62 formulations of 39 such drugs, the prices for which did not change at all.

This included drugs such as pembrolizumab — a drug that can be used for the treatment of around 18 cancers and features on WHO's list of essential medicines. An *Indian Express* investigation revealed that the drug remained out of reach for most Indians, despite the company's patient assistance programme.

Breast cancer immunotherapy drugs such as ribociclib and abemaciclib, for which patients have filed petitions in court to make them more accessible, did not register any price change as well.

That said, the government move is expected to bring relief to patients on cancer drugs manufactured by several firms.

"The reality is that the MRPs of cancer drugs are unreasonably high, sometimes 100-fold higher than the actual drug cost. The trade margin rationalisation would not affect big pharmacy stores because they sell the products at prices much lower than their inflated MRPs," said the owner of a pharmacy store in central Delhi.

However, they added, "The revised MRP will force all stores, including the one in hospitals, to sell the drugs at lower costs. Once a patient is admitted to the hospital, they are usually asked to get the medicines from pharmacies on the hospital premises, where they are charged MRP prices. The reduced MRP will help such patients," they said.

However, the exercise offers little relief to patients on newer targeted therapies, who must still pay full price. "Because trade margin rationalisation cannot make patented drugs affordable. The government would have to use provisions in the patent law such as compulsory licensing or governmental use to bring down the prices," said an expert in medicine patents.

● EXPELLED JD(U) LEADER'S LAVISH PLANS FOR DAUGHTER'S WEDDING

On the cards: Two lakh guests, horse races and 150 dishes

Santosh Singh
Patna, November 10

FROM A high-stakes horse race with a Mahindra Thar as the top prize and a sleek white Land Rover Defender for the groom to a guest list of 2 lakh people and over 150 culinary delicacies, the upcoming wedding of expelled Janata Dal (United) leader and Mokama MLA Anant Singh's younger daughter is all set to be a lavish affair. Singh and his wife Neelam Devi, a former MLA from Mokama, were expelled from the JD(U).

Their daughter Shivangi is tying the knot on November 25 with Rishikesh Kumar (alias Ankit) from Bihta. While Singh is a postgraduate, Rishikesh, the son of CRPF Commandant Ranvijay Singh, is an MBA graduate from Georgia State University, Atlanta, and has lived in the US for over a decade.

The CRPF commandant's residence in Bihta's Krishnanagar area has been given a complete makeover for the occasion.

Singh and his wife Neelam Devi were expelled for anti-party activities. The JD(U) has also sought Singh's disqualification as a member of the Bihar Assembly.

The expulsion came amid tensions between Anant Singh and the JD(U), which came to a head when Singh defied party orders to back Jan Suraaj Party candidate Anuj Singh against JD(U) spokesman Neeraj Kumar, his political rival, in the recent MLC polls. Kumar eventually won the race.



Mokama MLA Anant Singh

Despite ongoing legal troubles and political setbacks, the sheer scale of the wedding ceremony at Ladwan village in Mokama has taken centre stage. On October 30, the Supreme Court rejected Anant Singh's plea for an extension of bail in the Dularchand Yadav murder case but extended his bail until December 4 in view of his daughter's marriage.

Speaking to the media, Singh appeared unperturbed by his expulsion from the JD(U), the potential loss of his MLA status or the outcome of the recent MLC polls, instead falling back on his signature refrain: "*Janata maalik hai* (The people are the masters)".

On his legal situation too, Singh said: "My bail plea extension was rejected. It is the process of law".

For some time now, Anant Singh has remained focused entirely on the nuptials, inviting everyone in his phonebook across political lines — including JD(U) chief Nitish Kumar and Rashtriya Janata Dal chief Lalu Prasad. Kumar, however, has reportedly been left out.

According to sources, Singh, known for his love of horses, is organising a horse race on the wedding day. The top prizes for the winners, according to sources, are a Mahindra Thar, a motorcycle and a scooty.

Sources said the celebrations will feature a star-studded lineup of performers, including Udit Narayan, Sonu Sood, Maithili Thakur, Ravi Kishan, Manoj Tiwari and Pawan Singh.

At Ladwan village, supporters are seen erecting modern pandals across 10 bighas of land, with fresh flowers being flown in from China and major cities like Bengaluru to decorate the main stage and wedding mandap.

Meanwhile, a white Land Rover Defender parked at Singh's Patna residence awaits the bridegroom amid growing social media buzz.

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

The Big Picture

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2026



THE GANGA TAKES A PAUSE

For 18 days, with the Upper Ganga Canal shut for annual maintenance, in Haridwar, an army of sanitation workers and volunteers descended on the dried riverbed to clear it of silt and trash ahead of the Ardh Kumbh. VIDHEESHA KUNTAMALLA visited the ghats to see what it takes to clean the Ganga

PHOTOGRAPHS: GAJENDRA YADAV

WHEN THE Ganga recedes, Vijay's chances of finding a coin rises. On the exposed riverbed, beneath the towering Shiva statue near the Old Vishnu Ghat in Haridwar, the 20-year-old stands bent over, sifting through the silt with his fingers. He has been doing this since he was 10. A green paper plate beside him holds the brown, muddied coins he has found. Some mornings, the riverbed gives him a little money; on others, nothing.

"*Jab Ganga Maa chahti hai toh kuch paise de deti hai* (When the Ganga wishes, she gives me a little money)," says Vijay, a Class 7 dropout whose parents work as daily-wage labourers at a construction site.

Every year, the annual closure of the Upper Ganga Canal for maintenance leaves the riverbed at Haridwar dry and exposed for about 18 days, filling Vijay and other wastepickers with hopes of better earnings. It's also a brief 18-day window when authorities can clean around 10 km of the river stretch from Khadkadhi to Jwalapur, covering Har ki Pauri and its neighbouring ghats.

Eighteen days of an army of machines and around 200 men and women — municipal workers, volunteers, ashram inmates, and civic groups — working for about 12 hours daily, from 5 am until sundown, to clean what's considered the most sacred of rivers.

But this year, there is an added urgency. The 2027 Ardh Kumbh, held once every six years, kicks off in January, when millions of pilgrims will descend on these banks. As the devotees throng the steps leading to the river, they will make more offerings to the river, but before that, the riverbed has to be cleaned of what was left behind: red and saffron garments, plastic bags, footwear, flowers, coconut shells and the remains of countless rituals.

Municipal workers and volunteers collected around 150 metric tonnes of waste from the ghats, before the Upper Ganga Canal was reopened and the waters returned to Har Ki Pauri at midnight on November 7. During last year's cleaning exercise, they had collected around 70-80 metric tonnes of waste.

For the pilgrimage city of Haridwar, the Ganga is much more than a river that ebbs and flows. At the iconic Har Ki Pauri, said to be the point where the river enters the plains, the fast-flowing Ganga is the reason pilgrims arrive. It is the centre around which the town's religious life, economy and everyday rhythms have been built.

But the question is whether the river that is cleaned every year can be protected from the waste that keeps returning to it.

What the river leaves behind

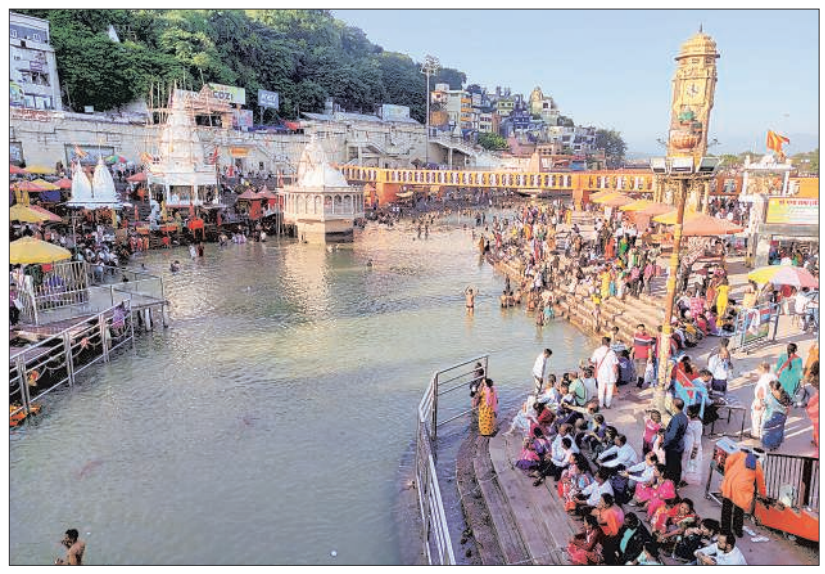
On a Saturday afternoon, 10 days after the Upper Ganga Canal had been shut for maintenance, an army of municipal workers, volunteers and members of social and educational organisations, some of them in fluorescent yellow jackets, takes over the vast, exposed riverbed. After a few lumbering earthmovers scoop out the silt-covered ground, workers dig through the sludge to painstakingly retrieve layers of accumulated waste. Just as one patch is cleared, another reveals more trash. Tractors and JCBs ferry away enormous heaps of muck and discarded clothes to a designated point on the ghats for the municipality truck to pick them up.

Mahakal, a sanitation worker with the Haridwar Nagar Nigam, the city municipal corporation, has begun his day at 5 am. Every day for 18 days of the clean-up, the 50-year-old, dressed in a fluorescent reflective vest, gloves and boots, would work until 2 pm, fishing out shreds of cloth, plastic and other waste from the riverbed. Every year, he says, the cycle is familiar: the waste is removed, the water returns, and much of the same material accumulates again.

To Mahakal, the Ganga's plight feels personal. "Every year the waste keeps increasing. *Log bas Ganga maa ko takleef pahunchate hai* (People keep burdening the Ganga every year)," he says.

Heera Vallabh Pant, who is associated with the Shri Bhuvneshwari Mahila Ashram at Har ki Pauri, says discarded clothes and footwear form a substantial part of what volunteers collect. "Leaving behind clothes worn during a ritual bath is believed to be a way of shedding impurities or washing away sins. But what is an act of spiritual cleansing for one person becomes waste for someone else to remove," says Pant.





(Clockwise from above) After the Upper Ganga Canal was reopened, the water returned to Har Ki Pauri at midnight on November 7; volunteers collecting trash from the dried riverbed; around 200 workers cleared the stretch over 18 days

During the Kanwar Yatra between July and August, Pant says, around 70 metric tonnes of clothes and footwear were collected from the ghats. "But this year's cleaning operation was more intensive than in previous years," he says.

Ahead of the 2027 Ardh Kumbh, the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), a Central government initiative to check pollution and rejuvenate the Ganga, has approved a Rs 115.61-crore sanitation and waste-management plan for Haridwar. The Municipal Corporation, in a first, is planning to deploy floating conveyor belts to intercept debris at key points along the Ganga, the Amarpura Ghat and Jatwara bridge, to collect waste.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Haridwar Municipal Commissioner Nandan Kumar says, "These conveyor belts can only intercept floating debris. They cannot remove dissolved pollutants... their effectiveness will depend on how regularly they are cleared and how the collected waste is disposed of."

For those who have spent their lives around the ghats, however, the problem is measured not just in tonnes, but in the distance between the river and the people who have built their lives around it. The ghats remain crowded with shrines, shops and places for rituals, but the water no longer reaches the steps the way some older residents remember.

Tarun Sharma, 42, a priest at the temple near the Old Vishnu Ghat, says he has heard older generations describe a time when the river flowed much closer. "The cleaning has been carried out for generations. The river has given people a lot; in turn all it gets is filth. Around 50-60 years ago, the water would reach the entrance of the temple. I have heard it from my father, he was a priest at this temple before me... If Ganga ji is not here, how will we survive, how will devotees come?"

When the barrage gates shut

The annual reduction in water at Har Ki Pauri is linked to the maintenance of the Upper Ganga Canal, which carries water from the Ganga to parts of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and beyond through a 400-km network. The region between the Ganga and Yamuna rivers depends on water from the canal network for drinking and irrigation. Every year, after the monsoon, the canal is temporarily closed so the silt deposited along its bed can be removed and repairs carried out.

At Haridwar, the process is controlled at the Bhimgoda Barrage, about a kilometre from Har Ki Pauri. Water from the Pashulok Barrage near Rishikesh, about 17 km upstream, reaches Bhimgoda, where some of the water is directed into the channels supplying Har Ki Pauri and the wider canal network. The remaining water passes downstream through the main river channel towards Bijnor and Kanpur, ultimately flowing into the Bay of Bengal.

Harish Prasad, a junior engineer with the Uttar Pradesh Irrigation Department that controls the flow into the Upper Ganga Canal, explains that during the annual closure, the department shuts the gates of the channels leading towards Har Ki Pauri and lifts the gates of the Bhimgoda Barrage. Water arriving from the Pashulok Barrage in Rishikesh then passes through the barrage downstream into the main river channel.

The Upper Ganga Canal system that supplies to Haridwar is generally closed around midnight on Dussehra and reopened around midnight on Chhoti Diwali. This year, the closure began on the night of October 20–21, and water returned to Haridwar at midnight on November 7.

Even during the closure, however, water has to be made available for the evening Ganga Aarti at Har Ki Pauri. Officials, who monitor how much water has reached the ghat, lift the barrage gates once the required level is achieved. "This process takes around one to one-and-a-half hours. Around 2-3 feet of water is required at Har Ki Pauri for the ritual," says Prasad.

He said that while there were demands from Haridwar to extend the closure — given the mammoth cleaning task at hand ahead of the Ardh Kumbh — the Irrigation Department couldn't have kept the gates shut for long. Around 16 districts downstream in Uttar Pradesh, including Firozabad, Agra, Muzaffarnagar, Ghaziabad, Prayagraj and Kanpur, among others, depend on water from the canal for drinking and irrigation.

"Every year, when the flow is stopped at the Bhimgoda Barrage, these areas do not receive fresh water through the canal, eventually leading to a shortage of water supply in these 16 districts," he says.

'We are battling small fires'

Despite the annual cleaning exercise along the length of the canal system, those working to rejuvenate the Ganga say a cleaner canal may not be an indicator of the health of the larger river system.

That's because, they point out, the water that flows through Har ki Pauri is controlled and supplied through the canal system.

Shailendra Kumar Kumre, a scientist at the National Institute of Hydrology in Roorkee, says, "Har Ki Pauri receives water from this canal. It is not a separate natural river channel in the way people might imagine. Historically, the Ganga may have occupied a much wider floodplain in this area, but as the region developed, its course became more confined."

The distinction between the canal-fed stretch at Har Ki Pauri and the main river channel has long been contentious in Haridwar. In 2016, the state government classified the stretch as an "escape channel" of the Ganga Canal, triggering protests from priests, saints and religious groups who argued that it undermined the sacred identity of Har Ki Pauri. The order was revoked in December 2020 following sustained opposition.

Scientists say given the burden on the ghats, a lot more than visible cleaning of the river needs to be undertaken.

An audit of the Namami Gange programme in Uttarakhand, carried out by the Comptroller and Auditor General between 2018 and 2023, found that the total coliform count at Har Ki Pauri rose fivefold, from 26 MPN/100 mL (Most Probable Number per 100 milliliters) in October 2014 to 130 MPN/100 mL in October 2023, indicating rising contamination from human and animal waste.

The audit also found that Haridwar's water quality remained in Category B throughout 2018-2023, a classification that makes it suitable "only for organised outdoor bathing". It found that 12 of 37 sewage treatment plants physically inspected were discharging untreated sewage into the Ganga and its tributaries.

Anoop Nautiyal, an environmental activist in Dehradun, says, "We are battling small fires, but we are not looking at issues in totality."

He argues that river conservation has placed disproportionate emphasis on "hardware" (sewage treatment plants, drains, ghats and other infrastructure) while neglecting the "software" (public participation, behavioural change and preventing waste from entering the river in the first place).

Ruchi Badola, Dean and Scientist at the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and Principal Investigator of the NMCG–WII Jalaj Project, Dehradun, says, "Diverting a substantial quantity of water from the Ganga for 18 days may alter the river's depth, water velocity, habitat conditions and ecological connectivity...Reduced water flow may also influence dissolved oxygen levels and sediment transport, which, in turn, can bring changes to the overall river ecosystem."

Back in Haridwar, around early evening, the ghats come alive — loudspeakers advertising restaurants and hotels, the toll of temple bells and the chatter of pilgrims.

Further along, at Old Vishnu Ghat, 60-year-old Savita Devi sits on a cot outside her shop, where she sells snacks and water bottles. The shop is an extension of the home Savita and her husband built three decades ago. From here, they have watched the Ganga, and the life around it, change over the years.

As her husband does a small puja, offering water to the Ganga before the start of the day's business, Savita looks out at the workers on the riverbed.

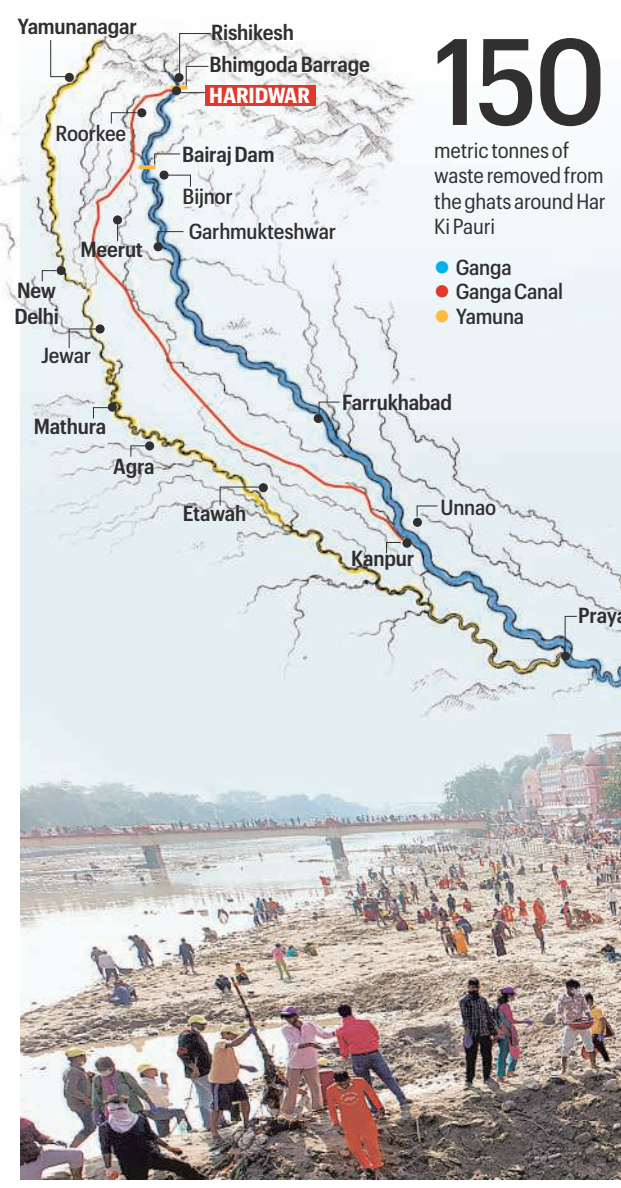
"Every year, we see more and more tractors trying to clean the Ganga. But the river keeps getting worse and we can't do anything about it. Ganga *pe bahut bojh daal rahe hain* (We are placing too much of a burden on the Ganga), but the river can no longer bear it," she says.

Savita has seen the water recede over the years, and with it her fortunes. "Fewer pilgrims have been coming these days, except for the Kanwar Yatra...Most pilgrims are now going to Varanasi. We are now waiting for the Ardh Kumbh so that our business picks up," she says.

Vijay is back on the riverbed after his lunch break. He has managed to collect a hundred Re 1 coins. "I'll now try and sell them, take a rickshaw home for Rs 20, and sleep. I have to wake up early and come back here," he says.

• How the river flows

- The 400-km Upper Ganga Canal irrigates the Doab region between Ganga and Yamuna
- The canal starts in Haridwar at the Bhimgoda Barrage, whose gates control the flow of the Ganga
- From Bhimgoda, 3 channels carry the water towards Har ki Pauri, a km away
- The remaining water flows downstream to Bijnor



150

metric tonnes of waste removed from the ghats around Har Ki Pauri

WEB EXCLUSIVE
Deepinder Goyal's Rs 85,000 wearable: When wellness marketing runs ahead of science — *By Rinku Ghosh*
Log on to www.indianexpress.com

WORDLY WISE
We have art in order not to die of the truth
— *Friedrich Nietzsche*

The Indian EXPRESS
~ FOUNDED BY ~
RAMNATH GOENKA
IN 1932

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

Kill the encounter, it undermines rule of law

THE KILLING in a police encounter of a man accused of raping and murdering a minor girl in West Bengal's Uttar Dinajpur, the fourth such incident in the state since the BJP came to power in May, points to a disquieting possibility. The "encounter" is becoming routine in the state. Bengal has a long and troubled history of political violence. But the frequency of the incidents, and Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari's public defence of a "free hand" to the the police, particularly in cases of sexual violence, raise questions about the troubling short-circuiting of due process in a climate of impunity.

Unfortunately, the incidents in Bengal are not isolated aberrations. By all accounts, they are part of a wider national pattern of the police taking the law into their own hands. Earlier this month, in Andhra Pradesh's Anantapur, a 21-year-old accused of attacking a schoolgirl with a chainsaw was shot by the police and subsequently had to have his leg amputated. The incident revived memories of the 2019 Hyderabad rape-murder case, in which the four accused were killed in an alleged encounter. In Uttar Pradesh, official statistics recorded 17,043 police encounter operations between March 2017 and May 2026. An investigation by this paper earlier this year found that the Punjab Police reported 34 encounters between November 2025 and January 2026 — more than one every three days. There is a fundamental distinction between enabling the police to act decisively within the law and endorsing a culture of retribution. The promise of instant justice can command public approval, when leaders present it as evidence of resolve against crime. But the less visible processes of investigation, prosecution and trial are indispensable to the rule of law. Political capital gained from displays of toughness comes at the cost of institutional credibility. It creates a cycle of weakening accountability that shrinks citizens' freedoms.

Courts have repeatedly sought to draw important distinctions, but their interventions have done little to arrest the larger pattern. In its 2014 judgment in *People's Union for Civil Liberties v State of Maharashtra*, the Supreme Court laid down safeguards for investigating police encounters resulting in death — including mandatory registration of an FIR, an independent investigation and a magisterial inquiry. In May 2025, in *Arif Md Yeasin Jwadder v State of Assam*, the Court reaffirmed that these safeguards were binding and could not be made contingent on the victim or the family initiating proceedings. Such judicial directives are essential, but their efficacy ultimately depends on institutional compliance. The legitimacy of the criminal justice system rests not on the speed or spectacle of punishment, but on the certainty, fairness and credibility of due process. No government can afford to lose sight of that.

As demand overtakes supply, a big fat problem

MILK IS naturally prone to adulteration; milk fat even more so. The unscrupulous players who add water to milk would probably not forgo the opportunity to lace desi ghee with palm and other vegetable oils or other animal fats such as tallow and lard. The crackdowns by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India and other regulators, especially post the Tirupati laddu scandal in September 2024, have considerably undermined the operations of such suppliers. In the process, these have also increased the demand for genuine ghee, khoya, paneer and other high-fat dairy ingredients. That has received a further fillip with the September 2025 cut in GST rates on ghee, butter and cheese from 12 to 5 per cent, on ice-cream from 18 to 5 per cent, and on paneer from 5 to zero per cent.

The flip side is that supply isn't keeping pace with demand on the back of rising incomes and consumer awareness about what constitutes "real" milk fat versus vegetable oil-based frozen dessert or analogue paneer. India, today, faces a problem of milk fat shortage. The challenge isn't one of milk availability. Milk production at an aggregate level has been growing annually by about 3 per cent over the past decade. But that is coming increasingly from cows rather than buffaloes. Standard cow milk has 3.5 per cent fat and 8.5 per cent solids-not-fat (SNF). For buffalo milk, these are taken at 6.5 per cent and 9 per cent. If buffaloes are contributing hardly 45 per cent to the national milk output now, as against 60 per cent three decades ago, it translates into that much less of total solids — specifically fat — being produced.

Over time, this is causing a fundamental imbalance. As fat demand continues to go up, meeting it more through cow milk would also result in greater production of SNF, that is, skimmed milk powder (SMP), for which the domestic market isn't expanding at the same rate. One could well have a situation where India is surplus in SMP and not so in fat. That the country is already deficit in milk fat is evident in average ex-dairy prices of butter soaring by over 54 per cent between October 2023 and October 2026, compared to just 18 per cent for SMP. Policymakers can take credit for making India the world's top milk producer. But they also need to address its big fat problem.

In Arpita Singh's canvas, depth of meaning

A PAINTING is, to begin with, a mark on paper. Distinctions of genre and form are an overlay, not an organic feature of the artwork. Or so suggests the vast and infinitely imaginative oeuvre of Arpita Singh, who died this week at the age of 90. Over the course of her decades-long career, as she reinvented herself, exploring new ways of expressing, Singh created richly detailed, almost tapestry-like works that invited multiple viewings.

Born in pre-Partition Bengal, Singh, who moved to Delhi as a child, witnessed the brutal realities of a newly independent nation. Was this why, in her work, she rejected clear binaries and hierarchies, placing violence and beauty, the domestic and the political, within the same frame? Her voracious reading and her training at the Weavers' Service Centre in Kolkata also led to the collapse of such walls in her work where a five-armed goddess in widow's whites (one of her many powerful feminine figures) might be found brandishing a pistol at a man dressed in a bureaucrat's black coat. Or where Yudhishthira may ascend to heaven seated on an aeroplane (accompanied by the faithful dog, Dharma in disguise). She even made room for words, a gesture to a time when, for want of affordable paper, she began painting on printed catalogues.

There is an elasticity to her work, which expands with meaning the more time one spends with it. It is this quality that gives her style — fabular, observant and impatient with any logic but her own — such fluidity, making it contemporary and timeless.

Court dismantles unconstitutional buffer zone between detention & arrest



FAIZAN MUSTAFA

EVERY ARREST deprives liberty and, therefore, must be a last resort in a liberal democracy. Even words may amount to arrest if they are calculated to bring to a person's notice that he is under compulsion and he, thereafter, submits to such compulsion. Indeed, the word "arrest" is a legal term of art.

At a time when there is a widespread conversation about institutional decay, with some expressing concerns that the Supreme Court has become an executive-minded court, a two-judge bench led by Justice Ujjal Bhuyan — Justice A S Chandurkar was the other judge — has given a bold judgment that drastically restricts the power of the police to detain people before their formal arrest. In *Prabir Purkayastha* (2024), too, a violation of Article 22(1) for not supplying grounds of arrest was the basis of his release. In last week's verdict, the right to production before a magistrate within 24 hours under Article 22(2) was in question. Unfortunately, the 44th constitutional amendment (1978), which was aimed at humanising preventive detention in Article 22(4), has not been notified even after 48 years. This shows successive governments' lack of commitment to due process. Interestingly, Article 22(1) and (2) in essence incorporated guarantees — right to counsel of choice and production before a magistrate within 24 hours — that were already part of the colonial government's Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898.

Justice Bhuyan is showing, time and again, that every appointment to the apex court is extremely important. Judges sitting even in smaller benches not only greatly contribute to our constitutional jurisprudence but can help reinforce the people's trust in the judiciary.

Criminal law is the most direct expression of the relationship between a state and its citizens. Criminal sanction is the most coercive method of regulating an individual's behaviour that a state can deploy. Criminal law's promise as an instrument of safety is matched only by its power to destroy. Today, we are making excessive use of criminal law by not only adding new crimes but also mindlessly enhancing the punishments. No precise number of criminal offences is available, but central laws alone provide for as many as 7,305 criminal offences. Criminal law is entry number 1 of the Concurrent List: State criminal statutes provide for thousands of additional crimes. The progressive view among criminologists is that criminal justice policy is largely irrelevant in reducing the incidence of crime. Incarceration rates are higher in countries whose capacities to regulate the macroeconomy and contain inequality are weak. The "culture of control" is also a product of market and economic dynamics. Incarceration impinges on the autonomy of the individual.

As per the National Crime Records Bureau, in 2024, we recorded 58,85,867 cognisable crimes, with 35,44,608 under the IPC/BNS and 23,41,259 under special and local laws. In most crimes, there are several suspects and accused who are arrested. About 72.6 per cent of prisoners are undertrials — they have not been convicted of any crime.

Article 22 is unequivocal in the provision that every arrested person must be produced before a magistrate within 24 hours. In reality, though, the police often detain suspects for hours prior to formally entering their arrest in the record.

> At a time when civil liberties are being curtailed with bail provisions being made far more stringent, Justice Bhuyan has yet again reminded us of the apex court's jurisprudence and how fundamental rights are to be interpreted

At a time when civil liberties are being curtailed with bail provisions being made far more stringent, Justice Bhuyan has yet again reminded us of the apex court's jurisprudence and how fundamental rights are to be interpreted.

In *Sakal Papers* (1961), the Constitution Bench had already held that " [The] Constitution must be interpreted in a broad way and not in a narrow and pedantic sense... while considering the nature and content of those rights the Court must not be too astute to interpret the language of the Constitution in so literal a sense as to whittle them down."

Similarly, in *M Nagaraj* (2006), the Court had said that people's rights are not a gift from the state. Part III of the Constitution does not confer fundamental rights; rather, it confirms their existence.

With such an understanding of civil liberties, it was not difficult for Justice Bhuyan to hold that the 24-hour period starts the moment a person is detained and the police get the power to restrict their liberties. Justice Bhuyan rightly observed that Article 22(2) uses the expressions "arrested" and "detained" in conjunction. So, arrest and detention cannot be artificially separated. The two words are synonymous. He overruled the judgments of the Orissa, Madras and Kerala High Courts that tried to distinguish between the two terms. Justice Bhuyan held that "the Constitution does not recognise any detention dehors arrest". He went on to observe that "any attempt to draw an artificial distinction between 'arrest' and 'detention' would dilute or negate the fundamental protection guaranteed by the Constitution under clause (2) of Article 22. Such an endeavour should be avoided."

In unequivocal terms, Justice Bhuyan held that Article 22 neither mandates any time for inquiry nor investigation nor medical examination nor anything else. Article 22 permits exclusion only of the time in reaching the court of the magistrate. No buffer zone can be created where the liberty of an individual is curtailed for investigating purposes prior to formal arrest. Such a buffer zone is unconstitutional.

Justice Bhuyan based his observations on Justice V R Krishna Iyer's judgment in *Niranjan Singh* (1980), which acknowledged that explanations like "the police have taken a man into informal custody but not arrested him or have detained him for interrogation but not taken him into formal custody" are "unfair evasions of the straightforwardness of the law".

While Article 22(2) does not explicitly provide for production before a judicial magistrate, Justice Bhuyan did have an opportunity in this case to interpret the word "magistrate" as a judicial magistrate and not an executive magistrate. Section 15 of BNSS,2023 authorises state governments to appoint any police officer not below the rank of Superintendent of Police as Special Executive Magistrate (SEM). A person arrested by the police should not ideally be produced before a fellow police officer. Is not the separation of powers a basic feature of our Constitution? Recently, student activists and CJP leaders in Delhi were produced before the SEM, who was a police officer and whose remand order is questionable on several counts.

The writer is vice-chancellor, Chanakya National Law University, Patna. Views are personal

He listened to the village and the small town



USHA RAI

SANJIT "BUNKER" Roy, 81, social activist, educator and entrepreneur, passed away early Tuesday morning at his home in Tilonia, Rajasthan. Bunker, as he was popularly known, had not been keeping well after he suffered from Covid.

An outgoing person, Bunker, despite being a Doon School and St Stephen's College alumnus, made rural development and empowering people his life mission. He moved to Tilonia in the early Seventies and set up the Social Work Research Centre. As a journalist covering development issues, I bumped into him in Rajasthan, workshops in Delhi and in the corridors of the Planning Commission as he sought to influence government policies and find resources for his dream projects on water, solar energy and grassroots education, and breathe new life into rural arts and crafts. The Tilonia Bazaar became a landmark event at the Triveni Kala Sangam.

Not many people know that Bunker was a national squash champion for three successive years in the mid-Sixties, a cricketer and a competitive swimmer. Despite his elite background, in an interview to a magazine a few years ago, he said he had been inspired to work in rural India by the JP movement, the famine and poverty he saw in Bihar and Gandhian ideals. Since he had moved to Rajasthan, where water was a perennial problem, mapping and enhancing water resources was among his early priorities. He set up water pumps near villages and trained the local population to maintain them without dependence on mechanics. He founded the Barefoot College, and in addition to surveys for traditional sources of water in drought-prone areas of the state, he began educating people, many of whom had never been to a school, with skills that would enhance their livelihood opportunities while addressing the needs of villages and small towns. The Barefoot College trained people as paramedics, midwives, solar power engineers and weavers.

In 1970, Bunker married Aruna Roy. An IAS officer, Aruna quit the civil service to also work at the grassroots level in Rajasthan. Along with two others, she set up the Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan in Devdungri. Though their areas of specialisation were different, Aruna and Bunker supported each other and brought new synergy to non-governmental, grassroots movements.

In 2010, Bunker was among the 100 people selected by *Time* magazine for impacting development in the world. It stated, "With abiding compassion for the rural poor in India, Bunker nurtured a grassroots social entrepreneurship that is redefining the way the world thinks about fighting poverty. His Barefoot College trained more than 3 million people for jobs in the modern world."

The 1,700 women solar engineers trained by Bunker in 96 countries became international icons as "solar mamas". The young people from different parts of India trained by Bunker and the Barefoot College since 1974 have opened 20 barefoot colleges in 16 Indian states.

I remember meeting Norti Bai, one of Bunker's trainees, at a Bengaluru workshop. She wore a billowing Rajasthani skirt with *ghunghat*. She had learnt to use the computer to map water resources. Bunker had got her a computer keyboard with Devanagari characters, and she was adept enough to become a master trainer on locating water bodies. Norti Bai's life story was one of the foundational human examples used by Bunker to showcase how traditional village wisdom, when paired with technical confidence, outmatches formal paper degrees. She later became a village sarpanch and successfully organised daily wage labour to fight for fair minimum wages.

So impressed was my sister by Bunker's work that she gave up her job at Safdarjung Hospital to work as a doctor at one of his Social Work Research Centres in Khori village, Pataudi.

Bunker was awarded the Padma Shri in 1986, the Jamnalal Bajaj Award for Application of Science and Technology for Rural Development in 1985, and the Robert Hill Award for his contribution to and promotion of photovoltaics (solar energy) in 2009. He received several other forms of recognition, international and national, but his biggest award was the love and respect that he got from those he empowered.

The writer is a senior journalist

> Despite his elite background, in an interview to a magazine a few years ago, he said he had been inspired to work in rural India by the JP movement, the famine and poverty he saw in Bihar and Gandhian ideals

After Messi and Ronaldo, a less beautiful game



SHUVADITYA BOSE

OURS WAS a wonderfully weird time, the Diwali of the mid-2000s. The festival remains eternal, but the era is distinguished by one visual — fairy lights. They were a riot of colour, a celebration of the entire palette. Recreate that spectacle today, and it might be "cringe". In that noisy era, football was noisy too, untouched by media training and calibrated statements. A Manchester United captain tore into his teammates on the club's own channel after a humiliating defeat. A Swedish youngster declined a trial at one of England's grandest clubs because he "did not do auditions". The anything-goes age also gave the world two of its greatest stars. Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi won't be seen playing international football again.

In the summer of 2007, Messi was compared to Diego Armando Maradona, a burden he would carry for the rest of his career. Against Getafe, he gathered the ball in his own half and embarked on an odyssey of 11.6 seconds, leaving five defenders in his wake before rounding the goalkeeper and rolling the ball home. Commentator Joaquim Maria Puyal cried "Messi" 18 times, each with a different emotion. That same year, Ronaldo was announcing himself in a language of his own. Against his boyhood club, Sporting CP, he struck a stoppage-time winner from a free-kick 25 yards out. The British press already had a name for him: Rocket Ronnie. For the next decade and a half, picking a side seemed almost mandatory. Ronaldo made the extraordinary seem within reach. There was no single, unforeseen trick in his repertoire, just sheer determination. Messi, at five foot seven, slipped through spaces that didn't exist, left defenders grasping.

In a post-Ronaldo and Messi era, what the sport will miss is the particular individuality they brought to a game built around the collective. It would be a travesty to suggest football lacked tactical nuance in the past, yet talent demanded exceptions. When Roma's David Pizarro alleged in 2008 that dribbling was mistaken for humiliation, Alex Ferguson defended his blue-eyed boy: "That is what people pay to see." Frank Rijkaard, asked about his instructions to Messi, said: "Without the ball, he has to keep it wide. With the ball, he can do whatever he wants."

That football no longer exists. Gary Neville has warned that the "robotic nature of not leaving our positions" was becoming "a disease". Per Opta, dribbles per 90 minutes in the Premier League fell from 38.52 in 2014/15 to 34.99 in 2021/22, and in La Liga from 42.13 to 34.71. Asked about the instructions he gives Lamine Yamal, Spain's coach Luis de la Fuente said, "I tell Lamine that if he has three players on him, there's an area of the pitch where we have superiority. We must get the ball there, not by dribbling, but with fast passing." Zinedine Zidane has conceded that "with just technique, you could go far" in the past, but "nowadays, I think it's more complicated". The question, then, is not whether festivals will always have fairy lights. It is whether they will have colour, or whether all that remains will be beige.

The writer is deputy copy editor, The Indian Express. *shuvaditya.bose@expressindia.com*

> In a post-Ronaldo and Messi era, what the sport will miss is the particular kind of individuality they brought to a game built around the collective

40 YEARS AGO

November 11, 1986


SAREES
INDIAN EXPRESS
LUXMI
Probe ordered into Ayodhya mishap
India's nuclear options under constant review
Concern at US arms to Pak
Two more killed in Punjab
Doctors' strike banned
Ershad lifts martial law

India reviewing nuclear option

THE GOVERNMENT is constantly reviewing its nuclear option in light of the deteriorating security environment, MoS External Affairs K Natwar Singh said in the Rajya Sabha during a debate on Pakistan's nuclear plans and renewed US arms supplies to that country. Reacting to a plea by members cutting across party lines for India to go nuclear, the minister said the issue had global implications and was not confined to India-Pakistan relations.

Ershad lifts martial law

BANGLADESH'S FOUR-and-a-half years of military rule ended when President Hossain Mohammad Ershad lifted martial law and said he was returning the country to democracy. A proclamation signed by Ershad said he was renouncing his title as Chief Martial Law Administrator and restoring the constitution he suspended after seizing power in a coup in 1982. The proclamation came after parliament passed a law protecting the President against prosecution for his role during military rule.

Probe into Ayodhya stampede

UTTAR PRADESH Chief Minister Vir Bahadur Singh ordered an inquiry by a high court judge into the stampede near Ram Ki Pauri in Ayodhya. Thirty-one pilgrims were killed in the incident. The CM flew to Faizabad and motored to Ayodhya to see the site of the tragedy and the relief and rescue operations being carried out. The stampede occurred when the ropes put up to control the movement of pilgrims gave way.

Acrimony in Bollywood

THE UNITY and solidarity the film industry displayed during its month-long strike crumbled in a day when following the accord, a section of the industry cried for the blood of its leaders for engineering a settlement devoid of tangible results. The very industry that had lionised its star MPs Amitabh Bachchan and Sunil Dutt during the strike period was busy running them down, with suggestions made to burn their effigies.

Kolkata

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

The AI chip boss's actions raise urgent questions about... national security and the US president's willingness to listen to intelligence warnings.— *The Guardian*

READ. THINK. SHARE.
Scan the QR code to explore curated editorials and opinions from leading voices

At Abu Dhabi, new diplomatic push on Ukraine. Stakes are high for India and world



RAJA MANDALA
BY C RAJA MOHAN



ILLUSTRATION: C R SASIKUMAR

AS REPRESENTATIVES of the US, Russia, Ukraine and Europe gather in Abu Dhabi this week to renew the stalled peace talks, Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Monday to reaffirm India's strong commitment to supporting the peace process. The same evening, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar spoke to his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov about the Ukraine conflict and ongoing diplomatic initiatives. Delhi has good reason to engage with the prolonged crisis in Europe amid Washington's renewed diplomatic push. For, peace in Ukraine and Europe could help ease India's current economic and geopolitical challenges.

Many in Delhi assumed that Donald Trump's setback in last week's midterm elections, which will give the Democrats control of both houses of Congress in January, would slow him down. It has not. Trump has dug in his heels at home, appointing immigration hardliner Stephen Miller as his chief of staff, while pressing ahead with diplomatic initiatives abroad.

This week's trilateral talks between the US, Ukraine and Russia are their first since February. Secretary of State Marco Rubio is in Paris seeking support from G7 foreign ministers for the initiative. Expectations of a breakthrough remain modest, but the intensity of the American effort is unmistakable. Trump's envoys, Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, have prepared the ground through several rounds of consultations with Kyiv and Moscow.

An important element of the renewed initiative is the idea of embedding peace in Ukraine within a broader European security architecture. When negotiations reach a deadlock, diplomacy can either break the problem into smaller parts or widen the framework to create room for compromise. Washington has chosen the latter.

Trump hopes that addressing Russia's larger security concerns will make Vladimir Putin more amenable to an immediate ceasefire and a sustainable settlement with Ukraine. The challenge for Washington is to accommodate Moscow's concerns without sacrificing the legitimate security interests of Ukraine and Europe.

Kushner has outlined five objectives for a broader European security framework: Permanent security consultations, reliable crisis communications, greater military transparency, reciprocal measures to reduce the risks of escalation, and arrangements for long-term stability. He has also affirmed that countries must remain free to make their own security choices. Rubio says there has been progress in discussions on Europe's future security arrangements, but no final agreement. Whether Abu Dhabi can produce a broad set of principles acceptable to all sides remains uncertain.

Europe, meanwhile, is struggling to come to terms with an American initiative that could produce a settlement negotiated over its head. Washington has stepped up consultations with European capitals. Senior officials from the EU, France, Germany and Britain will be present in Abu Dhabi, but not at the trilateral negotiating table. Moscow has resisted their direct participation.

> The hardest question remains Ukraine's security after the fighting stops. Kyiv wants guarantees strong enough to deter another Russian attack. Moscow opposes Western military deployments in Ukraine and wants limits on its armed forces

Europe's foreign policy chief, Kaja Kallas, argues that Europe already has a security architecture; the problem is Russia's refusal to respect it. Moscow insists that the West has violated the principles of European security agreed at the end of the Cold War.

There is also a fundamental disagreement over sequencing. Kyiv and its European partners want a ceasefire before negotiations on the wider security order. Washington believes simultaneous progress on both fronts could create room for progress all round.

Europe is also divided internally. Poland's Foreign Minister Radosław Sikorski has warned against Western Europe negotiating with Russia over the heads of Eastern Europeans. Italy's Giorgia Meloni has criticised Europe's fragmented diplomatic formats and called for a single European envoy. Europe wants a place at the negotiating table, but has yet to agree on who should speak for it and with what mandate.

The hardest question, though, remains Ukraine's security after the fighting stops. Kyiv wants guarantees strong enough to deter another Russian attack. Moscow opposes Western military deployments in Ukraine and wants limits on its armed forces. Reconciling these positions will not be easy.

Washington is also exploring economic incentives to make peace more attractive. Trump is betting that Russian energy, European markets, Ukrainian transit routes and American capital can create a shared interest in ending the war.

Russian gas once bound Europe and Moscow together. The 2022 invasion broke that relationship, prompting Europe to reduce Russian energy imports and impose sanctions. India, as a major importer of Russian oil, was caught in the crossfire between Moscow and the West.

Today, American and Russian officials are reportedly discussing the revival of gas supplies to Germany through the Nord Stream pipelines, potentially involving American investors. Trump's calculation appears to be that commercial interdependence could help sustain a political settlement.

If the Abu Dhabi talks make progress, Trump could take the negotiations to the highest level. He has indicated an opportunity to meet Putin on the margins of the APEC summit in China later this month. There is also talk of a meeting involving Trump, Putin and Xi Jinping.

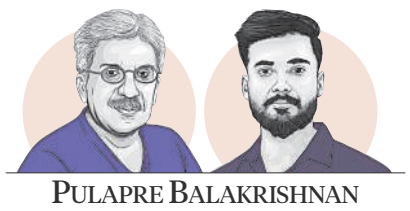
Trump has embarked on a difficult diplomatic balancing act in Ukraine, reinforced by his pursuit of accommodation among the great powers. Its success is far from assured, but the stakes for India are considerable.

Peace in Ukraine could bring three benefits. First, it would ease pressures on energy and food security. Second, even a limited relaxation of tensions between Russia and the West would expand India's diplomatic space to strengthen relations with both Moscow and Washington. Third, it would give fresh momentum to India's growing economic and strategic partnership with Europe.

Together, these developments could create a more favourable international environment for India's economic transformation. Delhi has every reason to support the peace process and contribute wherever it can.

The writer is contributing editor on international affairs for The Indian Express. *His new book,* India Pivots to Europe: In Search of a New Eurasian Balance, *is published this month*

World Bank's poverty estimate does not pass the thali test



PULAPRE BALAKRISHNAN AND AMAN RAJ

THE WORLD Bank recently released estimates of poverty in India, pegging "extreme poverty" at 2.6 per cent. If true, that would be good news, as it would imply that high levels of economic deprivation are now a thing of the past. We argue that such a conclusion would be premature.

The WB's poverty estimate is a headcount ratio — the ratio of the number of poor to the population. It estimates the number of poor by applying a poverty line to data reported in the NSS's Household Consumption Expenditure Survey for 2023-24 (HCES). The poverty line translated into goods represents the minimum acceptable level of consumption, below which an individual is deemed poor. The report does not mention the set of goods and their prices that the World Bank used to construct its poverty line for India. The Survey is a rich source of consumption across the population and reveals granular information on the standard of living, which can be used to assess a headcount poverty estimate, as we demonstrate.

In 2025, we proposed a simple measure of the standard of living in India ("The Thali Index', *IE*, July 1, 2025). Termed the "thali index", it measures the number of thalis an individual can afford to buy based on the monthly per capita expenditure on food reported in the HCES. Why did we choose this metric? The thali is a metaphor for a complete meal, combining protein, carbohydrates and minerals. It is a unit of food consumption that Indians culturally relate to and is both nutritious and satisfying. To measure the standard of living of Indians based on the thali index, we would need to apply a price to the consumption expenditure reported. We have adopted Rs 30 as the price of a thali, being the cost of a home-cooked vegetarian thali as estimated by CRISIL for the year 2023-24. We chose a home-cooked vegetarian thali as it is the cheapest. Applying the thali index to the data on consumption across expenditure groups, we found that up to 50 per cent of rural Indians and 20 per cent of urban Indians cannot afford two thali meals a day. Imputing the value of the subsidised food, which the WB report refers to as a factor affecting poverty, lowers this percentage to 40 per cent and 10 per cent, respectively. This implies that approximately 30 per cent of the Indian population cannot afford two square meals a day, making it difficult to stomach an estimate of less than 3 per cent for poverty in India.

Note that the Bank's estimate and ours come from the same source, namely, the HCES. The difference is that the Bank uses a poverty line to measure income poverty while we are going by the directly observable data on the food consumption level. If two thali meals per day are considered the minimum acceptable food consumption, our findings imply levels of extreme poverty higher than the Bank's estimate. The implication of our finding is that it must rethink the poverty line that it uses for India. The point is that even if the income at its currently used poverty line is more than sufficient to enable two thalis a day per person, there are several items of expenditure that must be met by a household to earn a livelihood, maintain good health and educate their young. We can think of rent, medicines and school fees. It is likely that these expenses are met first, so as to ensure survival, reducing food to the status of a residual item of consumption. If we accept the criterion of a minimum level of food consumption for an individual to be counted as non-poor, then the chosen poverty line must reflect this feature. If 30 per cent of the population does not have access to two square meals a day, surely we cannot hold that less than 3 percent of the population is poor. Our argument has been made with respect to the World Bank's measure of income poverty but carries over to the Multidimensional Poverty Index of the UNDP to the extent that it relies on the Bank's poverty line.

The latest poverty estimates could create complacency in economic policymaking — if extreme poverty is almost non-existent, policies are needed to remedy it. But our finding of a low level of food consumption for a significant section of Indians imparts an urgency to it. The level of food consumption is directly affected by food prices, and controlling the price of food is central to safeguarding the well-being of the population. Right now, we are experiencing a surge in food price inflation. Quite unusually, between January and September, it has risen every month, trebling over this period. This means that prices are not just continuously rising but the rise in prices is accelerating. An urgent review of the policies to control food price inflation is warranted. Food price inflation can only be controlled by managing food supply, in particular by producing more food at a steady price. This requires increasing agricultural productivity.

Balakrishnan is honorary visiting professor, Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram, and Raj is a PhD student at Shiv Nadar University, Delhi NCR

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fiscal discipline

ONE-TIME windfalls are fiscal cosmetics, not cures, and India's budget math leans on them more than it should ('Walking the fiscal tightrope won't be easy', *IE*, November 10). Disinvestment gains from IDBI's sale and strong customs collections mask a worrying trend. Core tax growth and capital spending are slowing simultaneously, exactly when the economy needs sustained public investment most. The fertiliser subsidy overshoot reveals a deeper discipline problem — budgets routinely underestimate politically sensitive expenses. Genuine fiscal credibility would mean budgeting honestly for subsidies upfront.

K Chidanand Kumar, Bengaluru

Protecting liberty

THE SUPREME Court has made a crucial reaffirmation that the 24-hour limit for producing a detainee before a magistrate begins from actual detention, not formal arrest ('Court's relook at detention protects liberty', *IE*, November 10). By dismantling the artificial distinction often exploited by law enforcement, the apex court has closed a dangerous loophole that permitted unauthorised custody and heightened the risk of custodial abuse. Allowing investigative agencies unbridled discretion to delay recording formal arrests undermines Article 22(2) and weakens accountability.

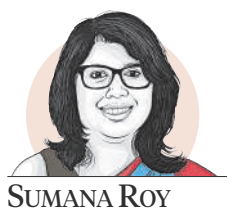
S S Paul, Nadia

Missing 'I' in AI writing

AI HAS undoubtedly democratised writing, making it easier for people to articulate their thoughts. However, in the process, we may be losing something far more valuable: The individuality of human expression ('The storyteller, now powered by AI', *IE*, November 10). Good writing was never merely about flawless grammar or sophisticated vocabulary; it was about personality, lived experiences, imperfections and a distinctive voice. The real danger is not AI writing for us, but our gradually forgetting how to write for ourselves.

Bablu Kumar Gupta, Lucknow

Watching Ramayana, missing the forest



SUMANA ROY

BHARATA, AFTER whom our country takes its name, was conceived in a forest. His parents Dushyanta and Shakuntala meet and marry in a forest; the rest we know — the father's journey back to his urban world, the curse of forgetfulness, the little boy Bharata raised by a single mother and the forest.

That the man, after whom this landmass would come to be named, should have been conceived in a forest is telling. Something shifts in Rabindranath Tagore's philosophy when he recognises this, that we are a forest people, and that it was unlike Europe, whose mind was shaped by the sea: "In the sea, nature presented herself to those men in her aspect of a danger, a barrier which seemed to be at constant war with the land and its children. The sea was the challenge of untamed nature to the indomitable human soul ... This refers to a people who live by the sea, and ride on it as on a wild, champing horse, catching it by its mane and making it render service from shore to shore. They find delight in turning by force the antagonism of circumstances into obedience. But in the level tracts of Northern India men found no barrier between their lives and the grand life that permeates the universe. The forest entered into a close living relationship with their work and leisure, with their daily necessities and contemplations. They could not think of other surroundings as separate or inimical. So the view of the truth, which these men found, did not make manifest the difference, but rather the unity of all things. They uttered their faith in these words: *Yadidam kinch sarvam prana ejati nihsratam* (All that is vibrates with life, having come out from life)."

> Tagore calls Valmiki's Rama 'giri-vana-priya', lover of the mountain and forest. There are no real forests in 'Ramayana Part I', an ironically honest commentary about the disappearing forests in India

Tagore is, of course, going back to the *Aranyaka*s, the Vedic texts whose name derives from the forest; to the *Brihadaranyaka Upanishad*, the great forest. That a text could cover such a wide range of subjects, the *atman-brahman, neti neti* (not this, not that), creation, sacrifice, and even dreams, owes, without a doubt, to its forest-form and forest-mind. These thoughts could have come only from a forest location, a space outside human ordering and a space more physically and philosophically accommodative than any other on the planet.

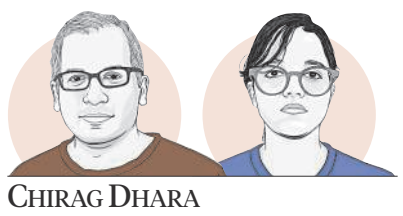
"When one tears out the tree from its roots,/the tree can grow no more,/out of which root the man grows forth,/when he is struck down by death?" It is the intimation of this self-and-species destruction in the *Brihadaranyaka* that Bibhutibhushan Bandyopadhyay writes about in *Aranyaka*, possibly the Subcontinent's earliest environmental autofiction, where Satya (a character like Bandyopadhyay himself, but whose name, meaning "truth", gives it a metaphysical texture) oversees the cutting down of forests in Bihar. Later, in *Ichhamati*, his last novel, he would say it more directly: After spending a long paragraph on cataloguing the plant life by the river Ichhamati, he would write: "Their voices, their stories, are the real history of our nation".

The equivalence of the forest and nation is not new. Here is Banabhatta in *Kadambari*, 7th century CE: "The forest seems at times and at places to flaunt the trappings of a sovereign state as it were, as its herds of deer wave their *chamara*s or bushy tails, and bands of wild elephants circle around, the one an insignia of royal power and the other an arm of the defence force". Without *vanavas*, there could have been no Ramrajya. Tagore the literary critic notices this: "In the Ramayana, we are led to realise the greatness of the hero, not in a fierce struggle with Nature, but in sympathy with it ... Sita asks about the flowering trees, and shrubs and creepers which she has not seen before."

Tagore calls Valmiki's Rama "*giri-vana-priya*", lover of the mountain and forest. There are no real forests in Nitesh Tiwari's *Ramayana Part I* (*Rise of a Legend*), only VFX and green screens, an ironically honest commentary about the disappearing forests in India. His Rama is like a European warrior, who thinks of "nature as a barrier". We are the least Indian we have ever been.

Roy, a poet and writer, is professor, Ashoka University. Views are personal

Look beyond the biggest emitters at COP31



CHIRAG DHARA AND SHRUTEE JALAN

"WHEN A poor farmer in Nepal went to sow... seeds in the monsoon, fertilisers didn't reach her on time ... [Yet] Rifles and ammunition cross borders, clear every bottleneck, meet each deadline. We have built a world with flawless logistics for war and broken logistics for food ... [We are] hit by the climate we did not warm and by the wars we did not start." So said Nepal's Prime Minister Balendra Shah at the UN General Assembly in September, barely a month after a "Himalayan tsunami" killed nearly 1,500 people in Nepal, with over 5000 still missing.

Nepal's was one of many major climate disasters this year. India's summer monsoon was severely weakened by the Super El Niño, with vast parts of the country now reeling under drought. Through it all, the US war on Iran has broken global supply chains inflating household bills for the average consumer, even as US oil companies are reported to have made billions in wartime profits.

As we stand on the brink of overshooting 1.5°C of global warming, policymakers gather this week in Antalya, Turkey for COP31, whose goal is to implement solutions to slow warming, limit overshoot, and help countries adapt.

But who should take the lead in implementing these solutions?

The common view holds that the US and Europe bear the greatest responsibility but it misses the full picture.

To see why, imagine that all humanity had historically lived a European or American lifestyle. How much would the world have warmed already? What about the Indian or Nepalese lifestyle? In peer-reviewed research soon to appear in *Climate Policy*, we build a new framework to study this thought experiment.

By 2022, the Earth's actual warming was about 1.3°C. But, had the whole world historically lived like the average British citizen, the Earth would have already warmed about 2.5°C. And like the average American, about 3.7°C.

But our most striking findings concern small, super-affluent countries. Had humanity lived as Singaporeans do, warming would have been about 2°C; as Luxembourgers do, nearly 4°C; and as Qataris do, a staggering 5+°C. In contrast, the historical lifestyles of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) would have led to a mere 0.6°C of warming, and about 0.8°C for India.

> Had humanity lived as Singaporeans do, warming would have been about 2°C; as Luxembourgers do, nearly 4°C; and as Qataris do, a staggering 5+°C

Thus, affluent countries have avoided climate collapse only because most of the world did not live as they do. Global inequality has inadvertently subsidised climate stability.

This sharpens Shah's address in two ways. First, the injustice developing countries face is not merely that they bear the brunt of disasters they did not cause. Their low emissions have additionally helped stave off even higher levels of warming and bought the world valuable time to act. Second, responsibility for climate solutions rests not only on large affluent countries but also on small, super-affluent ones.

What does this mean for COP31? Those with the most destabilising lifestyles must lead on implementation. Countries whose universalised lifestyles would already have breached 1.5°C face an obligation to pursue net-negative emissions today. Technological and financial limits may put this out of reach even for the world's richest. But they can still contribute to the UN Loss and Damage fund, ease intellectual-property rules, transfer technologies for emissions reduction, and accelerate grant-based climate finance.

If the world can deliver arms and ammunition across borders on schedule, it has the means to move fertiliser, finance, and technology to those in need. Surely, that is the yardstick by which the outcomes of any COP must be judged.

Dhara is a sustainability scientist at Krea University. Jalan is research scholar at Indian Institute of Science. Views are personal

Kolkata

Iran war militarily 'effectively over', says Trump after meeting Qatari PM

Aamer Madhani
Washington, November 10



"The military action doesn't seem to be a very necessary thing, but we're locked and loaded, ready to go for any reason that changes"
DONALD TRUMP,
PRESIDENT, UNITED STATES

PRESIDENT DONALD Trump on Monday told reporters he believes the war in Iran "militarily is effectively over," suggesting that — at least for now — he's not prepared to resume the bombardment that has devastated the Islamic Republic and caused reverberations across the global economy.

The president made a surprise visit to the White House briefing room after meeting earlier in the day with Qatar's prime minister, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani.

"Iran militarily is effectively over," Trump said. "We're just keeping it the status quo."

He added that Iran has been "decapitated" but said he is still looking to make sure there's a long-term solution to ensuring that Iran's nuclear program is defanged. It was some of Trump's most definitive comments about moving away from his threat to resume strikes on Iran after the US midterm elections had passed.

Trump, over the course of the conflict, has repeatedly said he is on the cusp of ordering US forces to escalate attacks if Iran's leaders don't quickly agree to US terms to end the war, only to back down. In earlier cycles, he has also edged away with a last-minute declaration, sometimes at the behest of Gulf allies, that he's going to give diplomacy more time.

In a posting on social media shortly before speaking to reporters, Trump once again asserted that Middle East allies — Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain, Kuwait and others — "would prefer the status quo." Minutes later, in his exchange with reporters, he sought to assure war-weary Americans that there was "positive momentum" and that he saw a "good chance" that the war "could get ended."

"They're talking to us, and they're talking very politely, And we'll see what happens," Trump said. He added, "The military action doesn't seem to be a very necessary thing, but we're locked and loaded, ready to go for any reason that changes."

Trump, however, gave no hint of a drawdown of the thousands of US troops who have been shifted to the waters off of Iran and maintain a naval blockade to stem the flow of Iranian oil into the global market. **AP**

U.S. DEFENCE SECRETARY IS ACCUSED OF VARIOUS ABUSES OF POWER IN OFFICE

Defiant Hegseth slams efforts to impeach him

He could be the first US defence secretary to be impeached

Phil Stewart
Washington, November 10

DEFENCE SECRETARY Pete Hegseth on Tuesday blasted efforts to impeach him as a farce that would embolden US adversaries, as he lashed out at his political opponents in Congress and the media in an unapologetic defence of his record.

Striking a defiant tone at a Pentagon news briefing, Hegseth thanked President Trump for his continued support as the House of Representatives scheduled a procedural vote for late Tuesday that will test support for his impeachment.

Hegseth said past impeachments of Trump had failed, and added: "Both times he came back stronger, and the American people sent him back to the White House. Now they're trying a third time. This time against a member of his cabinet."

US Representative Thomas Massie, a Kentucky Republican, introduced eight articles of impeachment against Hegseth on Monday.

Congressional sources say the resolution may have the votes to pass even with Trump's Republicans still controlling the House until Democrats take over on January 3. Conviction appears unlikely in the Senate, however, where a two-thirds majority is required and Republicans hold 53 of 100 seats.

Hegseth is accused of various abuses of power in office, including issuing orders to go to war with Iran without an imminent threat or approval from Congress. Vice President JD Vance has publicly questioned the war. Hegseth declined to be drawn into responding to Vance, but defended the conflict, calling Trump courageous and saying Iran's military has been left in ruins. "History will judge the Iran war quite differently than the conventional wisdom right now," he said.

Hegseth cited US Secretary of State Marco Rubio as saying of the war: "It's not necessarily popular, but it may have been necessary, and that's certainly how I feel. It was a necessary undertaking." **REUTERS**

IMPEACHMENT ARTICLES AGAINST PETE HEGSETH

Here are the "high crimes and misdemeanors" in the unusual Republican-led impeachment effort against a Republican official



HEGSETH DENIES wrongdoing, and Trump has criticised Rep. Massie and pledged to stand by his Secretary of Defence

IRAN
Three charges are related to Iran war. He is accused of allowing actions beyond a 60-day limit without approval by Congress

He is accused of ignoring laws requiring forces minimise civilian casualties

VENEZUELA
Hegseth is accused of directing the kidnapping of a sovereign foreign leader (Nicolas Maduro) and authorising lethal strikes in the Caribbean and Pacific that have resulted in more than 220 deaths

YEMEN
He is accused of directing and executing unlawful military strikes and operations in Yemen, specifically "Operation Rough Rider," a 2025 US and British air and naval campaign against Iran-aligned Houthis

FREE SPEECH
He is accused of retaliating against Democratic Senator Mark Kelly of Arizona, despite legal protection of his speech.

He sought to prosecute Kelly after he urged US troops to refuse illegal orders



Flying Lap

Seven-time Formula 1 world champion Lewis Hamilton at Egypt's Rafah on Tuesday to see humanitarian aid for the war-torn Gaza Strip. Hamilton has spoken out about humanitarian crises and conflict zones in the region, calling for peace. AP

• BRIEFLY

ARGENTINA

Pope meets survivors of clergy abuse amid ongoing hearings



Pope Leo spent about an hour meeting with the survivors. FILE

POPE LEO XIV met survivors of clergy abuse on Monday during his visit to Argentina, a country that has been reckoning with the Catholic Church's legacy of sex abuse and cover-up, including in cases in which the Argentine Pope Francis intervened. The Vatican said Leo spent about an hour meeting individually, and then as a group, with five victims of abuse by clergy and "church institutions" who were chosen by the local church. The meeting took place before Leo left for an event at the Catholic University of Argentina. Leo listened to their "painful stories and proposals to consolidate paths of healing in the church," said a statement from Vatican spokesman Matteo Bruni. **AP**

CAMBODIA

5 schoolgirls killed as bus skids into pond

FIVE GIRLS died on Tuesday morning in Cambodia when a bus taking them to school veered off the road and plunged into a deep pond, police said. The crash took place in Kandal province, about 40 km north of the capital, Phnom Penh, said a statement posted on Facebook by the provincial police. It said witnesses reported that a motorcycle suddenly crossed in front of the fast-moving bus, causing its driver to slam on the brakes and making the vehicle skid into the roadside water. **AP**

INDONESIA

V-P offers to resign over eligibility row

INDONESIA'S VICE president offered to resign during a meeting with President Prabowo Subianto on Tuesday, according to officials, adding to the turmoil at the highest levels of the country's leadership. Vice President Gibran Rakabuming Raka, the 39-year-old son of former President Joko Widodo, held over two hours of talks with Prabowo, according to State Secretariat Minister Prasetyo Hadi. It was not immediately clear whether Prabowo accepted the resignation, Hadi said. **AP**

At least 12 killed, 50 injured in Bulgarian motorway pile-up

Associated Press
Sofia, November 10



Damaged vehicles at the site of a highway pile-up near Yambol in Bulgaria on Tuesday. REUTERS

THICK FOG on a motorway in eastern Bulgaria caused two major crashes that killed at least 12 people and injured dozens on Tuesday, a government minister said.

Dense fog on the motorway linking the capital Sofia with the Black Sea port of Burgas led to two pileups. The accidents forced the closure of the road in both directions, Health Minister Katya Ivkova said.

Ivkova said 10 people died at the scene and two others died while being transported to the hospital. She said 50 other people were transported to medical facilities for treatment.

Some 86 vehicles, many of them heavy trucks, were involved in the crashes, which occurred on opposite carriageways in the same place at 7 am local time.

Regional governor Mihail Kasherov told reporters at the site of the mass crash that the scene defied description and he had never seen anything like it.

Police launched an investigation but said initial assessments point to "reduced visibility due to fast-forming dense fog, wet road surface and speeds unsuitable for the conditions." European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, who was on a working visit in Bulgaria on Tuesday, had to change her schedule after her host, Prime Minister Rumen Radev, left her to head to the scene of the accident.

President Iliana Yotova is also cutting short her participation in the Paris Peace Forum and is returning to Bulgaria, her press office announced.

Judge sets 2028 summer for trial of Charlie Kirk's murder accused



Kirk was shot dead at Utah Valley University on Sept 10, 2025

Associated Press
Utah, November 10

THE MAN accused of assassinating conservative activist Charlie Kirk will stand trial in the summer of 2028, a Utah judge ruled Monday.

Attorneys for defendant Tyler Robinson, 23, proposed a trial starting in 2029. But District Judge Tony Graf faced pressure from Kirk's family and supporters, including President Donald Trump, to speed up court proceedings that already have lasted more than a year.

Robinson has pleaded not guilty to aggravated murder in the killing of Kirk, 31, as the activist spoke to several thousand people at Utah Valley University on Sept 10, 2025. Robinson could face the death penalty if convicted. Graf allocated 105 days for the trial, beginning with jury selection on June 21, 2028. He said the dates balance Robinson's right to prepare his defence with the rights of Kirk's widow, Erika Kirk, to a speedy resolution.

Erika Kirk's attorney disagreed with the schedule but said there is no choice but to accept it. "A trial in the summer of 2028, three years after Charlie's assassination, does not feel very speedy to the Kirk family," attorney Jeffrey Neiman said.

US evacuates tankers from base in England due to threat from Iran

Danica Kirka
London, November 10

THE US Air Force has evacuated air refueling tankers from their base in eastern England due to a threat from Iran, the *Wall Street Journal* reported Tuesday.

Two tankers stationed at RAF Mildenhall were diverted to Germany on Monday, and several other tankers were relocated to other bases in Europe later in the day, the newspaper reported, citing people familiar with the decision. US officials decided to redeploy the aircraft after being alerted about the new threat on Monday, the Journal said.

A European Command official said they were aware of the reporting when contacted by *The Associated Press*, saying only that the service rotates aircraft between locations "for a variety of reasons including training and real world requirements."

"US military aircraft are hosted in accordance with access, basing and overflight agreements with our allies and partners," the official said while speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak on sensitive military matters.

"Due to operations security, we will not provide further information on movement of assets.

"For operational security reasons, we do not discuss specific force protection measures. Our installations remain vigilant and work closely with our host nation counterparts."

RAF Mildenhall, a British base operated by the US Air Force, hosts the 100th refueling wing, the only permanent refueling wing in the European region. It operates the KC-135 Stratotanker, a four-engine jet aircraft with a wingspan of 131 feet that can carry up to 83,000 pounds of cargo.

The report comes less than two months after the Air Force withdrew its bombers from another US-run base in Britain, RAF Fairford, as police investigated a suspected terror plot linked to Iran. Bombers flying out of RAF Fairford had been used to strike Iran during the U.S.-Israeli war against the Islamic Republic.

Five men were detained on Sept. 27 after three suspicious vans were spotted traveling toward RAF Fairford. The UK-owned base has been used by American bombers during decades of conflicts in the Middle East, including the ongoing Iran war. **AP**

France summons Iran envoy over fridge hack, warns of response

John Irish
Paris, November 10

FRANCE SUMMONED Iran's ambassador on Tuesday after accusing Tehran of a cyberattack that disabled refrigerators in hundreds of supermarkets, with Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot warning Paris could respond with cyber measures of its own.

French officials said on Monday that Iran's Revolutionary Guards were behind the attacks, which disrupted commercial refrigeration systems across France in October.

"The summoning of the Iranian ambassador, announced by the minister yesterday, took place this morning," the foreign ministry said in a statement.

Iran's foreign ministry rejected as "baseless and hostile" accusations that its Revolutionary Guards were behind the attacks. Barrot, speaking on France Info television, said France would push for EU sanctions in response to what he called an "attack of unprecedented scale and aggression in our country".

He said there could be further action that would not be disclosed. "We will take whatever measures are necessary, including some that we will not discuss publicly, if we judge them proportionate and necessary to deter any new attacks and punish those responsible for this unacceptable aggression," Barrot said. **REUTERS**

Bangladesh: 1 killed as violence flares over Hasina's return plan

Press Trust of India
Dhaka, November 10

ONE PERSON was killed and at least eight vehicles were set ablaze in separate incidents across Bangladesh overnight amid escalating tensions over ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina's planned return next month, police said on Tuesday.

Unidentified people torched the vehicles, including several buses, and set off crude bombs at multiple locations. A bus driver died of smoke inhalation after a parked bus was set ablaze in southwestern Faridpur while he was sleeping inside it, police said.

Police blamed activists of the Awami League, whose activities have been banned, and its affiliated organisations for several of the incidents.

The incidents came after Bangladesh's government said it was examining reports that Hasina had applied for a new passport and national identity card. Minister for Foreign Affairs Humaiun Kobir on Monday ruled out issuing her a passport.

Police said hundreds of activists of the Awami League and its affiliates staged a demonstration at the southern toll plaza of the Padma Bridge in Shariatpur district early Tuesday. They exploded crude bombs and vandalised several vehicles, temporarily disrupting traffic on the bridge.

• HARRISON BEAT FIVE OTHER FINALISTS, INCLUDING PREVIOUS WINNERS DOUGLAS STUART AND MARLON JAMES, WHO HAD BEEN THE ODDSMAKERS' FAVOURITES, AND PULITZER PRIZE LAUREATE ELIZABETH STROUT

Sci-Fi breaks Booker barrier as M John Harrison wins prize for 'The End of Everything'

Jill Lawless
London, November 10

BRITISH WRITER M John Harrison won the Booker Prize for fiction on Monday for "The End of Everything," a satirical dystopian novel whose themes of "catastrophe and apocalypse" chime with our uneasy times.

It's the first work of science fiction to take the prestigious 50,000 pound ($67,000) literary award, but 81-year-old Harrison said he doesn't want to be hemmed in by the sci-fi label.

He said Booker recognition after six decades as an author shows that the era of "genres as fences and boxes, pigeonholes, is over."

"I think this book shows, and the prize now shows, that it is very possible to write a book that mixes not just two genres, but three or four," Harrison told reporters at a post-ceremony news conference.

Harrison beat five other finalists including previous winners Douglas Stuart and Marlon James, who had been the oddsmakers' favorites, and Pulitzer Prize laureate Elizabeth Strout.

"The End of Everything" is set on England's Channel coast in the near future, after an unspecified calamity has shattered society and brought an influx of enigmatic alien entities to Britain. It centers on a beachcomber who lives with his gun-toting aunt and discovers a puzzling, shape-shifting artifact on the shore.

Asked what he wanted to convey to readers, Harrison said: "It's a grim world, and it'll keep on being grim. And it's weird. But at the end of things there may be some kind of — I wouldn't say hope, or closure, but there might be some kind of relief."

Critics have praised the book's dark humor, though some have been confused by its elusive narrative.

Historian Mary Beard, who chaired the judging panel, said the book is "the politics of now seen through the lens of the future," and about a society "undergoing a catastrophe that they don't really understand."



M John Harrison poses with the trophy in London on Tuesday. AP

"What he does is to say, when the catastrophe comes, you won't know what's happening," Beard said. "And there are bits where you, the reader, are with the characters in not fully understanding. Now, I think that's fantastically exciting."

Harrison spent years working for the speculative fiction magazine New Worlds, and he won the Arthur C. Clarke science fiction award for a previous novel, "Nova Swing." Although borders between publishing genres are increasingly blurred, it's still rare for a work of sci-fi to win a major literary prize.

Harrison said before he won that he had been "working for 40 to 50 years to shift the balance, both as a novelist and as a critic. Why shouldn't a well-written (work of science fiction) be considered to be literary fiction?"

He said after winning that the publishing industry had done nothing to break down barriers between categories.

"There's almost no point these days in writing your own book, because it will be framed as something else to sell it," he said. "To a degree, that's quite offensive" to the author.

He said the validation of the Booker Prize "gives you permission to be what you are, without a label stuck on your forehead." Booker Prize Foundation chief executive Gaby Wood noted that the prize has removed references to "literary fiction" from its materials, because "all fiction is literary."

Beard said Harrison's win was "recognition of what some people would see as the blindingly obvious, that you find great books in every genre."

Founded in 1969, the Booker Prize is open to English-language novels from any country published in the U.K. and Ireland and has a reputation for transforming writers' careers.

Its winners have included Salman Rushdie, Ian McEwan and Arundhati Roy. Last year's winner was "Flesh" by Hungarian-British writer David Szalay.

Harrison is the oldest writer to win the Booker, two years older than Margaret Atwood when she won in 2019. "The End of Everything" is his 13th novel. But Beard said the prize was definitely "not a lifetime achievement award." **AP**

ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS STORE SURPLUS ELECTRICITY AND DISCHARGE IT WHEN DEMAND RISES

Discoms' finances emerge as key concern amid energy storage push

Pratyush Deep
New Delhi, November 10

AS THE government works on a mandate requiring electricity distribution utilities (Discoms) to add energy storage capacity, concerns are emerging over the ability of financially stressed discoms to shoulder the additional investment burden, given their already stretched finances and limited capacity to fund new infrastructure.

While the specific storage capacity that utilities will be required to procure has not yet been finalised, the proposed mandate is understood to be at an early stage of formulation.

The development comes as energy storage systems are becoming vital as India scales up its renewable energy capacity.

However, the growing share of intermittent renewable sources such as solar and wind is posing a challenge for the power system: generation is often abundant during certain hours but insufficient to meet demand at other times.

Energy storage systems can address this mismatch by storing surplus electricity when renewable generation is high and releasing it when demand rises or generation from these sources falls.

The government has already proposed making battery storage mandatory for all new government solar and wind power projects from July 2027.

Govt mandate raises concerns

Most state-owned utilities continue to incur losses and rely on borrowings to fund operating shortfalls and accumulated liabilities. Public sector DISCOMs have accumulated losses of Rs 6.77 lakh crore and borrowings of Rs 7.11 lakh crore.

Their already strained financial position also affects their borrowing costs, with lenders charging higher interest rates from utilities with weaker financial health.

Additional borrowing to finance energy storage infrastructure could further increase debt-servicing burden. Anoop Singh, Founder and Coordinator of Centre for Energy Regulation and Energy Analytics Lab at IIT Kanpur, said energy storage systems (ESS), either in hybrid mode or on a standalone basis, have become indispensable with increasing share of renewables in Indian grid.

He said while the Ministry of Power in July 2022 had outlined an Energy Storage Obligation (ESO) trajectory, envisaging the requirement to increase from 1% of total electricity consumption in financial year (FY) 2023-24 to 4% by FY29-30, subsequent notifications excluded any mention of ESO.

"The choice between capex and opex model is guided by the competitive cost discovery and operational risk hedging for discoms," he said, adding that implementing such a mandate through capital expenditure (capex) route could be challenging for discoms, given their already strained financial situation. "Procurement of energy storage services through competitive bidding, for example through SECI (Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd), may be more economical as such aggregated bids would ensure scale and cost competitiveness for DISCOMs," he said. Singh maintained that further studies can help assess the need for such storage requirements that may vary across states.

"Apart from grid-level storage requirements, growing deployment of rooftop solar would also necessitate Distribution Energy Storage Systems or the Community Energy Storage Systems to be implemented by the discoms," he added. Satyendra Nath Kalita, Director of Policy and Regulatory Affairs at the All India Discoms Association (AIDA), said the government should avoid prescribing a uniform storage mandate for all DISCOMs, as electricity demand patterns and storage requirements vary across states.

"Requirements are not the same for all discoms, so it should not be a fixed percentage or a blanket requirement. Demand patterns differ from state to state. Any such requirement should be determined after due diligence by the respective State Electricity Regulatory Commissions," he said.

Queries sent to the Ministry of power did not elicit a response till press time. FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

MOUNTING DEBT

- Most state-owned utilities continue to incur losses and rely on borrowings to fund operating shortfalls and accumulated liabilities
- Any additional borrowing finance energy storage infrastructure could therefore increase their debt-servicing burden

Public sector discoms have accumulated losses of ₹6.77 lakh crore and borrowings of ₹7.11 lakh crore



DEATH OF 3 WORKERS AT TATA ELECTRONICS HOSUR PLANT

Why Apple's India supply chain challenges are back in focus

Soumyarendra Barik
New Delhi, November 10

THREE CONTRACT workers have died at a Tata Electronics factory in Tamil Nadu's Hosur, which manufactures critical components for Apple's iPhones, bringing renewed scrutiny on the safety and operational challenges facing the American technology giant's rapidly expanding manufacturing ecosystem in India.

The deaths come at a time when Apple has successfully diversified a major portion of its manufacturing away from China, with India now accounting for around a quarter of all iPhones produced globally.

However, the expansion has not been without setbacks. From fires and worker protests to allegations of environmental violations, employment discrimination and a major cybersecurity breach, Apple's contract manufacturers have faced a series of challenges over the last few years.

Why India has become important for Apple

Apple began assembling iPhones in India in 2017, with a focus on older models.

But its manufacturing operations have expanded in recent years, led by the company's efforts to reduce dependence on China amid growing geopolitical tensions and supply chain disruptions, and subsidies offered by the government under its Production Linked Incentive scheme for smartphone manufacturing.

India accounts for roughly 25% of global iPhone production, with its manufacturing ecosystem increasingly handling newer and sophisticated models. Taiwan's Foxconn and Tata Group are Apple's main manufacturing partners in India, with Tata accounting for around 40% of domestic iPhone assembly and Foxconn making up the remainder.

Tata has emerged as a crucial player after acquiring Indian operations of Taiwanese manufacturer Wistron in 2023 and later taking control of Pegatron's Indian iPhone manufacturing business. Its Hosur operations are significant because they manufacture precision-engineered metal casings and back panels used in iPhones, representing an attempt to deepen local value addition rather than merely assembling devices from imported components.

The challenges

The workers' deaths are the latest in a string of incidents that involve Tata's Hosur operations.

In June 2026, a ransomware attack on a Tata Electronics iPhone assembly facility in Hosur resulted in the leaking of over 200,000 files on the dark web. The stolen information included confidential supplier details, component specifications and photographs relating to the then-unreleased iPhone 18 Pro. The breach was concerning because Apple's supply chain operates under strict confidentiality arrangements, with information on unreleased products, suppliers and component designs closely guarded.

Following the incident, Tata restricted internal access to sensitive systems and engaged a global consultant to conduct a forensic investigation, *Reuters* reported.

Around the same time, Tata's Hosur components facility also faced regulatory scrutiny over allegations of groundwater contamination. The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) warned the company that its factory could face closure over allegations that wastewater discharged from the facility had contaminated nearby agricultural land and wells. TNPCB had conducted multiple inspections after complaints from local farmers.

However, Tata later said the regulator had accepted its explanations, dropping further action. Disputing its findings, the company said fresh water sample analyses did not indicate contamination and the facility was compliant with applicable environmental standards.

In 2024, Foxconn faced allegations that it had systematically excluded married women from assembly-line jobs at its iPhone factory in Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu. A *Reuters* probe prompted scrutiny from Union Labour Ministry and the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). In January 2025, NHRC criticised labour officials for inadequately investigating the allegations. However, a subsequent government investigation cleared Foxconn of wrongdoing.

Foxconn also instructed its recruitment agents to remove age, gender and marital-status criteria from job advertisements after the controversy.

Earlier, in September 2024, a major fire at Tata's Hosur facility, reportedly originating in an area used to store chemicals, had forced the temporary suspension of iPhone component manufacturing. The incident was significant because the facility was then a key domestic supplier of iPhone back panels.

In September 2023, Taiwan's Pegatron temporarily suspended iPhone assembly at its Chennai facility following a fire. Earlier that year, another Apple supplier, Foxlink, which manufactured iPhone chargers, halted production at its Andhra Pradesh factory after a fire caused part of the building to collapse.

In December 2021, Foxconn's factory near Chennai was shut for over three weeks after around 250 workers fell ill, triggering protests over living conditions and food safety. Apple subsequently found that the facility did not meet its required standards. FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Blackstone to acquire 16% stake in IIFL Finance for Rs 5,000 crore

George Mathew
Mumbai, November 10

BLACKSTONE, THE world's largest alternative asset manager, will acquire an approximately 16% stake in IIFL Finance for Rs 5,000 crore as part of a Rs 6,414-crore primary equity infusion into the listed non-banking financial company (NBFC), marking one of the largest private equity investments in an Indian listed NBFC.

The investment is part of a larger capital-raising exercise involving the company's promoters, Nirmal Jain and R Venkataraman, who will invest Rs 1,264 crore, while Anchorage Capital will contribute Rs 150 crore. The entire investment will be infused as fresh capital into the company.

The board of IIFL Finance approved the transaction on Tuesday through a preferential issue.

Blackstone will invest through compulsorily convertible preference shares (CCPS), which will convert into equity shares at Rs 602 apiece within 18 months of allotment. The promoters will subscribe to preferential warrants.

IIFL Finance has a market capitalisation of Rs 26,746 crore.

The capital infusion will substantially strengthen IIFL Finance's balance sheet, raising its capital adequacy ratio from around 17% to approximately 30% on a proforma basis as of September 2026. The stronger capital base is expected to support business expansion, potentially improve credit ratings and reduce borrowing costs over time. For Blackstone, the investment provides an entry into a large retail lending platform in India's fast-growing non-banking finance sector.

IIFL plans to deploy the capital to expand its secured lending businesses, particularly gold finance, which has emerged as a significant segment of the retail credit market.

The company expects to leverage Blackstone's global network and operational expertise in technology, data analytics and artificial intelligence to strengthen its lending operations, improve risk management and deepen co-lending partnerships with banks.

Blackstone representatives are also proposed to join the company's board, which is expected to strengthen governance standards and oversight. FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

RAISING THE STAKES

THE CAPITAL infusion will strengthen IIFL Finance's balance sheet, raising its capital adequacy ratio from around 17% to approximately 30% on a proforma basis as of September 2026.

THE STRONGER capital base will support business expansion, improve credit ratings and reduce borrowing costs over time.

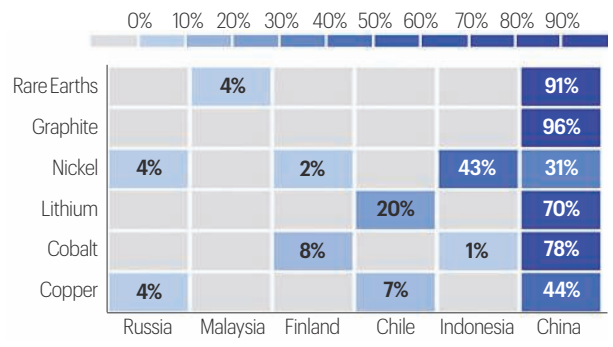
FOR BLACKSTONE, the investment provides an entry into a large retail lending platform in India's fast-growing non-banking finance sector.

China's critical minerals stranglehold

- The battle for natural resources is not new. But in the age of electrification and artificial intelligence, the fight is decidedly one-sided and squarely in favour of China. And while the world's second-largest economy is not home to the required critical minerals, it is overwhelmingly dominant in processing them.



Country share (%) of global refining in each mineral (2024)



- Companies and governments, as per Moody's Ratings, are now more willing to balance costs against the benefits of resilience, as has been the case when it comes to critical minerals and other strategic inputs. Securing them "now comes with a growing price tag" which is putting pressure on profit margins, balance sheets, and public finances.
- "Several developments in 2027 will test that balance, including the review of the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement, maturing export-control regimes covering critical minerals and rare earths, and energy trade routes reshaped by disruption in the Middle East," Moody's said.

SOURCE: MOODY'S RATINGS

Banks seek relief from RBI before rollout of Expected Credit Loss

Christina Titus
Mumbai, November 10

WITH LESS than five months to go before the proposed implementation of the expected credit loss (ECL) framework, banks have approached the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) seeking relief from the requirement to revalue their held-to-maturity (HTM) investment portfolios. The concern is that elevated bond yields could translate into substantial one-time valuation losses and erode capital.

The yield on benchmark 10-year government bond rose to 7.48% in October, driven by higher crude oil prices, rising US yields and expectations of further interest rate hikes. It has since eased to 7.15% on Monday, but remains above the 6.75% recorded at the end of June.

Lenders have sought either a deferment of the framework's implementation for investment portfolios or an alternative accounting treatment that would spare them from recognising mark-to-market losses, people familiar with the discussions told *FE*. They have also questioned the rationale for the proposed change.

The ECL framework, scheduled to come into effect from April 1, 2027, will replace the existing incurred-loss provisioning model with a forward-looking approach to recognising potential credit losses.

Under the proposed framework, banks will have to adopt the effective interest rate method and value their HTM portfolios at fair value as on March 31, 2027. The difference between the existing carrying value and the fair value will be adjusted through reserves, with possible implications for capital.

The fair-value adjustment, however, will be a one-time exercise. Banks will not be required to undertake subsequent mark-to-market valuation of their HTM portfolios. FE

Qualcomm begins India layoffs, 1,000 jobs at risk

Poulomi Chatterjee
Bengaluru, November 10

QUALCOMM HAS begun laying off employees in India, with around 1,000 or more jobs potentially at risk as the US-based chipmaker undertakes global workforce restructuring. The first round of job cuts began at its Bengaluru facility Monday, days after the company initiated layoffs in US, with the exercise expected to be carried out in phases across its operations.

People familiar with the matter said global restructuring could affect around 7% of Qualcomm's 52,000-strong workforce. With approximately 20,000 employees in India, the country could account for arou-nd 1,000 job losses or slightly more, based on a similar proportion.

"At a similar ratio, layoffs in India can be estimated at around 1,000 employees or a little higher than that," Pareekh Jain, CEO and lead analyst at EIIRTrend, told *FE*.

Another round of job cuts is expected in January, analysts said. The layoffs are significant given the scale of Qualcomm's engineering and research operations in India, which constitute its largest engineering base outside US. The exercise is broad-based, affecting both senior engineers and recent hires. Some employees who have been asked to leave have reportedly said they received no prior performance feedback, despite the company describing the exercise as performance-driven.

Qualcomm CEO Cristiano Amon had informed employees about the restructuring in an internal memo in October, describing it as a performance-focused reduction. FE

Small investors' body to SEBI: Restore Castrol open offer price

ENS Economic Bureau
Mumbai, November 10

THE SMALL Investors' Welfare Association (SIREN) has approached the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), challenging the deduction of Rs 11.50 per share from the enhanced open offer price for Castrol India Ltd, arguing that the adjustment is contrary to the investor-protection provisions of the SEBI Takeover Regulations.

In a representation dated November 9, the association has sought restoration of the open offer price to Rs 210.95 per share from the revised price of Rs 199.45.

It has argued that the deduction towards dividends paid by Castrol India should not be permitted as the total intervening dividend of Rs 11.50 does not exceed the prescribed threshold under Regulation 8(9) of the SEBI Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers (SAST) Regulations, 2011.

The representation relates to the open offer by Motion JVCo Ltd and persons acting in concert with it. The initial public announcement, dated December 24, 2025, had disclosed an offer price of Rs 194.04 per share, which was subsequently enhanced by 10%, taking it to Rs 210.95.

However, the detailed public statement issued on November 6, 2026, reduced the price by Rs 11.50 towards dividend adjustment, bringing the offer price to Rs 199.45.

SIREN's principal argument is that the three financial years preceding the public announcement should be interpreted with reference to the financial years to which dividends pertain, rather than the calendar dates on which they were actually paid.

Since Castrol India's financial year (FY) follows the calendar year, the relevant three financial years preceding the December 24, 2025 announcement are FY22, FY23 and FY24.

According to the association, dividends attributable to these three years were Rs 6.50, Rs 7.50 and Rs 13 per share, respectively. This works out to an aggregate of Rs 27 and a three-year average of Rs 9 per share. The 150% threshold under the regulations would therefore be Rs 13.50.

Against this threshold, the intervening dividends of Rs 11.50 — comprising a final dividend of Rs 5.25 relating to FY25 and an interim dividend of Rs 6.25 relating to FY26 — do not qualify for deduction, it has argued.

CORNERSTONE INVESTORS INCLUDE GOOGLE, NVIDIA AND AMD

Anthropic sets modest $1 tn IPO valuation target

Reuters
Bengaluru, November 10

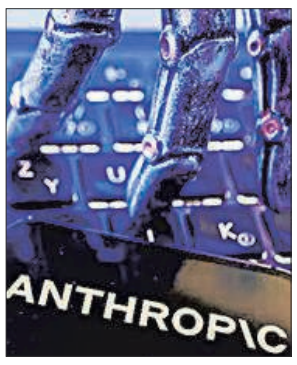
ANTHROPIC IS targeting a valuation of up to $1.02 trillion in its landmark US IPO, its filing showed on Tuesday, well short of the previously discussed amount in the latest sign of cooling investor appetite for AI.

The AI lab and some of its investors are aiming to raise up to $64.4 billion by selling 825 million shares in the IPO in an indicative price band of between $70 and $78 per share.

Reuters had exclusively reported on Tuesday details of Anthropic's blockbuster deal. Some prospective investors have questioned whether Anthropic's previously discussed $1.5 trillion valuation was too high, particularly given the company's substantial infrastructure commitments and the recent volatility in AI-related stocks.

At one point this year, investors expected the IPO to take place in October and to seek a valuation as high as $2 trillion. The company is launching the roadshow for a historic share sale that is expected to set a benchmark for the sector, following years of hype that fueled a massive influx of capital into AI companies.

Details of the blockbuster deal were briefly circulated to investment banks before being retracted late on Monday, according to emails seen by *Reuters*.



Anthropic will raise $26 bn via private placement deal. REUTERS

The second half of the year has brought a reckoning for the AI boom, as investors question whether returns will justify the massive spending and mounting debt costs in an elevated interest-rate environment.

Concerns are also rising over the sustainability of the investment cycle, with questions around circular financing arrangements, the risk of infrastructure overcapacity and how quickly companies can turn their AI investments into revenue.

The tech-dominated Nasdaq notched its deepest one-day drop in 19 months on Thursday, wiping out trillions in market value on fears of more AI scrutiny, particularly on data center construction, after Democrats' massive gains in the US midterm elections.

Greater oversight and potential regulatory hurdles could complicate the infrastructure buildout underpinning the AI boom. But Anthropic's growth has so far defied those concerns, propelled by surging demand for its products, particularly its viral Claude models.

Its filing spoke of a vision to "bring forth an age of miracles," even as it warned of existential risks to humanity, laying bare the extraordinary promise and profound uncertainties at the heart of the AI boom.

Anthropic will also raise $26 billion via a separate private placement deal with cornerstone investors including Alphabet's Google, Nvidia, Advanced Micro Devices .

BRIEFLY

Unemployment declines slightly to 5.1% in Jul-Sept

New Delhi: The unemployment rate for persons aged 15 years and above improved marginally to 5.1% in the July-September period from 5.2% a year ago, said the Periodic Labour Force Survey released on Tuesday. As per the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), the unemployment rate (UR) or joblessness rate was 5.4% in the April-June quarter this year. PTI

Adani Group to invest $120 bn over next 5 years

Bengaluru: The Adani Group plans to invest more than $120 billion in capital expenditure over the next five years across its core infrastructure businesses and emerging growth platforms, its executives told *Fortune India* in an interview Tuesday. Adani Group has been expanding aggressively across infrastructure and energy, with investments spanning ports, airports, power, renewables and other sectors. PTI

'Two-member US team visits India for trade talks'

New Delhi: A two-member team of US officials visited India this month for talks on trade and customs facilitation issues, an official said on Tuesday. The official said both sides are in regular touch on the trade pact. India and the US have finalised the framework for the first phase of the bilateral trade agreement in February. However, changes in the tariff landscape have led to further negotiations on the agreement. PTI

@ieExplained
#ExpressExplained
If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to
explained@indianexpress.com

• LEGAL

OBC reservation: What determines creamy layer status

Amaal Sheikh
New Delhi, November 10

THE SUPREME Court on Friday reaffirmed its March judgment which held that the "creamy layer" status of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) cannot be decided solely on the basis of parental income from salary.

Creamy layer is a term used in India's reservation system to describe wealthier, more advanced members of OBCs. Those included in the creamy layer are not entitled to OBC reservation benefits. Here's how the concept of a creamy layer came about, how its criteria was decided and modified, and what the Supreme Court's March verdict changed.

Evolution of the creamy layer criteria

The concept of a creamy layer within the OBCs was introduced following the landmark 1992 Supreme Court ruling in *Indra Sawhney vs Union of India*.

In September 1993, the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) issued an office memorandum (OM) specifying the criteria for identifying persons who fall within the OBC creamy layer and, thus, are not entitled to reservation. These included: persons occupying constitutional posts; Group-A/Class-I officers of All India Services, Central services and state services; Group-B/Class-II services of Centre and state; employees of public sector undertakings (PSUs); Armed Forces officers; professionals and those from trade and industry; property owners; and an income/wealth test.

The OM also excluded income from salary and agricultural land from the income/wealth test.

But a 2004 clarification by the DoPT said the salary income of employees in PSUs and the private sector would indeed be a criterion in cases where "equivalence" of posts in public sector undertakings, banks and public employment had not been determined. If the salaries crossed the prescribed limit for three consecutive years, the children would fall within the creamy layer.

This began to be applied rigorously from the CSE-2015 (corresponding to the 2016 batch).

What the Supreme Court said in March

In March, in a case arising from that 1993 OM, the court held that salary income could not, by itself, be the basis for excluding children of those employed in public sector undertakings and the private sector from OBC reservation benefits. The court also settled the long-pending question of equivalence between PSUs and private sector employees and those in the government sector — saying treating children of PSU and private employees differently from those of government servants in similar posts amounted to "hostile discrimination".

On the 2004 clarification by the DoPT, the SC said a clarificatory letter "cannot introduce a substantive condition that does not exist in the parent policy".

The court then directed the Centre to implement these principles within six months and create supernumerary posts as required for candidates who satisfy the non-creamy layer criteria.

What the Supreme Court said now

The result of CSE 2025 was declared five days before the March verdict. The Centre told the Supreme Court that a retrospective implementation of its ruling would unsettle concluded selections and service allocations, including those made in respect of earlier CSE.

The court observed that the interpretation of the 1993 OM and the 2004 letter and the "rejection of mechanical exclusion based on salary income" were not open for reconsideration and said that miscellaneous applications cannot be used as "a ruse to secure reconsideration of the merits of the judgment".

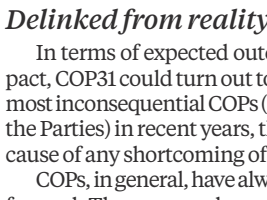
The court also said the Centre's application proceeded on an "erroneous assumption" that the benefit operated retrospectively. The six-month deadline in the verdict applied to considering the claims of the respondents and was not a general exercise for all recruitment years.

The bench said that all selections, appointments, and roster allotments will follow the 1993 OM as the March verdict interpreted — that is, a clarificatory letter such as the 2004 one cannot override the OM. Where equivalence of posts has not been established, the children of PSU and private-sector employees must be assessed under the income/wealth test which excludes salary income. And income from salary cannot be the sole criterion — the status and category of the parent's post are also essential.

• CLIMATE CHANGE

Why a floundering COP still matters

Little of consequence is expected from this year's COP in Turkey, just like in previous years. Yet, it remains key to seek climate accountability



AMITABH SINHA

THE ANNUAL United Nations Climate Change Conference, or COP31, this year comes amid a troubling reality check.

According to two reports released by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) earlier this year, the window of opportunity to limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels is firmly shut now. The best the world can now hope for, the reports say, is to restrict the temperature rise to 1.7-1.8°C. This is the first time that any scientific assessment of climate change has made such an assertion.

One might have therefore expected the COP31 climate conference, which began in the Turkish city of Antalya on Monday (and runs till November 20), to focus on finding ways to put the world back on track. However, the conference is unlikely to deliver any outcome that can be considered a breakthrough on this front.

The 1.5°C target did not suddenly become unattainable this year. It was always a difficult target, and years of inadequate climate action have finally led scientists to conclude that it can no longer be achieved. No outcome from COP31, however ambitious, can reopen that window of opportunity.

Delinked from reality

In terms of expected outcome and impact, COP31 could turn out to be one of the most inconsequential COPs (Conference of the Parties) in recent years, though not because of any shortcoming of its own.

COPs, in general, have always underperformed. These annual year-ending two-week conferences, which attracted the largest gatherings of global leaders until not so long ago, have only produced low-ambition outcomes. In the last two decades, its most important success has been finalising the 2015 Paris Agreement, which defined the climate targets and framed the broad rules for international climate action.

But COPs have had a poor record in convincing the member countries — virtually the entire world till the US decided to walk out — to do enough to achieve those targets. COPs take decisions only through consensus, and there is no way to force laggard nations to do more.

The result has been a widening gap between what is required to achieve the targets set in the Paris Agreement and the actions actually taken by individual countries. The gap has grown so large that COPs no longer seem interested in even pretending to catch up. Any outcome that enables incremental progress towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and prevents further backsliding, is now considered a good outcome.

By this metric, the success of COP31 would rest on being able to build on the decisions taken in past COPs, particularly in Brazil last year, to keep pushing for decarbonisation and energy transition.

Not irrelevant

Despite this poor record, it would be a mistake to conclude that COPs have become entirely irrelevant.

There is no denying that it is this very process of international climate negotiations under the UN framework that has put the world on a path of decarbonisation, however slow the progress might have been. The accelerating adoption of renewable energy, and the thousands of climate actions being taken by a variety of actors around the world, both state and non-state, can also be attributed to this process. Many of these actions also offer a range of collateral benefits, including energy security, poverty reduction, improved livelihoods, pollution reduction, and improved food security.

Climate change has largely disappeared from the agendas of other major global and regional forums, thanks to multiple wars, rapidly evolving technological threats, and new demands for energy use. COPs remain the only major global stage that continues to focus on climate change.

They are still the only forum where developing countries can demand greater accountability from the developed world, which bears the primary responsibility for addressing climate change. Nepal was recently allocated $20 million from the newly-established Loss and Damage Fund for recovery and reconstruction efforts after the devastating flash floods in August. While the allocated sum is only a fraction of what Nepal needs to rebuild after the disaster, there is no other international forum where it could have demanded and received this kind of funding without any strings attached and within a short span of time. There is also a possibility that Nepal could receive more money from the Fund.

That is why countries see merit in continuing with this COP process, despite its threat of irrelevance and possible disintegration, following the withdrawal of the US from the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Reality check

Most countries appear to have reconciled with the reality that not just the 1.5°C, but even the 2°C, target might be breached in the coming decades, unless some really unexpected technology intervention takes place.

The 1.5 degree and 2°C targets were arbitrarily chosen temperature limits with no intrinsic value behind their choice. The climate impacts were evident even at 1.2°C warming, though there is no denying that the severity and frequency of extreme climate events have steadily increased with the continued rise in temperatures.

It could be argued that the temperature targets set in Paris were too ambitious to start with. The actions necessary to achieve them were never consistent with the political and economic realities of the world and the competitive nature of international coexistence. Achieving these goals was predicated heavily on an appeal to the moral force and good conscience of the countries. The concerns of the developing countries, particularly their need for rapid economic growth, were never adequately accounted for.

This tension was evident even when the Paris Agreement was being finalised. The Agreement was hailed as a major breakthrough for climate action. The unflattering reality, however, was that developed nations had succeeded in freeing themselves from the responsibilities placed on them by the 1997 Kyoto Protocol.

In the last few years, countries have increasingly begun to drop the pretence that they are actively pursuing the temperature targets of the Paris Agreement. They are now preparing themselves to deal with the impacts of climate change, rather than chase a temperature target that has never been within reach. At the same time, it is important for the countries to make sure that they give up only targets, not climate action itself.

Gap between plans and reality

COPs have had a poor record in convincing member countries to do enough to achieve climate targets.

•

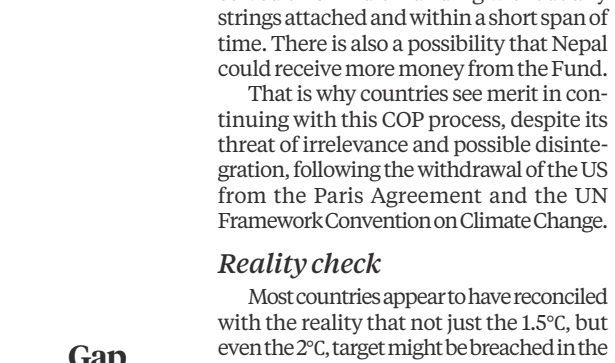
These summits take decisions only through consensus, and there is no way to force laggard nations to do more.

•

The result has been a widening gap between what is required to achieve the targets set in the Paris Agreement and the actions actually taken by individual countries.

• A CLIMATE BREACH POINT LOOMS

The world is locked on the course to overshoot the 1.5°C climate target



SOURCE: NOAA, ACCESSED FROM WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANISATION

Antalya agenda: Climate funds, energy transition



EXPERT EXPLAINS

INDU K MURTHY

HEAD OF CLIMATE, ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY SECTOR AT CENTER FOR STUDY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND POLICY

THE 31ST Conference of the Parties (COP31) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) began in Turkey's Antalya on Monday.

As the first COP since the US's exit from the Paris Agreement earlier this year, COP31 removes the largest historical emitter from finance conversations, sharpening developing countries' demand that Europe and others fill the gap. Energy security, meanwhile, has taken centre stage. The war on Iran has pushed up oil and gas prices, raising the cost of fuel and food. Supporters of a faster energy transition argue that this shows the risks of fossil-fuel dependence, while importers such as India face more immediate pressure to keep supplies affordable.

India goes to Antalya with a central seat at the table, co-chairing mitigation consultations along with Germany.

The questions that matter are how much finance will actually flow to developing countries, how adaptation will be measured and paid for, and whether mounting pressure on coal and emission targets will respect the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities"

What is COP?

A COP is the annual meeting of countries that signed the 1992 UNFCCC. In Antalya, there will be three meetings in focus: COP31, the 21st session of the Conference of Parties serving as the meeting of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP21), and the 8th session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of Parties to the 2015 Paris Agreement (CMA8).

The Paris Agreement asks every country to submit a nationally determined contribution (NDC), essentially its own climate plan, every five years, with the shared ambition of holding warming well below 2°C while pursuing efforts to limit it to 1.5°C. Because decisions require consensus, a single country can hold up an agreement.

How is COP31 different from previous COPs?

COP venues rotate among the UN's regional groups, and 2026 was the turn of the "Western European and Others" group to host. Turkey bid with Antalya, and Australia bid with Adelaide, in partnership with Pacific Island nations. The standoff led to an unusual power-sharing deal last year, making COP31 the first summit where one country hosts the meeting while another runs the negotiations.

Turkey is the formal COP31 president and host, responsible for the venue, logistics and the "Action Agenda" of voluntary pledges and initiatives. Australia has "exclusive authority" over formal talks, drafting of texts and steering decisions. This dual leadership model is untested, and questions remain about who would have the final word if there were disagreement in the closing hours.

What's on the table?

COP31 is not expected to produce a landmark treaty text. The real fight is over delivery: mobilising finance, measuring progress and accelerating the energy shift.

In terms of co-chairing consultations, India and Germany must decide on mitigation, as in how to press countries whose 2035 plans fall short of 1.5°C and what "transitioning away from fossil fuels" actually requires. On finance, France and the Philippines will work to build consensus on delivering existing finance commitments. On adaptation, the UK and Sierra Leone must chart a credible path to tripling adaptation finance and make enough headway for the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) to be finalised at COP32.

Taking on newer ground, Mexico and Poland must work out how the just transition mechanism will function and what money and technical help it will give affected workers and communities. Palau and Canada handle the ocean, where Pacific Island countries want commitments written into formal decisions.

Two more items will set the summit's tone. Turkey wants countries to pledge to raise electricity's share of global final energy use from about 23% today to 35% by 2035. Further, developing countries, including India, have pushed to include Article 9.1 of the Paris Agreement, the clause that obligates developed countries to provide finance, in the provisional agenda.

What Belém left behind

COP30 in Belém, Brazil, closed with a package called the "Global Mutirão" (meaning, collective effort) and Antalya inherits this "to-do" list. It called for adaptation finance to be at least tripled by 2035, five years later than developing countries had wanted and without a clear baseline.

More broadly, it endorsed the Baku-to-Belém Roadmap to scale climate finance for developing countries to at least $1.3 trillion a year by 2035 from public and private sources, building on the $300 billion-a-year goal agreed at COP29 in Baku (Azerbaijan). It adopted a set of "Belém indicators" to measure progress on the GGA, created new vehicles for delivery, namely a Global Implementation Accelerator and a "Belém Mission to 1.5" to help countries carry out their plans, alongside work on a just transition mechanism.

The most conspicuous gap concerned fossil fuels. More than 80 countries backed a roadmap to move away from oil, coal, and gas, yet the final text left fossil fuels out entirely, referring only to the 2023 Dubai "UAE Consensus". Brazil is now steering a voluntary roadmap process outside the formal talks, and Colombia and the Netherlands have initiated the Santa Marta process — an international, plurilateral climate initiative complementing the COP process launched in Santa Marta, Colombia — in April 2026 to identify pathways for the phase-out.

Ultimately, Antalya will be judged less on headline pledges and more on whether the promises of Paris, Baku, and Belém translate into meaningful action.

• COP31: 5 key challenges

- **THE FIRST** is finance, and whether developed countries put numbers and a timeline behind tripling adaptation finance and give the $1.3-trillion roadmap a monitoring system.
- **THE SECOND** is fossil fuels, and whether the negotiated text will include a transition away from them.
- **THE THIRD** is Turkey's electrification pledge, specifically how many countries sign on to the '35%-by-2035' target.
- **THE FOURTH** is the split presidency itself — the real stress test of a model that future COPs may copy.
- **THE FIFTH** is the Global South bargain, and whether India and other developing countries secure the Article 9.1 discussion and finance reforms in return for engaging on mitigation.

• TECH

The 'key man' risk for Nvidia after Huang spy saga, with Tesla as a case study

Anil Sasi
New Delhi, November 10

NVIDIA CEO Jensen Huang's extramarital affair with an alleged Chinese spy is yet another reminder of a growing concern among big businesses on Wall Street — "the key man risk".

Simply put, it refers to the potential impact of losing a key employee, typically a founder or influential CEO, whose contribution is critical to business success. Some business owners see the company's reliance on them as a badge of honour, and Huang, a key figure in the artificial intelligence revolution, pretty much fits the bill.

A close adviser to US President Donald Trump, Huang has consistently spoken out against regulating the industry so as not to let China gain the upper hand in the AI race. He has campaigned for selling advanced Nvidia chips to China, arguing it would make the country dependent on US technology.

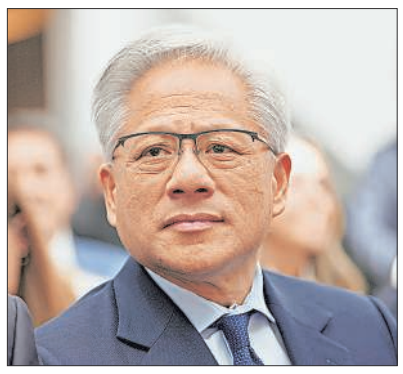
Bernstein analyst Stacy Rasgon warned that the latest revelations "highlight the considerable key man risk that NVIDIA faces", while Mohamed El-Erian, the Rene M Kern Prof of Practice at Wharton, similarly said that it was doubtful if markets had adequately priced this risk in.

Difficult time for Nvidia

The scandal comes at a moment when the AI trade is on shaky ground, with a brutal industry-wide valuation slide underway after the US midterms.

The risks for Nvidia are heightened since the chipmaker increasingly resembles a family firm: Huang's children hold senior executive positions, and he is the larger-than-life brand mascot in a purely business-to-business operation.

If the AI race were a gold rush, Nvidia is currently the one selling most of the shovels. The rise of AI has made Nvidia one of the world's most valuable companies. Nvidia's GPUs, built for gaming consoles but serendipitously proving useful in AI server stacks, have become central to running sophisticated large language models.



Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang. AP

In that sense, Nvidia was seen as relatively insulated from the larger AI monetisation risk that the large language model developers face. But a lot rests on Huang, and the big question mark is whether he will be forced to step down, with the FBI now investigating the case.

The US government is said to have begun surveilling the Chinese operative more than a year ago, when it first believed her employer, the Singapore-registered data centre firm Megaspeed, was illegally smuggling Nvidia's Graphics Processing Units (GPUs) into China. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio reportedly readied a confidential note warning officials about Huang's involvement.

Huang's consistent position on selling Nvidia chips to China likely preceded his meeting with the alleged spy. But his positions will undoubtedly come under fresh scrutiny.

Case of Tesla

Ideally, no business of scale, especially with public shareholders, should be overly reliant on a single person. When a key figure running operations is seen as disproportionately contributing to a company's success, the inherent risks associated with this key man are seen as posing a fundamental threat to the business. If this individual were to suddenly leave, the company could flounder, both operationally and financially.

The key man risk is visible across the US corporate world. Would Tesla perform as well if Elon Musk quit? Or would Meta adapt to Mark Zuckerberg leaving? Systemically important companies are increasingly and overwhelmingly dominated by key men.

It came into stark focus this year when Tesla chief Elon Musk, the world's richest man, bulldozed the automaker's board into approving a record-breaking pay package, possibly worth up to $1 trillion. The Tesla board's counterargument has been that Musk might leave the company otherwise, and it could not afford to lose him.

The episode highlighted how a company seeing one figure as indispensable can then be milked for personal gain. Musk had built a self-propagated assertion that the company simply could not do without him, and has threatened resignations in the past. The payout was predicated on Musk drastically raising the electric car firm's market value over the next decade to $8.5 trillion from under $2 trillion, among other promises.

Unlike Huang's track record at Nvidia, how Musk has run Tesla in recent years does not exactly inspire confidence, with him overpromising and underdelivering.

For instance, Musk promised to deliver driverless taxis in many US cities, secure regulatory clearances in Europe for self-driving software and raise sales by around 30%. Instead, his 'driverless' robotaxis are restricted to just Austin and San Francisco, and have human safety professionals. European regulators have yet to give their approval, while Tesla sales continue to plunge across markets, including China and Germany.

Many investors supported the pay package, including New York-based Baron Capital Management, whose founder Ron Baron termed him "indispensable" to Tesla. Critics include the biggest US public pension fund, CalPERS, and Norway's sovereign wealth fund. Even the Vatican weighed in, admonishing wealth inequality globally and flagging the pay package in particular. "If that is the only thing that has value anymore, then we're in big trouble," Pope Leo said.

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda

DEMAND NOTICE

JESSORE ROAD BRANCH, 75, Sonal Plaza, Nager Bazar, Kolkata, West Bengal, Pin-700028
Phone No: 033-25471169/25291002 E-mail : JESSOR@bankofbaroda.bank.in

Demand Notice u/s.13 (2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 issued by the Bank of Baroda as Secured Creditor against the following borrowers.

a) Date of Notice b) Account Name c) NPA Date	Name & Address of Borrower/ Guarantors	Nature and type of facility / Amount outstanding	Description of Property
a) 04-11-2026 b) TARUN KANTI BOSE & JAYATI BOSE c) 16-10-2026	**Mr. Tarun Kanti Bose,** Flat No. 202, 2nd Floor (Western Side), Holding No. 205 Shahid Sunil Sen Sarani, Ward No. 24, South Dum Dum (M), PS - Dum Dum, District- North 24 Parganas, Kolkata, West Bengal, Pin- 700028 **Mrs. Jayati Bose,** Flat No. 202, 2nd Floor (Western Side), Holding No. 205 Shahid Sunil Sen Sarani, Ward No. 24, South Dum Dum (M), PS - Dum Dum, District- North 24 Parganas, Kolkata, West Bengal, Pin- 700028	**Home Loan A/c. No. 34750600000260/ Outstanding : ₹2,90,230.83/- plus unapplied interest Rs. 3,333.78/- and unserviced interest: Rs. 4,911.00/-) Total – Rs.2,98,475.61 (Rupees Two Lakh Ninety-Eight Thousand Four Hundred and Seventy-Five and Paise Sixty One Only) +** further interest and other charges w.e.f., 04.11.2026	Equitable mortgage of all that piece and parcel of a demarcated **Flat being No. 202, on the 2nd Floor, Western Side, having measurement of 490 Sq. Ft. (Four Hundred and Ninety)** super built-up area more or less comprising of **1 (One) Bedroom, 1 (One) Dining cum Room Kitchen, 1 (One) Toilet and 1 (One) Balcony,** within newly constructed Ground plus Three Storied building, together with undivided proportionate share of underneath land together with common rights to use common areas, common passage in the G+3 storied residential building lying and situated on all that piece and parcel of Bastu land measuring an area of 6 (six) Cottahs 3 (three) Chittaks, more or less, situated at Mouza- Satgachi, comprised in J.L. No. 20, Touzi No. 169, R.S. No. 154, comprised C.S. Dag No. 2080 and 2081, R.S. Dag Nos. 5595, 5593 and 5563, L.R. Dag No. 5593 & 5591, 5661, under C.S. Khatian No. 229, R.S. Khatian No. 927 and 929, L.R. Khatian No. 494 and 6376, having Municipal Holding No. 205, Shahid Sunil Sen Sarani, Kolkata-700028, under Ward No. 24, within the South Dum Dum Municipality, under PS- Dum Dum, District- North 24 Parganas. **The property is butted and bounded by as follows :** On the North : House of Biswanath Biswas, On the South : House of Dinesh Sarkar, On the East : 12' Feet wide road then house of Amar Chandra Das & Others, On the West : 9' Feet wide road then house of Ashok Mukherjee & Others.

You have committed default in repayment of Cash Credit /Term Loan mentioned above with further interest at the agreed rate availed from our branch as mentioned in the above. The bank has issued notice under the said Act to you to repay the outstanding amount in the above mentioned table. The Demand Notice sent to Guarantor / Mortgagor by registered post has been returned unserved / received by unauthorised person. You are called upon to pay the dues together with interest within 60 days from the date of this notice failing which bank will be constrained to exercise right of Enforcement of Security interest as against the secured assets given in the schedule of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002. This notice is without prejudice to any other right remedy available to the bank including initiation of legal action.

Date : 04.11.2026 Place : Kolkata AUTHORIZED OFFICER, BANK OF BARODA

MUTHOOT FINCORP LTD. | GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

Regd. Office: Muthoot Centre, TC No 27/3022, Punnen Road, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India - 695001. CIN : U65929KL1997PLC011518, Ph: +91 471 4911400, 2331427.

Notice is hereby given for the information of all concerned that gold ornaments pledged with under mentioned branches of the company , which were overdue for redemption and which have not been redeemed so for in spite of repeated notices will be auctioned on 14.12.2026 from 10 am onwards.

Auction Date: 14.12.2026 - DARJEELING DISTRICT - SILIGURI-SEVOKE ROAD: 4171001263, 4171001280, 4171001284, 4171001298, 4171001319, 4171001337, 4171001349, 4171001355, 4171001380, 4171001391, 4171001395, 4171001435, 4171001504, 4171001514, 4171001515, 4171001540, 4171001637, 4171001689, 4171001696, 4171001767, 4171001787, 4171001803, 4171001805, 4171001861, 4171001972, 4171002083, 4171002088, 4171002107, 4171002110, 4171002124, 4171002141, 4171002142, 4171002206, 4171002241, 4171002257, 4171002919, 4171002932, 4171002949, 4171002989. **Auction Date: 14.12.2026 - JALPAIGURI DISTRICT - JALPAIGURI:** 4107002751, 4107002802, 4107002829, 4107002849, 4107002856, 4107002857, 4107002936, 4107002944, 4107002960, 4107002961, 4107002980, 4107002993, 4107003002, 4107003018, 4107003029, 4107003031, 4107003069, 4107003080, 4107003087, 4107003090, 4107003109, 4107003180, 4107003218, 4107003222, 4107003272, 4107003277, 4107003306, 4107003319, 4107003334, 4107003352, 4107003356, 4107003405, 4107003422, 4107003423, 4107003445, 4107003463, 4107003468, 4107003470, 4107003472, 4107003546, 4107003583, 4107003591, 4107003598, 4107003599, 4107003615, 4107003637, 4107003640, 4107003641, 4107003674, 4107003706, 4107003714, 4107003719, 4107003720, 4107003725, 4107003736, 4107003741, 4107003751, 4107003776, 4107003791, 4107003800, 4107003812, 4107003814, 4107003819, 4107003831, 4107003835, 4107003867, 4107003871, 4107003873, 4107003920, 4107003944, 4107004086, 4107004125, 4107004131, 4107004168, 4107004192, 4107004221, 4107004243, 4107004276, 4107004279, 4107004325, 4107004344, 4107004359, 4107004360, 4107004361, 4107004380, 4107004395, 4107004396, 4107004422, 4107004435, 4107004438, 4107004446, 4107004447, 4107004448, 4107004452, 4107004458, 4107004464, 4107004468, 4107004480, 4107004498, 4107004511, 4107004519, 4107004523, 4107004530, 4107004541, 4107004545, 4107004546, 4107004553, 4107004575, 4107004603, 4107004608, 4107004609, 4107004612, 4107004616, 4107004617, 4107004635, 4107004652, 4107004654, 4107004655, 4107004679, 4107004714, 4107004719, 4107004744, 4107004785, 4107004788, 4107004807, 4107004825, 4107004839, 4107004845, 4107004852, 4107004863, 4107004877, 4107004900, 4107004904, 4107004910, 4107004911, 4107004913, 4107004914, 4107004915, 4107004928, 4107004932, 4107004934, 4107004949, 4107004968, 4107004969, 4107004970, 4107004973, 4107004999, 4107005005, 4107005029, 4107005048, 4107005050, 4107005051, 4107005053, 4107005060, 4107005082, 4107005088, 4107005095, 4107005098, 4107005099, 4107005102, 4107005107, 4107005120, 4107005121, 4107005122, 4107005135, 4107005137, 4107005154, 4107005155, 4107005156, 4107005159, 4107005160, 4107005167, 4107005168, 4107005169, 4107005178, 4107005206, 4107005221, 4107005224, 4107005226, 4107005227, 4107005228, 4107005229, 4107005230, 4107005238, 4107005248, 4107005267, 4107005275, 4107005279, 4107005285, 4107005286, 4107005288, 4107005310, 4107005328, 4107005380, 4107005407, 4107005446, 4107005453, 4107005454, 4107005502, 4107005514, 4107005569, 4107005593, 4107005600, 4107005619, 4107005622, 4107005628, 4107005666, 4107005667, 4107005668, 4107005671, 4107005672, 4107005678, 4107005688, 4107005694, 4107005714, 4107005770, 4107005776, 4107005779, 4107005796, 4107005814, 4107005823, 4107005837, 4107005844, 4107005845, 4107005854, 4107005857, 4107005858, 4107005860, 4107005862, 4107005865, 4107005870, 4107007908, 4107007918, 4107007989, 4107008055, 4107008056, 4107008062, 4107008222.

Auction will be conducted at respective branches. please note if the auction does not get completed on the same day due to any reasons, the same will be conducted on 24.12.2026 at 10.00 am onwards at DARJEELING DISTRICT - SILIGURI-SEVOKE ROAD: 1ST FLOOR, HOLDING NO. 40/107, 6 RAM KRISHNA SAMITY BUILDING, PAMITANKI MORE, SEVOKE ROAD, SILIGURI P.O, P.S, DARJEELING, WEST BENGAL - 734001 .The bidders are requested to produce photo id card ,Pan card .The successful bidder should transfer the money through RTGS.

MUTHOOT FINCORP LTD

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

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Circle Office Stressed Asset Management(COSAM) Purulia, Ground Floor, Radhakrishna More, Sasadhar Ganguly Road, Raja Bandh Para, Purulia (W.B.)-723101 Email: cs8301@pnb.bank.in

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) & Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/physical/ symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Bank/ Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** on the date as mentioned in the table herein below, for recovery of its dues due to the Bank/ Secured Creditor from the respective borrower (s) and guarantor (s). The reserve price and the earnest money deposit will be as mentioned in the table below against the respective properties.

SCHEDULE OF THE SECURED ASSETS

Lot. No.	Name of the Branch / Name of the Account / Name & addresses of the Borrower/Guarantors Account	Description of the Immovable Properties Mortgaged/ Owner's Name(mortgagers of property(les))	A) Dt. Of Demand Notice u/s 13(2) of SARFESI ACT 2002 B) Outstanding Amount as on. C) Possession Date u/s 13(4) of SARFESI ACT 2002 D) Nature of Possession Symbolic/Physical/Constructive	A)Reserve Price (Rs. in Lacs) B)EMD C)Bid Increase Amount	Date/ TIme of E-Auction
1.	**Branch: Santaldih** **1.M/s Laxmi Auto Prop : Rakesh Pandey** S/o Basudev Pandey, Kanki Bazar, Po- Bogra, Ps- Santaldih, Dist- Purulia, West Bengal-723145 **2.Rakesh Pandey** S/o Basudev Pandey, Kanki Bazar, Po- Bogra, Ps- Santaldih, Dist- Purulia, West Bengal-723145 **3.Mrs. Laxmi Bala Devi** W/o Late Bholanath Pandey (Guarantor) Kanki Bazar, Po- Bogra, Ps- Santaldih, Dist- Purulia, West Bengal-723145	**All that piece and parcel of land and building comprised in Registered Deed No- 5772 of 1985, JL No- 65, R S Khatian No- 492, LR Khatian No:492, RS Plot No- 1564 measuring 8.00 decimal, converted(Out of 35.00 Decimal) situated at Mouza-Kanki ,PO:Bogra PS: Santaldih , Dist- Purulia in the name of Mrs. Laxmi Bala Devi, W/o Late Bholanath Pandey for the account M/s Laxmi Auto.**	A)03/02/2022 B)Rs. 29,05,036.30 (01/07/2021) +further interest & Charges C)29/07/2022 D)Symbolic Possession	A) Rs 34.78 Lakh B) Rs 3.47 Lakh C) Rs 0.10 Lakh	26/11/2026 From 11 :00 AM to 04 :00 PM
2.	**Branch: Kotulpur** **1. Mr. Ganesh Ruidas** S/o Sri Rabi Pada Ruidas, Vill- Jamsola , PO- Galla,PS- Joypur Dist: Bankura West Bengal- 722154 2. **Mrs.Manju Ruidas** W/o Ganesh Ruidas, Vill- Jamsola , PO- Galia, PS- Joypur Dist: Bankura West Bengal- 722154 **3. Mr. Rabi Pada Ruidas,** Vill- Jamsola , PO- Galia,PS- Joypur Dist: Bankura West Bengal- 722154 **4. Mr. Kartick Ruidas,** Vill- Jamsola , PO- Galia, PS- Joypur Dist: Bankura West Bengal- 722154	**All that piece and parcel of land and building comprised in Registered Gift Deed No- 2688 of 2014, JL No-109,LR Khatian No: 2373 ,dag no-1591, measuring:0.050 acre situated at, Mouza- Abhirampur, PO:Galia , PS-Joypur, Dist-Bankura in the name of Mr. Ganesh Ruidas , S/o Sri Rabi Pada Ruidas.**	A) 10/01/2025 B) Rs. 5,67,822.10 (29/12/2024) +further interest & Charges C) 26/03/2025 D) Symbolic possession	A) Rs 37.16 Lac B) Rs 3.71 Lac C) Rs 0.10 Lac	26/11/2026 From 11 :00 AM to 04 :00 PM
3	**Branch : Kadmaghati** **1.Sekh Iqbal Hossain** S/o Sekh Nowsad Ali Vill – Sahanagar , PO Panskura East Midnapore, West Bengal – 721139 **2. Mrs Jasmina Yasmin (Guarantor)** W/o Sk. Taher Ali , Durgapur Bye Pass Road, Lal Bazaar PO & PS: Bankura, Dist- Bankura, W B - 722101	**All that piece and parcel of land and building comprised in Registered Deed No –I 479/13 of 2013 ,Registered in book-1, Volume No. 2, Page 1242-1250, JL No 205, LR Plot No.1418 , LR Khatian No.1642, measuring 0.050 acre, Mouza - Demurari Gopinathpur, Dist – Bankura In the name of Jasmina Yasmin in the A/c of Sekh Iqbal Hossain**	A) 12/03/2024 B) Rs. 14,43,375.65 (29/02/2024) +further interest & Charges C) 03/12/2024 D) Symbolic Possession	A) Rs 57.16 Lac B) Rs 5.71 Lac C) Rs 0.50 Lac	26/11/2026 From 11 :00 AM to 04 :00 PM
4.	**Branch: Onda** **1.M/s Susama Enterprise Prop : Mrs.Susama Roy** Vill & Mauza- Jamtara, Ps- Onda, Dist- Bankura, West Bengal-722144 **2.Mrs Susama Roy,** W/o Umasankar Ray, Prop-M/s Susama Enterprise, Vill & Mauza- Jamtara, Nischintapur, Ps- Onda, Dist- Bankura, West Bengal-722144 **3.Mr. Pranab Roy** , S/o Late Tulsi Das Roy , Vill & Mauza-Jamtara,Nischintapur, Ps- Onda, Dist- Bankura, West Bengal-722144	**All that piece and parcel of Bastu land measuring 0.02 Acre and building standing thereon comprised in J.L No 132, L.R. Plot No 311, L.R. Khatian No. 504 and 505, Mouza-Jamtora, Under Nikinjapur Panchayat, P.S.- Onda, District-Bankura(WB).The property stands in the name of Mr. Pranab Ray S/O Late Tulsidas Roy and Mrs. Susama Roy W/O- late Umasankar Roy vide the Deed No. I-010801146/2017, Dated 28.06.2017 Volume No-0108-2017,Page 17193 to 17216 Registered at A.D.S.R, Onda Property is bounded by :North:Property of Barid Baran Roy ;South: Vacant land of Satyaklnkar Roy with boundarywall; East-Property of Barld Baran Roy; West:12 Ft.Wide PCC Road.**	A)01/03/2025 B)Rs. 25,90,366/- (28/02/2025) further interest & Charges C)13/08/2025 D)Symbolic Possession	A) Rs 15.50 Lakh B) Rs 1.55 Lakh C) Rs 0.10 Lakh	26/11/2026 From 11 :00 AM to 04 :00 PM

Details of the encumbrances known to the secured creditors: **Not known to the Bank**

The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and tothe following further conditions:

1. The properties are being sold on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS"and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS"**
2. The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule hereinabove have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorised Officer, but the Authorised Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation.
3. The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Website **https://baanknet.com** for **Lot No.1 to 4 on 26/11/2026 from 11:00 AM to 4:00 P.M.**
4. For detailed term and conditions of the sale, please refer **https://baanknet.com & www.pnbindia.in.**

Date: 11/11/2026 **Authorized Officer**
Place: Purulia **Punjab National Bank, Secured Creditor**

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

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda

SILIGURI REGIONAL OFFICE

HOMELAND BUSINESS CENTRE 4th FLOOR,
3rd MILE SEVOKE ROAD SILIGURI, WEST BENGAL-734008

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	**1. M/s Aruna Proprietor Mr. Krishna Halder,** Nabapally, Lalgola, Murshidabad, West Bengal, 742148 **Branch Name : Panchanantala, Murshidabad**	**Equitable Mortgage of the 3.06 decimal or 1335.00 sq.ft. (more or less) property bearing, Plot No. – R.S. & L.R. Plot No. – 3463/3941, Lay Out Plot No 2, L.R. Khatian No. 11332 Mouza: Cossimbazar, Village : Manindranagar, PO: Cossimbazar, PS: Berhampore, Dist. Murshidabad, West Bengal – 742102 belonging to Mr. Krishna Halder.** The said property is bounded by as follows – North : Property of Dulal Chandra Das, South : Lay Out Plot No. 3, East : 6 feet wide road, West : Property of Panchanan, **Possession: Physical**	**Rs. 78,50,570.01** as on 08-11-2026 + Unapplied interest + Unserved interest + other cost thereon (*after deduction of all the repaid amount after serving the Demand notice)	**21.12.2026** Time- 2.00 PM to 6.00 PM	**Rs.12,39,000/-** / **Rs. 1,23,900/-** / **Rs.10,000/-**	Physical	**10-12-2026 2:00PM - 4:00PM Mobile 9241861873 (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 8373060043

Date: 10.11.2026 **Authorised Officer**
Place: Murshidabad **Bank of Baroda**

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda

SODEPUR BRANCH

Station Road, Kolkata-700110,
Dist-24(Pgs) (N) W.B.India

VEHICLE E-AUCTION NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s)- M/s Six Seasons Concretex Private Limited (Account Number – 00400600004487) that Bank has repossessed/seized the Hypothecation Motor Vehicle mentioned Below in exercise of the powers conferred under Hypothecation/Loan Agreement executed by the parties and vehicle 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/Guarantor/s/Vehicle/Total Dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid increase Amount are mentioned below-

Sl. No.	Name & address of Borrower/s /Guarantor	Total Dues	Vehicle make & Model RTO Regd No	1.Date of e-Auction,Time of e-Auction start time- To End Time - 2. Last date and time of submission of Bid.	1. Reserve Price. 2. Earnest Money Deposit(EMD) 3. Bid Increase Amount	EMD deposit account No, IFSC Code, Bank of baroda Branch.	Vehicle/ Movable Asset Inspection Date & Time
1	**Borrower: M/s Six Seasons Concretex Private Limited (Borrower) Directors – Mr. Goutam Chakraborty, Mr. Devendra Yadav AT :** B-90, Metropolitan Co operative Housing Society Canal South Road, Kolkata 700105.	**O/S Balance: Rs. 46,64,812.00 plus Interest and Other Charges till date.**	**Make: Volvo Auto India Pvt Ltd. Model : Volvo XC60 BV BS-VI RTO Regd No- WB02AT0562 Colour : Chrystal White Pearl Engine No. 7841145.**	**1.Date of e-Auction: 10-12-2026 TIme of e-Auction start Time: 14:00 Hrs (2.00 P.M) To End Time: 18:00 Hrs (6.00 P.M.) 2. Last date and tIme of submission of Bid: 10-12-2026 & 17.59 Hrs (5.59 P.M.)**	**1. Reserve Price-Rs.36,55,600/- 2. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)-Rs.3,65,560/- 3. Bid Increase Amount-Rs.10,000/-**	BAANKNET.COM E-WALLET	**Any working Day Time: 10:00 A.M. to 16:00 P.M.**

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer/visit to the website link https://www.https.baanknet.com. Prospective bidders may contact to Branch Manager, BOB Sodepur Branch on Mob.: 7004738891

Date: 11-11-2026 **Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda**
Place: Kolkata **Sodepur Branch**

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda

BRAHMAPUR BRANCH

628 Rishi raj Narayan Bose Road,
Brahmapur, Kolkata- 700096

VEHICLE E-AUCTION NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower - Ms. Nilanjana Roy Chowdhury that Bank has repossessed/seized the Hypothecated Motor Vehicle mentioned below in exercise of the powers conferred under Hypothecation/Loan Agreement executed by the parties and Vehicle 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/s/Guarantor/s/Vehicle/Total Dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below —

Sl. No.	Name & address of Borrower/s / Guarantor	Total Dues	Vehicle make & Model RTO Regd No	1.Date of e-Auction, Time of e-Auction start time- To End Time - 2. Last date and time of submission of Bid.	1. Reserve Price. 2. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) 3. Bid Increase Amount	Vehicle/ Movable Asset Inspection Date & Time
1	**Borrower- Ms. Nilanjana Roy Chowdhury** Address: 8B 8C Green Park, Ganguli Bagan, South 24 Parganas, Kolkata – 700084. Mob No-8777055045	O/S Balance: Rs. 4,36,320.02/- as on 30.09.2026 plus further Interest and other charges till the date of auction	Make: **TATA Motors** Model : **TIAGO XE 1.2RTN BS6PH2** RTO Regd No. - **WB20BY 1635** Colour: Opal White Engine No.: **REVTRN19EVXK60293** Chassis No: **MAT626367RKE38572**	1.Date of e-Auction: **26-11-2026** Time of e-Auction start Time: **14:00 P.M** To End Time: **18:00 P.M.** 2. Last date and time of submission of Bid: **26-11-2026 & 18:00 P.M**	1. Reserve Price- **Rs.2,35,125.00/-** 2. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)- **Rs.23513.00/-** 3. Bid Increase Amount- **Rs.10,000.00/-**	Any working Day (with prior approval) Time: **10:00 A.M. to 16:00 P.M.**

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer/visit to the website link https://baanknet.com. Prospective bidders may contact to Branch Manager, BOB Brahmapur Branch on Mobile - 8335075592

Place: Kolkata **Authorised Officer,**
Date: 09-11-2026 **Bank of Baroda**

MUTHOOT FINCORP LTD. | GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

Regd. Office: Muthoot Centre, TC No 27/3022, Punnen Road, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India - 695001. CIN : U65929KL1997PLC011518, Ph: +91 471 4911400, 2331427.

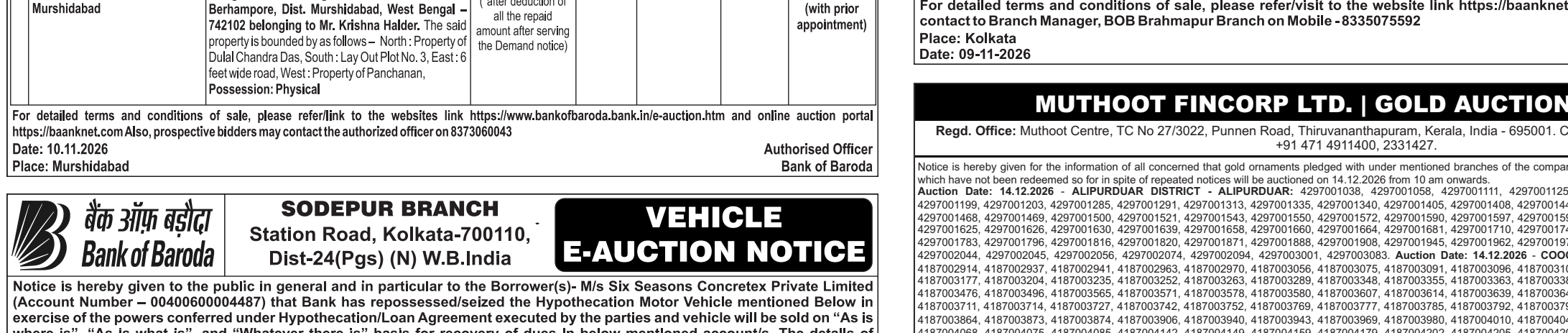
Notice is hereby given for the information of all concerned that gold ornaments pledged with under mentioned branches of the company , which were overdue for redemption and which have not been redeemed so for in spite of repeated notices will be auctioned on 14.12.2026 from 10 am onwards.

Auction Date: 14.12.2026 - ALIPURDUAR DISTRICT - ALIPURDUAR: 4297001038, 4297001058, 4297001111, 4297001125, 4297001139, 4297001153, 4297001190, 4297001199, 4297001203, 4297001285, 4297001291, 4297001313, 4297001335, 4297001340, 4297001405, 4297001408, 4297001441, 4297001443, 4297001444, 4297001458, 4297001468, 4297001469, 4297001500, 4297001521, 4297001543, 4297001550, 4297001572, 4297001590, 4297001597, 4297001598, 4297001617, 4297001618, 4297001619, 4297001625, 4297001626, 4297001630, 4297001639, 4297001658, 4297001660, 4297001664, 4297001681, 4297001710, 4297001743, 4297001747, 4297001748, 4297001767, 4297001783, 4297001796, 4297001816, 4297001820, 4297001871, 4297001888, 4297001908, 4297001945, 4297001962, 4297001970, 4297002010, 4297002012, 4297002021, 4297002044, 4297002045, 4297002056, 4297002074, 4297002094, 4297003001, 4297003083. **Auction Date: 14.12.2026 - COOCH BEHAR DISTRICT - COOCH BEHAR:** 4187002914, 4187002937, 4187002941, 4187002963, 4187002970, 4187003056, 4187003075, 4187003091, 4187003096, 4187003101, 4187003104, 4187003120, 4187003123, 4187003177, 4187003204, 4187003235, 4187003252, 4187003263, 4187003289, 4187003348, 4187003355, 4187003363, 4187003381, 4187003417, 4187003453, 4187003454, 4187003476, 4187003496, 4187003565, 4187003571, 4187003578, 4187003580, 4187003607, 4187003614, 4187003639, 4187003646, 4187003651, 4187003698, 4187003700, 4187003711, 4187003714, 4187003727, 4187003742, 4187003752, 4187003769, 4187003777, 4187003785, 4187003792, 4187003796, 4187003826, 4187003840, 4187003850, 4187003864, 4187003873, 4187003874, 4187003906, 4187003940, 4187003943, 4187003969, 4187003980, 4187004010, 4187004043, 4187004049, 4187004061, 4187004066, 4187004068, 4187004075, 4187004085, 4187004142, 4187004149, 4187004159, 4187004179, 4187004202, 4187004205, 4187004208, 4187004214, 4187004221, 4187004238, 4187004287, 4187004288, 4187004314, 4187004319, 4187004328, 4187004335, 4187004347, 4187004348, 4187004357, 4187004373, 4187004377, 4187004384, 4187004385, 4187004398, 4187004400, 4187004407, 4187004408, 4187004426, 4187004435, 4187004443, 4187004446, 4187004449, 4187004455, 4187004459, 4187004467, 4187004469, 4187004471, 4187004485, 4187004500, 4187004502, 4187004503, 4187004515, 4187004524, 4187004528, 4187004563, 4187004578, 4187004589, 4187004597, 4187004612, 4187004625, 4187004636, 4187004641, 4187004648, 4187004652, 4187004653, 4187004665, 4187004676, 4187004677, 4187004693, 4187004702, 4187004717, 4187004728, 4187004773, 4187004776, 4187004821, 4187004852, 4187004853, 4187004864, 4187004917, 4187004944, 4187004988, 4187005010, 4187005050, 4187005067, 4187005078, 4187005102, 4187005113, 4187005131, 4187005191, 4187005195, 4187005222, 4187005224, 4187005227, 4187005229, 4187005244, 4187005293, 4187005305, 4187005316, 4187005348, 4187005352, 4187005356, 4187005370, 4187005371, 4187005376, 4187005379, 4187005385, 4187007332, 4187007379, 4187007449, 4187007556, 8000154187.

DINHATA: 4296002551, 4296002584, 4296002848, 4296002849, 4296002867, 4296002871, 4296002882, 4296002883, 4296002892, 4296002923, 4296002933, 4296003038, 4296003039, 4296003041, 4296003044, 4296003045, 4296003063, 4296003068, 4296003085, 4296003094, 4296003095, 4296003101, 4296003142, 4296003166, 4296003170, 4296003178, 4296003180, 4296003195, 4296003304, 4296003311, 4296003336, 4296003338, 4296003354, 4296003391, 4296003413, 4296003425, 4296003426, 4296003429, 4296003440, 4296003458, 4296003463, 4296003473, 4296003480, 4296003514, 4296003526, 4296003534, 4296003547, 4296003549, 4296003554, 4296003571, 4296003591, 4296003593, 4296003595, 4296003596, 4296003603, 4296003621, 4296003622, 4296003626, 4296003657, 4296003660, 4296003667, 4296003683, 4296003689, 4296003690, 4296003702, 4296003714, 4296003716, 4296003718, 4296003720, 4296003729, 4296003732, 4296003786, 4296003791, 4296003797, 4296003803, 4296003805, 4296003806, 4296003814, 4296003819, 4296003839, 4296003858, 4296003859, 4296003879, 4296003884, 4296003891, 4296003899, 4296003902, 4296003905, 4296003919, 4296003932, 4296003938, 4296003946, 4296003967, 4296003997, 4296004020, 4296004023, 4296004045, 4296004050, 4296004073, 4296004081, 4296004089, 4296004099, 4296004207, 4296004216, 4296004244, 4296004294, 4296004301, 4296004310, 4296004311, 4296004328, 4296004330, 4296004383, 4296004421, 4296004441, 4296004442, 4296004470, 4296004506, 4296004531, 4296004567, 4296004623, 4296004625, 4296004637, 4296004649, 4296004654, 4296004655, 4296004670, 4296004681, 4296004737, 4296004768, 4296004843, 4296004853, 4296004859, 4296004862, 4296004881, 4296004883, 4296004892, 4296004894, 4296004952, 4296004964, 4296004982, 4296004995, 4296005025, 4296005391, 4296005411, 4296005452, 4296005492, 4296005494, 4296005497, 4296005502, 4296005509, 4296005512, 4296005515, 4296005519, 4296005532, 4296005533, 4296005537, 4296005543, 4296005553, 4296005592, 4296005615, 4296005639, 4296005651, 4296005657, 4296005658, 4296005659, 4296005685, 4296005700, 4296005711, 4296005725, 4296005726, 4296005733, 4296005747, 4296005817, 4296005832, 4296005859, 4296005890, 4296005899, 4296005910, 4296008608, 4296008958, 8000204296, 8000214296, 8000354296, 8000444296, 8000454296, 8000534296.

Auction will be conducted at respective branches. please note if the auction does not get completed on the same day due to any reasons, the same will be conducted on 24.12.2026 at 10.00 am onwards at ALIPURDUAR DISTRICT - ALIPURDUAR: FIRST FLOOR,DAG NO 1570&1581,SH 12, MARWARI PATTY,NEAR ALIPURDUAR CHOWPATI,PP.O&P.S-ALIPURDUAR,WEST BENGAL-736121 .The bidders are requested to produce photo id card ,Pan card .The successful bidder should transfer the money through RTGS.

MUTHOOT FINCORP LTD

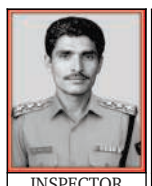


CHANGE OF NAME

I, Gagandeep Grewal, daughter of Balbir Singh, residing at 6B, Clarke Street, Post office Elgin Road, Police Station Ballygunge, Kolkata - 700026 have changed my name from Gagan Grewal to **Gagandeep Grewal** and henceforth I shall be known as **Gagandeep Grewal** in all purpose as declared before the Notary Public at Howrah, vide Affidavit No.70AA 067070 dated 19.11.2013. Gagan Grewal and **Gagandeep Grewal** both are same and identical person.

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

BORDER SECURITY FORCE



INSPECTOR HAZARA RAM 21 BN BSF 21.11.1953 – 11.11.1999



LANCE NAIK JAIBIR SINGH 21 BN BSF 16.05.1965 – 11.11.1999



LANCE NAIK BALWINDER SINGH 21 BN BSF 28.02.1965 – 11.11.1999



LANCE NAIK MILAN PATRA 21 BN BSF 22.11.1965 – 11.11.1999

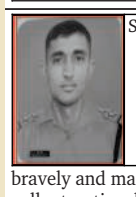


CONSTABLE MANOHAR LAL 21 BN BSF 01.02.1973 – 11.11.1999



CONSTABLE NIHAL SINGH 21 BN BSF 15.11.1970– 11.11.1999

Director General and all Ranks of Border Security Force remember its gallant Subordinate officer Inspector Hazara Ram and Lance Naik Jaibir Singh, Lance Naik Balwinder Singh, Lance Naik Milan Patra, Constable Manohar Lal and Constable Nihal Singh on their Balidan Diwas. On this day, They sustained fatal bullet injuries while fighting militants in Sopore, J&K and made ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.



SUB INSPECTOR MAHENDER SINGH, GM 35 BN BSF 15.07.1991 – 11.11.2018

Director General and all Ranks of Border Security Force remember its gallant Subordinate officer Sub Inspector Mahender Singh on his Balidan Diwas. On this day, He sustained fatal injuries while fighting Naxals in area of Koyalibeda, Chhattisgarh. He fought bravely and made ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. His sacrifice and gallant action have been aptly recognized by GOI by awarding him with Medal for Gallantry (Posthumously).

CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE



Veer Balidani Constable Mohd. Sadik 74 Bn

DG and all ranks of #CRPF pay solemn tribute to the supreme sacrifice of Constable Mohd. Sadik (74 Bn). On #ThisDay in 2001, though on leave, he valiantly volunteered to lead an Army team to a terrorist hideout in Poonch, J&K, laying down his life in the line of duty. CRPF salutes the braveheart and pledges never to let his sacrifice go in vain.



Veer Balidani Sub Inspector Mohd. Ishaq Khan 116 BN 22-1-1951 To 11-11-2002



Veer Balidani Constable /Driver Pradeep Singh 70 BN 5-12-1968 To 11-11-2002



Veer Balidani Constable Tuntun Kumar 116 BN 2-4-1977 To 11-11-2002



Veer Balidani Head Constable Manohar Mandal 70 BN 5-3-1951 To 11-11-2002



Veer Balidani Head Constable Ingle Sadashiv Laxman 70 BN 1-7-1961 To 11-11-2002



Veer Balidani Constable Balbir Singh 116 BN 2-7-1969 To 11-11-2002



Veer Balidani Constable Thirumallaiah 109 BN 6-10-1967 To 11-11-2002



Veer Balidani Constable Raj Mohd. 109 BN 6-1-1982 To 11-11-2002

DG and all Ranks of #CRPF pay solemn tribute to the eight brave personnel who made the supreme sacrifice after sustaining grievous injuries when militants detonated a powerful IED targeting a CRPF convoy in Doda district, J&K on 11 November 2002. CRPF salutes the bravehearts and pledges never to let their sacrifice go in vain.



Veer Balidani Head Constable V. Climond Joseph 186 Bn 9-5-1971 To 11-11-2013

DG and all Ranks of #CRPF pay solemn tribute to Head Constable V. Climond Joseph of 186 Bn, who made the supreme sacrifice while valiantly foiling a Maoist ambush in dist. Dantewada, Chhattisgarh, on 11 November 2013. CRPF salutes the braveheart and pledges never to let his sacrifice go in vain.

इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank
इलाहाबाद ALLAHABAD

Zonal Office, Kolkata North
GD-377/378, Salt Lake, Sector III
Kolkata-700 106

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

APPENDIX- IV-A" [See proviso to rule 8(6)]

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on **15-12-2026** for recovery of due to the Indian Bank.

Sl. No.	a. Name of the Account/ Borrower b. Name of the Branch	Description of the charged/ mortgaged Property	a. Reserve Price b. Earnest Money Deposit c. Bid Increment Amount d. Property ID No. e. Encumbrances, if any f. Possession (Symbolic/ Physical) g. Amount Outstanding
1.	**a) Borrower: Smt Shyamasree Dasgupta** W/O Saptarshi Dasgupta and Shri Saptarshi Dasgupta S/O Somenath Dasgupta, Address- Entire 2nd Floor, KMC Premises no 87 / 12 /243D /2 ,Raja Subodh Chandra Mullick Road , KMC Ward no 100 ,PS Jadavpur, PO Naktala Kolkata 700047, **b) Kolkata Burrabazar Branch**	All that a self-contained Residential Flat on the 2nd Floor measuring a super built up area of 860 sq ft more of less at Premises no 87/12/243D/2, Raja Subodh Chandra mullick Road ,ward no 100,PO Naktala, PS Jadavpur at present Netaji Nagar, South 24 parganas, Kolkata 700047 registered vide Deed of Conveyance Book-I ,Volume number 1605-2023,page from 56852 to 56881 being no 160501560 for the year 2023. **The Boundary of the Building -** ON THE NORTH: Premises no D/90 Ramgarh, Kolkata, ON THE SOUTH: 15 Wide Road, ON THE EAST : Premises no D/89, Ramgarh, Kolkata, ON THE WEST : Premises no D90/1, Ramgarh Kolkata **The Boundary of the Flat -** ON THE NORTH: Stair Case and partly open to sky, ON THE SOUTH : Open to sky, ON THE EAST : Open to sky, ON THE WEST : Open to sky	**a. Rs. 45,67,000/- b. Rs. 4,56,700 /- c. Rs. 10,000.00 d. IDIB7659146871** e. Not Known to us **f. Symbolic Possession g. Rs. 45,42,200/- (Rupees Forty-Five Lakh Forty-Two Thousand Two Hundred Only) as on 09.12.2025**
2.	**a) Borrower: MR. Saurabh Chakravorty S/O Alak Kant Chakraborty and Mrs. RANU Chakraborty W/O Saurabh Chakraborty,** Address- Flat No. – 32, R-60 Centanary Housing Society, Premises No. A/1/60/13, Baishnabghata Patuli Township, R Block, Kolkata – 700094 **b) Burrabazar branch,**	All That piece and parcel of one self contained residential apartment No. D-2/32 in Block R-60 on the Third Floor (cemented) measuring 55.27 sqm equivalent to 595 square feet super built up area including proportionate common areas of staircase in "D" type consisting of two bed rooms, one kitchen, one verandah, one living-cum-dining, one toilet and one loft situated under Centenary Co Operative Housing Society, Block R, Plot no. 60, Baishnab ghata Patuli Housing Project, Kolkata 700094, J. L. No. 29, being KMC premises no. A/1/60/13, Ward No. 110 of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation within the jurisdiction of Patuli Police Station. **This property butted and bounded by:** North- Road, South– R 51, East- R 61, West- R 59	**a. Rs. 22,60,000/- b. Rs. 2,26,000/- c. Rs. 10,000.00 d. IDIB7063956665** e. Not Known to us **f. Symbolic Possession g. Rs. 10,05,690.00 (Rupees Ten Lakhs Five Thousand Six hundred and Ninty Only) as on 02.06.2026**

Date and Time of the E Auction : Date: 15.12.2026 , Time: 11.00 A.M. to 04.00 P.M.

Bidders are advised to visit the website **(https://www.baanknet.com)** of our e auction service provider PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. to participate in online bid. For Technical Assistance Please call 8291220220. For Registration status and for EMD status please email to support.baanknet@psballiance.com.

For property details and photograph of the property and auction terms and conditions please visit: **https://www.baanknet.com** and for clarifications related to this portal, please contact PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd, Contact No. 8291220220.

Bidders are advised to use Property ID Number mentioned above while searching for the property in the website with **https://www.baanknet.com**

Date: 04.11.2026 / 06.11.2026
Place: Kolkata

Authorised Officer
Indian Bank

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 **1200 sq.ft. ± 10%** variance in carpet area in ready possession/under construction(to be completed within 2 months) **at Kaikhali in North 24 Parganas District of West Bengal, preferably in VIP Road** 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 26.11.2026 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.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

FOR PROVIDING MRI INVESTIGATION FACILITY TO THE PATIENTS OF CENTRAL HOSPITAL, S. E. RAILWAY, GARDEN REACH, KOLKATA 700 043 FOR A PERIOD OF TWO (02) YEARS

"Medical Director, Central Hospital, S. E. Railway, Garden Reach, Kolkata-70043 hereby invites "Expression of interest (EOI)" from the interested and reputed diagnostic centres/Hospitals for short-listing the interested parties to provide MRI investigation facility (as detailed in Annexure-A) to the railway beneficiaries of Central Hospital, S.E. Railway. Garden Reach. Kolkata-700043. The successful service provider(s) will formulate a mutual agreement with the Medical Director and will work on the basis of terms and condition of the MOU(Memorandum of Understanding) immediately from the date of finalization of the MOU. The responses on the prescribed format (as enclosed in Annexure -B) may be submitted to Medical Director, Central Hospital, S.E. Railway, Garden Reach. Kolkata-700043 on or before **11.12.2026** (at 18.00 hrs). The details will be available through Website: **www.ser.indianrailways.gov.in** → Medical → Department

(PR-999) **Medical Director Central Hospital/Garden Reach**

South Eastern Railway
We Serve with a smile



indianexpress.com

I arrive at a conclusion not an assumption.

Inform your opinion with detailed analysis.

***The Indian* Express.**
For the Indian Intelligent.

The Indian EXPRESS
JOURNALISM OF COURAGE

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda

Kolkata Zonal Office, "Baroda Tower" 5th & 6th Floor
Plot No. 38/2, Block GN, Sector V, Salt Lake City, Kolkata 700 091

TENDER

Bank of Baroda invites tender for sale of its 3 nos. Bank's old Cars on "AS IS WHERE BASIS IS & AS IS WHAT IS BASIS". For further details, log on to the tender section of Bank's website

https://bankofbaroda.bank.in/tenders

Last Date of Document / EMD Submission: **01.12.2026 upto 3.30 PM**

Corrigendum, if any, shall be published on Bank's website only.

All bidders are requested to visit Bank's website regularly in their own interest till last day of submission.

Date: 10.11.2026
Place: Kolkata

General Manager (Kolkata Zone)

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

KMDA TENDER NOTICE
e-NIQ No. 04/KMDA/CIVIL/EE/ECPD-II/E&AM of 2026-27

Online e-Quotation is invited by the Executive Engineer, ECPD-II, E&AM Sector, KMDA, S.T.P. Compound Anandapur, Kolkata-700107, **Description of Work, Unit, Rate to be quoted (in Rs.) upto two decimal, Earnest Money Deposit,** Deployment of 04 Nos Private Guard attendant with necessary equipment for safe guarding of entire premises of Mahasweta Devi Archive at GD-30 against theft, unauthorized activities etc. including dresses as per direction of E.I.C., Per head Per DAY, To be quoted in INR (Per head Per DAY), **Rs.60,600/-** amount to be paid Online (Net Banking / NEFT / RTGS), **Last date & time for online Bid Submission:** 04.12.2026 Time 15.00 Hrs., for details contact the above office or visit both websites.**(KMDA-744)**
www.kmda.wb.gov.in
www.wbtenders.gov.in ICA/T19843(3)/2026

TAMILNADU MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Tamilnadu Undertaking)
No. 417, Pantheon Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008. Phone: 044-2819 1890, 2819 0259
Website: www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in E-Mail: gmdrug.tnmsc@tn.gov.in, mngrpurdrug.tnmsc@tn.gov.in

Online Tenders is invited by the Tender Inviting Authority, Tamilnadu Medical Services Corporation Ltd., Chennai – 600008, from the bidders meeting the eligibility criteria indicated in the tender document for the supply of **Emicizumab Injection** to TNMSC Ltd under rate contract system for one year from the date of acceptance of the tender.

Sl. No.	Description	e-Tender Reference	Tender Floating Period	e-Tender Submission Duration	Date and time of online opening of Technical Bids
1.	Online Tender for the supply of **Emicizumab Injection** to TNMSC Limited under rate contract system for one year from the date of acceptance	e-027/M(P)/ EMIZ-INJ/ TNMSC/2026, Dated 11.11.2026	11.11.2026 at 4.00 PM to 26.11.2026 upto 3.00 PM	16.11.2026 at 10.00 AM to 26.11.2026 upto 3.00 PM	26.11.2026 at 4.00 PM

The tender document can be downloaded and the tender shall be submitted at **https://tntenders.gov.In/.** The tender document can also be downloaded at **www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in** for reference purpose.

DIPR/3483/Tender/2026

Tender Inviting Authority / General Manager (Drugs)

GOVT. OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
Office of the Additional Chief Engineer
Vansadhara Nagabali Basin, Paralakhemundi
(email Id: se_sicpkd@yahoo.com)

32001/1301/2627

e- Procurement Notice No. ACEVNB-07/2026-27

1	Type of works	:	Improvement of service embankment road and Canal lining
2	Total number of Packages	:	01(One) No.
3	Estimated Cost	:	Rs.456.23 Lakhs
4	Bid Identification No.	:	ACE, VNB(CCD)-01/2026-27
5	Period of completion	:	11 (Eleven) months
6	Availability & submission of bids oriline	:	From 11.00 AM of 12.11.2026 to 5.00 PM of 03.12.2026
7	Date of Opening of Technical Bids	:	04.12.2026 at 11.00 AM. in the, O/O the Additional Chief Engineer, Vansadhara Nagabali Basin, Paralakhemundi.
8	Procurement Officer	:	Additional Chief Engineer, Vansadhara Nagabali Basin, Paralakhemundi.
9	Further details can be seen from Govt. Website **www.tendersorissa.gov.in** and any addendum/ corrigendum/ cancellation will be published in the said website.		

Sd/-
Additional Chief Engineer
Vansadhara Nagabali Basin Paralakhephundi

OIPR-32001/32417/1/26-27/0009

SOUTH COAST RAILWAY
VISAKHAPATNAM
Follow us on @SCoRailway
Website: scor.indianrailways.gov.in

PUB/SCoR-482

Tender Notice No.08/2026, Dt.06.11.2026
Supply of Stores Items, E-Procurement Tender Notice

The Following Tenders Have Been Floated Online. Tenders Are Requested To Visit The Website www.Ireps.Gov.In And Submit Their Offers Online. The Tender Description, Qty, EMD, SD May Be Seen In Website. Offers Manually Will Not Accepted. Offers By Post Will Not Be Entertained. Tender Closing is 14.30 Hrs Of the Tender "For All Indigenous Offers, EMD Will Be Accepted Only Via Online System as Available On www.ireps.gov.in."

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty (Nos)	Due Date and Time
01	30261182	LONGITUDINAL BEAM(SIZE: 5x384x3935 mm) AS PER ICF DRG. NO. T-1-1-650	930 Nos	26.11.2026 14.30
02	LS 265092	Silico Manganese top side bearer liner to RDSO Drg No: WD-20024 - S/2,Item-11,alt-01.Spec: IS: 3885 Part-1,1992Gr-4, Hardness 380-420 BHN.	8640 Nos	30.11.2026 14.30
03	38261157	BOLSTER LINER (CASNUB 22W) to RDSO DRG No.SK-77578, ITEM-2, ALT-6.	182529	23.11.2026 14.30
04	38261147	WIDE JAW ADAPTER (AAR STANDARD WIDE JAW CLASS 'E') CONFORMING TO RDSO SPEC. No. AB/RB-39-2002 (Rev.4) OF FEB. 2018.	4985	24.11.2026 14.30
05	38261134	SIDE FRAME FRICTION LINER CONFORMING TO RDSO Spec. No. WD-21-CASNUB-22NLB-BOGIE-93 (REV-3 of May 2026) to RDSO DRG No.SK.69594 ITEM-7,Alt-39. Note: Manufacturer's initial, month & year of manufacturing shall be marked by Metal laser engraving/Dot peen marking in 6 mm size & 0.5 mm depth minimum.	29193	25.11.2026 14.30
06	38262322	AAR APPROVED UPGRADED CLASS E (6) "X11")CARTRIDGE TAPERED ROLLER BEARING (CTRB) COMPLETE FOR USE ON FREIGHT STOCK OF INDIAN RAILWAYS TO RDSO STR NO. AB/RB-40-2016 REV. 2.	5275	23.11.2026 14.30
07	LN265803	Supply of Vinyl Films (Polymeric Calendared graphic Film option-A) for advertising on Exterior of Railway coaches	140 Nos	25.11.2026 14.30
08	6026PT020	PRICE AGREEMENT FOR MANUFACTURING AND SUPPLY OF 1 IN 16 TWS TURNOUT FOR 22.9T AXLE LOAD 1 IN 16 WELDABLE CAST MANGANES	15 sets	29.12.2026 15:00
09	6026PT023	PRICE AGREEMENT FOR MANUFACTURE AND SUPPLY OF SPRING SETTING DEVICE FOR USE WITH 60E1AI THICK WEB SWITCHES B.G.	427 Nos	22.12.2026 14:30
10	6026PT026	PRICE AGREEMENT FOR MANUFACTURE AND SUPPLY OF NCR GRSP for 1 in 8.5 T/O (T/O-T-9841)-25T	1195 sets	15.12.2026 14:30
11	LW265028	Supply and installation of X-Ray Baggage/Parcel/Cargo Scanner with Hydraulic Scissor Table, a suitable Computer, a minimum of I KVA UPS, Label printer, and Label Rolls, along with the required Civil and Electrical works as specified in the enclosed specifications	02 Nos	23.11.2026

Beside Above Mentioned Tenders There Are Other Tenders Having Value **Above Rs. 50 Lakhs** for details Please Visit Railway Website.

SCoR-A540 **Principal Chief Materials Manager/Visakhapatnam**

VEER SURENDRA SAI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY BURLA

44001/78/2627

P.O. Engineering College, Burla, (Siddhi Vihar), Dist: Sambalpur, Odisha -768 018, (India)

Website :www.vssut.ac.in, E-mail: registrar@vssut.ac.in, Ph: (0663)2430573,Fax-2430592

No.: VSSUT/EE/902/2026 **Date: 09/11/2026**

TENDER CALL NOTICE

Sealed bids, in two separate covers (Technical bid and Financial bid) are invited from original manufacturers / authorized suppliers/ authorized dealers for the supply, installation, commissioning, Maintenance and demonstration of various equipment for **Advanced Renewable Energy Systems Laboratory (ARESL): PV Emulator, DSO, Probe&Sensors, Electronic Loads etc for the Dept. of Electrical Engineering",** VSSUT, Burla, Sambalpur, Odisha. The tenders shall reach the office of the undersigned through **Speed/Registered** post /Courier services only on or before **02/12/2026 up to 4.30PM.**

For more details, please visit our university website **www.vssut.ac.in.** The authority the reserve right to accept or reject all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-

OIPR/44001/44006/1/26-27/0029 **REGISTRAR**

Form No. 3
[See Regulation - 13 (1)(a)]

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL KOLKATA (DRT 2)
7th Floor, Jeevan Sudha Building, 42-C Jawahar Lal Nehru Road, Kolkata - 700071

Case No.: OA/15/2024

Summons under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, read with sub-rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993.

Exh. No.: **7511**

BANK OF MAHARASHTRA
VS
VICKY SINGH AHUJA PROPEITOR OF M S SWASTIK ENTERPRISE

To,
(1) VICKY SINGH AHUJA PROPEITOR OF M S SWASTIK ENTERPRISE SON OF LATE JAGIR SINGH, B.B COLLAGE ROAD, NEAR BULE DART OFFICE, ASANSOL, Paschim Burdwan, WEST BENGAL - 713303
Also At.
F-1, 1ST FLOOR, CHAITYANYA NIWAS NEAR MILAN SAMITY CLUB BY LANE, 1 NO MOHISALIA, ASANSOL PASCHIM BURDWAN WEST BENGAL - 713303
Also At.
MANOHARBAHAL, PO - KANYAPUR PASCHIM BURDWAN, WEST BENGAL - 713303

SUMMONS

WHEREAS, OA/15/2024 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/Registrar on **31/08/2026.**

WHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons/notice on the said Application under section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of **Rs. 3610007.67/-** (application along with copies of documents etc. annexed).

In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under:

(i) to show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted;

(ii) to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application;

(iii) you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties;

(iv) you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal;

(v) you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realised by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets.

You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before **Registrar on 07/12/2026 at 10:30 A.M.** failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence. **For Paper Book follow the following Url: https://cis.drt.gov.in/drtlive/paperbook.php?ri=2026556760905**

Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date : 05/09/2026.

Sd/-
Assistant Registrar
Kolkata DRT - II

इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank
इलाहाबाद ALLAHABAD

ZONAL OFFICE : MIDNAPORE
Station Road, Opposite Old Water Tank
Paschim Midnapore, Pin - 721 101

POSSESSION NOTICE

(For Immovable Property)
[Under Rule 8(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002]

Whereas

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the **Indian Bank** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with rule 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a **Demand Notice Dated 13.08.2026** calling upon

1. **Mr. Sambhu Chakraborty (Borrower & Mortgagor)**
S/o. Bimal Kumar Chakraborty, Village - Gopikantabarh
P. O. & P. S. - Pingla, District - Paschim Medinipur, Pin - 721140

with our **Pingla Branch** to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice being to **Rs. 12,78,244.00** (Rupees Twelve Lakh Seventy Eight Thousand Two Hundred Forty Four only) **as on 13.08.2026** within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under Section 13(4) of the said Act with rule 8 and 9 of the said rules, on this **09th Day of November of the year 2026.**

The Borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **Indian Bank** for an amount of to **Rs. 12,78,244.00** (Rupees Twelve Lakh Seventy Eight Thousand Two Hundred Forty Four only) **as on 13.08.2026** and interest thereon.

"We draw attention to the provisions of Section 13(8) of the SARFAESI Act and the Rules framed there under which deals with your rights of redemption over the securities."

Description of the Immovable Property

Mortgaged Assets : Land & Building situated at Mouza - Pingla, J. L. Number - 83 on Plot Number - 2318, Khatian Numbers - 224/3, 592, 875/2 , P. O. - Pingla, P. S. - Pingla, Under 2 No. Jamna Gram Panchayat, District - Paschim Medinipur, Pin - 721140, measuring an area of 2.50 Decimal standing **in the name of Mr. Sambhu Chakraborty** vide Sale Deed Number 00211/2000 dated 11.01.2000 & 02783/1999 dated 21-05-1999. **Boundaries -** North : Open Land of Acramuddinn, South : Open Land of Pradip Samanta, East : Open Land of Samar Chakraborty, West : Main Road.

Date : 09.11.2026
Place : Kharagpur

Authorised Officer (Chief Manager)
Indian Bank

PRESS TENDER NOTICE

PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

TENDER NOTICE

The Engineer-in-Chief, PHED, Aizawl, on behalf of the Governor of Mizoram invites bids in two envelope system with sealed Turnkey tender in prescribed form affixing court fee stamp worth not less than Rs. 7.50/- (non refundable) for non tribal and up-to-date House Tax Payee Certificate for tribal from reputed contractors experienced in similar type of works. The last date of sale of tender is 23/11/2026 at 14:00 hrs. The tender will be received in the office of the undersigned up to 12:00 hours on 25/11/2026. The pre bid meeting will be held on 17/11/2026 at 14:00 hours. The tender so received will be opened on 25/11/2026 at 14:00 hours in presence of the intending tenderer or his authorized representative.

Notice No.	Name of Work	Approximate Value of Work (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Time of Completion	Cost of Tender (in Rs.)
1	Survey, Design, supply, installation, construction, testing & commissioning of 2.0 MLD STP cum 10 KLD FSTP using Co-treatment (ASP) system for Lunglei town with all contingent civil, electrical, mechanical, piping and instrumentation works (including 1 month trial run + 1 month training of operators + 1 year defect liability period)	3,71,20,000.00	7,42,400.00	4 months	1,500.00

Tender document may be obtained from the office of the undersigned on any working days from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM on application and on payment of tender cost as mentioned above (non-refundable) without which, the tender shall be summarily rejected. The undersigned reserves the right to reject any or all of the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-
ZODINTHARI
Engineer-in-Chief, PHED
Aizawl, Mizoram.

IPR NO 323

Pak debutants leave Sri Lanka trailing by 320 runs in 1st Test



Saqib Khan took two wickets. AP

Associated Press
Rawalpindi, November 10

PAKISTAN'S DEBUTANTS continued to inspire to leave Sri Lanka trailing by 320 runs with seven first-innings wickets in hand after two days of the first cricket Test on Tuesday.

Fast bowler Saqib Khan, one of the four newcomers, brought the greenish pitch to life with 2-54 as Sri Lanka reached 114-3 before bad light brought an early closure for the second successive day. Nearly 26 overs were not bowled.

Only 67.2 overs were possible on Day 1 when Pakistan reached 281-5 with play continuing in floodlights for almost 45 minutes on both days at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium.

Pakistan declared at 434-9 midway into the second session on Tuesday after five half-centuries - three to debutants - and a 48.

"There are about 140 chances that have missed the edge and beaten the bat from both sides, so probably says enough that there's a chance of a result," Sri Lanka fielding and spin coach Jordan Gregory said.

"So far Kamindu and DDS have put on a good partnership and we would like to see that partnership progress." Pakistan's most experienced seamer Mohammad Abbas and Saqib hit the right lengths with the new ball and both struck in their second overs to have Sri Lanka reeling at 12-2.

Abbas extracted movement from his off stump line and found the outside edge of Pasindu Sooriyabandara, who was promoted to open the innings in his third test and out for a duck.

Saqib struck off his ninth delivery in test cricket when he squared up the experienced Dinesh Chandimal from a perfect length ball that angled across the right hander and edged the shoulder of the bat to the slips cordon.

Sri Lanka slumped further in the shortened final session when Lahiru Udara, who struck seven fours in his aggressive 42, played a loose drive to Saqib and edged to wicketkeeper Ghazi Ghori only two balls after a reprieve from Mohammad Taha, who grassed a one-handed catch at gully.

Mendis and de Silva survived under floodlights and added 49 runs for their unfinished fourth-wicket stand.

BRIEF SCORES: Pakistan 434/9 declared (Saud Shakeel 93; Tayyab Arif 57; Asitha Fernando 3/107) lead Sri Lanka 114/3 (Lahiru Udara 42, Kamindu Mendis 40 not out; Saqib Khan 2/52) by 320 runs.

> "I have a legacy to live up to as he (Virender Sehwag) only likes big hundreds"
> **AARYAVIR SEHWAG,** VIRENDER SEHWAG'S SON

Sehwag Jr. hits big daddy ton

Aaryavir's 160 off 168 balls set the tone as India colts defeated UAE by 70 runs to book U-19 Asia Cup semifinal berth



Aaryavir Sehwag currently leads the run-scoring charts in U-19 Asia Cup with 252. BCCI/X

Express News Service
Mumbai, November 10

AARYAVIR SEHWAG had shown glimpses of his potential in India's first two matches of the Under-19 Asia Cup, scoring 70 not out against Nepal and 22 against Pakistan. On Tuesday, the Indian opener went a step further, smashing 160 off 168 balls to power India Under-19 to a 70-run win over UAE Under-19 in Al Amerat and secure a place in the semifinal.

The right-hander struck 17 fours and seven sixes in an innings that gathered pace after his century. Sehwag took time to settle against the new ball, with UAE pacer Naseem Khan probing away outside the off stump.

"I wanted to make a big score. I had promised someone to make a big score today and thankfully I made it. And that person is my dad (Virender Sehwag). I told my dad I will get a big hundred. I have a legacy to live up to as he only likes big hundreds," Aaryavir said in the post-match presentation.

He got off the mark in the fourth over, whipping Hadayatullah Khan through mid-wicket for four. That helped him settle, and a couple of overs later, he struck consecutive boundaries off pacer Noorullah Ayobi, charging down the pitch to hit him over mid-wicket and cover.

UAE had opportunities to end his innings early but failed to take them. In the 16th over, while on 41, wicketkeeper Muhammad Saad put down two chances off consecutive deliveries from Ayobi.

Those reprieves proved costly. Sehwag joined hands with VK Vineeth and the pair laid the foundation for a big

The right-hander struck 17 fours and seven sixes in an innings that gathered pace after his century.

total. They added 193 runs for the second wicket, with Sehwag bringing up his half-century off 69 balls with a six off Ayobi in the 18th over.

The slow surface made stroke-making difficult, forcing Sehwag and Vineeth to rely on singles and twos to keep the scoreboard moving through the middle overs. Sehwag brought up his century off 131 balls in the 34th over before shifting gears.

"The wicket was turning a little. I started off and decided to play long and bat for 40 odd overs. There were challenges on the wicket. I didn't get bothered about the dot balls, as I knew I would catch up," Aaryavir added.

He began using his feet more freely, launching the spinners over the leg-side and driving over the infield. Left-arm wrist spinner Uddish Suri bore the brunt of his assault in the 37th over, conceding 21 runs as Sehwag struck two fours and two sixes. The opener moved from 100 to 150 in just 29 deliveries.

Saad gave Sehwag another reprieve, on 136, in the 40th over. But Naseem eventually dismissed him in the 45th, with the opener mistiming a pull against a slower, short-of-length delivery and finding Uddish Suri at mid-wicket.

Chasing 310, UAE were steady right through the innings, but never put the foot on the accelerator to trouble the Indians. Ahmed Khudadad top-scored with a run-a-ball 74 and put on 90 runs for the seventh wicket with Ayobi, but the lack of support from the other batsmen meant they fell short in the end. India will face Afghanistan in the semifinal on Thursday.

BRIEF SCORES: India Under-19 309/7 in 50 overs (Aaryavir Sehwag 160, VK Vineeth 67; Naseem Khan 4/48) beat UAE Under-19 239 all out in 50 overs (Ahmed Khudadad 74, Noorullah Ayobi 39; Ishan Sood 4/37) by 70 runs.

Father once sold *chole-kulche*, son now stars for India U-19



Arjun Rajput scored 107 in 85 balls against Pakistan on Sunday. BCCI/X

Shuvaditya Bose
New Delhi, November 10

HOTI RAM Rajput is a massive cricket aficionado. When he was not busy selling chole-kulche on his *rerhi* (roadside cart) outside the DAV College in Jalandhar, the Virender Sehwag fan would spend his leisure playing cricket. Though, he could never harbour the dream of following one of his favourites into the blue. Today, his son Arjun Rajput plays for the same Indian team as Sehwag's son, Aaryavir.

"My financial circumstances were such that I have had to work and earn since a very young age. I am a cricket fan, and loved the Sachin-Sehwag *jodi*, but dreaming of becoming a cricketer was beyond our reach. My concern was to earn so that I could get food on the plate," he tells *The Indian Express* from Jalandhar.

On Sunday, India lost to Pakistan by three wickets in the Under-19 Asia Cup in Oman. Arjun struck 107 from 85 balls on a surface where none of his teammates could find their feet. It was 51.4% of India's 208.

For his coach Vikram Sidhu, it was not an unprecedented innings. "He has played such one-man-army knocks many a time in his career," he tells *The Indian Express*. It began in 2015, when Hoti Ram brought eight-year-old Arjun to Sidhu's previous academy, the Harbhajan Singh Institute of Cricket. Arjun had been inspired by his elder brother Karan, who was by then representing Jalandhar in inter-district age-level tournaments.

"My father's passion for cricket rubbed off on me, so I started playing. Eventually, Arjun also wanted to play after watching me. Things were not great at my home financially, but my father encouraged Arjun to pursue his dream, saying he would manage everything," Karan says.

It was not always manageable. Sidhu says teaching children the basics means repeating yourself many times. With Arjun, "it was always one and done". "We knew he was special. We had high hopes. He would never miss a session, until he stopped coming altogether all of a sudden."

"Kumar sir, another coach in the academy, assumed that his father might not have been able to gather funds for the academy fees. At that point, I decided that I will not be taking a single penny from Arjun. Not only cricket, but his family also struggled with school fees. My academy had a tie-up with a school called the Ivy World School. Their fees is about Rs 6-7 lakh per annum, but I cut a deal with the principal. I told him that I will give him a player who is bound to represent India, but in return, he would have to waive off Arjun's entire fees."

Hoti Ram no longer operates a cart. It has been replaced by a kulche bakery with many bakers on his payroll. "I have never stopped my kids from playing sports; his elder brother also played cricket, while his elder sister, Kiran, plays tennis. *Maine socha main to nahin khel paya, mere bachche khel le* (I thought I couldn't, but let my kids play). There have been many difficulties, but now that I see him playing for India, the hard work makes sense."

Karan, now 27, quit cricket four years ago to aid his ailing father in his work. Family responsibilities never stood in his brother's way. "He was playing for Punjab U-16 at the time. His coaches would tell me that my brother has huge potential. I got convinced when I saw him scoring five consecutive centuries. That was the moment I told myself, 'This boy is built to play for the country.'"

Arjun captained Punjab U-16, Sidhu says, and under him the state won its first-ever U-16 title. There was also a missed trip to Dubai. "Arjun was very excited to go, and we had everything booked for him. But unfortunately, a spelling mistake in the visa made him miss that trip. He was crestfallen, but I told him more opportunities will come his way. A few months later, we went to South Africa. No one could score runs on those wickets, but Arjun won us games single-handedly and ended up getting the Player of the Tournament award."

Hoti Ram could not afford to harbour dreams when he was young. Now, he does. "My dream will truly be fulfilled when my son plays for senior Indian team. We want him to bring home the World Cup."

• BRIEFLY



Ishan Kishan (L) and Axar Patel look out of a bus window. CREIMAS

NZ v India ODI at Hamilton abandoned due to rain

THE THIRD One-Day International between India and New Zealand in Hamilton was abandoned due to rain on Tuesday, with the tourists retaining their 2-0 lead in the five-match series. The outcome ended New Zealand's streak of 11 consecutive home ODI series victories since 2019. Rain delayed the start of the match, which was initially reduced to a 40-over contest at toss. India captain Shubman Gill elected to bowl but play could not start and the match was eventually called off following multiple ground inspections by the umpires. Mount Maunganui hosts the last two ODIs on Friday and Sunday. REUTERS

Pant likely to leave for NZ on November 12

INDIA'S TEST team is set to get a boost as wicketkeeper batter Rishabh Pant in all likelihood will get fitness clearance from the BCCI Centre of Excellence and leave for New Zealand on Thursday. "Pant is completely fit. He is undergoing the match simulation drills at the CoE today and tomorrow. Upon successful completion of both rounds, Pant will leave for Wellington," a BCCI source privy to the development told PTI on conditions of anonymity. PTI

Savita makes way for Bansari in ACT Hockey

SAVITA PUNIA is rested from the ACT, replaced by Bansari Solanki in the women's hockey squad. **SQUAD: Goalkeepers:** Bansari Solanki, Bichu Devi Kharibam; **Defenders:** Nikki Pradhan, Jyoti, Jyoti Singh, Sushila Chanu, Pooja Sahoo Lalthantluangi; **Midfielders:** Rutuja Dadaso, Sunelita Toppo, Salima Tete (c), Neha, Sakshi Rana, Baljeeet Kaur, Ishika; **Forwards:** Navneet Kaur, Deepika, Beauty Dungdung, Lalremsiami, Mumtaz Khan. PTI

AFC U17 Asian Cup qualifying campaign begins

INDIA WILL begin their AFC U17 Asian Cup Qualifiers' Group E campaign against Singapore on Wednesday, aiming to secure back-to-back appearances in the continental football tournament. Hosts Malaysia, Palestine and Guam are the other teams in the fray. India will next face Guam, followed by Palestine and then hosts Malaysia in their remaining Group E fixtures. Only the group winner will progress to the AFC U17 Asian Cup. PTI

Treesa-Gayatri pair advances in Japan Open

THE INDIAN women's doubles pair of Gayatri Gopichand and Treesa Jolly progressed to the pre-quarterfinals with a straight-game win over home favourites Hinata Suzuki and Nao Yamakita in the opening round of the Kumamoto Masters Japan Super 500 badminton tournament on Tuesday. The Indian combination, which won a bronze at this year's BWF World Championships in New Delhi, prevailed 21-17, 21-14 in 42 minutes in a round-of-32 clash. PTI

Mbappe in good spirits after difficult spell

KYLIAN MBAPPE has put a difficult period behind him and is focused on helping his team ahead of the Nations League, defender Ibrahima Konate said. Mbappe returned to the France squad after missing their last 3 matches through injury, having failed to win the Ballon d'Or award and attracting criticism in China over his comments relating to Mao Zedong. "He's been decisive. He's absolutely vital for us in Madrid." Konate told reporters. REUTERS

PTPA presses player fatigue concerns

THE PROFESSIONAL Tennis Players Association (PTPA) reiterated its criticism of the tennis schedule on Monday, saying world number one Elena Rybakina withdrew from the season-ending WTA Finals as "her body had nothing left to give". "She finishes 2026 with two Grand Slam titles and four titles overall. And still, by the season's final event in November, her body had nothing left to give," the PTPA said in a post on social media. REUTERS

{ SANDPAPERGATE }

Before Cape Town, ball tampering took place at Port Elizabeth: Khawaja

The ball was doing so much that the former Australian opener thought 'even I could reverse-swing this ball'

Express News Service
Mumbai, November 10

USMAN KHAWAJA has lifted the lid on an episode that preceded Australia's infamous 2018 ball-tampering scandal in Cape Town, claiming that sandpaper had also been used on the ball during the second Test against South Africa in Port Elizabeth.

In his autobiography, *Sabr*, Khawaja recalls Cameron Bancroft working on the ball during the interval before Australia took four wickets for 28 runs in the next session. The ball was moving so sharply that, Khawaja writes, he thought, "even I could reverse swing this ball". His verdict on the extent of the movement that afternoon was blunt: "It was ridiculous."

Khawaja's revelations drew sharp reactions from former and current players, with some backing his account, others standing by their earlier statements and several questioning whether the full truth about the scandal will ever emerge.



My opinion hasn't changed: Starc

FAST BOWLER Mitchell Starc stood by the statement issued by the bowling group in 2021, saying his recollection had not changed. Speaking at Fox Cricket's summer launch, Starc said: "My opinion hasn't changed. My recollection hasn't changed from what we said in 2021." He reiterated that the bowlers were unaware of a foreign substance being taken onto the field. "We weren't aware it was taken on the field to be tampered with. We saw it on the big screen (for the first time) in Cape Town," he said.



The truth didn't come out: Clark

FORMER AUSTRALIA captain Michael Clarke called for the truth about Sandpapergate to emerge, saying it had not been properly resolved. Speaking to *2DayFM*, Clarke said: "They can't trust what's real. They don't know the truth until this gets reopened and the truth comes out." He pointed to earlier opportunities to clarify events: "We had the chance in 2018. The truth didn't come out. We had the chance in 2021 when (Bancroft) made those comments." He also questioned why current captain Pat Cummins had not spoken publicly about the allegations.



There is so much more to unpack: Gillespie

FORMER AUSTRALIA fast bowler Jason Gillespie said he found it difficult to believe that only three players knew about the 2018 ball-tampering plan, but stopped short of endorsing Khawaja's claim that the entire team was aware of it. Referring to Khawaja's account of addressing the dressing room, Gillespie said in a video posted by ABC Sports: "He said everyone was in that room. I found that really fascinating." Gillespie added: "There is so much more to unpack here. This ain't going away anytime soon," he added.



'Can't believe bowlers were unaware'

FORMER ENGLAND captain Michael Vaughan questioned how Australia's bowlers could have been unaware of what was being done to the ball. In his Telegraph column, he wrote: "We are all aware of who the ball-shiner is in a cricket side, even on a Sunday afternoon playing friendlies for your club team." He added: "You can't tell me the Australian team did not communicate that or the bowlers were totally unaware of what was being done to the ball." Vaughan argued that players were protecting their reputations.



'Nightmare of Cummins & Co.'

FORMER AUSTRALIA captain Mark Taylor said he was unsure whether the latest revelations would establish who knew about the ball-tampering plan. Speaking on WWOS, he said: "I don't know if you're ever going to find out exactly who knew what, where, and when." Taylor also recalled the umpires' examination of the ball in Cape Town: "Two umpires ... inspected the ball and didn't replace the ball, saying there's nothing to see here." He warned that the controversy would be "a nightmare for Pat Cummins and the team leading into the summer of cricket".



'Some wounds never healed properly'

FORMER AUSTRALIA opener David Warner backed Usman Khawaja's account of the 2018 ball-tampering scandal, calling his revelations accurate. "It's 100 per cent accurate what you've said. Now everyone knows the truth. It's out there." In a separate Instagram caption, he wrote: "I stand with my brother Usman Khawaja," adding that "some wounds never properly healed" and that speaking out took courage, "especially when people would rather you stay silent". Warner was one of the three players sanctioned after the Cape Town Test in 2018.

Bhaker, Esha reach 25m pistol finals but falter in Worlds bid

Express News Service
New Delhi, November 10

BOTH MANU Bhaker and Esha Singh reached the final of the 25m Women's pistol but were unable to convert that position into a medal at the World Championships in Doha, or a quota spot for the 2028 LA Olympics. While Esha was the first to exit the eight-woman final, Bhaker persevered through four different shootoffs in an intense competition, and held on until her final two shots where she eventually lost out on the bronze medal to China's Zhang Yueyue. With this India have now faced yet another exit in a forgettable World Championships campaign that has yielded one result of note – 31-year-old first-timer Jaypal Malviya's 10m air pistol silver medal.

South Korea's Yang Jiin struck gold with a world record score of 44. Vietnam's Trinh Thu Vinh took silver with 43, while Yueyue claimed bronze with 34. All three medal winners also secured Olympic quota places.

Both Esha, a multiple Asian Games medallist, and Manu, a double Olympic bronze medallist at the Paris 2024 Games, had qualified for the eight-shooter final after impressive performances in the qualification round, finishing third and sixth respectively. Esha had topped the Indian challenge with 590 over two days. Her score, combined with Manu's 587 and Divya Subbaraju's 584, gave India an aggregate of 1761 to clinch the team gold. South Korea won silver with 1748, while Vietnam took bronze with 1745.

India's medal and Olympic quota hopes now move towards its men's and women's trap teams. However, the women's trap team made a disappointing start, with Asian Games double gold medallist Neeru Dhanda enduring a forgettable opening day in the three-day qualification competition. Neeru, who had won gold at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games, managed scores of 20 and 19 in the first two rounds of 25 shots each to aggregate 39 and languish at 69th among 77 shooters.

(With inputs from PTI)

MOVING AGAINST THE CURRENT

Dhinidhi, the reluctant swimmer not shy of competing for medals

She once dreaded water, but is now a double medallist at the Youth Olympics

Shivani Naik
Mumbai, November 10



Dhinidhi Desinghu won a pair of Youth Olympic bronze medals in Dakar. OIS/JONATHAN NACKSTRAND



"Even in first grade exams, I would finish quickly and submit the paper. Even drawing, handwriting exams — in my mind if I finished fast, I was a winner. In the smallest games, if someone finished ahead of me, in my stomach I would be boiling. I hate losing."

DHINIDHI DESINGHU
ON HER COMPETITIVE SPIRIT

DHINIDHI DESINGHU wasn't born to swim, but her mind has decided she is going to win big at it. So, a pair of Youth Olympics bronzes have followed at Dakar, Senegal—a first for India at the global stage. Not too shabby for someone who doesn't dig sport much, and admits she is so un-coordinated on land that people might question if she's an 'athlete' at all. So she wouldn't go near a field, and instead, study, or play chess or something. In the water, she now feels just fine. Maybe, Dhinidhi was born to swim.

It's fairly well known that the Bangalorean grew up scared of water. Both her parents had to get into the pool to persuade her to even go under water - and 30-40 noisy splashers in the pool agitated her sense of independence. But she was hyper-competitive.

"Even in first grade, small exams, I would finish quickly and submit the paper. Even drawing, handwriting exams - in my mind if I finished fast, I was a winner. Till someone told me if you don't answer all questions, you fail. Even in the smallest games, if someone finished ahead of me, inside my stomach I would be boiling. I hate losing," she explained in a SAI-facilitated interaction after bronzes in 100 and 200m Freestyle.

Indian expectations

Naturally, her first reaction after her hand touched the wall in the 200m race, was disappointment. "They didn't zoom into my face or they'd know. Yes it was PB, everything great, but I wanted either gold or to go under 1:55. It took me days to realise it was a bronze and (I should be happy)," she says.

Choosing swimming where India's history is nothing to speak of, however has helped her dial down on the competitive edginess, given results tend to sober you down.

There is clarity though in how she views the situation and the contradiction inherent in where India stands in the sport, and where she needs to reach.

"Having raced with big names, I admire how they know how to race - not overspeed or over-kick in the first 50, etc. But I don't think genetically Indians can't win," she says defiantly. "It's just mentally you have to get there. We have the same two arms, two legs. We are not from another planet. I've never understood why we haven't come close to Europe, China, Japan--or US and Australia to the next level. We should be able to...why not?"

She knows the 'Why not?' acutely. She explains with candour: "We are actually so behind. By not 5-10 years, but 30-40 years. It sounds like an exaggeration when I say it, but it's not." She knows her swim-numbers. "What were World records 30-years back is what we are doing now," she says.

Swimming inflation

"Swimming inflation is a thing"- she crunches the numbers further. "Indians need to improve by 4-5% just to catch up. In women's we are far away. I hope I'm the person who can do that and change that mentality," she states. "For we've never thought we can come back with medals from the Olympics, Asian Games, and the Commonwealth," she says and adds, "But it's not 1 day magic."

The 'A' entry standard for the 200 free for the Los Angeles Olympics is 1:56.43. Dhinidhi reckons an 'A' cut by a female swimmer could catapult Swimming into prominence like cricket, badminton, athletics, hockey. "It could be bigger than a Youth Olympics medal." She has the 1:56 scribbled on a white board, behind her "pink, too girly room" door.

South African legend Chad le Clos was in the Senegal gallery, and handed her a pin and told her he would follow her 100m race. "I doubt he actually watched," she says. "But he spoke as if he knew me. Or maybe it's just how he talks. I kept that pin in my pocket for both races. It's not always that a legend hands over a pin to you," she recalls.

Dhinidhi briefly missed the life of a teenager, before she realised with clarity that she was different. She also doubted the process wondering why she was doing it all. "Last year changed all that. There's so many girls having a normal childhood - eating whatever they want, doing whatever. School, parties, movies who have 100s of 1000s of friends. But they are not special in any way. I'm one in a billion," she says unabashedly.

She once dreamt of Ivy League, and scores well even without studying 365. "I got 92.7% but wasn't happy," she says. Wanted 96. "I never wanted to stay in India, always wanted to study abroad, because my parents never did. Harvard, Yale, Princeton. The best schools.

As years went by I realised it's not easy to get in. And there's better programs for swimming." Her options are open beyond NCAA, but Virginia Tech, Texas (where Bob Bowman coaches), Louisville and California, Berkley slot in well for her academics.

"If not [for] swimming I'd have been a very different person," she reiterates, threatening to pick chess if not swimming. Dhinidhi's starts have always been slow - "an area to improve" - but she finishes well. She was 5th till 75m, then went all-out to bronze. The turns have improved, the 'catch' is better. "Even small improvements of 0.3 or 0.4 medals ate the difference between a medal and not. I'll do everything needed," she promises.

INTERVIEW: VAISHALI RAMESHBABU

'I see Total Chess as training for Worlds'



Vaishali Rameshbabu is set to compete for the World Championships against Ju Wenjun. FIDE/ MICHAELWALUSZA

Amit Kamath
Budapest, November 10

VAISHALI RAMESHBABU gave a measure of her talent late on Tuesday night by starting her Total Chess pilot event campaign by defeating Hans Niemann in a blitz game. Niemann was part of the seeding process for the tournament that will start in earnest from Wednesday.

In the 24-player field that is assembled in Budapest, Vaishali is among the only two women, along with Bibisara Assaubayeva, in the fray.

Before the start of the blitz section, Vaishali spoke to *The Indian Express* about her preparations for the upcoming Women's World Chess Championship title fight with reigning champion Ju Wenjun, how her training has been going, how she views the Total Chess pilot tournament and more. *Excerpts*:

It's the first time that you are preparing for a World Championship after doing this twice for the Candidates. How is it different preparing for the big one?

We're just thinking about one player every day. The Candidates prep was a lot different; there you have to play seven players in a double round-robin. Here it's just one player in the head-to-head. It's also my first World Championship. I'm also learning a lot of things in the process.

Garry Kasparov once spoke about how when he was playing Anatoly Karpov in his first World Championship, he was thinking so much about Karpov that he started to feel like he was becoming Karpov himself. Is that happening with you?

Maybe (laughs). We will get to know soon enough. But I am also enjoying this process of preparing for it. Maybe once we get closer to the match, it's going to be like that (the way Kasparov was feeling like he was turning Karpov).

Right now I have lots of other tournaments I am playing so I am thinking about those things.

Have you already started having training camps?

I'm preparing to be the best version I can be in the match, so I am constantly working on improving my game.

After the Candidates, you had revealed that you are also working with a psychologist. Is that still continuing?

Yeah, of course. She has been helping me a lot in the last couple of years, but I will keep the name private for now.

When you are playing tournaments these days like the Total Chess pilot, as opposed to when you were playing in tournaments before the Candidates, do you always have that World Championship match at the back of your head?

For me, I see this event (Total Chess) also as a training for my World Championship match. I'm going to play a lot of strong players in this event. It's going to be a challenge everyday. In any format it is going to be a challenge, so I just take this as preparation for the match.

At the Total Chess pilot event, there are 22 male players and two female players including you. How much will that — playing against male players — help in terms of preparing you to face one of the strongest female chess players in history?

Over the last few years, I was also playing in a lot of Grand Prix events, a lot of women's events. So I could not play a lot of Open tournaments like I used to play when I was chasing grandmaster norms, for example.

Now I have gotten used to playing all the top women players... I've played many games against most of them. Playing in Open tournaments does definitely push you to the limit. Even if you get a winning position in an Open tournament against a male player, you're tested until the last move.

You just know you are not going to get any points easily. They are going to keep the pressure on the board. It's now the same in the women's tournaments as well. But obviously the male players at this event are very strong. It will help me improve faster.

You said your preparation is slightly different for the World Championship as compared to what you were doing for the Candidates. Do you mean more hours or more intensity in training?

I think at the end of the day, I have to be in good shape during the tournament. Even if you do some 12-13 hours of training, if your brain is not working well, then there is no point in putting in a lot of hours.

(The writer is in Budapest at the invitation of Total Chess)

F1 to go ahead with races in Qatar, Abu Dhabi

Associated Press
Paris, November 10

FORMULA 1 PLANS to go ahead with its season-ending races in Qatar and Abu Dhabi despite tensions in the Middle East. The status of the two races had been in question since the Iran war forced the Bahrain Grand Prix to be moved to Malaysia and the Saudi Arabian Grand Prix to be canceled.

But F1 has now dropped plans for the Imola circuit in Italy to be a backup option for the season finale, a person with knowledge of the situation said on Tuesday. F1 started making preparations with local authorities at Imola but has told the Italian circuit and the teams that there will be no race there, said the person, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because neither F1 nor the circuit announced the details publicly.

Separately, the president of F1's governing body, the FIA, said "the countdown is on" to race in Qatar and Abu Dhabi as preparations go ahead. "We are ready for Qatar and Abu Dhabi," FIA President Mohammed Ben Sulayem posted on *Instagram*.

"We are fully prepared and committed to delivering two outstanding Grand Prix weekends and a spectacular conclusion to the (F1 championship)." Ben Sulayem, who is from the United Arab Emirates, which includes Abu Dhabi, did not give any details of the preparations or security arrangements. "We are working closely with our partners to ensure everything is in place for our drivers, teams and fans," he added.

Sinner says Aus Open return looking likely

Reuters
Milan, November 10



World No 2 Jannik Sinner has been out of action since Wimbledon in July. REUTERS

WORLD NUMBER two Jannik Sinner is confident he will return in time for next year's Australian Open but will not rush his recovery from the knee injury that curtailed his season, the Italian said on Tuesday.

The 25-year-old has been out of action since capturing the fifth Grand Slam title of his career at Wimbledon in July.

"The goal is to go to Australia; I hope to get there and perhaps play a few tournaments beforehand," Sinner told a press conference in Milan in his role as an Allianz Global Brand Ambassador.

"Right now, I need to follow the protocols without rushing things. I have a lot of faith in the process, and I'm working toward that objective.

"Initially, we had an impossible goal for my return in mind, so we took a different path. I'm a tennis player, not a doctor, so my only option is to trust them. "I miss playing tennis. Right now, however, it is crucial that I take care of my body, because I want to keep playing for another 10 to 15 years."

Norman joins team

Sinner was joined at the event by Darren Cahill, the coach whom he parted ways with last week after four years. Sweden's Magnus Norman has joined Sinner's coaching set-up.

"You have to ask yourself a lot of questions to get inside the mind of the player you're coaching -- that's how you earn his trust," Cahill said. "We've built and shaped an incredible team, but 99% of what's been achieved is down to him. "He's the one who goes out onto the court. Everyone else contributes the final 1%, and that's what makes the difference."

Sinner said Cahill was like a "second dad" and that the two will remain close friends, adding that former world number two Norman shared many similarities with the Australian.

"He worked with (Stan) Wawrinka for many years and has been through a lot," Sinner said. "He accepts the way we are already working, which is important to me so that I don't have to change everything all over again.

"I need to add 1% each year to improve as a player."

Cahill was not involved in the decision to hire Norman.

"There's a tweet I wrote back in 2013 about how Norman has the ability to improve every player he coaches," he said.

"It's important that (coach) Simone Vagnozzi is there to provide continuity.

"I wasn't involved in the selection process, but I believe it's an excellent choice."

END OF AN ERA

The Messi-Ronaldo hyphen-age ends; one with a sunset, other in a sun-storm

Sandip G
New Delhi, November 10





Both Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo have retired from international football, albeit in different circumstances. AP

The climaxes of both Messi and Ronaldo were written even before they became the greatest rivals in football. That Messi would fade sweetly into the night, and Ronaldo fitfully.

WHEN THE opening bell of international football chimes this week, the sport would mourn the passing from the field of two immortals. The planet officially steps into the post-Lionel Messi-Cristiano Ronaldo era. When the national anthem blasts, nostalgia would crawl in, memories would gush forth, tears would be shed, and the men in No 7 and No 10 would look different.

For much of their century, Messi and Ronaldo embodied two opposing spectrums of the sport's fascination to characterise its lead act. In real life they could be even similar, both were bestowed with virtuosic qualities although manifested differently, both had a spiritual devotion for the sport, an obsession that was not bordering on madness, but madness itself, and equals locked in a perpetual battle for greatness. Debates and arguments could rage on forever and not produce a single definitive conclusion on who the first among the equal, was. It doesn't matter, and perhaps stems from the man's instinct to fight. They can't take up arms. So they pick footballers, place them in enemy camps and combat each other in an imagined realm. Both of them could be enjoyed wholesomely—preferences are utterly subjective, depending on taste, sensibility and loyalties.

But like a script penned by a footballing god with a wicked sense for the dramatic, even their farewells could not have been more different. Messi timed his exit just around the right time, when he felt the light that ignited him would soon extinguish. He is 39, had lost a World Cup final that he almost single-handedly carried his team to, he lost his father, a pillar of his life, and he decided it was the ideal time to fold up his shirt after a tearful goodbye game against Benin.

Unless the Portugal Football Federation hastily arranges a token testimonial game, which some of the country's media speculate it would, Ronaldo would leave with lingering bitterness, after a fine and 30-day suspension after his public fallout with coach Jorge Jesus. Maybe, the climaxes of both Messi and Ronaldo were written even before they became the greatest rivals in modern football. That Messi would fade sweetly into the night, and Ronaldo fitfully.

It was a fate Ronaldo inflicted upon himself. He lived resisting the bleeding reality for the best half of this decade. He fought with managers, of both the club and country, blind to the obvious fading of his powers. He can score goals, which he would even after he turns 70, but he didn't see how football has changed around him and there was no place for him. There were signs, if he had rewatched his game after removing the spectacles of delusion. The 2020 Euro was perhaps the ripe time. He scored five goals and topped the charts, but Portugal crashed out in the round-of-16 clash.

No teammate of his said this openly, but he was an obstacle for a vibrantly young and athletic team. When the 2022 World Cup winked in, the whole world except Ronaldo knew his prowess had significantly waned. He raged on, despite a horrendous missed-penalty against Slovenia in Euro 2024. The 2026 World Cup campaign had only one clear path—the road to perdition. He made a parody of himself; he had lost his explosive pace long ago.

His mind could read and plot the moves, but his body revolted. He couldn't accept his mortality—Messi did. That in a sense is their career in a nutshell.

It's a crushing reality for sporting greats to accept. They long for the perfect farewell, to realise their last lingering dream, to bow on a high, and to end their career in the perfect way. They can't imagine a day without the sport, without applause assaulting their eardrums, and without the sheer rush of adrenaline that seizes them.

It's a peculiar plight of the sportsman. Movie legends can keep churning out hits forever. Al Pacino is 86; his latest movie will hit theatres this Christmas. Gabriel Garcia Marquez wrote well into his late 70s, even after dementia hit him. Even singers, their voices creaking, would find concerts and audiences. Yet, sportsmen come with an expiry date. Retirement can provoke a loss of identity. Or worse, the first death. The former Argentina footballer and coach Jorge Valdano described it poetically: " Footballers never talk about the end of their careers, for the same reason human beings don't talk about death: it frightens them." A sportsman dies twice. First, when they retire.

Both Messi and Ronaldo, of course, haven't fully retired. They would continue playing for their clubs. Ronaldo would continue till he scores his thousandth competitive career goal; Messi would light up Miami nights till he feels his standards have plummeted entirely. But their end could not have been more different, but in rhyme with their personalities as we assume and imagine.

Vol XXII, No. 196. RNI Regn. No. WBENG/2005/20789. Printed by V.Srinivasan and Published by V.Srinivasan on behalf of The Indian Express (P) Ltd and Printed at Saraswati Print Factory Pvt.Ltd, 789, Chowbhaga (West), Kolkata -700105 (West Bengal) and Published at The Indian Express (P) Ltd JL No.29 & 30, N.H.-6, Mouza - Prasastha & Ankurhati, P.O. - Salap, P.S.-Domjur, Howrah - 711 409. Ph: (033)66043800 Fax: (033) 66043825 & 66043847. Chairman of the Board : Viveck Goenka, Chief Editor : Raj Kamal Jha, Editor : Unni Rajen Shanker, Editor (Kolkata): Rakesh Sinha* (*Responsible for selection of news under the PRP Act) Copyright : The Indian Express (P) Limited. All rights reserved. Reproduction in any manner,electronic or otherwise,in whole or in part,without prior written permission is prohibited. The Indian Express®

Kolkata